

Silchester Magazine



March 2021



Village and Church News

Volume 62 No 1

Price 80p

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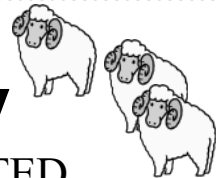
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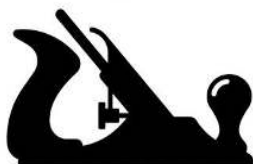
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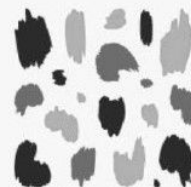
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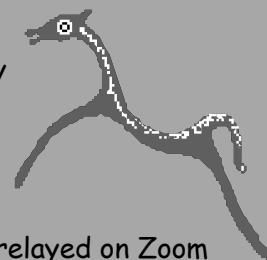
Silchester Magazine

MARCH 2021

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

March

Sat	6th		Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party
Tue	9th	11am	Virtual Friendship Circle Coffee Morning ~ via Zoom
Sat	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline
Sat	27th		Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party
Sun	28th	10am	Virtual Palm Sunday Walk



April

Sun	4th	10am	Easter Sunday Communion ~ at St Mary's ~ relayed on Zoom
Tue	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline
Tue	27th		Planning Inspector's hearing ~ for Traveller's appeal ~ Village Hall
Wed	28th		Planning Inspector's hearing ~ continues

Copy for this magazine should be sent to: editor@silchester.org

The next deadline for copy for the **April** issue is **midnight on 13th March**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 the last year's magazines.

Stay Safe ~ Claire & John ~ Editors



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How are you feeling? Daffodils in bloom, vaccinations in some arms, a road map out of lockdown, picking up the pieces, time at last for grieving, change on the horizon, worry, fear, celebration, hope?

I must confess to all these things whirling around in my mind. Can I really face standing in the midst of all those people at the crowded summer festival I have booked into? Do I really want to sit on a train or get on an aeroplane? I guess I would summarise it as unease niggling at hope.

More immediately it raises questions about when to re-open church and when to restart regular services in church, and should they only be the same services as before, bearing in mind new people have joined the church on-line?

Many are eager to get back to life as it was before and for many I hope that happens, but was everything really that great before? And what about those whose world has collapsed through loss of so many kinds, and those whose mental health has reached such a place that it is an insult to suggest they "just snap out of it".



As a village community we have many situations where we gather together; for instance in sport and fitness, the Community Choir, the Phoenix Club, Friendship Coffee Mornings, uniformed organisations, school and playgroup, and the Pop up Café. These and many others are opportunities for us not only to enjoy ourselves but also to support and care for those whose whole world has collapsed during the pandemic. But maybe we will also need to create new or adapt existing organisations to offer opportunities for those whom life has changed irretrievably.

What do I have in mind? Here is some instances: a luncheon club (this was mentioned at the Village Hall AGM); opportunities for those in business to share with those whose businesses are in trouble; opportunities for those who are struggling with family or financial difficulties to support each other; a bereavement group; maybe even a "Tinder group!" etc.

The Bible frequently talks about hope and good coming out of our conquering evil, with the ultimate hope being found beyond this earthly life, a hope which the Bible says you can begin to experience even now as we experience glimpses of the kingdom of God in creation, in each other, in service, in worship.

I find that hope in this life, by what I call "living with Jesus". By that I mean aspiring (and frequently failing) to follow his example and share his teaching in word and deed, to spiritually commit myself to him through prayer, meditation, learning, service and friendship.

I recognise that many will not have a Christian or any other kind of faith, but I suggest the imperative of love and being loved (for me, in my relationship with God and my neighbour) is surely the way to hope and a full life.

God bless

Rob

Revd Rob Young St Mary the Virgin Silchester

0118 9700884 robwyong101@gmail.com

St Mary the Virgin Church Services

March / April 2021

Tuesday 2 March

7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Sunday 7 March

10.00am Service on Zoom

Tuesday 9 March

7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Sunday 14 March

10.00am Mothering Sunday Service on Zoom

Tuesday 16 March

7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Sunday 21 March

10.00am Service on Zoom

Tuesday 23 March

7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Palm Sunday 28 March

10.00am Virtual Palm Sunday Walk on Youtube

Tuesday 30 March

7.00pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Thursday 1 April

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal on Zoom

Good Friday 2 April

2.00pm Meditation on Zoom

Easter Sunday 4 April

10.00am Easter Communion in Church (Also to be relayed on Zoom)

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

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 until Easter. However, we are hopeful the church building can be re-opened and services re-start in church soon thereafter.

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

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

or contact Revd Rob Young 01189700884 or

robwyong101@gmail.com

A personal letter to the Silchester community

from Revd Rob Young

It was some four years ago that I took up my appointment as Resident Vicar in Silchester (technically Assistant Priest in the Benefice of Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester) when Jackie and I moved to Silchester in 2017. The post is what is technically called "House for Duty" which means you don't get a salary but you do get a nice house rent free in return for working a few days a week, though in reality you never really get away, or even want to get away from the job.

Because of my age it is a post which was always going to be a time-limited position and it is reviewed every two years. I have now decided to retire at the end of my current tenure, that is in June this year. My responsibilities for St Mary the Virgin will pass back to the Rector Richard Harlow,

But for those who may say "hooray", or those who may say "how sad", I won't be leaving the church or the village. In the current climate there is little possibility of a replacement "House for Duty" vicar for the immediate future, so after a three month sabbatical over the summer, I am pleased to say Richard has agreed that I will, as a retired vicar, return to presiding at Sunday services three Sundays a month, as well as looking after most weddings, funerals, baptisms and pastoral care in the village. I will still be involved as a vicar with Remembrance Day.



In the next few weeks I will be buying another house in the centre of the village and, as a resident, will continue to be involved in village life in general. I suspect some of you will not notice a great deal of difference other than I may be away a bit more, when Covid restrictions permit. As I look at it, it is a win-win situation. I get to retire but to hang on to the really nice bits of the job in this fantastic community, presiding at services and offering pastoral care.

Thank you for being so welcoming to me and Jackie right from the beginning and supporting me since her death. God willing, I look forward to serving you in my new role for many years to come.

God bless you all ~ Rob



Friendship Circle Coffee Morning

It is now a full year since we were able to get together for coffee, cake and a chat. Covid has forced us to consider new ways of getting together and I know many people are turning to technology in the form of Facetime and Zoom to mention but two.

With this in mind we are trying out our Coffee Mornings via zoom. We have already had the first and it worked very well with about 20 people joining in. The only problem we had was that everyone had to make their own coffee and cake!

