

AGM goes VIRTUAL

Wolvercote
Commoners'
NEWSLETTER
September 2020

When the Wolvercote Commoners' Committee was formed in 1929, replacing the Wolvercote Parish Council, a legal constitution was established. This constitution states that an Annual General Meeting must be held annually. However, this did not take into account such things as pandemics causing us to postpone our meeting, normally held in April. Therefore, for us to comply with our constitution, we will be holding this year's AGM a little later, albeit online via Zoom!

This will take place on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm "in your living room".

The AGM is your chance to complain about what we do, to congratulate us on what we do, or suggest what we should do. It is also a chance for you to meet the Committee and, if you are interested, please feel free to email wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk for further information.

To attend the AGM please let us know at wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk and a zoom invitation will be sent nearer the date.

Crassula Helmsii

We have mentioned Crassula Helmsii more than a few times in past newsletters but, hopefully, this will be the last time. Crassula Helmsii is a non-native invasive plant which, if left unchecked, would eventually cover all the water courses on the Commons, and could possibly get into the river course which would be devastating for all other plant life.



A pond choked with unchecked crassula

There have been many attempts to eradicate this plant from the Commons but, sadly, with little or no result. After our lack of success it was clear we should look for alternative methods.

Extensive research has been undertaken by the Freshwater Habitats Trust showing that the two methods* we had been using were of little use, only reducing the plant by about 8 to 12%. The research showed that the only effective treatment was the use of a herbicide. Because of the environmental issues we were very keen not to use this method. However, after our expensive and time consuming attempts the plant is now getting dangerously out of control, so it became obvious we had little choice but to opt for the use of the herbicide. So, after much deliberation, this was agreed to be the only course of action. Although we regret having to use a herbicide we felt that, for the greater good, it was the wise decision and hope that for those who feel we should not use herbicides, we have made the right decision in the circumstances.

*Hot foam (costing £2000 per application) and a flame thrower (cheap but time consuming)

Do you remember the Red Phone box?

Long gone, the red telephone box on Wolvercote Green, replaced by an ugly plastic contraption, now also to be removed.

So, in memory of things past, a poem by Roger Green and sketch by Di Clarke



Inside your snug, see-through cocoon
It's hard to concentrate,
I tend to dream, till, late or soon,
I see that others wait.

Your patience, I have realised,
Drops round you like a shower.
Last Friday I apologised
For taking half an hour

To an old man who said to me:
"Lord bless you, that's all right;
I'm in no hurry, sir, you see
I've got till Monday night."



Wolvercote Apple Day

Sadly Wolvercote Apple Day will not be held this year because of Covid. Seldom can we sample the rarer types of apples that they grow. However, not all is lost, you can still buy them together with their freshly pressed apple juice. Just take a short walk to the White Hart Community Pub on Sunday mornings (10 to 1pm) and they'll be there. What a great way to spend a Sunday morning, buying apples you'll probably never see in the shops, then hanging on a while to enjoy a great brunch, available 10 to 2pm.

Work Mornings have been suspended until further notice



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