

Silchester Magazine

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ANNIVERSARY



May 2020



Village and Church News

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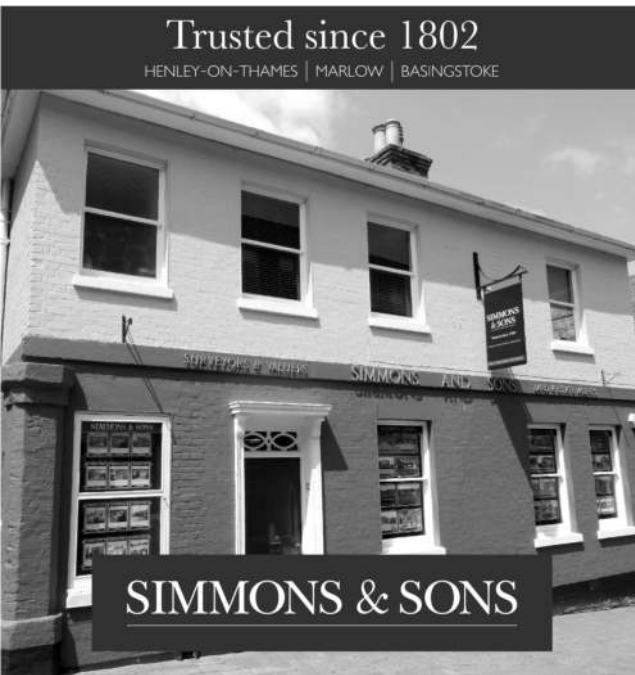
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Silchester Magazine

May 2020



Artwork by Rex Monger



Thank-you to everyone who has sent content for this magazine - and all those who have shared it online - we really appreciate your support. Please share the magazine as widely as you can — and consider those who may not be able to access it online.



STAY SAFE SILCHESTER



"What have you been up to today?"

"Usual; walked the dog, sat in the garden and read a book, took the kids for a bike ride, watched the press briefing, oh and did some washing. And you?"

"Oh, the usual you know".

Sounds familiar? Run out of topics to talk about on the phone once you get beyond the weather? Whatever happened to those plans to decorate the house? The garden is tidier than it has ever been but you can't get the plants to move things on.

Perhaps your experience is more enlivening than this. I've certainly appreciated the largely good weather and the regular exercise in the countryside in which we are fortunate enough to live. It must be hell on earth for a poor single parent with three children living in a tower block.

But for many of us, I wonder why we struggle to appreciate enforced time and space when we spend so much of our lives complaining about being too busy?

I think it may be for three reasons: First we need people, most of us need that regular interchange with other people. Second, maybe we have forgotten or never knew how to live. Third, it is enforced. We don't choose it. Let me explain.

Whether we view the biblical creation story as fact or fable, I think it speaks to us quite clearly about how we are we are all part of something much bigger; all part of creation for which we, as the most dominant creature, have been given a high degree of responsibility, and we can't do this alone. God says to Adam "It is not good for you to be alone" (Genesis 2:18) and in the story God creates Eve. Now I don't want to get into discussion about sexual equality, though elsewhere in the other story of creation in chapter 1 the Bible says "male and female he created them", rather I want to emphasise the point that we need each other, and when we don't have each other "It is not good for us".

On my second point, when the Bible talks about the ideal future it talks about "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Deuteronomy etc), with "everyone sitting under their own vine and their own fig tree, and no-one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken" (Micah 4:4) and "they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" (Amos 9:15). Now all these images are very agricultural, but for most of history society has been agricultural, whether farmers growing crops, including vines, or grazing sheep but it seems to me the same basic principles apply to us living mainly in an industrial or technological society. We need to feel secure in our surroundings, with an adequacy of food and drink and shelter, being able to enjoy the fruits of our labour with others - to rebuild the waste cities into good places to live.

Third, the whole thrust of the Bible, Old and New Testament, is about freedom; from oppression by the Egyptians to freedom in their own land, from exile in Babylon to freedom back in their own land, freedom from Roman occupation, and freedom from sin. Forced freedom is not freedom! Freedom needs to be chosen.

It seems to me, the Biblical picture of the good life is not status, or achievement in work, or control over others: it is to be able to enjoy creation and to enjoy the fruit of our labour, which will only be complete when enjoyed with others, which in itself gives us a responsibility for others.

Of course this is all idyllic Biblical language and we know that this will not be complete until, in the words of the Biblical Book of Revelation "Babylon (the symbol of evil) falls and there is a new heaven

and a new earth where there will be no more death or mourning or crying in pain" (Rev 21) and there will be water "without cost from the spring of the water of eternal life".

I know that at the moment many people are fearful, many mourn, many are seeing their livelihood disappear before their eyes and much of what I have described may seem fanciful at best and downright irrelevant, insulting and thoughtless at worst and I apologise for any hurt given to them, but what I'm trying to say is that for those of us who have the time and the space let's use this as a time to ask ourselves once again "how do we want to live life", and within the limitations, and opportunities, of age and health re-assess our goals and priorities, and maybe take some hesitant steps or at least plans towards rebuilding "the waste cities" with and for others, especially those whose suffering will extend well beyond the decline of our current crisis.

This is what Easter is about - death and resurrection.

Circumstances will clearly play their part, but the choice for many of us will be largely ours: to return to the rat race or maybe accept lower material goals and live a new found life; to remain in isolation or rejoice in new neighbourliness; to keep our only priority as me and mine or share with, and help others.