We intend to continue the Coffee Mornings on the second Tuesday of every month from 11am. We would love to see more of you joining us, the more the merrier and you might see friends that you have been unable to see in the flesh for some time.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th March.



If you would like to join this zoom session please e-mail me and I will add you to the mailing list.

Heather Cole ~ heather_cole@outlook.com



Prayers & Poems

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,
In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive - and to strengthen others by the love we give.
May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus - who is alive - and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Written in March

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun...

There's joy in the mountains,
There's life in the fountains,
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing,
The rain is over and gone.

From a poem by William Wordsworth

Editor: Nigel Beeton is a recently retired senior radiologist, and this poem comes out of time spent back at the hospital in January, helping colleagues.

Together

In the year nineteen seventy-one
They heard the church bells ring
That wedding day was so much fun!
They promised they would cling
Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen eighty-one
For ten years they'd been wed
Two daughters and a strapping son
And still they often said
Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen ninety-one
Their children nearly grown!
Yes, troubles go and troubles come
But they had always shown
Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year two thousand and one
Their lifelong odyssey
Had brought to them their first grandson
But everyone could see
Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty-eleven
Retirement came at last
Grandchildren - now they counted seven
The family grows fast!
Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty twenty-one
Their Golden Wedding day.
But celebrations? There were none
A Care home said that they
Together couldn't always stay
For Covid came to part their way.

Nigel Beeton



Our Magazine - March 2021

This is the first month of the new magazine year and we thank our over 50 advertisers some of long standing and a few new faces for advertising within our magazine. We look forward to welcoming back to the magazine some of our other advertisers once life (and business) gets more back to normal again. This last year has been a very hard one for small businesses - so please do look at our advertising pages and consider supporting the businesses there when the need arises.

If you need an accountant or a solicitor, a funeral director, a builder, a roofer, or a carpenter or a joiner, a cattery, dog care or child care - we have those. If you require a plumber or heating engineer, car repairs or parts, gardening or tree services, some printing, music sales or lessons, help with your aerial or computer those are in the magazine. We have home improvements: domestic appliance repair - window sales, repairs or cleaning, painting, decorating or plastering - or even assistance organising your home. For fitness or relaxation with pilates classes or holistic therapy or even a meal cooked for you - then please look to our advertisers.

And finally, once we can all socialise again - we have hall rental for your celebrations!

If you have a business or offer a service we do not currently feature on our advertising pages - then please do get in touch. We have a variety of advert sizes still available.

Advertisers@silchester.org

It is also time to collect subscription money - we have an increase in the price per copy to 80p, or £8 per annum (£5 concessions) after no changes in the last 24 years. We realise that it will be rather difficult to collect the subscriptions - although 4 distributors have already managed this and our Treasurer thanks them for their efforts. IF & WHEN it is possible perhaps distributors may be able to put an envelope through subscribers doors and ask the receivers to get it back to them. This has worked very well with those who have already been able to do this. There is no pressure whatever to do this at present as we await news of more freedom in the months ahead.

We are still looking for volunteers to take over the roles of Distribution and Advertising Managers for the magazine. If you think this may interest you then please do get in touch to find out more. You will now have almost a year to familiarise yourself with the details ready for March 2022, by that time I shall be over 89 and I really will be ready to finally retire!

Nancy Jones



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The Mission Church/Reading Room

Many of you are probably familiar with the "Mission Church", the green wooden building behind the hedge on Bramley Road between what was the Rectory and the old Calleva Museum at the end of the Drove. The earliest records of it we can find are from 1906, in the days when it was in its original location in Soke Road. It was in the garden of Impstone House (then owned by Mr J J Cooper), next to Impstone Lodge, where it was known as the Impstone Reading Room.

From subsequent reports, we see that the room was open from October to June, most likely for the use of villagers who were members to read a selection of books and newspapers, and local events were organised. The Gazette reported in 1907 that Mr & Mrs Cooper "invited neighbourhood children to a Christmas Treat in the Reading Room".

Impstone House was bought by the Misses Cockerton in 1909, and the "seasons" continued. Each June, at the end of the season, they would generally host a party for members. In 1911, the Gazette reported "At the closing of the Impstone Reading Room for the summer months, the Misses Cockerton provided entertainment and refreshments for a happy gathering of members." As it re-opened in October we were told "Over 50 members turned up, and were enrolled at the Impstone Reading Room. After games and a coffee supper given by the Misses Cockerton, a unanimous vote of sympathy was given for them in connection with the disastrous fire that had happened". That is the only mention of a fire, so we know no more about it!

As said above, the Reading Room was also used for local events, such as wedding receptions. The photo here is of Julie's paternal grandparents' wedding party outside the Reading Room in late June 1921.



In 1926, Silchester Parochial Church Council were looking to establish a Mission Church building, near to the Rectory, where they could hold services when the weather was too inclement for villagers to get down to the Church. The cost of building one from scratch was far more than they could afford but instead they agreed with the Misses Cockerton that they would buy the Reading Room for £140 and move it from the Impstone House garden to its present location.

The story is that it was moved from Soke Road without dismantling it. Instead, the men of the village laid a series of huge logs on the road and somehow managed to roll the entire building the whole way.

The consecration of the building then took place soon afterwards and it was used for services from time to time. The Mothers Union regularly met there and they purchased the Lectern plus some other items for the church. Silchester School children from the 1970's remember walking there for a service on each Ascension Day, after which they were allowed the rest of the day off from school!

In later years, before the Rectory itself was sold, the annual Church fete was held in the grounds of the Rectory and teas were served in the Mission Church. More recently it has been used as a store, and for printing the Parish Magazine.

Mike & Julie Baldock ~ mike@silchester.org

Editors Note: One very recent innovation in the Mission Church / Parish Rooms has been the installation of a toilet, mainly thanks to Derek Jones. This modern 'convenience' is of great value to those of us who spend a couple of days a month there printing/collating this magazine!

People News

Catharine Smither and Darrell Weston of Rose Cottage, Kings Road are moving to Bedfordshire in March with their young daughter Marnie. They have happily been involved with all aspects of village life and will miss their friends and activities here very much. A special mention to the entire Kings Road residents who have been the most wonderful set of friends and neighbours they could have wished for.

Nancy Jones has been the Silchester News correspondent for the Basingstoke Gazette for 22 years, having taken over from late Freddie Stanhope. Due to Covid, news of any kind is scarce and so she has decided to take a step back and only send in news occasionally from now on. She is grateful to the Gazette for their support (even more of late) and to her readers and those of you sending village news to her. If anyone in Silchester would like an interesting little job, here is their chance - just contact the Gazette Editor for details. This thank-you message from the Editor appeared in a recent issue "Our Silchester Community correspondent. Nancy Jones, is retiring after contributing to this newspaper for 22 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedicated service. It is people like Nancy who make the paper what it is." Thank-you Nancy on behalf of the residents of Silchester.

