

# Silchester Magazine



February 2021



## Village and Church News

Volume 61 No 11

Price 50p

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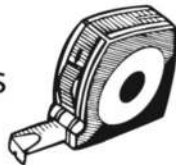
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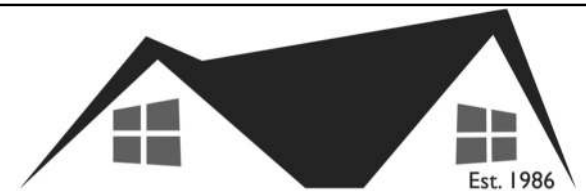
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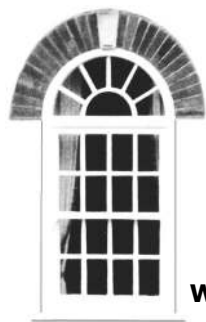
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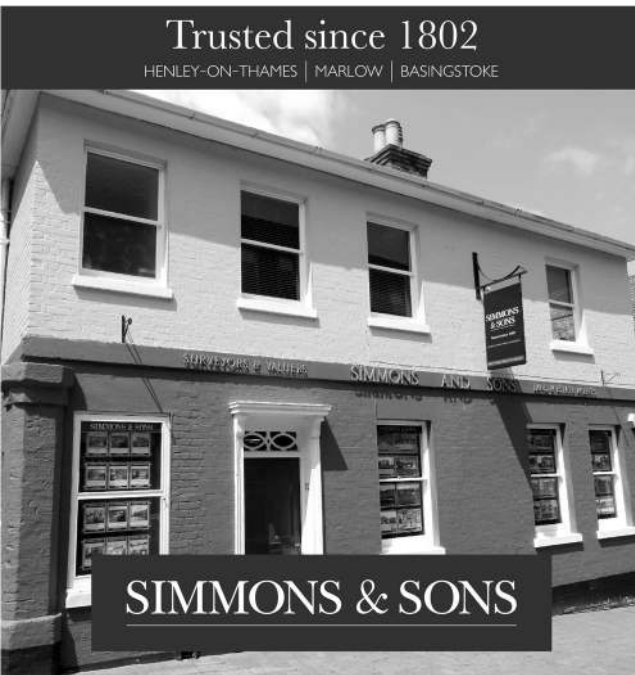
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# Silchester Magazine

## February 2021

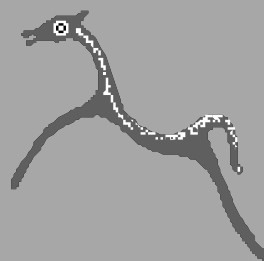
Given the current situation with COVID-19, all events listed are subject to change.

### February

|     |      |          |   |
|-----|------|----------|---|
| Sat | 6th  |          | Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party                     |
| Sat | 13th | midnight | Magazine Copy Deadline  |
| Tue | 16th | 6pm      | Silchester Methodist Church ~ Virtual Pancake Evening on Zoom |
|     |      | 7.30pm   | AGM of the Village Hall Charity will be held on Zoom          |

### March

|     |      |          |   |
|-----|------|----------|---|
| Sat | 6th  |          | Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party |
| Sat | 13th | midnight | Magazine Copy Deadline                    |
| Sat | 27th |          | Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party |



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

The next deadline for copy for the March issue is **midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> February**

~~~~~

A Belated **Happy New Year** to everyone. We appreciate your continued support.

Unfortunately, the February issue is digital-only once again.

We hope that the days when Covid issues will be behind us are very close, and then the Silchester Magazine distribution, along with everything else in our lives, can happily get back to normal!

Thank-you to the Silchester Association for hosting this issue for us, as they have done with all issues this past year.

Please see <https://www.silchester.org/future-events/item/89-silchester-magazine-online> if you want to re-read any of last year's magazines.

Stay Safe ~ Claire & John ~ Editors



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In mid-January I saw Paul Evans white lining the football pitch. At first I thought there must be a match tomorrow. Then the penny dropped; no that cannot be, there is no football because of Covid.

So then I wondered why now? Are the old lines fading and there is a danger the pitch will have to be all measured and marked out again when football resumes? Is it "exercise" in lockdown? Or maybe Paul knows something we do not know, that lockdown is about to end and football resume as normal? But whatever, it is preparation for what is going to come at sometime, somehow.

In the church preparation is important. For instance, preparing for Christmas, preparing for the events of Easter, preparing for the return of Christ - sometime, somehow -, and preparing our own lives for what comes next, even though we are not one hundred percent sure of how or when.

In the middle of February the church's calendar moves into Lent. It is traditionally a time of preparation, a time to re-mark the white lines of our life for what happens next.

I think Lent provides us with at least three opportunities.

The first is reflection; a time to take stock of our lives.

The second is repentance; a time to try and put right anything with which we are uncomfortable; for instance, bad habits or a relationship gone sour with other people, or God.

The third is a time to look forward, preparing emotionally and spiritually for the events of Easter and all that means in terms of life, death and resurrection.

With the whole world living in the shadow of Covid, you may feel the last thing you want to do this Lent is to put on sack cloth and ashes, but lockdown does provide the time to reflect, and reflection, even if uncomfortable at times, should result in a positive rather than negative outcome.

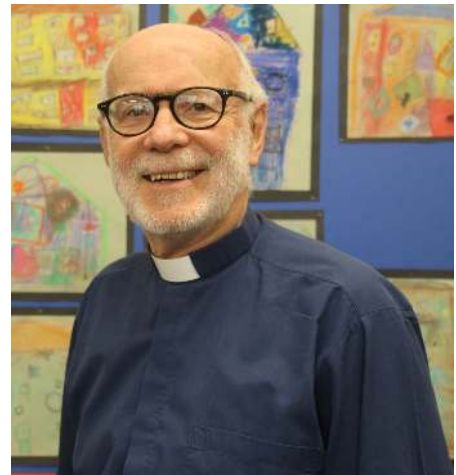
So, I might not be out on the grass white lining a football pitch, but that spirit encourages me:

to reaffirm what works in my life;

to try and correct what doesn't, and

to prepare for what is to come.

Spending time with God and friends, even though virtual through Zoom, will be central to that for me. Join us for some of our Lent Services on Zoom - you may find they will encourage you too.



Your Resident Vicar Rob

0118 9700884 [robwyong101@gmail.com](mailto:robwyong101@gmail.com)

# *St Mary the Virgin Church Services February / March 2021*

**Sunday 31 January**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

**Sunday 7 February**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

**Sunday 14 February**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

**Ash Wednesday 17 February (Beginning of Lent)**  
7.00pm Service on Zoom

**Sunday 21 February**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

**Tuesday 23 February**  
7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer during Lent)

**Sunday 28 February**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

**Tuesday 2 March**  
7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)

**Sunday 7 March**  
10.00am Service on Zoom

*Compline (Night Prayer) is a quiet short service which calmly closes the day and prepares us for the night.*

Zoom links can be found each week through the St Mary the Virgin Silchester website

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or contact Revd Rob Young 01189700884 or

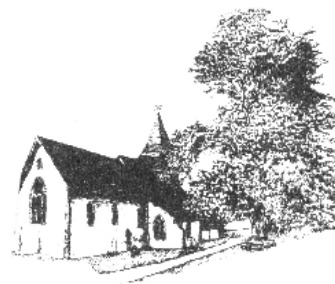
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# St Mary the Virgin ~ Church Opening Information

In support of the Covid restrictions the Church Council has decided, regrettably, to keep the church closed and for no services apart from funerals to be held in the church building for the time being.

Looking towards Easter, we are planning for a virtual online Palm Sunday Walk, a Zoom Seder (Passover) meal on Maundy Thursday, and an online contemplative Zoom service for Good Friday. We are hoping to offer a communion service in Church on Easter Sunday relayed over Zoom, but that will depend on the Covid situation at that time.



Rev Rob Young



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## *Prayers & Poems*

### **A prayer for the pandemic**

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time - and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

*Daphne Kitching*

### **Love**

He held her close in his arms' embrace,  
Their eyes and their lips did meet,  
He looked down into her lovely face,  
And her heart did faster beat...

They went to the kirk and it came the day,  
And the book the priest did take;  
He in his kilt was so bright and gay  
As his promise he did make.

She stood at his side so white and fair,  
Her white fingers fair to give,  
The priest handfasted them then and there,  
And he blessed them long to live.

O God give the joy and God the love  
To those who are lovers true,  
Shed down benediction from above  
As in one are joined the two.

*From Prayers of the Western Highlanders*

### **The ages of life**

#### *Old Age*

On the outside: why so faded,  
Colours chipped and hair awry?  
Ageing's price has been exacted,  
Hope extinguished, love gone by.

#### *Middle Age*

Halfway there with lines appearing,  
Self-help books are piling high.  
Dreams still beckon; future yearning,  
Life has not yet passed me by.

#### *Adolescence*

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;  
Health and vigour promise more  
Every passion lurks, so tempting  
All sensations to the fore.

#### *Childhood*

Child amazement, world untested;  
Safely kept in others' care.  
Now emerging, trusting, fearless  
Stain-free soul to taste the air.

#### *Moral*

Cast off now your stubborn pride.  
Liberate the child inside.  
(See Matthew 18:3)

*John Barton*

### **A Prayer for Light**

Fountain of light, source of light,  
Hear our prayer.  
Drive away from us the shadow of sin.  
Seek us, kindly light.

You, who created us in holiness,  
Who condemned our sin,  
Who redeemed us from our sin,  
Sustain us by your power.

Pour your gentle light into our dull minds,  
Filling our heads with holy thoughts.  
Pour your glorious light into our cold breasts,  
Kindling holy love within our hearts.

From horror, lust and fear,  
Guard us while we sleep.  
And if we cannot sleep,  
Let our eyes behold your heavenly host.

