

The Changing Face of Wolvercote Green

Wolvercote
Commoners'
NEWSLETTER
July 2021

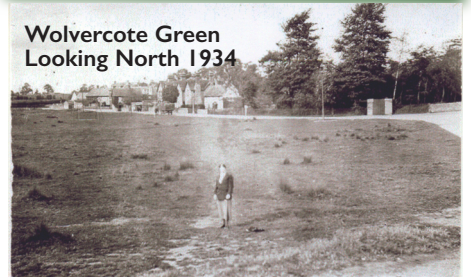
Site of the Village Hall 1930 with
Wolvercote Green on the right



Over the years Wolvercote has seen many changes, most obviously in the building of housing during the last century. Wolvercote Green is an area that has also seen many changes, although perhaps less dramatically.

Once virtually tree-less, it is now a haven for many birds and animals who live among the numerous trees planted over the years. Another major change has been the fencing of the area to allow cattle to be grazed. It was hoped that with the introduction of aftermath grazing* the area could soon revert to its original state of a wild flower meadow. It was therefore proposed to fence off the area. Previous grazing took place long before the pressures of cars and the cattle could be easily contained with just a haha. Planning for the fence was established in 2005, a grant was then obtained and the fencing installed in 2009. The grant specified the grazing for 3½ cows (finding half a cow has always proved difficult!). The Green is now grazed every year and has developed into an established wild flower meadow. It is the early hay making and aftermath grazing which encourages wild flower growth. In fact it is now recognised by Natural England as a true wild flower meadow. There are now a multitude of wild flowers including many orchids

Wolvercote Green
Looking North 1934



2021, same view, just a few more trees

And in 2021



Ragged Robin



Tim, Chris and Kirsten take a break
from their bridge repair morning

and, this year, a fine display of Ragged Robin.

As with Wolvercote Common the Green also comes under the custodianship of the Wolvercote Commoners' Committee who ensure its up-keep. This includes such things as pollarding of trees, keeping down the brambles and any invasive plants, and repairing damaged fences or bridges. Most of the maintenance is undertaken by voluntary workday groups organised by the Committee, such as the recent repairs to one of the damaged bridges over the ditches. Unfortunately, because of Covid, the workdays have been temporarily suspended. However, for those keen to join in, it is hoped that they will be reinstated fairly soon.

* Aftermath grazing consists of grazing cattle soon after the hay crop is taken. The cattle then eat the new growth. This then helps renew the natural balance and allows the establishment of more wild flowers.

This year's OxClean took place but with limited numbers because of Covid. However, one thing was apparent – since individual villagers have been going on random 'litter picking trips', there was definitely less litter. Enough, however, was found to keep the team busy but certainly not the expected amount. Hopefully this can continue. So don't forget, if you ever feel like doing some community work there are still litter grabbers available at four Wolvercote addresses. Just borrow one and have a go yourself.

25 First Turn, 39 Meadow Prospect, 179 Godstow Road and 2 Rowland Close

Work Mornings have been suspended until further notice



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