



# Commons Link

Newsletter for the Friends of Ludshott and Passfield Commons

 National Trust

Issue 18 - October 2014

## SUPERIOR CAMP

Part 7 in a series concerning the history of our Open Space Properties

Ludshott Common was acquired by the National Trust in 1908 and from about 1933 it was used for military training, but at the start of World War II the whole area was requisitioned by the Army.



*Tank traps*

It reverted to the Trust in 1945 (see part 3 in Commons Link, March 2007). However, this excepted Superior Camp, at the Grayshott end of Ludshott Common, which has a history of its own.

Canadian Royal Engineers began to construct Superior Camp in 1941, as one of a group in the area named after the Great Lakes. Erie Camp was on the site of the Heatherlands Estate in Headley Down, and Huron and Ontario were on Bramshott Common, alongside the A3.

The buildings at Superior were generally constructed between the remaining concrete track and the boundary of Yaffles'



*Foundations*

garden, but the parade ground was nearer to Grayshott Hall and its position can be seen in a clearing in the woodland.



*Parade ground*

Further down the hillside was the essential sewage works which are marked by a flourishing crop of nettles, and the protective banks for the rifle range still exist on the open common.

At the end of the War, Superior was used as a transit camp for troops about to return

to Canada, so it was not vacated until 1946, and was then briefly occupied by squatters. However Petersfield Rural District Council wanted to use it for emergency housing, so the army huts were converted for residential use.



*Rifle Range*

By 1948 there were 140 dwellings, and it was ten years before the residents started to be re-housed. Thus, it was not until 1962 that the Camp was fully vacated and 1964 before the area could be reintegrated with the rest of Ludshott Common. As part of the compensation agreement with the Ministry of Housing, 2,500 sapling trees were planted in the area of the camp. Most of these did not survive as they were eaten by rabbits and deer. Since then natural regeneration has restored the woodland, but many of the 1950's garden plants and hedgerow shrubs are still flourishing.

**2015 is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.**

**Our commemoration of that event will be to remember and reflect on what happened on Ludshott Common.**

**There will be a guided walk around the Superior Camp area looking at the military artefacts which can still be found, and the Wardens and Committee are working with the Grayshott Village Archive to produce an information board about the history of Superior Camp.**

### The National Trust Selborne Common Local Committee

A sociable and informative evening  
bar available

**Saturday 15 November 2014**

**Wolfgang Bopp**

Director of the **Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens**  
in Hampshire, one of the largest collections of  
hardy trees & shrubs in the world.

**Selborne Village Hall**

**7.30pm**

Tickets £8 in advance,  
£7.50 for Friends of Selborne Common  
£10 on the night

Doors & bar open at 7.00pm  
For tickets & further information contact:

Liz ([liz.try@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.try@btinternet.com)) or call on (01420) 588323  
Eoin ([weir.e@btinternet.com](mailto:weir.e@btinternet.com)) or call on (01420) 511635

**Tickets also on sale at Selborne Stores & P.O**

## Commons Link newsletter - Distributors needed

Recently, for various reasons, several of  
our distributors have retired and the  
Committee thanks them most sincerely  
for all their support.

We are therefore appealing for volunteers  
to join the team.

By helping in this way the not  
inconsiderable postage costs are saved  
which can then be used more produc-  
tively to aid the Wardens who look after  
our beautiful Commons.

We are looking for help in Headley,  
Headley Down, Grayshott, Liphook  
and all points in between!

If you could consider delivering to even a  
few addresses please contact Susan

[trustsusan@btinternet.com](mailto:trustsusan@btinternet.com)

01428 751409

Or via [www.ntludshott.org.uk](http://www.ntludshott.org.uk)

It can be helpful if distributors have  
access to email.

German-born **Wolfgang Bopp**, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) member, gained work experience in various gardens including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He was Assistant Curator at Ness Botanic Gardens before he won acclaim as curator of the National Botanic Gardens of Wales, a £43 million lottery-funded millennium project, featuring a greenhouse dome designed by Sir Norman Foster. Enthusiastic and exuberant, he brought plants from all over the world, only to torch them - the Australian trees were set alight to simulate a lightning strike and brush fire.

Wolfgang has now taken over as Director of The Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens in Hampshire, one of the largest collections of hardy trees and shrubs in the world.

## Call 101 if you spot illegal off-roading on the Commons

It is a road traffic offence to ride or drive illegally or anti-socially on paths in the countryside, and people are being called on to report it to the police using the new 101 phone number.

A special service called Country Watch has been set up in Hampshire to help protect the safety of everyone using the countryside and to prevent the damage that illegal off-roading can cause. Anyone can report an offence by calling 101 or emailing [countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Most people driving off-road do so legally and with consideration for other people. Unfortunately there are a small minority who give all a bad name and do not follow the advice of the Land Access and Recreation Association or the Trials Rider Fellowship.