*Alcuin of York, c. 735-804, later abbot of Tours*





**SILCHESTER METHODIST CHURCH  
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PANCAKE  
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**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February      6 – 7.30pm**

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more information including  
how, if you wish, to donate to  
church funds afterwards please**

**REGISTER WITH KATHY  
Email: [kandd651@gmail.com](mailto:kandd651@gmail.com)  
or telephone 0118 9701234**

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## **Pandemic Dreams**

The pandemic is affecting our dreams. More people are reporting nightmares which relate to 'contamination' and 'cleanness'.

A recent study has found that the more anxious a person is in their waking life, the more vivid will be their dream images. The findings, published in the journal PLUS One, explain that "Pandemic dreams show a higher proportion of anger and sadness words; these features seem to be associated with mental suffering linked to social isolation."

## Our Magazine ~ February 2021

We have had a very strange year with only 3 deliveries of "hard copies". However, due to the hard work of our Editors, digital copies have been made and most people in Silchester will have been able to read a copy. Many thanks are due to: our Editors Claire & John; Lesley Brewin and the Silchester Association; Steve Spillane; Michael Cole and Richard Eldridge for the Church website; and Rev Rob who notified folks that this was going to happen.

It has been decided that it is time for a price increase. I am sure this must be acceptable to you all as the last increase was in 1996 (25 years ago)!! All Distributors will be collecting £8 for 11 issues and £5 for our concessions. Single copies will be 80p and available at Pamber Heath Stores (Thank-you Raj).

Collection of subscriptions will be as usual and I ask that you "pay up" with your usual smiles and Distributors will still give the money to me for onward transmission to the Treasurer as I have agreed to do this again for 2021. We will be looking this year into how digital subscription might be made available. In the meantime, if and when we are unable to produce a physical copy, a digital version will be made freely available - as has been the case for much of the past year.

Invoices have gone out to our advertisers and should be returning to me at around the time you all read your February digital copies. We have kept the advertising cost as it was in 2020 as businesses have all suffered in one way or another and this is a small helping hand from our Church to our advertisers, with our thanks for their support over many years.

If you would like to Advertise on our yellow pages in this magazine then please do get in touch with me: [advertisers@silchester.org](mailto:advertisers@silchester.org) - our rates are very reasonable.

If anyone is interested in taking over the role of Advertising Manager for this magazine then please do let me know and I would be happy to let you know what is involved.  
Belated Happy New Year and keep safe.

*Nancy Jones*

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## Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Election

You may not be aware that new boundary changes come into force this year with the old Calleva Ward being split with Silchester becoming part of the Bramley Ward and Pamber moving in with Tadley. The old wards used to have 2 councillors and the new ones will have 3 giving an overall reduction in the number of Councillors from 60 to 54. Of our 2 current Ward Councillors Simon Mahaffey will be one of the candidates for the new Ward and Roger Gardner who has been a councillor for 27 years is retiring.

The whole of Basingstoke and Deane council is up for re-election based on these new wards on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Covid regulations permitting). You will have up to 3 votes for candidates in the Borough election to elect the 3 councillors for the ward. On the same day there also possibly be elections for Parish Councillors, County Councillor and the Police Commissioner, so get ready for all those ballot papers and crosses.

I will try encourage candidates standing in the election to contribute articles to the magazine over the coming months and hopefully be able to provide a full list of candidates before the election.

*Steve Spillane*  
[steve@spillane.com](mailto:steve@spillane.com) ~ 0118 970 0996



# People News

Happy New Year to everyone, let's hope 2021 will prove to be so much better than 2020!

Many local people will by now have had their first (and maybe even their second) Covid vaccination, with many others waiting anxiously for their invitation. We all hope this will herald the end of the current pandemic and lead us from the 'new normal' at the end of 2020, to something resembling a 'normal-normal' for 2021.

Even when times are difficult, we can all be thankful that we live in such a wonderful village. The friendly people and the beautiful countryside make even these difficult times easier to cope with and there are many 'feel good' stories of what makes Silchester so special.

Just before Christmas the local Brownies gave a lovely surprise to many older Silchester residents by delivering a hamper - bringing joy at a difficult and for some a lonely time of year, even more so last year due to the Covid restrictions. One lady from Dukes Ride said she was 'Absolutely thrilled' to receive her hamper and to know the Brownies had thought of her - the hamper contained sweets, pickles, a hand-made Christmas decoration and a card saying 'Lots of Love, Jose'. The hampers were instead of the usual Christmas lunch in the Village Hall and were sponsored by the Silchester Association. Well done Kirsty and all of the Brownies.

Many residents enjoyed the Silchester Choir virtual concert on Zoom. We are so lucky to have the very talented Robin Scott, together with the lovely choir members who recorded a selection of Christmas songs, including the special and exclusive 'Christmas time in Silchester' composed by Robin.

Then there was the Silchester Carol Service on YouTube - so cleverly put together with readings, hymns and carols and views from the church and various locations around the village. Well done to everyone involved in putting this together.

There have been several house moves within the village over the last few months and we wish all our new residents a big welcome, and also best wishes to those who have moved away to pastures new.

Tim and Janine have moved into Sallow Copse, they are no strangers to the area having come from Bramley. They have been doing many alterations/renovations to the property and it will be lovely to see the house occupied again. We wish them much happiness in Silchester.

Silchester House has new residents - Emma and Mark Hla, their family, plus parents and Gatsby the dog will be living there as their residential home whilst also running 'Coco Wedding Venues' offering a creative consultancy to wedding venues all over the country.

Nicky and Andy Alcock of Dukes Ride have moved to their holiday home near Penrith and the Lake District, and are hoping to buy a property near Carlisle very soon. They have been enjoying walks close to their home and were delighted to see a good covering of snow early in January.

Ben, Shanelle, their daughter Elana and Arlo the dog moved into Dukes Ride just before Christmas. They had moved to Hartleys a year earlier from the Newbury area, but decided they liked Silchester so much that they would buy their 'forever home' when Nicky and Andy's house came on the market. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

Elaine and Drossos and their beagle Cooper have moved from 13 Inhams Way to Torquay.

Andy and Lisa have moved from Oakley into 13 Inhams Way. Lisa works long hours as a hairdresser (when not in lockdown!).

The new occupants of 19 Inhams Way are David and Val, who have moved from Reading. They are settling in well and have even had some work done on their garden already!

Long-time Silchester residents Phil and Liz Taylor from Lordswood have moved full-time to their holiday home in Portugal and Wendy, Graham and their son have moved into

Lordswood, we hope they will be very happy there.

We are sad to report that Sheila Orme who lived in Pamber Heath and was a regular member of Silchester Phoenix Club died at the end of November 2020 after a short illness and a stay in Hospital. Sheila had worked at AWE for many years and had many friends in the area.

Sybil Wickens, nee Stacey, died on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 aged 95. Sybil was born at Little Heath in Mortimer West End, and lived all of her life in Silchester. She was descended from old Silchester families, the Fords and Staceys, with long connections to the local area. She attended Silchester School, as her father had before her and as her daughter and granddaughters did after her. Her grandfather, George Ford, was a choirmaster at the Methodist Church, and she was married there, as were her daughter and, more recently, her granddaughter. Sybil's uncle, Francis Stacey, is commemorated under WW1 on the Silchester War Memorial, along with her cousin, Walt Aldridge. A memorial service for Sybil will be held in the Methodist Church once Covid restrictions allow.

We have heard of a number of local people who have had stays in hospital recently. We hope they are all home soon and making a steady recovery.

If you require 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)

Hampshire County Council have a Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline - 'Hantshelp4vulnerable' which can provide information, advice and practical support to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents on 0333 370 4000, 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday, 9am-4.30pm Fridays, (Calls charged at local rate).

It is always 'interesting' trying to find People News, and at the moment it is even more difficult as we can't approach people to have a friendly chat. So if you have any news for the People News, happy or sad, please do contact us by either sending an e-mail to [peoplenews@silchester.org](mailto:peoplenews@silchester.org) or telephone Ann-Marie on 9700627 or Irene on 9700996.



## Phoenix Club

A belated Happy New Year to everyone, we hope you are all coping during this worrying time.



We had hoped we would be able to announce at least part of our programme for 2021 by now, but with the current lock-down restrictions we are obviously not able to meet. When the restrictions are lifted, we will endeavour to re-start our meetings - watch this magazine for any news.

Hopefully some of our members will have had their Covid vaccines by the time you read this (at least the first dose), and things will begin to look brighter sometime soon.

Sheila Orme who was a regular at our meetings sadly died at the end of 2020, she will be missed by all of her friends at the club.

Keep well, keep safe and keep watching this space for any news of our club being able to meet again.

*Ann-Marie and Jan*



## *Silchester Methodist Church*

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



We are still meeting as a church on Zoom, every Sunday morning at 10.30am, with our friends from the Tadley and Mortimer churches. For details of the Zoom ID please contact Gill [gill@lawson-net.co.uk](mailto:gill@lawson-net.co.uk) Anyone is welcome to join.

We held an extra Church Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, decided that we would not be opening the church until the beginning of April. This will be reviewed at the Church Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March, when we will have more idea how Covid is going.

We are holding Zoom Church coffee mornings once a month.

### **Pancake Evening**

We will be celebrating Pancake Evening on Zoom 16<sup>th</sup> February, 6.00pm- 7.30pm. Eat your own pancakes and we will supply games, quizzes and lots more. For Zoom details and more information please register with Kathy Phone 0118 9701234 or email: [kandd651@gmail.com](mailto:kandd651@gmail.com)



**LATEST LOCKDOWN.** Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of another lockdown? Why not join one of our Zoom lectures? We have moved our programme of monthly lectures on to Zoom during lockdown.

We enjoy stimulating talks from Arts Society registered lecturers on a wide range of topics. At Christmas we watched video clips from a Royal Ballet production of The Nutcracker whilst one of their orchestral musicians treated us to a unique glimpse of how things worked backstage. On February 17<sup>th</sup> we will be learning about Fakes and Forgeries in the Art world from a former specialist police detective. Or if you prefer to learn about a topic in more detail we have a Study Day on February 24<sup>th</sup> from Peter Medhurst who will discuss and analyse a range of magnificent paintings as well as treating us to a live recital.

