



Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER April 2020

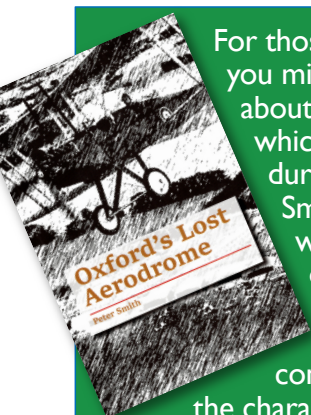
New life – regardless!

With all the doom and gloom that we are experiencing at the moment it's good to see that life continues regardless! Recently, a pony gave birth to a foal on the Meadow – surely something to gladden the heart. However, it was also a reminder of how vulnerable the livestock can be at times and how they have to be monitored. The foal was safe but the mother had problems. Although the foal was born in the very early hours of the morning, help was at hand very quickly. The Commoners' Horse Warden was very soon on site and Julian Cooper, the Oxford Park Warden, also appeared not long after. Although we are experiencing strange times at the moment, everyone can be assured that there will always be someone on hand to monitor the Meadow's livestock and continue to keep an eye on the welfare of the Commons. (P.S. another foal was born as this newsletter was being prepared – so new life really does carry on regardless!)



Photo: Katie Keeble

Here's a reminder of the OCC number for any concerns about livestock: 01865 252240



For those who saw last month's newsletter, you might be interested to know more about the history of the aerodrome which was operating on Port Meadow during the First World War. If so Peter Smith, who wrote the article, has also written an excellent book. It outlines in much more detail the aerodrome's importance during its short existence. The book also contains personal details of some of the characters and their lives and roles during their time on the site.

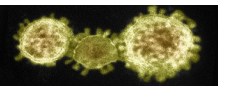
The book 'Oxford's Lost Aerodrome' can be purchased from The Post Box, West Oxford Community Centre, the Waterstones Oxford shop, both Waterstones and Blackwells online shops, and Amazon

All proceeds go to the RAF Benevolent Fund

Things moving at last!

After almost four years since our campaign started to install some form of speed control on Godstow Road, we are pleased to say that the funding for the project has finally been approved. Good news yes! But unfortunately, because of the present problem with Covid-19, it's not possible to say when the work will begin – but watch this space and we'll keep you posted.

Exercising Safely



Looking after ourselves and each other during these exceptional times: we are lucky to have three Commons in Wolvercote – Wolvercote Green, Goose Green and Wolvercote Common. It may still be a bit muddy out there but warmer weather should be on its way soon and, only if you live locally, these are good spaces to be out in the fresh air for our **'regulation'** exercise session - **and** of course keeping a safe distance from each other! Stay healthy. The land by the bridges over Shiplake Ditch (the ditch that separates Wolvercote Common and Port Meadow) may be still be a little squelchy or even under water so you will need a good pair of boots – but there is plenty of space and plenty to see. Look for the kestrel that regularly hovers over the allotments on Wolvercote Common, watch out for the red kites crying up in the sky and now we're lucky that even the skylarks are out in full force – something to listen for.



Keep in touch with us and let us know any interesting things you see when you are out and about. As always, the Wolvercote Commoners' Committee email address (wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk) will be monitored regularly unless we have to let you know otherwise.

If you would like this Newsletter emailed to you please email medesign@ntlworld.com

Work Mornings have been suspended until further notice

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