Judi Bullock of The Butts and Steve Spillane of The Common who are friends, both celebrated their 70th Birthdays in February. They both arranged for cake to be delivered to a group of friends and then 2 separate 'Zoom parties' were held to celebrate the occasions - one complete with party poppers and fizz.

Last month we included incorrect information about the new owners of Silchester House, for which we apologise. The 'correct' new owners are Jack Sun and his wife Coco Chu. They are very busy with repairs and renovating the place, including roofing, façade renovations, window repairs, internal decoration and pool house renovation. They are looking forward to becoming part of the local community and we welcome them to Silchester and look forward to seeing the house being returned to its former glory.

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
- 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 or telephone Ann-Marie on 9700627 or Irene on 9700996.



Silchester Players

Our committee met by Zoom at the beginning of February to discuss possible activity for 2021.

We had already decided that, due to the current restrictions, a May production was out of the question. Even though these restrictions might ease by June, we cannot be confident that we could meet face-to-face for rehearsals and it is by no means certain that entertainment venues will be fully operational by the autumn. In the circumstances we decided that it is not feasible to consider an October production and we are planning on a return to live onstage performance with our annual pantomime early in 2022.



The pantomime scheduled is *Aladdin*. It promises to be an eye-catching performance with colourful sets and costumes, popular musical numbers and all the usual ingredients of pantomime comedy. However, while plans can be developed, no firm decisions can be taken until the autumn. Like all similar organisations we have insurance in case performances have to be cancelled. Understandably, this year our insurers have written in an exclusion for Covid-related cancellations. It is therefore vital that we do not commit ourselves until we are completely sure that a live performance is possible.

Additionally we hope that during the year we can perform another radio play. Last year we produced *The Litter Picker* which was the winning entry in the playwriting category of the creative writing section of the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival 2020. By the end of March we will know this year's winner and can make a judgement as to whether that play is suitable for radio broadcast.

All our radio performances are also be held on our website www.silchesterplayers.org. There is one significant downside of this. We incur production expenses but receive no income. However, a number of our patrons who have enjoyed listening via community radio or our website have contacted us requesting to make donations. Accordingly a link has been provided on the website for this purpose. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all who have contributed. We expect substantially increased costs when live performances resume and any income received helps to keep our bank balance healthy and to continue our support for local charities.

www.silchesterplayers.org



Observations on Modern Life

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation.

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

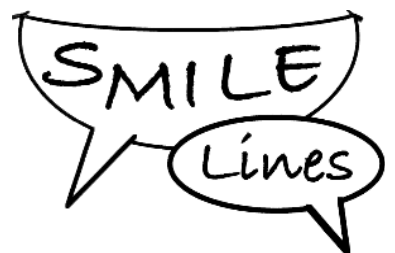
When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

If you think the problem is bad now, just wait until we have solved it.
(Arthur Kassel)

The most welcome guest is the one who knows when to go home.

Why do they lock petrol station bathrooms?
Afraid that someone will clean them?



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. Anyone is welcome to join.

We will not be opening the church until the beginning of April. This is going to be reviewed at the Church Council 8th March, when we will have more idea of the government plans for easing lockdown.

We are holding Zoom Church coffee mornings once a month.



We had a successful Pancake Evening which was well attended with some interesting quizzes.



Silchester Association

www.silchester.org

Sadly, not much has been happening in the village recently as we all try to stay at home and reduce the spread of this awful virus.

The First Aid course is still on the agenda and we will confirm a date when we have more guidance about when it will be possible to meet indoors. So, if you are interested in updating your qualification, please let Simon know at treasurer@silchester.org and he will keep you informed about when it will be held

Last month we put out feelers to see if anyone would be interested in leading the Bonfire Team. We have had no response to this so if no-one comes forward soon, we are afraid that this event will not go ahead.

We are pleased to have been able to support the Scouts this month with a contribution towards some new gazebos to enable them to meet up for activities outdoors when this current lockdown ends.

Our next event will be the AGM which is due to be held in April. It is unlikely that we will be able to meet up in the Village Hall so we are still working on how best to hold this. Our secretary is standing down this year so there is an exciting position on the committee available if anyone would like to step into her shoes. Please contact Sarah Roper if you are interested or email us at secretary@silchester.org

Meanwhile stay safe everyone and let's hope that the lockdown has worked and that restrictions will begin to be lifted soon.

Silchester Recycling News - March 2021

As regular readers will know, we operate a recycling drop-off point, for specified plastic waste, every **Friday, from 7am to 6pm** (or dusk if sooner) in the **Pavilion car park**. It is part of the "Ali recycling group" which, as well as "saving the planet" also raises funds for local charities. Thank you to everyone who has helped fill the bins recently - Ali reported a bumper delivery to TerraCycle, last month, amounting to around **DOUBLE** what she delivered last October. The people of Silchester made a significant contribution to this increase!

Regular visitors to our recycling point may have noticed a new crate labelled "**Last week's discards**". This has been introduced as a form of feedback because it is impossible for us to tell, when doing "the big sort" every week, who deposited what. "Discards" are the items which we cannot send to TerraCycle (because they are not on the 'acceptable waste' lists posted above the bins). Neither can they be re-routed to other local facilities (such as my green wheelie bin, the recycling bins at the Village Hall or the skips and bins at Sainsbury). "Discards" do not raise any funds for charity and have to be consigned to black bin waste for incineration or landfill.

On the other hand, the list of what we **CAN** recycle for charity is constantly growing as Ali joins more programmes and the programmes themselves adapt and improve. Although the "Christmas chocolate box" collection has finished now, the **Ferrero Pralines** programme continues. They will accept all the plastic bits of their packaging but not the paper bits (which can go in the Council green wheelie bins).

The "Ella's Kitchen" programme expanded, late last year, when the Danone brand joined in. It is now called "**The kids food pouch RP**" and accepts "All brands of baby food pouches, kids yogurt pouches and pouch caps".

We are receiving more **cheese wrappers** each week as more people have become aware of the programme. The sponsors, Cathedral City, are

one of the more generous types, who accept **ANY** brand. So it is not just the 'fancy' "Cathedral City" or "Davidstow", etc. packs they are after - they will accept all branded (plastic) wrappers, including those from grated cheese and cheese slices (only the branded film on top, though, not the tray underneath. See below for poster details).