**Riding motorbikes on Ludshott is illegal so please report it.**

To find out more about the Country Watch service go to [www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/rural-crime/country-watch](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/rural-crime/country-watch)

# Walking isn't just for Summer!

Winter may seem a drab and cold season but take a walk on to Ludshott Common from Dunelm car park, and enjoy the views of the South Downs and Selborne Hills which, on a clear day, fill the horizon.



*A December view from Dunelm car-park*



*Common gorse in bloom on Ludshott in late February*

There is always plenty to see. For example look closely at the gorse bushes. Gorse is one of those plants which never seems to take a winter break; it is unusual to find a month in which not one yellow blossom is visible.

When the weather conditions are favourable, there are always buds unfurling on either of the two species found on our commons; Common Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) which begins it's main flowering season in late winter and early spring and the Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*) which flowers mainly in the late summer and autumn.

At all times of the year the flowers of both are a very important supply of nectar and pollen and will attract a large number of insects such as social wasps and solitary bees, honey bees, hover flies, ladybirds, shield bugs, beetles, and even butterflies. During the colder months you may be fortunate and spot some which go foraging in the winter and early spring, tempted out on a mild day. Throughout the seasons, the bushes shelter and provide feeding not only for the birds which are resident on the common but also for plant lice, thrips and weevils, and the spiders which prey on

them whose webs and snares are especially visible hanging in the bushes after a morning dew.

And don't forget on a warm, still day later in the spring, to enjoy the sight of the golden flowered bushes with their cocoon-like, almondly fragrance.



*In early February a 'touch of gorse', the Selborne Hangers and the Oakhanger 'golf balls'.*



*Ludshott Common in late spring*

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## New Office Update

by Mandy Phyfferoen Countryside Ranger

All the major building works for the office at the new base, have been completed and we are finally on the finishing trades, for example kitchen fitting and carpentry. We have incorporated a system to recycle our water which will flush our toilets and give us facilities to clean vehicles and machinery. We have enough money left in the budget to install solar panels which should help to reduce our electricity bills. We are just waiting for BT to install our phone and broadband lines and then we can move in to our new office.

This has been a major project for all involved, including our local committee with the finance for the build and members of staff who have helped with the build itself. It has been a great achievement to create such an architecturally smart and functional building from timber in the round, procured from our own and neighbouring NT properties, and convert that into what we see today.

We hope, also, that this facility will give an opportunity for a volunteer to help us with day to day administration and the nature conservation of our local sites.



*We even managed to get our General Manager - Gordon Gardner - to do some hoovering for us!*

We will have an Open Day probably in May 2015 so it would be great to see all our supporters there. The date for this will be in the next newsletter edition.

## Open Day at Waggoners Wells lakes

The weather was kind for this event held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It was a great success, and the pond dipping especially so, being enjoyed by the many children and adults who had a go trying to identify the many freshwater invertebrate species from the fact sheets. This activity, along with woodland crafts and bug hunting, was part of the joint venture with the Grayshott Angling Club, who were holding their biennial open fishing event, to introduce beginners to the sport.



*Simon keeping watch. There was a queue at times needing Jim and Mandy helping too!*

## Nightjar Walk

This annual evening walk on Ludshott Common took place this year on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, once again in fine weather. Chris Webb led the 28 strong group round the common describing the conservation work that had been done since last year and, on cue, at dusk, the nightjars could be heard calling. Then several of these elusive, nocturnal, ground-nesting birds made an appearance, flying close by.

**Passfield and Conford Walk.** This event which was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> September did not take place due to lack of support.

### Quiz Night on 7<sup>th</sup> November

Due to unforeseen circumstances the quiz has been postponed.  
It will be rescheduled in the Spring. Apologies to anyone disappointed.

### Christmas Tree Sale

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 9am - 12 noon**

Ludshott Common main (Dunelm) car park on B3002 between Headley Down and Grayshott (map ref SU853358).

*Homemade mincepies and mulled wine.*

For further details please see:- Posters on the Commons

or Contact:- Wardens 01428 751338 [selborneandludshott@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:selborneandludshott@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Chairman 01428 751409 [trustsusan@btinternet.com](mailto:trustsusan@btinternet.com)

*Proceeds will be used locally towards the nature conservation of Ludshott Common, and Passfield Common & Conford Moor.*

[www.ntludshott.org.uk](http://www.ntludshott.org.uk)

***If you enjoy reading this newsletter,  
please pass it on!***

### **Become a Friend**

You will receive your own personal newsletter, and you will be helping valuable conservation work to ensure the survival of our precious landscape and habitat - 'Forever for Everyone'.

Becoming a Friend costs only £5.00 for a year.

Contact the Membership Secretary,

Colin Brash on 01428 713256

Or visit [www.ntludshott.org.uk](http://www.ntludshott.org.uk)

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

*Wardens*

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*Ludshott Commons Committee*

Dr Susan Salter

Chairman

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Visit our updated website at

[www.ntludshott.org.uk](http://www.ntludshott.org.uk)