

Silchester Magazine



November 2020



Village and Church News

Volume 61 No 9

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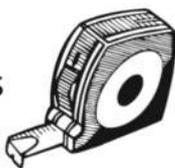
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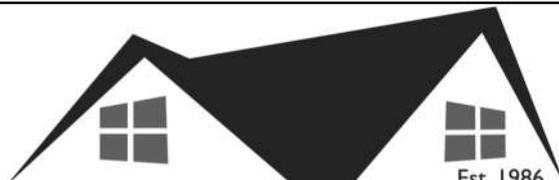
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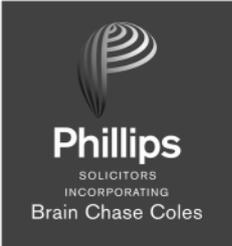
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Silchester Magazine

November 2020

Given the current situation with COVID-19,
all events listed are subject to change.



October

Sat 31st 'In and Around Silchester' Photography Competition closing date

November

Sun	1st	8am	Book of Common Prayer Communion ~ at St Mary's Voting for Silchester Photography Competition begins online
Wed	4th	6pm	Silchester Sing-a-long with Silchester Community Choir
Sun	8th	10.55am	Act of Remembrance ~ at Village War Memorial
Fri	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline <u>for December/January Issue</u>
Sat	14th		Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party
Sun	15th	8am	Common Worship Communion ~ at St Mary's

Copy for this magazine should be sent to: editor@silchester.org

PLEASE NOTE: The next deadline for copy for the December/January issue is
midnight on 13th November

Dear Readers

We are very pleased that for the first time since the March issue you are holding a paper copy of the Silchester Magazine - hopefully!!

We know that many people have enjoyed accessing the Magazine online and you will find this edition uploaded too - in the usual places.

We hope to print the December/January issue too, and we would be very pleased if you had anything seasonal to send in for us to include.

We always appreciate the support that we receive but especially over these past few months where so many people have helped us by sharing the Magazine digitally.

For the results of our recent survey please see page 6.

Claire & John ~ editor@silchester.org





We all have difficult choices to make at various stages of our lives. I am not very good at making choices. I like to keep all options open as long as possible, and sometimes that makes sense. At other times I miss the opportunity, so the decision is made by default.

There was never any chance I would be Prime Minister, but I'm really glad I'm not in that position now with all the choices he has to make, balancing health and economic considerations which also then affect each other. Yet I ask myself, "What would the Bible say about these choices?"

There are many books in the Old Testament which give less priority to individual human life than to the nation's life. Yes, the Ten Commandments tell us how to live as individuals (yet also as nations), and in Leviticus it says "Love your neighbour as yourself", but many of the books in the Old Testament are more concerned about the prosperity of the nation of Israel, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, and accepting the loss of any individual Jewish people almost as collateral damage on the way to re-instatement of the kingdom of Israel. We also have Jesus in the New Testament saying "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15). So on that basis there is support for the argument that in our circumstances an increased risk to life can be acceptable in the cause of maintaining the economic well-being of the nation. After all that's what happened in the two World Wars.

However, when asking ourselves "What does the Bible say?", we need to bear in mind that whilst we can try to use the Bible as a handbook for life, and that's generally a good thing to do, the Bible is primarily telling us about God and his desire for his creation. We read in the beginning that what God created was "Good". We then learn initially in picture language and then in dramatic history, how that original state was damaged, and let's be honest we continue to damage it today. That all leads me to feel that what we need to be doing in all our decision making today is to try to rediscover - in modern form - that "Good". I'm not suggesting we need to rediscover pre-stone age life but rather a different kind of balance, not just between health and economy but rather a social, environmental, spiritual, health and economic balance which makes life "Good" again, or in theological terms brings in the kingdom of heaven.

The other concern I have about current discussion is to do with the sacredness of life. The Bible says God created man and woman in His own image. If you believe in a loving God who went to enormous lengths to create us and save us we need to think long and hard before we carelessly or deliberately destroy or risk that pinnacle of His creation. So, I have always had considerable reservations about government policy or laws which, in spite of good intention, seem to bring into question the sacredness of life. I, therefore, have some concern that when discussing a balance between health and the economy we might end up down the wrong slippery slope.

Looking after the vulnerable and those less able to look after themselves is one thing which the Bible and many other religions are very clear. As Mahatma Gandhi said "the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members".

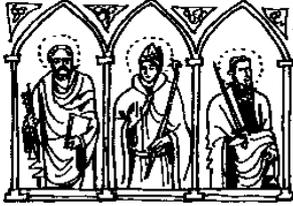
So difficult decisions have to be made, and I pray for those called to make them, but in that prayer I also pray that whatever decisions are made, the most vulnerable will be protected, including the elderly, the poor, those losing their business or job, and others in any other especial need. I also pray that these decisions will lead to the emergence of a "Good" and different future, and not just a return to what wasn't so "Good" in the past.

God bless

Revd Rob Young, Resident Vicar, St Mary the Virgin, Silchester
0118 9700884 robwyong101@gmail.com

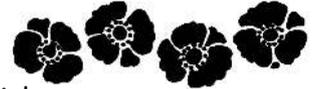
Services at St Mary the Virgin Church Silchester

Sunday 25th October
10.00am Service on Zoom



Sunday 1st November ~ All Saints Day
8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion in Church
10.00am Service on Zoom

Sunday 8th November ~ Remembrance Day
10.00am Service on Zoom
11.00am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial



Sunday 15th November
8.00am Common Worship Communion in Church
10.00am Service on Zoom



Sunday 22nd November
10.00am Service on Zoom

Sunday 29th November ~ First Sunday in Advent
10.00am Service on Zoom

The Zoom link can be found each week on the St Mary the Virgin Silchester web site
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In the Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester



Prayers & Poems

All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day in November naturally turn our thoughts to death and what lies beyond...

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;
The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

3rd November brings us the US presidential election ...

Election Day

A weapon that comes down as still
As snowflakes fall upon the sod,
But executes a freeman's will
As lightning does the will of God.
And from its force nor doors nor locks
Can shield you - 'tis the ballot box.

John Pierpont

Here is a lovely poem, as on 3rd November the American Presidential election finally takes place, the struggles with coronavirus continue, and the Christmas shopping season gets underway!

(from) The Brewing of Soma

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

*John Greenleaf Whittier
(1807-92 - American Quaker poet)*

11th November is Remembrance Day

War and Peace

War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'

Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.

Megan Carter

Nigel Beeton writes: Five years ago, in November 2015, the Met Office began the practice of naming storms, and the idea seems to have caught on! Apparently, you can even send suggestions to them now.

Would you want one named after yourself?!

Named Storms

Deirdre, Angus, Katie, Jake
These are names which trouble make;
Gertrude, Doris, Caroline
Bring us weather less than fine!
Desmond, Erik, Imogen
Storms are named, but only when
Just like one named Abigail
They bring wind and rain and hail!

Barney, Clodagh, and Aileen
What, I wonder, does it mean
Barbara, Dylan, Eleanor
If the choice of name is poor?
Ali, Freya, Callum, Ciara
Does it make things any clearer
Jorge and Hannah, Brian too

If they name one after YOU?

