**Bringsty Common Manorial Court**

**AGM October 2021**

**Chair Report**

A year ago, Bringsty Common Manorial Court held its first Zoom AGM due to the global pandemic, little did we think that a yea on we would still be holding meetings by Zoom including the AGM. Lack of funding from Natural England remains a problem, but has not us actively working towards our mission statement that:

*“Bringsty Common will remain a place where residents and visitors alike can safely enjoy the physical and mental well-being from visiting or living in a peaceful and beautiful landscape.  We will enhance the sense of community, honour our heritage, increase the bio-diversity of the Common and contribute to CO2 reduction*.”

**Community**

With limited opportunities for face- to -face communication in addition to quarter Zoom meetings for residents, a Bringsty Common Manorial Court Facebook site was established, which now has nearly 50 members including about half of the households on the common. Do join this site if you haven’t already it is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and hear news. Almost all those on the site are residents but there is no reason why this could not be opened up further to include those who can contribute to the interest of the common. If you have difficulties finding the site or prefer not to join but would like regular updates, please contact me. Morgan Motors (via **Graham Chapman**) have kindly funded the publishing of “The Commoner” which Tom Fisher has edited for some years. Peter Hall has been a regular contributor and shared invaluable knowledge of moths, butterflies and glow worms which we would never have appreciated without his expertise. Tom has asked to step down from the role as editor and Peter will be moving from the common shortly. I am sure we would all like to thank them for the interesting quarterly reads they have provided us with to brighten up Covid days. If you would like to edit or just contribute to future “Commoners” please let me know.

Once face-to face meetings are safer we hope to organise a social event and welcome ideas. If you are interested in increasing your involvement with the community, please consider joining the Bringsty Common MC.

**Bio-Diversity and Carbon Reduction**-

The Conservation group has gained advice from and arrange visits and guided walks from conservation experts including Herford Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation, organised work parties to replace scrub and bracken with wild flowers and native trees, and managed the grasslands to promote greater biodiversity. Special thanks to **Mike Davis** and **Peter Hall**. For the future you will have seen in “The Commoner” that we are applying funding to implement a woodland management plan which will curb overgrowth of scrub, allow veteran trees space to thrive and enhance the environment for vertebrae. It should also make woodland areas more accessible and attractive. Volunteers are needed to ensure the conservation plans can be achieved

**Health and Safety**,

With thanks to **Kirsty Udall**, in the last year a defibrillator has been installed next to Bringsty Living. Speed control on the A44 continues to be a concern further to a number of serious accidents. We now have the support of both parish councils and great enforcement is happening. A reduction in the speed limit continues to be a longer-term aim. To ensure all residents and visitors feel safe to enjoy dog control continues to be encouraged and seems to be paying off with less reported dog attack incidents. Fire safety remains one of the largest concerns for residents and further to a number of fires on the common a fire assessment has occurred wand been implemented, by widening of the tracks.

**Heritage**

In addition to the native trees, we are aiming to protect by the woodland management plan, the Common has a wealth of history, including listed buildings, the Gospel Oak and the Drovers Pond. Heritage stories and photos are being shared on the Facebook site and residents are encouraged to add to these or the Commoner.

**Mental Health and Well-Being**-.

During the early part of the pandemic a community hub was established to offer help and support to residents and continues to be available. The peace and beauty of the common has for many enhanced mental health and well-being, The addition of a bus shelter, with thanks to **Cllr Nigel Shaw**, in the last year has hopefully improved this experience and encouraged more visitors. The football pitch has continued to be maintained with contributions from Whitbourne Parish Council and used for a variety of activities during the pandemic. Lack of litter on the common is with thanks to Ruth

**Funding.**

The withdrawal of Natural England funding to the Bringsty Common MC means that we only have enough funds to continue maintaining the tracks and the grasslands as we do for the next five years unless we receive addition income. \* We are grateful for donations we have received from Butterfly Conservation, Morgan Motors, Gigaclear. With thanks to **Peter Hall, Graham Chapman** and **Cllr. Nigel Shaw**. Additional contributions are sought from individuals and organisations to ensure

**Thank yous**

In addition to those thanked above I’ d like to thank

**Jenny Creek** for all her continued hard work as clerk

**Peter Bridge**- for keeping all the accounts.

**Derek Brookes** who has contributed enormously to the BCMC over the years who is leaving at least for next year.

**Tim Phillips and Martin Roche** for contributing to committee meetings and sharing ideas

**Cllr Nigel Shaw-** for representation of and liaison with the landowner, Herefordshire Council

**Sally Knowles-**for liaison with Whitbourne Parish Council

*November Update*

\*Further to this report we have had an offer of additional funding from Herefordshire Council.