

The Society in 2008

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Officers and Committee at the end of the year were as follows :-

President	Shirley Whitley DL
Vice-President	ex officio Chairman of Chailey Parish Council
Chairman	William Coleman Evergreen, Vicarage Lane, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex, RH11 7BP. Telephone: 01444 831098 Email: mail@chaileycommons.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Foye Ridley Old Chimneys, Beresford Lane, Plumpton Green
Treasurer	Ian Woolsey Three Trees, Station Road, North Chailey, East Sussex, BN8 4HD. Telephone: 01825 723308. Email: igwoolsey@btinternet.com
Programme Sec.	Jenny Barbour
Minute Secretary	Abi Hobbs
Membership Sec.	William Coleman
Planning & Legal Sec.	Mel Balloch
Newsletter Editor	Anthony Howard
Horse Riders Group	Carole Uridge
Archaeology Group	Linda Ball
Committee Members	Rosalie Sinclair-Smith, John Smitherman, Peter Tutt, Ann Woollard (Publicity) and Karen Pritty
Rangers	Heli Gittins/Adam Buzuk
Chailey Parish Council Representatives	Mark Evans
Non Committee Members responsible for Publicity	Honor Lamb and Lionel Reuben

Chairman's Report

In preparing for this annual report, I found myself thinking of the many things which the Society has done and achieved during the last year. Our Programme of Events, so well put together by our Programme Secretary, Jenny Barbour, consisted of a varied and interesting list of meetings, events and outings. My thanks to her for all the planning and work which she put in to it, and our attendance numbers show that the variety provided things in which we could all join in and enjoy.

I am grateful to everyone who took part and contributed to them. Thanks to our speakers who have come along to our indoor winter meetings and made them so interesting. Our usual Fungi Foray proved as popular as ever, thanks to Rosalie's enthusiasm and the bird walks with Ian and John were enjoyed too. The Archaeological visits to the commons are creating much interest and thanks to Linda and Ian for all their research – more to follow I am sure. Our visits to Townings Farm continue to show the wider aspects of Nature Conservation, and our thanks to Carole and Kevin who are planning to show us more during 2009.

Our annual survey during 2008 has been of Memorial Common, and thank you to all those involved, who have freely given of their time and expertise to achieve the results which appear in this Report. Comparisons with previous surveys are usually shown and this gives us a good idea of how the commons change over the

years. Please get in touch with us if you wish to help at any time, and Pound Common will be surveyed during 2009.

The Society has been represented at local events such as Plumpton Open Day, Newick Flower Show and the Sussex Biological Recorders Seminar in Hassocks and thank you to all those who helped and to Ann Woollard for her work on the display boards showing photographs of the Society's interesting flora and fauna.

I am pleased to say that our web site www.chaileyccommons.org.uk has received over 1200 'hits' since it was set up and hopefully it is providing information and details of the Society which members and everyone finds useful. This complements the Newsletter and thanks to Tony Howard for his journalist's skills in producing this.

Our Ranger, Adam Buzuk, has been busy during the year and his wide range of work continues to yield results in the re-establishment of the lowland heathland, and the re-growth of the heather is very encouraging. Unfortunately the Silver Studded Blues have not been seen again this year, and we will be searching and hoping once more in the spring and summer. There has been some replanting of the Marsh Gentians, thanks to help from Wakehurst Place and our other specialities such as Bog Asphodel and Sundews continue to hold their presence, although in reduced numbers. The climate and vegetation encroachment are not helping them, but care of the sites should ensure their survival. His working parties on Wednesdays help to keep the work in hand as does the contractor for the heavier work. Thank you to Adam for his support and his Summary appears elsewhere in this Report.

The work on the Grazing Project by the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Management Committee has been moving forward during the year and the summary from John Smith, the Chairman, also appears in this Report.

The New Heritage Way Bryant Homes site at Red House Common is about two thirds developed and we welcome the new residents as Members. They have been given one year's complimentary membership as part of the scheme approved by Lewes District Council. I do hope that they will enjoy their location, being so close to the commons, and appreciate and understand the sensitive nature of the area which is so special to us all.

New for this year has been the setting up of the 'Friends of Markstakes Common' under the leadership of Rupert Hall, and he has been instrumental in not only starting working parties to take on careful and selective habitat restoration at this valuable ancient pasture woodland site, but has gained the involvement and commitment of the Lewes District Council to provide help. Their recognition of this, and other valuable local nature areas in the Chailey and Newick districts, is encouraging and this work, under Rupert, guided by a Management Plan and aided by their Community Ranger, Dan Ross, should ensure the sympathetic maintenance of this wonderful site. Our Society's Newsletter and also our web site contains details of progress and how volunteers can join the 'Friends' Group. Thanks to Rupert, of course, and also to Dr. Jacqui Morris, Marion Lavender and Dan Ross for their involvement and encouragement in this exciting and long term project.

For 2009/10 our new Programme of Events has more than twenty varied items and an Exhibition on Red House Common again will be a highlight of the year. Early and late bird walks should prove interesting and a new 'Great Spider Hunt', led by Evan Jones, should be something for those interested to be involved in, especially for two of our young members, Ben and Joshua, who have already shown a great talent in spotting the 'Arachnids'. We also look forward to a greater involvement with local groups.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm during 2008, and especially to the committee, whose wealth of knowledge and experience are really special in helping everything to happen. Sincere thanks also to the Parish Council, especially Mark Evans and Rachel Seccombe for all their advice and support, and to all the Patrons and Members for supporting your Society.

We look forward to another exciting year during 2009.

William Coleman, Chairman

Finance

2008 has been another busy year for the Chailey Commons Society and my first as your new Treasurer. The surplus income is still quite healthy despite being less than last year and we are indebted to Chailey Parish Council for their continued support with a grant of £250. Some of our income totals may appear to be much lower than last year but this is primarily due to the fact that we are now showing our income spread across a wider range of headings in order to give us more detail.

Our thanks go to the Guides for again providing the welcome refreshments at all the indoor meetings and to the Uridge family who again hosted our summer barbeque. We are also grateful to all those kind people who have generously donated raffle prizes and to those members who organise the raffle as well.

On the expenditure side the Society continued its membership of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Open Spaces Society and the Sussex Amphibian and Reptile Group. Significant items of expenditure this last year have been as follows:

1. A bat detector with suitable earphones has been purchased to enable us to do much more effective surveying work.
2. A banner (proclaiming our Society's name) and flip chart were purchased to enhance our exhibition stands at various meetings, such as the Plumpton College Open Day.
3. Again the cost of printing our newsletters and reports has continued to rise, although I have now included the cost of postage in this heading as well.
4. We also spent £34.88 on the Annual fee for our new website which was unveiled this year, thanks to all the sterling work done by William Coleman our Chairman. If you have not seen it already, then it's well worth a look at on www.chaileycommons.org.uk and if you have comments or contributions you would like to make to it, then please let your committee know.

Finally just a small timely reminder, it's that time of year when our membership subscriptions are due and it would help our membership secretary greatly if you could pay them as promptly as you can and if possible, by standing order as it makes things so much easier to manage.

Ian Woolsey, Treasure

Membership

I am pleased to report that our membership has remained strong this year, and we have a total of 311 Junior Members, Members and Patrons.

There have been over 20 events, both indoor and outdoor, for everyone to enjoy and take part in, and I do hope that they have had broad appeal. Our speakers at the indoor winter meetings have given us marvellous illustrated talks and there have been outdoor visits to various locations to see many different aspects of nature and heathland areas. Our Archaeology, Bird and Fungi walks are always popular, so do come along and see, for yourself, how interesting the commons are at various times of the year. Our Programme Secretary, Jenny Barbour, has worked very hard in setting out our list of events during 2008, and my thanks to her on behalf on Members and Patrons for all her hard work.

I do hope that our website www.chaileycommons.org.uk has been of interest and that, if you have not had a look at it already, you will do so soon and see the details of things we do and the pictures that are there in the Galleries. Photos and other interesting items may be sent in, and if suitable, could be shown in Members'

Photo Gallery or on the Members Page. Please email them to members@chaileycommons.org.uk, or contact Nick Holden.

I am pleased to say that I have been able to introduce Nick Holden to the Committee and he has accepted our invitation to become the Membership Secretary, subject to the voting at the Annual General Meeting. I am sure that he will look after our membership records extremely well and you will have heard from him in our Newsletters. I know he has some good ideas to interest to both existing and new Members, and his contact details will be shown on the Newsletter, Programme of Events and the website.