Life to be lived, or idyllic rubbish - Rev Rob has finally lost his marbles?

God Bless

Revd Rob Young, Resident Vicar of St Mary the Virgin Silchester
robwyong101@gmail.com ~ 01189700884



St Mary the Virgin, Silchester ~ May 2020

Church Services At This Time

At this time with Church buildings closed, in the Benefice of Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester we are offering online services. There is a weekly sermon from one of the Clergy and a variety of opportunities to worship, explore or meditate in various thoughtful ways.

These can be found on the church's websites:

<https://st-marys-church-tadley.org.uk/>

<https://www.stpaulstadley.org.uk/>

<http://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/>

At Silchester we are holding a weekly 10.00am Sunday Service on Zoom, where on Easter day we were joined by over 50 people from the community of Silchester. The services are about half an hour with prayer, hymns, a brief talk and singing with Robin Scott. If you want to join us please go to the Silchester Church website (as above) and sign up and we will keep you informed, send you weekly service sheets and the Zoom link (Just click).

We are also planning over the next few weeks to record a "Night Prayer" which you might like to use one night a week, and a Service from the Book of Common Prayer. If you "subscribe" we will keep you informed of all that is happening or planned at Silchester Church.

Revd Rob Young robwyong101@gmail.com

<http://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/>

In the Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester



Prayers

The following prayers on the coronavirus are found on the Church of England website at:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Prayers About the Outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your
love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in
isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Those Who are Ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them
safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Hospital Staff and Medical Researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored
to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Christian Community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours'
safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

*Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist
Conference*



A Short Story Challenge

I was thinking the other day I would quite like to have a go at writing a short story for the Magazine, but then I hit a problem. I didn't know what to write. So I thought, I know I will issue a challenge to all readers of this Magazine, including myself, whatever our age, children to wrinklies:

My challenge is for us to write a short story of up to 1000 words to be submitted electronically to 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. Depending on the quantity it might be worth publishing a booklet of them later in the year. No guarantee of publication, but we will do our best. Perhaps there are some of you who might want to join me in reading all the stories and put together any publication, if so please contact me.

Rev Rob robwyong101@gmail.com



Silchester Players

We are very sorry that due to the current circumstances it has been necessary to postpone our production of "The Tempest".

Like everyone else we have been staggered at the speed with which the coronavirus crisis overtook us. We held a committee meeting on the 11th March when we decided that, despite warnings of an epidemic, we would press ahead with our planned production. Only four days later, on Sunday 15th March, an emergency committee meeting decided that, in the light of rapid developments, we had no alternative but to postpone.

We will of course observe all the current restrictions and sincerely hope that the Covid-19 menace is vanquished as quickly as possible. Suspension of normal operations has been a bitter blow for us as we were riding the crest of a wave. Our pantomime this year, "Snow White", was very popular, bringing our best production results ever recorded. Early rehearsals for "The Tempest" had been very promising with the cast very enthusiastic to bring Shakespeare's last play to a Silchester audience. Those who managed to visit Silchester Village Hall before the recent closure may have noticed that our scenery painters had already

begun to change the Wicked Queen's throne room into Prospero's island. We had two further exciting productions lined up: "The Ladykillers" which will be known to many as a classic Ealing comedy, and then our annual pantomime "Aladdin" scheduled for the end of January/beginning of February 2021.



Our current plans are to defer "The Tempest" to autumn 2020 and to move "The Ladykillers" into 2021. However, there is some uncertainty at the moment, not only because we do not know when restrictions will be lifted, but also because some members of cast may not be available. Please watch for news either in this magazine or on our website www.Silchesterplayers.org

We are hopeful that by the end of the year we will be back to normal. In that case we will then devote our winter efforts to "Aladdin". Our annual pantomime is a great favourite and we will do our best to ensure this production takes priority so as not to disappoint our audiences, particularly the children who enjoy the matinees and the adults with learning disabilities who come to our charity performance on the first Sunday.



Basingstoke
and Deane



coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Help for people in need who have to stay at home

During the coronavirus outbreak, many people have been told to self-isolate at home as they have medical conditions that could put them at risk or are over 70.

Some of these people have relatives or friends who are able to help out by dropping off shopping or prescriptions safely without coming into contact with them.

But for those who don't have anyone to support them, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working closely with Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke Voluntary Action and other community organisations as part of the **Basingstoke and Deane Community Hub**.



A new **coronavirus Hampshire Helpline – Hantshelp4vulnerable** – has been set up and can be contacted on **0333 370 4000**. The helpline is available **seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm**. Vulnerable residents who need help, and do not have support from family or friends, should call the helpline to register for support.



Support for those at high risk

The NHS has written to residents with an underlying medical condition and at risk of severe illness. If you have received this letter, please follow the instructions to register for support. For more information, call 0800 0288327 or visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable

Support in your area

To find out more about the support available in your local area, please visit www.bvaction.org.uk/basingstoke-deane-community-hubs

Other support available

There are a number of local and national charities continuing to provide support on issues such as mental health, loneliness and domestic abuse. For more information, please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub

For more information about Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's response to COVID-19 and support available for residents and businesses, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus.



Basingstoke
and Deane

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

From Monday 20 April Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, working with Serco, will be temporarily reducing the frequency that grey waste bins are collected to protect bin crews and sustain a reliable collection service during the COVID-19 outbreak.