Lectures cost £5, Study Days £15 for non-members

For more information and to register for either of these events visit`;  
**[theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk](http://theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk)**

FOLLOW US on TWITTER AND FACEBOOK:

**<https://twitter.com/TheBasingstoke>**

**<https://www.facebook.com/The-Arts-Society-Basingstoke-100482031870805/>**



# Silchester Players

Although subject to lockdown restrictions, the year 2020 ended on a high note for Silchester Players.



The final editing of our radio version of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* involved numerous Zoom conferences and a few seconds of re-recording, but we were very pleased indeed with the end product. We held a virtual first night on 22<sup>nd</sup> December for cast, crew and invited guests, prior to the first broadcast on HHCR, Basingstoke's Community Radio, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December. That broadcast attracted an estimated 300 listeners - comparable to an audience for 3 performances in Silchester Village Hall. If you missed the broadcast or its repeat on New Year's Day please visit our website [www.silchesterplayers.org](http://www.silchesterplayers.org) and click the link to listen to the pantomime.

We received an excellent report from Chris Horton on behalf of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) of which we are members. The production was described as bringing "warmth and great entertainment". The concluding words were as follows:

*The level of energy never dropped and all the cast gave 100 per cent to this hugely enjoyable and fun production. The music and sound effects were exceptional. The cast were well supported by the musical director Tony Oliver. Silchester Players deserves enormous credit for preparing this pantomime for radio. They have been performing an annual panto since 1976 and their productions usually contain colourful principals, singing and dancing, elaborate costumes and special effects. Although not a visual feast this year, there was enormous enjoyment to be had from this radio production which was recorded as part of the Christmas festivities on Basingstoke's community radio, HHCR. The auditions were conducted by Zoom, the cast never met and recordings were done remotely. All social distancing and Government guidelines were met. Silchester Players can be proud to add this production of Dick Whittington to their list of great achievements.*

We would also like to thank Spratleys of Mortimer for their sponsorship of *Dick Whittington*. The pantomime's author permitted us to perform free of royalties but it has been necessary to purchase a licence for use of copyright musical material included in the production to enable us to make it available on our website. As of course we received no income from the radio broadcast, the sponsorship usefully covered this expense.

It is now time to move on and consider our activities in 2021. The committee will hold a virtual meeting at the beginning of February to plan future events. However it is already apparent that due to the ongoing Covid crisis it will not be possible to stage our normal May production. Also at present an October production appears unlikely. We hope that we will be able to perform a pantomime on stage early in 2022 but of course nothing is certain while restrictions remain.

In the meantime we will be exploring possibilities for audio productions, or play readings drawing on our experiences of remote rehearsing and performing in 2020.

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



# Silchester Association

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

First of all, Happy New Year to everyone and here's hoping that 2021 will be a bit more 'normal'. We hope that you all are staying safe and that you and all your families are keeping well. Our thoughts are with all those who are suffering at this difficult time.

It looks like we will be in serious lockdown for some time to come even though there has been great progress in rolling out vaccinations. Sadly we have postponed the First Aid course that was due to be held in February until April or May depending on the situation then. We'll keep you posted.

In spite of the limited social contact, the village was quite active in the run up to Christmas. Very well done to everyone who lit up their houses for the festive season - it was really appreciated by everyone in the village.

We were very happy to support the Brownies in their Christmas hamper project and huge congratulations to all of them and their leaders for all the hard work that went into making all the items to put into them. Everyone who received them was very happy and they have had many letters back to say just how much it was appreciated when a Brownie knocked on the door to deliver one.

The Silchester calendar was a sell out. Thank you to everyone who supported this endeavour either by entering and voting in the competition to choose the images or buying the finished calendar. It was a fun activity in the village while at the same time helping St Mary's with some much needed fundraising. It may become an annual event so please continue to take your photos locally and save your best ones for next year's calendar.

Moving on to events later in the year. The Fun Run Committee are hoping to be able to hold this event but it will be later in the year and will obviously depend on restrictions that are still in place. We have no plans to resurrect Bonfire Night at the moment for several reasons, one of which is that we have been unable to find anyone enthusiastic enough about the event to lead it. If there is anyone who would love to do this please get in touch and come join the committee and we can discuss it. We will be holding the Scarecrow Trail again over October half term and, if at all possible, the children's Halloween disco and we are still looking at options for the Beer Festival which is scheduled for September so we're keeping fingers crossed for that.

The time for our AGM is fast approaching and, as we were unable to hold it last year due to lockdown, we are keen to be able to have one this year. Our hard-working secretary is standing down due to her work commitments - congratulations on your new position Amy and thank you for your contribution to the village over the past few years. We'd love to welcome any new people to our committee and if anyone would like the role of secretary that would be amazing. It doesn't have to be a very onerous task - just taking minutes at meetings and monitoring our facebook page. We're still meeting on Zoom every couple of months to keep in touch and hopefully will be able to be more active again in the village later in the year.

Meanwhile stay safe everyone and let's hope that 2021 is the start of something better!

# Silchester Recycling News - February 2021

Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to the 'Ali Recycling' project on Fridays at the Pavilion. It all helps.

I hope you all noticed the last-minute addition of the Ferrero Rocher programme, just in time for Christmas? They want all the plastic parts of their containers, but not the paper bits, which can be recycled elsewhere. See the poster above the Friday recycling bins for full details.

A few years ago, the council decided to remove the dedicated dog waste bins from the around the playing fields and now asks dog walkers to use the general waste bins instead. There are 5 of these, including two outside the play area.

Unfortunately for us keen recyclers, this means that NONE of the waste left in those 5 bins is suitable for recycling. It is all deemed to be contaminated by the dog waste (even if there is in fact none in that particular bag!). This results in a lot of valuable recyclable waste - specifically drink cans and bottles - being discarded. (It also means that poor Mick has to cart it all round to the gate and squeeze it into the 'fox-proof enclosure' for collection each Tuesday.)

There are no green wheelie bins either so, in an attempt to intercept some of this material, I have placed a couple of labelled crates nearby (one just outside the playground gate, and another that floats around on or near the Pavilion Veranda). I periodically empty these into my green wheelie bin at home.

It would be really helpful if everyone who uses the playing fields could leave (empty) drinks cans and plastic (or glass) bottles in the crates rather than the black bins. For historical reasons\* I also accept plastic bottle tops in those crates.

[\* They originally went to another scheme but now go to Ali as well and end up supporting the Air Ambulance].

Have an item that you don't know how to recycle? A handy source of help is the web site "recyclenow.com". This offers lots of general information on recycling and includes a list of object classes, from 'Aerosols' to 'Yoghurt pots', which you can search for details on whether and where a given item, or class of items, can be recycled.

Unfortunately, 'recyclenow' do not seem to keep up to date with our TerraCycle-originated programmes, so it is always best to check these first (because they also raise funds for good causes!).

I expect everyone knows the "Re-purpose, Re-use, Recycle" mantra by now, but there is another "R" that is frequently forgotten these days: "Repair". Look out for the article by John Bristow, of Deluxe Materials, which contains some useful ideas on this subject.

Don't forget: you can always contact me or Paula if you are unable to visit the Pavilion on Fridays to make use of our recycling bins.

*Chris Hawkes & Paula Gibbons*



## Our Magazine - Telephone Pages



It is time to look at the telephone page in the magazine! Please check the numbers we have and send amendments to the editors if you can. We KNOW a couple of numbers are to change - if you have the correct information please do let us know. Thank-you.

Editors ~ [Editor@Silchester.org](mailto:Editor@Silchester.org)



# Parish Council News

## Bramley Solar Farm

As mentioned a few months ago, Enso Energy are looking to build an 85 hectare (over 200 acres) Solar Farm across fields in Silchester and Bramley, close to Bramley Frith. They have now submitted a planning application to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for approval to do this. Their application can be seen on the BDBC Planning Portal and its reference number is 20/03403/FUL. The plan says the Solar Farm will last for 40 years. It can be accessed here:

<https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QKTOR3CRH7B00&activeTab=summary>

There are some 50 documents, with some repetition of content between them. Residents are very welcome to comment on the plans - either positively or negatively - by sending their views to BDBC Planning.

Silchester Parish Councillors have been discussing the matter for some time and we expect to formalise our views at our virtual meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February, and then send in any comments we have on the planning application. Whatever those comments might be, it is definitely worth individuals sending in their views as they are likely to carry just as much weight with the Planning authority as the views of the Parish Council: we are not part of the decision making process, we just get to comment, like everybody else.

## Beware Current Scams - Be Vigilant

There seem to be increasing numbers of scams around at the moment - both Covid related, as well as others. Be vigilant - all these are attempts to get people to hand over funds or provide access to bank accounts. Recent scams include

- Offering fast track access to a Covid vaccine, for a fee
- Sales of fake products such as face masks, supplements, anti-virus kits and sanitisers, which may be harmful or simply never arrive
- Bogus healthcare workers who try to gain access to your home by claiming to offer testing for COVID-19
- People pretending to be from charities offering to do shopping or carry out cleansing tasks
- Emails asking for donations to the NHS
- Callers from someone claiming to be from the National or International Crime agency, as well as HMRC, who end up seeking banking details
- Callers claiming to be from Openreach or Microsoft saying problems with your broadband or PCs, trying to get access

They were just targeting the elderly but they seem to be working their way down the age range!

[www.silchester-pc.gov.uk](http://www.silchester-pc.gov.uk)





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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> |
| Dan Male                    |               | <a href="mailto:dan.male@silchester-pc.gov.uk">dan.male@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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# Tadley Men's Shed



**Come on  
out of your  
shed for  
an hour.**

**Share your interests, hobbies,  
DIY expertise, or learn new  
skills at the Online (for now)**

**Tadley Men's Shed.  
Everyone welcome.  