I am grateful to all those who have chosen, or continue, to pay by Bank standing order and this does help our book-keeping and save on postages of course.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and interest in the activities of the Society, and I have enjoyed meeting Members and Patrons during the year. Thank you all for your continued support.

William Coleman, Membership Secretary

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December 2008

2007	INCOME	2008	2007	EXPENDITURE	2008
£		£	£		£
1060.00	Patrons	925.75	115.39	Hire of Halls	130.78
983.50	Members	876.00	225.00	Speaker Costs	183.00
	Total Income from				
2043.50	Subscriptions	1801.75	148.00	Donations / Subscriptions	88.50
818.25	Donations	187.00	925.66	Printing, Stationary, Postage	1271.44
152.84	Interest on Deposit A/C	163.85	132.62	Publicity	0.00
32.69	Refreshments	47.82	278.39	Cost of Sweatshirts	96.26
211.40	Raffle	193.50	639.98	Purchase of Equipment	370.67
135.25	Publicity	0.00		Misc (cost of outings, BBQ etc)	386.12
359.60	Misc (income from visits, sales of sweatshirts, Bird boxes, etc)	195.00	2465.04		2526.77
0.00	Sale of I D Charts	199.20			
	Grants received	250.00	1288.49	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	511.35
3753.53		3038.12	3753.53		3038.12

BANK RECONCILIATION

Deposit A/C Balance 1.1.2008	8198.02	Deposit A/C Balance 31.12.2008	8361.87
Current A/C Balance 1.1.2008	691.91	Current A/C Balance 31.12.2008	1039.41
Cash in hand 1.1.2008	19.35	Cash in hand 31.12.2008	19.35
	8909.28		
Income over expenditure	511.35		
	9420.63		9420.63

From your Ranger

Continuing with year two of the works funded by Countryside Stewardship and Viridor, the year began with contractors Dave Barnard and Kevin Uridge working with heavy machinery to clear scrub, scrape topsoil and re-seed with heather harvested from the common. Work was carried out as follows:

Red House - Scrapes into the dense gorse area to the north of the main path. A scrape at the far west point of Red House not seeded as an experiment to gauge natural regeneration. Scrub clearances including a large area to the north east of St.George's

Memorial - Re-seeding an area south of the playing fields that had not regenerated well.

Romany Ridge - Two scrapes running alongside North Common Road and one on the west side of the Common. All three were re-seeded. Scrub clearance in the south-west corner. This area proved difficult to work in the boggy conditions, and completed late on schedule. Birch clearance and stump treatment.

These areas are recovering well and we hope to see the benefit of new heather shoots popping their heads up in the summer.

Chris Butler was commissioned to monitor the ground works and record any archaeological features revealed by the winter works. Phase 2 of 'An Archaeological Survey of Chailey Common' was published in May.

Temporary Grazing continued throughout the year, with the Hebrideans doing the rounds of the commons. Most recently, we have grazed a new area to the south of Pound Common with good results. The Molinia has been broken up, Birch bark stripped and the heather well exposed.

Volunteers and ESCC Trainee rangers have cleared an area of dense gorse south of the car park on Red House, treating the stumps with a herbicide to deter re-growth before moving on to Lane End to deal with birch and gorse in the grazing area.

The Marsh Gentian survey revealed 37 plants, an increase on the previous few years. Volunteers worked hard to uproot birch by hand on Romany Ridge and 38 Marsh Gentian plants germinated and grown at Wakehurst place were planted in an effort to extend the areas colonized by these dazzling plants.

The Silver Studded Blue butterflies have not co-operated so well with no confirmed sightings this year.

Work on removing invasive species has continued with success on Pound Pond where Parrots feather has not returned. Himalayan Balsam, although back this year, is markedly less than the previous year. Japanese Knotweed, despite being treated, remains on Memorial and will need further attention in 2009. Bracken received two rounds of rolling and mowing, the second completed at the end of August (a little late). The Working Horse Trust were unable to complete the rolling on Red House due to an accident.

Much work has been done to shore up the defences of the commons. Volunteers put in a row of Dragons teeth at the south end of Romany Ridge, and contractor J. Millam dug a ditch to deter vehicular access. Despite repairs to pole barriers and posts at Lane End and around the Pound and Romany Ridge car parks there is still evidence that vehicles are getting onto Pound Common.

There have been a number of changes at East Sussex County Council this year, with Adam Buzuk taking over as Ranger from David Darroch on the ground, with Jane Willmott (Team Manager) and Paul Treadgold (Head of Environmental Operations) making up the management team.

Moving on through the year, the contracts for year three of the Winter Works were awarded to J. Millam who will be carrying out the scrape and scrub clearance.

We have started discussions with 'Talking Tree's', a not for profit organisation that works with children, adults and community groups in woodlands and dedicated to enhancing lives through an understanding and

connection with nature. We are aiming to work together on a project helping local people to understand and value the importance of heathland, its management and traditions. This would be linked to the grazing project in particular. In order to fund this, we are looking into a lottery bid.

Work on progressing towards a more sustainable future for the common has continued through the development of the extensive grazing scheme. John Smith's report for the Management Committee covers this in detail (see below).

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank the Commons Society for all their hard work, dedication, care and appreciation of the commons.

Adam Buzuk, Ranger

Email: Adam.buzuk@eastsussex.gov.uk Telephone: 01273 482670

Chailey Commons LNR Management Committee

Fencing/Grazing Project

The main activity of the Management Committee throughout the year has been the project to fence and graze Chailey Common. This followed an extensive public consultation which included prominent notices on the Common, over 3,000 leaflets, 850 letters and three public meetings plus specific sessions for horse-riders and dog-walkers. The overall response to the consultation was most supportive and the Committee has taken careful note of the views expressed. Our consultant, Footprint Ecology, produced a final report which recommended fencing and grazing in addition to the current management methods. The report was agreed unanimously by the Committee.

The scheme involves perimeter fencing on Red House Common, Lane End Common and a combination of Pound, Romany Ridge and Memorial Commons with cattle grids on North Common and Beggars' Wood Roads. All the existing access points will be maintained.

At any one time a maximum of two of the Commons will be grazed so that dog walkers will be able to take their dogs on one or two of the areas free from stock. Notices will be placed in the car parks and on the web site giving details of the areas being grazed. It is intended that grazing will be by cattle, sheep and possibly ponies using traditional quiet breeds, with no bulls, stallions or cows with young calves.

The Committee now have agreement to proceed from all the Landowners, Natural England, the Highways Authority and Lewes District Council as the Manager under the 1915 Scheme of Regulation. The aim is to shortly put in an application to the Planning Inspectorate for permission to erect structures on the Common. An application is also being submitted for planning permission to Lewes District Council. There will be a formal consultation period for both of these applications as well as for speed restrictions and traffic calming associated with the cattle grids. Notices will be published in the press and featured on the Common. If the project is approved it will be partly funded by Natural England through the Environmental Stewardship Scheme and other grant schemes. Also it will allow the Management Committee to apply for a much greater level of annual funding under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

The Committee employs Countryside Management Services, part of the East Sussex County Council, which provides a Ranger, currently for three days a week, who relies heavily on volunteers. The experience of other similar areas, including Ashdown Forest, is that grazing is the best sustainable management method if heathland is not to be eroded by invasive species such as silver birch and bracken, a view which is strongly

supported by Natural England. We look forward with optimism to the conclusion of a project which has been pursued for several years.

New Heritage Development

The housing development at the New Heritage will inevitably have an ecological impact on the Common, in particular Red House. As part of the planning process the Lewes District Council and Chailey Parish Council have been responsible for the developer agreeing to make a grant of £65,000, to be spent over a five-year period, in accordance with specific criteria. The money has been paid to Lewes District Council and the Management Committee has submitted an expenditure proposal, which the Council has accepted.

The main items of the proposal are:

An increase in the Ranger's time from its current level of three days a week to four and a half days for two years, and four days for the balance of five years.

One year's free membership of the Chailey Commons Society for all households

Education, for example guided walks, information/interpretation boards, leaflets etc.

It is hoped to start these initiatives in the near future.

John Smith. Chairman

Report from the Archaeology Group

As we enter the second year of our project, our activities have focused on extending the historical material and maps relating to the history, encroachments, and uses of the Commons over time. Our research is led by our observations on the physical features that are apparent on Memorial Common:

- WW1 and WW2 military history and sites of buildings, and
- Questions around 'trackways,' ridges and hollows – in particular, what are known as the 'ups and downs' on Red House and Memorial Commons. What were these – recent features from WW1 or WW2, cultivation features relating to the farming of the commons for turf cutting and other products, or ancient track-ways?

However, we are looking at these features in the broader context of the Commons as a whole, existing routes, paths and tracks, streams and the River Ouse, and communities and features in the surrounding area.

