

## **Boyland Common Report**

For the Shelfanger Parish Council meeting 17.4.2023

The 'Friends of Boyland Common' are arranging an informal meeting for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Village Hall Community Cafe just to regroup and share opinions and ideas as to what the priorities are for when we are able to organise a working group.

We are now in the bird nesting season, and any organised activity on our part must take this into account.

It has been noted that the access area to the gates on both sides of the road need some attention, and this is being looked into. Certainly the County Broadband excavations haven't helped.

We look forward to the wildflower walk on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, led by Stella Taylor. 3.00pm at the Common, a gentle walk of around an hour, identifying species as we go. This is a free event, and this year we hope that it coincides with the flowering of the Green-winged orchids. We have been recording the numbers and distribution of these orchids with an informal count over the last 5 years, and their numbers have been steadily increasing.

Ivan continues his invaluable work, mowing access paths. The North Western section of the Common has never been included in the mowing management plan for the Common, although John and Colin Webster have 'topped' the area on occasions. However, Ivan keeps the back path as clear as he can, helping to slow down the invasive Blackthorn growth.

We are, as ever, indebted to Ivan and our local farmers who undertake this essential work for us.

Pam Ross, Chairman of the 'Friends of Boyland Common'