Expert to beginner,  
all interests.**



**For more details contact Paul at  
[tadleymensshed@gmail.com](mailto:tadleymensshed@gmail.com)**

**Meeting 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month 2 - 3pm.  
Join with these zoom meeting details:**

**Meeting ID: 879 7785 1033**

**Passcode: 201350**



## Planning Appeal by Travellers to occupy site on land off Culhams Mill, Silchester

Ref: Appeal Reference 3210244: Land at Rapiers,  
Little London Road, Silchester

### CALL TO ACTION

Today I attended a Planning Inspectorate pre-enquiry meeting with members of the BDBC planning team, the BDBC barrister and Planning Inspector, Jeanie Russell. As I am aware that the production of the Silchester Magazine has been slightly delayed to allow me to write this update, the following are some very rushed notes:

- The original planning appeal was scheduled to start on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April for three weeks. It looked likely that this would be held in Silchester Village Hall as all participants had indicated their preference for a face-to-face enquiry rather than an appeal heard by written representation only.
- I attended a previous pre-enquiry meeting in November at which point Mr Connors (the appellant for the Traveller group) informed the Inspector that the group had parted company with their agent (Mr Woods) on the grounds of non-payment of fees. He further stated that the group was in the process of seeking a new agent.
- At the meeting today, the Inspector informed us that she had not heard from the Mr Connors since the 7<sup>th</sup> of January but she had been informed by him that they had been unable to agree terms with another agent and therefore had no representation. Mr Connors failed to appear at today's meeting.
- Quite rightly, the Inspector expressed concern that, without qualified representation, a full enquiry would be a very one-sided affair and would not allow the Traveller group to fully state their case. She also felt that it would be a waste of public funds. This was further complicated by the fact that Covid restrictions make it very hard for her to visit the site as would normally be expected.
- As such, the full face-to-face enquiry has now been cancelled and the Inspector has proposed a hybrid solution whereby the hearing will be primarily heard by written representation and partly through a face-to-face hearing which will be held (subject to availability) in Silchester Village Hall on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of April.
- The Inspector will now write to both parties (the Travellers and the Council) to ascertain if this is acceptable to everyone with a deadline for responses by the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

- If it is acceptable then the Inspector will require written depositions from the Council, the Travellers and also residents by the 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- Final comments will be made by BDBC and the Traveller group by the 6<sup>th</sup> April and then the final hearing will be heard on the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April. This said, the Inspector could not guarantee that the hearing would go ahead as she could not say whether or not the Travellers would submit their representation or even turn up on the day. In this instance I think I'm correct in saying that she will make her determination based on the evidence that she has in front of her.
- BDBC will be writing to residents to formally notify them of the procedure and the associated dates.

### CALL TO ACTION

- I asked the Inspector if residents could assume that previously submitted comments have been read and noted or if residents should resubmit their comments. I informed her that the original planning application had received 248 objections from residents and I did not wish to swamp her with repeat paperwork. The Inspector reminded me that the planning enquiry with the Inspectorate is a completely different issue from the original planning application and, in this respect, she had only seen 53 objections.
- If you still feel strongly about the planned conversion of the water meadow at Culhams Mill into a 13 pitch caravan site for Travellers and Gypsies then I encourage you to write (either in support or to object) to the case officer handling the case at the Planning Inspectorate. Correspondence should be to [TeamE3@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:TeamE3@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and marked FAO Mr Ben White, Case Officer. The PINS appeal reference for this is "Appeal Reference 3210244: Land at Rapiers, Little London Road, Silchester". All submissions should be by the 16<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. It is perfectly acceptable to submit the same comment that you submitted last time.
- Hopefully, this will be the final push for this saga which has now dragged on for four years but it is very important that you do submit something if you want your voice to be heard and for this issue to be brought to a close once and for all.

Hope everyone is staying safe

Simon Mahaffey

# Whitchurch Silk Mill

## Against All Odds

Despite the difficulties experienced in 2020, nearly 15,000 people visited the Mill and enjoyed all that we offered, from Winter Lights in January to the successful Great Wishing Tree of Whitchurch in December. What's more, we had our first commercial order for ribbons for many years, which gave our weavers the chance to create something not only beautiful but guaranteed to be money-making. During the year our trainee weaver completed her training and is now working for us full time. We'll be recruiting a new trainee as soon as we can.

## Covid-19 Update

At the time of writing, restrictions mean the Mill, café and shop are closed to the public. It's impossible to say when we'll be able to open the Mill buildings; updates will appear on our website. In the meanwhile, the Mill team and the weavers are working hard, and we'll continue our digital programme of talks and virtual group tours and social media and blog posts. Our online shop offers a free local click and collect/delivery service, and we're running a fundraising campaign at [www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportwhitchurchsilkmill).

## Ripping Yarns

A new series of our popular online 'Ripping Yarns' is planned. These explain how some common expressions derived from the language of weaving. Previous Yarns can be found on our Facebook page. You can look forward to finding out more about the phrase 'cloth ears'. It first originated in the industrialised mills of northern England during the 1800s. The noise generated by the machinery was quite literally deafening, and the build-up of cotton dust in the workers' ears added to the problem. As one former employee, born in 1920, put it: 'You was overwhelmed at the roar of noise, and for about three days all you could hear was the roar in your ears. But after that, you became part and parcel of it and you could talk quite normally. Although you didn't realise it, you were doing a lot of lip reading.' Nowadays, the expression is used as a rebuke to someone who has not heard or understood what's being said to them, along the lines of 'Oi, cloth ears, wake up!' Naturally our weavers don't talk to each other in this way!

## A Look Back in Time

Have you been watching the most recent series of The Crown? If so, did you know that in 1980 the Mill played a vital role in the creation of Diana's wedding dress? The raw silk used to weave the cloth for the dress was wound on to bobbins on our winding frames. It wasn't until after the job was done that the Mill Manager, Ted Moss, told his staff this exciting news.

## REGULAR EVENTS

Our regular events including Mini Millers, Young Millers and Pins & Needles will resume as soon as we're able.

Contact: [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) - 01256 892065 - [www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)



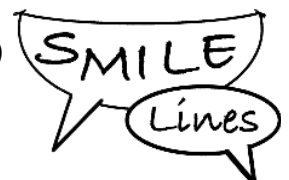
## Miscellaneous observations on modern life

Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver.'

(BBC reporter)

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

I thought getting old would take longer.



# Solar Farm Threat To Our Countryside

The planning application for a 210-acre solar farm by Enso Energy on the land of Silchester's Church Lane Farm and Bramley's Vyne Lodge Farm. These six large fields around the Bramley Frith covers most of the gap between Bramley and Silchester affecting residents of both villages, encroaching on the local area's biodiversity, archaeological heritage, breath taking views and much-loved pathways.

For most of us who don't know an acre from an acorn, 200 acres is a lot of acres. It is about the size of 140 football pitches, which is 50 times the size of Silchester or Bramley Clift Meadow playing fields. Two Silchester Roman walled towns could fit in it!

If planning permission is granted by the twelve members of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Development Control Committee, it would become the fifth largest solar farm in England and the largest in England on agricultural land.

Of course, given climate challenges facing our planet we certainly need to increase the sustainability of our energy production in Hampshire and across the UK. However, this should be done in an appropriate manner: not on agricultural land, over half of which is designated as good quality or better, nor on prime open greenbelt, and not on top of internationally recognised Roman heritage remains. There must be more appropriate sites such as



*Proposed Solar Farm showing footpaths*

disused quarries, the roofs of buildings and poor-quality land? If built, the site would be in commission for around 30 years. It would then be deemed a brownfield site, opening the door to more new housing in the community on formerly agricultural land.

Around 50 concerned Silchester and Bramley residents submitted comments on the initial pre-screening submission. Numerous concerns were raised including the harmful visual impact hundreds of solar panels and deer fencing will have on local cherished footpaths such as The Silchester Trail and Brenda Parker Way; to concerns that water-run off may lead to more flooding. A formal planning application has now been submitted to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and it is very important that if you have concerns you submit your views so they can be taken into account. The application number is 20/03403/FUL and the application can be seen at [tinyurl.com/bramleysolar](https://tinyurl.com/bramleysolar)

In opposition of the current proposal a local residents' group has been formed to hear the views from others in the community and to coordinate a response to BDBC Planning. Through both the Village magazines for Silchester and Bramley, and our own website we plan to disseminate information and will also produce a template letter of comment for you to use to get your personal



opinion across to the planning team. The template letter and how to submit comments can be found on our website.

