



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER May 2017

Commoners' AGM 2017

This year's AGM was well-attended and much was discussed. Even some of the old chestnuts like the dog fouling and how it can be prevented (something yet to be fully resolved!). However, on the plus side we had a successful and productive year.

The Chairman's report explained at length the need for horse owners to ensure that their animals are regularly checked during the winter months. We sadly lost Kirstie Morten, our horse warden, who left the area this year but were lucky that John Tohill was able to take on the role. He reported that there had been occasions when it had been necessary to supplement the horses' feed during colder spells, something which should have been undertaken by the respective owners. Although John is doing a fantastic job it would be very helpful if we could recruit a second warden to help him. So, if you have any interest or knowledge or just love horses, we would love to hear from you. There was also the tragic loss of a horse due to an injury caused by a broken bottle left on the Meadow. The Council has increased surveillance because of this and has displayed new signs warning of the dangers of leaving litter. The 3 areas under the care of the Commoners (Wolvercote Common, Wolvercote Green and Goose Green) have sub-committees which all submitted reports. Recent workdays have been successful, with attendance numbers a little more encouraging. Wolvercote Green has taken a lot of the workday time, with an especially productive effort on ditch clearing. One of the main subjects of discussion was the additional tree planting on the Common. This had been covered previously at the Half-Yearly meeting and, following further discussion, a vote was taken. A majority voted in favour and it was agreed that we should go ahead with further planting. However, we have to consult Natural England first on the type of tree before we can plant anything but hopefully we will be able to start planting this autumn.

We were sorry to lose two valued members of the Committee. Sheila Cameron who stood as treasurer and Elle Rowling who brought some young blood to the Committee. A new Committee was voted in and we were pleased to welcome two new members, Kirsten Berry and Chris Jowett. The new Committee is:

Chair: Angela Goff **Vice Chair:** Simon Lowry **Secretary:** Mary Brown **Treasurer:** Phillip Dove
Members: Ben Downing Chris Jowett Michael Ayers Philippa Gibbs David Howlett Ian Lees
Paul Kirkley John Tohill Eleanor Woods John Powers Kirsten Berry

However, we still have one vacancy so if any one feels they would like to join us they'd be more than welcome and we would be very happy to co-opt you until next year's AGM.

The next AGM will be April 19th 2018 in the Village Hall.

Wolvercote Commoners' Open Talk

Don't forget Tim Healey's talk 'Pagans & Puritans' at the Plough Wolvercote, 7.30 on Thursday 18th May. An evening not to be missed. So put it in your diary.

A quick note for those waiting impatiently for the answer to the walnut shells on the Meadow. It appears that Corvids, that is Crows, Jackdaws or Rooks, will take and eat walnuts. Once weakened by frost the shells it is known that the the birds are then able to crack them open. As there are a number of walnut trees in the area it seems possible this could be the answer. But, if you think otherwise don't hesitate to let us know.

Goose Green Ground Work

You may have noticed that there have been ground work undertaken on the southern end of Goose Green near the road, which has led to considerable damage to the surrounding area. Although we have had some trees felled on the Green following our tree survey this is not connected to the felling but was undertaken by a third party. It was to clear the ditches which run parallel to Godstow Road. We are not sure whether it was the Highways Department or British Waterways. Although it may look rather devastated now, it should grow back to normal during the summer

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