The **Marigold Gloves** programme, however, will only take Marigold-branded items (but at least that does include the branded packaging film from the new pair!). Another scheme that accepts plastic packaging from the replacement items is the **Colgate Oral Care** one. Please study the display poster carefully for examples and exclusions.

I know there are at least 2 people who drop off **Tassimo coffee** pods at the Pavilion each week. One of you knows, but do the others realise, that they will accept the Tassimo (& L'Or) 'silver' wrappers (they call it "flow wrap") as well as the pods? While on the subject of coffee, are there any users of **Lavazza** coffee machines out there? If so, did you know we have a separate programme for their **ECO** cap composting pods? (I haven't noticed any so far...).

The **Pet Food** programme is supported by 5 different companies who generously accept plastic pet food packaging from **ANY** brand. We receive significant quantities of **cat** food pouches each week (thank you!), but very few **dog**-related items - pouches, treat bags and dry food wrappers...? Come on you dog owners!!

In case you are unable to spend time studying the detailed information posters displayed above the collection bins (I know it always rains on Fridays!) you can still view them via the **TerraCycle web** pages at <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades> (But remember Ali is not a member of **ALL** these programmes, only those 18 or so listed on one of our posters.)

Chris Hawkes & Paula Gibbons



Silchester Village Hall

Report from AGM



The 95th AGM for the Village Hall was held at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th February 2021. The meeting was conducted on Zoom, a first for the Village Hall and 16 people participated including the Trustees. Apologies were received from 6 people who were unable to join us. We are very grateful to all those who joined in the meeting.

The Chairman of the Board of Managing Trustees, Steve Spillane, welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented his report for the year from March 2020 to date. It has been a challenging year as the Hall was closed for much of the time, with a partial re-opening from September. Nonetheless, the Hall has had to be maintained and managed throughout the whole period as we had to be ready for a time when normal activities and events could be resumed. The following are the highlights from the reports presented by the chairman and treasurer at the AGM:

Covid

The Hall was closed when lockdown was announced, although the caretaker carried out regular checks in the Hall to ensure everything remained in good order. Coming out of lockdown we went through a variety of hoops to understand and plan for the implementation of the new Covid regulations. We produced method statements and risk assessments to cover the requirements, produced a new set of hiring agreements and met with regular users to explain what our responsibilities were and what theirs were in relation to the Covid regulations. For example, any users operating in the Hall had to have their own risk assessment to cover their participants and activities.

Finance

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have been very supportive in providing grants to help us and our hirers through this difficult period. We received various grants totalling £14,000 and this reflects the importance that BDBC attaches to the provision of the services and facilities made available by the Village Hall. This has enabled the Trustees to work with our tenants to support them, where it has been feasible to do so, with rent concessions. Although we saw a big reduction in rental income due to the Covid restrictions, the various grants and the payment of the balance of grants for cost incurred in the previous year for the roof refurbishment, meant that the Hall has produced a small operating surplus.

Detailed accounts are available on the Village Hall website.

Trustees

All the current Trustees have agreed to stay on the Board for another year. Manda Davies, who is the preschool manager, volunteered as a trustee. Manda is also a trustee of Pamber Heath War Memorial Hall and brings a lot of experience of running halls and preschools. She was voted in at the meeting and we are delighted to welcome her onto the Board of Managing Trustees. We are very grateful to everyone who gives of their time and energy to keep the Village Hall at the centre of our community. We are all looking forward to brighter outlook soon.

Fund Raising

At the end of February 2020 we held the first ever Silchester Fine Dining Society dinner in the Village Hall. This was a great success and was very well supported and enjoyed by local residents.

We are grateful to those who, not only supported the event but also gave direct financial sponsorship. The meal was superb, prepared by chef Peter Allison, a Silchester resident, who, we are delighted to say, has joined us a trustee of the Village Hall. More than £1000 was raised for the Village Hall funds. Following the successful launch of the SFDS it was hoped to hold further fine dining events but these plans have had to be put on hold, along with other planned events. We all hope that some sort of normal service will be possible later this year. The regular monthly Bonus Ball continues and also contributes to our funds. Thank you to Theresa Philpot for running this activity.

Chairs

The new chairs went down very well with hirers until the Covid restrictions banned the use of "soft furnishings". We brought out the old plastic chairs we had stored for outside use. These could be easily cleaned before and after use.

The Cherry Trees Preschool

The Preschool closed at the start of lockdown in March and did not re-open until September 2020. At present they are only operating 3 days a week. The Trustees have used some of the Covid grant money to help Cherry Trees through this difficult time. The staff have been a great help in getting maintenance done and are currently re-decorating the clubroom.

Phoenix Club

The Phoenix Club managed a socially distanced meeting in September where the guest speakers were our local PCSOs. We think the capacity of the main hall socially distanced is 20. It seems likely that the 2 metre distancing rule will remain in place for some further time which restricts the kind of activities that can take place in the Hall.

Maintenance

We continued to maintain the Hall in terms of electrics, heating, and fabric.

Silent Soldier

We re-installed the Silent Soldier in time for Remembrance Sunday, and at popular request we have left it in place and the very low wattage lights on a timer.

Planning Inspector's Hearing

The Planning Inspector is hoping to use the Hall on 27th/28th April for the Travellers appeal.

New Ideas

Once normal life resumes, we hope to run some new events for the community. Ideas include a regular lunch club, more markets and weekly coffee mornings. These suggestions were well received at the meeting and we hope to be able to start planning soon, when we will be asking for volunteers to assist.

Thank You

Finally, the chairman thanked the trustees and all the residents that have so kindly supported him and the Village Hall during the last year. It has been a challenge, but the future is already starting to look more hopeful for a return to business as usual.

Liz Pearce (Secretary)
liz@silchester.org

Parish Council News

Bramley Solar Farm

We expected the February meeting to be busy with the focus of discussion being the Solar Farm planning application. Over 40 participants attended the virtual meeting making it our busiest Zoom meeting to date.

Statements concerning the planning application were made by representatives including the Solar Farm Residents' Group, the Chairman of Bramley Parish Council, our Borough Councillor, Cllr Mahaffey, and the applicant, Enso Energy. After listening to the points raised and having read the large number of planning documents each Parish Councillor presented their comments and advised of their decision. After very careful considerations it was unanimously agreed to object to the planning application.

The council's objection letter submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BCBC) included 11 detailed areas of concern in respect of application. In summary of these concerns, we felt the overall scale of the project would destroy the character and visual amenity of the landscape. In our view the proposal demonstrates a lack of understanding of both the nature of the countryside between the settlements of Bramley and Silchester and the use to which that countryside is put. The full letter can be obtained from the BDBC planning portal or by contacting the Parish Clerk.