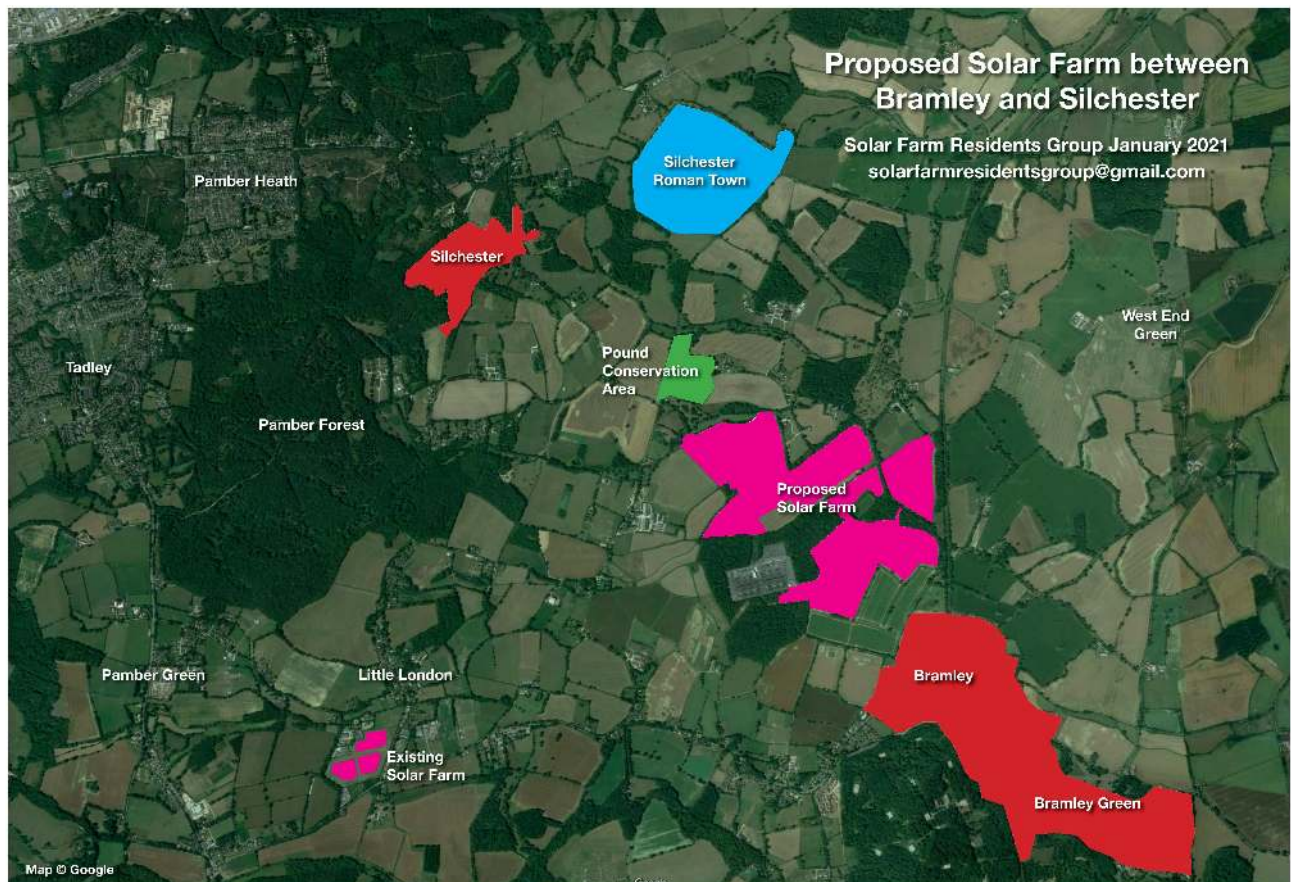
Given short timescales (consultation closes in February) we recommend to those of you interested that you take the time to familiarise yourselves with the proposed project by visiting our website or emailing [solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com) to subscribe to our updates and ask any questions you may have. Our website contains a template for making comments to the Council. See [www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk](http://www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk)

The Solar Farm Residents Group

Steve Spillane and the team

Email [solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com)

Web Site [www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk](http://www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk)



## Smart Bird

Ravens have been found to be among the cleverest animals in the world. These largest members of the crow family can even score as high on intelligence tests as chimpanzees.

Ravens can remember where food is hidden, can use tools to get at it, follow human faces with their eyes, and understand what people mean when they point. All in all, researchers praise their "general, sophisticated cognitive skills."

The study was carried out at Osnabruck University in Germany.

*Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers romantic love.*

## **Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day**

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts and roses.

Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future.

But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren.

It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a care home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home.

Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years.

Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..."

It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day.

And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage.

How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

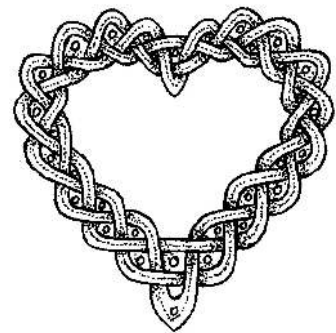
'Love is patient. Love is kind.' These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can develop over years of marriage.

Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day.

So, this year, as I look at the rows of red or pink Valentine's Day cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message.

I shall seek out cards that celebrate long-term love. Cards that say something about the joys and challenges of growing older together.

Cards that go beyond hearts and roses to the deeper love that transcends love's first blossoming. I just hope I can find some...



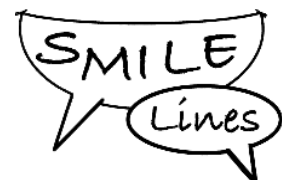
*Revd Peter Crumpler*



## **Miscellaneous observations on modern life**

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.





## St James the Least of All

### On why our church does not need health or safety...

The Rectory,  
St James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

I appreciated your recent concern when you heard one of our parishioners had slipped on a gravestone. Your desire to help was entirely commendable, and I do know that sending your own church's health and safety officer to give us some advice was kindly meant. But the 200-page report was not welcome. If we implemented even half of your officer's suggestions, life would become unbearably safe.

St James the Least of All has survived perfectly well for the last 600 years without gutter cleaning inspections, path degreasing and electrical safety certificates, so I think we may survive a little longer without them. As far as I am aware, the only disaster to hit us was when Cromwell's soldiers stabled their horses in the nave - which I suspect a few of our oldest members still clearly remember.

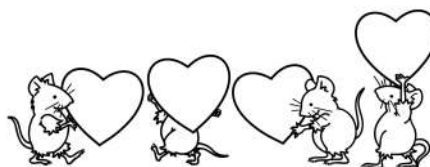
The shock the sidesmen sometimes get when switching on the lights occurs only occasionally, is relatively mild and soon over - and if it happens when preparing for the 8am Service, helps to wake them up. The weight of the Duke of Clumber's marble sarcophagus is slowly detaching the south aisle from the rest of the church, but it is very slow - and the pews in that area are used only once a year when his relations visit from America to commemorate his death at Agincourt - which is probably just beyond remembrance of the oldest of our congregation.

Leaks from the ceiling in the north aisle are solved with a row of buckets - and even you must concede that the fungi on the oak beams look really rather attractive when the sun catches them. The sapling growing out of the spire is certainly an issue - although it looks so attractive in Spring when in blossom. As for our fire extinguishers, they were serviced when my predecessor-but-two was in office, and I have the certificate to prove it.

So, do thank your health and safety officer for all his work and tell him we will bear his recommendations in mind. Also tell him I was so sorry he slipped and broke his leg in our choir stalls while he was with us. But that bit of floor has been out of alignment since 1748, and it seems a shame to disturb it now. If only he had arrived encased in bubble wrap, it would never have happened. Perhaps you could put that on the agenda of your next health and safety meeting.



*Your loving uncle, Eustace*



niah



#### Professional Organiser

If you ever feel overwhelmed by clutter or finding your things has become a challenge, you may benefit from a session with a Professional Organiser. I can help you reduce clutter and put in place easy to maintain organisation systems to keep you on track! I can help you organise and stay organised in any and all of the following areas of your home:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Entryway         | Living room         |
| Kitchen / pantry | Home office         |
| Laundry room     | Wardrobes / drawers |
| Bathroom         | Loft space / attic  |
| Bedroom          | Garage              |

To arrange a free 30 minute consultation  
call Donna on 0750 7783652

[www.niahprofessionalorganisers.com](http://www.niahprofessionalorganisers.com)



# Silchester Village Hall

## Annual General Meeting

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm

The AGM of the Village Hall Charity will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and you are invited participate in a **ZOOM** meeting as we are unable to gather in our usual venue in the Village Hall. The details of how to join in the meeting are shown below.

We do hope you can find the time to join us and hear the reports from the Chairman and Treasurer of the Board of the Managing Trustees concerning, the somewhat limited, activities over the past year and to hear about plans for the future. There will be an open forum for residents to put forward suggestions and new ideas, and for you to have your say. The past year has been challenging but we are all looking forward to being able to open up the Hall fully later in the year. We are all looking forward to the time when we can welcome back our many groups and users and get our community life back to normal.

Silchester Village Hall is a community owned asset which is managed by a board of trustees on its behalf. The Hall could not function without support from local residents, particularly those who are willing to volunteer to be a Trustee and give a small amount of time of time towards ensuring that the Hall is well maintained and managed. We would welcome hearing from anyone who would like to participate and become involved in helping to manage such a well-used, loved and valuable community asset.

We hope to see you on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The link for the Zoom meeting can be found at <http://www.silchestervillagehall.org.uk/>

*Liz Pearce (Secretary)*

*On behalf of the Board of Managing Trustees*

[liz@silchester.org](mailto:liz@silchester.org)



## Want to feel better? Cuddle your pet

If you think you feel better after cuddling your dog or cat, there is a good reason: you really do feel better.

After only three minutes of cuddling your pet, your levels of oxytocin, the 'love' hormone, increase, according to a recent study from Australia's Monash University. And just five minutes of cuddling will also raise your levels of the two wellbeing and happiness hormones, endorphin and dopamine. So says a recent report in the Journal of Psychosomatic Research.

In her recent book, *Your Pet, Your Pill*, vet Margit Gabriele Muller says that caressing a dog or other pet provides exactly the same health benefits as skin-on-skin contact with another human. The hormones that are released "are the same as when you're breastfeeding or cuddling a partner."

Furthermore, a study at Liverpool University last year found that dog owners are four times more likely to be fit than other people.

# Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Hampshire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)



## Important Bin Collection Update

We are currently experiencing high levels of waste collection staff self-isolating due to COVID-19. Because of the work we and our contractor Serco have undertaken towards the end of the last year to prepare for a second spike, we have two additional bubble crews in place to cover COVID-related absences.

These will assist us in continuing to deliver all of our waste and recycling services during this challenging time. But the number of staff isolating has increased rapidly over the past 24 hours and we want to prepare residents for the possibility that they could face disruptions to services, such as a delay in collections.

As always our priority is to protect the safety of our key worker staff and the residents we serve alongside protecting the core waste, recycling and clinical waste services. We are working hard to ensure our bin crews are tested quickly to enable them to return to work if their results are negative. If we need to suspend non-essential services such as garden waste or bulky waste collections we will post this information via our website and social media in the first instance.

In the meantime we thank residents for their understanding and patience during this difficult period and ask them to help keep our crews and themselves safe by wiping down bin handles when putting out their bins and bringing them back in again.

For updates on waste and recycling services visit COVID-19 - Bins and recycling ([basingstoke.gov.uk](http://basingstoke.gov.uk))



# What Recycling Means to Us

We had an interesting conversation about recycling with Chris Hawkes at the outdoor village market in 2020. There has been a lot of discussion about recycling of plastics and packaging generally. It made us think about our role as manufacturers in the model hobby market and what recycling means to us.

