



# Wolvercote Commoners'

## NEWSLETTER April 2019

### Commoners' Committee AGM

7.30pm Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wolvercote Village Hall

The Wolvercote Commoners' Committee was formed 90 years ago to replace the Parish Council. Its role is the care and stewardship of common land, and to help ensure that the regulations regarding the use of the common land are followed. It has always been run by volunteers from within the parish and to this day continues the role set out at its inception. The AGM is our chance to report on events, plans and changes affecting the village over the last year. It's also a chance for you to suggest areas needing attention. Another very important purpose of the meeting is the election of new members. This year we have at least 3 vacancies. So, why not come along, see what we are all about, and give some thought to joining us. Being a member doesn't mean masses of work or endless meetings as all roles are shared. Membership means you join a great bunch of people (yes, we are a happy family!!). And you get a chance to contribute to future events and developments in the village.

Some of you may have noticed piles of cut tree branches on Goose Green over the last few weeks. These were the result of our last Work-day when we undertook formative\* pruning of some of the trees there. We had a very good turn out of volunteers, seen here



having a well earned coffee break. We were lucky to have the help of a qualified tree surgeon. We also had the luxury of our own travelling 'Costa Coffee' outlet in the name of Clara (whom, it is rumoured, may also be available for the odd wedding or Bar Mitzvah!).

\* Formative pruning is the process of shaping a tree when it is young. Every variety has a different natural growth habit, but unpruned trees will often produce a crown trunk cluttered with branches. The aim is to develop an open, balanced network of strong, unshaded branches. This is achieved by creating a good height trunk and pruning young growth back to encourage the tree to grow in the right direction and develop thick branches.



### Friends of Burgess Field

One of the many pleasures of living in Wolvercote is having Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common on our door step. However, there is an equal pleasure to be gained from walking on Burgess Field.

Burgess Field is a nature reserve and in 2018 a Friends Group was set up in partnership with the Oxford City Council, to conserve and enhance the area for wildlife and recreation. So far they have cleared barbed wire, removed litter, planted wood anemones, honeysuckle and foxgloves, cleared scrub, sown wildflower seed mix and installed a barn owl box. All this has been done by volunteers and funded by the Friends.

New members are very welcome. There is an annual donation (min £10) and/or help on the work parties.

For further information contact:

mail@classperformance.co.uk or 07876 035020  
www.friendsofburgessfield.co.uk

### Commoners' Open Talks Oxford Preservation Trust **RACHEL SANDERSON**

'Preserving historic Oxford  
in its green setting'  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.30

The White Hart Community Pub  
Garden Room

Come along and learn  
more about OPTs' work  
caring for Oxford and its  
green spaces including the  
Wolvercote Lakes nature reserve.

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