

The Silchester Association

Chairman's Report

April 2019

This year has proved quite testing for the Silchester Association Committee. We had to find new storage facilities when Derek and Hilary Fawcett left Silchester Farm. We lost Derek as a very valued member of the Committee. Simon and Lesley, who are stalwarts on the Committee, had personal commitments that took them away from the village for several weeks. We needed to recruit a new bonfire leader and a stand-in bonfire catering manager in a year when Silchester House booked two weddings back to back in the week the bonfire event took place necessitating very detailed planning and adherence to tight time schedules to get everything on site in time. We also needed a new recruit to coordinate the Boundary walk, as it happened, on a day when the rain came down in biblical proportions!

However our events, though fewer in number, went off mostly without problems and the Committee were able to give the WWI Remembrance bench to the Village Hall Trustees in time for the Centenary Commemorations in the village and make several donations throughout the year to village organisations in support of the Association's objectives, which are:

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

2018/2019 Events

| | Month | Cost | Sales | Balance | Attendance |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Fun Run | May | -£3,590 | £6,535 | £2,945 | 440 |
| Beer Festival | September | -£3,036 | £3,558 | £522 | 221 |
| Boundary Walk | October | £0 | £0 | £0 | 7 |
| Bonfire and Fireworks Night | November | -£6,129 | £8,957 | £2,828 | 1300 |
| Quiz Night | February | -£182 | £415 | £233 | 83 |
| Prof Fulford Talk | March | -£135 | £381 | £246 | 100 |
| Totals | | -£13,072 | £19,846 | £6,774 | 2151 |
| | | | | | |
| *sales includes sponsorship | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Social media

To keep the village residents up to date about the SA activities our website has run smoothly throughout the year. A monthly report is written for the Silchester magazine. 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.

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 and the future commitments/offers made for next year.

Donations

| Donations made | Amount | | |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| Youth Organisations | £ 1,647 | | |
| Village Hall | £ 1,546 | | |
| Pavilion | £ 1,500 | | |
| Playground | £ 1,050 | | |
| 60th Anniversary of the Village Magazine Event | £ 208 | | |
| Village Christmas Tree | £ 200 | | |
| Silent Soldier | £ 100 | | |
| Future Commitments to Donations | | | |
| 2019 Match Fund Offer to Playground Committee | £ 2,000 | | |
| 2019 Christmas Tree | £ 200 | | |
| 2019 Community Meal | £ 150 | | |
| Total | £ 8,601 | | |
| | | | |
| Nick & Biddy Donation | £2,500 | | |
| | | | |

Thank Yous

A big thank you to all the Committee members who have helped the Association this year. I would also like to thank members of the subcommittees who work tirelessly pre events to make sure things are in place and the events do actually happen. Thanks to Jon Saltmarsh who led the Bonfire event. Thanks to Clare Payne from the Silchester Striders who coordinated the Boundary walk. Thank you, again, to all who have helped out at events (over 110 people) 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, Derek & Hilary Fawcett, Sophia Ruck and VH Trustees for allowing us to use their storage facilities
- Pavilion Committee for supporting the Fun Run
- Calleva Arms for supporting the Beer Festival and Fun Run
- Spike, Erica and Jess Fairhurst for the Quiz Night
- Mike Fulford for his annual Roman talk
- Chris Edwards for making the concrete base for the Remembrance bench
- *Anyone else I have forgotten*

Finally

This is my last report as Chairman and David's last report as Treasurer. After many years as volunteers, 5 years as Committee members, 5 years as Treasurer for David and 2 years as Chairman for me we have decided to step away and let others step up to the plate. It has been an enjoyable experience but we now want to concentrate on our projects that have been somewhat on the back burner for the last five years. So once again thanks to the Committee and everyone who has continued to make the SA the success it has been since 1972. Long may it continue.

Best wishes to all,

Sara Westwood

Chairman

Silchester Association

12/4/2019

Appendix

Diary of Events from our website

May 2018

Silchester Association Fun Run - Saturday 12th May 2018

The Silchester Fun Run took place on Saturday 12th May at the end of one of the hottest spells of weather we have seen for some time. In the end we were relieved that the day was a bit cooler and the runners set off at 11am under starters orders and our new chip timing system. We hope everyone enjoyed the event and being able to access their times immediately after the race. We were very happy to see our resident priest Rob Young taking part proving that life goes on at 70! We had one dropout near to the start when Paddy (the dog) decided that racing was not for him and refused to go on and then suffered the indignity of being led back to the field by one of the marshals but everyone else persevered complete with prams, small children and dogs. A big thank you to all our sponsors and also to Barrie Tribe, Chairman of the Tadley Runners, for presenting the prizes. The Tadley Runners have supported us and helped to run this event for several years now and we really appreciate their help. Congratulations to the winners and to all the runners who took part. A total of 411 runners took part this year. The day was rounded off with two birthday celebrations for Rose Nash who had just turned 65 and young Tommy Oliver who was celebrating his 4th birthday

September 2018

Beer Festival Saturday 8th September 2018

The 8th annual Beer Festival was held on Saturday 8th September 2018 with a great turnout of 220 people. We had a great selection of beers from Longdog Brewery, New Wharf Brewery, Little London Brewery, Wild Weather and Bond Brews and ciders from Tutt's Clump and Crazy Dave's Cider and we did a pretty good job in drinking most of them.

