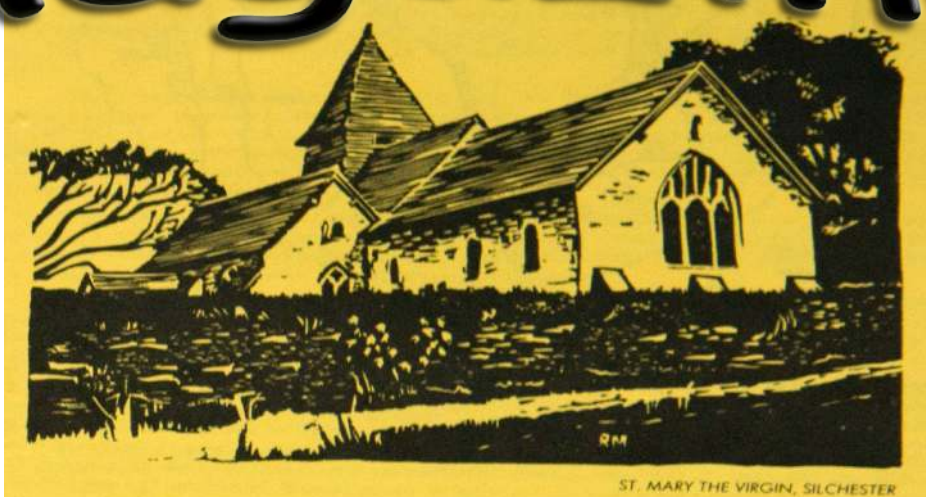


# Silchester Magazine



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER



August 2020



## Village and Church News

Volume 61 No 6

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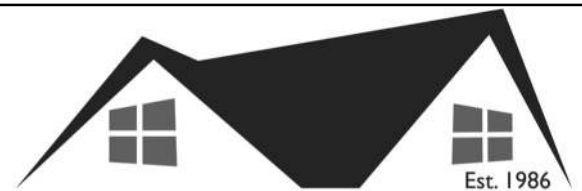
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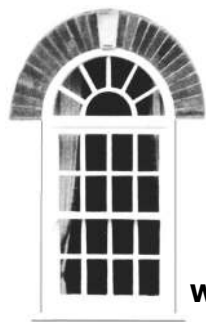
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# Silchester Magazine

## August 2020

Given the current situation with COVID-19,  
all events listed are subject to change.



### August

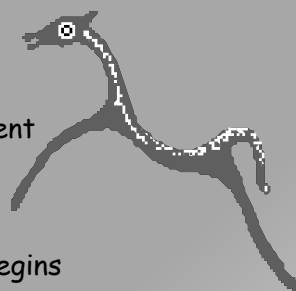
Sat	1st	10am	Village Market ~ outdoors on the Playing Field
Sun	2nd	8am	Book of Common Prayer Service ~ in Parish Church
Wed	5th	2pm	Phoenix Club ~ on the Playing Field in front of the Pavilion
Thu	13th	midnight	<b>Magazine Copy Deadline</b>
Sun	23rd	5pm	Compline Service in Parish Church

### September

Sat	12th		Sponsored Ride & Stride ~ calling at St Mary's Church
Sat	12th		Silchester Association Beer Festival ~ <b>NOW CANCELLED</b>
Sun	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline
Sat	19th		Silchester Village Fete and Dog Show

### October

Sat	3rd		Working Party at Flex Ditch ancient monument
Sun	11th		Silchester Association Boundary Walk
Tue	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline
Sat	24th		Silchester Association Scarecrow Trail ~ Begins



Copy for this magazine should be sent to: [editor@silchester.org](mailto:editor@silchester.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The next deadline for copy for the September issue is  
**midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> August**

Dear Readers,

As you will see from the article by Revd Rob on page 6, we are beginning discussion on the future of the Silchester Magazine. As Editors, we would especially welcome feedback on if you are reading and enjoying the Magazine, particularly at the moment while it is primarily digital only. Are you looking forward to having your paper copy again, or do you like the digital version?

We need to work out the future of the Magazine, now that information and news is primarily shared online by most people. Shortly, we will be producing a survey to ask what you like and don't like in the Magazine and to find out what you value about it. We would really appreciate hearing some feedback now though - so if you are reading this please consider sending us some comments (positive or negative) to [Editor@silchester.org](mailto:Editor@silchester.org)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the Magazine production in any way during the nine years (over 100 issues!) we have been editors, and most particularly those who send content to us - we appreciate you.

Thank-you, Claire & John Richardson ~ Editors





22.07.2020

It's good to see the Pop up Café, the Market, football training, running and cycling groups, cricket, the Calleva and others start up again.

Perversely I recently had to have a short period of self isolation prior to a cataract operation. Those of you who have been shielding for months may rightly say "No big deal" particularly as my brief isolation did come on the back of a good week away with my daughter's family in North Yorkshire. However, whilst earlier this year I occasionally "stretched" my interpretation of lock down I tried this time to behave because the risk of taking Covid into what, at the time of writing, was a Covid free hospital would be totally irresponsible. It would not be just me at risk, it could be many others; though I guess that was always the situation.

Interestingly whilst many Christian churches since the Protestant Reformation have focussed on what you might call individual salvation, the Old Testament and most of the New Testament is more concerned about the salvation of a larger group of people, a nation, Israel, or in Jesus' terms the coming of God's Kingdom throughout the world. But as with saving a nation from Covid it had to start with individual action. There is also an imperative running throughout the whole Bible for the nation to care for those less able to help themselves; in the words of the prophet Micah "To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God", and that is also something which I hope we will learn from the current pandemic.

It has been encouraging to experience over past months most of the country taking individual action and making sacrifices for the benefit of the nation. Freedoms are now returning, but as someone once said "with freedom comes responsibility" and I suggest this includes the need to still continue to care for and protect each other, and especially those who through vulnerability or circumstances are less able to help themselves.

The Church of England has generally been taking a cautious approach when it comes to the resumption of church opening and services. Christenings, weddings, funerals can be held with social distancing and a maximum of 30 people (though this maximum may only be achievable in Silchester Church when there are a number of household bubbles) and there can be no congregational singing -or shouting! For August, we will again hold a 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Service in Church on Sunday 2 August (the first Sunday) and a 5.00pm Compline on Sunday 23 August (the fourth Sunday). The main service every week will continue to be 10.00am Sunday Zoom service, and for those who have suffered my attempts to relay music through Zoom from YouTube or Spotify, do not worry those days are past. I have learnt my lesson. In future I am grateful we will continue to have Robin Scott leading us with live music when he can, and I hope a few other talented music makers and singers will join us live from time to time. For the Zoom link join the church's mailing list (see below).

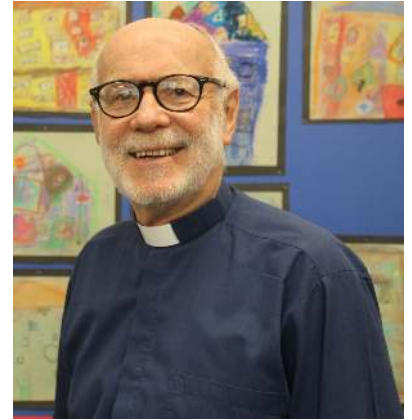
But in regard to the attendance of services in church, in case you are feeling torn or guilty, the Bishops have asked clergy to make it clear that those who are extremely vulnerable (shielded) should not attend, and those others over 70 should be reminded that there is no expectation that they should attend or continue in roles within the church (e.g. cleaning, security) which they might feel puts themselves at risk. In fact the Bishops go further and "strongly urge them not to" attend or continue in such roles.

We have also sent out a questionnaire to all on the church's mailing list (see below how to join the mailing list) to find out how you would like us to organise services, keep the church funded, and generally serve the community over the coming months.

