

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE OUR COMMON?

As you may be aware, the common has become somewhat of an eyesore. A group, called the Friends of Boyland Common, has been set up to try to get the common returned to its former glory. The group is in the process of applying for funding to carry out the extensive work that is needed.

This includes reinstating the ditches, planting up the gaps in the hedges on adjacent land with native species and laying a small area of hard standing. Temporary fencing will be erected to allow for seasonal grazing which we hope will help to maintain the natural grassland and wild flowers. There would be some simple rustic log and plank benches to sit on and possibly resource boxes with leaflets and a blackboard so that visitors to the common can note down the different types of flora and fauna that they have seen. A brief history of the common is attached.

It is very important that we hear your views on what is proposed as local interest is paramount to the success of the funding application. The group would welcome anyone who would like to be involved in any way. Please can we have your responses by 12th or 13th December 2009. If you would like someone to collect your questionnaire, please call 01379 644961 This questionnaire is also available from www.shelfanger.co.uk and www.bressingham.org

Please tick Yes or No and Feel free to add any comments at the end

	Yes	No
Do you agree that the common should be a place for everyone to enjoy?		
Local schools and societies could be encouraged to use the common as an Outside Learning area- is this a good idea?		
Would it be beneficial to have a small parking area? Planning permission for one would be necessary.		
It has been suggested that there be a sign interpreting the various plants and wildlife that are on the common making it a place of interest for all ages - is this a good idea?		
It is proposed that the ditches be re-instated and temporary fencing is installed so that grazing can take place - do you support this?		
Should there be a seating area?		
Would you be interested in helping for a few hours with some of the practical work e.g. planting the hedge, pulling the ragwort?		

If so, please let someone know. Contact details are at the end of the questionnaire.		
If funding is granted and all the works completed, would you attend a launch party?		
Would you like to join the Friends of Boyland Common group? If so, please put your contact details below.		
Can you think of a symbol or logo that can be used to represent the Common?		
Have you any other comments or ideas how to improve the common?		

Please return this questionnaire to either:-

Helen Green, The Walnuts, Church Road, Shelfanger.

Or

Pam Ross, Southview, Common Road, Shelfanger.

Or

Mike Mortimer, Limetree Farm House, Common Road, Shelfanger

Or

At Bressingham Village Shop

Or

by e.mail to allengriffin@talktalk.net

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BOYLAND COMMON

Boyland Common, takes its name from Boyland Hall, which is close by. It was not common in the sense that it belonged to everyone. Indeed, in theory, all common land belongs to somebody though often over time the record of exactly who that is has been lost. Boyland Common is such a place and is made up of three pieces of land which are situated where Common Road Bressingham and Common Road Shelfanger meet.

Boyland Hall took its name from Sir Richard de Boyland who bought the manor in 1268.

It was a man called Walter of Brissingham who sold the manor to Sir Richard de Boyland who was justice-itinerant in the County. Sir Richard was considered a great man owning many great lordships and estates.

The estate passed through several hands after Sir Richard's son John died without an heir and by 1736 it belonged to the Duke of Norfolk. Sometime between then and the early 1930's record of ownership of the Common was lost. According to the Shelfanger Minute Book in 1932, the Parish Council was taking an interest in the land but was not the owner. The Commons Registration Act of 1965 endeavoured to identify the owners of all common land which in the case of Boyland Common proved to be impossible.