



# Wolvercote Commoners' NEWSLETTER June 2020

## The face of Port Meadow & Wolvercote Common

Those who walk Port Meadow & Wolvercote Common will often see a white vehicle roaming around or see a lone man leaning on the fence by the bathing place contemplating the area. Some may wonder who he is. Well, we thought we'd let him tell you in his own words.

“Hello, I'm Julian Cooper and have the pleasure (mostly) of being the Port Meadow Ranger, Countryside and Play Supervisor for Oxford City Council, with responsibility for over 100 sites in the area. I have a small but brilliant team who work across all the sites. My career started over 30 years ago with the National Trust and an HND in Countryside Management. I worked for Dorset County Council for 13 years, finishing as senior ranger. Fast forward through working in a few National Parks, ending up in Oxford. My role covers the day to day responsibility for all Meadow issues, including litter, livestock (cattle and horses) and maintaining the conservation and heritage designations including the trickiest of the lot, the general public!! I work with the Wolvercote Commoners, the Freeman of Oxford and the Graziers, occasionally assisting the Commoners on matters of joint interest or if they need someone to be grumpy – I do grumpy very well! Only by continued vigilance of all who care for and love the Commons will we ensure that its heritage and landscape are protected for future generations. We need to make sure that all users understand that the Commons are working landscapes with a rich heritage. The Commons are something which gets under your skin and, as a jaded old ranger, it's well and truly got under mine. Feel free to chat when you see me out and about on foot, bike or van. I won't be that grumpy, honest!”



## The future of the Wolvercote Surgery

We should alert everyone to the possibility that the local Health Authority is apparently unwilling to commit to using the new surgery on the Mill Site, despite the space being set aside specifically for this purpose. They seem to be more interested in opening a new surgery in Summertown and withdrawing support for 'satellite' surgeries like the ones in Wolvercote, and at Kendal Crescent. The doctors themselves recognise the value of 'satellite' surgeries, and support the idea of the new surgery, as they can see there will be more demand from new families on the site. The Wolvercote Commoners have always supported the provision of a new surgery. If you have comments on this, email us ([wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)) or the Neighbourhood Forum ([wolvercotenf@gmail.com](mailto:wolvercotenf@gmail.com)), or contact your local councillors (details on the local Noticeboards).

## Wolvercote Green comes into bloom

Since Wolvercote Green has been managed over the last few years it has been transformed into a 'proper' meadow. And, with that transformation, there has been a gradual appearance of many new species of plants. Shown here is a rare Early Marsh Orchid which was first spotted about 6 years ago. They live underground for some years before popping up to set seed so this one may be from a seed of the original specimen. Maybe we'll have to wait a few more years before we see another one. However, for those with a keen eye

there are other species to be seen including the beautiful bee orchid, hard to spot but well worth the search. So tread carefully when you go looking and you'll be surprised what you'll see.



Photo: Kirsten Berry

If you would like this Newsletter emailed to you please email [medesign@ntlworld.com](mailto:medesign@ntlworld.com)

Work Mornings have been suspended until further notice

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