

The Silchester Association

Chairman's Report

April 2018

The Silchester Association (SA) has had another busy year, organising an eclectic mix of events from small to large designed to foster a sense of community and for everyone to enjoy. We continued to make donations to various village organisations in support of the Association's objectives.

The main Committee membership stayed mostly constant from previous AGMs and this has made things much easier in terms of continuity and delivering our programme of activities. We are, however, always looking for new members to help ensure continuity in the longer term.

Our Objectives

- To encourage all aspects of Silchester village community life
- To engage with other local groups
- To foster the rural character and amenities of Silchester village and Common
- To raise and retain sufficient funds to deliver these objectives

Events this year

	Month	Cost	Sales	Balance	Attendance
Fun Run/ Trail *	May	-£2,742	£6,432	£3,689	500
Beer Festival	September	-£2,725	£3,196	£471	210
Photographic Exhibition	October	-£272	£0	-£272	140
Boundary Walk	October	-£43	£0	-£43	32
Go Daft for Daffs.	October	-£244	£0	-£244	56
Bonfire and Fireworks Night	November	-£6,177	£8,963	£2,786	1300
Quiz Night	February	-£157	£405	£248	81
Prof Fulford Talk	March	-£104	£232	£128	63
Totals		-£12,464	£19,228	£6,763	2382
*sales includes sponsorship					

Communication improvements

Richard Cartwright through Silchester Mail Ltd has taken over the management of the Silchester.org email system and any queries relation to the use of Silchester.org should be addressed to him. This service is run for Silchester residents on a 'not for profit' basis. The basic email service is provided free of charge for Silchester residents and can either be used as a full mailbox system or as a forwarding address to an existing email account. A premium service is also available for a small annual charge (currently £15 per year and discounted to £10 for Silchester residents), which offers a larger capacity mailbox and the ability to view your mail across different devices.

With the input from Dollia Design the SA created a new website this year and there is an opportunity to look at the history of Silchester, the Silchester Association past and future events, Silchester Organisations, to ask to have links added to your organisation's website, to request an email address or add your name to the volunteer list for our events.

We also have a Silchester Association Facebook page that is regularly updated and Twitter feeds. The Fun Run and Beer Festival also have their own Facebook pages.

So we leave the year with old and new events organised and enjoyed and more up-to-date ways of communicating with our Silchester Association members and others who may want to attend our events.

David Westwood, our Treasurer, will provide a financial balance sheet for the SA. But I would just like to show you where we have donated money this year to various organisations in the village in support of our objectives and commitments we have made for next year to local groups and to the SA.

Donations made

Donations		
Date	Beneficiary	Amount
02/05/2017	Community Book Swap	£ 50
22/05/2017	Donation to K Chapman leaving present	£ 50
13/06/2017	School PTA - Year Books	£ 300
13/06/2017	Pavilion Ground Maintenance	£ 1,250
05/10/2017	Half cost of Defibrillator Case	£ 203
05/10/2017	Playground Upkeep	£ 750
23/10/2017	2nd Silchester Brownies-Community Meal	£ 150
14/11/2017	Tadley Scouts	£ 75
06/11/2017	Village Hall donation for advertising	£ 49
03/12/2017	Village Christmas Tree	£ 200
27/03/2018	Pavilion Infrastructure Projects	£ 750
27/03/2018	Playground Equipment Purchase	£ 750
	Total	£ 4,577

Commitments for 2018/19

- SA asset replacement and insurance
- IT support
- WW1 Remembrance bench installation
- Young People
- Pavilion Committee

Thank Yous

A big thank you to all the Committee members who have helped the Association to achieve such good results during the year. I would like to pay tribute to John and Pauline Davis, who are standing down from the Committee, who have both been committed and enthusiastic supporters of the Silchester Association for many years and without whom the Fun Run would not be on the firm footing it is today. - pun intended!

Thank you also to all the people who have joined the various sub-committees to make the individual events happen. Thank you, again, to all who have helped out on events whether marshalling at the Fun Run, collecting wood for the Bonfire, making the Bonfire and turning out to clear up afterwards or pulling pints at the Beer Festival. **It could not happen without everyone's support.** Thanks also to:

- Our sponsors for the Fun Run
- Nick and Bidy West for their annual donation
- Silchester House for the use of the paddock for Bonfire and Firework Event
- Steve & Irene Spillane and Derek & Hilary Fawcett for allowing us to use their facilities
- Parish Council for granting permission to run some events Fun Run and Go Daft for Daffs
- Pavilion Committee for supporting the Fun Run
- Silchester School for the use of their hall for the Photographic Exhibition
- Calleva Arms for supporting the Beer Festival and Fun Run
- Spike, Erica and Jess Fairhurst for the Quiz Night
- Village Hall Trustees for maintaining the Village Hall which we use 3 times a year
- *Anyone else I have forgotten*

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

Thank you.

Sara Westwood

Chairman

Silchester Association

13/4/2018

Appendix

Diary of Events from our website

May 2017

7th May Fun Run

We didn't get quite such a lovely sunny day as last year but the rain held off and the wind didn't quite take any of the gazebos away! The 5 mile race started at 11am and the first runner was crossing the finish line 30 minutes later – is that a record? This year we staggered the races a bit more and the 2.5-mile race set off 20 minutes later with some impressive running in this event too especially from some of the juniors. We had nearly 500 entries this year and once again we had prizes for different categories in each of the races. See next page for the race results. Well done to the Fun Run sub-committee along with all the helpers from the Tadley Runners and the Pavilion section and a special big thank you to all the volunteers from the village who helped out on the day with marshalling, registration, timing, catering, etc. We couldn't do it without you.