Ian Seccombe has produced excellent papers as a result of his searches, relating to WW1 and WW2 activity in the area, and in particular around bombing raids, anti-aircraft activity and trying to discover more about the existence of the searchlight and gun emplacement on Memorial Common. Ian has prepared a detailed record of the features we examined on our walks in January 2008 and earlier, which are located on the far eastern boundary of Memorial Common, adjacent to the A275. A summary report by Ian appears next, and the full paper can be read or downloaded from the website.

WW1 and WW2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

During both the First and Second World War, Chailey Commons were used for military training purposes. Peter Longstaff-Tyrell identifies the extensive trench system on Romany Ridge as dating from the First World War while Chris Butler recently identified evidence of WW2 training trenches on both Red House and Pound

Common. As part of our archaeological survey we have tried to record both physical and documentary evidence of similar military features on Memorial (St Mary's) Common.

An examination of air raid incident report cards (SPA 2/21/1) compiled by Sussex Police between August 1940 and June 1944, and held by the East Sussex Records Office (ESRO) reveals 14 air raid incidents in the parish of Chailey. At least two of the air raid incident report cards are relevant to our inquiries on Memorial Common:

- Shortly before 1 am on Monday 26th August 1940 PC Herbert Cornford reported that one high explosive bomb had fallen in the garden of the King's Head. Six properties were damaged and some GPO lines were brought down. A second high explosive bomb fell some 30 yards from north side of Haywards Heath Road and 200 yards west of Chailey crossroads. Four properties were damaged and the wall of the old rifle range was destroyed.
- On Thursday 24th October 1940, PC Charles Stevens records a raid just after 10pm in which nine high explosive bombs and an incendiary bomb were dropped in a run from Roeheath to the North Common Stores with one high explosive falling near St Mary's Church just "north of the searchlight post".

Stanley Bentall, who served with the Searchlight Battalion on the Common also mentions the 26th August raid. His description suggests that the searchlight position was being targeted (http://www.anti-aircraft.co.uk/human_interest_SB.html).

This documentary and eye witness evidence confirms that there was a searchlight position to the south of St Mary's Church. Other documentary evidence held at ESRO also mentions the searchlight position.

Initial walkover surveys were carried out in the north-eastern corner of Memorial Common, southeast of the playing fields and to the west of the A275, in January and May 2008. A more detailed walkover survey was undertaken in June 2008 and some additional material was added following further examination of the area in January 2009. These surveys have identified a number of military earthworks dating from this period including trenches, accommodation site, cesspits and a variety of metal sheeting, stakes and barbed wire. In August we walked over the sites with George Freeman who had been served with the Royal Artillery during the war and was, at one point, stationed near the Commons. Mr Freeman identified one of the earthworks as a possible anti-aircraft gun emplacement site and another as the site of gunners tented accommodation within a large earthwork enclosure.

Written notes have been recorded for each feature encountered, including information on its dimensions, shape and extent. The locations of these features have been recorded using a hand-held GPS receiver.

AUGUST WALK

As Ian mentioned above, our inquiries into this period were really brought alive by our guided walk early in August, with George Freeman, a resident of Burgess Hill, who was stationed on searchlight and gun emplacements in S E England in WW2. He accompanied a small group of us around the sites on Memorial Common, and his commentary revealed how the buildings might have looked, what conditions were like, how gunners worked and the use of the fox holes.

Cattle market at Chailey Crossroads

Local historian, Tony Turk, provided early 20th century postcards, press pictures of the North Common Crossroads and an article about the cattle market on the site of the Murco station, which closed in 1935. This site continues to be of interest, and may have evolved from a stock-holding enclosure from much earlier times, evidenced by the sturdy dense holly hedge around this site – further enquiries will focus on land ownership for this site and changes in use over time.

VISITS TO EAST SUSSEX RECORDS OFFICE AND COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGISTS

William Coleman and Linda Ball visited the County Archaeology department for a detailed discussion with Greg Chuter about the Historical Environment Record (ESHER) for Chailey Commons. We now hold an extensive collection of maps and our next steps are to prepare our own sketch maps of the features of the Commons showing the progressive changes over time in relation to routes, encroachments and features. Other documentation has been gathered on Ian and Linda's visits to the East Sussex Record Office. William, Ian and Linda recently met with Chris Whittick, Chief Archivist, who showed us some estate and manor maps relating to land use and we will obtain copies of these and make a time-line display for members to see. We also have some leads for exploring land ownership via Manor and Court Records.

Two very useful sources and contextual reference material are: Chris Howkins, (2004) 'Heathers and Heathlands' and Peter Brandon (2003) 'The Kent and Sussex Weald,' Butler and Tanner, London – both of which throw light on the many uses of the products of the Commons – from 'brakes' to 'brooms' and turf cutting for thatch and fuel - to name but a few. Other reference material and reading are mentioned elsewhere in this report.

NOVEMBER WALK

Rumours of a recent sighting of a Roman soldier in the vicinity of Chailey Common drew a group of 20 enthusiasts to a morning of practical archaeology, field-walking and surveying on Red House Common. The Spring scrapings had exposed undulations and well-defined routes across the north east side. We felt that a study of these might help us to understand similar forms and parallel routes running in a south – north direction on the eastern boundary of Memorial Common, and in other parts of the Commons.

Iron workings and the Romans

A briefing by Linda reviewed historical and archaeological sites in the area, and progress with the work of the archaeology group. She referred to Roman sites, including a Roman bloomery at Downsview (TQ394208) and further bloomery sites near Ridgelands Farm, (TQ417190 and TQ418191) and evidence of iron workings through to medieval times and into the 17th century. The site of a furnace at Cinder Hill, finds of slag and chalybeate springs in the area indicate that Chailey was indeed a site for iron mining and production.

This is further evidenced by a 'Sale of Purchase' estate map (reference: ESRO/AMS 6497/11 c.1651), held by the East Sussex Record Office, of part of Warren Farm (adjacent to the A272, east of the King's Head cross roads) in 1651. The land was owned by Sir Henry Compton, and clearly shows an area marked 'slag' in the layout of the farm (just north of Glendene Fruit Farm). Interestingly, there are two 'strawberry fields' adjacent to the present A272. The existence of 'slag' warrants further investigation, and a conversation with Brian at Glendene confirms that the foot of their land contains some material of this kind, making it unsuitable for growing.

Incidentally, historical records reveal that the same Sir Henry Compton tried to enclose part of Chailey Common. Fletching people pulled down the fences and gun fire wounded one man. The dispute had to be settled in the Court of the Star Chamber. Indeed, Jeremy Hodgkinson's excellent recent illustrated book (2008) 'The Wealden Iron Industry' (Tempus Publishing / The History Press) mentions this event (p.119) and also provides a detailed insight into the impact of the iron industry on the wealden landscape. Buy the book (£15.99) or you can read more on <http://www.wealdeniron.org.uk/hist.htm> (extract below)

When the Romans invaded in AD 43, they found a well-established local tradition of iron making, using small, clay bloomery furnaces. With growing markets generated by the building of towns, villas and farms, the Romans encouraged this native industry. Sites from the period have been found all over the eastern part of the High Weald.

The 'Classis Britannica', or British Fleet, an imperial supply organization as well as a navy, took a strategic role in iron production. It managed several large smelting sites in the area around Hastings, such as one at

Beauport Park, near Battle. This may have produced as much as 30,000 tonnes of iron over 130 years, and a substantial bathhouse was built there for some of the workforce.

Ridges and trackways

Map work indicates some possible ancient routes and their evolution over time, linking with the crossing of the Ouse at Sheffield Bridge. Aerial photographs show clearly visible tracks running from the Wivelsfield Road (SW), crossing Red House Common and emerging towards Blackbrook Lane, also converging with another route from the south crossing Memorial Common and linking up with an older route to Wapsbourne towards the Ouse crossing. We have recorded these photographically.

Survey work

With the aid of Chris Butler's recent paper investigating the ridges and landforms on Red House Common, people worked in teams, first of all, on a walkover looking out for 'foreign' matter on the ground, and a range of finds were brought together including part of a child's leather boot, small pieces of iron slag, iron stone, glazed pottery, brick, rough pottery sherds and bones.

Then we walked to the site north of the Warrs' Hill car park to count and estimate the dimensions of the visible ridges. Ten ridges were clearly observed, and show up very well in a photograph of the recent snow covered landscape, and evidence of a possible sunken lane. William Coleman and friends measured their height and depth and William has constructed a graph from the measurements – see the website.