The winning beers as voted by you were:

1. Breakfast Stout from New Wharf
2. Luvly from Little London
3. English IPA from Longdog

The best cider/perry was Tutt's Clump Traditional Farmhouse Perry

We had a change of tempo with the main band this year as we welcomed the Clique Duo as well as singer songwriter, Zach Johnson who played earlier in the afternoon. This year we had a very popular raffle with prized donated by all our breweries - thank you to them all. Suzi and Jane were once more in charge of the catering and kept us all fed with tasty curries and pork rolls. As always we are dependent on all the volunteers who turn out to help make the event run smoothly and we would like to thank all of them especially those who turned up for the heavy work in setting up the night before and clearing up on Sunday.

October 2018

Boundary Walk 14th October 2018

Thank you Clare for taking on this event and showing such fortitude in completing it! This is her report.

“Waking up to torrential rain on the morning of the Boundary Walk was not the best start to the day. But, after a few hurried email and telephone exchanges, showing true Silchester community spirit, it was decided to go ahead with the walk. We had a small turnout of 7 people and 1 dog. Rob Young blessed us all and we headed off just after 11.30am. Across the Common and through the Roman site, even across a railway line, making sure no train was coming of course! A massive thanks goes out to Howard Wilkinson for leading the walk and regaling us with some really interesting snippets of local history along the way. Thanks to Brian and Debbie at Hasker’s Farm for allowing wet dog, wet boots and damp walkers into their kitchen to eat lunch and enjoy a glass of wine. Despite the weather, everyone was in great spirits and a lovely time was had by all. We do really have some beautiful footpaths around Silchester. Thanks to Steve Spillane for doing a great job of being our wine carrying back up vehicle. Same time next year!”

November 2018

4th November Bonfire and Fireworks Night

Jon Saltmarsh who led this year’s event for us writes, “Saturday 3rd November dawned dry but windy and at 11am precisely a team of volunteers arrived at the Silchester House paddock to prepare for this year’s firework display and bonfire. By 4pm they had built an enormous bonfire, complete with a Guy provided by the brownies, prepared the firework launch area, set up catering, first aid and entrance tents and wired the grounds with lighting. We were ready to go. Around 1300 people attended this year’s fantastic, family friendly, fireworks event. As ever the pumpkin carving competition was hard fought with 10 excellent entries. We are very grateful to our judge, Reverend Rob Young, for rising to the challenge and selecting three worthy winners

1st place pumpkin Harry Savill from Pamber Heath

2nd place pumpkin Freddie Savill from Pamber Heath

3rd place pumpkin Abby Faulkener from Aldermaston

Congratulations to all three

With **Hott Mess** providing a hog roast, burger and hot dog stall and strong demand for mulled wine and cider from the drinks tent the crowd was well looked after while they waited for the main event. The bonfire was lit on the stroke of 7pm and within minutes had grown into a roaring inferno. Half an hour later, everyone was treated to a spectacular firework display. Silchester bonfire and fireworks is organised by the Silchester Association and raises money to provide financial support for Silchester based organisations and events. The event couldn’t go ahead without a huge number of volunteers who give up their time to plan, prepare, deliver and clear up again afterwards. A massive thank you to all of you (you know who you are) for your support and hard work. Also many thanks to Silchester House for letting us use their grounds and managing to fit our preparations in around a number of weddings taking place at the house.”

Many thanks to Jon, members of the SA Committee, Bonfire Subcommittee and all volunteers who, through their generosity of giving their time, effort and enthusiasm, make this event possible. The event may run for 2.5 hours but it takes weeks of hard work both before and after the event to make it happen and this year I'm not holding back to single out David Westwood for his outstanding contribution. This could be the last Silchester Bonfire and David has been there planning, setting out electrics, helping with equipment transport and setting up, getting soaking wet and clearing up on the Sunday for over twenty five years and in the last four years has had the Treasury and Insurance responsibilities as well. Thank you David, you are a Silchester Association hero.

February 2019

Quiz Night 9th February 2019

Another sell out and another great Quiz Night was held in the village hall with a packed house – even one team on the balcony. We're really sorry to have had to turn away several teams from this event but there is a limit to the numbers we can safely seat in the hall. If you missed getting a table this year, please book early next year. The elevated position on the balcony must have been good though as this team – the 'Saga Louts' leapt into the lead in the first round and held onto it to the end.

The final results were:

- 1st place The Saga Louts 86.5
- 2nd place Norfolk 'n' Chance 79.0
- 3rd place The Pampered Heathens 78.5

The wooden spoons went to 'Paradise Lost' who had a wonderfully colourful table and looked to be having a wonderful time! The best-dressed table award went to the 'Odd Balls' who had recreated a rugby pitch complete with the six nations flags in the middle of their table. Spike and Erica Fairhurst did an amazing job in putting together all the question rounds – it's a huge amount of work and we really appreciate it – thank you. We would also like to thank Sarah Houseman and Hannah Monger for giving up their evening to come and do the scoring for us.

March 2019

Roman Talk 29th March 2019

Professor Mike Fulford gave another fascinating talk in March on the archaeological work done in the area last year. He focused on latrines and baths. Complex hypocaust heating systems were uncovered and many items dropped in and around the baths and latrines were found.