Nigel Beeton





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

A Socially Distanced Boundary Walk

Sunday 11th October 2020

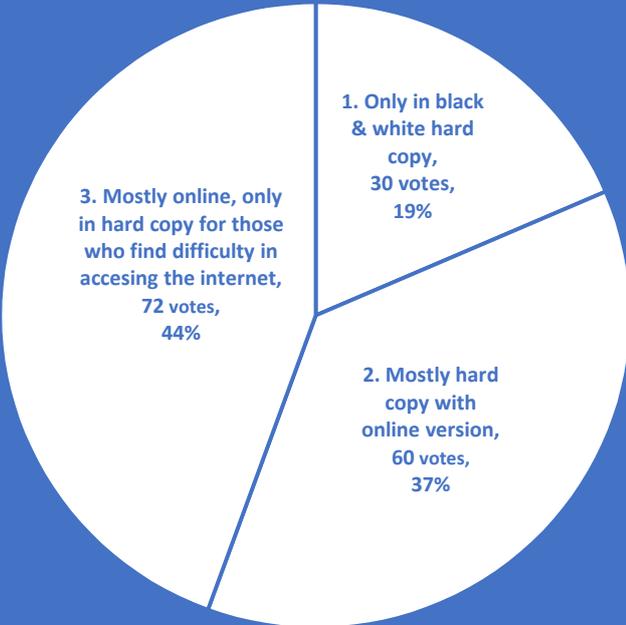




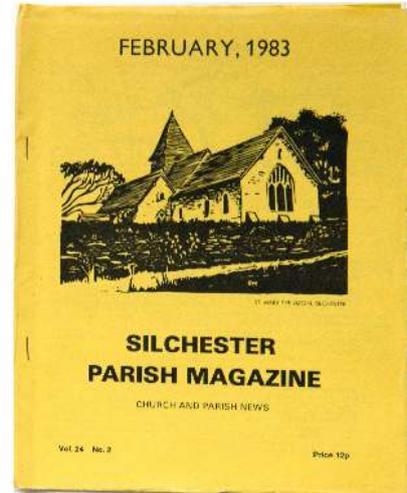
Magazine Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the magazine survey, and thank you especially to those who offered to help with production and distribution in some way - we will get back to you.

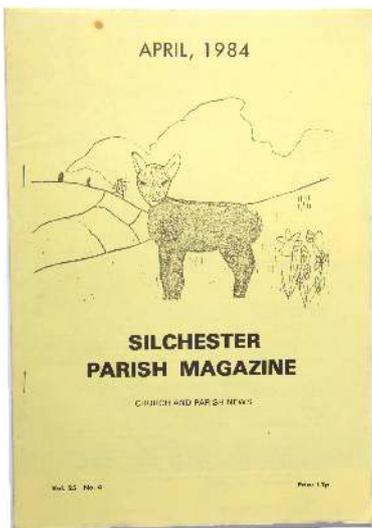
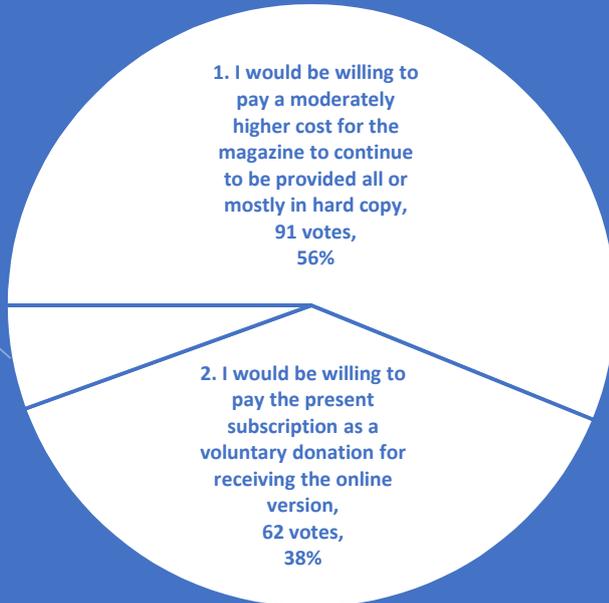
HOW SHOULD WE DISTRIBUTE THE MAGAZINE GOING FORWARD?



Clearly there are a lot of people who like the monthly paper copy, but also many who like the magazine on line.



INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS



APRIL, 1984

**SILCHESTER
PARISH MAGAZINE**

CHURCH AND PARISH NEWS

Vol. 23 No. 4

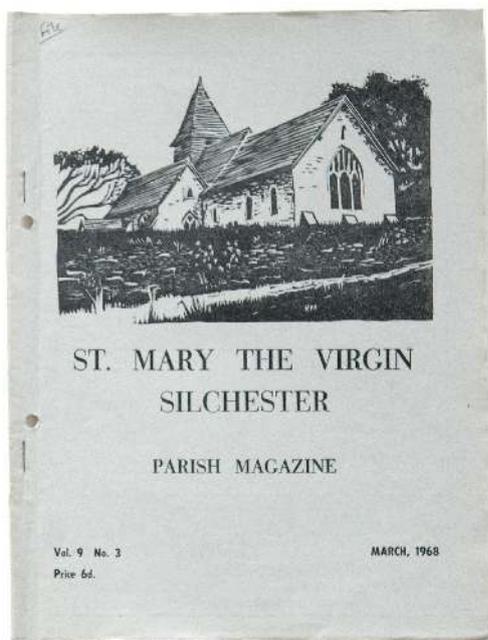
Price 12p

How should we distribute the magazine going forward?	Responses	Percentage
1. Only in black & white hard copy	30	19%
2. Mostly hard copy with online version	60	37%
3. Mostly online, only in hard copy for those who find difficulty in accessing the internet	72	44%
	162	100%



We are also grateful that most people seem to agree that the charge for the magazine could increase by a modest amount.

Indicate your support for the following proposals:	Responses	Percentage
1. I would be willing to pay a moderately higher cost for the magazine to continue to be provided all or mostly in hard copy.	91	56%
2. I would be willing to pay the present subscription as a voluntary donation for receiving the online version.	62	38%
3. I think the magazine should only cover its costs whatever version is produced.	9	6%
	162	100%

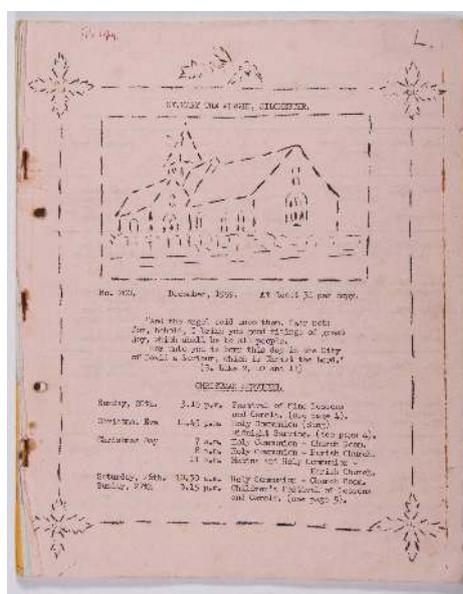


We now have to take these results and consider how we can best respond.

For the moment we are returning to paper copies and continue to publish online but how far we can continue with this and how we address income, including possible increased charges and introducing a charge for online access will depend on a number of other matters including the capacity of the editors, the availability of volunteers to print and



distribute, and the opinion of advertisers, as well as the cost, method, and with Nancy's retirement, management of production.



Rest assured we want to produce a magazine which is in the format, and contains the type of material, you want but it may be a while before we can give you a definitive response. In the meantime we will continue as best we can with paper and e-copies, with the aim of bringing in any change necessary in the New Year.

Revd Rob, Claire, John, Nancy and the Magazine Team

**Thanks to all who responded
~ and especially to those of
you who offered to help.**





RESIDENTS OF SILCHESTER AND NEARBY

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Bag 2 School is a wonderful way of fundraising. They take good quality used items, give them to those in need and give us cash.

If you have any clothes, paired shoes (tied together), handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, belts or soft toys, please bag them up and bring them to us on Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th November 2020

Just pop your bagged goods into the bike sheds at the front of the school and we'll do the rest.

Unfortunately we can't accept, bedding, cushions, curtains, towels, corporate workwear or school uniform

If you need your bag picked up please call 0781 802 4888 and we can make arrangements to collect - thank you

Thank you in advance for your help

Remembrance Sunday ~ 8th November

At the time of writing, the Parish Church and the Parish Council are planning to hold a Remembrance Day Commemoration starting at 10.55 am at the Silchester Village War Memorial.

To keep it covid safe, everyone, apart from those laying wreaths or taking an active part in the commemoration, are asked to stand in groups of a maximum of six in the sports field on the opposite side of the road to the War Memorial.

Those laying wreaths, the musicians and others actively taking part will be spread out around the War Memorial in socially distanced groups of a maximum of six, so no-one apart from those actually taking part or those looking after them should be on that side of the road, This means, sadly, uniformed organisations or other larger groups must be mainly on the sports field side of the road.

