

Where did you go in the Lockdown?

Wolvercote
Commoners'
NEWSLETTER
July 2020

Being lucky enough to live next to Port Meadow & Wolvercote Common, you may well have been taking your 'allotted' daily exercise there. Some of you, who perhaps hadn't ventured there so much in the past, will also have discovered a new pleasure of walking on Burgess Field. When walking along the tree-lined glades it's now hard to imagine that, until the early 1980s, Burgess Field was once the Oxford City Council's open landfill site (this explains why it sits several metres higher than Port Meadow). In the 1990s the area was roughly landscaped and partially planted with trees and hedges by a group of volunteers. It was then largely left to grow and mature undisturbed, to let mother nature do her part. Now however, it is not only a delightful open green space for walkers, with or without their dogs, joggers and nature lovers, it has also proved to be an absolute boon during the lockdown. In 2018 'The Friends of Burgess Field', a group of volunteers, was formed to help look after and preserve it as a nature reserve. They care for the couple of thousand new trees planted along the railway line, have planted native bulbs and removed spreading scrub to preserve the grassland areas. The area now hosts a very wide range of wild life. There are butterflies, many species of birds and a thriving variety of wildflowers. There are further plans to establish a greater and diverse wildflower meadow. All the work that is undertaken on the site is done on a voluntary basis, so if you would like to make a donation to help their efforts or to join the Friends on one of their work parties, please visit www.friendsofburgessfield.co.uk or contact Richard Gordon directly at mail@classperformance.co.uk. This new hand-drawn cut-out and keep map of the reserve shows the main paths.



Time for a Big Thank You

During these odd times the Commons have become a life line for many. Unfortunately there has been one downside – LITTER! So we should be especially grateful and thank Julian Cooper and his team who have worked tirelessly, every day, to clear up massive piles of rubbish left by those irresponsible people who are too lazy to take their litter home.

Your village needs you!

Recent government advice is to wear face coverings to help slow down the spread of COVID-19. There's a national initiative at www.bigcommunitysew.co.uk and community-focussed 'face covering trees' are being set up. The trees are essentially hubs where the coverings will hang ready for collection and where donations can be left to sustain future growth (sewing the masks). To make this work, we need both people to sew and donations of fabric, thread and/or elastic. If you can help with any of this please check out postings on the Wolvercote and Wytham News FB page or contact Kirsten Berry at wolvercote.facecoverings@outlook.com. There are now face coverings available at the 'tree' at 25 First Turn, Wolvercote.



A Wolvercote 'face covering tree' at 25 First Turn

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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