From this date residents are asked to put out their green recycling bin and glass container on their normal recycling collection day and the following week put out their grey waste bin. The grey waste bin will be collected every fortnight instead of every week. The day of the week that bins are collected will not change. This is a temporary change and we will keep this under review and will resume normal collections as soon as possible after the government restrictions have been lifted and we can safely do so.

Key points to note:

- If you have a grey 140 litre waste bin you can leave out two additional bags for collection.
- If you have a grey 240 litre waste bin this will be sufficient and no additional bags will be taken.
- If you have a large family you can apply for an additional bin if you do not already have one.
- Assisted and clinical waste collections will continue.
- Recycling and glass collections will continue as normal.
- Please recycle as much as you can.
- Start looking at how much waste you throw away and how you can reduce this by buying differently.
- Start squashing your waste to maximise the capacity of your grey bin.

For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling



People News

We hope you, your family and your friends and neighbours are keeping well during this difficult time.

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

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 the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline - Hantshelp4vulnerable - on 0333 370 4000 (Calls charged at local rate)

Louise Monger of Soke Road sends her greetings and Easter Wishes to all in our church and throughout the village.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Andrew Chandler of Dukes Ride on 20th March. Andrew had for many years been a prominent member of Silchester life: he was Chairman of the Parish Council, a key member of the Commons Working Party and a great supporter of the annual bonfire and fireworks. He had suffered with poor health over the last few years but still made an appearance in the Calleva most days and was always happy to have a chat and discuss current affairs with whoever came in or to do the Telegraph crossword if it was quiet. Our thoughts go to his wife Kate who has had to endure this sad time in isolation due to Coronavirus. Many of us will look forward to getting together in the Calleva when this pandemic is over to raise a glass to toast our friend Andrew.

Sad news of the death of Keith Legg, husband of Wendy who was a Rainbow Guider in the village. Keith brought her to meetings, and was

often persuaded into many other jobs! They were members of Silchester Parish Church where Wendy was an excellent flower arranger. When Keith became ill we missed them both as Wendy did not drive. Both gave much time and hard work to St Michael's hospice where Keith did a lot of gardening, and they both helped on the plant stall at our Village Fete for many years, with Keith donating mainly vegetable plants which he had grown at home. Keith was a master at calligraphy and there are many samples of his handwriting in our Church. We shall miss him and send our sympathy to Wendy and their family.

We are sad to report the death of Carmel Harding, who used to live in Holly Lane. Carmel died in hospital on April 22nd, she had been ill for some time but always remained cheerful as many in Silchester remember her. We send our sympathy to her daughter Elaine at this difficult time.

Marilyn Love was delighted to have received a gift of 3 homemade iced cupcakes and a lovely message from Hannah Smith to bring a cheer to people at this difficult time. She is sure they weren't the only people to receive them. It was such a wonderful gesture - thank you Hannah.



This is just a sample of some of the many 'good neighbour' acts being done all around the village - from people helping by collecting medication or shopping for the less able or those in

isolation, to cutting a neighbour's grass, sharing delicious food or simply making a phone call to check their neighbours aren't feeling lonely. We don't know how long this crisis is going to last, but please all remember to be kind and think of those less fortunate than yourselves.

Ben Leyburn was one of the contestants on The Chase on ITV on 18th March - together with 3 other contestants they almost won the £14,000 prize money - but not quite.

Ben is no stranger to quizzes having appeared with some friends from Silchester on Eggheads last year (again not quite triumphantly). Ben kindly created the Silchester Association quiz in February and acted as a very entertaining and knowledgeable Quiz Master, a great evening was enjoyed by all in a packed Village Hall.

Welcome to Liam, Aimee, William and Thomas Murphy who have recently moved into Whistlers Lane. They were originally from Kent/Essex but have been living in Risely near Wellington Country Park for the past 6 years so know the area reasonably well.



Liam is a commercial lawyer and Aimee is a teacher. William is 7 years old and loves Minecraft and Lego and Thomas is 5 years old and loves motorbikes and monster trucks. They have a miniature dachshund called Murphy and he loves walks and cuddly toys. All of the family are looking forward to getting out and

about for walks in the forest and around the village and finding out what else goes on in Silchester.

Neil Smithers enjoyed his birthday singing in the virtual Silchester Choir!

Sandi and Neil may be out of the centre of the village but they and all of Bramley Road are out every Thursday at 8pm clapping and making some noise for the NHS, all Carers and helpers (as were many others in Silchester). It has also been heart-warming to see the messages to the NHS and rainbows, teddies and Easter pictures in many people's windows to raise the spirit of those on their daily exercise.

Pete Hughes of Lordswood celebrated his 'virtual' 70th Birthday on 26th April, unfortunately no big party for family and friends, but there was a yummy birthday cake supplied by Suzi and Jane Catering and a Zoom get together with his friends - once the lockdown is over Pete the drinks are on you!

A special Thank-you to all the clever technical people who have shown us new ways to keep in touch with friends, family and other groups. There have been WhatsApp video calls, Zoom Choir sessions and Church services and Facetime updates with loved ones. It is extra special to be able to see others when you can't meet up 'in person'.

Also, a big thank-you to Claire and John our Editors and their technical supporters who have managed to produce this online version of the magazine - we would have been sad without it!

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



Silchester Association

www.silchester.org

Most importantly this month, we hope you are all keeping well and keeping your families safe. It is very hard especially for those who live alone - but Silchester is a very supportive village and there is no need for anyone to be struggling to get shopping or medicines if they are self isolating.

