

Silchester Magazine

bitterness selfishness
revenge patience derision
abuse generosity greed
scorn goodwill peace grudge
avarice love care hope emnity
malice joy forgiveness
hatred consideration loathing
disdain goodness sneering
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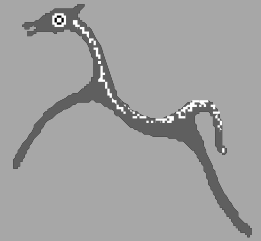
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Silchester Magazine

June 2020



A Short Story Challenge

Last month Rob issued a challenge to all readers of this Magazine, including himself, whatever their age, children to wrinklies:

The challenge is for us to write a short story of up to 1000 words to be submitted electronically to silchesterstory@gmail.com by the closing date for the next Magazine and for a selection of the stories to be published in the Magazine over the coming months.

One entry is below - a short story by Isla aged 7. A different style of item can be found on page 6.

It would be wonderful if more people submitted items - on whatever topic - fiction or non-fiction - so please do consider sending something in to us - we are grateful to Isla and Mike for getting the ball rolling for us!

Geronimo Ginger by Isla Brewin

Once upon a time there was a cat, not just any cat, but a ginger cat with stripes, and not just any ginger cat with stripes, it was a talking cat named *Geronimo Ginger*.

Geronimo lived in a big house, 5 stories high! It had about 12 rooms. Each room door of the big house had coloured stripes on them with the colours blue, green and purple.

One day Geronimo went to the market. The automatic doors immediately opened, and Geronimo stepped in. He bought bananas, apples and different candies.

He finished shopping for the day and went to the counter to pay for the bananas and candies. However, when he pays for the apple, he sees his wallet.

"Oh no!" he cries, "It's empty! What shall I do now!"

Then an idea pops up into his head.

"Please wait there Miss" Geronimo said politely.

As quick as a cheetah sprinting at full speed, Geronimo runs to the bank.

Eventually Geronimo collects the money and goes to pay for the apple.

Geronimo Ginger was exhausted! As slow as a slug, he trotted back home where he sat on a lounge chair.

In the end, he watches some TV.

And that was the story of *Geronimo Ginger*!



Isla Brewin is 7 years old, and lives in Singapore. She wants to be a children's author when she grows up. This was her first published book, and the first in the *Geronimo Ginger* series. "A dramatic, and exciting adventure for a little cat, couldn't put it down." - Dad



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Can I join with others in thanking those who have somehow kept community life going over the past weeks:

The VE Day celebrations

The Fun Run

The various Zoom groups

Those who shop or collect prescriptions for others

Those who call others up on the phone

Those who just "keep an eye" on others

Those who still plan and hold in reserve village events ready to be sprung out on the community as soon as circumstances allow

The Thursday night clapping which brought the neighbours out

The social distance front garden coffee mornings

Those who have kept our essential services running, not the least being the postmen, the Open Reach workers, and the refuse collectors

Silchester School

And of course, those who work in health and social care

And so on and so on!

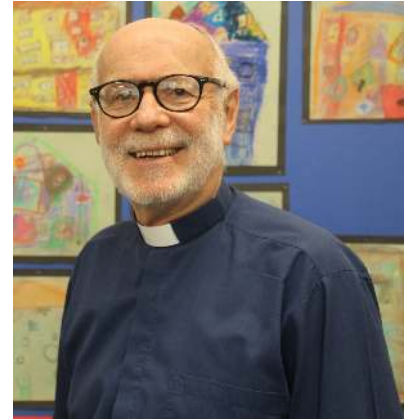
THANK YOU

We are fortunate living in a community like this and we must never take it for granted. It doesn't "just happen". It takes hard work, thoughtfulness, investment in time and money, and commitment when sometimes we would prefer to be doing something else. Often it takes sacrifice. Sounds like hard work, doesn't it? And often it is, but worth it even if sometimes it feels like it is taken for granted.

Yet in amongst what we have to celebrate as a community I suggest we need to be even more aware of how life has changed for so many. The loss of loved ones - Andrew Chandler and Philip Pearce to name but two; the shielded with no clear respite in sight; those whose jobs seemed to have disappeared; the anxiety about return to school and work; economic hardship; the knock-on effects on health, and many more concerns. There will be many who, figuratively speaking, will need sweeping up in the loving arms of our community (social distancing style) and shown support for much time to come.

As we tentatively return to some kind of normality, at St Mary the Virgin the situation at the time of writing was unclear. But like everyone else I have a "Road Map". The first stage has already happened in that one authorised person (me) is now allowed back in the church building for prayer, or recording services (on my own) and keeping an eye on the fabric. The church remains locked at all other times. I anticipate the second stage will be the church being opened, all or some of the time, for private prayer but we will need the government and the Diocese to

agree for that to happen. The next stage may well be the reinstatement of some kind of Sunday services in church with social distancing and some degree of protection in place, hopefully an organ but probably no singing. I am not at all clear at present about how or when we are ever going to get back to "normal". One thing is for sure, we will continue to need help with keeping the church open (the security rota) and with regular cleaning, and given the shielding requirement and age of some of the regular helpers, new offers of help would be appreciated.



In the meantime the 10.00am Sunday Morning Zoom Services will continue and may continue for a while, even when services in Church restart, as there will still be those who are shielded, others unable, or hesitant to re-

engage with others, and others who just like it! - the Zoom reference can be picked up from the church web site and services subsequently found recorded on YouTube.



Service sheets are sent out regularly so if you would like to receive them and are not already on the list please email me. Another way of joining our mailing list is to go to our website and fill in a subscribe form with your name and email address: -

<http://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/contact-us/receive-news-emails/>

The e-bulletins inform on news, events, fund raising, activities and Zoom services, so you can share this link to anyone who wants to join the list. We will only use this information to send church news to you according to our Privacy Policy (Note you can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the link at the bottom of every email).

In the Benefice we are already discussing how we might be able to continue some on-line services after normal service starts to return because across the Benefice the on-line services have clearly been welcomed by many who have not always found our church services accessible for various reasons. We will keep an eye on government and Diocese advice and decisions and let you know what is happening as soon as possible through the mailing list.

So let's continue to show our appreciation of each other over the coming weeks remembering in the words of a recent Sunday Morning Zoom reading that as we move into this hopeful yet at times anxious period "Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for YOU" (1 Peter 5:6-11).

Rev Rob Young Resident Vicar St Mary the Virgin Silchester robwyong101@gmail.com



In the Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester

Prayers

In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne
The Son of God who ever cares
Who walks with us, we're not alone.

Though flood and pestilence should come
He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.

Megan Carter

A prayer for Trinity Sunday...

Shield me

O may God shield me, and may God fill,
O may God watch me, and may God hold;
O may God bring me where peace is still,
To the King's land, eternity's fold.
Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

From The Creed Prayer,
'Poems of the Western Highlanders'

The cattle grazing

Smooth pastures, long, and wide to roam,
Beneath your hoofs, rich meadowland,
Friend God the Son to bring you home
To fields where springs eternal stand,
Fields where springs eternal stand.

From 'Poems of the Western Highlanders'

Planted in the love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father
You can grow, dear one,
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit
His fruit you'll show,
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,
And the thorns threaten,
And the storms around life's garden blow -
Your roots will hold,
And hold secure,
Because you're planted in the love of the Father.

Daphne Kitching

Poems

A poem in honour of 'Zoom' and weekly 'virtual church'

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay
We don't dress up or do our hair
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

Nigel and Carol Beeton

During the lockdown, we were forbidden from driving to
beauty spots. I wonder what the birds make of it all?

