

Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER June 2016

Summer's Here

(if it's raining when you read this, just pretend!)

DON'T FORGET

Wolvercote Commoners' Open Talks Commoners of The New Forest



A talk by Julian Cooper,
Oxford City Council Landscape and
Countryside Supervisor

Wednesday 8th June 2016
7.30 p.m. The Plough, Wolvercote

Target Hut Update

For those interested in the future of the Target Hut there is more news. Following further investigation into its future we have had a response from English Heritage. They have now informed us that it cannot be pulled down. However, this still leaves us with the problem that it is unsafe and needs restoring yet no one (MoD, Armed Forces etc.) is prepared to accept responsibility for it. Therefore, because of the safety issues the only solution is to temporarily fence it off. This will be done as soon as possible but, yet again, because of the meadow's status various permissions will be required first. Once the fencing is installed efforts can then be made to find funding to restore it. This may take some time as the restoration will be expensive and it will be necessary to apply for funding in the form of grants, which may be fairly long winded.

Wolvercote & Wytham Summer Festival

At the Wolvercote and Wytham summer festival we will be having a Commoners' stand during the Fun on the Green (Sat 18th June). It will be your chance to see what we've been up to as well as chat to a committee member. So try and come along. It will be good for us to know your views first hand and, as we have a vacancy on the committee, a chance to persuade you of the merits of joining us!

Tree Planting

Following our AGM, when we reported the ongoing tree planting on the common to shield the railway line, we asked if there were any views about the types of trees to be planted. We have permission (yes, we need permission to plant trees on the common) to plant 30 trees. This will commence soon and, following professional advice, the chosen trees will be:

Willow (*Salix alba*),
Field Maple (*Acer campestre*),
Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

We did ask both at the AGM and in previous newsletters if anyone had any other suggestions. So if you have any preferences (as long as they are suitable) please let us know.

Ragwort

Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) is a very dangerous plant to both horses and cattle and should always be removed before it sets seed. So if you see it growing anywhere on Wolvercote Common or Port Meadow don't hesitate to remove it. (if you do it is best to wear gloves or use a plastic bag to cover as handling is not advised)



**Don't forget Village Work Sessions every second Saturday of the month
Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am (Bring gloves/wellies). Children welcome**

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Chair: Angie Goff (01865 554040) Secretary: Mary Brown (01865 236897)