



Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

For the Common Good ©

www.bookercommon.org.uk

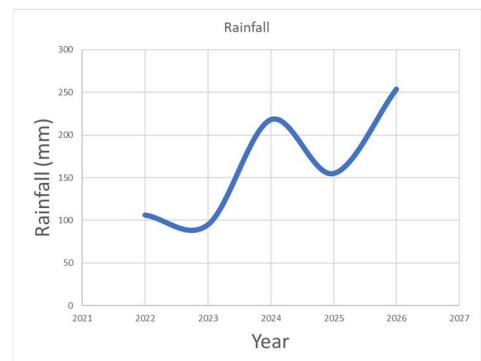
Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 103 Spring 2026

A very soggy start to the year

Thanks to everyone who responded to our request in the last Woodsman for volunteers. You have been added to the email distribution list and we will be in touch. So far this year the weather has been against us.

Met Office data shows that in January and February the south of England received more than 250 mm of rain. There were local variations of course, but anyone using the common or woods will know that we had our fair share, with periods where it rained every day for several days in a row.



In January the committee usually get together for a walk around the common to take stock of what needs doing and make some plans. This year our walk was abandoned due to the weather. I suspect we were not alone in opting to stay dry.

Officially, spring has now arrived and the weather is improving but it will take a while for the saturated ground to dry out. When it does and the grass is cut and we can look to see what other jobs need doing. After all the rain I am sure there will for example be a lot of strong growth that will be in need of some work to keep the paths clear.

A fallen tree



One path that needed clearing was the bridle path from the bus stop on Lane end road. It was blocked by a large fallen tree. Thanks to James and his colleagues who manage the estate, it was soon cleared and the path reopened.

Some new notices



Most dog owners who use the common clear up after their dog but sadly some do not, and the amount of dog waste on the grass is increasing.

We have therefore put up some new notices which we hope will remind those owners to clear up after their dog, and reverse this unfortunate and unpleasant trend.

2026 Annual General Meeting

**8:00pm, Monday May 18th
Booker Memorial Hall**

Our 43rd Annual General Meeting will be held in the Booker Memorial Hall on Monday May 18th starting at 8:00pm. The AGM is open to members and non-members and we look forward to welcoming you to the meeting.



The AGM is an opportunity to meet other members, find out more about the society and give us your views on the local environment and other local issues. The committee value your opinion on how to enhance your enjoyment of the surrounding woodland and common areas for the benefit of residents and safeguard it for current and future generations.

If you would like something specific included, please email me at chair@bookercommon.org.uk or come along and raise it during the meeting. Draft minutes from our last meeting are on our website, www.bookercommon.org.uk, and copies will be available at the meeting.

Election of the Committee and Officers for 2026/2027

We would be very pleased to welcome new members on to our committee. If you would be interested in becoming a committee member, please call me on 07308 034771 or email chair@bookercommon.org.uk. We are particularly keen to encourage younger members to join the committee.

The following existing committee members are willing to continue for a further year if re-elected

Brian Tranter (Chair)
Sally Jay (Secretary)
Phil Stagg (Treasurer)

Tony McMahon
Ian Evans
Hedley Luxton

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

To undertake practical conservation work by volunteers on and around Booker Commons.

To act against any intrusion or development that would negatively impact our area in particular the Booker Common and the Local Chilterns National Landscape.

Steve Blackman
Wayne Jeeves

Membership and Subscriptions

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our work. Your subscriptions are what allows us to keep the grass cut, the paths clear and much more

If you would like to make a contribution you can do so directly to our bank account.

Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

Bank **Barclays**
Account: **20177806**
Sort Code: **20-40-71**

We ask for a small annual subscription of just £4.00 per household. Thank you.

Bluebells



In February 2024 we planted 1000 English bluebell bulbs. They are now getting established and if you look carefully can be seen beginning to show themselves. Hopefully within the next month we will see some flowers.

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