Titwillow

(With apologies to WS Gilbert)

On a tree by a river sat little Tom Tit
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.
His mate fluttered in and beside him did sit,
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.
"Oh, where are the people?" bewildered, he cried,
"Tis many a day since a soul I have spied"
"I think," said his wife, "they're all staying inside!"
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow".

"I do like the quiet, I do like the peace!
"Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow,
"But find myself wondering why did they cease
"Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow?"
"The people in hundreds of cars they all came
"Especially when there was no sign of much rain,
"The weather's so nice, it seems such a shame!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

"I think I can tell you!" - she'd a smile on her beak,
Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,
"For I saw some people last Saturday week,
"Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,
"They stood in a group, they were flying a kite,
"Along came a police car with lights flashing bright,
"It seems the Old Bill gave those people a fright!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

A buzzard, above them, then uttered his 'mew'
Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow.
As quick as they could off to safety they flew,
Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow!
Arrived at their nest then our avian pair
Correctly concluded what caused human scare:
"They're frightened of critters that fly in the air!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

Nigel Beeton



Silchester Players

Sadly the activities of Silchester Players remain dormant during the current coronavirus crisis.

As reported in the last magazine, our intention had been to defer "The Tempest" until the autumn. However, reluctantly we have taken the decision to stage no further productions this year. Even if gatherings in Silchester Village Hall are permitted in the autumn (which at present seems unlikely), due to the current social distancing restrictions we would not be able to hold rehearsals or to prepare scenery, lighting, etc.

We will take a decision in the autumn as to whether or not it will be feasible to produce our annual pantomime over the last weekend of January/first weekend of February 2021. This very much depends on official guidance. It will not be viable for us to stage a production unless we are able to have normal seating arrangements to accommodate an audience of approximately 100 people.

We very much hope that productions can resume next year. We still regard "The Tempest" as postponed but until the present uncertainty is over we cannot set definite performance dates.

The current restrictions also mean that our social activities have been curtailed. A walk followed by lunch in The Calleva had been planned but was postponed due to the very wet weather in February. We were due to hold an event to showcase this season's productions in June together with our AGM. Normally every summer we hold a Silchester Players barbecue and then Christmas dinner in December.

This is not to complain, as defeating Covid 19 must be a priority and the safety and well-being of our members and audiences must always come first, but is an indication of how active we normally are throughout the year.



As with other organisations, an AGM is necessary to comply with our constitution.

We need to arrange for committee elections, to approve accounts and take a vote on any expenditure. This year, for the first time in our history, will be we will be holding a socially distanced AGM. This will take place using Zoom and will be held on Friday 26th June.

We also have one sad piece of news. One of our long-standing members, Len Drinkall, passed away recently. In the last 10 years Len occasionally helped out backstage but prior to that he was a regular member of Silchester Players acting ensembles. He was popular with both colleagues and audiences and appreciated for his fine comic acting ability.

In our archives we hold a press report from Spring 1991 reviewing our production of Patrick Cargill's comedy 'Don't Misunderstand Me'. In this play Len played the part of Charles, a married man who is caught on the hop when a lady with whom has had a brief liaison on a business trip to America unexpectedly turns up. The press report says: Len Drinkall didn't look the part of a Romeo - one pictures a Donald Sinden type character in this role - but he justifiably earned many laughs as Charles.

We send our condolences to Len's family and will be making a contribution to charity in his memory.

Take exercise for even half an hour a day - and lower depression!

Here is some good news for us all: if you are feeling low, get moving. A recent study at Harvard has found that even just half an hour of exercise a day can lower the risk of depression by 17 per cent.

So - even if you have to 'stay at home' at present, do a work-out in your living room, run around the garden a dozen times, or run up and down your staircase 20 times - anything to get your heart pounding and your body moving!

Lucy writes a letter - can you read it?

In 1837, Lucy Harrington (1795-1857), who went on to become wife to Rector Coles, wrote to her late sister Louisa's family in Enfield. Louisa had married CP Meyer in 1813 but died in 1822. Thanks to the Enfield Council Archivist, we have a copy of her letter, written in the *crossed letter* style.

Can you read it?



Figure 1 Letter written by Lucy Harrington (nee Boddam, later Coles) January 1837 (courtesy Enfield Archives)

A crossed letter is a manuscript letter which contains two separate sets of writing, one written over the other at right-angles. This was done during the early days of the postal system in the 19th century to save on expensive postage charges, as well as to save paper [Wikipedia]. The original is held, with others, in the Enfield Local Studies & Archive.

Revd John Coles (1787-1865) was Rector at Silchester between 1812 and 1865, with the Duke of Wellington as Patron, as in 1828 the Duke had bought Silchester Manor. Until the 1930s onwards, Stratford Saye estate owned a large amount of land around the church and within the village, including the Roman site of Calleva.

Lucy was the daughter of Rawson Hart Boddam of Capel House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middx, and was well-travelled around Europe. Her father and brother probably knew the Duke socially as both had seen government service in India. Lucy married Robert Harrington (1800-1835) in 1819 and was a widow when she married Rector Coles in 1844.

Lucy had written to her nephew, James Meyer, that "she has decided to marry 'the man' for she is afraid he might die of a broken heart if she doesn't". John Coles was a non-resident Rector from 1843, with many curates at the Rectory doing his daily duties. He owned property in Silchester as well as a house in Marylebone. One claim to fame is that he built The Crown, aka the Calleva Arms.

Mike Cole ~ Part of the Silchester Story

Silchester Methodist Church

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



We are meeting as a church on Zoom ID 4112933992 Password 146313 every Sunday morning at 10.30am with our friends from the Tadley and Mortimer churches. Anyone is welcome to join.

Sadly, all events at the church are cancelled for the next two months: Cream Teas, Sow and Grow, and Retreat Days.

We are all very sad at having to cancel the Holiday Club at the end of July which we run with St Mary's.

Many thanks to all those that bought plants, we are very sorry that we ran out so quickly.

We are trying to keep the garden round the church in some sort of order and all are very welcome to come, relax and enjoy the garden.

Olive Hiscock

Olive Hiscock passed away, aged 89, on 1st April following a short illness. Olive's life was one of service to the churches she attended throughout her life. A Youth Club leader and choir member at Thatcham Congregational Church in her early years. Following her marriage to Alan in 1959 she led Sunday School & played the harmonium at Little London Methodist Chapel. Later Olive became a member of Silchester Methodist Church where she continued to play the organ as well as enthusiastically joining in with many other activities in the life of the church. A long-time fund raiser for Action for Children, some of you will have attended the coffee morning each December. Olive was also a member of various local choirs, latterly Tadley Singers. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Silchester Methodist Church on a date to be confirmed.



Run Run Run!

Do you think of yourself as a runner? If not, now may be the time to consider taking it up.

According to the NHS, running burns more calories than any other mainstream sport, which is perfect if you want to shed a few pounds.

Running is a cardio exercise, which means it gets your heart rate up and your blood pumping. That not only improves your general fitness, but it is also great for protecting you from heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke.

Running also improves your sense of well-being because it releases natural endorphins, which are your mood-boosting hormones. And if you want maximum benefit, try running in green spaces - being out in nature has a measurable positive impact on your psychological health.

Don't be afraid to start slow. Remember that ANY fitness activity which raises your heart rate and gets you a bit out of breath is good for you. One excellent way to begin is to try alternating a few steps of running with a few steps of walking. That will help build your fitness levels in record time!

Go to <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/running-tips-for-beginners/> for the best way to get started.



