**SILCHESTER ASSOCIATION TREASURER’S REPORT 2015/2016**

I am pleased to be able to report that the total cash assets for the Association for the year to April 2016 stands at £14,728.63, just over £100 higher than this time last year. In addition to this healthy position we made donations totalling £1,866 and made capital purchases costing £1,386. More detail on these items later.

We didn’t hold a Fun Run in 2014 so Trail Fun Run 2015 was a “new” event for us and the first event of this FY. The Fun Run sub-committee comprises members from SA, Tadley Runners and Silchester Pavilion and they did a great job of seeking “promotional” funding from local businesses. £700 was raised along with sponsors for bananas and bottled water. The event was very successful with 254 entrants, lots of spectators and returned a large profit of £1,983. Well done to John Davis and the Fun Run members. In light of these profits, and in agreement with Tadley Runners, a donation of £1000 was made to the Pavilion committee.

Our next new event was going to be the Picnic, on August Bank Holiday Monday, which was conceived as an SA funded “free entry” event for villagers, parents and kids with fun, games, music and classic cars display. Much time was spent preparing for this event, unfortunately, “Mother Nature” stepped in with heavy rain and strong winds. Sadly, we had to cancel the event on the morning of the Picnic. Thanks must go to Paul Baker and the sub-committee for all their efforts. Costs incurred were £405, however, £100 of this spend was on kids games that we hope to re-use for the Queen’s 90th Birthday event this year. We were able to sell most of the purchased drinks at our other events.

The 5th Beer Festival was enjoyable and successful. We had great beer, good food and two excellent stage bands and we made a profit. Thanks to Derek Monger, Simon Brewin and the team for a great night. Profit was £175.65 which was much lower than 2014, primarily due to a lower attendance. The 2014 festival was a sell-out of all 250 tickets and returned a large profit but the high attendance did result in a **very** full hall. This year’s attendance was 170 people, down by 80. This was more comfortable in the hall and on the dance floor but financially close to breakeven. Fingers crossed for 200 attendance this year; that would be a nice compromise!

Bonfire Night, on 7th November, is the BIG event of our year with a huge financial commitment of over £6000 and is always good for giving the sub-committee a few sleepless nights. This year we had more than our fair share of “curve balls”. First, the date we chose clashed with a new unexpected Lion’s Club event in Tadley that was extensively advertised and offering lots of extra attractions. Could we compete…would our attendance be down? Secondly, we had a scramble to organize First Aider cover when the usual Red Cross staff were all booked up. Could we use our own First Aider trained volunteers? What else could go wrong? With less than two week to go, we received a phone call from Kimbolton Fireworks company informing us they had had a break-in at the warehouse and ALL our rockets had been stolen! Finally, on the day, when we were setting–up “Mother Nature” popped up again with heavy rain and winds. However, our luck did change as the wind dropped and the rain stopped in the late afternoon. The catering van was towed out of the mud it had got stuck in, the Private hire (expensive) First Aiders arrived and the crowds did not let us down. Our worry about competition was ill-founded as we had over 1200 loyal people attend, roughly comparable to the 2014 attendance, and we made a substantial profit of £3,180. This year, we outsourced the food catering which probably cost us around £500 in profit but it saved us a great amount of catering team effort and gave more us more food choices. We concentrated effort on the drinks sales with new items - Mulled Cider, Soup and canned drinks. Overall drink sales contributed £500 to the profit which is up 17% on 2014. We also sold 10% more Glowsticks. In the end a great night. Thanks go to Paul Baker and the sub-committee and all the many volunteers who helped in so many ways. A very special thank you must go to Michael Stephens of the Fireworks team who gave up a day of his time to drive to Kimbolton in Cambridgeshire and collect the newly remanufactured rockets without which the Fireworks display would have been a “damp squib” !

In January 2016 we held the Quiz night which was a great evening and returned a good profit of £438. Thanks to Alan Fairhurst who set the questions and hosted the event. Professor Fulford’s interesting Roman Talk evening in February returned a profit of £165.48.

Special Events. In 2015 we hosted a Village Market meeting for traders and interested parties when the future of the market was in doubt. This cost us £53.96.

Donations. Looking next at our support of other village organizations and events. In addition to the £1000 profit share with the Pavilion committee we donated £300 to the school PTA for Leaver’s Memories Books, £216 to the 2nd Silchester Brownies, £100 towards Ken Batt’s leaving present, £150 to the Parish Council for War Memorial Heather replacement, and £100 to the relaunched Silchester Market.

The Association’s other expenses. The major items are our Public Liability Insurance which was £1724.97 but for 15 months cover up to January 2017. The **annual** premium has actually stayed the same as we paid in 2014. We spent £1386.39 on capital items and repairs with the major items being:-

* 2 heavy duty gazebos (£600)
* repairs to the large trailer (£300)
* low-power waterproof lighting (£200)
* storage and security improvements (£150).

To finish this FY with a balance sheet so comparable to 2014, considering the high spends on donations, insurance and capital goods, I would conclude that 2015/2016 was overall a good year financially for the Association.

Commitments on the account for next year….. The committee has agreed to set aside £300 per annum for the next 4 years to provide £1200 in 2018 to purchase a bench to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. Total set aside now stands at £600.

We have offered to donate £500 to the Village Hall towards the cost of installing a new Sound system with Hearing Loop capability.

David Westwood – Treasurer.

5th April 2016.