We are planning for areas to be marked out to help facilitate social distancing and for stewards to actively encourage people to socially distance. Under these covid circumstances we would ask everyone to comply with the stewards requests. Everyone is asked to wear face masks, unless leading the service, and afterwards to disperse as soon as possible and not take the understandable opportunity for informal socialising.

Regrettably, because of the difficulty of maintaining social distancing around the War Memorial, those who may wish to place individual crosses or the like are asked to wait until those of us around the War Memorial have dispersed and then, with care for social distancing, place their crosses.

We are exploring whether we could relay our Act of Remembrance on-line and if so details will be sent out via local social media.

Revd Rob Young



People News

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.

Welcome to Lorraine and Trevor Heath, their daughter Laura and son-in-law Lawrence who have moved into Vine Cottage from Uxbridge. Lorraine has started 'exploring' the Common with spaniel Honey.

Jan & Pete Hughes who live in Lordswood are delighted to announce the safe arrival of granddaughter Evie at the end of September, a second child for their daughter Emma and son-in-law Rob. Ollie is a very proud 'big brother'.

David Wright who lived on the Common has died after a short stay in Royal Berkshire Hospital. David who was 92 years old had moved to Silchester 5 years ago to be nearer to his family. David was a member of the Phoenix Club and will be missed by those who got to know him there.

Anthony Headland who used to live at Chestnuts, Little London Road died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on Saturday the 10th of October after a short illness. His wife Dee had passed away in 2014 - many Silchester residents will no doubt remember them both. Anthony was the treasurer for St Mary's Church for some time prior to that office being taken over by Richard Rand. Anthony also audited the accounts for many other local

organisations. Anthony and Dee would often entertain friends and neighbours with wonderful dinner parties at Chestnuts. For the past three years Anthony had found companionship with Marie, a lady who had been a dear friend to both him and Dee when they lived in Reading many years ago. They had three wonderful years together. Anthony moved to Goring to be with Marie after selling his house two years ago. Anthony's funeral will take place in Silchester church on the 4th of November with a limited number of family in attendance because of the current COVID restrictions. He will be sadly missed by so very many people.

With new restrictions due to Covid 19, some people may need more 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
- If you are struggling to obtain groceries and basic necessities you can also organise help via [Spotted Silchester](#) on Facebook
- Hampshire County Council have a Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline - 'Hantshelp4vulnerable' which can provide information, advice and practical support to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents- on 0333 370 4000, 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday, 9am-4.30pm Fridays (Calls charged at local rate).



Diamonds are for Lockdown...

Here's an unexpected outcome of Covid-19: it has inspired more of us to get engaged.

Engagement rings sales have risen this year, in some firms by up to 73 per cent, a survey of various jewellery firms has discovered.

When, at the beginning of lockdown, Dr Jenny Harries, the deputy chief medical officer, suggested that couples could get round the

coming isolation by moving in together, it seems that many listened to her. They decided to give it a go and 'test the strength of their relationship.'

"A lot of people have now resolved to go ahead and tie the knot," said one jeweller. "Perhaps they are thinking: 'life's too short, let's go for it'."

Another jeweller said: "Maybe if you can make it through lockdown together, you can make it through anything."

Silchester Methodist Church

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



We held our first Outdoor Communion Service in October. It was rather a wet Sunday but 6 of the congregation braved the conditions to attend the service, which was held in the Ebenezer Garden. It was lovely to see everyone face to face.

We are holding our next Outdoor Communion on Sunday, 8th November, in the garden from 10.30am please phone Angela for details 01256 850432.

We will still be meeting as a church on Zoom, every Sunday morning at 10.30am, with our friends from the Tadley and Mortimer churches. For details of the Zoom ID please contact Gill gill@lawson-net.co.uk Anyone is welcome to join.



Silchester Players

Our radio play, "The Litter Picker", broadcast on HHCR Basingstoke's Community Radio on Tuesday 29 September, was a great success, receiving a large number of positive responses. If you missed it please go to our website www.silchesterplayers.org and click the link to hear it.



We held a successful Zoom meeting on the evening of 29 September when we read through a shortened version of the pantomime 'Dick Whittington'. This was hugely enjoyable, the participants readily joining in with enthusiasm.

As a result we have decided to perform this pantomime on radio. Auditions were held by Zoom on 8 October. It was strange to conduct them in this manner rather than face to face, and of course the prime consideration was sound of voice, not appearance.

We have some technical hurdles to overcome and are still working on the best way to record and broadcast. Watch for further details in this magazine.

Sadly this month Silchester Players had some very upsetting news and we are mourning the loss of one of our talented young members. Oli Williams died in a car accident on 2 October, driving home to Tadley from Stratford-upon-Avon. He was only 27 years old.

Oli joined us a few years ago and was an immediate hit with cast, crew and audiences. He appeared in our pantomime Sleeping Beauty in 2015 then played an outstanding lead role in Tons of Money. Enthusiastically entering fully into the spirit of his role, at the end of Act 1 he exited to plunge in a river and appeared back on stage, dripping wet with only a 'No Fishing' sign to cover his modesty.

www.silchesterplayers.org



Solar Farm Action Group

Basingstoke and Deane Council has now completed an initial screening assessment on the proposals for a 200 acre Solar Farm on the land of Silchester's Church Lane Farm and Bramley's Vyne Lodge Farm in the area of 6 large fields around the Bramley Frith. Almost 50 concerned Bramley and Silchester resident families have written to the Council which has, as a result, concluded that the proposals need a full and proper Environmental Impact Assessment as the proposals are likely to have a significant effect on our local environment.

With the climate challenges facing our planet we have certainly got to increase the sustainability of our energy production. However, this has got to be done in an appropriate manner, not on prime agricultural land and not at the expense of heavily used community amenity land and not on top of internationally significant Roman heritage remains.

Key features noted by the Council and residents that have significant effect and which need proper assessment include:

- (a) The size and design of the whole development, at twice the area of Silchester village, means that the numerous structures will be highly visible from the many footpaths and vantage points in the area significantly altering the rural nature of the whole area between Bramley and Silchester. For example, it will mean that a walk to the bluebell woods around the Frith will become a walk between 2m high metal fences, CCTV infra-red security cameras and fields of metal and glass up to 3.5m high as well as many storage containers and battery storage units.
- (b) The affected rural lanes which are used by walkers, dog walkers, runners, as a national cycle route and for horse riding. Road disruption from construction will be significant and dangerous during the morning and evening rush hour and Saturdays for up to a year and a half. The proposals will also increase road flood risk - the roads around Silchester Brook, Clappers Farm Lane and the Frith regularly flood throughout the year making the road impassable and creating many potholes and this development will make things worse.
- (c) The heritage impact of the proposals is significant. One of the fields is known to include many Roman features, including the remains of a Roman villa. If the proposal goes ahead the field will be concreted over and become inaccessible for at least 40 years.
- (d) The battery technology that is being proposed is still in development, meaning that initially a lot of the energy generated is going to be wasted as it cannot be stored and also the current DC to AC inverters being proposed are large and create significant heat and noise.

This is just a short summary of the many concerns that have been expressed regarding these developments. The Council's screening report (and also Councillor Mahaffey's recent letter to the developer) can be found on the Parish Council website - all are worth a read if you are interested.

It is expected that the developers will now complete the full Environmental Impact Assessment required and submit this with their next stage planning submission. We will write to update you when we know more on the process and the timings.

The Silchester Solar Farm Action Group

Link to the [Parish Council](#) site

Link to BDBC application [20/02113/ENSC](#) page



Silchester Association

www.silchester.org

The **Boundary Walk** took place on a lovely sunny day a few weeks ago. Twenty-one walkers took part along with five dogs. We had a slight concern about the state of the paths after all the rain we had had on the previous week especially the ditch we have to cross which had been full of water when Simon did the last check of the paths. However, happily, the water levels had gone down and, though slightly muddy in places, the paths were all clear.

We had a slightly different format this year due to strict Covid regulations on larger gatherings. We divided up into groups of six and set off at staggered intervals so there wasn't so much mingling within the group but hopefully everyone enjoyed their day and got to know a few new people in the village. It is always great to see people coming along for the first time to explore our village boundary. It is a lovely varied walk through woodland, common and fields and mostly off-road.

