

# Silence was Golden *but* Can it Continue?

Covid has taught us many things this last year – one being how the absence of traffic on the A34, due to the lockdown, drastically reduced the noise levels in Wolvercote and its surrounds.

Sadly this reduction was short-lived.

However, there is increasing evidence showing the link between noise pollution and both stress and health (mental and physical). Yet, despite petitions, support of County Council, City Council, MPs (past and present), local Councillors and local and regional media coverage in recent years, Highways England continue to try and brush the issue aside. This is the only body that can authorise or implement a sound barrier on the A34. Despite it costing a fraction of 'quiet resurfacing' a section of the A34, they continue to resist looking into a sound barrier past Wolvercote. The starting point has to be a professionally and scientifically based survey of noise levels, but they won't do that either. However, an approved company that Highways England use for such surveys has agreed to undertake the survey. This would show the difference a sound barrier could make to the noise levels from the A34 in Wolvercote (and across Port Meadow). It would demonstrate how noise levels could be reduced and by how much. We, as a community, would then have a professional and factual report to present to Highways England whether they like it or not, which would be hard for them to ignore. However, to make this happen, we need to raise £8,300 (incl VAT) to pay for the survey. So how can we do this?

Rob Whitty has set-up a Just Giving website to help achieve this goal.

**To do this go to: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/a34-sound-barrier-survey](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/a34-sound-barrier-survey)**

So please contribute whatever you can to help make this sound survey happen. And don't worry if insufficient funds are raised, your money will be returned to you. Thank you in advance.

## Commoners' AGM 2021

For the second time we held our AGM via Zoom and, although we had fewer participants than usual, there was much debate about the year's work. We also had three presentations. Firstly by Julian Cooper (Oxford Park Ranger) about the preservation of the Meadow both with grazing of livestock and the continued respect of the area by users. Christopher Hardman followed on behalf of the Neighbourhood Forum, encouraging everyone to vote YES in the elections on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Lastly Jo Malden, for the Tree Group, outlined future plans for tree planting in the area. Two new committee members were elected: Charlotte Croft and Tim Hopkins. The up-to-date list of Committee members will be displayed on the noticeboard opposite The Post Box.

## Wolvercote and Wytham Midsummer Festival Poetry and Music evening

Wolvercotians have already shown their skills with the pen after their response to the recent 'Lockdown Limerick' competition so how about penning a poem for the Wolvercote & Wytham Midsummer Festival? The theme will be colour (interpreted in any way you like).

Send your poems by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June to:  
Ros Bleach at [bleachfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:bleachfamily@hotmail.com)  
or Philippa Hardman at  
[philippa.hardman@virginmedia.com](mailto:philippa.hardman@virginmedia.com)

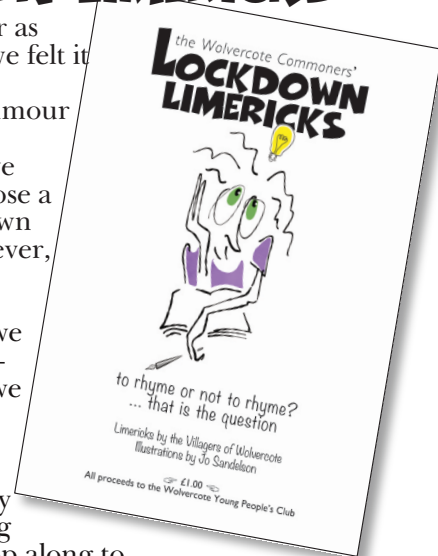
If we include your poem, we'd love you to come and read it yourself.

With your agreement, all poems will be posted on the 'Poetry Corner' on the Wolvercote.org website.

P.S. You don't have to write your poem with a quill!

## the Wolvercote Commoners' LOCKDOWN LIMERICKS

2020 was an unusual year as Covid affected us all, so we felt it was something worth documenting. And, as humour is often the best way to remember such things, we invited villagers to compose a limerick to reflect their own Covid experiences. However, it wasn't easy as limericks have strict rules which proved a challenge. Yet we had a fantastic response – almost 50 limericks – so we thought it worthwhile to produce a permanent record to remember the year, whilst raising money for the Wolvercote Young People's Club. So just pop along to The Post Box and get your own copy. Special thanks must go to Jo Sandelson for her illustrations and, of course to all those who put pen to paper!



**Work Mornings have been suspended until further notice**



[www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk](http://www.wolvercotecommoners.co.uk) – [wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wolvercote.commoners@yahoo.co.uk)

Chair: Mary Brown (07799 391816) Secretary: Eleanor Woods (07815 548351)