People News

We hope you, your family and your friends and neighbours are keeping well during this difficult time.

If you or anyone you know needs 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

Tadley Hub (Tadley Town Council) 0118 9814538

If you are struggling to obtain groceries and basic necessities you can also organise help via Spotted Silchester on Facebook, or telephone Hampshire County Council - the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline - Hantshelp4vulnerable - on 0333 370 4000 (Calls charged at local rate).



We are so sad to report the death of Philip Pearce (Lt. Col. Ret.) who lived on The Common on 16th May in West Berks Hospital. Philip had been a big part of Silchester life for over 20 years. He was a big man with a booming laugh and a great sense of fun. He was a member of Silchester Association for many years bringing his military expertise to organising the marshals for the Fun Run and Fireworks events. He was the 'voice of the fete' for several years and had given many talks about 'the military' to a variety of audiences in the Village Hall. Philip thoroughly enjoyed everything in Silchester,

including dances in the Village Hall and the air guitar competition, quiz nights and Sunday evenings in the Calleva as part of 'Silchester Parliament'. His anecdotes from his military career, his time spent as a battlefield guide and his ability to mimic accents from around the world had his audience in fits of laughter. Philip had spent most of his life as a professional soldier, serving in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the British Army of the Rhine, and in the British Embassy in Washington as Deputy Military Attaché, as well as other postings worldwide. His last posting was as Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion The Queens Regiment. After retiring from the army, he joined Anglia Tours in 2001 and led dozens of tours for schools, adults and the military to France (he was bi-lingual), Belgium, Germany and Poland. He was a larger than life character who engaged and enthralled his audiences with his immense knowledge, charm and sense of humour. As a former soldier, he could empathise with the men whose stories he told so well and with a passion that made his audiences feel they were there. He had a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of young people that he took on tour, as well as his fellow guides.

His wife Liz has received many tributes from around the world including pictures from a Bhuddist temple in Bhutan showing a fellow ex-Sandhurst cadet lighting a butter candle for him.

Our thoughts are with Liz, and his children Simon and Caroline and their families who live in America and are unable to be here. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Liz has asked us to convey her thanks to everybody for their kind messages and cards.

Claire Macklin of Brickledons Farm celebrated a "Big O Lockdown Birthday" She says she had lots of surprises like a cake and a few socially distanced visits but the thing that made it very special was that her children and husband Stu had organised for all her friends and family to

make a short video saying how long they'd known her, where they met and how they would describe her. It was then all put together and made into a 46-minute video with 99 friends participating. To link it all they'd got everyone catching a toilet roll, talking and then throwing it on so it appeared that everyone was linked. It was really clever and she was very moved by it, she just couldn't believe that so many people had gone to so much effort. Claire says she certainly doesn't feel 50! and they will probably have a big bash next year as this year's party was cancelled.



Sophie Zaremba of Inhams Way celebrated her 90th Birthday in international style. Her daughter Lucy had arranged for a Zoom conference with her nieces in both America and Australia in the morning. In the afternoon over 30 friends and neighbours came out into the street to sing 'Happy Birthday' to her, followed by a spontaneous rendition of 'For She's a Jolly Good Fellow' and 'We'll Meet Again'. There were also cards, cake and flowers to complete Sophie's Lockdown Birthday.

Sue Hunt celebrated a 'Big O' Birthday on 22nd May. Although it wasn't the family celebration she was planning, her friends and neighbours helped her celebrate with a socially distanced coffee morning and a wonderful birthday card

organised by her friend and neighbour Jenny Gill with messages and best wishes from dozens of her friends, there was even a personalised rhyme and an age appropriate Pam Ayres poem. In the afternoon her daughter Jenny organised a delivery of an afternoon cream tea for Sue and husband Colin, and in the evening, they had a Zoom 'get-together' with their children Jenny, Alice and Tony and all of the grandchildren.

Sue has asked us to include the following in the magazine:

"I would like to thank everyone who made it such a special day for me. It wasn't how I expected to celebrate my 70th birthday but I had a very happy day - thanks to family, friends and neighbours (using social distancing and the internet). For now, I've decided that I will stay 69 for another year and will celebrate being 70 next year with the family gathering that we had planned to have this year! Thank you again for making this year so memorable".

Congratulations to Verity Lemm who is just about to embark on her 2nd year as an elected Sabbatical Officer for the University of Plymouth Students' Union. She works full time supporting students and helping create change within the University to make the students' experiences as fulfilling as possible. She will also remain as a Trustee of the Students' Union which works to ensure the Union delivers on its purpose for the students. Verity has also been selected to represent students on the University of Plymouth Board of Governors. This is a fantastic achievement and all her family are very proud of her.

If you have any news for the People News, happy or sad, please send details in an e-mail to peoplenews@silchester.org or telephone Ann-Marie on 9700627 or Irene on 9700996.



Silchester Association

www.silchester.org

As the main Silchester Fun Run had to be cancelled this year due to the Corona virus restrictions, the organising committee set up a virtual event instead.

This minimum of a 2.5 mile run or walk could be done anytime during the week of VE Day and could be anywhere that was compliant with the current regulations on social distancing - even in your back garden if you were confined to the house - taking inspiration from Captain Tom!

Everyone who completed the run during the week of 8th-15th May was sent a splendid VE Fun Run medal. There was fantastic support for the event with a total of 399 entries - with even one entry from Australia - so the Fun Run went international this year, showing the power of online events reaching a wider audience!

Of the £7.50 entrance fee, £5 was allocated to two deserving charities - the NHS Charities Together to support the work of the NHS during this crisis and to the British Legion to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day in Europe. Including a few generous donations we will be able to send £1,105 to each of the charities. Thank you everyone for supporting this event. It was a great team effort from the Fun Run Sub Group with Tracy's organisational skills' realising Steve's idea while Simon counted the money and postwoman Pauline distributed the medals with some help from her delivery boys Peter and John. It was no small achievement to set up a virtual event like this with everyone having to register online, send their payment and then record their run on a running app which was then sent back to the organisers to process (I also have to give a mention Simon for struggling to keep a check on all the payments and updating Tracy's spreadsheet!)



VE Day was going to be marked by a big village picnic on the field with entertainment and games but, like the Fun Run, this had to be amended. However Silchester doesn't crumble in adversity and in true 'wartime' spirit, houses were decked out in red, white and blue and small 'social distancing' tea parties were held on front lawns. Rob Young broadcast a morning service which he had pre-recorded and drawn in several



groups in the community to take part in it from their homes. At 6pm the old wartime siren was sounded in the village followed by a broadcast, over speakers scattered through the village, of the Silchester Community Choir singing "We'll Meet Again". Those unable to hear the main event were able to play the recording on their laptops in their gardens!



Looking ahead, we are still hoping to be able to hold the Beer Festival in September in some form even if has to be changed to comply with social distancing rules. We are looking at different options and formats and will take a decision closer to the time.

The Halloween Scarecrow Trail will go ahead in October half term week as it should be possible to do this even if strict social distancing is still in force. However the children's Halloween party is likely to have to take a different form this year. But October is still a long way off so hopefully things will be better then.

The Annual Boundary Walk will take place as usual in October so more information on that nearer to the date.

Meanwhile if anyone is still needing any help during lockdown, please remember that Silchester has a group of volunteers ready to assist.

If you need any help please call our Silchester Volunteer Group - Call or text

Steve - 07775547642 or Amy - 07877635387

Or email secretary@silchester.org

They will make sure that someone is available to offer you any help that is needed even if all you would like is a phone call and a chance to chat to someone.

