



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER March 2016

We have made a change for you!

We realise that many of you are keen to help out at the Village work days but that Saturday mornings are not a good time for some. So in future, they will take place from 2 till 4 in the afternoon. Now is your chance to come along and join one of our work teams to help keep Wolvercote Common, Wolvercote Green and Goose Green such an asset to Wolvercote. So it's 2pm outside the Village Hall every second Saturday of the month – see you there!

Some of you may have seen that the willows by the pond on Wolvercote Green have had a drastic hair cut. Don't worry they are not being removed, it's all part of the management plan recommended by Natural England. Last year when they inspected the Green they said not only that it is exactly as a meadow should be, but also outlined how it should be maintained to keep its present condition. One of the recommendations was the pruning of the willows. The pond is an integral part of the Green and benefits from diverse fauna. However, if the willows were allowed to continue to grow unabated they would slowly take over the pond, which would soon become no more than a soggy bog. Hence our recent work to rectify the situation. But knowing the speed of willow growth, it will soon look as good as ever.



P.S. Those of you who walk regularly on the Green will have noticed that the small wooden bridge over one of the ditches has been replaced. It had been slowly falling apart and was becoming dangerous, so it was replaced at our last work day.

No, there wasn't a 'UFO' sighted on the Common last month!

It was just a drone flying low at night which gave someone a scare as it zoomed past. People may not realise that the flying of drones on the Common, especially at night, could be a hazard to cattle and horses as well as walkers. We have been informed by a representative of Oxford Council that they are looking at ways of outlining these dangers and possibly preventing their use in areas where cattle and horses graze.



How many of us know the history of Wolvercote?

Wolvercote's history has been recorded in many books and leaflets over the years but now we have some new insights into our past. The Commoners have been given a unique set of photographs showing aspects of Wolvercote's history that have never been seen before. They have been passed to the Oxford archivist for safe keeping. However, we have been offered an opportunity to display them in Wolvercote. So at the forthcoming Commoners' AGM (20th April at the Village Hall) we will have the collection on display with, we hope, a speaker who can give some of their background. **So put the date in your diary. Not only will it be our AGM where you can see what we've been up to, what we may be planning, comment on what you might like to be done or even put yourself forward for one of the vacant positions on the committee, but you'll also be able to see some unique images of Wolvercote's past.**

In December we sadly lost a very enthusiastic member of our community. John Thompson, who died in December, was a consummate ecologist/environmentalist and planted over 10,000 trees during his life. He was involved in establishing the Wolvercote Tree Group and, following his suggestion to the Commoners' Committee, a Tree warden was appointed. John was inspirational in many tree planting schemes including landscaping of Goose Green. It is not only a beautiful place to walk but also won an environmental award in 2006. As a very appropriate tribute to an inveterate tree planter the Tree Group planted a memorial tree on the play area in his honour.



Peter Adams outlines John Thompson's immense contribution to Wolvercote over the years at the tree planting ceremony on 27th February

**Don't forget Village Work Days second Saturday of every month
Meet outside the Village Hall at 2pm (Bring gloves/wellies). Children welcome**

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