If you need any help please call our Silchester Volunteer Group
Call or text:

Steve - 07775547642 or
Amy - 07877635387

Or email secretary@silchester.org

And they will make sure that someone is available to offer you any help that is needed even if all you would like is a phone call and a chance to chat to someone.

Silchester VIRTUAL Fun Run 8th-15th May

It is difficult to predict when it will be safe to organize any village gatherings in the future but, after having been forced to cancel our most popular event of the year - the annual Silchester Fun Run, the organizational team thought it might be fun to try a 'virtual' run instead. This is a run that anyone can participate in as part of their daily exercise. It can be done anywhere - provided you observe safe social distancing (even in your back garden!). Provided you complete at least 2.5 miles on your run, you will be awarded a beautiful Silchester Fun Run VE Medal which will be sent to you through the post.

£5 of the £7.50 entrance fee will be donated to charities - the NHS Charities Together in support of their fight against Covid-19 and the British Legion in honour of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Please see the separate notice in the magazine of how to enter or get more information about the event.

We are still working on the Beer Festival on Saturday 12th September in the hopes that the lockdown will be over by then. However we are well aware that even if restrictions have been lifted, it may still not be safe to organize large gatherings.

National celebrations for VE Day have been called off in May but there is no reason why we cannot celebrate in our homes. If you have anything appropriate, why not decorate your house with some red, white and blue for the week running up to VE Day on the 8th May. If you have children, they could make some flags or other decorations to put up in your windows and you can have an online drink to celebrate with your family and neighbours via Zoom.

Meanwhile stay safe and well and we look forward to times when we can all meet up again in the future.

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.

The Silchester Village Sign and Andrew Chandler

You will have read elsewhere in the Magazine of the death of Andrew Chandler. Among Andrew's many activities supporting the village was his chairing of the Millennium committee set up in 1997 to enable the Millennium activities in the Village. The now annual Fun Run was one of the activities founded by the Millennium committee. The idea of the Village Sign was proposed by Andrew and he was the driving force behind its design and implementation.

Andrew worked with local artist, Peggy Harcourt on the symbols to be used in the design. Andrew also identified the supplier in Suffolk and progressed the sign through its manufacture and erection outside the Village Hall.

Below is the sign and explanation of the symbolism on the sign.



The Kestrel - local bird of prey, a permanent inhabitant of the Common and representative of the wide diversity of animal species around the village and Common.

Ears of Wheat - this aspect of the sign recognises the importance of the local farming community in the history and development of the village through the ages.

The Orchid and Poppy - representative of the many species of orchids (some increasingly rare ones) to be found on Silchester Common (part of the SSSI) and of the wide range of wild flowers found around the village and the Common.

The Church - St Mary The Virgin Parish Church, erected on a site with history dating back to pagan worship pre-Christianity. The church building as it exists today is largely thought to date back to the 12th Century.

The Yew Tree located in the churchyard at St Mary The Virgin is believed to be over 400 years old. Yew trees were often found in village communities in history - behind a boundary wall, in order to prevent their being eaten by free roaming cattle, since their leaves are highly poisonous.

The Wall - the oldest part of the history and origins of Silchester as a settlement for over 2000 years. The walls were built by the Romans for defensive purposes around a major market town - Calleva. Even today, in places the walls survive remarkably intact and up to 4m high.

Andrew will be sadly missed by his many friends in the village.

Steve Spillane - April 2020

Parish Council News

Parish Council Contact Details

Our primary point of contact is our Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk: Chris Gunnell	07470 809086	clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Paul Roper (Chairman)	07711 079451	paul.ropers@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Mike Baldock	0118 970 1931	mike.baldock@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Janet Earl	0118 970 2251	janet.earl@silchester-pc.gov.uk
David Livingstone	0118 970 0135	david.livingstone@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Paul Miles	07760 888995	paul.miles@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Richard Westwood	07876 610577	richard.westwood@silchester-pc.gov.uk
Graham Wright	07837 248047	graham.wright@silchester-pc.gov.uk

Planning

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/00567/ROC variation – Wood Farm, Ash Lane, Silchester 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.	
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Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*

1	19/01724/FUL – Land At OS 463360 161447, Bramley Road, Silchester, Hampshire Erection of 1 no. dwelling on land adjacent to Bramley Road .	Objection Refused
2	19/03417/FUL – Land At Haines Farm, Ash Lane, Little London RG26 5FL Erection of 1 no. 1 bed single storey dwelling house including associated landscaping and access.	No Objection Granted
3	19/03035/FUL – Barn At Silchester Farm, Little London Road, Silchester, RG7 2PS Change of use of former barn for use as wedding and events venue (Use Class D2), creation of additional parking areas and works to the existing highway access to create a vehicle passing space.	No objection – subject to noting to BDBC Highways concerns Granted

Pending Applications*

1	20/00297/FUL – Land at rear of Bridles View, Byes Lane, Silchester Erection of 1 No. new dwelling with detached double garage and garden/bin/bike store.	Objection
2	T/00087/20/TCA - 3 Lovegrove Gardens, The Common, Silchester, RG7 2PH 1 Yew tree: prune to retain as smaller compact specimen, prune back from neighbouring property and deadwood.	Objection

* 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.