In talking about the church, I recognise this is not just an issue for the church, and I know other groups and organisations are going through similar heartache, which for those with questions over employment and schooling must be doubly difficult.

On a brighter note, well done and thank you to the bell ringers for raising the money, renovating and re-hanging the bells.

By the time you read this hopefully I should be out and about again, but it has brought home to me both our continuing wider responsibility for others, and how very hard it is for those of you who are extremely vulnerable. However, the church is open for business so please don't hesitate to telephone or email me about weddings, christenings, funerals or other needs.



*God bless and keep safe*

*Rob*

*Rev Rob Young ~ Resident Vicar ~ St Mary the Virgin ~ Silchester*

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## Prayers & Poems

Thanking God for the beauty of a late summer morning...

### Morning Prayer

When morning in russet and saffron clad  
Is mantling the hills in a dew-soft plaid  
To the song of the moorland two-wings glad  
Let my heart upraise;

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door

When the mist ascends from the mountain floor,

When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore,  
Let me give thee praise.

O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,  
O Spirit who all the firmament fills,  
O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,  
Keep us all our days.

*From Prayers of the Western Highlanders*

### Lord of the mountains

You, O God, are the Lord of the mountains and the valleys. As I travel over mountains and through valleys, I am beneath your feet. You surround me with every kind of creature... Open my eyes to see their beauty, that I may perceive them as the work of your hands...

Tonight, I will sleep beneath your feet, O Lord of the mountains and valleys, ruler of the trees and vines. I will rest in your love, with you protecting me as a father protects his children, with you watching over me as a mother watches over her children. Then tomorrow the sun will rise and I will not know where I am; but I know that you will guide my footsteps.

*A prayer of the Sioux Indians*

### Creation

This world  
Your creation  
Rolled into a sphere  
Packaged in sunshine  
Gift-wrapped in love  
Given to us  
Thank you

*John Birch*

### The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!  
No longer 'locked down'!  
The people stroll out in the sun  
The majestic trees  
Sway in the light breeze  
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!  
We can walk in the park!  
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!  
We can chat to our friends  
As our loneliness ends  
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues  
Which cease to amuse  
But things are no longer so black!  
As they sing in that song -  
You miss what is gone,  
But it's great when at last it comes back!

*Nigel Beeton*

### Shadows and Gravestones

Sitting here, where I was meant to bring you,  
it is hard to tell the difference  
between shadows and gravestones.  
Death is in the air this early evening, but  
death is invisible:  
we strain to see it  
but cannot pin it down

We watch the shadows to check  
if they are turning into something else,  
something sinister - a virus, perhaps  
We try to count death, but the numbers  
are imaginary  
and roots disappear beyond my parents' grave  
which is now almost hidden  
by a green, green tree

Death is invisible  
but we must not wait for it:  
like a friend, it should take us unawares

Death is invisible,  
and so is resurrection,  
slipping past as if we were not there  
bending light sideways  
like a door painted on thin, thin air

I was meant to bring you here:  
life is invisible too  
It will happen again  
and again

*Tim Lenton*



# People News

If you have any news for the People News, happy or sad, please send details in an e-mail to [peoplenews@silchester.org](mailto:peoplenews@silchester.org) or telephone Ann-Marie on 9700627 or Irene on 9700996.

Congratulations to Chris Johnson, of Inhams Way who has a special birthday in August as he will be turning 40!! Chris will be celebrating his special day with his wife Emma and his children Phoebe, Henry and Joshua.

Proud parents Phil and Cheryl Donoghue from Kings Road are delighted that their daughter Ffion has been awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Biochemistry by Bath University. Ffion's interest in the sciences was first sparked by Ronnie Green at Silchester Primary School. If anyone is in contact with him please pass on a huge thank you from Ffion.

Congratulations to John and Pauline Davis who have both celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays and 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary during lockdown. The only event among several planned that has taken place was the 70-mile bike ride that Pauline and 6 friends from the Tadley U3A 'wobbly wheels' group completed in 2 rides of 35 miles each the first week of July.

June Crabtree and Richard Hayler are delighted to welcome their new granddaughter Annabelle Lily, a little sister to Alfie and June's 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild. Annabelle arrived nearly 2 weeks early weighing 7 lb 4 oz. A beautiful addition to their growing family.

After being together for 31 years, June and Richard will complete their civil partnership on 14<sup>th</sup> August, delayed from April. The ceremony will take place in Basingstoke Registry Office, with two witnesses - June's best friend and her husband, whom she has known for nearly 40 years. They will then have lunch at the Vine in Hannington. Richard and June had a large family gathering last year to celebrate being together for 30 years and to mark their 'big birthdays', but could not have a civil partnership until the law was changed at the end of 2019 to allow heterosexual civil partnerships. So, they had the celebrations first and the ceremony a bit later. We are sure they will both enjoy their 'special day' and wish them well for the future.

Although many restrictions due to Covid 19 have been lifted, some people are still worried about going out and about. If you or anyone you know needs help, support or just a friendly phone call there are several places to contact where help is available:

Silchester Association on 07877635387 or 07775547642

St Mary's Church, Silchester, contact Rev. Rob Young 01189700884 or 07818064923, or email: [robwyong101@gmail.com](mailto:robwyong101@gmail.com)

Tadley Hub (Tadley Town Council) 0118 9814538

If you are struggling to obtain groceries and basic necessities you can also organise help via Spotted Silchester on Facebook, or telephone Hampshire County Council - Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline - Hantshelp4vulnerable - on 0333 370 4000. (Calls charged at local rate.)



## Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

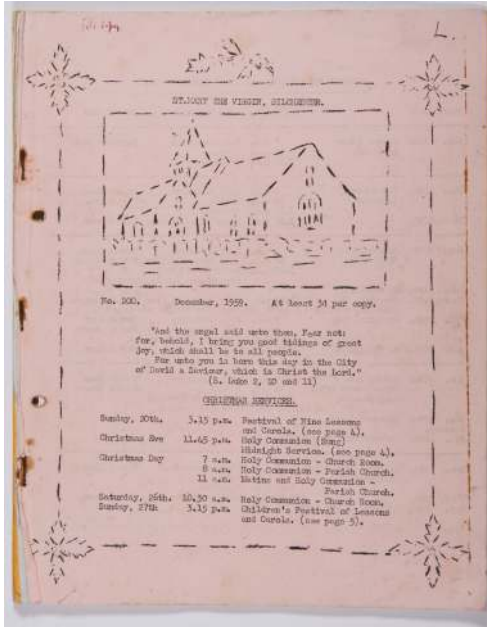
You must have learned from others' mistakes. You haven't had time to think all those up yourself.





# Silchester Magazine - What Next?

The Silchester Magazine has been managed and printed, on behalf of the Church and the Village, by Nancy and Marsden Jones for many, many years, edited by John and Claire Richardson, and collated and distributed by members of the community. Although very much a Village Magazine, ultimate responsibility for the Magazine and the way it is produced at present lies with St Mary the Virgin Church PCC.



Much of the content is provided by many other Silchester organisations and individuals. It has been the main source of information and communication for the Village, its organisations and the surrounding area.

In normal times some 540 hard paper copies of the Magazine are produced on an ageing printer in the Parish Room (the old Mission Church) and delivered by hand each month.

Since coronavirus lock down it has not been possible to produce and distribute hard paper copies and the Magazine has been published and distributed on-line via various village email networks to many subscribers, and beyond, with help from community organisations. Some 20 hard copies are printed and delivered to those who do not have access to email; particular thanks go to Steve Spillane.

Due to low overheads, primarily just paper and printing ink, the support of advertisers, and a modest annual subscription the magazine brings in a typical income to the church of £4000 which is a significant element in meeting the running costs of the church.