Steve and Irene Spillane manned the back-up vehicle again, for which we are very grateful and Claire Macklin very kindly allowed us to use her facilities en route - thank you Claire.

Pete Hughes came along with his camera - some of his photos are included on page 5.

The Silchester **Scarecrow Trail** will take place during the October half-term Saturday 24th October to Saturday 31st October.

We have had a great response this year and we will have nineteen scarecrows scattered around the village. The theme this year is Halloween with a Jim Henson optional content.

People will be asked to score each scarecrow with a prize for the best scarecrow.

Participants can purchase a map for £1 showing all the locations - once they have visited all the locations they need to submit their completed entry with anagram and a score - maps will be on sale at The Calleva, Pop Up Café, School grounds and other locations to be announced.

To enter please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/silchesterassociation>

In conjunction with St Mary the Virgin Church, we are holding a **Photographic Competition** to find some photos for a new Silchester calendar to help with some fund-raising for the church.

The theme is

"In and Around Silchester"

For details of how to enter, see separate notice on page 15 of this magazine. We are hoping that many people have been out and about in the village and its surroundings taking their daily exercise and taking lots of photos.

We have had quite a few entries already but would love to have some more. You can see the entries on the www.silchester.org website under 'Photography Competition'. Think about photos of something in the village that would look good on the page of a calendar. Ideally the photo will be in A4 landscape format to fit a page but other formats are also welcome. It can be a village scene, wildlife or a village event or just something that represents village life. Hopefully we'll get a few entries of photographs from the Scarecrow Trail.

You will also have the opportunity to help judge the competition, as the entries will be put online for you to vote for your favourites. Voting will be from 1st - 8th November so look out on the Silchester website and the SA facebook page for how to vote. The voting form will also be available on the St Mary's website. The winning pictures will be made into the new 'Silchester Calendar' which will be available for sale in December.

24th - 31st October
31st October
1st - 8th October

Silchester Scarecrow Trail
Photography Competition deadline for entries
Online voting for best photos

The Silchester Association



SILCHESTER 1939 - 1945

JOHN H. GILES.

1900 - 1943

John Henry Giles was born at Little Heath, Mortimer West End in 1900 to George and Elizabeth Kezia (nee Lambden) Giles, joining brother William (b.1891) and sisters Amy (b.1888), Louisa (b.1894), Millicent (b.1898). Both William and Amy were born when the family lived on Wall Lane, Silchester, at 2 Chitty Farm Cottages, when father George was working as an agricultural labourer.

Sadly, the same year that John was born, George passed away at the age of 39, leaving Elizabeth with the five children. The next year's census, 1901, shows us that Elizabeth and family were surviving on "parish relief".

By 1911, Elizabeth, Millicent and John were living on Little London Road, Silchester, along with Amy (who was now married) and her son. Louisa was working as a domestic servant at Rosemary Cottage, Kings Road, and William was a "houseman" in the household of the Right Hon. Sir Ernest Cassel at Moulton Paddocks near Newmarket.

We know Louisa married Walter J Hillier in 1922 and Millicent married Frederick Ham in 1923, moving to Bradfield where Frederick was the blacksmith. We also know his mother Elizabeth died in 1931 at the age of 68. We don't think John married, as we have found no record of him doing so, and due to Covid, we are still awaiting his service record from the Army/MOD. He doesn't show in the 1939 National Register of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which suggests he was already in the Army by then. We do know he served in World War II with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, who were responsible for the supply of weapons, armoured vehicles and other military equipment, ammunition and clothing.

John served with the RAOC as part of the Eighth Army in North Africa and was part of the Tunisia campaign under "Monty" (General Bernard Montgomery). They defeated the Germans and Italians in the Battle of Wadi Akarit (at the Gabes Gap) on 6th/7th April 1943 and headed north-eastwards.

The town of Sfax fell on 10th April and they moved on towards the mountainous area of Enfidaville.

The battle of Enfidaville was the Eighth Army's last significant battle in North Africa, and saw them fail to break through unexpectedly tough Axis resistance. The battle lasted from 19th to 21st April, but John was killed in action on the first day of the battle.

John Henry Giles is remembered at Sfax War Cemetery in Tunisia.

If you have any more information on John or corrections to the above, please do get in touch.



Mike Baldock
ww2@silchester.org

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Funding Lifeline

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded £131,550 as part of the Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund. This will help us face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and do much to sustain our future. It's a lifeline which will help us keep the art of silk weaving alive at Whitchurch Silk Mill in the short term, but we still need all the help our supporters and the wider community can provide in the way of volunteering, purchases from our shop, use of the café and attending events. Here's to a brighter, post-virus future for us all!

Lockdown Open Art Exhibition

We hope you've enjoyed our social media posts highlighting the work and talents of the exhibitors in the Mill's first Open Art Exhibition. If you've not visited the Mill to see this exhibition, you still can. It's running until 22 November from 10.30am-5pm, Tuesday-Sunday, and is free with Mill admission. The artwork on display was created by artists from the local community, sharing their responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown experience.

A Covid-secure Winter Service

We've instituted a Covid-secure winter service for the Welcome Building (reception, shop and café), involving changes as follows:

- There is now no vehicle entrance for visitors.
- Additional seating has been created in the café, our gazebos have been moved closer to the buildings to make sitting outside a more comfortable experience, and we are operating table service rather than self service.
- We are following the Government's Covid-19 secure guidelines on use of face masks within the Mill buildings, and operating the required track and trace system.

Please help us spread the word that the café has both inside and outside seating, the shop and online shop are open, and we have some great deals at the moment. People shopping with us online can click and collect, and if within walking distance of the Mill can ask us to hand deliver.

Virtual Tours

We're offering Mill Tours via Zoom and our first tour was to the Kitchen Dancers WI from Winchester. The tour starts with a talk about the history of the Mill, then proceeds with a guided tour of the winding and warping machines and the looms, with a close-up look at what's being woven and also examples of silk from our archives.

Actual Tours

Our group tour bookings have resumed with a maximum group size of six, and we are delighted to have several bookings for the autumn.

REGULAR EVENTS

Our regular events including Mini Millers, Young Millers and Pins & Needles will resume as soon as we're able.

Volunteer & Friends Coffee Afternoon

For the time being these get-togethers are being held via Zoom on publicised dates.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please keep an eye on our website for news on all our events.

We'll give updates when we can.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk - 01256 892065 - www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk





Photography Competition

In and Around Silchester

In conjunction with St Mary the Virgin Church
images for a new Silchester calendar for 2021

All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to the Church

Categories:

- A. Silchester Scenes and Landmarks
- B. Silchester Wildlife - Flora and Fauna
- C. Silchester Events and Village Life

You can enter a total of 6 images in any of the categories.
Send your entries to lesley@brewin.org.uk

For more details see

<https://www.silchester.org/future-events/item/92-photography-competition>

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 31ST OCTOBER

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE PHOTOGRAPH IN EACH CATEGORY

Voting opens on 1st November until 8th November

Voting forms are online

at www.silchester.org under Photography Competition
or on the St Mary's website at www.silchesterchurch.co.uk



Parish Council News

Footpath Representative

In our last newsletter, we advertised our vacancy for a Footpath Representative. We are pleased to announce the Clare Payne has now been appointed into this role. Clare will lead on keeping track of the state of our 13km (8 miles) of public footpaths, helping us all to enjoy accessing the wonderful nature around our parish. We welcome other volunteers who may wish to share the load and provide input to Clare. The rest of us can all help with this job too - let our [Clerk](#) know of any maintenance or access issues, collect any litter and leave the bikes to the bridle paths, as it's trespassing to ride bikes on public footpaths.

Feral Pigeons

A number of residents have reported the descent of feral pigeons on parts of Silchester during lockdown, and never really left - probably because towns are still quiet, they enjoy the spills of our bird feeders and we offer them dry, safe and warm roosts under our solar panels. They can be a serious pest and aren't easy to remove. Our Senior Environmental Health Officer says it's the homeowner's responsibility to deter pests. Bird netting and mesh can be used to deter roost under solar panels. There's a whole host of online solutions / advice for making our homes less welcoming!