Of course, it means looking at recycling of packaging but it also means repairing, restoring and refurbishing models rather than discarding them to the bin. Here are a few examples of how we help modellers in this regard that might interest some of your readers:

Plastic modellers may want to repaint a model rather than throw it away and build a new one. We have developed a paint stripper that is safe to use but also will not destroy the plastic underneath. Clear plastic parts might get damaged and need replacing but these can be re-coated and brought back to life by simply dipping the pieces into a new, safe, non-toxic liquid we've developed.

But there are also many household uses for some of these products and again here are a few examples. Why not repair broken acrylic mouldings inside your fridge and save buying replacements that are often unattainable or extremely expensive using a specialist adhesive? The same adhesive can be used to repair hard plastics for example, the casing of an expensive garage door operator attached your key ring. Super glue on its own simply can't do some of these jobs and be durable for the lifetime of the product.

A toy restorer come to us with a wooden toy riddled with woodworm and ask for help; the mobile filler we gave him flowed right to the bottom of all the holes, was set and made the toy stronger than it was originally and to bring joy to future owners.

We also have the glues for the plastics and rubbers that you need to repair for instance on a torn tent fabric, the sole of your shoes or patch on your Wellington boots or the plastic football. For any artists out there, we have a brush cleaner that can restore and extend the life of your favourite brush removing hardened paint.

Yes the list goes on. Many of you have probably watch the Repair Shop on TV and we hope you have been as inspired as we have.

As Chris Hawkes will remember we also had a discussion about replacing plastic in our packaging and we had a big exercise last year to do just that moving to gloss printed cardboard. Well worthwhile and one that we're going to continue into 2021. There is lot more to this than space will allow but suffice to say ...we are a team of eight working in Cufaude Lane, Bramley, we are not a retail shop but a local manufacturer exporting to over 45 countries.

*John Bristow ~ Deluxe Materials Ltd*



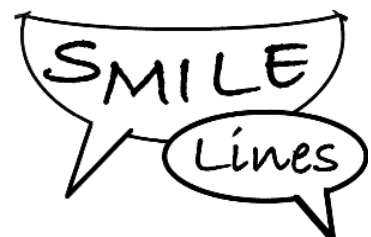
## Miscellaneous observations on modern life

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.  
Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.

If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on my cat.





# Wild Winter Larders

The sight of your fridge or cupboards full after a trip to the shops can be very satisfying, but did you know humans aren't the only ones who like to keep a well-stocked larder over the winter months?

All sorts of animals have been seen hiding food away, ready to eat in the depths of winter when other food sources get scarce.

## In the woods

Some of the first animals that we might think of when we hear the words 'winter larder' are squirrels. These furry mammals hide high-fat food in a scattered fashion, either burying their hoard or stuffing it into hollows in trees. Their stash often includes nutritious meals like acorns and hazelnuts, but red squirrels have also been seen keeping fungi in dry spots between branches to eat later. Squirrels hide so much food in preparation for winter that they inadvertently help woodlands to grow, with many of the forgotten seeds germinating in spring. Looking to our feathered friends, acorns are also a firm favourite with jays. They cache their food in a similar way to squirrels, scattering it throughout the forest and often forgetting some of the piles. If not buried or hidden well, their stores may be eaten by mice before the jays ever get the chance.



Jay on a branch © David Williams

## Under the ground

Perhaps more unexpectedly, some British subterranean species also keep food stores in winter. Moles keep stores of earthworms at this time of year, in preparation for the ground freezing and becoming too hard for them to feed. A mole's storage method is rather gruesome; they bite the heads off worms, immobilising them and then keep their meal in chambers off their tunnels. In areas where flooding is likely the moles might also store their prey in a 'fortress' above ground. Some worms have a lucky escape, if they haven't been eaten by the time the weather warms up, they can heal their heads and tunnel their way out.

Helping wildlife stock up for winter can be really simple. Putting out food for birds and letting your garden grow wild, with log and rock piles provides food and places for wildlife to wait out the cold.

*Claire Thorpe*  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



**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)



## Potholes

Potholes have proliferated during the pandemic, and they are still the top concern of nearly 40 percent of all drivers.

The pandemic slowed down the maintenance of roads for many councils. A spokesman for the Department for Transport said: "We've

committed £2.5 billion for local road repairs as part of the biggest nationwide pothole programme ever announced."

But as a transport spokesman for the Local Government Association said: "Extra government funding has helped, but our local roads are deteriorating at a faster rate than can be repaired by councils."

Here we conclude *The Labours of Heracles* written by Stephen Bibby - it was aimed at children of around 10 years old ... But has been enjoyed by all of us during the long months of lockdown.

## The Labours of Heracles

### The Twelfth Labour - The Capture of Cerberus

King Eurystheus was now more determined than ever to set a task which Heracles would find impossible. This was his last chance to devise something fiendishly and frighteningly difficult.

After a great deal of thought, he commanded Heracles to capture the dog named Cerberus, which guarded the gates of the Underworld. Many people had heard tales of this creature. It was well known that Cerberus possessed three heads. Around each head, rather like a lion's mane, was coiled a fierce serpent.

After being given this task Heracles felt very sorrowful. He did not look forward to travelling to the Underworld, a distant place deep in the earth where the ghosts of the dead were believed to exist.

Before he could be allowed both to travel to, and return from, the land of the dead, it was necessary for Heracles to take part in a secret ceremony known as the Eleusinian Mysteries. Firstly he sacrificed a sow to the goddess Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, having washed it thoroughly in a sacred river. Next he had to be purified by a priest. He was blindfolded and then exposed to air, fire and water. This was just the start. There were many further rituals to be observed but no one knows exactly how they were carried out as all taking part swore a strict oath of secrecy.

Although he was now ready to depart, Heracles was still worried. He begged his father, Zeus, to help him. Answering the anxious prayers from his son, Zeus asked Athene to comfort Heracles. He also sent Hermes, the messenger of the gods, to guide him.

Led by Hermes, Heracles travelled to the banks of the River Styx, which acted like a moat, separating the land of the living from the Underworld. The ferryman, Charon, who carried the dead across the river into the Underworld, was waiting for him. So worried was Heracles that he approached with a terrible scowl upon his face. Charon had never met anyone with such a terrifying expression and trembled at the sight. Normally he demanded a coin as his ferry charge, but Charon was so afraid of the menacing appearance of Heracles that he dared not ask for payment. This was the only time anyone ever crossed the River Styx without paying!

Almost immediately Heracles stepped into the Underworld he was scared that he would die. The first thing he saw was the Gorgon, Medusa. Anyone who looked on her face was immediately turned to stone. But Hermes reassured him. He pointed out that what Heracles was seeing was simply the ghost of Medusa, who had been slain by Perseus. The petrifying power of her eyes existed only while she was alive.

Gazing down the dark passageways, Heracles saw the ghosts of many famous people. He was frequently distracted but, having been shown the way by Hermes, he continued on his strange and frightening journey. At last he found Hades, the God of the Underworld, seated on his dark throne with the goddess Persephone at his side.

Kneeling in front of Hades, Heracles explained why he had been given ten Labours to carry out and why King Eurystheus had given him two more. He begged Hades to let him take Cerberus back to Eurystheus and so bring the final Labour to a successful conclusion.

Hades looked at him and said sternly, "Very well. I will allow you to take the dog but on one condition."

Heracles shuddered, expecting something extremely difficult. He was relieved when Hades spoke further.

"You must not use your club or your bow and arrows," Hades announced.

By his side, Persephone nodded in agreement.

These were terms which posed no problem to a man of strength. Heracles was happy to accept. He set off again back through the dark passages of the Underworld towards the set of gates near which Cerberus was kept secure with chains.

As a guard dog Cerberus would wag his tail to welcome new arrivals to the Underworld. After all they were stepping into the realm in which they were to remain for eternity. But should unhappy ghosts try to escape, Cerberus turned savage and set about them, biting and snarling, his serpent heads lashing out to attack them.

Keeping his promise, Heracles approached Cerberus without weapons. Then, once he came close, he reached out as if to pat the dog. But at the last minute he thrust his strong hands towards the neck of Cerberus and gripped it firmly. He squeezed



upon the throat of the guard dog and held on. The vicious serpents around the beast's head sprang at Heracles, hissing and biting. But, as he had done since the completion of his first Labour, Heracles was wearing the thick, impenetrable skin of the Nemean lion. Against this tough hide, serpent fangs could make no impression. Still Heracles squeezed upon the windpipe of Cerberus even though the dog kicked and twisted. Tighter and tighter became his grip until finally Cerberus choked and fell limp onto the ground.

Taking care that he did not squeeze to the last gasp, as his task was simply to capture the guard dog of the Underworld, Heracles relaxed his grip. Then he slung Cerberus over his back and hastened to leave. With Hermes to guide him, Heracles left the Underworld, once more crossing the River Styx back to the land of the living and to safety.

King Eurystheus was amazed to see Heracles back in his court. It was almost unheard of for someone to return from the land of the dead. Being a cowardly man, Eurystheus was also terrified at the sight of Cerberus. He trembled as each of the dog's three heads snarled and the serpents around its necks hissed menacingly. For the final time he hid inside his bronze urn.

From there he shouted out to Heracles. He gave no word of congratulation but begged Heracles to return Cerberus to the underworld.

Heracles shouted back that he would do exactly that. Then, with Cerberus still slung across his shoulders, he insisted that King Eurystheus give him a binding promise. The frightened king immediately agreed and, shouting from his urn, confirmed that Heracles had completed his tasks.

The Labours of Heracles were finally over.

### **Heracles' Later Life**

After completion of his twelve Labours, Heracles had many further adventures.

During one of these he decided to return to the Augean Stables. He remained angry with King Eurystheus who had decided that the fifth Labour had not been properly carried out. He also remained angry with King Augeias who had broken his promise to hand over one tenth of his cattle.

Heracles took with him his brother, Iphicles, who as a baby many years earlier, he had saved from Hera's serpents. As Augeas still refused to keep his promise, Heracles demanded that he abdicate as king and hand his throne over to his son. When

Augeias did not agree, Heracles declared war on him.

