

**Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Boyland Common Report**

In our last report, it was mentioned that the South Norfolk and Broadland District Council Marketing and Communications Officer, Debbie Storey, had requested a meeting with members of the 'Friends of Boyland Common' in order to learn a little more about this historic site.

The meeting was arranged for the morning of Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, and four representatives of 'The Friends' braved a particularly chilly morning to welcome Debbie to the Common.

The resulting report was published in the Diss Express dated Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, along with a picture of the four representatives at the gate to the Common. We know that Boyland Common does attract quite a few visitors, but it is always good to spread the word about this local asset whenever we get the chance.

Work to cut back the twigs and branches obscuring the South East facing entrance to the Owl box will be undertaken very soon, and a section of the Willow growth opposite Poplar Farm will be re-coppiced in the near future.

At present, following the persistent rain during February, the Common is quite waterlogged in places, but the first signs of Spring are beginning to show. A quick check confirmed that the Dyer's Greenweed is already showing re-growth, and it is hoped that the Green-winged Orchids will once again show an increase in number in the late Spring. The ground has been too wet to allow the cutting of paths over the Common but hopefully Ivan Lord will be back with this invaluable service when conditions improve.

Having been contacted by Soundyard, a not-for-profit audio production company, we have put up a poster advertising 'Chris Skinner's Countryside Podcast' on the notice board in the bus shelter. Hopefully people will tune in and learn a little more about the ways in which farming and wildlife can coexist harmoniously. A copy of the most recent Boyland Common Report for the Parish Council is also posted on that noticeboard.

Finally, we are hoping that, once again, Stella Taylor will be available to lead our annual Wildflower walk in late Spring or early Summer. These events have been very popular in the past, and Stella is able to draw from information gleaned over many years of studying our Common, enabling her to know where to look for the plants of particular interest.

Pam Ross  
Chairperson of 'The Friends of Boyland Common'