Silchester Common - Our Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Our SSSI Common is a pretty special place, and our Parish Council receives a sizeable grant to maintain the SSSI status. Without that grant, the Common would gradually become impenetrable scrub and woodland, and the special habitat would be lost. We manage it in three ways:

1. We graze a herd of Dexters on the land. They help to keep down the brambles and birch.
2. The Common Working Party, led by a dedicated team who give up their time to coordinate, keep safe, keep watered and fed, Hampshire's largest commons volunteer working party - collectively achieving a great deal throughout the season.
3. We use contractors to tackle large tracts of clearance. This is where most of the grant money goes. It can look unsightly initially, but nature always recovers beautifully.

This season we expect to use contractors in a few of the heavily overgrown areas running adjacent to Pamber Road. We try to keep the fires, noise and any disruption to a minimum, and hope you continue to enjoy this wonderful habitat. One of the attractions are the huge variety and proliferation of fungi - It is worth remembering though that it's illegal to pick fungi in SSSI areas, so do let us know if you see any evidence of fungi foraging. If you have any questions about the Common or commons management, please contact our [clerk](#).

Flagpole Update

Thanks for those of you who fed back support for a flagpole. With the agreement of Silchester Village Hall Committee, we hope to find a home to fly our flag at the Village Hall. There are a few hoops to jump through first, but with a fair wind, we should get the go-ahead soon. Who knew it could be so complicated erecting a flagpole?!

Planning

The application for Permission in Principle for Housing opposite Hydes Platt has been refused by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council.

We await the decision on whether Enso Energy will be required to provide a full Environmental Impact Assessment for their expected planning proposal for a large solar farm within our parish boundary.

Clr Dan Male

clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk



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
Dan Male		dan.male@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



News release

Help shape how the Borough should be developed in the future

Residents, businesses, organisations and local interest groups are among those being encouraged to have their say on how the borough should be developed over the next 20 years.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is updating its Local Plan which sets out where different types of future development will take place, including new homes, business space and community facilities.

In May 2019 councillors agreed to start the process of updating the local plan, in line with national requirements to review plans every five years. This important planning document considers the borough's changing needs and sets out how these will be met.

While the current plan has performed well against targets this is an opportunity to strengthen the plan in a number of key areas including tackling the climate emergency, creating places which protect and enhance biodiversity where people live and ensuring the right infrastructure is in place to support new homes. The new plan will cover the period up to at least 2038.

People have until Monday 9th November 2020 to have their say on the key issues identified by the council and the possible options for addressing them during a six week consultation.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and the Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "It is important that, even at this very early stage of updating the local plan, people who live and work in the borough give their thoughts on the important issues we need to consider when deciding how it is developed in the future. We need a strong framework in place that protects our borough and its environment from random development and creates the kind of place we want this to be.

"I encourage everyone to take the time to look through the issues and options we have identified and to put forward their views to help shape how the borough should be developed over the next 20 years."

People can view the key issues and comment on possible options for addressing them at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/Issues-and-Options

Paper copies can also be sent by calling 01256 844844.

Leisure

On a recent walk down The Drove and around the Roman Walls I noticed that someone had pinned up in various places small laminated copies of the poem by WH Davies entitled "Leisure".

It reads as follows:

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

It is a charming poem with which I am very familiar. But it was not until I read it on a gatepost and stood and stared that I realised how perfectly it captures the feeling of tranquillity and immersion in nature that is to be experienced on a regular walking route.

The poet, William Henry Davies is known as "the Welsh poet". He was born in Newport (then in Monmouthshire) in 1871 and had an older brother and younger sister. However his father died when he was three years old and he was

subsequently brought up by his grandparents. He was a delinquent as a youngster. When he was 13 he was given 12 strokes of the birch for being part of a gang stealing handbags. He was apprenticed to a picture framer but disliked the work and went off to try his luck in America in 1893. Thereafter, for more than decade, he existed as a tramp or hobo in both London and the USA. When the Klondike Gold Rush started, he teamed up with another tramp with the wonderful name of "Three Fingered Jack." Penniless, they travelled by jumping onto freight trains. This proved to be William's undoing. In March 1889 he fell from a moving train, his foot was crushed and subsequently an amputation below the knee was necessary. For the rest of his life he walked with the aid of a wooden leg.

Back in London he existed from hand to mouth, staying in a Salvation Army hostel and various other shelters provided for tramps. Then in 1905 he published a volume of poems. Their merit was recognised and he attracted the attention of such writers as George Bernard Shaw and Edward Thomas. He gradually settled down, marrying aged 52, a young nurse half his age. He settled in Nailsworth in Gloucestershire where he died on 26 September 1940.

It seems truly remarkable that this charming poem which so neatly captures the serenity of Silchester, should have been written by someone whose start in life was indeed very far from idyllic.

Stephen Bibby



6				2		4
		3			6	
1			4			
	9			7	8	
	2	1		5	6	
8	4			1		
			2			1
	5			7		
4		8				3

Silchester Sweep

The winner of the
Silchester Sweep for September is:
Theresa Philpott ~ No. 46

The winner of the
Silchester Sweep for October is:
Eamonn McArdle ~ No. 33
They win £20

To buy a number or find out more, contact:
Theresa Philpott
Theresaphilpott285@btinternet.com
0118 9701632



Planning

Planning Applications for Consideration		
1	20/02248/LDEU - Silchester House, Holly Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NA Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as mixed use residential dwelling, wedding venue and conference centre	No objection
2	20/02432/HSE - 12 Lordswood, Silchester, RG7 2PZ Erection of single storey rear extension	
3	20/02481/HSE - Mynet House, Little London Road, Silchester, RG7 2PR Ground floor rear and first floor side extension creating additional day room, ensuite and dressing room	
4	T/00463/20/TCA - The Shambles, 5 Whistlers Lane, Silchester T1 - Spruce - Fire damage to tree on the southerly side. Damage found by new owners of property. Fell tree for risk of failure.	
5	T/00489/20/TCA - Culhams Farm House, Little London Road, Silchester T1 - Weeping Willow Tree. Tree has a large hazard beam crack in lowest limb overhanging Firth Close, presenting a H&S risk to pedestrians & parked cars in Firth Close from limb failure. To reduce back the lowest limb to appropriate point to remove the hazard beam. To reduce the whole crown by approx. 4m to create a pollard leaving a finished height of 15-16m with a crown spread (radius) of 15-16m. T2 - Sycamore Tree. To section fell to ground level, due to this specimen's proximity to the weeping willow (T1). T3 - Scots Pine Tree To section fell to ground level. Tree is a poor specimen as its growth has been suppressed by its proximity to T1 & T2. T4 - Beech hedge To reduce to approx height 3.6m above ground level and create a level hedge.	
Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*		
1	20/01573/HSE - Calleva, School Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NJ Erection of detached replacement garage	No objection Granted
Notifications*		
1	None	
Pending Applications*		
1	20/00297/FUL - Land at rear of Bridles View, Byes Lane, Silchester Erection of 1 No. new dwelling with detached double garage and garden/bin/bike store	Objection Awaiting Decision
2	20/01285/PIP - Land At O/S Ref 462670 161631, Little London Road, Silchester Permission in Principal for residential development of up to 9 no. dwellings	Objection Awaiting Decision
3	20/01674/FUL - Wood Farm, Ash Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NH Formation of a ground source heat pump and pipeline - Wood Farm Ash Lane Silchester RG7 2NH	No Objection
4	20/01998/GPDE - 36 Dukes Ride, Silchester RG7 2PY Erection of a single storey rear extension (permitted development notification) - 36 Dukes Ride Silchester Reading Hampshire RG7 2PY	No Objection Awaiting Decision

* 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 Singalong

with

Silchester Community Choir

Come outside and join your neighbours

for a socially-distanced singalong at

6pm on Wednesday 4th Nov.

