



# Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER May 2016

## Commoners' 2016 AGM

At this year's Commoners' AGM there was much of interest discussed and some of it at length:

there was a comprehensive progress report on the **Fitness Gym** on Goose Green. The gym, which was proposed at the last 2 Commoners' AGMs, was researched by the committee. Funding was to come from a grant but, because Goose Green is common land, any such installation requires permissions from many government bodies, including the Secretary of State, as well as planning permission. However, these permissions could not be completed within the timescale dictated by the grantor. It was therefore felt that the project should be put on ice for the time being until new sources of funding could be found.

the future of the **Target Hut** was discussed at length (see April's Newsletter for its history). Over the years the foundations have been undermined by the combination of flooding, frost, and the relentless use as a cattle scratching post, causing it to become a health hazard. Therefore, following a professional structural survey, it was realised that something had to be done to prevent a possible accident. After extensive research by the committee, including contact with various government bodies and the MoD, no-one would accept responsibility. We were therefore left with the dilemma of how to resolve the problem. Both repair and demolition would be expensive with the subsequent question of who should pay for the work. Fencing would seem a simple option but, because of the cattle, the fencing would have to be substantial. This would then require governmental permissions because the meadow has SSSI and SAC status. After much discussion a vote was taken to determine possible solutions. There was a clear majority suggesting that demolition might be the best option (perhaps even the cheapest option). However, because views were expressed about its historical merit the committee will pursue further avenues about its future and then discuss it again at a subsequent public meeting(s)\*.

the pros and cons of further **Tree Planting** along the railway line were set out by advocates of both sides of the argument and, after a vote, it was agreed that the planting should continue, but with the proviso that there should be a mix of trees rather than just willow. There will be consultation about the types of tree to be planted. If anyone has particular views, don't hesitate to contact the committee via the normal channels – all comments or suggestions are welcome.

\*Any decisions (such as the future of the target hut or tree planting) made by your committee are always based on majority wishes. This is why it's so important to attend meetings or, if you have any particular comments or views about anything you may hear about or read, to contact us, either directly to a committee member or via our email address ([wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)).

### We did try!

As an experiment we changed the village work sessions to the Saturday afternoon, as several people commented that they would prefer afternoons rather than mornings because of family commitments etc. However, for the last 2 afternoon sessions even fewer people turned up so we have decided to revert back to the old times. So, if you would like to help on the village work sessions, just come along with your spades, forks or secateurs to the village hall on **Saturday 14th May at 10am**.

It's a family affair so feel free to bring the kids, it's fun and you'll be keeping fit at the same time as helping the village.

There was a rare glimpse into the past at the recent Commoners' AGM with a display of recently acquired photographs and memorabilia of Wolvercote. These materials have never been on display, and were kindly donated to the commoners by Helga Lane. Most of the material is unique and shows life as it was in Wolvercote over 100 years ago. Although it is not on general view at the moment, it will eventually be displayed at the Oxford Museum. In the mean time there will be a second chance to see it during the Wolvercote and Wytham Summer Festival where it will be displayed again



Angie Goff (WCC chair) with Helga Lane (left) and some of the material she kindly donated to the committee



Spring is coming at last and Wolvercote Green will soon be a haven for flowers and insects.

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

**[www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk](http://www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk) - [wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)**

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