Silchester Methodist Church

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



*There will be no church services or events at the church during May.
There is a Sunday morning service with the two Tadley Churches on Zoom at 10.30am.
If anyone is interested in joining us please phone Rosemary
0118 9702219 for details.*



Ebenezer Plant Sale

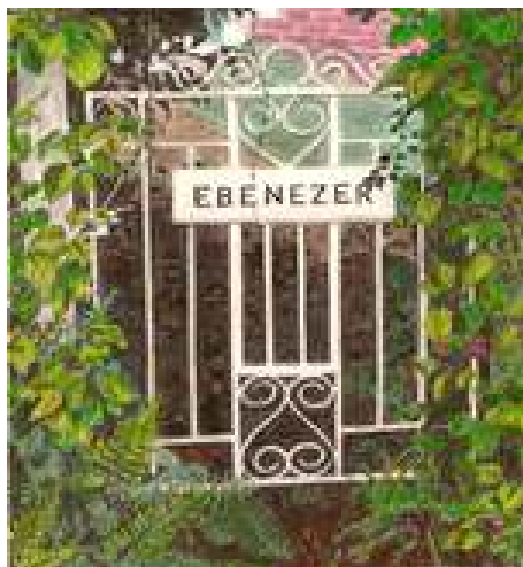
We will not be able to hold a coffee morning this year but we have got plants for sale. They should be beginning to be ready by the first weekend 2nd /3rd May.

You can order them online or by phone and they will be delivered to you. Please can you put the money or cheque in an envelope by the front door.

Email rosemarysokefarm@gmail.com or phone Rosemary on 01189702219.

Plants for Sale

<u>Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Petunias Rainbow (mixed)	£4.00 per 10 plants
Petunias Grand Prix (semi-trailing)	£4.00 per 10 plants
Petunias Bolero (doubles)	£4.00 per 10 plants
Lobelia Trailing (mixed)	£4.00 per 10 plants
Lobelia Royal Blue	£4.00 per 10 plants
Busy Lizzie (mixed)	£4.00 per 10 plants
Mesembryanthemum	Mixed trays £4 10 plants
Old Fashion Marigolds	Mixed trays £4 10 plants
Geranium Parade (mixed)	50p per pot
Rosemary plants 6 plants	50p per pot
Lupin plants 4 plants	50p per pot
Sunflowers Mixed colours up to 5ft	20p per pot
Ass White Marigolds	20p per pot
Wisteria plants 2 plants	£1 per pot
Tomatoes Money Maker	50p each
Tomatoes Gardener's Delight	50p each
Tomatoes Tumbling Tom Red	50p each
Tomatoes Super Marmande (beefsteak)	50p each
Tomatoes Sweet Baby	50p each
Courgettes Yellow	50p each
Courgettes Green	50p each



Nigel Beeton works in Radiology in a hospital in the East of England. During this time of the coronavirus crisis, he is writing a weekly diary of his life at the hospital.

On the Covid Frontline -

4th April 2020

One of my colleagues returned to work this week and very pleased we were to see her. She had X-rayed a patient who had later been admitted onto a Covid ward, and had subsequently developed cold and flu symptoms but seems fine now after her period in isolation. She'd sent in a daily update which had become increasingly positive. Who knows whether she had the virus or not, there was no facility to test her, but she certainly gave us a scare.

Tragically, others have been less fortunate. Seven NHS workers have now fallen victim to Covid-19, all almost certainly infected occupationally. Some are workers who have retired and returned, some are young people in the prime of life. Two are nurses in their thirties who each left three young children without a mother. Our thoughts and our fervent prayers go out to their families, and to those of all who have fallen victim to Covid-19.

By the time you read this I am grimly sure that the number of health worker fatalities will have risen.

When we set out upon a career in health most of us have altruistic motives, and we know that our services will be required twenty-four hours a day and three hundred and sixty-five days a year. We know that we will be required to do unpleasant things and possibly meet unpleasant or even dangerous people. But, unlike those in the armed services, we do not seriously expect to have to put our lives on the line in the course of our duties.

But now that has changed, and we face the possibility that our work may make us grievously or fatally ill. You would see right through me if I attempted to pretend that none of us are scared, but not one of my colleagues have drawn back from their duty. I am intensely moved by their courage.

Please pray that the supply chain will be able to deliver sufficient personal protective equipment to keep all health workers safe, so that we all

can have the confidence that as much as possible is being done to keep us safe. Please pray for strength and courage for those getting increasingly tired as a result of the ongoing pressure.

And please pray that people will have the common sense to stay at home if they can - the only way this virus can survive is by being passed on from person to person before it kills or is killed by the immune systems of infected people.

On the Covid Frontline -

Friday 17th April 2020

And so it goes on, day after day, week after week. I have had a long career in radiography, I started with the race riots in the early 80s. I have dealt with coach crashes and multi-vehicle pile ups, I have seen plenty of tragedy and trauma, quite enough for a lifetime.

A major accident is terrible for those affected, and hard work for those dealing with it, and for a time everything is very abnormal. But then comes the standing-down phase, staff are debriefed, and the hospital returns to normal, even as we reflect on those whose lives will never be the same.

In my whole career I never considered the possibility of 'abnormal' going on for so long. I almost can't remember a time when we weren't keeping a significant distance between ourselves and our fellow human beings, wearing scary looking kit if we have to come close. A time when we didn't have to insist that patients attended alone, but could still have their nearest and dearest to support them in their hour of need.

This is one of the most distressing aspects of this coronavirus. It has driven us apart at such a frightening time that we just want to cling onto those we love. Spare a thought in your prayers for those who live alone, who do not have loved ones in their homes simply to hug them when they are scared.



But pray earnestly for those who are torn even from their nearest family members when they develop severe symptoms. The ambulance comes and they simply do not know whether they will ever see their families again; do not know if they will ever again feel the comfort of a hand to hold or the touch of another person's lips on them.