We are very grateful for Nancy and Marsden's hard work, but the situation has now arisen that they will be retiring this year - a much deserved rest - and the printer needs replacing. Fortunately John and Claire are still generously willing to continue with the editing. We believe many of the collating and distribution team are also willing to continue though we also understand some are shielding or concerned about social distancing and whilst we hope this won't go on forever, who knows? A person will also be needed to manage advertising revenue, and we aren't yet clear if any change in presentation or distribution will affect advertisers for the better or worse. Whilst the Tadley Churches Benefice (of which Silchester is a part) has a new quality printer located at St Mary's, Tadley which could collate and staple copies of the magazine, production of as many as 500 copies on this machine may well be impractical due to space and other logistical considerations.



So where do we go from here? In the short term we need to decide whether we continue, perhaps to the end of the year, with mainly an on-line Magazine or endeavour to re-start the printing and distribution of 500 copies? If the latter we need to be clear as to how the printing, collation, and distribution could be carried out safely with social distancing and without multi-handling of paper, and confirm that there are sufficient volunteers willing to continue with printing, collation and distribution in the present Covid climate.

However, before the end of this year, there are longer term strategic decisions to be made.

We are aware much communication these days in this community is on-line through Facebook, Spotted Silchester and various WhatsApp groups, websites etc but there are still many people who cannot, or choose not to access all these various on-line communities. Also

by their nature (and data protection requirements) most groups are communicating with their own on-line communities and so not reaching the wider community, something which is essential for the Fete, Beer Festival, Parish Council, the Silchester Association, Church etc.

We believe the Silchester Magazine is still an essential feature of Silchester's life but decisions do now need to be made about how to go forward with production and distribution as well as financial considerations.

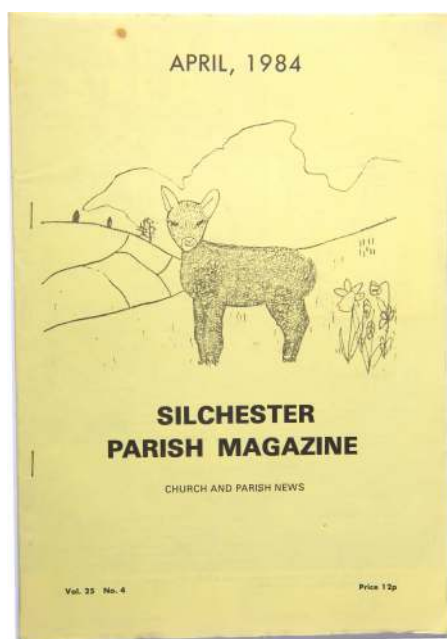
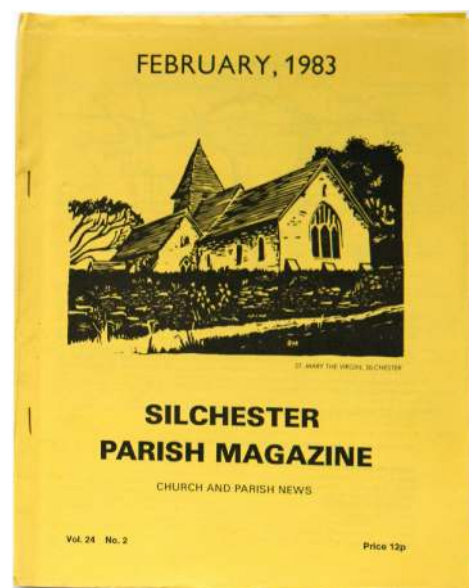
Within those on the church's email list we are already asking these questions as part of an on-line survey about "Reopening the Church" - but it is a Magazine for the whole Village, and so we need to know the views of the Silchester community organisations and all individual subscribers to the Magazine, some of whom we suspect are not accessing, or able to access the on-line Magazine.

Shortly, we will be producing a survey for you to have input to the future of the Silchester Magazine. We will have the survey available as both an online form and as a paper copy delivered to subscribers. We will be emailing the main Silchester Community organisations to consult them but if by accident your organisation is not contacted direct please do send us your views in any event.

Summarised conclusions will hopefully be reported back to you in a future Magazine.

Thank you so much for your help.

Rob (Revd Rob Young - St Mary the Virgin Church, Silchester)  
robwyong101@gmail.com





# Silchester Players

In a first for Silchester Players we held our AGM by Zoom on 26 June followed immediately by a Zoom meeting of the new committee.

We are determined to remain active despite current challenges but inevitably there was a rather downbeat feeling to the AGM. It is always sad when productions cannot go ahead and we also mourned the loss of one of our founders, Stephen Oliver, who died in November 2019.

This year our annual accounts, approved by the AGM, held a strange appearance. There were the usual schedules of income and expenditure for the first two productions of the season but for *The Tempest* no income, only a loss reflecting expenses already incurred. We hope these will be recouped when we are able to go ahead with this production, possibly in 2021.

The two productions which did take place in 2019/20, *Rhythm of Life* and *Snow White*, both returned a surplus. Fortunately we remain solvent and financially able to stage future shows when restrictions are lifted.

Our practice is to make distributions from any surplus to charities nominated by directors of productions. This is done every 3 or 4 years at our Drammies event (our equivalent of the

Oscars). Despite current difficulties the practice will continue although we are being cautious over amounts as we do not know what unforeseen expenses we might face in these uncertain times.

The AGM also decided to adopt a new procedure for voting for our Drammies awards. In the past our members have voted for awards in various categories covering productions over the preceding 3 or 4 years. This has meant that, as memories fade, awards have tended to go to later rather than earlier productions. To rectify this we have adopted a system of annual voting. The results will then be kept securely and combined with succeeding years' votes to produce winners immediately before the next Drammies event. We are also introducing awards which will give greater recognition to the work done by people who do not necessarily appear on stage.

An early challenge for the next committee will be to take a decision on whether we stage our annual pantomime. At the moment this seems unlikely but we will issue an update in the autumn. Watch this magazine for news.



*Steve Spillane speaking at The Drammies 2019 when Silchester Village Hall, registered charity, was presented with a cheque for £600 by Silchester Players. This followed a donation of £1,000 previously made early to assist with the renovation work. Also pictured (l to r) are Silchester Players members Roy Glancey, Tim Oliver and Scarlett Quittenton.*

# *Silchester Methodist Church*

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



We are meeting as a church on Zoom ID 4112933992 Password 146313 every Sunday morning at 10.30am with our friends from the Tadley and Mortimer churches. Anyone is welcome to join. Sadly, all events at the church are cancelled at least until the end of August. We are looking into some church services in September.

We are trying to keeping the garden round the church in some sort of order and all are very welcome to come, relax and enjoy the garden.

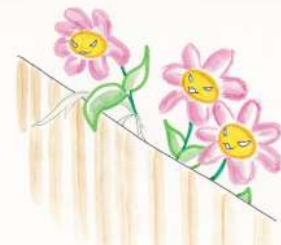
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## **What is Lurking in Your Garden?**

Is there something alien in your garden which is beginning to worry you? Something that is growing too fast, spreading too fast, for you to keep up with?

Gardeners across the country are being asked by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and the University of Coventry to find - and report - the next Japanese knotweed before it 'jumps the garden fence' and causes havoc.

Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam both began innocently, as pretty ornamental garden plants. Then they escaped and have since marched across the UK like something out of War of



the Worlds, causing immense damage to homes and waterways.

So now the question is: can you help a citizen science project to identify the next plant which could become a similar menace? The project is called Plant Alert. It offers you an easy way to report any ornamental plants in your garden that you suspect are becoming aggressive. Just go to: <https://bsbi.org/plant-alert>

Scientists say to look out for: vigorous growth, prolific self-seeding, longer flowering periods.