For anyone new to the village who hasn't yet received their 'welcome pack' or anyone who isn't aware of what role the Silchester Association plays in the village, we have included our updated leaflet in the magazine this month.

Meanwhile stay safe and well and we look forward to times when we can all meet up again in the future.

The Silchester Association



@silchesterassociation



@silchester_org

*Photos by Pete Hughes
For more on this and other local events
please see www.silchesterlife.org*

Parish Council News

Parish Council Chairman

Paul Roper has taken the difficult decision to step down as a Parish Councillor. We wish to thank Paul for his time on the Parish Council (PC) and for being Chairman, particularly as he had only been on the PC for a short period of time before taking up the role of Chairman. This unfortunate departure has created a casual vacancy on the PC which we hope to fill by the co-option process at our July meeting.

Mike Baldock has taken on the role as Chairman. As I'm sure some of you will remember, this is his second tenure as Chairman, previously undertaking the role in the late 90's.

The Pavilion

Although no activities have taken place at the Pavilion, maintenance work has continued. The football pitch was fenced off and reseeded at the beginning of May and the Pavilion composting bin was replaced. A gentle reminder that this bin is for use by the groundsman and for grass clippings from the War Memorial only.

Zoom Meeting

Last month's meeting was our first ever digital meeting, hosted by Zoom. Members of the public were in attendance and all in all, it was a very successful meeting, though I think we all missed the usual after meeting catch-up in The Calleva. The next PC meeting is on 1st June at 7:30 p.m. and can be accessed using the ID:334-957-5506. There is no password as it is a public meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June. We usually hold this meeting in May, but unfortunately we can't hold this meeting digitally. Under new legislation brought in on 4th April, we can delay holding this meeting until lockdown restrictions are lifted and gatherings are allowed.

Richard Westwood

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
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

Planning

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/00861/HSE – 1 Romans Field, Silchester <u>Erection of single storey rear extension</u>	No objection
2	20/00876/HSE – Woodstock, Byes Lane, Silchester <u>Erection of front and rear extensions, alterations to the roof to form additional first floor living accommodation including raising of the roof and front and rear gables</u>	No objection
3	20/01018/HSE - Bournebrook House, Ash Lane, Little London <u>Erection of single storey rear/side extension incorporating swimming pool</u>	

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*

1	A notification was received from BDBC to refuse permission for Planning Application 19/01724/FUL – Land at OS 463360 161447 Bramley Road, Silchester.	Objection Refused
2	A notification was received from BDBC in respect of an Appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision of BDBC to refuse permission for the proposed development – 19/01663/HSE – Manor Farm, Wall Lane, Silchester.	No objection Refused Appeal Raised to Secretary of State
3	T/00087/20/TCA - 3 Lovegrove Gardens, The Common, Silchester, RG7 2PH <u>1 Yew tree: prune to retain as smaller compact specimen, prune back from neighbouring property and deadwood.</u> E-mail response received from BDBC regarding concerns raised by SPC in respect of Planning Application T/00087/20/TCA - 3 Lovegrove Gardens.	Objection subject to further information Granted

Notifications*

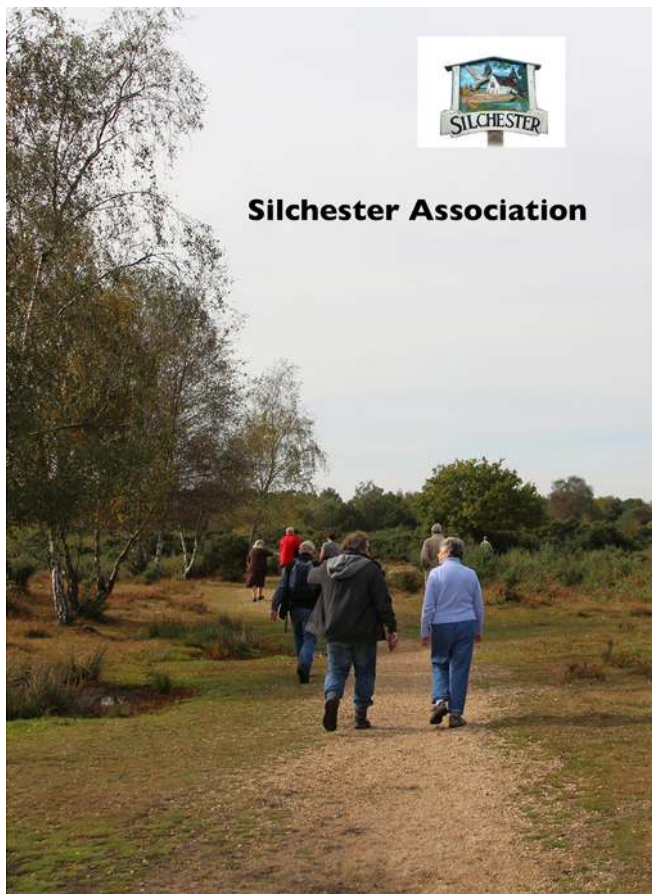
1	Notification received from BDBC of the Local Listing of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest in respect of Manor Farm House, Wall Lane - LL/SIL/024.	
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Pending Applications*

1	20/00297/FUL – Land at rear of Bridles View, Byes Lane, Silchester <u>Erection of 1 No. new dwelling with detached double garage and garden/bin/bike store</u>	Objection
2	20/00567/ROC variation – Wood Farm, Ash Lane, Silchester <u>Variation of Condition 1 of 19/00713/ROC to allow for amendments to plans to include revised swimming pool position, the formation of a tennis court, erection of a loggia and erection of a wall with gate between barn and proposed loggia.</u>	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.

Silchester Association



Silchester Association



The Silchester Association was founded in 1972.

Our aims are:

- 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



Today our main focus is on the social side and we have a team who organise a lively programme of events throughout the year.

Typical events are a Fun Run through the woods, a Scarecrow Trail, a Kids' Halloween Party, a very popular Beer Festival and quizzes, exhibitions, family events, walks and talks.

Everyone who lives in the village and the immediate neighbourhood is automatically a member of the association and is always very welcome at the events

How to Become Involved



- **Join the Committee. We are always looking for keen new people to join our team. We are a very friendly group and it is an excellent way of getting to the heart of village life.**
- **Join our rota of volunteers: we keep a list of people who we can call on to help out at the bigger events.**
- **If you would like to volunteer for any or all events, please contact us**

secretary@silchester.org

www.silchester.org

<https://www.facebook.com/silchesterassociation>

Come along and support our events



photos by Pete Hughes & Lesley Brewin



www.silchester.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

SILCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

**NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF
PARISH COUNCILLOR**

1. There is a vacancy on the above Council
2. This vacancy will be filled by co-option at a Council meeting to be held within 14 days (not counting a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Bank Holidays, any day appointed for public thanksgiving, Saturdays and Sundays) from the date set out in paragraph 3 below.
3. Nominations are invited and should be sent in writing to the Clerk at the address below or by e-mail to clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk before 16th June 2020.
4. A copy of this Notice has been sent to the Returning Officer at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Dated: 22nd May 2020

Chris Gunnell

(Signed)

Chris Gunnell
Clerk to Silchester Parish Council
22 Church Road
Pamber Heath
Tadley
RG26 3DZ

Phone: 07470 809086

A home is no home unless it contains food and fire for the mind
as well as the body ~ *Margaret Fuller*

Who lives in fear will never be a free man ~ *Horace*

What we desire our children to be, we must endeavour to be
before them ~ *Andrew Combe*

Flattery is the art of telling a person exactly what he thinks of himself ~ *Anon*

We should all be concerned about the future - because we will have to spend the rest of our lives
there ~ *Charles Kettering*

A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something ~ *Anon*



Nigel Beeton works in Radiology in a hospital in the East of England. During this time of the coronavirus crisis, he is writing a diary of his life at the hospital.

