



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER October 2017

FIRES ON COMMON LAND ARE NOT ALLOWED

Why then does Goose Green, which is common land, have a dedicated fire pit?

Some years ago the Commoners' Committee built a fire pit on Goose Green. Some questioned this because it is illegal to have fires on common land. This must therefore seem a rather odd thing for the Commoners to do, as the custodians of Goose Green, since our role is to uphold the values of common land.



Hard at work replacing the fire pit seating

So, why then did we build one? Before the pit was built there had been a number of campfires and disposable barbecues used at various places on the Green. This caused considerable damage to the grass which then took a long time to recover. For this reason we felt that if there were a designated area to have barbecues it would eliminate any future damage to the Green. The pit was built within the newly planted copse of chestnut trees at the north end of the Green and, as the trees grow, should provide a perfect place for informal gatherings. In fact, at the last Commoner's workday we tidied the seating area and reinstated some of the rotting logs around the pit.

AND IT WASN'T JUST GEESE!

We know we go on a lot in our newsletter about how lucky we are to live in Wolvercote. Well, Steve Goddard's superb talk '*Not Just Geese*' in September about the bird life on Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common certainly reinforced that claim. We have on our doorstep the most amazing natural resource and for those interested in nature and not just birds, the Meadow and Common would be very hard to beat. Steve enlightened us about the fantastic variety of birds, both residents and just passing visitors, that can be seen during summer and winter. Although there was so much to learn about the diversity and habits of the birds that can be seen, there was one fact which really stood out. In any one year over 100 different species of birds visit the area – in fact the record so far is 130! There's not many places in the country that can boast that many visitors!



The Pintail, one of our regular winter visitors

COMMONERS' HALF YEARLY MEETING

Our Half-Yearly Meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th November in the Baptist Hall at 7.30pm.



It's your chance to see what we've been up to recently and meet our committee members. But, more importantly, it's your chance to have a voice in what we do.

- Are there any things you'd like to see happening?
- Are there areas you'd like to see changed?
- Would you like to join the committee?

The committee is a way to be involved in village life and be part of its future. As custodians of Wolvercote Common, Wolvercote Green and Goose Green the committee helps to maintain some of our most valued assets. There are many changes taking place in and around Wolvercote and the committee has a voice in some of those changes.

Diary dates – Neighbourhood Forum AGM is being held on 31st October in the Village Hall

– Next Talk is Amy Godel. A Champion of TV Quiz Shows, on 23rd November venue to be confirmed

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)