



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER April 2017

A new recruit joins the Meadowshare team



Jenny, one of the Meadowshare cows, produced a calf in March which will join the others in their role of maintaining Wolvercote Green's meadow status. Meadowshare is a group of Wolvercote residents who are using their grazing rights to keep cattle on Wolvercote Common and Port Meadow, however it's more than just using their grazing rights. Not only do the cattle graze there but they also graze Wolvercote Green and Hook Meadow as part of what is called aftermath grazing. Aftermath grazing involves cows being grazed on fields after the hay has been harvested. Once the hay is taken, normally around July, the grass will start growing again and it is this new grass which the cows graze. This has the effect of reducing fertility which produces the ideal environment for wild flowers. Wolvercote Green is now a perfect example of a flower meadow.

Wolvercote is unique in many ways and one of the special features is grazing rights which go back many hundreds of years. These rights go with a property rather than an individual but in 1965 a lot of people gave up their grazing rights. However, there are still many who have retained those rights and, if you've ever wondered if you still have them, we are soon going to publish a copy of the list of those still eligible on the Commoners' website (www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk). Suddenly you may find you could graze 2 donkeys, a couple of cows, a couple of horses or even 30 geese!

Commoners' AGM 26th April, 7.30pm at the Baptist Hall

The Commoners' AGM is your chance to see what we've been up to during the year. And, more importantly, it's your chance to join our committee. We do need new members. Being on the committee gives you a chance to give something back to our unique community. It doesn't involve too much work as all the roles are shared. Although our role may sometimes be quite serious it's a very friendly group and there are lots of laughs.

We will be discussing more planting on the Common and, as discussed at our Half-Yearly meeting, we will be making decisions about the types of trees to be planted. So, if you have any thoughts about that please come along.

And please note the meeting is at the Baptist Hall this year.

Calling Inspector Morse

Whilst walking the Meadow have any of you wondered why you see so many discarded walnut shells? Well, perhaps you haven't seen them yourself but a number of people have commented on this rather unusual find. If one walks the Meadow regularly it's not unusual to see at least a couple. The question is why, in an area as big as the meadow, they should be so easy to come across? So, if there's a sleuth out there who knows the answer we would love to hear from you. Answers please to: wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk



Commoners' Talks

'Tai Chi Explained' was the first of this season's talks. We were entertained by Emma Westlake and Phil Muil for over an hour, not only about the history and background of Tai Chi but they us doing exercises. If you missed it but would like to know more check out www.oxfordtaichi.co.uk



A few of the audience enjoy a joke during Emma and Paul's talk

Our next talk 'Pagans & Puritans' is by Tim Healy. Those who have heard Tim before will know it's not to be missed. So put Thursday 18th May, 7.30 at The Plough in your diary.

FOOTNOTE: A special BIG thank you to all of those who came to our last 3 workdays. With their combined efforts we managed to clear all the ditches on Wolvercote Green. Quite a mammoth task but many hands made light work of it and it was also fun! And extra thanks to Clara for the tea and biscuits.

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)