



# Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER July 2017

## Commoners' Talks – their success continues

June's talk was by Judy Webb, a local ecologist, who spoke about Oxford's Floodplain Meadow Wildlife.

For those who missed her excellent talk or, who came to the talk but would like to know more about Judy and her work, just check out her website – <http://judithwebb.weebly.com/judy-webb-oxford-floodplain-meadows.html> This gives you links to the history of our ancient floodplain haymeadow, its flora and fauna, the working practices that have contributed to their survival, and to the modern challenges to their continued existence. It is a survival that is at risk and one of the important tasks of protection that the Wolvercote Commoners Committee contribute to in their management of the three Commons of Wolvercote.

And there's more to come. Our talks continue in September with Steve Goddard on **Thursday September 28th at 7.30** (venue to be confirmed). He will be showing us the rich diversity of the birdlife seen on and around Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common: we will hear about the birds that are resident here and also those that pass through on their annual migrations. In a time when bird populations are in danger we are lucky to still be able to hear skylarks and song thrushes over Wolvercote Common and Port Meadow.

Talks continue in November with Amy Godel who will talk on her successes on television quiz shows (date and venue to be confirmed). In the new year there will be talks on **Cyber Security** and how we should all be vigilant when using our home computers; on **Bee Keeping** and its importance to the food chain; on the **Canal System** and how it changed our landscape. So watch this space. If there are any subjects you would like to hear about or if you would even like to offer a talk, contact Eleanor Woods on the Commoners' email address below.



Saw Wort

Have you ever wondered if you have grazing rights? Many still have these rights and a list is now available on the Commoners' website (<http://www.wolvercoteccommoners.co.uk>). Since publishing the list it seems fit to outline the degree of responsibility that this right carries. All grazing animals are checked routinely by both the Council and the Commoners' horse warden. In fact last month 3 horses were impounded due to serious neglect and, in such cases, owners will be billed for any treatments required. If by any chance rights are offered to a friend or neighbour this can only be done on a year by year basis, written permission must be granted and **both** the owner of the rights and the owner of the animal will be held responsible for the welfare of any animal(s) including any costs incurred.

There is an increasing amount of glass being left on the meadow and sadly animals are being injured. In just 2 weeks 9 animals (horses and cattle) required treatment for cuts caused by broken glass. So we should all be vigilant and if we see any glass pick it up to help prevent further injuries.

### A chance to comment on Oxford's Future

During July and August Oxford Council is holding open meetings on the **Oxford Local Plan**. See [www.oxford.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/localplan) for the main Preferred Options document, background papers and studies on key issues, and a draft sustainability appraisal.

There will be a chance for you to respond using either an online questionnaire or, if you prefer, in writing to the Oxford City Council: Town Hall, St. Aldate's, OXFORD, OX1 1BX or email [www.oxford.gov.uk](mailto:www.oxford.gov.uk)

#### The meetings dates are:

- 10th – 14th July: Pop-up shop 11-2; Ship Street
- 15th July: Headington Funday 2-5; Bury Knowle Park
- 16th July: South Oxford Farmers Market 9.30-12; Lake St
- 23rd July: Summertown Farmers Market 10-2; Banbury Rd
- 6th Aug: West Oxford Community Café/Centre 11-1.30
- 4th Aug: Templars Square Shopping Centre 11-1.30
- 12th Aug: Town Hall Drop-in Session 11-1.30; Long Room
- 13th Aug: Classic Car Show 11-5; Cutteslowe Park
- 19th Aug: Elder Stubbs Festival 11-5; Elder Stubbs Allotments

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

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

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

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