On the Covid Frontline -

Friday 1st May 2020

Is it too early to start using the past tense with regard to Covid-19?

Well, yes, of course it is. To abuse Winston Churchill's quote, this certainly is not the end, but it just might be the 'end of the beginning'. At our hospital, we are down to just five patients remaining in intensive care, for which I (and many others) thank the Lord.

I have a feeling that the turning point was Wednesday (22nd). Up to then I seemed to have my visor on as much as off, assisting my staff, mainly in CT.

Then, on Thursday, they didn't call me at all! Friday was a bit busier, but today (Sunday) the feeling that things are calming down is becoming more widespread.

I write with some trepidation, for even as a Christian I'm superstitious about using the 'Q' word ('Quiet'). NEVER use that word in the presence of a working health professional!

I apologise, Gentle Reader, for my darker blogs of a week or two ago, when I was raging at idiots for breaking the lockdown. Indeed, I was tired, and I can now share that I had fallen victim not to the virus but to a virus, when an agonizing rash spread across the right side of my body. My GP asked me (on the phone) if I had been tired and run down. My slightly abrupt reply of 'haven't we all?' got a grunt of assent before she diagnosed me with an attack of the shingles. But now I find it feels less as though I've lost a fight with an aggrieved stallion and my own mood is lifting along with many of my colleagues, so I find myself able to give thanks that so many did observe the lockdown, and now we begin to see the benefits.

Sometimes over the past few years the NHS has felt like a bit of a public whipping boy, and indeed sometimes we have let people down, and if you are one of those people I am genuinely very sorry; but please don't ever think we do not care. We do. We get up in the morning in the hope of doing good, prepared to do daily battle with the forces that combine to do harm to the populations we serve. The Coronavirus is but one of those enemies, if you are concerned that any of the others have you in its grip, heart disease, cancer, anything, then do seek help; we in the

NHS will do our best to help you and to protect you from any other kind of harm. But suddenly we in the NHS are getting

thanked. For forty years I have plodded towards various hospitals at various odd times of day or night, and never once has anybody stopped me and said 'thank you'. Nor would I have expected it (they do pay me!) but that is exactly what happened to me on Monday morning. I was just getting onto the site when a lady who I have never met asked me if I worked at the hospital. I replied in the affirmative, wondering what was coming. "Thank you," she said. "Thank you so much, all of you."

Well, thank you, ma'am. I cannot tell you how much the appreciation and support of the general public has meant to us all. The rainbows in the windows, the 'I love the NHS' slogans appearing everywhere; the clapping on Thursday evenings. And let us pray that, standing together as we have done, perhaps we are all beginning to turn the corner.

Weekend 15th May 2020

You can say what you like about the coronavirus, it has certainly brought some colour into our lives! This morning I encountered one of my colleagues. Starting from the top, she was wearing a bright yellow visor, a pale blue regulation issue surgical mask, bright pink scrubs and bright orange clogs. She looked like one of those rainbows that we now see all over the place!

I can assure you that her bright pinks scrubs did not come through the NHS supply chain! No indeed, those scrubs were put together and stitched by a member of the public.

Scrubs, for those of you not addicted to Holby City, are pyjama-like outfits of trousers and top which do nothing for your figure (mine's a hopeless cause anyway) but which are cool to wear and easy to keep clean. The idea is that you can change out of your day clothes and into scrubs and vice versa so you are not carrying bugs into or out of clinical areas. They were originally worn in the operating theatre environment, hence the term associated with 'scrubbing up' for theatre. Their use had become



considerably more widespread but the advent of the requirements for PPE in the Covid situation put enormous pressure on demand for scrubs, and our existing stocks quickly ran out. It was the same story across the NHS.

But the public have responded magnificently. Carol, my wife, sews, and in fact she has made us both masks that we can wear when out and about (but not at work). It took her a while, and of course she's at work nursing so doesn't have the time to make scrubs, but I would think that a set of scrubs must take several hours to make. The hospital has put one of those wire cages on wheels in the front entrance so that donors can put their home-made scrubs into it. There's a poster on it thanking contributors most effusively but otherwise it's just a bare wire cage. So these paragons of home sewing, after all these hours of cutting, stitching, overlocking and elastoplasting the occasional cut finger, just drive up to the hospital and deposit the fruits of their labours into a wire cage.

I think that is true charity. No formal thanks, no prize for producing the most scrubs, no smiling grip and grin photos in the local paper (grip and grins are out for the duration anyway). Just the simple satisfaction of knowing that you are making a real difference to the working lives of staff facing the greatest challenge of their health service careers (It's certainly been the greatest challenge of mine, and if any twenty-somethings setting out on their careers will have to face worse, then I tremble at the thought).

If you, or someone you know, has been sewing scrubs, then on behalf of all of us, may I say: Thank You!

Weekend 22nd May 2020

I had another new experience today - my first (and hopefully my only) Coronavirus test.

I had to sit in a little room about the size of a toilet cubicle, and a very cheery nurse (who I know very well from her normal job when she isn't testing) came in dressed in PPE and stuck a swab up each nostril. I think the word is 'uncomfortable' rather than painful - don't let me put you off being tested if you need a test - and it was all over in a trice.

Now I've got you all worried that I'm suffering from the virus. Fear not, I am as fit as the proverbial butcher's dog, but sadly one of my colleagues from CT has now tested positive and

I was working quite closely with her last week, so they thought I and a few others should get the test to be on the safe side.

I have to be thankful to have got through to the second half of May with 237 staff, a significant proportion of whom in direct contact with the public and with Coronavirus sufferers, and not to have had a single one of them infected with the virus. We hope and pray that she will make a complete recovery, at the last bulletin she was still reasonably well.

I am, as you all by now know, immensely proud of these wonderful people who get up each morning knowing the risks, but still they come. I also hope that my own test is negative, not just for the usual reasons but because it would compel me to self-isolate, and I have a very good reason to want to be in the hospital next week.

That reason is because next Thursday marks the end of a career in full-time radiography which began on 13th September 1978 when a scared young 18 year old entered the Luton and Dunstable Hospital in Bedfordshire to commence my training. Nearly 42 years later, I am retiring. Things are not quite the way I'd planned - but by the time the virus struck it was too late to change the actual dates because my replacements (yes, two!) have been appointed.

A lot of people quite understandably are fearful of hospitals and dislike them. Well, the buildings are rarely pretty and the experiences to be had therein (such as having your nose swabbed) are frequently those we can do without, no matter how hard the staff try to make them pleasant. But when you work in hospitals, believe me, they really get into your blood.

The whole atmosphere of a hospital as a workplace is, and always has been, uniquely wonderful. Especially when, as recently, the chips have been down, that sense of camaraderie is one that I would miss. So, I'll be back later in June for a couple of days a week, but by then the responsibility for the safety of all those patients and staff will have passed on to other shoulders, and I shall just be a part-time worker bee! Be warned - that will leave me more time to write my doggerel for parish magazines!

That, of course depends on the pandemic not worsening again, and upon the staff staying well, otherwise it'll be back to the PPE for me!

Nigel Beeton

SILCHESTER 1939 – 1945



Following on from the work we did in 2018 commemorating the six men who died in the Great War and remembered on the Silchester War Memorial, the year of the 75th anniversary of VE day seems an appropriate time to turn our attention to the other six men on our memorial - those who left the village for World War 2 but did not get the chance to celebrate either VE or VJ day.