It is so, so hard for the staff caring for them as they approach death, when they can only relay messages from family and are themselves separated from the patient by PPE. This tears at the very souls of nurses who do what they do because they care about comforting their fellow humans.

It is not so intense for radiographers but it is multiplied by the numbers that are seen on every shift. Thank you for your applause each Thursday evening, it is VERY much appreciated, but as I applaud I do so for people who go back to work on each shift facing not only a virus that has the potential to kill them, but also significant and repeated emotional trauma.

It is difficult, under these circumstances, to understand or even to forgive those who fail to do their bit to stem the spread of the virus. Given what these nurses, radiographers, and other care staff are facing each and every day, is it really so hard to simply stay at home? Given what these poor patients and their families are going through, is it so hard to follow the rules?

A Birthday on the Covid Frontline

Friday 24th April 2020

There was a group of my staff just standing in the waiting area outside one of the CT scanning rooms the other day. I opened my mouth to speak but one of them caught my eye and put his gloved finger in front of his visor in the universally understood bid to be silent, understood despite the fact that his lips were separated from his finger by the visor and a face mask. They don't often shush their boss, so I very obediently closed my mouth again.

The door to the room opened, and an elderly patient appeared, accompanied by another radiographer.

"Happy Birthday Mabel!" everyone chorused (I've changed her name to protect her confidentiality.)

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday, dear Mabel,
Happy Birthday to you!

Even I joined in. I'm not sure if my singing voice is up to much, but my sentiments were genuine. I hoped she'd have a good birthday. We all rounded off the melody with a round of applause, latex gloves make a strange popping noise if you clap while wearing them.

Dear Mabel loved it. She was clearly surprised and taken aback by the sight of half a dozen staff in PPE singing 'Happy Birthday' to her, but the experience had transformed an alien world of CT scanners and PPE into a familiar one of birthday wishes and a well-known song. "Oh, thank you everyone, you're all so kind; my family can't be with me today. Usually they come for my birthday."

Mabel, in her eighties, was self-isolating due to her age, but still living independently at home. We check dates of birth as part of ensuring that we are doing the right thing for the right patient, and so my colleague had clocked that today was her birthday. Having got to know her well enough during the setting up stage to be happy that she wouldn't mind, he conspired with his colleagues while watching the scanner do its stuff.

The coronavirus may be keeping us separated from one another, but it is spurring us all on to make greater efforts to be connected to one another, to show our humanity towards one another. Someone bought us lunch today. It appeared in pots by our gate, and we sat down and enjoyed a meal of restaurant quality food. Our friends had supported a local restaurant which, in its hour of need has branched out into 'meals on wheels', and shown us such love and concern that a tear was brought to my eye.

I hope and pray that the coronavirus will soon fade into history. But I pray equally fervently that its legacy of connected humanity will last for many, many years to come.

Nigel Beeton

FOR THE LOVE OF SCRUBS - can you help?

Requests are being made from hospital staff, GPs, practice nurses, midwives, care assistants, etc, who urgently need scrubs - the plain clothes worn by clinicians when treating patients. They are being used by an increasing number of NHS staff as part of their personal protective equipment and changed more frequently in order to stop the spread of Covid-19.

They also request scrub caps, scrub bags so the clothes can be transported and washed safely by staff at home, and headbands to alleviate the pressure of face masks.

Groups of people with a variety of sewing skills - from professionals to very inexperienced - have set up around the country.

I have become involved in the Basingstoke and Winchester group **For the Love of Scrubs**. The group is making scrubs, hats and wash bags for our local hospitals and community medical staff. I personally have only basic skills although there are many more experienced people involved.

If you have any spare reels of thread, pillowcases or cord (for wash bags) or polycotton fabric - sheets or duvet covers, I could use them.

All fabric needs to be washable at 60°C but doesn't need to be new.

Any colours/designs are acceptable.

If you can help in any way, please phone or text me. Doorstep drops/collections can be arranged.
07889344130

Many many thanks.

Christine Bibby



Our doors may be closed but we're still open.
Our friendly and supportive staff are on hand Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5pm.
Leave us a message outside these hours and we'll be in touch.

Well-being

We offer advice, information and support to help you manage your mental well-being. Get in touch if you are feeling anxious or distressed.

Phone: 01264 332297
Email: mind@andovermind.org.uk

Carer Support and Dementia Advice

Providing advice, information and support to carers and people with dementia and memory problems. Contact us if you have any concerns.

Phone: 01264 332297 (option 3)
Email: enquiries@andovermind.org.uk

Providing services across Hampshire

Andover Mind is a registered charity - No. 1039094



Silchester Virtual Fun Run

Following the recent cancellation of the Silchester VE Fun Run due for Saturday 9th May, we have decided to host a Silchester Virtual Fun Run. This will be a run that anyone can participate in, anywhere in the country, along any running route. This could even be in your back garden like the amazing Captain Tom Moore.

It will be hosted on Strava from Friday 8th May - 15th May so that participants can choose when they do their run, while continuing to social distance. Participants who complete a run or walk that is a minimum of 2.5 miles (4.0 km) will receive one of the newly designed Silchester Fun Run VE Medals through the post.

