



Wolvercote Commons' NEWSLETTER July 2018

Are you a Commoner?

At the Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival Fun on the Green this year the Commoners' Committee had a stand. This was a chance to spread the word about the history of the Commoners, how it had contributed to the community over the years and how to become part of the team. It was also a chance for us to introduce our new information leaflet outlining our role, how to become a member and what the criteria are to join.



It is in fact very simple to join – it's not only for those living in Upper and Lower Wolvercote. Take a look at the Wolvercote Parish boundary on the map – anyone in the red boundary is eligible. So why not think about it? It's a great way to contribute to the community and it's also fun.



Walking the Commons

One of the important roles of the Commoners' Committee is the annual 'Walking the Commons*'. The purpose of the walk is to see how the various areas of the Commons (Wolvercote Common and Wolvercote Green) are progressing and what may need attention during the forthcoming season. Seen here, Simon Lowry explains the need to remove certain invasive plants, such as Meadowsweet from Wolvercote Green, to allow the protection and preservation of the indigenous plants of the area. Wolvercote Green has in fact become a very diverse area due to aftermath grazing and planned management. This year we were joined by the Sheriff of Oxford (Craig Simmons, Oxford Green Party Councillor).

**Goose Green is also included in the walk*

A busy day on Wolvercote Green

Last month's work-day proved quite a crowded event. Not only was there a good turn out of helpers for the work-day, but they were also joined by one of the Meadowshare group turning the recently cut hay ready for bailing, as well as the Wolvercote Wildlife Explorers, a junior branch of the RSPB.



Sixteen keen youngsters turned up with their four leaders, June Williams, Jo Malden, Steve Goddard and Keren Wright. The June session focussed on flowers and insects on Wolvercote

Green. Samples from 3 different areas of the Green were found and then brought back to the main group, where the leaders helped identify the different species. They then went on to have a go at drawing them. Some of the species found were leaf beetles, a green shield bug, frog hopper larvae, green nettle weevils, a capsid bug, a rove beetle, the handsome red cardinal beetle and many more. Now that Wolvercote Green is receiving lots of TLC during the Commoners' Work-days there is an abundance of new flora and fauna to be found during the exploring days!

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

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