



Wolvercote Commons'

NEWSLETTER January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL

2019 could be the year to help bring Swifts back to Wolvercote

Some of you may have noticed the reduction in the number of swifts in our area. Although we still have a healthy population of swallows and house martins, swifts are sadly in decline. One of the reasons for this is the lack of suitable nesting places. In the past there have always been old barns, houses with pantile rooves or odd nooks and crannies ready for the perfect nest. But with modern houses everything is sealed and air tight so not a hole in sight for that new home.

So what can we do to help bring back our Swifts?

To try and help improve the situation the RSPB is offering **FREE** Swift nest boxes to community groups in the Oxford City area. As a community group the Commons can place a group order. Therefore, if anyone is interested, just send an email request to wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk with your details no later than the 27th January and we will do the rest. The RSPB are also holding a meeting on January 16th in the St Aldate's Room, County Hall at 7pm to discuss the establishment of an 'Oxford Swift City Project' (For more information contact OxfordSwiftCity@rspb.co.uk).



Speeding on Godstow Road

Nearly 4 years ago approaches were made to the County Council about the possibility of some sort of speed controls on the Godstow Road. Although there was unanimous support for some form of control, when it was raised at the Commons' AGM, and plenty of correspondence with the Council, the possibility remained quite remote for many reasons. However, in the last few months the project has been resurrected and, combined with an opinion poll in the village, it is now showing signs of becoming feasible.

A team of Madeleine Metcalfe, Rob Whitty and Phillip Dove, met up with the council and local councillors before Christmas and, following much discussion, a way forward at last seemed possible. Therefore over the next few months there will be consultations with local residents and various public utilities (fire service, ambulance, public transport etc) before we proceed. Although the prospect of speed control in the village is now within sight, there is still some time to go. But, in the meantime, watch this space as we will be keeping you up to date as we go! Let's hope that 2019 will see some slowing down of the traffic on Godstow Road, something which will become even more important as the Mill Site development progresses.

Special Work Morning to go in your diary

On our February Work Morning we will be needing extra helping hands. A few years ago we planted a copse of trees on Goose Green, most of which are thriving. However, over time squirrels and rabbits feasted on a few which now need replacing. We've ordered replacements, plus a few extras. Consequently it will be a Work Morning when we will need that extra help. So make this a date in your diary now – Saturday 9th February 10am outside the Village Hall, shovel in hand

Commoners' Open Talk

Tuesday 15th January
White Hart Garden Room at 7pm
Simon Kenton-Lake
"but doesn't it get cold in winter?"
Stories of Living on a Canal Boat

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 garden gloves, wellies and any gardening tools you have). Children welcome

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