



# Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER February 2019

## Caring for our trees in Wolvercote

Part of the Commoners' role is the welfare of the trees on Goose Green and Wolvercote Green. For those who use the areas regularly you may notice that during February and March some of them may heavily pruned and pollarded.

Willows are regularly pollarded as part of their normal management. However, the pruning of the younger trees is undertaken for a different reason. It is called formative pruning and is usually undertaken when the tree is still relatively young. The main objective of this type of pruning is to encourage the formation of good stem and branch structure, by improving the orientation and spacing of branches and removing any potential weak structures that may fail later in life. Well planned, formative pruning during the establishment of a young

tree can reduce the need for pruning later on. The work is undertaken by a tree specialist who will remove or reduce any competing leading shoots to leave one strong, dominant leader. Diseased, rubbing, dead, congested or weak branches must be removed along with epicormic and basal growth on the main stem. Low branches pointed in undesirable directions must also be removed. All work carried out should take into account the species concerned, and the natural form of the tree. Formative pruning should only be carried out with suitable hand tools, such as sharp secateurs, loppers and saws.

So rest assured the trees will be in good hands and when you see great piles of discarded branches there is no need to worry that the trees are being vandalised.

### A special note passed on to us from the Fire Service

#### *Don't let the sparks fly this winter*

Nearly 50% of all chimney fires in Oxfordshire happen during January, February and March. If you enjoy cosyng up in front of an open fire, make sure:

- you get your chimney swept at least once a year and more frequently if you have fires
- if you have a first floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris
- store logs from the fireplace

Have a cosy home not a fire zone.

Find out more at: [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk)

### It's that time of the year to join the BIG Spring Wolvercote Litter Pick Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Meeting Points & Times  
10am – 12noon

#### UPPER WOLVERCOTE

Opposite the Village Hall

#### LOWER WOLVERCOTE

Bathing Place Car Park

WEAR GARDENING GLOVES  
OLD CLOTHES AND STOUT BOOTS

Organised by:

The Wolvercote Commoners and The Wolvercote Tree Group  
As part of Ox Clean 2019: [www.oxclean.org.uk](http://www.oxclean.org.uk)

### Don't forget our special tree planting work morning on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February

We will be needing extra helping hands as we will be planting new trees on Goose Green. They are to replace those damaged by squirrels and rabbits who have feasted on them over the last few years. So make it a date to be outside the Village Hall – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10am, wellies on and shovels in hand!



### STOP PRESS

We are pleased to say that the deadline for requesting your FREE swift boxes has been extended. So, if you would like to have a pair\* of swift boxes on your house, it's not too late, just email:

[wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)

\*(the boxes come in pairs as swifts are gregarious)



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

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