The morning ended with speculation about the ridges. Were they remnants of agricultural management (lynchets), or migratory or pack routes? Why were there so many of them? One explanation, as put forward by Chris Butler, is that tracks were used until they became impassable on the sticky ground, and then animals or humans migrated to one side and started another. The number may indicate that these were important routes aligning with pack trails, drove roads and animal migration.

Retracing our steps to the Sports ground, several of us continued with our discussions over maps and sandwiches at the King's Head after a very enjoyable morning.

WEBSITE AND PHOTOGRAPHS

So lots more methodical work to be done! For a full account of Ian's work, see the report on the Archaeology page of the website at <http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk/page24.htm> You will also find Chris Butler's reports on Red House and Pound Commons, and albums of photographs of the walks and main features we are investigating. Keep up to date with developments through the newsletter and archaeology diary on the website.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue with more research for the coming months and present some of our results, map work and photographs for the various meetings and events we are attending over the year ahead. Thank you to all those who have contributed so far with ideas, recollections and sources. If you are interested in joining in our work in any way, please contact Linda through William Coleman.

Linda Ball and Ian Seccombe

Ecological Survey of Memorial Common

Our surveyors concentrated their efforts on Memorial Common in 2008 and presented their results at the indoor meeting on 22nd January 2009. Their findings are set out below:

Fungi

A total of 95 species of fungi have been found on Memorial Common over the last three surveys in 1995, 2002 and 2008, the totals for each year being 64, 50 and 56 respectively. This year, 2008, we found 22 species for the first time (see table). I was particularly pleased to find three Chanterelles half hidden on a bank, a Spiny Puffball and a large Woolly Milk Cap, not to mention a few Liberty Caps.

Winter is the best time to find the bracket and bark fungi, while the branches are bare, and to see them at work doing their recycling job. They break down animal and vegetable waste and release the nutrients they contain. Without them our whole planetary ecosystem would grind to a halt and the whole world would soon resemble a vast city refuse tip. On the other hand the toadstools come mushrooms on the ground help forests grow by actively supplying trees with essential trace elements and nutrients, e.g. Fly Agaric with Birch trees are very evident on Chailey Common.

Modern medicine depends on penicillin and antibiotics, and vegetarians on quorn – a fungus-derived mycoprotein which substitutes for meat.

FUNGI on MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorder	RS/BB	RS	RS
Species	Common Name	Year	1995	2002	2008
<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Field Mushroom		Sep		25-Aug
<i>Amanita excelsa</i>	Grey Spotted Amanita				25-Aug
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette			Sep	25-Aug
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric		Oct	Nov	14-Sep
<i>Amanita pantherina</i>	Panther Cap		Oct		
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	Blusher		Oct	Sep	31-Jul
<i>Amanita vaginata</i>	Grisette				25-Aug
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus		Oct		
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear or Jew's Ear		Jan	Jan	23-Jan
<i>Biscogniauxia nummularia (Hypoxylon nummularium)</i>	Beech Tarcrust				25-Aug
<i>Bjerkandera adusta (Gloeoporus adustus)</i>	Smoky Bracket				20-Jan
<i>Boletus appendiculatus</i>	Oak Bolete				25-Aug
<i>Boletus badius</i>	Bay Boletus		Oct		25-Aug
<i>Boletus piperatus</i>	Peppery Boletus				25-Aug
<i>Boletus subtomentosus</i>			Oct		
<i>Bulgaria inquinans</i>	Black Bulgar		Jan		
<i>Calocera cornea</i>			Jan	Nov	
<i>Cantharellula (Clitocybe) cyathiformis</i>	The Goblet		Oct		
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	Chanterelle				22-Oct
<i>Chlorosplenium (Chlorociboria) aeruginascens</i>	Green Wood Cap				22-Oct
<i>Clitocybe flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel Cap				29-Oct
<i>Clitocybe geotropa</i>	Trooping Funnel				29-Oct
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Agaric			Nov	29-Oct

FUNGI on MEMORIAL COMMON	Recorder		RS/BB	RS	RS
Species	Common Name	Year	1995	2002	2008
<i>Clitocybe phyllophila</i>			Oct		
<i>Collybia (Rhodocollybia) maculata</i>	Spotted Tough-shank		Oct		14-Sep
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	Butter Cap			Nov	14-Sep
<i>Collybia confusa</i>				Nov?	
<i>Collybia dryophila</i>	Russet Toughshank		Oct		
<i>Coprinus atramentarius</i>	Common Ink Cap		Oct		
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Ink Cap		Oct	Sep	
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Ink Cap			Sep	
<i>Cortinarius betuletorum</i>			Oct		
<i>Crepidotus luteolus (pubescens)</i>	Yellow Oysterling				30-Apr
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling		Oct	Nov	
<i>Cylindrobasidium laeve (evolens)</i>			Jan	Jan	
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket		Jan	Mar	23-Jan
<i>Diatrype disciformis</i>	Beech Barkspot		Jan	Sep	22-Oct
<i>Dumontinia tuberosa (Sclerotinia tuberosa)</i>				Mar	
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witches' Butter		Jan	Jan	
<i>Fuligo septica flava</i>	Slime fungus		Apr		
<i>Galerina mniophila</i>				Mar	
<i>Ganoderma australe (adpersum)</i>	Southern Bracket			Sep	
<i>Handkea (Calvatia) excipuliformis</i>	Pestle Puffball			Nov	
<i>Helvella crispa</i>			Oct		
<i>Hygrocybe laeta var laeta (or ceracea)</i>	Heath waxcap				29-Oct?
<i>Hygrocybe miniata</i>				Nov	
<i>Hygrocybe nigrescens</i>				Sep	
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle		Oct		
<i>Hymenochaete rubiginosa</i>				Nov	
<i>Hyphodontia sambuci</i>	Elder Whitewash		Jan	Sep	25-Aug
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft		Oct	Nov	
<i>Hypochnicium vellereum</i>			Jan		
<i>Hypoxylon multifforme</i>	Birch Woodwart		Jan	Nov	23-Jan
<i>Incrustoporia semipileata</i>				Sep	
<i>Inocybe napipes</i>	Bulbous Fibrecap				25-Aug
<i>Laccaria amethystina (amathystea)</i>	Amethyst Deceiver				25-Aug
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver		Oct	Sep	14-Sep
<i>Lacrymaria velutina</i>	Weeping Widow		Oct		
<i>Lactarius circellatus</i>					25-Aug
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap			Nov	
<i>Lactarius rufus</i>	Rufus Milk-cap		Oct		
<i>Lactarius spinosulus</i>	Lilacscale Milkcap		Oct		
<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>	Birch Milk-cap			Sep	14-Sep
<i>Lactarius torminosus</i>	Woolly Milk-cap				29-Oct

FUNGI on MEMORIAL COMMON	Recorder		RS/BB	RS	RS
Species	Common Name	Year	1995	2002	2008
<i>Leccinum scabrum (Boletus scaber)</i>	Brown Birch Bolete			Sep	
<i>Leccinum versipelle (Boletus versipellis)</i>	Orange Birch Bolete		Oct		
<i>Lenzites betulinus</i>	Birch Mazegill		Apr	Nov	27-Jan
<i>Lepista nuda (Tricholoma nudum)</i>	Wood Blewit			Nov	22-Oct
<i>Lycoperdon echinatum</i>	Spiny Puffball				29-Oct
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball			Nov	
<i>Lyophyllum (Clitocybe) decastes (Tricholoma aggregatum)</i>				Nov	
<i>Lyophyllum connatum (Clitocybe connata)</i>			Oct		
<i>Macrolepiota (Lepiota) procera var procera</i>	Parasol		Oct		14-Sep
<i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Fairy ring champignon		Oct		
<i>Mycena epipterygia</i>			Oct		
<i>Mycena filopes</i>	Iodine Bonnet		Sep		
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet		Jan		
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>			Oct		
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet				29-Oct
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot Fungus		Jan		
<i>Omphalina velutina</i>			Oct		
<i>Panaeolus subbalteatus</i>			Oct?		
<i>Panellus stypticus</i>	Bitter Oysterling				22-Oct
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-rim		Oct	Nov	22-Oct
<i>Peniophora lycii</i>				Jan	20-Jan
<i>Peniophora quercina</i>			Jan	Mar	
<i>Phellinus (Polyporus) ferreus</i>	Cinnamon Porecrust		Jan	Mar	23-Jan
<i>Phellinus punctatus</i>					25-Aug
<i>Phlebia tremellosa (Merulius tremellosus) (pale form)</i>	Jelly Rot		Jan		
<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore or Razor Strop		Jan	Jan	
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Pale Oyster		Apr		
<i>Polyporus ciliatus</i>			Jan		
<i>Psathyrella sp.</i>			Sep		
<i>Pseudotrametes (Trametes) gibbosa</i>				Sep	
<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i>	Liberty Cap				22-Oct
<i>Russula albonigra</i>			Oct		
<i>Russula betularum</i>				Sep	
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i>	Charcoal Burner		Oct		
<i>Russula fragilis var. fragilis</i>	Fragile Brittlegill			Nov	25-Aug
<i>Russula nigricans</i>	Blackening Russula				25-Aug
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill or Common Yellow Russula		Oct	Sep	25-Aug
<i>Russula sp? (red)</i>					31-Jul
<i>Russula vesca</i>	Bare-toothed Russula		Oct?		
<i>Russula xerampelina</i>	Crab Brittlegill				25-Aug