September 2017

9th September Beer Festival

Andy Hartley, Derek Monger, Spike Fairhurst and Hannah Monger did a great job organising another successful **Beer Festival** that had a wide selection of local beers and ciders. We didn't sell as many tickets as last year but those that attended drank more and stayed longer We estimated about 200 people attended tasting 10 beers and 4 ciders. The winning beer was from our very local brewery, Little London's Night Porter followed Little London's 29K and Bond's Bengal Tiger. The winning cider was again Tutt's Clump.

October 2017

7th October Photography Exhibition

The Silchester Association held its first **Photography Exhibition** in the hall of Silchester School, organised by Lesley Brewin. It featured the work of seven local photographers whose interests ranged from wildlife to landscapes, portraits, candid photography and even some aerial and astro-photography. The winners of the School's summer photography competition were on display and illustrated the talent of some of the youngsters. To add a little contemporary slant to the competition all their photographs had to be taken using a mobile phone and the theme was "summer". The winners from each year group were:

Year 6 – William Jenkins

Year 5 – Aaron Baverstock

Year 4 – Oscar Dixon

Year 3 – Samuel Plackett

Year 2 – Thomas Seymour

Year 1 – Harry Dixon

Reception – Darcey Reynolds

An additional attraction to the exhibition was the huge display of old photographs – some of which had been printed from the village archives and some loaned by villagers. A big thank you is due to Mick Oram for loaning a selection of his photographs for the exhibition. They offered a fascinating insight into what life in Silchester was like in days gone by. The event attracted 140 visitors to see the photographs and enjoy the teas and cakes provided by the School's Fair Trade group.

15th October Boundary Walk

We had a large turnout this year for the annual **Boundary Walk** with 32 people and 8 dogs starting from the Village Hall car park for just under an 8-mile walk around the parish boundary. This walk takes us along some well-trodden paths across the Common and through the Roman site but also on some less well known paths through wooded areas and fields and across the railway line. Rob Young said a short prayer at the start.. Howard Wilkinson once again led the walk and regaled the group with snippets of local history on the way. The walkers were blessed with lovely weather and the autumn colours through the forests were beautiful. It is not often that you can have lunch outside in comfort in October but a lunch stopover was enjoyed at Brian & Debbie's at Haskers Farm for a welcome rest and the traditional glass of wine. As always, the walk gives you a chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones along the way. Thanks to everyone for joining us and to Steve Spillane for driving the back up vehicle.

29th October "Go Daft for Daffs"

I organised a new event this year with the snappy title "**Go Daft for Daffs.**" Residents with young families and local youth groups joined with members of the Silchester Association Committee and Parish Councillors to plant 1000 native daffodils in the locations agreed by the Parish Council. Feedback from the Brownies and Guides was very positive with the children having a lovely morning even if the digging in some areas was a bit of a challenge. The wet and cold winter has not helped our new bulb plantings but some daffodils are definitely up in new locations.

November 2017

4th November Bonfire and Fireworks Night

The **Bonfire and Fireworks Night** is the biggest event in our calendar and we had over 1300 people attend this year. The Pumpkin competition had some really imaginative entries and the fireworks were amazing as ever. Simon Brewin headed this Subcommittee for the first time and was assisted by the strong experienced team on the subcommittee. On the night about 50 volunteers turn out to help and we are indebted to them because without their help the event could not be run. There are many people to thank for all their hard work and effort but I must give special thanks for those who lead parts of the main event, Nick Robey on fireworks, Chris Lee for bonfire construction, David Westwood for electrics and treasury, Andy Hartley for communications, Sarah Roper for catering.

And last but not least to Simon Brewin for stepping up to lead the event. Simon is not available this year and we are advertising a vacancy for the post of bonfire team leader.

February 2018

24th February Quiz Night

We had a sell-out for this year's **Quiz Night** with 15 tables booked in advance and sadly we had to turn people away in the last week. It is really great to see so many people supporting our events and is a tribute to Spike and Erica Fairhurst's hard work in putting together the questions and Spike with Jess acting as Quiz Master for the night. There was barely room to move in the village hall and the competition was fierce with a race for the finish. In the end the "KFC Delivery Team" won with 80.5 points, only 2.5 ahead of second placed "Tequila Mockingbirds" who in turn were only 1.5 points ahead of third placed "Saga Louts". We had some innovative table decorations this year with train sets and campfires and Mad Hatters but the prize for the best dressed table went to "Pyeong Silchang 2018" who had a model ski run laced by pine trees in the centre of their table.

As always, the questions were challenging but the first round in which we were asked to choose whether a statement was made by the President of the United States or Buddy-the Christmas Elf was quite concerning as many of the teams failed to spot the difference!

Our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped with the event and also to many of the competitors who stayed on to help clear up the tables and chairs - that was so much appreciated!

March 2018

16th March Roman Talk

Professor Fulford gave another fascinating talk in March on the archaeological work done in the area last year. He focused on new temples, Nero tiles and Little London tile works, a few animal skeletons and Ancient Briton ditches and banks in and around Silchester.

28th March First Aid Course

First Aid course for 12 people provided free by the SA, so more people in the village are better trained to deal with unexpected medical problems.