**Catney Common**

This was a difficult year on the Common as everywhere. We managed two work parties in the summer, when lockdown eased, both well attended.

A very suitable sign was delivered and erected on the Common and this has been much appreciated. The grass was flailed in early summer. This was urgently needed as it had grown so much that no one could walk through it. Later on Newlands Bishop did their usual excellent job of cutting and removing the grass. This is hard work but essential.

Dave Cuthbert arranged for the purchase of a few necessary tools to help with the maintenance. The trees have been pruned back as required by the Tree Survey that was carried out throughout the parish.

A well grown Wild Cherry tree was donated. It has been planted near the bench and is growing well.

Plans are in hand for planting some wildflower turf and/ or plugs. An area was prepared but is now partially under water along with much of the common. Flooding is a regular problem for us and makes it difficult to establish new trees or plants.

We are very pleased that two young village residents have asked to do voluntary work on the common, supervised by their Dad who is a volunteer himself, working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Silver award. This will be a great help especially as we cannot safely organise our usual team. They have renovated the bird boxes and rehung them and started to remove the turf ready for the wildflower area.

As always, we are grateful to everyone who has helped and worked to keep the common looking good. It has been very well used during a very difficult 12 months for us all.

New volunteers are always welcome – please look out for details of future work parties.

Heather Bird. February 4th 2021