With a Little Help from My Friends

The Beatles

What would you think if I sang out of tune?
Would you stand up and walk out on me?
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song
And I'll try not to sing out of key

Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends

What do I do when my love is away?
Does it worry you to be alone?
How do I feel by the end of the day?
Are you sad because you're on your own?

No, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends

Do you need anybody?
I need somebody to love
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love

Would you believe in a love at first sight?
Yes I'm certain that it happens all the time
What do you see when you turn out the light?
I can't tell you, but I know it's mine

Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Oh, I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends

Do you need anybody?
I just need someone to love
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love

Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
Oh, I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes, I get by with a little help from my friends
With a little help from my friends.



Help For Men With Prostate Cancer

The hard statistics are that prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK, with one in eight men predicted to be affected by the disease (one in four if black), with the likelihood of it occurring rising as men get older. A regular simple blood test to assess PSA levels is a great help in picking up problems before any cancer has spread, thereby greatly improving the outcome.

In the NHS it is widely recognised that local support groups can greatly help patients cope with a cancer diagnosis. The North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group (NHPCSG), with the assistance of Prostate Cancer UK, has continued to help men and their partners through the Covid-19 restrictions with monthly Zoom meetings when we are often joined by a local NHS specialist nurse.

The focus each month is to start with an informative talk, such as a speaker from the charity "Medical Detection Dogs" or how to manage the side effects of treatment. In our November meeting we will be joining the Isle of Wight support group by Zoom for a talk on the benefits of "Critical Thinking". There is also the opportunity for our members to chat about their own experiences in smaller discussion groups, and for newly diagnosed men to have a one-to-one telephone conversation with a group member.

We are already planning ahead for next year with talks about why exercise is so important for cancer patients in counteracting potential muscle loss caused by many of the treatments as well as assisting with general well being, and insights on the disease from a former leading cancer surgeon.

NHPCSG members can also now benefit from an exercise group in Basingstoke that has recently re-started with comprehensive Covid-19 safety measures.

For more details of the NHPCSG support group contact:

email: info@nhpcsg.org.uk

Phone or text 07377 430242

Website: www.nhpcsg.org.uk



Zoom Zoom Zoom!

The pandemic is leaving a "lasting digital legacy", and changing the UK's internet habits and behaviour "indelibly". So says a recent Ofcom study.

Since March we have broken the four-hour barrier, which means that, on average, we spend more than a quarter of our waking hours each day online. That is up from an average of three hours and 29 minutes this time last year.

Zoom has soared in popularity. Last December it reached 49,800 people in the UK; by April this had soared to 13 million in the UK.

TikTok, which lets users share short videos set to pop music, had 5.4 million UK users in January; by April it had 12.9 million users.

In February, 35 per cent of UK adults made a video call once a week. By April that had soared to 71 per cent. The largest increase has been among the over-65s, with now 61 per cent of them making weekly video calls.

Older people favour Zoom, in order to 'visit' their relatives and friends; while many teenagers have become addicted to TikTok and endless videos.

Military Applications of Geology During World Wars I & II

Most of us have been caught up in the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to dramatic changes to life as we used to know it. Many are tackling jobs they'd put off doing for months, years and even decades, such as clearing out the attic and old cupboards, with the brave ones even venturing into the recesses of our shambolic garages and garden sheds! In my own case, I have devoted some time trimming down old geological files going back to 1958 when I began my career as a geologist in what was then the Bechuanaland Protectorate. **Remembrance Day** is fast approaching and that fact served as a catalyst for me to get immersed on how the work undertaken by geologists impacted on the outcome of WWI & II, hence the title of this article.

Throughout history, water has been recognised as a vital military resource. The first British military hydrogeologist was appointed in 1915 to serve as a water supply officer with the British Expeditionary Force in France. During WWI the British Army, with geological supervision, put down over 470 wells for water behind the Western Front in France and Belgium. No information is readily to hand on the 'methodology' adopted since the science of 'hydrogeology' was very much in its infancy at that time. It was known that W.B.R. King, a Cambridge graduate, served from June 1915 to the end of WWI with distinction as hydrogeologist under the Engineer-in-Chief and supervised the drilling of most of these wells.

There is no such paucity of information, however, for WWII. Up to 16 geologists assisted the so-called **Inter Services Topographical Department (ISTD)**, a British military unit primarily of geographers, under Royal Navy auspices, to prepare reports and geotechnical maps to guide planning of Allied military operations. Their work covered parts of Italy, France, Germany, Austria, the Low Countries, the Balkan region and areas of the Far East. The Sappers (military engineers), were also an important part of this multi-disciplinary team engaged on terrain studies. Some years ago I passed on some of the information I am using for this article to Philip Pearce, our much-loved and sadly missed friend in Silchester, for his use whilst working as a **Battlefield Guide** for Anglia Tours. Philip's extensive knowledge of military history, as many of you will remember, was truly encyclopedic.

In general, the role of the Geologists in the military campaigns was to provide, besides pure geological and soils information, 'special tasks' that needed to be completed as a matter of great urgency often in a few days or even a few hours. Existing geological maps and literature were the principal sources of information then, obtained from the libraries of the British Geological Survey and the Geological Society of London. As an adjunct to this work, aerial and ground photographs were much used. These studies interpreted geological conditions likely to affect military operations, notably cross-country movement, concealment and observation, linking geology to topography. Maps featuring coastal regions where Allied landings were likely to take place or river valleys which might be obstacles to troops advancing eastwards were much in demand, especially for the **Moselle, Garonne, Saar and Neckar** rivers. Soil types as an aid to airborne operations or to illustrate ground conditions likely to affect off-road vehicle mobility were highlighted. British military hydrogeology in the Middle East and Western Desert dealt mainly with the provision of groundwater supplies for army camps and technical direction for three Royal Engineer borehole drilling units and South African geologists of their Engineer Corps. Coupled with this work, advice was given on availability of road building materials and for the rapid construction of temporary airfields. The quantities of water allocated for military use, of necessity, was much less than the 50 gallons per day per person for UK and was often as low as 10g/d/p. The camps also had to survive on less than ideal water quality and this proved challenging from a health standpoint since



relatively high concentrations of sodium chloride and magnesium sulphate were common in the groundwaters of desert regions. Along the Mediterranean west from **Alexandria** in Egypt to the **Gulf of Sirte** in Libya water was mainly obtained from 40 collecting galleries which needed carefully controlled construction. Pumping had to 'skim off' potable water from the freshwater lenses that lay above the more dense saline water in the coastal dunes and wadis. Use was made of saline well water in some areas for airfield spraying since this operation served to mitigate dust problems so prevalent at times in the Western Desert. I personally experienced such dust storms while working for the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation in Libya between 1981 and 1986. Wind blown sand would reduce visibility to virtually 'nil' and could 'frost up' a vehicle's windscreen in a matter of minutes such was their intensity.

Terrain studies for operations in the **Far East** also formed part of ISTD geologists work and they contributed no fewer than 21 technical reports on the region, with **Malaya** figuring prominently. Airfield suitability for parts of Malaya was identified, as was sources of groundwater, road metal and concrete aggregate. Similar reports were produced for **Formosa** (present day **Taiwan**), **Hong Kong**, **Sumatra** and **Java**. In these countries work enabled distinctions to be made between grounds seasonally rather than permanently waterlogged. These studies were complemented by those of the Strategic Branch of the Geological Survey of India, whose 9 geologists produced over 50 technical notes on the region.

In summary, much of ISTD's early work centred on "remote" geological preparations with staff from relevant departments working in UK. Their detailed synthesis of available data led to the production of rudimentary hydrogeological maps. Initially, these were **Trace Maps** showing groundwater conditions prepared as **Overlays** for use with the corresponding topographic maps. These 'dual maps' were then used to guide military well drilling teams in the field whose job it was to develop water supplies for base camps once the bridgehead had been established. The so-called remote studies were particularly helpful in the early days of WWII in identifying assault crossings along the **Loire** and **Seine** rivers.

A comparison can be made with maps prepared by British military geologists to assist the cross-channel invasion from England into France with similar work undertaken by their German counterparts. As part of **Operation Sealion**, Germany had planned to invade the UK in September 1940, but it was postponed indefinitely as a consequence of British victory in the aerial **Battle of Britain**. German geologists at that time did, however, produce specialist maps of southeast England showing areas with water supply potential, including springs.