The Common

Contractors have finished work on the Common for this winter. They have cleared over 7.5 acres of silver birch and gorse scrub maintaining the open habitat of the heath. The work funded through our Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ELS) with Natural England, preserves the structural diversity and age composition of the vegetation on the Common.

2021 is the final year of our 10 year agreement. However, because of the good work our volunteer work party has done for many years, combined with the effort from contractors and help from our Dexter herd, Natural England with our consent has extended our agreement for another year. The council will now decide whether to put the Common into the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme which replaces the ELS or see if we are able to extend our HLS agreement for a further 12 months next year.

Borough Council's Town Centre Survey

Town centres across the UK have, and continue, to experience the effects of changes in shopping habits. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that high streets across the country are facing even more significant challenges, such as a decline in footfall and shop closures.

Although Basingstoke town centre has had success in attracting investment and new retailers in recent years, BDBC is developing a strategy for the town centre area to ensure it offers an exciting shopping, leisure and cultural experience for years to come. They cannot however do this without hearing from you. As such they want to understand what you need to make your town centre a better place. They are asking for residents to undertake a short survey of questions about your experiences of the current town centre. This survey can be accessed at www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk

www.silchester-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Contact Details

Our primary point of contact is our Parish Clerk

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

We continue the tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

St James the Least of All

On how to deflect those staff appraisals

The Rectory,
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned upon - although I have been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the organ fund and they will immediately excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

Your vicar is also bound to want to see the congregation increasing. This is not sustainable, and you should put a stop to such ambitions at once. It is easily done. All you have to do is to approach your friends at the local football club and bribe them with your homemade beer to come along to church several Sunday mornings in a row. If you give them enough beer BEFORE the service, they will be likely to make just

enough muted disruption as to leave your vicar a bit rattled, and thinking that perhaps after all, 'less' is 'more' when it comes to the congregation.

But whatever you do, make sure that you never preach a better sermon than he does. You don't want anyone thanking you at the door for your 'so interesting

sermon' in front of him, when they have been sleeping through his sermons for years. If you offend the vicar this way, he will take swift revenge, and ask you to organise the parish summer fete.



Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Calleva Society

TRAVELLER APPEAL FOR LAND OFF CULHAMS MILL, SILCHESTER REF 3210244

We now have the details of the final decision process regarding the Travellers Appeal. The result of this process is that the Travellers will either be given permission to live on the site or denied planning permission and access.

The Inspector has proposed, instead of a full Inquiry, 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 in Silchester Village Hall on 27th/28th of April 2021. The hearing is open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

This proposal has been accepted by all parties and the Inspector will require written depositions from all parties by the **16th March**. This includes representations from local residents.

Basingstoke and Deane (BDBC) will be writing to residents who previously complained or live near the site to formally notify them of the procedure and provide associated dates.

The Planning Inspector will make her **final decision** on the outcome of this appeal following the hearing on the **27th/28th April 2021**.

CALL TO ACTION:

The unauthorised occupation and development of the water meadow off Culhams Mill first took place almost four years ago! It has been a long hard slog since then by many people within our community. However, largely through the solidarity shown by residents of Silchester and Little London, we have managed to ensure that occupation of the site has, thus far, been prevented.

We are now on the last leg of this and we hope that, with one final effort, will put an end to this dispute once and for all.

The current Inquiry process is being held by the Planning Inspectorate for England and Wales (sometimes known as PINS). This operates independently from the BDBC planning

process and the original objections through the BDBC planning portal are not automatically carried over.

As such, whilst the original planning application received 248 objections, the Planning Inspector has only received on 53 thus far. If you still feel strongly about the development of the water meadow at Culhams Mill into a 13 pitch caravan site for Travellers and Gypsies and would like your voice to be heard then we encourage you to register your objection.

Instead of (hopefully) hundreds of you writing to the Inspector with our template or your own letter, you can sign up in support of our objection at the link [Here](#). The details to be collected are Name, Address and email. We will then pass these on to the Inspector.

You can still send your own letter or use our template (available [Here](#)) by email to Mr Ben White, Case Officer.

TeamE3@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The PINS appeal reference for this is "Appeal Reference 3210244: Land at Rampiers, Little London Road, Silchester".

All submissions should be made by the 16th March 2021 at the latest.

As before, there is no need for objections to come from just within the community; they will be considered from wherever they are submitted as long as the grounds for objection refer to relevant planning considerations (reflected in the template). Objections are not per household and therefore all adult occupants can individually object. We genuinely believe that the end of this saga is finally in sight and we would like to encourage all residents to make a final effort to stop this unauthorised development once and for all, by objecting and attending the hearing.

*Steve Spillane and Simon Mahaffey
and the team
Calleva Society*

Email callevasociety@gmail.com



Whitchurch Silk Mill

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 (see below). 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

Ripping Yarns and Objects in Focus

We hope you've been enjoying our continuing digital media 'Ripping Yarns' videos, including the ones about Glad Rags and Shoddy by local celebs Mike Bushell and Paul Sartin. Nowadays something described as 'shoddy' means it's poorly made or done, but the term is actually an example of early recycling, dating back to at least 1813. Shoddy was an inferior wool yarn originally produced in West Yorkshire by grinding woollen rags into a fibrous mass and mixing this with fresh wool to create a new, cheaper cloth. It made clothes much more affordable and also created a huge demand for rags and waste wool. Shoddy came to mean 'second rate' or 'cheap and nasty' when less scrupulous cloth manufacturers began adding shoddy in their weaving process but passing the cloth off as top quality made with new wool.



We're very excited to announce that future Ripping Yarns will include one presented by 'Antiques Roadshow' expert Lars Tharp.

Also soon to come will be a new series focussing on objects in use around the Mill, such as the weaver's bench. Further announcements will follow.

Blogging from the Mill

We're currently creating blog posts on various subjects, historical and otherwise. Watch this and our digital spaces!

Beamed Off!

Are you looking for things to fill long lockdown days? Did you enjoy our many creative ideas videos last year? Or did you not know about them? They are still available via the 'Beamed Off!' section of the Whitchurch Silk Mill website.

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 - 01256 892065 - www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Bramley Solar Farm Planning Application Update

Since our last article, Bramley and Silchester Parish Councils have now formally considered the question of the proposed mega 'Solar Farm' - twice the size of Silchester.