They lost their lives in Portsmouth, Tunisia, India, Thailand, Japan and in the Atlantic. Over the next six months we will share what we have discovered so far of their stories, ahead of Remembrance Sunday on 8th November.

If you have anything to share about them or more generally about life in Silchester during World War II, please send us an email.

Mike Baldock
ww2@silchester.org

SILCHESTER 1939 – 1945

ARTHUR C. BOWMAN

1923 - 1943

Arthur Claude Bowman was born to Arthur Thomas and Jessie Sarah Bowman (sometimes spelled Boman) in Tadley on 3rd July 1923. According to The England and Wales National Register of 1939, Arthur senior was a bricklayer's labourer and the family were then living in what is now Northleigh next to what was Lovegrove Garage on Silchester Common.

Arthur Claude volunteered for the Royal Navy and joined up as an Ordinary Seaman on 22nd October 1941 and was initially stationed at HMS Collingwood, a shore based camp in Fareham. He was deployed onshore through until 1943, spending 1942 with the Naval Air Service 760 Squadron during which he became an Acting Able Seaman, before transferring to HMS Victory (Portsmouth) in November. At this time his father and his brother Allen were members of the Silchester platoon of the Home Guard.

On 20th March 1943 Arthur was assigned to HMS Chanticleer - a Sloop of the Modified Black Swan class - ordered from William Denny and Brothers of Dumbarton, launched in September 1942 and completed in March 1943. They set off from Greenock for Atlantic convoy duty in May,



HMS Chanticleer

sailing to Lisbon. Their duties took them largely between Gibraltar and UK, as well as to Sicily in support of the allied landings in Italy.

At the beginning of November they set off from Freetown, Sierra Leone as escort for convoy SL 139, picking up convoy MKS 30 in Gibraltar, and heading for Liverpool. On 18th November, when they were to the east of the Azores, some 600 miles off the coast of Portugal, the convoy was attacked by the

"wolfpack" Schill-1 group of eight U-boats, as part of the German Navy's autumn offensive. HMS Chanticleer was hit by an acoustic torpedo (known as a GNAT) fired by U-515, which blew off the stern of the ship. Twenty nine crew were lost, with Arthur being recorded as "missing presumed dead".

Arthur Claude Bowman is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Mike Baldock
ww2@silchester.org



Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Donating to St Mary the Virgin

Reverend Rob has outlined during the online Church services the funding shortfall which has the potential to affect all parts of the Church of England (where overall giving is down around 30% compared with last year) from the national initiatives through to the pastoral care administered in our own parish.

Many of you have asked how you can make a donation to St Mary the Virgin, Silchester or better still, become a regular giver.

I am delighted to set out the ways that you can play an important part below.

- The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is a scheme that allows individuals to set up a regular donation that accrues directly to the church here in Silchester. The scheme also allows us to reclaim Gift Aid (25 pence in every pound from every UK taxpayer). The PGS has set up a telephone hotline for new entrants and can be reached on 0333 002 1271, Silchester's membership number is 416004221. The process takes no longer than 7-8 minutes.
- Individual donations can be made via our website <https://stmarysilchester.myknowchurch.co.uk/giving> This solution again will allow us to reclaim gift aid but we bear a credit / debit card handling charge.

Thank you for considering how you may be able to help, and thank you to all who have already responded.

Richard Eldridge ~ Treasurer - Silchester PCC

A Personal Memory of Dunkirk

In honour of the 80th Anniversary of Dunkirk May-June 2020

Taken from the diaries of the late **Lieutenant Colonel "Sammy" Battiscombe** who lived for many years in Silchester, and was a former Church Warden. He died in 1989. These diaries were used in our Magazine over the months after the 50th Anniversary and they were transcribed by the late Alan Freeman (with difficulty due to Sammy's handwriting!) and copies were given to me at that time. I start on May 21st 1940.

May 21st 1940 ~ The Battle of Arras 1600 hours

We moved on to Maroeuil. However just as I was moving ahead, a German aircraft came overhead and, as my driver (Pete Green) looked out he actually saw the bombs leave the plane and we all dived out of the truck. The bombs dropped about 200 yards away. The village was crammed with our transport, 4RNF, APT Battery and a petrol unit - quite dark and impossible to sort out, and there we stayed with a prospect of being shelled and bombed next day like rats in a trap. The 8DLI were most depressed. Beart, Andrew Clark & Raine were certainly dead according to them, it had been an absolute massacre. This I may say was not a highly organised affair and why we were not bombed I cannot to this day understand. We then had orders to retire on Vimy - about 7 miles away. There to our delight, Clark, Raine and Beart arrived in a truck - alive. Tim had been wounded but this was a lesson that reports in battle easily become exaggerated.

May 22nd, our AT battery, in failing light, fired on the French heavy tanks - all the ordnance just bounced off, the French just came up and laughed at them. French Tanks were difficult to operate with - they arrived when not expected and pushed off when they were wanted.

May 26th 2000 hours

We had orders to withdraw to Steenvoorde. The Battalion moved by march and I went ahead to get buses allotted and some order to organise this in the dark. Here I found some of C Company men who had disappeared with the shelling earlier in the day.

May 27th

As Second in Command, I was at the tail of the Battalion, when I found some of our men, very lost, and though were supposed to be last we arrived before the Battalion, and supposed that they had taken a wrong road.

May 29th

Orders came that we were to embark for England. We could see the Germans on the other side of the canal. It was a filthy, wet day and I was given the job of getting D Company into their correct position. We then learned that the Belgian Army had laid down their arms and there was a great deal of talk of what the outcome might be for all of us. I was completely wet through. All books were destroyed plus any surplus kit, but I still had my 8cwt truck at 2000hrs we had orders to blow all bridges north west of Ypres and we engaged artillery across the canal.

May 30th

At daybreak we passed transport being set alight. A rather wonderful but pathetic sight - there must have been over 1000 vehicles on fire. My truck was set on fire also and I tried to ruin the tyres with a pickaxe, but that just bounced off! There were a number of vessels in port and a large oil plant, burning and giving off black smoke that helped to obscure us as the target. Luckily for us the small boat and the Mole were not shelled at all. Two of our men were wounded by shelling nearby and I got them into a small boat with 2 Frenchmen. Each small boat took two British & 2 Frenchmen in them. I managed to get into the last boat with 4 Senior French Officers. We got to a bigger boat and jammed into the saloon, and were lucky enough to get a bit of food. No room to lie down and try to sleep. We got to Dover which was a very pleasant sight on



June 2nd and got a wonderful reception there. I was able to send Karin (my wife) a telegram to say I was safe. We got on a train and it went on and on to Catterick.

The whole evacuation was the most extraordinary piece of organisation. Officers and men were just taken on board any ship of whatever size and description, from the mole or the beaches. The ship I travelled on was the PS Medway Queen.

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I write this in memory of Sammy and all at Dunkirk, and also of the late Philip Pearce, who died recently and who was going to do this for the magazine in the special way that he had with words.

Nancy Jones

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## Silchester Village Hall

Not much going on this last month as the Hall remains closed. We are waiting for confirmation that the pre-school might start again this month (June) but remaining activities look more like at least July - at the moment - depending on Government advice. We are hoping to be back to normal for August as we have a wedding booked.



During the closure we have taken the opportunity to do some maintenance on the plumbing and electrical systems - particularly replacing old bulb fittings with new low energy LEDs.