Plants which are logged on the Plant Alert app will be studied by botanists, and potentially restricted from sale.

Kevin Walker, head of science at BSBI, says: "Bitter experience has shown that species that are invasive in gardens are also the ones that are likely to 'jump the fence' and cause problems in the wild."

## **Who's Right for Which Job?**

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide....

Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.

If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.

If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.

If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good place for them.

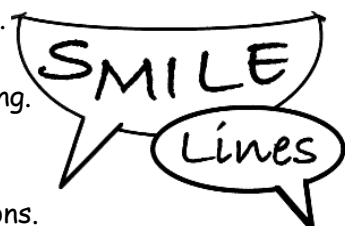
If they are sleeping, they are Management material.

If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.

If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.

If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.

And if they've left early, put them in Sales.



# Silchester Association

[www.silchester.org](http://www.silchester.org)

It is good to see the village coming to life again. Tonight I passed the football field and saw the teams out there playing for the first time since lockdown. We had our committee meeting in the garden at the Calleva.

Things have still got a long way to go before we can even think about living in the way we did six months ago but we are taking small steps to rebuild our lives and community.

After a lot of deliberation about different ways we could adapt the Beer Festival to a Covid-safe event, we have regretfully decided to postpone it until next year. It was felt that the festival relies on the crowd and the bar and the live music and that it would not be possible to re-create the atmosphere in a socially distanced or virtual environment.

The annual Boundary Walk has been confirmed for Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> October. This is an outdoor event and if necessary we can split the walkers into smaller groups to comply with whatever social distancing is required at the time.

The Scarecrow Trail will take place during half term week in October on the run up to Halloween. We have had several suggestions for a theme for this year's displays so keep a look out for the posters and get ready to start designing your scarecrows.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
**24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Boundary Walk**  
**Silchester Scarecrow Trail**

*The Silchester Association*



@silchesterassociation



@silchester\_org

#### Privacy and Refund Policies

If you attend any of our events, you may appear in a photo which may be published on our website or Facebook page. However, if you are unhappy about any photographs that are published, please let us know and we will remove them. For our pre-event ticket sales refund policy please read the information available on our website.



## Dramatic Rise in Home Exercise Injuries During Lockdown

Something like 7.2 million Britons injured themselves while trying to stay fit during lockdown. There has been a dramatic rise in exercise-related injuries, ranging from sprains and strains to pulled muscles and back injuries.

Of those of us injured during lockdown, 30 per cent of us were doing classes online or via apps, 28 per cent were weight training and 22 per cent were using home gym equipment.

A doctor at BUPA points out that although "exercise is enormously important for both our physical and mental health, new regimes and workouts should be taken on with caution."

The British Chiropractic Association (who reported a 660 per cent increase in traffic to its website!) warned that if you do yourself a small injury, do NOT try and 'run it off' or 'push through the pain barrier'. "There's no science to say that it works. Instead you are risking more damage and a longer lay-off by not listening to your body."





**SILCHESTER 1939 – 1945**

**ABRAHAM TURNER.**

**1899 - 1943**

Abraham Turner was born on 22 June 1899 in Hurst, Berkshire, to Alfred and Ellen. He was the youngest of four brothers but he also had three half-brothers and three half-sisters, his parents both having been previously widowed.

Not long after he was born, the family moved to nearby Winnersh, living in Toutley Cottages, King Street, where they were still in 1911. That year's census shows Abraham at school, whilst his father and older brothers Charlie, George and John all worked as general labourers. Later that same year, Abraham's father, by now aged 73, passed away, followed in 1915 by his half-brother James who died of pneumonia whilst serving in the Royal Berkshire Regiment on the battlefields in France.

Abraham started work as a gardener but at the age of 18, in 1917, he enlisted in the Royal Navy as a Stoker, serving in the engine room, shifting coal - sailing on HMS Eglantine - a convoy protection ship - in November. Over the next 22 years he served on many ships including HMS Dolphin, Thunderer, Lucia, Maidstone, Pembroke and Repulse, rising to the rank of Chief Stoker.

In 1920 he married Alice Fairs, a housemaid, in Wokingham, and in 1924 they had a daughter, named Beryl. At some point between then and 1939 they moved to Silchester, and the 1939 Register shows Alice and Beryl living in Oak Tree Cottage (near Heathercote House) on Silchester Common.

Abraham was due to leave the Navy with a pension in 1939 but he stayed on and was posted to the naval base in Singapore. He was there when Singapore fell to the Japanese and he was captured on 17 February 1942, being held initially in Changi prison camp.

The Japanese decided to ship large numbers of POWs to Japan to serve as slave labour, and Abraham left Singapore most likely on 16 May 1943 on the Wales Maru, sailing to Moji, before being transported onward to Hakodate City on Sapporo - one of 950 prisoners onboard: 600 British, 300 Australian and 50 Americans.

Abraham sailed on one of what became known as the "Hell Ships" - so called because of the extremely inhumane living conditions as well as the reputation for cruelty amongst the crew. The ships used were freighters with the prisoners held in the holds, many succumbing to starvation, suffocation or disease on the journey. Prisoners were subject to a raft of regulations, contravention of which was punished by "immediate death" and these included "talking without permission" and "taking more meal than given".



He arrived in Hakodate Main POW Camp in Dai-Michi in June 1943. Records show us that five months after arriving in the camp Abraham was suffering from acute nephritis - inflammation of the kidneys - leading to kidney failure and he died on 28 November 1943 in the camp, where he was cremated.

Abraham is remembered in the British Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama.

*Mike Baldock*  
[ww2@silchester.org](mailto:ww2@silchester.org)

# Parish Council News

## New Parish Councillor



We are very pleased to welcome Dan Male to Silchester Parish Council who was co-opted at our July meeting.

Dan moved to Silchester 11 years ago with his wife, Ruth, and has two children who attend Silchester School. He's also a regular volunteer with the Common Working Party and supports the School's amazing PTA events - you may have heard of Dan's Bridge at the Adventure Challenge!

Dan is the Head of Service and Visitor Operations for the National Trust so we are sure he will bring lots of new skills to the Council.

## COVID-19 Update

I'm sure you will have seen the village playground busy after re-opening. It is entirely funded through its charity status - so please do consider helping us maintain this important village asset by dropping spare change into the collection pot when you visit! It's also important to remember that the park equipment is not being routinely cleaned, so it is the parents' responsibility to ensure safe use during these COVID times.

**Please** follow the current government guidance when using the playground, remember:

- Give other people space in line with the current social distancing guidance.
- Wash your hands before and after visiting.
- Use hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean hands.
- No food or drink on the equipment or in the play area.
- Please take your tissues and rubbish home.

## Silchester Common Update

Silchester Common is important because of its diversity of habitat and, along with the adjoining areas of Lord's Wood and Pamber Forest, it makes up an unbroken stretch of SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) of over 300 Ha (750 acres). SSSIs are the basic building block of site-based nature conservation legislation.

We are so fortunate to have such a special place in our care, and we invite you to participate in looking after our unique habitat. There are several ways you can take part.



**Please do:**

- Join the Silchester Working Party - meeting monthly from September to March. The Working Party are considered one of the most successful working parties in Hampshire. Its sociable, good exercise and great for maintaining our SSSI status. Contact [dan.male@silchester-pc.gov.uk](mailto:dan.male@silchester-pc.gov.uk) for details.
- Flex Ditch, Silchester's very own ancient monument, is located on the corner as you head out of Silchester towards Little London. We share responsibility with Basingstoke and Dean and it needs a little love as it's looking rather neglected. Cllr Westwood is organising a volunteer task at Flex Ditch on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, TBC. The plan is to coppice some of the surrounding trees and to clear some of the leaf litter from the pond. Anyone interested in helping please email Cllr Westwood ([richard.westwood@silchester-pc.gov.uk](mailto:richard.westwood@silchester-pc.gov.uk)) for further details.
- Show us all your lovely pictures! Let's celebrate our lovely place and share our photos on Facebook's Spotted Silchester, you can see what's going on if you visit their [Facebook](#) page. The more people who love it - the more who'll care for it!