FUNGI on MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorder	RS/BB	RS	RS
Species	Common Name	Year	1995	2002	2008
<i>Sarcoscypha (Peziza) coccinea</i>	Scarlet Elf Cup		Apr		
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Common Porecrust or Split Gill				27-Jan
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	Split Porecrust				25-Aug
<i>Scleroderma areolatum</i>	Leopard Earthball				14-Sep
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball			Sep	23-Jan
<i>Stereum gausapatum</i>	Bleeding Oak Crust		Jan	Jan	
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust		Jan	Nov	
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust		Jan		
<i>Stropharia aeruginosa</i>	Verdigris Agaric			Nov	
<i>Trametes (Coriolus) versicolour</i>	Turkey Tail or Many-zoned polypore		Jan		20-Jan
<i>Trametes hirsuta (Coriolus hirsutus)</i>	Hairy Bracket		Jan?		14-Sep
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Yellow Brain Fungus			Jan	22-Oct
<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>	Birch Knight				25-Aug
<i>Vuilleminia (Corticium) comedens</i>	Waxy Crust		Jan		
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candle-snuff Fungus			Jan	20-Jan
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers			Jan	
Total number of species			64	50	56

Rosalie Sinclair-Smith

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns

The following grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns were found on Memorial Common in 2008:

GRASSES, SEDGES, RUSHES and FERNS		1989	1995	2002	2008
Graminae	Grasses				
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	x	x		x
<i>Festuca tenuifolia</i>	Fine-leaved sheep's fescue	x	x	x	x
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's fescue				x
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	x	x	x	x
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	x	x	x	x
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough meadow-grass			x	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's foot	x	x	x	x
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating sweet-grass		x	x	
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren brome			x	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome			x	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False brome			x	
<i>Arrhenatherium elatius</i>	False oat-grass	x		x	x
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy hair-grass	x	x	x	x
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted hair-grass	x			
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	x	x	x	x
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	x	x	x	x
<i>Agrostis curtisii</i>	Bristle bent	x			
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	Velvet bent			x	x
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	x		x	x
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping bent				x
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy		x		
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow foxtail			x	
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath grass			x	
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple moor-grass	x	x	x	x

GRASSES, SEDGES, RUSHES and FERNS		1989	1995	2002	2008
Cyperaceae	Sedges				
<i>Carex ovalis</i>	Oval sedge			x	
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote sedge			x	x
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous sedge			x	x
<i>Carex binervis</i>	Green-ribbed sedge			x	
<i>Caex caryophylla</i>	Spring sedge			x	x
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill sedge			x	
Juncaceae	Rushes				
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	x	x	x	x
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact rush			x	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad rush			x	x
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush	x		x	
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field wood-rush	x	x	x	x
<i>Luzulua multiflora</i>	Heath wood-rush			x	x
<i>L. multiflora ssp. congesta</i>	Dense-headed heath wood-rush		x		x
Pteridophyta	Ferns				
Hypolepidaceae	Bracken family				
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken				x
Athyriaceae	Lady ferns				
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady fern				x
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler ferns				
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern				x
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad buckler-fern				x

Jacqui Morris and William Coleman

Mosses and Liverworts

The following mosses and liverworts were recorded on Memorial Common on 5th December 2008 and 17th January 2009:

MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS		Recorder	AK	MM	MM
MEMORIAL COMMON		Year	1989	2002	2009
Bryophytes - Mosses	Common Name				
<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Creeping Feather-moss			X	
<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Common Smoothcap		X	X	X
<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>	Bud-headed Groove-moss			X	
<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	River Feather-moss		X		
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked Feather-moss			X	
<i>Brachythecium sp.</i>	Feather Moss				X
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Silver-moss			X	
<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Capillary Thread-moss			X	
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	Pointed Spear-moss		X	X	X
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	Heath Star Moss			X	X
<i>Campylopus paradoxus</i>			X		
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	Redshank				X
<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>	Silky Forklet-moss			X	X
<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	Common Pincushion			X	X
<i>Eurhynchium praelongum</i>	Common Feather-moss			X	X
<i>Fissidens bryoides</i>	Lesser Pocket-moss		X	X	X
<i>Funaria hygrometrica</i>	Common Cord-moss		X		X
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	Cypress-leaved Plait-moss			X	X
<i>Isoetecium myosuroides</i>	Slender Mouse-tail Moss			X	
<i>Isoetecium alopecuroides (myurum)</i>	Larger Mouse-tail Moss		X		

MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS	Recorder	AK	MM	MM
MEMORIAL COMMON	Year	1989	2002	2009
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss	X	X	X
<i>Orthotrichum affine</i>	Wood Bristle-moss		X	
<i>Orthotrichum diaphanum</i>	White-tipped Bristle-moss		X	
<i>Orthotrichum sp.</i>	Bristle-moss			X
<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss		X	
<i>Pottia (Tortula) truncata</i>	Common Pottia		X	
<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	Springy Turf-moss			X
<i>Sphagnum flexuosum</i>	Flexuous Bog-moss	X		
<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	Blunt-leaved Bog-moss		X	
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	Papillose Bog-moss	X		
<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>	Bog-moss		X	X
<i>Syntrichia ruralis var. ruraliformis</i>				X
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk-moss		X	X
<i>Ulota crispa</i>	Crisped Pincushion		X	
<i>Zygodon viridissimus</i>	Green Yoke-moss		X	
Liverworts				
<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Dilated Scalewort		X	X
<i>Microlejeunea ulicina (Lejeunea ulicini)</i>	Fairy Beads		X	
<i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i>	Variable-leaved Crestwort		X	
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked Veilwort		X	X
<i>Metzgeria sp</i>				X
<i>Radula complanata</i>	Even Scalewort		X	X

Malcolm Macfarlane

Flora

Thanks to Jenny Barbour and to many members of the society some 134 species of wild flowers were identified on Memorial Common, which is around the same number is listed in the last survey of 2002.

Weather-wise the summer was not good, and the best of the wild flowers came late and into the autumn. However, the spring gave us a glorious display of gorse, fine bluebells and a spread of marsh violets in the damp area at the bottom of the Common; Linda Burnham took photographs of the small, pale lilac coloured flowers showing among the intense green of the kidney shaped leaves.

A June evening walk, led by William Coleman, to listen to the nightjars chirring in the heath, took us along unfrequented parts, muddy from recent rain, and producing splendid specimens of common figwort and sweet-scented honeysuckle.

The area of the pond on the right side of the common is good for a variety of plants; yellow iris, comfrey, silver weed and hairy cress to name a few.

Common spotted and marsh orchids were found on the southern slopes, and the bright yellow flowers of tormentil grow in profusion along the sides of the broad paths, as do the dainty spikes of common milkwort with its blue, mauve or pink flowers.

The late summer and autumn brought a good crop of composites; hawk weeds, sow thistles and hawkbits, these flowered late into the season. The heather was lovely to see.

Plant recording requires time and dedication, and this year we will welcome back Shirley Siems, a knowledgeable botanist, to help with the survey of Pound Common. Many eyes are needed to search out the wildflowers and all volunteers are welcome! Good luck to all plant hunters.