We have also taken the opportunity to do some deep cleaning and remove the cobwebs from hard to reach places.

Steve Spillane ~ Chairman Silchester Village Hall  
steve@spillane.com phone 01189700996

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## Calleva Society

*Travellers site - Land Adjacent To and Rear Of Culhams Mill also referred to as rear of Rampiers.* There has been no activity at the site although we ask residents to remain vigilant and let us know if they see any activity.

The Planning Inspectorate inquiry date was originally set for this month but, given the current situation with Covid 19, it is unsurprising that it has been put back to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Nonetheless, we continue to liaise with BDBC on a regular basis and we are confident that they will put forward a strong case on our behalf. As always, if you do see any activity at the site please do let us know as soon as possible so that we can inform the appropriate authorities. Feel free to call Simon on 07769 684283.

Steve Spillane, Simon Mahaffey and the team ~ Calleva Society  
callevasociety@gmail.com  
www.callevasociety.org  
or to donate <https://callevasociety.org/make-a-donation>

# Feel the Buzz

Bumblebees are one of our most familiar and endearing garden insects. Hearing their distinctive buzz and watching them dance from flower to flower epitomises a perfect summer's day and they are also vitally important pollinators.

Our top tips below should give you a helping hand to identify five of the most common bumblebees you might see this spring.

## White-tailed bumblebee

The white-tailed bumblebee is a very common bumblebee that emerges early in the spring and can be seen right through to the autumn. It can be found in gardens, farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows and heathland: anywhere there are flowers to feed on. As the name suggests, it has a white tail as well as a yellow band on the thorax and on the abdomen. The markings are similar to those of other species, such as the buff-tailed bumblebee, so look for their bright white tail.



© Nick Upton 2020VISION

## Tree bumblebee

The tree bumblebee is a relatively new arrival to the UK. First recorded here in 2001, it is slowly spreading north throughout the country. It nests in cavities such as bird nest holes in trees, bird boxes and roof spaces. The tree bumblebee visits a wide range of flowers, particularly those of soft fruits, such as raspberries and bramble, and shrubs. Tree bumblebees have a distinctive appearance with brown/orange hairs on the thorax, a black abdomen and white tail.

## Buff-tailed bumblebee

As the name suggests, this bumblebee is named after the queen's buff-coloured tail. This

common species is attracted to many types of flowers, though its short tongue means it dislikes deeper flowers. The queen, male and workers all have a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen and the males have an off-white/buff colour tail while the workers have a white tail with a faint buff line separating the tail from the rest of the abdomen.

## Red-tailed bumblebee

Red-tailed bumblebees emerge in early spring and feed on flowers right through to the autumn. The female red-tailed bumblebee is a very large black bumblebee with a big red tail and pollen baskets on its hind legs that are fringed with black hairs.

## Common carder bee

Common carder bees are medium-sized with a long tongue. They emerge in early spring and can be seen feeding on flowers right through to November. The workers visit a variety of flowers, especially legumes, thistles, knapweeds, brambles and comfrets. They nest in cavities, such as old mouse runs, in bird nests or in moss mats in lawns. They are social insects and their nests may contain up to 200 workers. The common carder bee is almost entirely brown and orange, sometimes displaying darker bands on the abdomen.

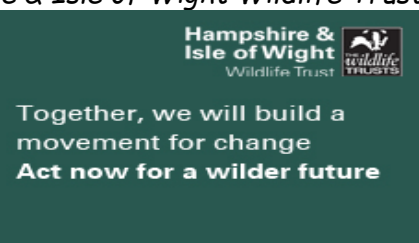
Find out more about helping your local bumblebees and how to identify them at: [hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer](http://hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer)

Abi Webber

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust





# Ground Nesting Birds on Silchester Common

You may have seen notices on gates to the Common about ground nesting birds. There are a number of these rare birds that have been recorded nesting during the summer on the Common, which you may be lucky enough to see.



## Nightjar

The nightjar nests on the ground on the heathland of the Common as well as in nearby young conifer woods. It is a nocturnal bird which feeds on moths, flies and beetles.

The nightjar is very camouflaged and more often heard than seen, making its characteristic "churring" calls. At dusk, sometimes the males can be spotted displaying to females, flying around them, clapping their wings and making their distinctive calls.



## Woodlark

The woodlark is stripy brown, with a buff-white eye stripe and a spikey crest on its head. It has a short tail and seems to bounce in flight. It is similar to the skylark but is smaller, with a shorter tail, preferring heathland to the farmland and grassland habitats on which skylarks are found.

It is a secretive bird and can be very hard to spot. It nests on the ground in amongst the heather and feeds on seeds and insects. It uses the gorse and scattered trees for lookout posts.



## Dartford Warbler

The Dartford warbler is a small, dark brown bird, with a long tail, a distinctive red eye-ring and a cherry-red breast. It is most often spotted warbling its rattly and scratchy song from the top of a gorse stem. At other times, its colouring allows it to blend in with the woody heather and gorse.

It is a ground-nesting bird, preferring to breed under the protective cover of dense heather or compact gorse. It lays three to five eggs and can have up to three broods from April to July.

It only eats insects and does not migrate for the winter.

Something different for the Magazine - here we have the first section of the Labours of Heracles written by *Stephen Bibby* for his grandsons, then aged about 10. Enjoy!

## The Labours of Heracles

### Introduction

One of the most famous heroes of ancient Greek mythology was Heracles, although he is more widely known as 'Hercules'.

There is a simple explanation for this. The ancient Greeks believed that many gods lived on Mount Olympus. They made sacrifices to them and told stories about them. These stories are known as myths. Many of the myths were about heroes. Sometimes these heroes became favourites of certain gods and were helped by them: sometimes they became enemies and were hindered by them.

When the city of Rome was founded in about 750 BC, the Greeks had already been telling and re-telling these myths for many generations. As the Romans became more powerful, they conquered the Greek empire. Over time they learnt about the Greek gods and the many Greek myths. Several Roman writers compiled books recording the stories and, quite understandably, when they did so they changed the Greek names to Latin, the language of ancient Rome.

In Latin Heracles is known as Hercules, the name which has become more familiar. There is a constellation of stars named Hercules. In the 1950s a military transport plane named 'The Hercules' was built. Its name was chosen because it was large and strong enough to carry the heavy equipment used by armies in battle. For hundreds of years Hercules has been the nickname of many a strongman.

However, as the tales which are the subject of this book were originally Greek myths, I have chosen to use the original Greek names. Therefore the hero known to the Romans as Hercules has been given his original Greek name, Heracles.

In the accounts of the Labours of Heracles we meet a number of ancient gods and goddesses. Because some may be better known by their later Roman names, here is list of those who appear in these stories:

| <u>Title</u>           | <u>Greek Name</u> | <u>Roman Name</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| King of the gods       | Zeus              | Jupiter           |
| His wife               | Hera              | Juno              |
| Goddess of Wisdom      | Athene            | Minerva           |
| Goddess of Hunting     | Artemis           | Diana             |
| Blacksmith of the gods | Hephaestus        | Vulcan            |
| God of the Sun         | Helios            | Sol               |
| God of the Underworld  | Hades             | Pluto             |
| His wife               | Persephone        | Prosperina        |
| Messenger of the gods  | Hermes            | Mercury           |
| Old man of the sea     | Nereus            | Nereus            |

### The Baby Heracles

The king of the gods, Zeus, was immortal. He lived through all eternity together with other gods and goddesses on Mount Olympus in Greece.