**Please don't:**

- Dump any garden waste over the fence line to avoid contaminating the habitat. Even grass clippings change the soil type by enriching it, meaning our common land plant life, used to harsh, poor soil conditions will begin to have to compete with new vegetation.
- Leave Litter - we know you can't be the scoundrels who are dropping the litter, but some are - so do please help us maintain our environment with a one-minute litter pick when you are out and about.
- Dig! Bikes are welcome on the common and it's great to see all ages enjoying the monkey bumps and other trails around the Common... but, it is strictly forbidden to dig, remove and add materials to the Common. So please do not construct your own jumps! Please also give way to pedestrians on single tracks and take care not to startle unsuspecting walkers!

**Silchester Speedwatch**

The Silchester SpeedWatch team haven't been able to deploy due to the lockdown, however, we are expecting the green light from Hampshire Police very soon.

We are always looking for new volunteers to increase the amount of deployments we have around the village, so if you are interested or just want to find out more give Cllr Paul Miles a call on 07760 888 995, or email on [paul.miles@silchester-pc.gov.uk](mailto:paul.miles@silchester-pc.gov.uk). We are a small friendly team that just want to keep the roads safe. We deploy several times during the month at random times and places. If you want to see what we do, why not contact us and join us at the next deployment, you will then see for yourself what we do and why.

Have a great summer, stay safe and keep washing those hands.

*Silchester Parish Council*

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## Parish Council Contact Details

### Our primary point of contact is our Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk: Chris Gunnell	07470 809086	<a href="mailto:clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk">clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
Mike Baldock (Chairman)	0118 970 1931	<a href="mailto:mike.baldock@silchester-pc.gov.uk">mike.baldock@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
Janet Earl	0118 970 2251	<a href="mailto:janet.earl@silchester-pc.gov.uk">janet.earl@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
David Livingstone	0118 970 0135	<a href="mailto:david.livingstone@silchester-pc.gov.uk">david.livingstone@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
Paul Miles	07760 888995	<a href="mailto:paul.miles@silchester-pc.gov.uk">paul.miles@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
Richard Westwood	07876 610577	<a href="mailto:richard.westwood@silchester-pc.gov.uk">richard.westwood@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>
Graham Wright	07837 248047	<a href="mailto:graham.wright@silchester-pc.gov.uk">graham.wright@silchester-pc.gov.uk</a>

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# Planning

## Planning Applications for Consideration

1	<u>T/00231/20/TCA – Woodrow, The Common, Silchester, RG7 2ND</u> <u>Hawthorn T1: remove as it is growing through our boundary fence</u> <u>Holly T2: remove.</u>	
2	<u>T/00275/20/TCA - Village Hall, Whistlers Lane, Silchester RG7 2NE</u> <u>Fell 1 tree.</u>	
3	<u>20/01573/HSE – Calleva, School Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NJ</u> <u>Erection of detached replacement garage</u>	

## Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals\*

1	<u>20/01018/HSE – Bournebrook House, Ash Lane, Little London</u> <u>Erection of single storey rear/side extension incorporating swimming pool</u>	No objection Granted
2	<u>20/00861/HSE – 1 Romans Field, Silchester</u> <u>Erection of single storey rear extension</u>	No objection Granted
3	<u>20/00567/ROC variation – Wood Farm, Ash Lane, Silchester</u> <u>Variation of Condition 1 of 19/00713/ROC to allow for amendments to plans to include revised swimming pool position, the formation of a tennis court, erection of a loggia and erection of a wall with gate between barn and proposed loggia.</u>	No objection Granted

## Notifications\*

1	<u>EC/20/00156/UMC03 - 32 Dukes Ride, Silchester, RG7 2PY</u> <u>Alleged Breach: Material Change of Use of Land for the Siting of a Steel Container</u>	A site visit due by BDBC Enforcement team to investigate the alleged breach of planning control.
2	<u>T/00263/20/DDD - NOTICE OF EXEMPT WORK TO PROTECTED TREES</u> <u>At Three Ashes, Bramley Road, Silchester</u> <u>Proposal: Fell 1 dead/dangerous Maple.</u>	No action required

## Pending Applications\*

1	<u>20/00297/FUL – Land at rear of Bridles View, Byes Lane, Silchester</u> <u>Erection of 1 No. new dwelling with detached double garage and garden/bin/bike store</u>	Objection Pending Decision
2	<u>20/00876/HSE – Woodstock, Byes Lane, Silchester</u> <u>Erection of front and rear extensions, alterations to the roof to form additional first floor living accommodation including raising of the roof and front and rear gables</u>	No objection Pending Decision
3	<u>Ref. No: 20/01285/PIP – Land At O/S Ref 462670 161631, Little London Road, Silchester</u> <u>Permission in Principal for residential development of up to 9 no. dwellings</u>	Objection Pending Consideration

\* Objections/no objections listed are the opinion of Silchester Parish Council only, and do not reflect any submissions placed by members of the public or other bodies with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

# Phoenix Club

5<sup>th</sup> August



Under the current guidelines we will not be able to meet safely in Ann-Marie's garden as originally planned so we thought some of you might like to meet up on the playing field in front of the Pavilion.

Ann-Marie and Jan will be on the field in front of the Pavilion from 2pm to 3pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August & we would be pleased to see any of you who are able to join us.

Suzi & Jane's Pop Up Cafe will be open for the purchase of take-aways if you fancy a 'cuppa'. You will need to bring your own chairs or picnic blankets though. (No toilets!)

Obviously this will depend on the weather- the advance forecast I looked at today said 19 degrees & cloudy but no rain. That may well change nearer the time of course!

We hope you are all keeping well & look forward to seeing you all before too long.

*Jan & Ann-Marie*



## News release

### **New Scheme Aims to Help the Borough's Young Trees through the Dry Summer Months**

People in the borough are being encouraged to join a new initiative to help water young trees across Basingstoke and Deane during the summer months.

'Water Me' gives residents the opportunity to help support Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's watering programme by providing the trees with additional water when the weather is dry. Each tree will have a label attached to it and residents are encouraged to find their nearest one and to help to water it - preferably using recycled water such as washing up or rain water.

The council plants a number new trees every year and waters them during their first year of growth. This year there are 183 trees included in the council's watering schedule.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "Every year we plant additional trees providing a positive contribution to the borough's natural environment, a habitat for wildlife and to help shape our landscape. The council carries out a rigorous programme of watering during the summer months but when it is particularly dry, our residents can help by providing extra water, to ensure that these young trees have the very best chance."





# St Mary the Virgin Silchester - The Bells are Back!!!

Our five bells left the church on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for their 100-year refurbishment with Whites of Appleton.



Now it was time for the bell ringers to start to degrease, clean, sand down and repaint the metal frame. Alan, Ian and Virginia met one cold Saturday morning to start the work but soon realized the job was going to take much longer than expected. The frame had previously been painted with bitumastic paint and this was very difficult to get off and to get back to bare metal. Another three visits to the tower were needed before the preparation work was complete.

We were now into the cold and damp winter weather but the red oxide and the bitumastic paint need a minimum temperature of 10 degrees before they can be applied. By the time the weather had warmed up we were into Covid lockdown. Eventually when new guidance allowed, Virginia was able to go into the tower to paint on her own with Martin as her health and safety bodyguard at the bottom of the ladder. Eventually after many mornings work the painting was complete.



