The Silchester Association

Chairman's Report

April 2016

The Silchester Association has been very active during the year , organising a large number of events designed to foster a sense of community. We have made donations to various Village organisations and we have tried to be true to the Objectives that were agreed at the AGM this time last year.

A large proportion of the 2014/5 Committee stayed on as Members at the last AGM and this has made things much easier in terms of continuity and delivering the Objectives of the Association.

An immediate benefit was that, after the 2014 Fun Run had to be cancelled due to the lack of someone to lead it, John Davis stepped up to be Chair of The Fun Run Subcommittee and with Pauline Davis and Tracy Hart organised the event in May last year. The Tadley Runners helped enormously and it was a great day for all. John has assured us that this year's Fun Run on the 7th May will be even better.

Last year, Paul Baker put in a enormous amount of effort into organising The Picnic on the Green for the August Bank holiday. Sadly, the weather warnings were such that the event had to be cancelled. You will be glad to hear his work was not in vain and we are using a lot of his ideas, notes and contacts to organise a celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday on the 12th of June. A lunchtime street style party on the Common , with everyone bringing their own tables, food and drinks and with games and entertainment for all the family. Put the date in your diary and organise a table with your friends.

Derek Monger did a great job organising another successful Beer Festival in September with a wide selection of beers and ciders. This year's event is planned for the 10th September.

The Bonfire Night is the biggest event in our calendar and we had a massive turnout last year of over 1200 people. This year it is planned for the 5th November, but we are looking for a person to Chair the Sub-committee for this event. Paul Baker, last year's Chairman, has had to stand down, but he has left a detailed plan and notes that he will be pleased to share with whoever takes over. There is a great team of people behind the scenes who take up the organisation of the different areas of activity, whether it is setting up and lighting the fireworks, selling drinks, marshalling the crowds, building the bonfire , etc. Too many to mention you all, but thank you.

In October, we organised the annual Boundary walk around the Parish Boundary. A wonderful day out with a chance to meet old and new friends, with Howard Wilkinson giving us insights into parts of Silchester most of us never see or know about.

Alan Fairhurst took over the role of quiz master from Tony Stanley and we had a great Quiz Night in January and Professor Fulford gave another fascinating talk on the archaeological work done in the area last year.

Following on from the Silchester Art Exhibition in March last year, Lesley Brewin has coordinated a Craft Exhibition which is being held here tomorrow from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Please pop in, have a drink and enjoy the demonstrations and see some of the skills of people in the Village.

As well as organising the events and talks mentioned above, the Silchester Association has helped to further its objectives by making contributions to various organisations in the Village for specific projects and to help improve amenities.

A big thank you all the Committee members who have helped the Association to achieve its Objectives during the year. To all the people who have joined the various sub committees of their interest to make the individual events happen. To Steve Spillane and Tracy Hart for updating the Website and Facebook page. And thank you to all who have helped out on events whether marshalling at the Fun Run, collecting wood for the Bonfire or pulling pints at the Beer Festival. It could not happen without every one's support.

We are very fortunate to live in a Village that is so active and vibrant and we look forward to another successful year for the Association.

Thank you

Simon Brewin - Chairman