A short but fierce battle took place. In this Heracles suffered a sad loss. Although Augeias was overthrown and Heracles was victorious, Iphicles, who was not immortal, perished. He was killed in the fighting by a pair of fierce twins known as the Moliones who, throughout their lives, were joined together at the hip.

After this battle Heracles married once again. In time his wife, Deianira, bore two children.

In his life with Deianira, Heracles enjoyed much happiness and also much sadness. At one point he suffered from another fit of madness and, while deranged, killed a guest at his dinner table. For this he was banished and had to travel far away from his home. In the course of his wanderings he was drawn into many fights and displayed many feats of strength.

Heracles also joined a band of warriors brought together by another famous Greek hero, Jason. Their task was to bring back the Golden Fleece from Colchis. The heroes sailed on a ship named the Argo and, taking their name from the ship, were called Argonauts. It was while travelling on this voyage that Jason found the few remaining birds who had escaped when Heracles cleared them from the River Stympalia during his sixth Labour.

Sadly towards the end of his life on earth Heracles suffered great pain. Deianira had woven a colourful new robe for him to wear. Over this she poured what she had been told was a love potion. But the liquid was poisonous. It burnt Heracles' skin so that he cried out and writhed in agony. The only release for him was the destruction of his mortal remains. His men built an enormous funeral pyre which consumed his body, scarred and scored by the poison. His spirit flew up to Mount Olympus where he lived for ever with his father Zeus and the other gods.

The stories of the Twelve Labours became known all over ancient Greece and the name Heracles became famous. Eventually the tales were written down which is why they are known and retold to this day.

*Stephen Bibby*

*Thank you very much to Stephen for sharing his retelling of Heracles with us all.*

*If you have enjoyed this series, head over to Amazon to see other books by Stephen for both adults and children.*

# The Importance of a Clutter-Free Home

As we continue to live through these unusual times, many of us are increasingly appreciative of the importance of our home environment. What was once our solace from the outside world, has become our everything; our workplace, our school, even our restaurant and our cinema. We wake, eat, work, teach, learn, and entertain ourselves and our family within these four walls. It is no surprise then, that during lockdown the sales of home improvement products have soared, with many of us choosing to spruce up this space in which we are spending the best part of 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Indeed, this makes a great deal of sense considering the profound impact our homes can have on our mental wellbeing. But it's not just about the décor, we also need to be mindful of how we manage our 'stuff'.

According to a recent study, which measured peoples' general well-being (to see how clutter might be affecting their lives) a cluttered home is a stressful home. There was also found to be a link between procrastination and clutter problems (not good for home-working or home-schooling) in all the age groups. In older adults, problems with clutter were also associated with life dissatisfaction. These findings are just some highlights of the evidence that clutter can negatively impact our mental well-being. No less worrisome, clutter has also been found to induce a physiological response - including increased levels of cortisol, the stress hormone - and I think it's fair to say that the last thing any of us need right now is an increase in stress levels!

In short, evidence points towards the importance of a less cluttered living space for both mental and physiological health. So, how can we effectively declutter our homes, and make the most of the space we have? Here are my 'top tips':

- Start with just five minutes a day - you'll be amazed at what you can achieve
- Have four bags or boxes, label them 'keep', 'donate', 'recycle', 'dispose'. Whether decluttering for 5 minutes a day, or all day long, just add to them as you go - even if you donate (or if it can't be helped, disposed of) just one item each day, that's 365 pieces of clutter gone in a year!
- In your wardrobe, place all hangers in the reverse direction, then when you have worn an item, turn the hanger around as you put it back. After 6 months review those items with the hook facing you, if you haven't worn it ... do you still need it?
- Write down what you would like to do with a cluttered area. Perhaps you've always wanted a nice reading nook near a window, but never had the space cleared. If you have an aspiration for a space, you will be more motivated to de-clutter it.
- Take 'before' and 'after' photographs, this way you will see what you have achieved, and this will likely spur you on to achieve more de-cluttered spaces around your home

If you need help organising your space, or reducing clutter, or if you have a hoarding disorder, or suffer from chronic disorganisation, niah professional organisers can help. Donna (niah's founder) would love to hear from you and can be contacted on 0750 7783652, or at [donna@niahprofessionalorganisers.com](mailto:donna@niahprofessionalorganisers.com). For more information, and more helpful resources on reducing clutter visit [www.niahprofessionalorganisers.com](http://www.niahprofessionalorganisers.com)

*Donna Bartlett  
Professional Organiser*



# Basingstoke & District Disability Forum

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) are excited to announce the dates for the next **Chineham and Sherfield Park Scarecrow Trail Summer 2021**! Last year's event was hugely popular and raised vital funds for BDDF. Noting we have taken the feedback onboard to run over a longer period, the event will take place over the first week of the school holidays, **24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, with map sales available over the first weekend.

Please look out for details on our Facebook page on how to vote for this year's theme and how to sign up to be an entrant which will open later in the year.

We would welcome volunteers to help with the planning, organisation and execution of the event. A virtual meeting will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. If you have skills to offer or time available to help us run this event, or simply a passion to get stuck in, please get in touch!

**BDDF's services.** Our weekly seated exercise for mobility and wellbeing; and Friday Teabreak club; are both free and take place online. Our Walking Club will resume once it is safe for us to do so; as will our courses to help people use their personal IT devices. If you are interested in registering for any of these activities, please get in touch.

**Disability Awareness Event.** BDDF are preparing to host our annual Disability Information & Awareness Day virtually this year. If you are a charity who would like to be represented at this online event; or if you are a key speaker on issues affecting disabled people because of Covid.

**Disability Signposting Services.** Have a disability related issue or question? Don't know which way to turn? We will do our best to point you in the right direction, just let us know.

**Get in touch & Keep up to date.** Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email [info@bddf.org.uk](mailto:info@bddf.org.uk) or via Facebook Messenger.

We offer regular newsletters via email, paper version is available by post if you do not have internet access. To be added to our postal mailing list please call 01256 423869 leaving your home address, name & telephone number.

Information on all our free services are updated regularly on our **social media** and **website**. Keep up to date by liking our page on Facebook @BDDForum, Insta @BasingstokeDisabilityForum via our website [www.bddf.org.uk](http://www.bddf.org.uk), or tweet us @BDDForum.

*Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees*



## What we want during the pandemic

What have men and women been thinking about during the pandemic? According to recent data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), men have been preoccupied with takeaway food and pints, while women have been keeping in touch with their friends.

In a study on the social impact of coronavirus, the ONS found that women are only half as likely to leave home for a takeaway or drinks, and much more likely to go out in order to meet a friend. Women are also far more likely to form a lockdown support bubble and to adhere to government advice than men.

## Planning ~ December 2020

| <b><u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u></b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                     | <a href="#">20/02943/FUL</a> - Haskers Farm, Clappers Farm Road, Silchester<br>Conversion of garage and stores to 1 bedroom dwelling to provide accommodation for retirees, associated landscaping and access                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                            |
| 2                                                     | <a href="#">20/03091/TENO</a> - Existing BT Pole THSCR 7 00 On Grass Verge Off Footway Of Little London Road, The Common, Silchester<br>Installation of 1 no. antenna and 1 no. equipment cabinet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |
| 3                                                     | <a href="#">T/00537/20/TPO</a> - 2 The Butts Silchester RG7 2QD<br>T1 - Norway Maple: fell.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                            |
| 4                                                     | <a href="#">20/03286/TWRN</a> - 26 Hydes Platt, Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU<br>2 Oak trees: prune back.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                            |
| 5                                                     | <a href="#">20/03285/TWRN</a> - 27 Hydes Platt Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU<br>Fell 1 Oak. Prune back 1 Beech.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                            |
| <b><u>Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*</u></b>         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |
| 1                                                     | <a href="#">20/01674/FUL</a> - Wood Farm, Ash Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NH<br>Formation of a ground source heat pump and pipeline - Wood Farm Ash Lane Silchester RG7 2NH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>No Objection<br/>Granted</b>            |
| 2                                                     | <a href="#">20/02481/HSE</a> - Mynet House, Little London Road, Silchester, RG7 2PR<br>Ground floor rear and first floor side extension creating additional day room, ensuite and dressing room                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>No Objection<br/>Granted</b>            |
| 3                                                     | <a href="#">T/00489/20/TCA</a> - Culhams Farm House, Little London Road, Silchester<br>T1 - Weeping Willow Tree. Tree has a large hazard beam crack in lowest limb overhanging Firth Close, presenting a H&S risk to pedestrians & parked cars in Firth Close from limb failure. To reduce back the lowest limb to appropriate point to remove the hazard beam. To reduce the whole crown by approx. 4m to create a pollard leaving a finished height of 15-16m with a crown spread (radius) of 15-16m. T2 - Sycamore Tree. To section fell to ground level, due to this specimen's proximity to the weeping willow (T1). T3 - Scots Pine Tree To section fell to ground level. Tree is a poor specimen as its growth has been suppressed by its proximity to T1 & T2. T4 - Beech hedge To reduce to approx height 3.6m above ground level and create a level hedge. | <b>No Objection<br/>Raise no objection</b> |
| 4                                                     | <a href="#">20/02248/LDEU</a> - Silchester House, Holly Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NA<br>Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as mixed use residential dwelling, wedding venue and conference centre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>No Objection<br/>Granted</b>            |
| <b><u>Notifications*</u></b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |
| 1                                                     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                            |
| <b><u>Pending Applications*</u></b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |
| 1                                                     | <a href="#">20/01998/GPDE</a> - 36 Dukes Ride, Silchester RG7 2PY<br>Erection of a single storey rear extension (permitted development notification) - 36 Dukes Ride Silchester Reading Hampshire RG7 2PY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>No Objection<br/>Awaiting Decision</b>  |
| 2                                                     | <a href="#">T/00557/20/TCA</a> - The White House, Little London Road, Silchester<br>1. Fell approx 30 Leylandii. 2. Fell 1 Leylandii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 3                                                     | <a href="#">20/02749/FUL</a> - The Calleva Arms The Common Silchester RG7 2PH<br>A temporary erection of a marquee in the existing pub garden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 4                                                     | <a href="#">20/02343/FUL</a> - Macartneys The Common Silchester RG7 2NS<br>Retention of existing building (to be used as a games room and ancillary home office) and change of use of the land back to residential                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>No Objection</b>                        |

\* 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.

