



Wolvercote Commoners'

NEWSLETTER November 2016

Future projects outlined at this year's half yearly commoners' meeting

At this year's half yearly commoners' meeting there was a lot of positive discussion on some important subjects affecting the future of the areas under their care.

- Following the successful trial of tree planting on the east side of the common it was decided, following a show of hands, to continue the planting along the full length of the fence. Because of the common's SSSI status we will still need further permissions (National Heritage, Natural England etc) but we should be able to plant new trees next autumn. The choice of trees was discussed and the final decision will be based not only on those suggested at the meeting, but also on their suitability following expert advice.
- The saga of the 'Target Hut' (see *March Newsletter*) continues as the bodies contacted (the MOD, English Heritage etc) all denied any responsibility for its upkeep whilst insisting that it could not be removed. However, the problem of its safety still remains, whilst the cost of repair is prohibitive. As a stop-gap it was decided to fence it off. However, we still need to get permission as with the trees above. In the meantime please be warned it is dangerous, we will be putting up signs to that effect. Recently some children were seen playing on the roof so please, if you see such a thing, warn them of the danger.
- In the August Newsletter we discussed the future care of the pond on Wolvercote Green. The problem was the overgrowth of the willows which are slowly encroaching into the pond. If left, they would soon take it over completely resulting in nothing more than a bog. The choice was either to let nature take its course, which would eventually lead to the demise of the pond, or to manage it by thinning out some of the offending trees. After much discussion it was decided to thin the trees. We have just had a professional survey of all the trees in the area so any thinning will only be undertaken following professional advice.
- The very tragic death of a horse on the meadow received lots of coverage in the local press, and the commoners and the Council displayed signs about the dangers of litter on both the common and Port Meadow. We have been told that the Council increased litter patrols and for the latter half of the summer the bathing place was to be visited and litter picked twice daily. We are also pleased to say that following the departure of Kirsty Morten, our horse warden, we have been able to second a new 'horsey' person who is prepared to join the committee at the next AGM to take on Kirsty's role.

- We also had a presentation by a representative of 'Volunteer Link-up', a good-neighbour scheme offering assistance in the community to older, vulnerable and isolated people in need of help and support. It may be help with transport, befriending, shopping, gardening, small DIY jobs or even just changing a light bulb. **Volunteer Link-up** is looking for volunteers in this area. If you would like to help in any way, just call on **01993 776277** or check their website for more information: **www.vlu.org.uk**

It's that time of the year again when you need to start thinking about *The Holly & the Ivy*, *The 12 days of Christmas*, *Away in a Manger* and oiling your vocal chords – yes, it's the **Commoners' Carol Service** soon. So put **Monday 19th December** in your diaries. It starts at **6.45pm** in the **Baptist Hall**. So don't be late.



Don't forget Village Work Mornings second Saturday of every month

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am (Bring gloves/wellies). Children welcome

www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk - wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk

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