On 19th January **Bramley Parish Council** voted to object to the proposals. Concerns included the loss of high-quality agricultural land contrary to the Local Plan; increased risk of local flooding; damage to the vista; close proximity to Bramley Frith and to Minchens House, a listed building; disruption to the local road network, especially by heavy lorries using Minchens Lane during construction.

The Residents Group was shocked to learn that Bramley had already lost 60 hectares (150 acres) of greenfield land to development since 2010. Given the pandemic and national lockdown, loss of this greenfield site and two well-used footpaths would be devastating: they are vital in maintaining residents' mental health.

On 1st February **Silchester Parish Council** voted **unanimously** against the application raising similar objections to Bramley PC, including the harm 'panels' would cause to open countryside. There was concern this land would thus be changed from 'open fields' to 'industrial land' following the Solar Farm's 'end of life'. There is serious risk that land would be reclassified as 'brownfield', leading to further housing development.

The applicant - ENSO - spoke at the Silchester meeting about the benefits of solar farms (see application on Basingstoke Council website) but failed to persuade the councillors. They questioned ENSO's credibility, in particular flagging their poor public engagement, the 'stunning lack of detail' around screening and queried the necessity for this 'Solar Farm': a joint 5th largest site in UK when smaller sites have the same energy output.

Both meetings discussed biodiversity, despite there being some benefits from leaving such an area "dormant" for 40 years. ENSO's offer of dormouse and bat boxes - something we would expect landowners to do as a matter of best practice. There are also concerns this project would enclose 200 acres of greenfield land with 2.2 metre fences impacting the deer population. It would destroy the hunting ground of local Red Kites, a protected species. ENSO's application fails to recognise these issues and instead makes offers: a forest school (there is already one at Bramley Frith); a nature reserve without plans to manage it; solar panels on Silchester Primary School where roofs may not take such loading.

Our key messages remain unchanged:

- This development, the size of 140 football pitches, would **blight our countryside** and close the gap between our two villages.
- **Say 'no' to:** development on prime agricultural land, much loved green space and pathways, heritage assets with evidence of Roman remains
- Remind Basingstoke Council that there are infinitely **better brownfield sites**, an example being Bramley Camp
- **These fields are essential to wildlife**, good for agriculture, immensely valuable to our communities.

This prime agricultural land should **not be taken for granted** by such a developer. It is already attempting 12 similar projects on greenfield land across the UK and has shown minimal

consideration for Silchester in its poor community engagement. ENSO has a questionable trail of 23 barely existing companies.

Two Parish Councils have objected to this development. CPRE, the countryside charity and over 200 local residents have already registered their opposition on Basingstoke Council's planning portal. The final decision has yet to be made.

We need you to tell Basingstoke Council that this proposed solar farm is the wrong size, in the wrong place, delivered by the wrong company.

How to object - see [here](#) - please visit our website, Facebook page, or contact us via email.
If you have another viewpoint you wish to discuss, please get in touch - we welcome debate.

The Solar Farm Residents Group
Steve Spillane and the team
Email solarfarmresidentsgroup@gmail.com
Web Site www.solarfarmresidentsgroup.co.uk



Phoenix Club

Under normal circumstances this would be a write up of our February meeting but sadly these are not normal circumstances!

For those of you who don't know we normally meet in the Club Room of the Village Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month apart from January. We have a variety of speakers and other activities usually including a garden meeting, a Christmas lunch (at the Calleva) and a summer meal further afield.

Last year we managed to meet four times. In February we had an art session with Kayleigh Notman which we all enjoyed and in March we had a very well attended talk by Sandi Smithers about her 'Ride the Rift' charity cycling adventure. Sadly after that Covid kicked in & we had to suspend our programme. Ten of us met (socially distanced) on the field in August for drinks & cakes from the Cafe (thank you Suzi & Jane). In September we met in the main Village Hall to allow 2 metre distancing when 20 people heard a presentation from our PCSO Emma Page & trainee Hannah Clapham.



Many of our cancelled speakers from last year have said they will be happy to entertain us in 2021 so please check the Magazine for further details when Covid restrictions are lifted.

Everybody is welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish. There is no membership fee. Just £2 a session to cover tea/coffee & biscuits and the hire of the Village Hall.

If you would like to know more about the Phoenix Club please contact either Jan on 01189700416 or Ann-Marie on 01189700627.

Jan and Ann-Marie

Free Gadgets Engineered for People in & around Silchester

The pandemic hasn't stopped the volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers from making equipment and gadgets for people with disabilities or special needs. Among the projects recently completed locally by the charity Remap have been:

- Specially-padded bathroom steps to help a six-year-old with the rare RERE Syndrome get in and out of the bath.
- Long-reach window-opener for a woman who finds it impossible to stretch up.
- Wooden extensions to the legs of a dining table so a wheelchair user can sit comfortably close.
- Conversion to the wheels on a walker to allow it to be used on soft ground.

The 25 volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers at Remap Berkshire enjoy using their skills to create custom-made equipment and gadgets for people in the county who have disabilities or special needs and who cannot find anything suitable to buy.

This 'MakeAbility' service is entirely free.

Panel members have a wide variety of expertise between them, ranging from IT and electronics, to metalwork, carpentry and 3D-printing - the list is endless.

Remap Berkshire engineers often work alongside health professionals like occupational therapists, physiotherapists, doctors or Special Educational Needs staff to make sure that the equipment provided safely meets individual situations.

Remap Berkshire has assisted people in all age groups with a wide variety of issues. Some 'MakeAbility' projects are simple, others extremely challenging - all can make a real difference to the recipient's quality of life.

Each piece of equipment is tailor-made to suit specific needs. Many of the materials used are recycled, but some have to be bought using funds kindly contributed from sources including charitable foundations, Rotary Clubs and community groups. Although no charge is made to users, many are so pleased with the service that they choose to make a donation to facilitate projects for others.

The MakeAbility service has continued throughout the pandemic, with all necessary precautions being taken.



Remap Berkshire is one of 70 county 'MakeAbility' groups spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The charity (reg. no. 1137666) was founded in 1965 and assists around 3,000 people every year.

Further information:

Remap Berkshire can be contacted in complete confidence:

07790 127123

berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk

www.berkshire.remap.org.uk

If you would like a Remap Berkshire speaker to make a Zoom or in-person presentation at your Club, Group or healthcare team, please call 01491 671998 or email

berks.publicity@remapgroups.org.uk - There is no charge.

To find out more about volunteering with Remap, please visit:

<https://www.remap.org.uk/volunteering/making-equipment-for-people-with-disabilities/>





**The
Disability Forum**
Basingstoke & District

Disability Awareness Day

Friday 26th March 2021

**A FREE virtual event
hosted by Basingstoke & District
Disability Forum (BDDF)**

**Showcasing local disability charities,
support groups & services**

**For more info visit - www.bddf.org.uk
facebook.com/bddforum
email: info@bddf.org.uk or call: 01256 423869**

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) - your local disability charity wants to reach out to you and keep you connected if you do not have access to technology.