FLORA ON MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorders	Pwk SJ	HL JB	Pwk HL JB	HL JB	
Family	Botanical Name	Common Name	Year	1989	1995	2002	2008
APIACEAE	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground elder		X	X	X	
	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica				X	X
	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley		X	X	X	X
	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress			X		
	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut		X	X	X	
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		X	X	X	X
	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle		X			
ARACEAE	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and ladies/cuckoo pint		X	X	X	X
ARALIACEAE	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		X	X	X	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		X	X	X	X
	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock				X	X
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		X	X	X	X
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed		X	X	X	X
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle		X	X	X	X
	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle		X	X	X	X
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle			X	X	X
	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawksbeard		X			
	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp agrimony		X	X	X	X
	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common cudweed			X		
	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	Heath cudweed			X		X
	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Marsh cudweed				X	
	<i>Hieracium sp.</i>					X	
	<i>Hieracium perpropinquum</i>	Hawkweed		X			X
	<i>Hieracium umbellatum</i>	Leafy hawkweed		X	X		
	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common cat'sear		X	X	X	X
	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort		X	X	X	
	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit			X		
	<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	Lesser hawkbit		X	X		
	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy			X	X	X
	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple-weed		X	X	X	
	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed		X			
	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce		X			
	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope			X		
	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-eared Hawkweed				X	
	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common fleabane		X	X	X	X
	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common ragwort		X	X	X	X
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel		X	X	X	
	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	Saw-wort		X	X	X	X
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle					X
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Golden rod		X	X	X	X	
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial sowthistle				X	X	

FLORA ON MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorders	Pwk SJ	HL JB	Pwk HL JB	HL JB	
Family	Botanical Name	Common Name	Year	1989	1995	2002	2008
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sowthistle		X		X	X
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sowthistle			X	X	X
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion		X	X	X	X
	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's Beard		X	X		
	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless mayweed		X	X		X
	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot			X		
BALSAMINACEAE	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam			X	X	
BORAGINACEAE	<i>Mysotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not		X	X	X	X
	<i>Mysotis laxa</i>	Tufted Forget-me-not				X	
	<i>Mysotis scorpioides</i>	Water forget-me-not		X	X	X	X
	<i>Mysotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not			X	X	
	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey		X	X	X	X
	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	Russian Comfrey				X	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard				X	
	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress			X		
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse		X	X		
	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bittercress		X		X	X
	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bittercress		X	X		X
	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Lady's smock		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Watercress			X	X	
	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard		X	X		
CALLITRICHACEAE	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Water-starwort			X		
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle		X	X	X	X
CARYOPHYLL- ACEAE	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse ear		X	X	X	X
	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse ear			X		X
	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin		X			
	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-veined sandwort				X	
	<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent pearlwort				X	X
	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion		X		X	X
	<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog stitchwort		X		X	X
	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort		X	X	X	X
	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater stitchwort		X	X	X	X
	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed		X	X	X	X
CHENOPODIACEAE	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache			X	X	X
	<i>Chenopodium polyspermum</i>	Many-seeded Goosefoot				X	
CLUSIACEAE	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort		X			
	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort		X	X	X	X
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed		X	X	X	X
	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed		X	X	X	X
CUSCUTACEAE	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common dodder		X	X		X

FLORA ON MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorders	Pwk SJ	HL JB	Pwk HL JB	HL JB	
Family	Botanical Name	Common Name	Year	1989	1995	2002	2008
DIOSCOREACEAE	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony		X		X	
DIPSACACEAE	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel					X
	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil'sbit scabious		X	X	X	X
ERICACEAE	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling		X	X	X	X
	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell heather		X	X	X	X
	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved heath		X	X	X	X
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury		X	X		X
FABACEAE	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom		X			X
	<i>Genista anglica</i>	Petty Whin		X	X		
	<i>Lathyrus montanus</i>	Bitter vetchling		X			
	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling		X		X	
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird'sfoot trefoil		X	X	X	X
	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater bird'sfoot trefoil		X	X		X
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick		X		X	X
	<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common Restharrow			X		
	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil				X	
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover			X	X	X
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ulex minor</i>	Dwarf gorse				X	X
	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch		X	X	X	X
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare				X		
GENTIANACEAE	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common centaury		X		X	
GERANIACEAE	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill				X	
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		X	X	X	X
GROSSULARIACEAE	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red currant			X		X
IRIDACEAE	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow iris			X	X	X
LAMIACEAE	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound					X
	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common hemp-nettle				X	
	<i>Glechoma hederaceae</i>	Ground ivy		X	X	X	X
	<i>Lamium album</i>	White deadnettle			X	X	
	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Corn Mint				X	
	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint		X			X
	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal		X			
	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self heal		X	X	X	X
	<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	Lesser skullcap		X	X	X	X
	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony		X	X	X	X
	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort		X	X	X	X
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood sage		X	X	X	X	
LEMNACEAE	<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed			X		

FLORA ON MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorders	Pwk SJ	HL JB	Pwk HL JB	HL JB	
Family	Botanical Name	Common Name	Year	1989	1995	2002	2008
LILIACEAE	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop			X		X
	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>	Bluebell		X	X	X	X
	<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	Spring snowflake			X		
	<i>Narcissus</i>	Daffodil			X		X
	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal		X	X	X	X
MALVACEAE	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow		X		X	
OLEACEAE	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash				X	
	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet					X
ONAGRACEAE	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ciraea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's nightshade		X	X	X	X
	<i>Epilobium adenocaulon</i>	American willowherb		X			
	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved willowherb			X	X	
	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh willowherb			X		
	<i>Oenothera sp.</i>	Evening Primrose		X			
ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchid		X	X	X	X
	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath spotted orchid			X		X
	<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common twayblade		X	X	X	X
OXALIDACEAE	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood sorrel		X	X		
PLANTAGINACEAE	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain		X	X	X	X
	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain		X	X	X	X
POLYGALACEAE	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath milkwort		X	X	X	
	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common milkwort			X		X
	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed			X	X	X
	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass		X	X	X	X
	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water pepper				X	X
	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank (Redleg)			X	X	X
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad leaved dock		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock				X	
POTAMOGETON- ACEAE	<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	Opposite-leaved pondweed			X		
	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Broad leaved pondweed		X	X		
PRIMULACEAE	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel		X		X	X
	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow pimpernel					X
	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny				X	
	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip			X		
	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose		X	X	X	X
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone		X	X	X	X
	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine			X	X	
	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup			X	X	X

FLORA ON MEMORIAL COMMON		Recorders	Pwk SJ	HL JB	Pwk HL JB	HL JB	
Family	Botanical Name	Common Name	Year	1989	1995	2002	2008
	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Water crowfoot			X		
	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort		X	X	X	X
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup		X	X	X	X
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder buckthorn			X		
ROSACEAE	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony				X	X
	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry		X	X	X	
	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennett		X	X	X	X
	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed		X	X	X	X
	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil		X	X	X	X
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil			X	X	X
	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren strawberry			X		X
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		X	X		
	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry		X			
	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble		X	X	X	X
	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry		X			
RUBIACEAE	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers or Goosegrass		X	X	X	X
	<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Crosswort or Hedge Bedstraw			X		X
	<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh bedstraw		X		X	X
	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw		X	X	X	X
SCROPHULARIACEAE	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove		X	X	X	X
	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common toadflax					X
	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common cow wheat		X	X	X	
	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort				X	X
	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common figwort		X		X	X
	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein		X			
	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell		X	X	X	X
	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved speedwell				X	X
	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common field speedwell				X	
	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved speedwell			X	X	
SOLANACEAE	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade/Bittersweet		X	X	X	X
URTICACEAE	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle		X	X	X	X
VALERIANACEAE	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Valerian					
VIOLACEAE	<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath dog violet			X		X
	<i>Viola palustris</i>	Marsh Violet				X	X
	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common dog violet		X	X	X	X
	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Heartsease		X			

Honor Lamb

Trees

The following trees were found on Memorial Common:

TREES ON MEMORIAL COMMON			Recorders		Pwk HL JB	WEC KP
Family	Species	Common Name	Year	2002	2008	
ACERACEAE	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		X	5	
AQUIFOLIACEAE	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly		X	10	
BETULACEAE	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		X	20 +	
	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Hairy Birch			20 +	
CORYLACEAE	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		X	10 +	
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		X	5 +	
	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose			2	
ERICACEAE	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron			3	
FAGACEAE	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut		X	3	
	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech			4	
	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak		X	20 +	
OLEACEAE	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		X	4	
PINACEAE	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine			3	
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder buckthorn		X	20 +	
ROSACEAE	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		X	20 +	
	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple		X	4	
	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry			1	
	<i>Prunus domestica ssp. insititia</i>	Damson			1	
	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel			1	
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn			5 +	
	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan or Mountain Ash			4	
SALICACEAE	<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen		X	20 +	
	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow			5	
	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow or Great willow		X	20 +	
	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey willow		X	w/sprd	
	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow		X		
TAXACEAE	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew			3	

William Coleman and Karen Pritty

Birds

The year 2008 started relatively mild with some rains but by the middle of January the cold west and north-west winds developed. This weather pattern continued into February and March. The odd snow shower and hailstones also graced the countryside at times in April.