On 7<sup>th</sup> July, Graham, James and John from Whites came to start their preparatory work on the bell frame, putting on the bearing



plates and measuring up for other fittings.

The 13<sup>th</sup> July was the big day, the bells came back. Our churchwardens Veronica and Sandra were there together with some of the bell ringers to see them off the lorry and lined up on the church path.





The bells were then moved into the church on their pallets with plywood sheets on the floor to protect the tiles. The trap door into the belfry was opened and the clappers and wheels were hoisted up into the belfry via the trap door. Unlike when the bells were removed, because of the social distancing, Graham, James and John, were the only ones that could work in the belfry. The number one bell was hoisted aloft with block and tackle and bolted in place. The new clapper was fitted together with the lower half of the wheel. This process was followed for the rest of the

bells with breaks for lunch, tea and cake (provided by Madge and Virginia).

Tuesday saw the same team back again and the top half of the wheels were attached together with the stays and sliders. The team measured up for new rope pulley guides and these were made on Wednesday back at the works. On Thursday the pulley guides were fitted to the frame and the ropes re attached to the bell wheels. Graham then tested each bell ringing it up and down. Finally, at one o'clock we were able to ring all five bells for the first time in eight months.

The job is now complete and we would like to thank Whites for their excellent work. The bells will now be fine for the next 100 to 150 years with only needing an annual checkup.



*Virginia Budd (Bellringer)*



### **THE WAY I SEE IT: What have you missed most during lockdown?**

It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things - going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was **TOUCH**. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch.

The strong hands of the midwife, mother's excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy's face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma, your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!

*David Winter*



# Talking Better With Your Hands

Do you move your arms about when you speak? Probably you do – at least sometimes. Gesturing while we speak has been common behaviour for thousands of years, but it has been less clear as to WHY we do it.

Now a study by scientists at the University of Connecticut has found that there are changes in the size and shape of our chests when we gesture. These changes affect our speech in both tone and volume.

Because of the way our bodies are made, our hand movements influence our torso and throat muscles and our gestures are tightly tied to amplitude. So, that means that, rather than just using your chest muscles to produce air flow for speech, moving your arms about as well can add acoustic emphasis and improve your overall communication.



*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

## St James the Least of All

### On the perils of leaving your pulpit

The Rectory,  
St James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

When the churches reopen for public worship (whenever that is!) I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last August, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

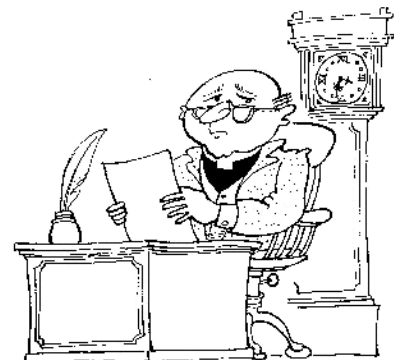
I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is

still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half-way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.



*Your loving uncle, Eustace*



## Save the Date: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

### 10.00am to 12.30pm

Great News!! At the time of writing, it seems that, with sensible and appropriate precautions, we are able to open up Silchester Village Market once more. However, it will be a bit different as it will be held outdoors on the playing field. There will be plenty of space between stalls to practice social distancing, so you can view and buy your purchases safely. Plenty of car parking also.

COVID-19 has hit all businesses hard and many of our stallholders have had to change their business markedly to keep an income coming in. This has involved home deliveries, pre-arranged collections, posting goods etc. and I know that many of you have supported your favourite stalls during the last few months, for which they are most grateful.

The Market is a place to come for provisions and is a valuable source of income for these small businesses, perhaps even more important in these unprecedented times. If you can safely attend the Market on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and spend your money, this will really help keep these businesses going and keep our £s local. Those attending, at the time of writing, are:

- Indigo Bakes - bread and bakery
- Cherry Me - dried fruit snacks
- Fernworth Farm - locally bred meat
- The Cheese Agent - artisan cheeses
- The Coffee House - Arabica coffee beans and ground coffee
- David Meadows - fresh fish
- Village Preserves - marmalades, preserves, jellies, chutneys and curds
- Judy's Cakes, Quiches and fruit pies
- Olga's plants and preserves
- Beechwood Farm eggs
- Neil's mustards, condiments and preserves
- Red Kite Glass
- Flamingo Papier - cards and wrapping paper
- Jammy Thing - stamped cutlery
- St Crispin's Apple Juice
- Tropic Skincare
- Wilson Wonders Potatoes ( Heritage and local potatoes)
- Brian Bicknell's local honey and bee products
- Bramley Green Larder
- Eric Bennett - bird boxes and feeders, planters etc



Our thanks to Suzi and Jane who will be opening up the Pop-up Café for take-away refreshments, for the duration of the Market.

Keep safe and well and look forward to seeing you at the Market on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Paula Gibbons - Market Organiser

Telephone; 079565 33471 or Email: [info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk](mailto:info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.silchestervillagemarket.org.uk](http://www.silchestervillagemarket.org.uk)

**FaceBook:** Silchester Village Market

# Short Story Challenge

Our short story challenge is still open to all readers of this Magazine, whatever their age, children to seniors:

The challenge is for us to write a short story of up to 1000 words to be submitted electronically to [silchesterstory@gmail.com](mailto:silchesterstory@gmail.com) by the closing date for the next Magazine and for a selection of the stories to be published in the Magazine over the coming months.

Below is a story by Sandi Smithers. It is based on a story told to her by a 10 year old girl in Africa.

It would be wonderful if more people submitted items - on whatever topic - fiction or non-fiction - so please do consider sending something in to us - we are grateful to Sandi for sending us this.

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## A Day In My Life

My name is Kiserian which is a Maasai name meaning 'the peaceful one' but everyone calls me Kisi. I am 10 years old and live in a small village on the edge of the Maasai Mara Reserve in Kenya with my mother and my brother Leboo who is 11. His name means 'born in the bush' and our village is surrounded by bush and scrub where wild animals live such as elephant, baboon, giraffe, zebra and lion. We have to keep these animals out of our village so we build fences of acacia thorns all around us and bring in our goats and cattle each night.

This morning my mother and I got up as usual with the sunrise to milk our goats and cows and feed our chickens. We had a drink of tea and I had some rice before I put on my school clothes. I walked to school with my friends from the village - it's quite a long way now. When I was younger school was under the tree on the edge of the village where we sat around on benches to learn our letters and numbers but the new one is a long way. Now I speak Swahili as well as Maa, our Maasai language, and we are learning English too. I love school but my brother does not and since our father died Leboo just wants to be head of the family, to protect us, herd the cattle and carry his father's spear. Our mother works very hard to keep us and now goes off to work on a nearby farm each day as well as beading with the other ladies, making necklaces, bracelets and earrings to sell in the town market.

After school my brother and I go off to get water. It is not very far now we have the well. We used to have to go down to the spring which was a long way and the water was very dirty as the animals all used it too. Some of the people got sick from the water and this was why my father died. We get home with the water and go off to find firewood for the fire. Mother cooks our dinner of ugali, a kind of maize porridge, and some onion and cabbage from the farm. Sometimes we have other things like tomatoes and beans, yum! We are very lucky. When we have eaten I help my mother with some beadwork. She has been teaching me how to do it and I am teaching her to write her name.

As it gets dark we bring in all the animals to keep them safe. We have three goats and only two cows now since a lion killed one after our father died last year. I put the chickens in their pen and then it is time for sleep. I am very tired and lying there I think of tomorrow when we will go to market after the milking, to sell jewellery. I love market day, seeing all the people and stalls. I love my school too and sometimes dream of becoming a doctor because Mother says there is a lot of sickness all over the world now....something called Covid that you can die from. I say a prayer and ask God to make my dreams come true.