As with most charities and businesses, BDDF adapted quickly to the Covid pandemic in March 2020 by swiftly moving our services online and concentrating on fun and interactive activities. They are all free and enjoyed by our members who have the technology to access them.

Our Lockdown 1 members' survey reinforced that the 'digital divide' exists between 'the younger generation' and those of our members who are either 'older' and/or living with a disability. Fifty percent of respondents admit they lack confidence and/or don't have access to internet / technology.

With 75% of our respondents citing the biggest challenges they faced during Lockdown 1 were around psychological distress, mental health, social isolation and loneliness, it supports our concerns that confidence and access to digital equipment is leading to increased feelings of isolation and mental health issues.

What we can offer:

- If the barrier is around confidence / know-how we can help you use your personal devices;
- Our newsletter can be posted out to you;
- A regular 'care call' to say hello and see how you are doing, with one of our volunteers;
- Disability signposting service, connecting you with what is out there to assist you with your queries;
- Our walking clubs for health and social interaction - as soon as they are permitted to resume;
- Family friendly Scarecrow Trail around Chineham and Sherfield Park on 24th/25th July;
- Face to face support groups / coffee mornings (again when allowed),
- Our weekly seated yoga class is currently online only, but will be back in person when possible.

Our activities are free and fully inclusive. If you want to know more about any of our work please call 01256 423869, it is a voicemail, leave your details (home address, name & telephone number) and we will contact you.

If you can receive emails, and want to know more - please email our friendly team on info@bddf.org.uk.

Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees



How to stop stress getting the better of you

With the third lockdown, too many of us are facing a torrent of stress over job insecurity, home schooling, isolation, illness, or all of the above!

Stress makes us want to eat badly, exercise less and drink more. It also has a profound effect on our immune system.

While brief or 'acute' stress can spur us on to some specific achievement, the opposite is true of 'chronic' stress, which does only damage. It suppresses our immune system, making us more susceptible to bugs. That is why a stressful event can leave you feeling run down, or trigger a bad cold, shingles or asthma.

So how do we give our immune systems some help during this crisis?

Eat well. A balanced diet includes at least all six plant-based food groups: fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legume, nuts and seeds.

Exercise every day: regular moderate exercise helps your immune system.

Get enough sleep. It has been called "the foundation of the immune system." Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and keep devices, laptops or screens away from you for an hour before bedtime. Instead, stretch and relax, and consider a hot shower or bath.

Finally, don't be mean to yourself. Practise some self-compassion. Give yourself some private time, forget perfectionism, and accept that 'sometimes half-good is good enough.' Be kind to yourself - because even that will help your immune system.

Wild Wetlands

'Wetland' can be a confusing term because the habitats it describes are so varied. A pond in your garden is a wetland, albeit a small one, but so is the vast floodplain of the Pantanal in South America for example. Wetland is a general term for any area that is at least partially submerged or flooded with water, either permanently or seasonally (which can feel like everywhere after we have had a lot of rain!). Ponds, lakes, marshes, mangroves and estuaries are all wetlands.

Wetland habitats are important in a number of ways. They provide a habitat for a huge range of wildlife including many threatened species, with an estimated 40% of the world's wildlife living and breeding in wetlands. Locally, this could be water voles,

kingfishers and otters, all making a comeback as we restore their wetland homes. These habitats also reduce flood risk and control other effects relating to climate change like stopping temperature fluctuation. Some wetlands - mud flats and peat bogs especially - are great at capturing carbon from the atmosphere. And if that wasn't enough, they also help purify water by filtering out pollutants.

And of course, for many of us wetlands provide access to nature and wild spaces, boosting mental and physical wellbeing.



Kingfisher © Garry Prescott

Despite all the many benefits they provide, wetland habitats are disappearing. Not only are they being drained and destroyed to make way for development, but humans are also using more freshwater than ever before. We use (and waste) far more than the planet can replenish, putting pressure on wetlands and adding to the

effects already being felt due to climate change. Luckily, the tide is starting to turn, with some of the biggest wetlands in Europe now being managed for conservation and wildlife. There is still a lot of work to be done, especially stopping the pollution of rivers and streams and stopping the colossal waste from leaky pipes and loos.

Wetlands are a vital part of a connected and healthy landscape with thriving wildlife populations, the work to leave our wetlands in a better state than we found them must continue.

*Claire Thorpe
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*



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

Movement over mind?

Exercise can be just as effective as mindfulness when it comes to reducing your stress and anxiety. Such is the conclusion of a recent study at Cambridge University.

Mindfulness is a form of meditation which involves focussing your thoughts and sensations, and it has become popular in recent years. But now Cambridge University experts say that it should not be assumed that meditation will always have a positive impact. Instead, people

can reap mental benefits from physical exercise.

As one doctor said: "The main message here is, don't assume mindfulness will work. We have much more evidence for the mental and physical benefits of physical exercise."

Last year it was found that people who exercised for 30 to 60 minutes at a time, for two to six hours a week, recorded the fewest days of poor mental health per month.





Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of this lockdown?

Why not join one of our Zoom lectures? We are the Basingstoke branch of the Arts Society and we have moved our program of monthly lectures from Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall to Zoom during lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from Arts Society registered lectures on a wide range of topics. We are inviting anyone who is interested to join us at these lectures which are live on the third Wednesday each month at 10.45am. Lectures last for an hour and there is opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

Previous lectures

Our January lecture was about the artist Frida Kahlo - 'Recollections of a Life of Canvas' given by Sian Walters

Our February lecture was 'Fakes and Forgeries' the Art of Deception, given by a former police detective, Michael Kenwood.

We also had a study day at the end of February to learn in more depth about 'Music in Art' by Peter Medhurst.

Next lecture on 17th March at 10.45 am

'The art and Culture of Fin-de- Siecle, Vienna' given by Gavin Plumley.

At the turn of the last century Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting artistic laboratories in the world. It produced painters such as Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Oscar Kokoschka, architects like Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffman, the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the composer Gustav Mahler and the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.

This lecture looks at these and other figures in the context of the society in which they worked and asks how and why the City of Dreams became a cultural hotbed around 1900.

