



Wolvercote Commoners'

NEWSLETTER November 2017



Dog walking on Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common carries responsibilities

Just recently there have been a couple of incidents of uncontrolled dogs chasing horses. This has culminated a foal being seriously injured, which required treatment by a vet. Whilst most people know it is an offence for a dog owner not to clean up if their dog fouls on public land such as the Meadow (it can carry an £80 fixed penalty or even incur a fine of up to £1,000), many may not realise there are also other responsibilities when walking dogs.

Dogs should be under 'control'. However, there seems to be a misunderstanding about the interpretation of 'control'. Whilst people quite rightly let their dogs off their leads this should only be the case if the dog is under 'control'. This means not harassing other walkers (not everyone likes dogs jumping up at them) and, more importantly, not chasing and possibly injuring animals on the Meadow. The Meadow and Common are common land with grazing rights which date back many hundreds of years and consequently Oxford Council publishes guide-lines on its use. There are specific details about grazing rights and also about dogs and dog walkers in public places such as the Meadow. One of the rules covers the maximum number of dogs a single person can walk at one time, which is 4 dogs. Recently there has been an increase in the number of professional dog walkers on the Meadow, many of whom seem to have more than 4 dogs which are also often seen running loose. Livestock on the Meadow can often be spooked and there is always the danger of stampedes, which could be caused by uncontrolled dogs and in recent years by the increase in the use of drones (*it should be noted that drones are not permitted on the Meadow or Common for this very reason*).

**If see any dogs chasing livestock or see an injured animal on the Meadow
please contact the Oxford Council on 01865 252240 24hr line**

We know you may not want to hear this quite so soon but it's not long until the now famous Commoners' Carol service. Last year it was a packed house

So if you don't want to be disappointed put

Monday 18th

December in your diary now. It's an event not to be missed.

Father Christmas is already getting ready!



The Commoners' series of Open Talks continues on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30 in the Baptist Hall with a talk by Amy Godel, who is a self-confessed obsessive quiz show entrant.

She will tell us her story of how she has conquered the television quiz show scene. Not only has she appeared on countless television quiz shows, she has also been successful. She will be telling us some of the behind-the-scene stories and how she has become a winner!

**Our last talk was standing-room only
– you have been warned!**

For those who value Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common there is an open meeting about its future by Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common Management Group (PMWCMG) in the **Town Hall on Tuesday 28th November at 6.30.**

A new plan for the long term future of the Meadow and Common is being drawn up by the PMWCMG. This may affect many people and it's a chance to see what's planned and also have a say about it.

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)