



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER February 2017

Times have changed!

In the early 19th century, when they were digging the canals and laying the railways, the navvies could move up to 20 tons of earth per person per day with just shovels and wheelbarrows. It has been calculated that they would need to consume up to 6000 calories to maintain this level of work.



But what of the 21st century?

The January workday team spent a couple of happy hours clearing the ditches on Wolvercote Common. We're not sure how much earth they moved (perhaps not quite 20 tons!) but the ditch is now draining the lower Common as it should. Here they are pictured just before going home to replace those lost calories.



We make no apologies for going on about dog mess on the Common and the Meadow. The Commoners did run a short poster campaign to illustrate the problem but sadly someone repeatedly removed the posters. However, some of you may have seen this photograph which was posted on Facebook showing a rather grotesque collection of bags left at the Thames Path gate. It seems there are dog owners out there who still think that it's someone else's responsibility to clear up after them.

Unfortunately this is not an uncommon sight. Recently, on a walk from the Perch to the same gate, someone reported collecting 9 bags of poo left by irresponsible dog owners.

PLEASE, if you are going to bag-up your dog's mess, remember to bin it as well. **And you don't have to look for a special bin - any bin will do (not everyone is aware of this so please spread the word).**



At the Commoners' AGM in 2014 there was a straw-poll about the installation of radar-controlled speed signs (VAZ) on the Godstow Road: **it received a 100% positive response.** This was an initiative by the Bike Clinic which is held on Sunday mornings at the Wolvercote farmers' market. The clinic was set up in 2009 by volunteers in conjunction with the Low Carbon Wolvercote Group to encourage more bike use and to raise money for local causes. Slowing traffic on the Godstow Road seemed a very worthwhile use of their funds and moves were made to proceed. However, it was not quite as straight-forward as first thought and proceedings slowly came to a dead end as the necessary permissions could not be easily obtained. After many emails and telephone calls it transpired that the Council was unable to help and, because Wolvercote does not have a parish council, the installation could not proceed. However, there may be a solution. If the WCC takes on the long-term responsibility for the units it could be possible. It was the long-term responsibility for the units which was one of the main stumbling blocks. Therefore if the WCC, as an officially recognised body, was to be able to undertake this role we may then be able to proceed. We won't have the answer for some time as there are still legal considerations which have to be taken into account before we could go ahead. So watch this space - we hope, with the help of the Bike Clinic, we will be able to do something about the speeding on Godstow Road. If you have any comments/suggestions don't hesitate to contact us. (see email address below)



Dates for your diary

OxClean: Join the Village Litter Pick. Sunday 5th March (for details see: <http://www.oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean/>)

Upper Wolvercote: Meet at Village Hall 10 -12 & 2 - 4pm

Lower Wolvercote: Meet at Bathing Place 10 -12 & 2 - 4pm

The Commoners' AGM

Wednesday 26th April at 7.30 Venue: Baptist Hall

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)