Do join us on 17th March for non members the lecture costs only £5...to register visit:

theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk



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Planning ~ February 2021

<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u>		
1	20/03403/FUL - Site At Minchens Lane Bramley Installation of renewable led energy generating station, comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays, battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/ transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping biodiversity enhancements including a Forest School, associated car parking and Nature Area	
2	20/03410/HSE - Frith View Ash Lane Little London RG26 5EL Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of front extension and study added to first floor rear extension	
3	20/03517/HSE - Acre Stables School Lane Silchester RG7 2NJ Erection of single storey front extension	
4	20/03593/RET - Land At Brickletons Farm Clappers Farm Road Silchester RG7 2LG Change of use of land used as a farmyard manure store for use as storage for ground maintenance company	
5	T/00023/21/TCA - Portway Holly Lane Silchester RG7 2NA 1) Eucalyptus (1 off) - fell. 2) Conifer (3 off) - fell.	
<u>Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*</u>		
1	T/00537/20/TPO - 2 The Butts Silchester RG7 2QD T1 - Norway Maple: fell.	No Objection Granted
2	20/03286/TWRN - 26 Hydes Platt, Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU 2 Oak trees: prune back.	No Objection Granted
3	20/03285/TWRN - 27 Hydes Platt Silchester, Reading, RG7 2PU Fell 1 Oak. Prune back 1 Beech.	No Objection Granted
<u>Notifications*</u>		
1	None	
<u>Pending Applications*</u>		
1	20/02343/FUL - Macartneys The Common Silchester RG7 2NS 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	No Objection
2	20/02943/FUL - Haskers Farm, Clappers Farm Road, Silchester Conversion of garage and stores to 1 bedroom dwelling to provide accommodation for retirees, associated landscaping and access	No Objection
3	20/03222/FUL - White Bungalow Ash Lane Silchester RG7 2NL Erection of 3 no.dwellings following the demolition of existing bungalow and associated structures and change of use from recycling yard to residential use	No Comment
4	20/03264/FUL - Brookside Grange Bramley Road Silchester RG7 2LN Erection of a lifetime home with bin store/cycle shed	No Objection
5	20/03498/GPDAG - Silchester Farm Little London Road Silchester RG7 2PS 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)	No Objection

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

All in the month of MARCH - It was:

1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great) decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.

1600 years ago, on 25th March 421, that the city of Venice was officially founded when its first church was dedicated at noon.

300 years ago, on 24th March 1721, that Johann Sebastian Bach dedicated six of his concertos to Christian Ludwig Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt. They are now commonly known as the Brandenburg Concertos.

200 years ago, on 19th March 1821, that Sir Richard Burton, British explorer, writer and translator, was born. He was noted for his translations of *The Arabian Nights* and the *Kama Sutra*.

150 years ago, on 27th March 1871, that the first international rugby union football match was held in Edinburgh. Scotland beat England 1 - 0.

80 years ago, on 28th March 1941, that Virginia Woolf committed suicide, aged 59. Author of *To The Lighthouse*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *Orlando*, and *A Room of One's Own*, among others, she was one of the leading modernist writers of the 20th century.

75 years ago, on 5th March 1946, that Winston Churchill gave his famous 'Iron Curtain' speech in Fulton, Missouri. He used the term to describe the separation between Soviet and Western countries.

65 years ago, on 23rd March 1956, that Pakistan became the world's first Islamic Republic.

60 years ago, on 6th March 1961, that George Formby, the 'ukulele king' died. A British comedian, singer and actor, he was best known for his comic songs, including 'When I'm Cleaning Windows'.

50 years ago, on 8th March 1971, that the 'Fight of the Century' took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Two undefeated heavyweight boxers fought each other for the world title, with Joe Frazier defeating Muhammad Ali.

40 years ago, on 29th March 1981, that the first London Marathon was held.

30 years ago, on 21st March 1991, that the British Government announced that the controversial Poll Tax (officially called the Community Charge), which had sparked riots, was to be scrapped and replaced by a new property tax - the Council Tax - from April 1993.

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

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

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Please contact us at

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

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

Would you like to subscribe to this magazine?

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

Subscription to the magazine is now £8 per annum for 11 issues. Seniors are £5.

Copy should be sent to editor@silchester.org

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

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	Em Paddick Wilsdon	0118 970 0542
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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: Tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SILCHESTER MAGAZINE

Editors	John & Claire Richardson	E mail: editor@silchester.org
Distribution/Printing & Advertising Managers	Nancy & Marsden Jones	0118 970 0546 E mail: nancy@silchester.org

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/ Rosemary Evans	0118 970 1055 0118 970 1070
Silchester Association		secretary@silchester.org
Silchester Welcomers' Group	Jan Hughes	0118 970 0416
Silchester Players	Tim Oliver	0118 981 9134
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 - Kirstie.jones5@btinternet.com	0118 970 1481
Guides, 1st Silchester	Della Raven	0118 970 1627
Scouts - Aged 6-17		info@silchesterscouts.org.uk
Scouts - Adult Volunteers		info@silchesterscouts.org.uk
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 - emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk	
Library	Tadley Library	0118 981 4602
Village Hall and Club Room	Bookings : Vivienne Hartshorn	0118 970 0940
Secretary		secretary@silchestervillagehall.org.uk
Village Market	Paula Gibbons: info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk	0118 970 0999
Dial-A-Ride Community Transport		01256 462101
Age Concern	Chute House, Church St, Basingstoke	01256 840553
Hospice Shops	Chineham Shopping Centre	01256 331888
	Mulfords Hill, Tadley	0118 982 0888
Helping Hands - Community Shop	Franklin Avenue, Tadley	0752 713 7778
Citizens Advice	Franklin Avenue, Tadley	03444 111 306
Swimming	Tadley Swimming Pool	0118 981 7818
Buses	Hampshire Bus Company	01256 464501



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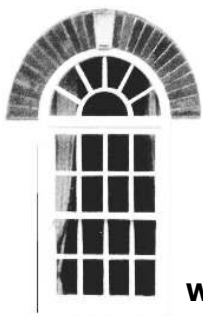
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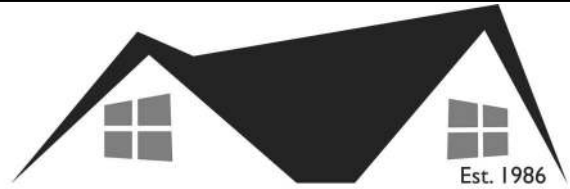
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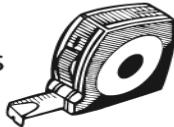
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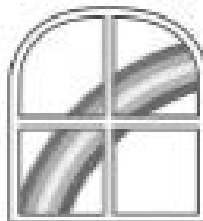


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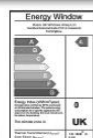


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