The production of British military maps thus marked a significant phase in the evolution of modern-day hydrogeological and groundwater mapping techniques in post-war UK. The application of these principles stemmed from the war when 'necessity was the mother of invention'.

Marsden Jones



Lower Your Hostility

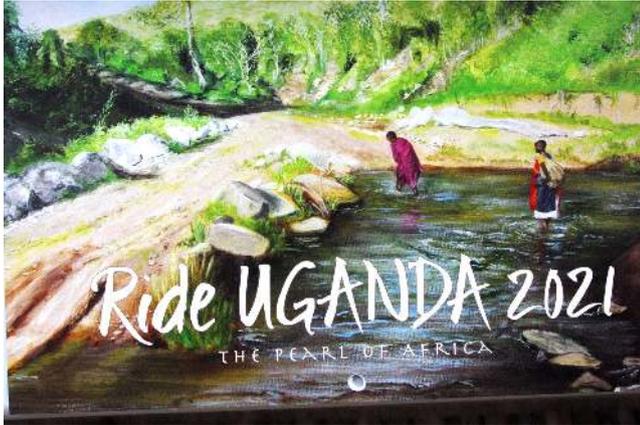
Keep calm, and keep kind, if you want to live longer. It seems that being sarcastic and irritable only makes heart attack victims more likely to die from a second coronary.

A recent study in the US on the personality traits of patients who had had heart attacks

found that hostile personality traits (sarcasm, cynicism, resentment, impatience, irritability) was a common factor.

One doctor at the University of Tennessee said: "We know that taking control of lifestyle habits improved the outlook for heart attack patients, and our study suggests that improving hostile behaviour could also be a positive move."

2021 Calendar and Sandi's Paintings



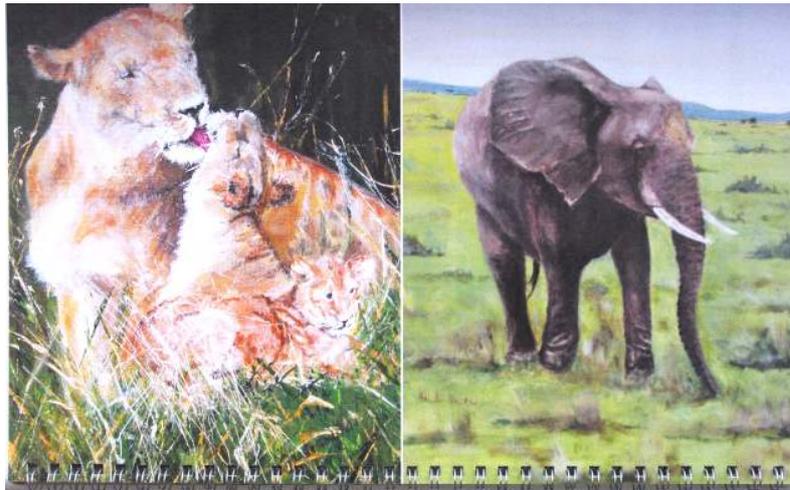
Following on from last month's missive about Sandi Smithers hopes for cycling in Uganda in November 2021, Charity Links which is the umbrella organisation for the charities that Sandi and the 13 other cyclists raised £45,000 for in November 2019, have now put together their "RIDE UGANDA 2021" calendar which is based around 12 paintings that Sandi has done during this year based upon their 320 km ride from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara. Below are the front cover and two other paintings that are included in the calendar which also gives details

and photographs of their similar rides in Tanzania & Rwanda in 2017 and in Kenya in 2019.

Anyone wanting to order copies of the calendar please contact Sandi on 0118 9700394 as they will be available during November, in good time for Christmas and the New Year. Each calendar comes with a strong board envelope suiting for posting worldwide if needed.

The paintings illustrated in the calendar as well as others plus prints of some of the paintings will be available for sale shortly. It was hoped that an exhibition of her paintings could be held in the village but until the current situation improves for anyone interested a private viewing in our house could be arranged as long as the appropriate social distancing measures are followed.

To finalise, **please order this beautiful 2021 calendar by contacting Sandi on 0118 9700394.**



As one of the cyclists writes on the calendar "As Covid has a global presence, we continue to support the children in East Africa and funds raised from this calendar and our anticipated "Ride Uganda 2021" will have a direct impact where it really matters."

*Thank you,
Neil Smithers*



Miscellaneous Musings Modern Life...

- In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
- Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.



Welcome to Cherry Trees Preschool! We're based within Silchester Village Hall, where we've been for many years!!

Whilst our outdoor area has seen plenty of updates, our indoor space has too! We are strong believers in 'less is more' and while reducing the number of resources out, we have ensured what we do have out is of more educational quality, encouraging children to engage more with what's available to them, as well as building their relationships with their peers.

Back in September 2019, Impstone Preschool took over the running of Cherry Trees, expanding from our current setting in Pamber Heath, bringing with us a great many years of experience working with and educating young children.

All the staffing team are qualified to Level 3 in childcare, ensuring they offer the highest quality teaching, as well as providing a nurturing environment for your child to grow in to a confident and independent little person, ready to begin their next journey on to school.

Children attending our setting can enjoy a huge range of activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, some of which are adult led, but the majority is led by the children in our care.



We are in the process of becoming a communication friendly setting, with all our team qualified in Makaton - we even send our parents the Makaton song of the month to practise with their child at home too! We have a huge

Over the last year, we have developed the preschool hugely, with a special emphasis on the outside area, both in the garden and our allotment. We started to grow all our fruits and vegetables last year to support our weekly cooking activities and this year we are in the process of rebuilding our 'bug hotel' and looking to build a hedgehog house!

range of visuals within the setting, so the children are able to build their confidence in communicating with us and their peers.

We are great believers in outdoor learning where we try and spend most of our days, be it in our garden or out on walks and forest adventures, even a sneaky trip to the Pop Up Café and park: Our preschool dog Teddie joins us on most days and the children thoroughly enjoy taking her out on walks too, while also learning about how to care for her in and out of the setting, relating this to caring for themselves and their families.

We have great links with all the local schools, especially our main feeder school Silchester, all of whom we work with to ensure we are preparing our children ready for their next adventure based on the relevant school's expectations.

Our garden area has seen lots of changes this year with a wonderful new outdoor kitchen, construction and mark making zones, as well as plenty of physical play areas to challenge the children's abilities. We are looking to develop this further to provide us with an outdoor classroom area.

We are a termtime-only preschool, open weekdays from 9am - 2.45pm. We care for children from their 2nd birthday, accepting 2,3 and 4 yr funding as well as 30 hrs funding.



If you are looking for a caring and fun preschool for your child to attend, then please do get in touch either by email or phone. You can also find more information on our website:

www.impstonepreschool.co.uk

Here we continue *The Labours of Heracles* written by *Stephen Bibby* - it was aimed at children of around 10 years old ... But has been enjoyed by all ages over the last few months.

The Labours of Heracles

The Eighth Labour - The Mares of Diomedes

On the border of Greece and Turkey was a kingdom known as Thrace. Its ruler was King Diomedes.

This king was known throughout the ancient world as a wicked man. He often treated people he disliked in a horribly cruel manner and became widely feared and hated.

King Diomedes owned four savage mares. These creatures were terrifying. They were so wild and vicious that they were kept locked in a stable, firmly tethered with iron chains anchoring them onto a heavy bronze manger. If any visitors upset Diomedes he had them taken to the stable and fed to the hungry horses. Normal horses eat only hay and grass and are known as herbivores. But these savage animals belonging to Diomedes were different. They ate flesh and so were carnivores.

For his eighth Labour King Eurystheus ordered Heracles to travel to Thrace, find and then capture the Mares of Diomedes.

Yet again Heracles made a long voyage by sea. He had heard all about Diomedes and was not looking forward to meeting him. Realising that this evil king would never simply hand over his horses, Heracles spent some time aboard ship devising a plan.