Like all those who dwelt on Mount Olympus, from time to time Zeus travelled far and wide. He often became involved in the lives of mortals, the ordinary men and women who lived in ancient Greece.

Although Zeus was a god, he sometimes fell in love with beautiful ladies living far away from Mount Olympus. One of his favourites was called Alcmene. Zeus often visited her and eventually she gave birth to a baby who she named Heracles.

As Zeus was his father and a god and as Alcmene was his mother, but mortal, this meant that Heracles was half mortal and half immortal. He could not live for ever like the gods, but he could live longer than ordinary mortal beings and enjoy protection from illness and other dangers.





From the very moment Heracles was born, Athene, goddess of wisdom, smiled upon him. She knew that he would grow up to become famous. She also knew that, even as a baby, Heracles would possess superhuman strength.

One day Athene descended from Mount Olympus with Zeus's wife, Hera. They went for a walk in the warm sunshine through a lovely green meadow. Athene led the way because she knew that Alcmene often allowed Heracles to sleep, lying on the soft, lush grass.

Sure enough before long Athene cried out, pointing to the sleeping baby.

"Look at the poor child," she said. "His mother has left him all alone in a field. He will die if he does not have milk."

Athene knew that, several weeks earlier, Hera herself had given birth to a baby. Now, feeling sorry for the tiny Heracles, Hera bent down, picked him up and allowed him to suckle at her breast.

She did not realise that this innocent child was ferociously strong. With his infant lips Heracles tugged so hard that he drew the milk with a great rush. This caused Hera so much pain that, shocked and surprised, she flung this extraordinary baby away from her. But still the milk shot from her breast into a great fountain soaring up into the heavens. There it separated into tiny drops and stayed for ever in the night sky. It is known to us all today as the Milky Way.

Until this point Heracles had not been immortal. But at that moment, because his father had been a god and he had now tasted the milk of a goddess, Heracles achieved everlasting life.

Hera herself was in terrible pain. She cried out, clutching her sore breast. In that moment she developed a feeling of the deepest hate for the baby Heracles. For evermore she would be his enemy.

Once she had returned to Mount Olympus, Hera plotted her revenge. The more she thought about it, the more she resolved to destroy Heracles. But she faced one enormous problem. Heracles was now immortal.

Only gods or goddesses, not ordinary people, had the power to harm someone immortal. Even so, Hera had to think carefully about how she could attack the baby Heracles. This was difficult because she knew he was watched over constantly by Alcmene.

Eventually Hera devised a fiendishly wicked plan. In the dead of night she sent two enormous serpents to the house of Alcmene. She charmed them so that in a deadly trance they made their way directly to the room where Heracles lay sleeping in a cradle with his baby brother, Iphicles.

Silently, the serpents slithered across the courtyard, under the doorway and across the marble floors. Rapidly they glided into the nursery, their eyes shooting flames, evil poison dripping from their fearsome fangs.

The scaly serpents hissed as their heads reared up above the babies' cradle. With a start the sleeping infants awoke in horror to see huge, forked tongues flicking into their faces. Instantly they yelled out, screaming as loudly as their tiny lungs would permit.

Alcmene came running at top speed, clutching a flaming torch. What she saw amazed her.

Heracles was sitting by his brother clutching one writhing serpent in each hand. With his baby arms he was wrestling with both the scaly creatures sent to strangle him. They slithered across his chest and around his chubby wrists, but he simply squeezed harder and harder. As Alcmene watched, the breath was choked out of the serpents until they fell limp and lifeless onto the floor.

With utter astonishment Alcmene realised that the baby Heracles was stronger than any man. From that moment she knew he would grow up able to perform tremendous feats. She realised that her child possessed the unique gift of stupendous strength.

Stephen Bibby

Next issue we will have **Heracles Made Mad** - which tells us how the labours were assigned and **The First Labour - The Nemean Lion**.



*Where was the social distancing?*

## Silchester Sweep

The winner of the  
Silchester Sweep for May is:

Rosemary Evans ~ No. 20

She wins £20

To buy a number or find out more, contact:

Theresa Philpott

Theresaphilpott285@btinternet.com

0118 9701632

## Here are some excruciating one-liners...

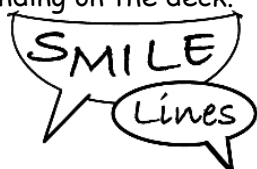
What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?  
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?  
Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

Why didn't Noah ever  
go fishing?  
He only had two worms.



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

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# Useful Local Telephone Numbers



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

|                               |                             |                                                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                        | The Revd Richard Harlow     | 0118 981 4860<br>E mail: richard73harlow@aol.com |
| Resident Priest               | The Revd Rob Young          | 0118 9700884<br>E mail: robwyong101@gmail.com    |
| Churchwarden                  | Sandra Speight              | 0118 970 0570                                    |
| Assistant Wardens             | Veronica Picton             | 0118 981 5782                                    |
|                               | Richard Eldridge            | 0118 970 0744                                    |
|                               | Em Paddick Wilsdon          | 0118 970 0542                                    |
| Vice Chairman                 | Richard Fletcher            | 0118 970 0633                                    |
| Honorary Treasurer            | Richard Eldridge            | 0118 970 0744                                    |
| Deanery Synod                 | <i>vacant post</i>          |                                                  |
| Gift Aid Secretaries          | Richard and Sheila Fletcher | 0118 970 0633                                    |
| PCC Secretary                 | Colin Hunt                  | 0118 970 0726                                    |
| Church Electoral Roll Officer | Heidi Williams              | 0118 970 1299                                    |
| Organist                      | Henry Peat                  | 07711 651 111                                    |

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

|                         |                      |               |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Minister                | Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf | 0118 970 0139 |
| Church Secretary        | Angela Hiscock       | 01256 850432  |
| 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<br>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/<br>Rosemary Evans | 0118 970 1055<br>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       | Vicky Rodd                                                                                     | 0118 970 1880 |
| Rainbow Guides                        |                                                                                                |               |
| Brownies                              | Kirstie Jones - <a href="mailto:Kirstiejones5@btinternet.com">Kirstiejones5@btinternet.com</a> | 0118 970 1481 |
| Guides, 1st Silchester                | Della Raven                                                                                    | 0118 970 1627 |
| Scouts, Cubs & Beavers ~ Bramley      | Neil Smith                                                                                     | 01256 880405  |
| Scouts, Cubs & Beavers ~ Pamber Heath | Melissa Stroud                                                                                 | 0118 970 2241 |
| 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                 | Clare Loxley (Secretary)       | 0118 970 1655 |
| The Hurst Community College, Bughurst | Headteacher : Roger Jones      | 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 Officers        | Liz and Ken Hingley                                                                                         | 0118 970 1238 |
| Local Borough Councillor        | Roger Gardiner                                                                                              | 0118 970 1109 |
| Local Borough Councillor        | Simon Mahaffey                                                                                              |               |
| County Councillor               | Rhydian Vaughan                                                                                             | 07712 695476  |
| <b>Police</b>                   | <b>REPORTING AN INCIDENT</b>                                                                                | <b>101</b>    |
| Local Officer                   | Emma Page- <a href="mailto:emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk">emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk</a>         |               |
| Library                         | Tadley Library                                                                                              | 0118 981 4602 |
| Village Hall and Club Room      | Bookings : Vivienne Hartshorn                                                                               | 0118 970 0940 |
| Secretary                       | <a href="mailto:secretary@silchestervillagehall.org.uk">secretary@silchestervillagehall.org.uk</a>          |               |
| Village Market                  | Paula Gibbons: <a href="mailto:info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk">info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk</a> | 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 |
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