*Sandi Smithers*



## Weekly Waste Collections to Resume Mid August

Weekly waste collections in Basingstoke and Deane are set to resume from Monday 17 August as staffing for the bin collection service stabilises during the pandemic.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and its waste and recycling contractor Serco have reviewed staffing and are happy the weekly service can be resumed as lockdown measures continue to relax. The day residents' bins are collected will not change.

New subscriptions to the borough council and Hart District Council's popular garden waste service will also be available from Monday 3 August but residents are being advised it may take over a month for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start.

The council and Serco will continue to review the staffing of all waste and recycling services and will take measures to protect the core services during the COVID-19 crisis if required.

Reinstating the weekly waste collection and opening new garden waste subscriptions means all of the council's waste and recycling services will be back online by mid-August. The council first made the difficult decision to stop garden waste and bulky waste collections in March and temporarily move to a fortnightly waste collection late April.

While some residents will be pleased to see the return of weekly waste collections, the council is aware many residents are also supportive of a fortnightly collection and made great efforts to reduce their waste and recycle more during this challenging period.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus has urged those residents who have managed on the fortnightly waste collection to keep up their efforts, which have resulted in an unaudited increase in recycling of around 800 tonnes - the equivalent to around 63 double decker buses.

Cllr Eachus said: "I know the return of the weekly waste collection will be much welcomed news for some residents who may have struggled to manage the amount of waste generated while spending more time at home and with the household waste recycling centre closed or fully booked for appointments.

"I also understand there will be residents who will be disappointed we are returning to the weekly collection and feel we are taking a backwards step towards increasing our recycling rates and achieving our climate emergency targets.

"We always said this was a temporary measure to support our key worker bin crews during this incredibly challenging time. They have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to maintain a service for our residents and for that we are very grateful.

"It is fantastic we have seen increases in recycling during this period and I would like to encourage those residents who have coped and have made changes to continue their efforts and only put their waste bin out when they need to. Most importantly I would like to thank all of our residents for their patience and support during this difficult time, there is still a long way to go but I am delighted we are now able to offer our residents a full complement of services again."

For more information on waste and recycling collections during the pandemic visit

[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling)

Here we continue *The Labours of Heracles* written by Stephen Bibby - it was aimed at children of around 10 years old ... But was enjoyed by all ages over the last few months.

## The Labours of Heracles

### The Second Labour - The Lernean Hydra

If you were ever unfortunate enough to meet Hera you would very soon decide she was a deeply unpleasant goddess. She was forever thinking of ways to destroy whatever she hated. In her plotting and planning she created a monster which she imagined not even the mighty Heracles would be able to overcome. This terrifying creature was known as the Hydra. It lived in a deep cave near the town of Lerna.

The Hydra had an enormous body shaped like that of a huge dog. But, rearing up from its neck was no dog's nose, eyes and ears, but nine huge serpent heads. Each head held narrow eyes and a forked tongue. If you ever felt the breath coming from the Hydra, you would instantly know it was the most deadly, gaseous poison. It immediately killed any person or beast who inhaled it.

The single-handed destruction of this weird and terrifying creature was the next Labour ordered by King Eurystheus.

Heracles travelled to Lerna in a chariot driven by his nephew, Iolaus. When he arrived, once again the goddess Athene helped him. Firstly, she pointed out where the Hydra was hiding, deep in its lair. Then she gave some very wise advice.

Heracles listened carefully to the friendly goddess and, based on what she suggested, devised a plan. He would force the Hydra to leave its cave by shooting burning arrows inside. When the Hydra appeared, he would protect himself by wrapping his face in thick cloth so that he would not inhale the monster's poisonous breath.

Once Heracles put his plan into action, the Hydra leapt from its cave and immediately attacked him. It wound one of its long serpent necks around Heracles' right leg, trying to topple him over. Swinging his new and even heavier club with great force, Heracles knocked the deadly head off the entwining body. But before it had hit the ground two fresh heads sprang up to take its place.

Yet again a serpent neck reared up menacingly. This time, in a vicious whipping action, it wound itself around Heracles' left leg. Again Heracles

lopped off the head with a mighty blow from his club: again two new heads promptly sprouted up, taking the place of the bloodied mess lying on the ground.

Moments later, an enormous crab crawled out of a nearby swamp to help the Hydra. With its gigantic claw it nipped Heracles' foot causing him to cry out in pain. He stamped heavily upon this unwelcome assailant, crushing its pink shell into small pieces, just before another snaking neck shot out at him.

Heracles did not know it, but the crab had been sent by Hera. Aware that Athene was advising Heracles, she had commanded the crustacean, with its enormous pincers, to help the Hydra. It obeyed and assisted the multi-headed monster by distracting Heracles at a vital moment. As a reward for its services Hera set the image of the crab in the night sky as a constellation, 'Cancer the Crab'. Today it is still one of the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Heracles battled bravely against a growing number of hissing serpent heads. Even with his great strength he began to tire and to realise that he could not defeat the Hydra unless he tried a new tactic. Desperately he called out to Iolaus.

Doing as Heracles asked, Iolaus set fire to a nearby grove of trees which were soon crackling and burning fiercely. Now, every time a head was sent flying from the Hydra's body Iolaus handed Heracles a blazing branch. Before a new head could grow, Heracles thrust the red-hot branch into the severed neck, searing the blood vessels and preventing any further spitting serpents from emerging.

As Heracles continued his long battle with the Hydra, he noticed that among the writhing serpent heads was one that appeared to dominate all the rest. This head shone and sparkled because it was partly covered in gold. Heracles realised that this had to be his target.

Putting down his club, Heracles reached for his sword, a fine razor sharp weapon also made of gold. With an almighty swing it curved through the air, severing the golden head at its root. Immediately Heracles seized the head, still



hissing with poisonous breath, and thrust it deep into the ground so it could do no further damage.

The body of the Hydra now lay crumpled and collapsed. Its severed necks lay in a pool of blood spreading out from its massive dog-like body. Once the monster had stopped twitching and Heracles was sure it was dead, he cut it open and dipped his arrows into the foul acid in its stomach. From that day forward any wound from his arrows would be instantly fatal to person or creature they hit.

After a well-earned rest, Heracles and Iolaus travelled back to King Eurystheus to give a full account of what had happened. They both thought the king would be astonished to hear of the almighty battle with the Hydra and pleased that the monster had been destroyed.

Instead, Eurystheus was furious. He ranted at Heracles, shouting at him that he had not done what had been commanded. He repeated that all the tasks had to be carried out single-handed.

Because Heracles had received help from Iolaus, King Eurystheus inwardly decided that this Labour should not count as a task that had been carried out properly.

### **The Third Labour - The Ceryneian Hind**

The goddess Hera was becoming increasingly angry. Heracles had now survived two Labours despite her attempts to thwart him.

Secretly visiting King Eurystheus, she persuaded him that the next task to be set should be the capture of a very special female deer, known as the Ceryneian Hind.

What made the Ceryneian Hind stand out was her fine appearance. She possessed graceful hooves of bronze and fine golden horns, as proud as any that ever adorned the most handsome stag. This wondrous creature belonged to the goddess Artemis. As a child Artemis had seen five such hinds grazing peacefully. She claimed ownership of all five, but one had escaped from her and now lived on a mountain known as the Ceryneian Hill.

Heracles was ordered to bring the hind alive and unharmed to King Eurystheus. Hera had planned this, thinking it would be an impossible task. She knew that the hind would struggle if captured.

She fully expected that Heracles, with his mighty strength, would cause some injury to the beautiful animal as he tried to subdue her. She also knew that if any injury were inflicted upon the hind Artemis would be furious and would take her revenge on Heracles.

