



# Wolvercote Commoners'

## NEWSLETTER September 2019

### 90 YEARS AGO THINGS CHANGED!

It was 20 years ago today that Sgt Pepper taught his band to play – well the Wolvercote Commoners Committee (WCC) was born long before that!

In March 1929 the Wolvercote Parish Council ceased to exist and the WCC was formed 'to protect and preserve the commons (Wolvercote Common, Wolvercote Green and Goose Green) and to deal with all matters affecting them'. And, with the help of many volunteers over the years, this continues to be its role to this day.

To mark this occasion the Committee would like to invite you to a special event for all the family on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. We will be "beating" (walking) the bounds of the Common ending up at the White Hart Community Pub for a celebration BBQ. We will meet at 10.30am or 11.00am (for a shorter walk) at the Bathing Place, walk the boundary of Wolvercote Common following Shiplake Ditch, circling round by the willows, back through the surgery footpath and then on to the BBQ. Not only will it be a chance to meet the Committee you will also learn more about the Common and its uniqueness and value to our community. **Come along and bring your friends.**

**P.S. We also hope to have a display of historic photographs of Wolvercote. Do you have any such photos hidden away? If you have we'd love to see them. If you pop them along to Phillip Dove, 2 Rowland Close so that they can be scanned and enlarged for the display.**

#### A reflection on our Commons

##### PATHS ACROSS AN ABANDONED AIRDROME

Where do they lead to?  
The lines in the grass?  
Where others have trodden  
At times in the past?  
Like a snapshot in green  
(as seen from the air)  
The marks of the feet  
And the hooves are still there  
They meander and curve  
Worn in ruts through the turf  
A vast open palm  
Laid out on the earth  
And eyes once regarded  
(looking down from the sky)  
A hand holding the future  
Of the people going by  
The tracks that were left then  
Are those we still tread  
Records of journeys  
By living and dead

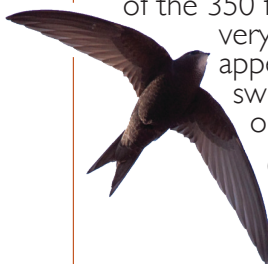
*By: team Raf*

#### Speeding on Godstow Road

We had hoped to report an installation date for the speed calming along Godstow Road but sadly we are still waiting for the needed approval. Although the money for the project is available, we still have to wait for the technical details to be finalised.

So it's a case of watching this space!

For those who had free swift boxes earlier in the year, OxfordSwiftCity gave an update on progress so far. There were 42 boxes sited in Wolvercote, part of the 350 for the whole of Oxford. As expected very few were occupied (only 2 in fact). It appears that it takes a couple of years for the swifts to take up residence so the 2 new ones were a bonus.



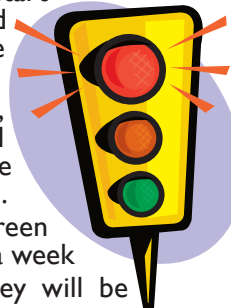
Generally there has been an encouraging increase in swift numbers, but we will have to wait a little longer for an increase the Wolvercote occupancy.

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS OVER THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

We are pleased to report that after many months (even years!) the Council will be installing permanent traffic lights over the railway bridge. The proposed start date is 30<sup>th</sup> September. However, we are told this may change nearer the time so the actual date will be confirmed.

There will obviously be some disruption, including one or two nights when the road will be closed completely, but there will be plenty of notice when this is due to happen.

The Council will use part of Goose Green during the works, which should last about a week. Once the final details are confirmed they will be posted on the Commoners' noticeboards.



#### 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)