



Wolvercote Commoners'

NEWSLETTER June 2018

600 AND STILL GOING STRONG!

The June meeting of the Commoners' Committee will be the 600th since its inauguration in 1929

In 1929 the Wolvercote Commoner's Committee (WCC) was formed when Wolvercote Parish Council was incorporated into the Oxford City Council. The Council then refused to take on the roles previously undertaken by the Parish Council, which included maintaining the Commons (Wolvercote Council, Wolvercote Green) and amenities of Wolvercote. Because of this the WCC was formed on 5th March 1929 and has been meeting regularly ever since.

Over the years there have naturally been many changes to the Committee but the main aim has always remained the same – the welfare of the Commons (in later years to include Goose Green) and their continued preservation as a very special and unique amenity. When the Committee was first formed its running costs were quite low and met by a small grant plus various events on the Commons, including fairs and the Sheriff's Races. However, these events no longer take place due to excessive costs and the requirements of liability insurance (the bugbear of so many events!). The Committee then had to find further sources of income as the cost of maintaining the various areas was beyond the small grant available at the time. Due to the diligence and hard work of the Committee members it was possible to obtain grants from various Governmental bodies. These grants allowed the continued work of the Committee. However, the grants came to an end in 2017 and the process of applying for further grants has started yet again. Luckily, due to the care and forward-thinking of previous Committees, a healthy bank balance has been maintained so it will, hopefully, allow the Committee to continue as before until new sources of revenue can be found.

Wolvercote Summer Festival

Fun on the Green Saturday 23rd June

Fun on the Green changes every year and this time will be bigger and better than ever. There will be live music, a licensed bar, many stalls and of course Wolvercote's very own version of 'Crufts' Dog Show. There will also be a promotional stall run by the Commoners' Committee. Committee members will be on hand to talk to, with a display of some of the things we do and some of the Committee's history. It will be a chance to see some of the duties of being on the Committee, what it's like to be a member and, very importantly, how to take part and perhaps become a member.

We have vacancies on the Committee and are always looking for new members. If you are not sure whether it's the sort of thing for you, you could always be co-opted and, if after a period of time you find it's not for you, you've at least given it a go. But if you do enjoy it, and it's generally good fun, you could then stand for proper membership at our next AGM. Just let one of us know and you'll be more than welcome!

Just a small reminder

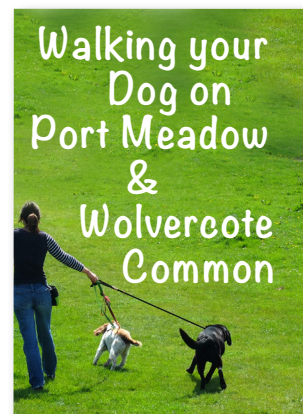
We had a good response to our call for any memorabilia about the Mill site but we would still like more. It can be photos, newspaper clippings, letters etc., anything that you may have that might be of interest. If you have, just email medesign@ntlworld.com or drop it in to 2 Rowland Close so we can make a copy and return it to you directly.

Dog Walking Information Leaflet

We realise that we have repeatedly written in the newsletter about the problem of dog poo on the Commons but we are simply responding to comments brought up at our public meetings, as well as recent comments on social media such as Facebook.

Something that became apparent from the various comments and the Facebook threads, is that it's not just a case of dog owners not being prepared to bag-up their dog's mess, but also a basic misunderstanding and lack of knowledge of the dangers of dog faeces being left on the Commons and the knock-on effect it has. One of the major consequences is the reluctance of graziers to bring cattle onto the Commons due to cattle becoming infected with neosporosis which they get from the dog faeces. Cattle grazing is an essential part of preserving the unique nature of the flora and fauna of the Commons and must be preserved.

Following our last AGM, a local resident volunteered to help by handing out information leaflets at the various entrances to the Commons if this could be funded. With the volunteer's help a leaflet has been prepared, which will soon be available, outlining why dog-walkers should take the responsibility for their dog's mess and why it is so vital to the future of the Commons.



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: Mary Brown (01865 236897) Secretary: Eleanor Woods (07815 557630)