



# Wolvercote Commoners'

## NEWSLETTER November 2018

### Who's Taking Care of Our Countryside?



As you may be aware, the Government is keen to promote the Oxford-Cambridge 'arc' and plans 300,000 houses in Oxfordshire – that's equivalent to 6 new Oxfords! Even worse, these decisions have been made without any public consultations. We will only get a say when the route within the pre-selected corridor is proposed. Should we not have a say in how the countryside is carved up? The Countryside Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) is pressing for a Public Enquiry into both the Expressway and the overall 'growth corridor'. If you feel you'd like either to know more or be involved with the CPRE's work, they are looking for new committee members in the Oxfordshire area. **So if you are interested in any way, they would love to hear from you.** Contact: CPRE Oxfordshire, 20 High Street, Watlington, OX49 5PY, or email Becky Crockett: [administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk)

### Commoners' Open Talks

Our season of Commoners' Talks continues with Linda Proud. Her talk is 'Before Oxford' or in other words, 'Port Meadow in the Iron Ages'

Oxford was founded on a spur of land embraced by the Cherwell and the Thames, a place where, before the Romans, three tribal territories met...



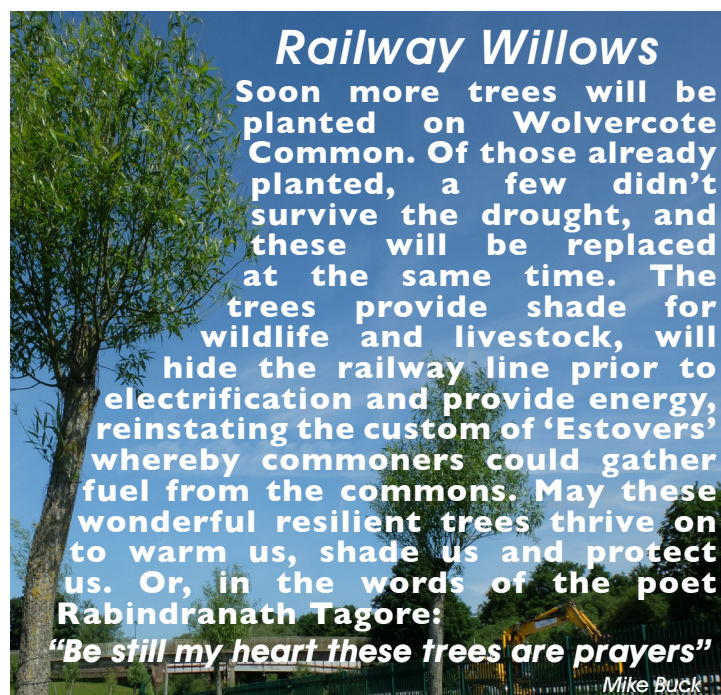
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So come along to the Baptist Hall on Thursday 29th November at 7.30pm and find out more!



You may not want to hear this but it's that time of the year again! Time to polish those vocal chords, time to sing your heart out — yes, it's the now famous Commoners' Carol Service. Put the date in your diary now and get there early, as it always ends up standing room only.

**Commoners' Carol Service**  
**6.45pm Monday 17th December**  
**in the Baptist Hall**



### Railway Willows

Soon more trees will be planted on Wolvercote Common. Of those already planted, a few didn't survive the drought, and these will be replaced at the same time. The trees provide shade for wildlife and livestock, will hide the railway line prior to electrification and provide energy, reinstating the custom of 'Estovers' whereby commoners could gather fuel from the commons. May these wonderful resilient trees thrive on to warm us, shade us and protect us. Or, in the words of the poet Rabindranath Tagore: *"Be still my heart these trees are prayers"*

Mike Buck

### How safe is the livestock on the Commons?

There are often postings on the Wolvercote Facebook page or someone contacts a WCC committee member about a sick or lame animal on one of the Commons, asking what should be done. If and when this happens, only the Oxford Council should be called on:



**01865 252240 (24hr Line)**

John Tohill is our Horse Warden and will usually deal with the problem **BUT** should not be called as the Council is always the first point of contact.

If you would like this Newsletter emailed to you please email [medesign@ntlworld.com](mailto:medesign@ntlworld.com)

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

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am (Bring gloves/wellies). Children welcome

[www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk](http://www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk) - [wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)

Chair: Mary Brown (01865 236897) Secretary: Elearnor Woods (07815 548351)