The breeding season itself brought a great many spells of both warm conditions interspersed with squally rain showers on and off throughout the month of May and into June. Hopefully, by the end of this mixed weather pattern the birds had successfully raised their young, most of which should have fledged.

Species	Common Name	Distribution	1995	2002	2008
<i>Ardea Cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	1 overflying		0(2)	0(1)
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose	Not seen		0(4)	NS
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	1 pair seen by stream		0	P
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	1 sighting of a group of 4			0(4)
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	1 seen hunting over gorse	O		0(1)
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	1 male seen several times	O	P	0(1)
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Pheasant	Occasional birds calling		P	P
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	None recorded		P(1)	NS
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	Not seen			NS
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	Occasional overflying			O
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	Occasional groups overflying			O(5)
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	At least 6 breeding territories	2	7	6
<i>Streptopelia decacto</i>	Collared Dove	Occasionally seen near church		O	O
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove	Not seen this year		1	NS
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	Not seen or heard	P	P	NS
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar	1 displaying male seen on 11/6			1
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	Several groups seen overflying		O(5)	O(6)
<i>Picus Viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker	Occasionally seen or heard		P	P
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Greater Spotted Woodpecker	2 possible breeding territories on the east and west sides		1	2
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	Not observed	1	NS	NS
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	Occasional groups seen		O	O(7)
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	Occasional groups seen		NS	O(8)
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	Large group seen on Sports field	P	P	P(25)
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied Wagtail	Often seen on Sports field	P	P	P(14)
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	At least 15 breeding territories	6	53?	15
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	At least 3 breeding territories		7	3
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	At least 14 breeding territories	6	40?	14
<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Stonechat	At least 2 breeding territories	2	2	2
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear	1 seen on 22/8 on migration			P
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	9 breeding territories	4	7	9
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	Small flock seen in february		P(5)	P(6)
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	At least 4 breeding territories	3	9	4
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	Not seen		NS	NS
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	1 breeding territory	O	P(4)	1
<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Dartford Warbler	Not seen this year		2	NS
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat	1 definite breeding territory		2	1
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler	Occasionally seen		2	P
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	At least 4 breeding territories		6	4
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff	8 breeding territories	2	8	8
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	5 breeding territories well spread	8	5	5
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	At least 1 family seen		P	1
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long tailed Tit	At least 2 family parties seen	P	P	2
<i>Parus palustris</i>	Marsh Tit	None seen		P	NS
<i>Parus montanus</i>	Willow Tit	None seen		NS	NS
<i>Parus ater</i>	Coal Tit	Occasional sightings of 1 pair		P	1
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	At least 10 breeding territories	2	P	10
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	At least 9 breeding territories	3	13	9
<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Nuthatch	2 breeding territories			2
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper	Just one sighting		P	P
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay	Regularly seen plus 1 family group	P	P	P
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	Regularly seen	P	P	P
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	Numerous flocks some large, often seen near Sports field	P	P	P
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	Occasional sightings		NS	P
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	At least 2 breeding territories	1	2	2
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	Small flocks seen during year	P	P	P
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	At least 10 breeding territories	2	12	10
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Greenfinch	Occasional sightings		P	P
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	Occasional sightings		P	P
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	At least 3 breeding territories	1	P	3
<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Lesser redpoll	1 flock seen on 13/10 of at least 20, winter migrants			P

Species	Common Name	Distribution	1995	2002	2008
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	At least 3 breeding territories	4	6	3
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	None seen this year		P(1)	NS
Recorders			AK	JS PW	JS IW
Number = breeding pairs; P = Present; O = Overflying (no.); NS = Not seen					

It was interesting to see a group of four **Buzzards** flying over the common, this is becoming a much more common sight in recent years and a **Sparrowhawk** which was seen hunting over areas of gorse.

Our Survey for 2008 showed some fifty two species, incidentally the same number as for 2002, which was the previous survey on Memorial Common. The Survey was carried out from January until late autumn. The weather remained rather fickle at the start of the breeding season. It is often shown that inclement weather conditions affect breeding success, and this was the case as the year progressed.

No great rarities were seen or heard this year, but, at least one **Nightjar** was seen to be displaying in early June. This probably was in response to a flickering white handkerchief, which always seems to attract the males! The **Dartford Warblers** once again failed to appear.

Notable as always, were the **Robin** with fourteen breeding territories and the **Wren** with fifteen territories. **Chaffinch** and **Blue Tit** both had ten territories, and the **Great Tit** also occupied nine. In the case of the **Chiffchaff**, **Whitethroat**, **Willow Warbler** and the **Blackcap** the breeding seemed reasonably steady on this common. The **Stonechat** was seen to be breeding at two territories and the **Yellowhammer** occupied three territories.

However the migration period over the autumn period turned up a few surprises, a **Wheatear** being seen for several days in late August whilst on its way south. Then in October a flock of some 25 **Meadow Pipits** were seen feeding one morning on the Sports Ground and a flock of some 20 **Lesser Redpolls** were seen feeding on birch seeds on a large tree in the middle of the common.

The next common to be surveyed in 2009 is Pound Common when we hope the weather conditions are better for the breeding birds.

Ian Woolsey and John Smitherman.

Bird Box Report

2008 was again a good year for the tit boxes on the different commons. Three boxes had 12 or more eggs, one being in the same box as a large brood before. Godley's Green had all blue tits, including one of the large broods. Nuthatches used the same box again in Markstakes and I was able to ring 6 nestlings. The chimney box on Memorial Common had 2 Tawny Owl chicks. The Society's Barn Owl box on Townings Farm. was occupied by a Squirrel when we visited so unfortunately there were no Barn Owl chicks there this year.

Bird Box No.	Species Present	Number of young	Bird Box No.	Species Present	Number of young
6	Blue tit	8	62	Blue tit	13
14	Great tit	6	68	Great tit	5
18	Great tit	6	69	Great tit	?
20	Blue tit	10	71	Great tit	6
30	Great tit	6	74	Blue tit	7
41	Blue tit	12	80	Blue tit	7
46	Blue tit	8	84	Blue tit	7

Bird Box No.	Species Present	Number of young		Bird Box No.	Species Present	Number of young
47	Blue tit	6		85	Blue tit	14
51	Blue tit	9		86	Blue tit	10
55	Nuthatch	6		87	Blue tit	7
57	Blue tit	7		88	Blue tit	6
59	Blue tit	10		89	Blue tit	5
				TO	Tawny Owl	2

Thanks again to all those who helped in monitoring the boxes on the commons.

Brian Walter

Butterflies

Our early butterflies fared rather well this year with large numbers of Brimstones flying in late February and March. Later in March Small Tortoiseshells were seen in my garden for the first time in 2/3 years, also Orange Tips, Commas, Red Admirals and Peacocks were seen across the commons. In April, Holly Blues were seen on all the commons, they did rather better than for several years. Unfortunately the weather deteriorated in early May, so the numbers of butterflies seen were few and far between, the adults having little time between the downpours to find mates. However, Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers were in abundance later in the summer. I did notice, however, that they were smaller specimens than usual, due to the lack of sunshine for their caterpillars.

Sadly we saw no Silver Studded Blues, Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, nor Grayling. A few Common Blues were seen on Pound and Memorial Commons with great excitement, but when viewed closely they proved to be not our one time speciality, the Silver Studded. These declines are, in part, due to lack of conservation i.e. habitat loss which is inevitable since no Ranger can possibly deal with all the cutting and scraping needed. Let's hope that the Grazing Project can go ahead and that some of these beautiful species can be re-introduced.

List of Butterflies seen on Memorial Common with many thanks to Chris Melhuish for his help.

BUTTERFLIES on MEMORIAL COMMON			Recorder	JB
FAMILY	Species	Common Name	Year	2008
HESPERIIDAE	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper		X
	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>	Large Skipper		X
PIERIDAE	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone		X
	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White		X
	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White		X
LYCAENIDAE	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip		X
	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper		X
	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue		X
NYMPHALIDAE	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue		X
	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral		X
	<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock		X
SATYRIDAE	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma		X
	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood		X
	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper		X
	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown		X
	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath		X

Jenny Barbour

Moths

Sam Bayley and Keith Alexander ran three 125W Mercury vapour lamp moth traps on Memorial Common over night on Friday 18th July 2008. and the following 54 species were found.