The entry cost will be £7.50, £5 of which will be donated to two very deserving charities; the NHS Charities Together, to support all of those that are risking their lives on a daily basis to help beat the battle against Corona Virus, and the British Legion in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

What you will have to do to enter:

1. Register your interest by sending a private message (PM) to the Silchester Fun Run committee on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/silchesterfunrun/> along with a postal address for your medal.
2. You will then receive a running number that needs to be used as a reference when you pay for the event. Payment instructions will be sent to you.
3. Once payment has been received, you will get an invite to the event on Strava.
4. Once you have accepted the Strava invite you are free to complete your run anytime during the 8th to 15th May 2020.
5. You will receive your medal in the post within 2 weeks of completing the event.

Note that it is still possible to participate in this event without having a Strava account provided you advise us of this when you register. Simply take a photo of your activity tracker screen and send it via a PM to the Silchester Fun Run committee on the Facebook page to qualify for your medal.

Finally, please, please respect social distancing guidelines throughout your run. You can choose to run/walk any route and distance as long as it is a minimum of 2.5 miles and is in line with the government guidance at the time.

Stay Safe and Keep Well.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY
SILCHESTER MADE
JAMS AND MARMALADE?**

**Phone Felicity 0118 9700943
to make an order
and arrange your collection.**



The Ven. John Barton muses on our present isolation...

Life in Quarantine

Full marks to Jamie Oliver for his Channel 4 series, 'Keep Cooking and Carry On'. He showed us how to make tasty meals with basic ingredients and a minimum of fuss.

The pandemic prompted other encouraging responses. One mother in the 'at risk' category said her adult children thought she was immortal until now. Now they ring her every day to see how she's getting on. An elderly clergyman had offers to shop from two new neighbours whom he hardly knew. The whole nation stopped taking the National Health Service for granted and started showing gratitude. Telephone, television, the internet and email prevented many from going stir-crazy. Some even tried the cryptic crossword, though newcomers should be warned it takes years to learn its secrets!

The isolation was tough for many. Isolated families had to get used to each other's company and foibles for long periods, away from the park or beach. Couples were parted from each other by distance or illness. Those living alone were cut off from visitors and communal activities. Churchgoers missed Holy Communion at Easter for the first time. That should help us identify with millions of Christians across the world who have to pray in secret because their neighbours would persecute them if they did so publicly.

Alone-ness, rather than loneliness, can be productive. Albert Einstein valued time alone, when he could "go for long walks on the beach so that I can listen to what is going on inside my head." Isaac Newton's greatest discoveries began when he escaped the effects of the bubonic plague, by returning home to the family farm in Lincolnshire. He had time to observe what was going on around him and, yes, that did include watching the famous apple fall.

When the bubonic plague was at its peak, the Reformer Martin Luther wrote: *"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others."*



PLANTS FOR SALE

SNOWDROPS

(in the green, and available now)

TOMATO PLANTS

Gardener's Delight

Tomato Brandy Boy F1

Tomato Super Marmade

Tomato Costoluto

These will not be ready till mid May onwards

Perennials/Garden Mint

I am collecting donations for Basingstoke Foodbank

Please telephone Helen on 0118 9700522 between 9 - 10am to arrange collection



Silchester Association

Are you self-isolating and you need some help with
running errands, shopping, a chat?

Give us a call or email and we will find someone to
help you in the village

secretary@silchester.org

Amy: 07877635387

Steve: 07775547642

The Calleva Arms is offering a takeaway food and beer
service: 0118 9700305

Suzi and Jane catering can provide ready meals, cakes etc:
0118 982 0539

**NOTE: If you are self-isolating items may be left on the door
step and volunteer will wait 2m away**



Silchester Village Fete 2020

The Silchester Fete and Dog show has been rescheduled to Saturday 19th September 2020.
We hope that circumstances will allow us to provide as full a programme as we had hoped for.
More details to follow nearer the time.

Richard Eldridge

Who's Hiding in the Hedgerow?

Our hedgerows support an amazing diversity of plants and animals, providing wildlife with a rich larder throughout the year. Pollinators buzz around hedgerow flowers in spring, small mammals scurry through their depths in summer and thrushes pluck berries from their branches in autumn and winter.

Hedgerows create vital links across the countryside that help wildlife to move about freely, and they benefit the wider environment too: they prevent soil erosion, capture pollutants such as fertilisers, assist with water regulation and combat climate change by capturing carbon.

As the days get longer and the breeding season gains momentum, our local hedgerows are alive with activity. Here are a few hedge-loving species that you might spot this spring...

Hedgehogs

As their name suggests, hedgehogs are often found near hedgerows. Hedges are ideal nest sites for them and offer a varied bounty of invertebrates, as well as protection from predators. Under the cover of thick hedgerows, hedgehogs can travel about undetected.

Bats

Hedges can slow windspeeds in exposed areas, allowing insects to fly in places where they

wouldn't otherwise be able to. This in turn means that there is more prey available for bats on windy nights. Hedges are especially important for bats with limited echolocation ranges like Pipistrelles, serving as landmarks so they can navigate more easily. Hedgerow trees also provide valuable roosting sites for bats: some species, like the Noctule,

will use crevices in the bark to roost and breed.

Birds

During the spring and summer our hedgerows really come to life with the busy fluttering and chirping of birds. Hedgerows are hugely important for them, providing vital food and shelter that can be hard to

find in agricultural and urban landscapes. Bullfinches, yellowhammers and linnets all make their nests in hedgerows, usually near arable fields, and in more built-up areas house sparrows and blackbirds are common hedgerow inhabitants.