For one whole year Heracles hunted the hind. He pursued her through the length and breadth of Greece. At last the hind was worn out and lay down by a river to drink. Heracles spied her there and, with deadly accuracy, fired an arrow. As he intended, the arrow pinned the hind's two front legs together. His aim had been so careful that the arrow passed between bones and sinews and drew no blood. He had also been careful to choose an arrow not tipped with poison. The hind was disabled but unharmed.

Heracles promptly tied her up, slung her across his shoulders and started the long journey back to King Eurystheus.

The goddess Artemis, looking down from Mount Olympus, spotted Heracles carrying the Ceryneian Hind. She was furious because the beautiful creature, which she claimed as her own, had been captured and carried away. In a rage she appeared before Heracles.


Immediately Heracles knelt sank to his knees, giving great respect to Artemis. Firstly, he showed her that the hind was not injured. Then he told her all the details of his life. Sorrowfully, he outlined the terrible things he had done while in his fit of madness. He was bitterly sorry for his deeds and determined to carry out the ten Labours to atone for them.

Artemis listened. The sad tale touched her heart and tears sprang from her eyes. Forgiving Heracles, she allowed him to carry the hind to King Eurystheus as he had been ordered.

Yet again Hera had been unable to hinder Heracles and the task assigned to him was successfully completed.

*Stephen Bibby*

*To be continued ... Next issue we will have  
**The Fourth Labour - The Erymantian Boar**  
along with **The Fifth Labour - The Augean  
Stables.***




# Why are you dropping litter?

- ☐ I don't care about nature or wildlife
- ☐ I come here to enjoy the sight of rubbish
- ☐ I think other people should clean up after me
- ☒ All of the above



You brought your rubbish here. Please take it home.  
#leaveonlyyourfootprints #leavenotrace



**HAMPSHIRE**  
COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

   Hampshire Countryside Service  
[lookingafternature.co.uk](http://lookingafternature.co.uk)



Hampshire  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)





# Taking the Sting out of Nettles

Thanks to their sting and vigorous growth, stinging nettles are much-maligned by many gardeners and visitors to the countryside. But it has not always been this way.

Historically, nettles were an important source of food, and they were also put to a great variety of other uses. They were used as an analgesic, an animal feed supplement, dye, cloth, and food wrap for cheese, fish, and meat. Even today you can find nettle listed as a key ingredient on the supermarket shelves on anything from shampoo, to cheese, to beer!

Young nettle tops (picked from early spring to early summer) really are delicious. Steamed or simmered, like any green vegetable, the taste and texture of cooked nettles is similar to spinach and they can be substituted for it in any recipe. Full of vitamins and minerals, particularly iron, nettles are a cheap and readily available "super-food". True to

the old adage, you just need a firm grip (or gloves!) to avoid the stinging hairs when you pick them, and the cooking process will do the rest so you can enjoy their taste and goodness without worrying. You will need to pick a lot of leaves as, just like spinach, they reduce in volume when cooked. Only pick the young leaves at the top of the plant before it has gone to seed.

Stinging nettles support at least 40 different species of insect, including some of our favourite and familiar butterflies. Peacock, red admiral, small tortoiseshell, comma and painted lady butterflies all have caterpillars whose only, or main, source of food is the nettle. These caterpillars, along with the aphids and other

insects that feed on nettles, sustain our woodland and garden birds throughout the spring and early summer.

Later in the year, small, seed-eating birds including chaffinches, bullfinches and house sparrows all benefit from the thousands of small seeds that each nettle plant produces.

As well as giving these direct benefits to wildlife, nettles can be used by gardeners in the know to make their own nitrogen-rich nettle

fertiliser. Simply half fill any watertight container with nettles, top it up with water, give it an occasional stir, and wait! After a few days it will start "brewing" - try adding some rosemary to offset the offensive smell. After three or four weeks of bubbling, strain off the solids to the compost heap and dilute the remaining liquid at one part

nettle fertiliser to ten parts water, and your garden plants will love it!

Find out more about your local wildlife at [hiwwt.org.uk](http://hiwwt.org.uk)

Alice Ashcroft  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Stinging Nettle



**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust** strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

**Help wildlife where you live.**  
[www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk)

# A Tourist Prayer

## (Or What We Are Missing)

Heavenly Father, look down on us your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel the earth. Taking and uploading photos to Facebook & Instagram, emailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

Give us this day divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and hot water running from the taps.

Lead us, dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price.

Give us wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for under-tipping out of ignorance, and over-tipping out of fear. Make the locals love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Give us strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals the palaces and castles listed as 'must see' in the guidebooks.

And, if perchance we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

*Husbands should also add:-*

Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from 'bargains' they do not need or cannot afford. Lead them not into temptation, for they know not what they do.

*Wives should also add:-*

Almighty Father keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes or nightclubs. Above all, do NOT forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

Finally Father, give us all release from this Covid Virus, allow us once more to travel where we please. Enjoy all the new places we see and also be very glad to return to our homes with very many happy memories to sustain us in the future.

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If you have a business, or service to offer to others, you should consider advertising in the Silchester Magazine.

If you feel you would like to advertise on our Yellow Pages, get in touch with me before the copy date of the 13th of the month.

**Our annual rates (for 11 issues) are:-**

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Please contact Nancy at

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for more information

Monthly rates from March 2020 are:

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We try to attract advertisements for most of the trades and services you may require so please keep your magazine near the telephone or computer and use it as a local directory.

The revenue from the sale of advertising space helps significantly in keeping down the cost of the magazine.

## Would you like to subscribe to this magazine?

Contact: Nancy Jones, Distribution Manager, details as above.

Subscription to the magazine is now £5 per annum for 11 issues. Seniors are £3.

## **Copy should be sent to editor@silchester.org**

The deadline for submissions is the 13th of each month and should be carefully adhered to.

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AMEN





# Useful Local Telephone Numbers



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

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Churchwarden	Sandra Speight	0118 970 0570
Assistant Wardens	Veronica Picton	0118 981 5782
	Richard Eldridge	0118 970 0744
	Em Paddick Wilsdon	0118 970 0542
Vice Chairman	Richard Fletcher	0118 970 0633
Honorary Treasurer	Richard Eldridge	0118 970 0744
Deanery Synod	<i>vacant post</i>	
Gift Aid Secretaries	Richard and Sheila Fletcher	0118 970 0633
PCC Secretary	Colin Hunt	0118 970 0726
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Heidi Williams	0118 970 1299
Organist	Henry Peat	07711 651 111

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

Minister	Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf	0118 970 0139
Church Secretary	Angela Hiscock	01256 850432
Local Methodist Contact	Kathy Evans	0118 970 1234
Methodist Hall Hire	Lynda Kennedy	0118 981 2785

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TADLEY

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Friendship Circle Coffee Mornings	Heather Cole	0118 970 0469
Sow & Grow	Rosemary Lister	0118 970 2219

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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	Jan Hughes	0118 970 0416
Calleva Women's Institute	Valerie Hudson	0118 933 2870
Richard Hyde Charity, Secretary to the Trustees,	Helen Morgan	0118 970 1055
Silchester Give and Take Group	Helen Morgan/ Rosemary Evans	0118 970 1055 0118 970 1070
Silchester Association		secretary@silchester.org
Silchester Welcomers' Group	Jan Hughes	0118 970 0416
Silchester Players	Tim Oliver	0118 981 9134
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Silchester Football Club	Paul Evans	0118 970 1293
Loddon Valley Lions	Ian Hellem	0118 970 0147
RNLI (Lifeboats) Tadley Branch	Jack Shovel	0118 970 0992
Macmillan Cancer Support	Virginia Budd	01256 850239



**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

Tuesday Club: Babies & Toddlers	Catharine Smither	0784 123 7333
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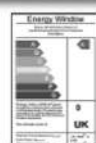
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