## Planning ~ January 2021

| <u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1                                              | <a href="#">20/03222/FUL</a> - White Bungalow Ash Lane Silchester RG7 2NL<br>Erection of 3 no. dwellinghouses following the demolition of existing bungalow and associated structures and change of use from recycling yard to residential use                                                                                                                          |                                            |
| 2                                              | <a href="#">20/03264/FUL</a> - Brookside Grange Bramley Road Silchester RG7 2LN<br>Erection of a lifetime home with bin store/cycle shed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                            |
| 3                                              | <a href="#">20/03498/GPDAG</a> - Silchester Farm Little London Road Silchester RG7 2PS<br>Notification of proposed change of use of an agricultural building into flexible commercial use building for Silchester Farm weddings and community use events, potentially including a café outside of weddings and events taking place (permitted development notification) |                                            |
| <u>Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*</u>         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |
| 1                                              | <a href="#">20/01998/GPDE</a> - 36 Dukes Ride, Silchester RG7 2PY<br>Erection of a single storey rear extension (permitted development notification) - 36 Dukes Ride Silchester Reading Hampshire RG7 2PY                                                                                                                                                               | <b>No Objection<br/>Granted</b>            |
| 2                                              | <a href="#">20/02749/FUL</a> - The Calleva Arms The Common Silchester RG7 2PH<br>A temporary erection of a marquee in the existing pub garden                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>No Objection<br/>Granted</b>            |
| 3                                              | <a href="#">20/03091/TENO</a> - Existing BT Pole THSCR 7 00 On Grass Verge Off Footway Of Little London Road, The Common, Silchester<br>Installation of 1 no. antenna and 1 no. equipment cabinet                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Objection<br/>Raise no objection</b>    |
| 4                                              | <a href="#">T/00557/20/TCA</a> - The White House, Little London Road, Silchester<br>1. Fell approx 30 Leylandii. 2. Fell 1 Leylandii.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>No Objection<br/>Raise no objection</b> |
| <u>Notifications*</u>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |
| 1                                              | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |
| <u>Pending Applications*</u>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |
| 1                                              | <a href="#">20/02343/FUL</a> - Macartneys The Common Silchester RG7 2NS<br>Retention of existing building (to be used as a games room and ancillary home office) and change of use of the land back to residential                                                                                                                                                      | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 2                                              | <a href="#">20/02943/FUL</a> - Haskers Farm, Clappers Farm Road, Silchester<br>Conversion of garage and stores to 1 bedroom dwelling to provide accommodation for retirees, associated landscaping and access                                                                                                                                                           | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 3                                              | <a href="#">T/00537/20/TPO</a> - 2 The Butts Silchester RG7 2QD<br>T1 - Norway Maple: fell.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 4                                              | <a href="#">20/03286/TWRN</a> - 26 Hydes Platt, Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU<br>2 Oak trees: prune back.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>No Objection</b>                        |
| 5                                              | <a href="#">20/03285/TWRN</a> - 27 Hydes Platt Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU<br>Fell 1 Oak. Prune back 1 Beech.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>No Objection</b>                        |

\* 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.

## Eyesight

A man went to his doctor to say that his eyesight was getting worse. The doctor asked the man to look out the window and to tell him what he saw. "I see the sun," the man replied.

The doctor replied: "Just how much farther do you want to see?"

## All in the month of February

It was:

**200 years ago**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

**125 years ago**, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera La bohème, took place in Turin, Italy.

**75 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

**70 years ago**, on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1951 that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to no more than two terms in office.

**65 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

**50 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

**40 years ago**, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1981 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

**30 years ago**, on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

**25 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

**20 years ago**, on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

**10 years ago**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured, and there was widespread damage across the city.

**5 years ago**, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 that the movie The Revenant won five BAFTA awards, including Leonardo DiCaprio as 'Best Actor in a Leading Role'.

*The Parochial Church Council accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed by individuals within this publication.*

*The Parochial Church Council does not endorse claims that are made by advertisers within this publication.*

### Advertising in the Silchester Magazine

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 13<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

1/12 page 8.5cm x 4cm £50

1/8 page 8.5cm x 6cm £60

1/6 page 8.5cm x 7.75cm £73

1/4 page 8.5cm x 12.25cm £100

1/2 page 18cm x 12.25cm £180

Please contact Nancy at

[advertisers@silchester.org](mailto:advertisers@silchester.org)

or on **0118 9700546**

for more information

Monthly rates from March 2021 are:

1/12 page - £17; 1/8 page - £20;

1/6 page - £23; 1/4 page - £30

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 £8 per annum for 11 issues. Seniors are £5.

### **Copy should be sent to** [editor@silchester.org](mailto:editor@silchester.org)

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

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# Useful Local Telephone Numbers



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

|                               |                             |                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                        | The Revd Richard Harlow     | 0118 981 4860<br>E mail: <a href="mailto:richard73harlow@aol.com">richard73harlow@aol.com</a> |
| Resident Priest               | The Revd Rob Young          | 0118 970 0884<br>E mail: <a href="mailto:robwyong101@gmail.com">robwyong101@gmail.com</a>     |
| 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

|                  |                     |                                                                                              |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish Priest    | Rev. Patrick Tansey | 0118 981 4572                                                                                |
| Parish Secretary | Barbara Davis       | E mail: <a href="mailto:Tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">Tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> |

## SILCHESTER MAGAZINE

|                                              |                          |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editors                                      | John & Claire Richardson | E mail: <a href="mailto:editor@silchester.org">editor@silchester.org</a>                |
| Distribution/Printing & Advertising Managers | Nancy & Marsden Jones    | 0118 970 0546<br>E mail: <a href="mailto:nancy@silchester.org">nancy@silchester.org</a> |

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

|                                   |                 |               |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Bell Ringers, St Mary's           | Ian Roulstone   | 01256 881010  |
| Friendship Circle Coffee Mornings | Heather Cole    | 0118 970 0469 |
| Sow & Grow                        | Rosemary Lister | 0118 970 2219 |

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

|                                                  |                                 |                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phoenix Club                                     | Ann-Marie Dalton                | 0118 970 0627                                                          |
|                                                  | 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/<br>Rosemary Evans | 0118 970 1055<br>0118 970 1070                                         |
| Silchester Association                           |                                 | <a href="mailto:secretary@silchester.org">secretary@silchester.org</a> |
| Silchester Welcomers' Group                      | Jan Hughes                      | 0118 970 0416                                                          |
| Silchester Players                               | Tim Oliver                      | 0118 981 9134                                                          |
| Silchester Cricket Club                          | Paul Hearn                      | 0118 982 1405                                                          |
| 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                                                                  |
| Rainbow Guides                  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                |
| Brownies                        | Kirstie Jones - <a href="mailto:Kirstie.jones5@btinternet.com">Kirstie.jones5@btinternet.com</a> | 0118 970 1481                                                                  |
| Guides, 1st Silchester          | Della Raven                                                                                      | 0118 970 1627                                                                  |
| Scouts - Aged 6-17              |                                                                                                  | <a href="mailto:info@silchesterscouts.org.uk">info@silchesterscouts.org.uk</a> |
| Scouts - Adult Volunteers       |                                                                                                  | <a href="mailto:info@silchesterscouts.org.uk">info@silchesterscouts.org.uk</a> |
| Tadley / Calleva Boys Football  | Tim Spagg                                                                                        | 0118 981 5674                                                                  |
| Dancing                         | Daphne Bennett                                                                                   | 0118 983 2638                                                                  |
| Air Cadets - Tadley             |                                                                                                  | 0118 981 9186                                                                  |

## EDUCATION

|                                        |                                |               |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Cherry Trees Pre-school                | Amanda Davies                  | 07833 547810  |
| Silchester CE (Aided) Primary School   | Headteacher : Kathryn Williams | 0118 970 0256 |
| Silchester School PTA                  | Vicky Rodd (Secretary)         | 0118 970 1880 |
| The Hurst Community College, Baughurst |                                | 0118 981 7474 |

## HEALTH

|           |                                                  |               |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Doctors   | Holmwood Health Centre, Tadley                   | 0118 981 4166 |
|           | Morland Surgery, New Road, Tadley                | 0118 981 6661 |
|           | The Surgery, Mortimer                            | 0118 933 2436 |
| Dentists  | Oaktree Dental Practice, West End Road, Mortimer | 0118 933 3121 |
| Opticians | Leightons Tadley                                 | 0118 981 2250 |
|           | Optimum Vision Clinic                            | 0118 981 0267 |
| Chemists  | Holmwood Pharmacy, Franklin Avenue               | 0118 981 1984 |
|           | Morland Pharmacy, 40 New Road, Tadley            | 0118 982 0157 |
|           | Thornhill Pharmacy, Mortimer                     | 0118 933 2373 |
|           | Sainsbury's, Tadley                              | 0118 981 3572 |

## LOCAL SERVICES

|                                 |                 |               |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Silchester Parish Council Clerk | Chris Gunnell   | 07470 809086  |
| Parish Footpath Officer         | Clare Payne     | 0118 970 0524 |
| Local Borough Councillor        | Roger Gardiner  | 0118 970 1109 |
| Local Borough Councillor        | Simon Mahaffey  |               |
| County Councillor               | Rhydian Vaughan | 07712 695476  |

## Police

## REPORTING AN INCIDENT

101

|                                 |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local Officer                   | Emma Page - <a href="mailto:emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk">emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk</a>        |                                                                                                    |
| Library                         | Tadley Library                                                                                              | 0118 981 4602                                                                                      |
| Village Hall and Club Room      | Bookings : Vivienne Hartshorn                                                                               | 0118 970 0940                                                                                      |
| Secretary                       |                                                                                                             | <a href="mailto:secretary@silchestervillagehall.org.uk">secretary@silchestervillagehall.org.uk</a> |
| Village Market                  | Paula Gibbons: <a href="mailto:info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk">info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk</a> | 0118 970 0999                                                                                      |
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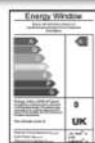
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