If you would like to grow a hedge in place of a fence or a wall to help wildlife where you live, you can find lots of handy hints and tips on our website: hiwwt.org.uk/actions

Alice Ashcroft

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Yellowhammer in Hedge © Chris Gomersall 2020VISION



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust



Together, we will build a
movement for change
Act now for a wilder future



Financial support for residents, communities and local businesses during COVID-19 outbreak

Financial measures benefitting over 70,000 households and an estimated 1,600 local businesses have been put in place by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to offer support during the COVID-19 outbreak.

All 70,500 households across the borough are automatically receiving a council tax payment holiday in April and May 2020, with council tax bills being issued in coming weeks to confirm payments will resume from June 2020 for 10 months.

Working-age residents eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme have also had their council tax bill reduced by up to an additional £200, supporting a further 1,400 households.

Offering particular support to the borough's most vulnerable residents, the council has awarded £200,000 to Basingstoke Voluntary Action, enabling it to provide grants to community groups so that they can provide support and distribute essential supplies to residents unable to leave their homes.

Following the announcement of financial support by the government, the council is also supporting eligible local businesses through a combination of business rates relief and grants.

Leisure, retail and hospitality businesses, as well as early years providers, estate agents, letting agencies and bingo halls, will not pay business rates in the 2020/21 financial year, supporting an estimated 820 local businesses at an additional cost of around £31 million.

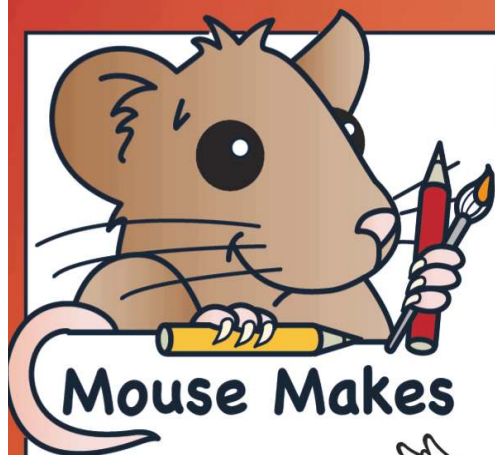
Grants of £10,000 and £25,000 have also been made accessible to an estimated 1,600 eligible local businesses at a cost of almost £21 million. So far, grants totalling over £16 million have been paid to over 1,200 eligible businesses.

To further boost the available financial support for businesses, the council has made a three-month rent and service charge holiday available for all 344 small businesses in council-owned properties with annual rents of up to £50,000.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Leader Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "I am delighted that we have been able to make this significant level of financial support available during this uncertain time."

"These vital measures will benefit all households in our borough, help our most vulnerable residents to access essential supplies, such as food and medicine, and provide support for local employers to help protect people's jobs for the future."

For more information about further support for residents, communities and businesses, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus



"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
5:13-26

How many
other words can you find
using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT?**



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Our Magazine

We hope that almost all of you were happy to find our April Magazine on your electronic devices, and we thank the Editors and the village websites and social media for adding this to their content. We hope to do this again for the future, hopefully people will submit content to us. I am sorry for the folks who have no computer access - I cannot see a way out of this at the moment. Perhaps a neighbour may make you a print out?

If you are a distributor and have not received all your monies in yet, please do not worry and put yourselves at risk by calling to collect. Our Treasurer can, and will wait for the final amounts. To our advertisers, we are putting the advert pages online (as part of the Magazine) and so are possibly reaching a wider field than usual. We hope that when this awful time is ended you will have many requests for your services.

I think that we are all struggling a little with the "lock down" and hope that it does not have to

continue for too long. However, we must all take care. So many in our village are helping others in lots of ways, we thank them all. We keep them nameless because there have been a lot of small kindnesses, with some happening quite unexpectedly! And, of course, many shopping trips for others done regularly.

What a lovely day it WOULD have been for the Palm Sunday Walk, Our donkey Bobby however, did enjoy his 'morning off'! All other events have been cancelled or postponed, the latest casualty will be the Fete, due June 13th - now September 19th. To have our church locked also is sad indeed. Regulars who locked and unlocked daily, may perhaps be relieved but to many villagers and visitors these too are sad days. Thanks are due also to Rev. Rob who has been sending many messages of support, and a weekly service sheet that we can use. It must be hard for him not to be allowed into 'his' church too.

Best wishes to you all, keep well and keep safe.

Nancy & Marsden Jones

VE Day - the end of World War II in Europe

VE Day (Victory in Europe) - was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks - and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for that moment, normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

Tim Lenton

Remembering VE Day

I was 15 in May 1945, when Britain celebrated VE Day. It stood for Victory in Europe and followed an agreement by the Allied powers following the German surrender. Needless to say, although the war with Japan was not over, it was a noticeable moment. No more bombs, missiles and blitz - and the 'boys' would come home!

I have two very clear memories of the day itself. The first was the street party which took place in our road on a housing estate in North London. With official permission, the road was closed off, tables were set up, food and drink were served. We spent the afternoon in races and competitions. Dads, mums, teenagers and children then sang the wartime songs, and 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the King'.

The other memory is an image of a sailor kissing a young woman - surrounded by happy laughing people. This iconic photograph was in one of the papers the next day, then on camera newsfeeds and is in just about every journalistic library. Somehow it captures the mood of the day - freedom, warmth, the good things of everyday life.

VE Day did indeed mark a turning point, though not everything was going to be easy in the post-war years. But the hideous shadow of war had gone, and 75 years later it has yet to return to these shores, thank God.

David Winter



Silchester Sweep

The winner of the
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The winner of the
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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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County Councillor	Rhydian Vaughan	07712 695476
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