



Wolvercote Commoners'

NEWSLETTER May 2018

After being restricted to her stable because of the floods, our newest addition to the Meadow enjoys her first day out.



Commoners' AGM

The Commoners' AGM was held in April. This is when we report on our year's work and elect new members and committee officers. Two committee members completed their 3 year stint and sadly didn't re-stand for a further 3 years. Unfortunately there were no new nominees to take their places so we now have 3 vacancies (we were one short before the meeting). If anyone out there would like to join us, they would be very welcome. Although they can't be elected as full members until the next AGM, they could be co-opted in the mean time. The committee meets once a month. There is not much individual work involved as it is very much a team effort. It is rewarding work and goes a small way towards helping maintain and preserve the uniqueness of Wolvercote.

Other than administrative matters the AGM is also a chance to raise issues which affect those living in the parish. Yet again the subject of livestock grazing and dog walking was raised. At the moment there is a lot of concern about the number of cattle grazing. The future health of Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common flora depends heavily on having enough cattle grazing the area, to maintain its natural balance. Over the last 2 years there have been insufficient numbers of cattle and one of the causes has been the effect of infections caused by dog faeces. Although most dog owners are vigilant about the removal of their dogs' mess, there are still some who aren't. It was felt that a information campaign might be the possible answer as many people still don't really understand the dangers of dogs' mess. The Oxford Council is planning a series of information signs to be erected at all the entrances to the area, which may be followed by a more targeted campaign to try and solve the problem.

If you feel you would like to join the Commoners or just have any suggestions/ideas about anything which affects our area we'd love to hear from you – see our email address below.

A call for memorabilia

We are still looking for any memorabilia you may have about the Mill site. We had a good response after our last request but would still like more. It can be photos, newspaper clippings, letters etc., anything that you may have.

Either email medesign@ntlworld.com or drop it into 2 Rowland Close so we can make a copy and return it to you directly.

Mayhem breaks out as Michael Buck delivers the latest Commoners' Open Talk



Straw, hazel twigs and bullrush filling covered the floor as Michael demonstrated some of the materials involved when building a cob house. There was a packed house for his talk, which not only illustrated how his cob house was built but also covered their heritage and history. What came across during the talk was not just his enthusiasm but also his passion for the subject. He read a poem he wrote as a tribute to his surroundings

To the old chestnut that has been felled at the entrance of the village

*I want to write a poem about you
And the history in your thick branches,
but what better than to have you piled all
around my house, thickening the walls
and awaiting the warmth of the fireside
Thank you*



And he hasn't stopped. Having already built two cob houses he is now planning another in the area. He is very happy for anyone to visit one of his houses. Or, if you are more interested in a hands-on approach, he'd always welcome some help and you could even end up being involved with the building of the next one!

If you are interested just contact Michael directly on sheilabuck@btinternet.com

If you would like this Newsletter emailed to you please email medesign@ntlworld.com

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

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am (bring gloves, wellies and any gardening tools you have). Children welcome

www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk - wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk

Chair: Angie Goff (07903866656) Secretary: Mary Brown (01865 236897)