MOTHS ON MEMORIAL COMMON (TQ385209)		Recorders	SM KA
FAMILY	Species	Common Name	Date
			18/07/08
HEPIALIDAE	<i>Hepialus lupulinus</i>	Common Swift	X
LASIOCAMPIDAE	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	X
DREPANIDAE	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak Hook-tip	X
	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	Pebble Hook-tip	X
	<i>Falcaria lacertinaria</i>	Scalloped Hook-tip	X
GEOMETRIDAE	<i>Cyclophora albipunctata</i>	Birch Mocha	X
	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	X
	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	Brown Silver-line	X
	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	X
	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	X
	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>	Foxglove Pug	X
	<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata atropunctaria</i>	Grass Emerald	X
	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	X
	<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	Narrow-winged Pug	X
	<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	X
	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>	Red Twin-spot Carpet	X
	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>	Scalloped Oak	X
	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	X
	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	X
	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	X
NOTODONTIDAE	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	Iron Prominent	X
LYMANTRIIDAE	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	Yellow-tail	X
ARCTIIDAE	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	Common Footman	X
	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	X
	<i>Eilema complana</i>	Scarce Footman	X
NOCTUIDAE	<i>Anarta myrtilli</i>	Beautiful Yellow Underwing	X
	<i>Myrthimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	X
	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	X
	<i>Ipimorpha retusa</i>	Double Kidney	X
	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot	X
	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	Dun-bar	X
	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	X
	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	X
	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	X
	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	X
	<i>Protodeltate pygarga</i>	Marbled White Spot	X
	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	Nut-Tree Tussock	X
<i>Nycteola revayana</i>	Oak Nycteoline	X	

MOTHS ON MEMORIAL COMMON (TQ385209)		Recorders	SM KA
FAMILY	Species	Common Name	Date
	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	18/07/08
	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	Small Fan-foot	X
	<i>Phytometra viridaria</i>	Small Purple-barred	X
	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	X
	<i>Axylia putris</i>	The Flame	X
	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	X
MICRO-MOTHS			
CRAMBIDAE	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	Common Grey	X
	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	X
PYRALIDAE	<i>Phycita roborella</i>	Dotted Oak Knot-horn	X
	<i>Catoptria pinella</i>	Pearl Grass-veneer	X
	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	Rosy Tabby	X
	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	Straw Grass-veneer	X
TORTRICIDAE	<i>Cochylis atricapitana</i>	Black-Headed Conch	X
	<i>Epiblema uddmanniana</i>	Bramble shoot moth	X
	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	Common Yellow Conch	X
	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	Marbled Orchard Tortix	X

Reptiles

This year eight tins/refuges were placed in various areas over the common to encourage adders and other reptiles to use them. This is the first year out of the last four that some the tins have not been run over by machinery although one tin had been removed, possibly because some one may have thought it was rubbish!

The weather this summer was not conducive to see reptiles. Hopefully 2009 will be better. Chailey Common, on a day when the weather is warm, with a hazy sun trying to break through the clouds, when there is no wind, seems to be a good time to see adders basking in as much sun as they can get. They can be seen lying on the heather or dry areas, maybe on a mound or bank. Sometimes they will be coiled up and sometimes not. One adder could be seen regularly lying on the top of one of the tins. When the sun is hazy, I have observed it is more likely they will be seen, as they try to absorb as much warmth as possible. Also when their body temperature is cooler they tend to move fairly slowly. This, plus their camouflage colours, makes them hard to see. Therefore when walking off the paths there is a strong likelihood that if an animal, such as a dog, comes bounding up it will be a candidate to be bitten.

Having been looking for adders on the common for a number years now it is interesting to note the various colours which can range from a light sandy hue to a dark brown with the black zigzag down their back. They are a very attractive creature to look at.

Apart from the adder on the tin only one other adder was seen under a tin. This was a juvenile. Most of the other adders seen were in the areas where we expected to see them but not under the tins. On Memorial Common, during the summer, in three quarters of an hour it could be expected to see four or five adders.

Grass snakes were seen on the area near the A275 and on the west side of the common near the stream. When threatened they seem to move away much faster than the adders.

There were quite a few slow worms observed under the tins, all various sizes and found in most areas of the common. Common lizards were seen over most of the common too, the first one was seen in February!

Peter Tutt

Bat Report

2008 was the first year that Memorial Common has been surveyed for bats. We spent five enjoyable evenings over the spring and summer looking for evidence of bat activity starting 20 minutes before sunset and continuing for a couple of hours. To cover the full range of bat echolocation more clearly we used two bat detectors, one set at a higher frequency of 50 kHz and also a lower 30 kHz. However, we were disappointed to discover that there was little bat activity on the common. Even on the moth trapping evening when there were plenty of moths and insects out on the common we were unable to detect any bats.

Those we did observe were active mainly around St Mary's church and over the nearby gardens. We heard and saw pipistrelles possibly both the common *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, and another larger species which we were not able to identify. We also observed several pipistrelles over the pond across Beggars Wood Road on Pound Common.

We located the six bat boxes which had been put up five years ago in the woodland adjacent to the memorial stone and by the pond close to the A272. No evidence of bats was found in these boxes, some of which had been vandalised by other wildlife and a blue tit had moved into one of them.

At the present time we can detect no sign of bats out on the common and those that we were able to locate were around the church and nearby houses. In the absence of any previous records relating to the presence of bats on Memorial Common it is impossible to say if their absence is a recent event or whether they have never favoured the site. It will be very interesting to see what the next survey shows in five years time.

Sue Hayday and Linda Burnham

Spiders and Insects

We walked on Memorial Common on 27th September 2008 to look for Spiders.

We spent some time looking in the heather, gorse and bracken and here is a list of those spiders and other things which we found. We hope that the names are correct.

Arthropods (Arthropoda) » Arachnids (Arachnida) » Spiders (Araneae)

Lace web spider	<i>Amaurobius similis</i>
Daddy Long Legs Spider	<i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>
Ant Mimic Spider	<i>Synemosyna formica</i>
Zebra Spider	<i>Salticus scenicus</i>
Six Eyed Spider	<i>Segestria senoculata</i>
Mesh Web Spider	<i>Nigma walckenaeri</i>
Crab Spider	<i>Ozyptila praticola</i>
Wolf Spider	<i>Hogna helluo</i>
Comb footed Spider	<i>Theridiidae spp.</i>
Orb Web Spider	<i>Zygiella atrica</i>
Garden spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>
Sheet web spider	<i>Lepthyphantes</i>

Other species

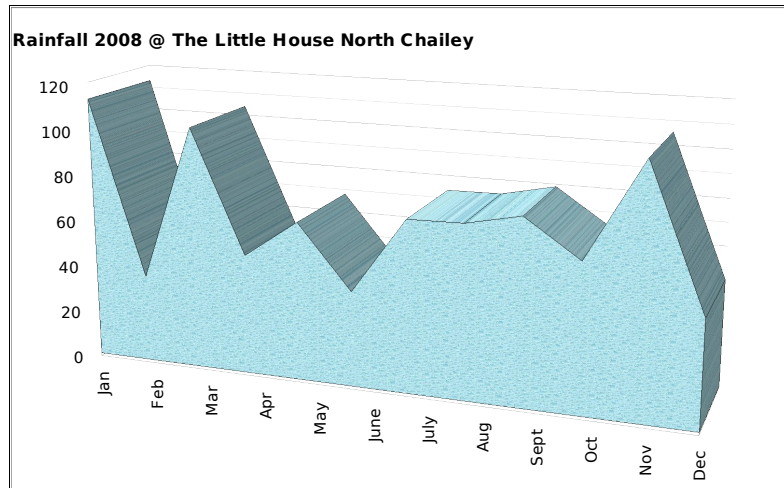
Earwig	<i>Firficula auricularia</i>
Wild honey bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
Dragonfly Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

Ben and Joshua Essex (Junior members)

Rainfall

The following figures show the rainfall measured at The Little House, North Chailey.

	mm.
January	113
February	37.5
March	104
April	51.5
May	68
June	41
July	73.5
August	74
September	79
October	63.5
November	105.5
December	46
Annual Total	856.5



Jenny Barbour

2009 Survey on Pound Common

This year we shall be surveying Pound Common. Our familiarisation walk will be on **Saturday 11th April** from **2- 4 pm**. Meet in the car park – all welcome.

Garth Christian Prize

There were no applications for the Garth Christian Prize this year. The small Grant is awarded to a child or youth still in full time education who would like to carry out a project on natural History, conservation, biodiversity, history archaeology etc. Please let the chairman know if you have a project in mind and need support and/or some funds to get started.