Once Thrace had come into sight, Heracles issued an order to the ship's captain to sail into a quiet bay. There, in the dead of night, he waded to the shore. Hidden by the darkness he crept up to the stable where the mares were kept and looked around. Two grooms were standing guard, but Heracles easily overpowered them.

He stepped inside the stable where he could hear the fierce mares neighing menacingly. Quickly, he seized their iron tethering chains in both hands, pulling them apart so they snapped like brittle brushwood. Such was his strength that in an instant Heracles had released the mares.

Now he had to think quickly. Heracles feared that as soon as Diomedes was told that the mares had escaped he would come chasing after them. With this in mind Heracles set off, driving the beasts towards the sea where his ship was moored. But the vicious animals kicked and reared and were so difficult to control that the journey was slower than Heracles had reckoned. He knew that Diomedes would swiftly catch up with him.

Before reaching the shore, Heracles came to a small hill. Turning from his path, he forced the

animals up onto the low summit, taking with him a companion, Abderus who had been on the ship with him. Abderus was given the task of guarding the mares.

With the mares secured, Heracles could turn and face Diomedes. As dawn broke he looked down from the hilltop. A cloud of dust in the distance indicated that not only was Diomedes driving in his chariot towards him, but also that he was leading a small army. Although brave and strong, Heracles knew he could not overcome an entire army single handed. He thought carefully about what to do next.

With sudden inspiration, drawing on all his reserves of strength, Heracles immediately set to work. At a furious pace, barely pausing for breath, he dug a channel from the foot of the hill to the sea. As soon as the channel reached the tide line the waves rolled in and flooded the plain.

Diomedes and his army, shaken and surprised, were halted by this great lake of water. They stood at the far side shouting in anger because they could not reach Heracles.

Thinking that his work was done, Heracles returned to the hilltop. When he arrived he was shocked by what he saw. While he had been away the ferocious mares had turned on Abderus and eaten him alive.

Heracles was deeply upset that the brutal beasts had taken the life of his shipmate. Tying up the mares, he rushed down the hillside again. The soldiers from the army sent to fight him had turned away but Heracles pursued them. He was so strong that he could easily swim across the lake he had created. Reaching the other side, he caught up with King Diomedes who had lingered behind his soldiers. With an almighty blow of his club Heracles stunned Diomedes then carried him back through the lake and up to the hilltop.

Even though it might have been deserved, the fate Heracles inflicted upon Diomedes was terrible. Still angry at the death of Abderus, Heracles threw Diomedes to the mares who immediately ripped him to pieces. He had become food for his own horses.

Finally Heracles hitched the mares to the chariot captured from Diomedes, as this was the best way of keeping them under control. Seizing the reins, he drove the beasts furiously. To ensure the mares did not escape and were kept permanently between the shafts of the chariot, Heracles decided to



travel overland back to the court of King Eurystheus. There, in an act which must have seemed insulting to Heracles, Eurystheus ordered that the mares be dedicated to Hera. He commanded that they be set free in her honour on Mount Olympus.

The Ninth Labour - Hippolyta's Girdle

In a land near the Black Sea, which lies north of present day Turkey, lived a tribe of warriors. They were fierce people: brave, athletic and very warlike. In battle they carried bows made of bronze and short shields shaped like a half-moon. But there was one thing which made them stand out from all other warriors. They were women.

They called themselves Amazons. Their leader was Hippolyta, known as Queen of the Amazons.

To show her status as queen, Hippolyta wore a golden girdle. This was a beautiful broad belt which gleamed brightly in the sunlight. It was envied by anyone who saw it.

The golden girdle was famous throughout ancient Greece. Everyone knew about it, including King Eurystheus. In turn he had described it to his daughter, a rather unpleasant young lady named Admete. The more she thought about it, the more Admete coveted the girdle. She demanded that it should be taken from Hippolyta and constantly pestered her father, stamping her feet and whining annoyingly when she did not get what she wanted.

Eurystheus at last gave in to his tiresome daughter. For the ninth Labour the king ordered Heracles to bring Hippolyta's girdle as a gift for Admete.

Without complaint, once more Heracles set off. Taking some companions with him by ship, he sailed to the land of the Amazons.

When the ship arrived Heracles ordered that it should be anchored a little way from the shore. He knew the reputation of the warlike Amazons and did not wish the ship's crew to face an angry attack.

The Amazons lined the beach and stared out at the strange vessel which had arrived at their land. Hippolyta herself decided she would wade out to the ship to enquire about the purpose of the visit. She strode through the shallow waves without fear because, like other Amazons, she did not think very much of men. Boarding the ship alone, she was well prepared for a fight to the death.

But as soon as she saw Heracles her mood changed. Her eyes fell on his great, strong body, full of mighty muscles. He stood tall, confident and brave, although she detected an air of sadness in him. Immediately she felt a tremendous attraction

towards him. She was smitten with love. Without being asked, she promptly removed her magnificent golden girdle and handed it to Heracles as a token of her feelings.

Unknown to Hippolyta, while she was on board the ship the goddess Hera appeared in disguise to the other Amazons. She mingled with the warriors who were waiting on the shore, pretending she was an Amazon herself. Moving quickly, she whispered into one ear and then another. She pointed out that Hippolyta was still on the ship; she suggested that the sailors were preparing to leave. The disguised Hera soon frightened the Amazons into believing that Heracles had captured Queen Hippolyta and was about to carry her off to a distant land.

This rumour quickly spread. Anxiety turned to anger. Encouraged by Hera, the fierce warriors rushed down the beach and started to attack the ship.

Seeing the charging women, yelling with blood curdling cries, brandishing spears and swords, Heracles feared he had been tricked. As the first of the warriors reached the side of the ship, yelling with blood curdling cries, Heracles grabbed his sword. Swinging it mightily, he drove it into Hippolyta's body, killing her instantly.

He called out to his men who hurriedly leapt to his defence. They seized their weapons, hacking at the Amazons climbing up the ropes as they attempted to board the ship. An almighty battle broke out which continued until finally the Amazons fled in defeat.

Shaken by this terrible and sudden battle, Heracles ordered the crew to set sail without delay. After a swift voyage they once more reached the court of King Eurystheus.

This time when Heracles returned the king had no need to hide in his bronze urn. Unlike the fearsome creatures captured in earlier Labours, the golden girdle could do no harm. Eurystheus was seated on his throne with Admete beside him.

"I have done what I was commanded" Heracles cried, handing the golden girdle to the spoilt princess.

Admete grasped it and secured it around her waist, gloating with pride. To her dying day this vain and selfish princess had no idea of the terrible things that had taken place to bring her what she desired.

Stephen Bibby

*To be continued ... Next issue we will have
The Tenth Labour - The Cattle of Geryon along with
The Eleventh Labour - The Apples of the Hesperides*

In Praise of Peanut Butter

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in *The Grocer*, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring.

Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. "Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices."

Whatever the reason, sales of peanut butter, at £98.9 million in the past year, are now £2 million more than those for jam.



The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

St James the Least of All On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive

The Rectory,
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence - which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through 'Onward Christian Soldiers' at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.



Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



Now You See Me: Marine Masters of Disguise



In the world of wildlife, the word 'camouflage' can mean a lot of things. It sometimes refers to mimicry, which means being seen but incorrectly identified - think grasshoppers pretending to be dead leaves. The attributes we associate most with camouflage, however, are things which make animals hard to see at all; this is known as crypsis.

A clear advantage

Invisibility may sound like the stuff of fantasy, but it's surprisingly common in our seas. True transparency is tricky to achieve - any food eaten will be visible, and eyes must be opaque in order to function. But partial transparency can still be useful, especially in shallower waters where light is plentiful.

Even the stealthiest animals are visible from above by the shadow they cast on the seabed, and from below by their silhouette. Since more light can pass through their bodies, transparent species have a diffuse outline from both angles, which makes it harder for predators and prey to identify them.

Local examples of this superpower include the Common Shrimp, the Moon Jellyfish, and the aptly named Transparent Goby. Eels also have a glass-like developmental stage which is thought to help them survive the long trip from their birthplaces at sea to the rivers where they mature into adults.

Colourful characters

If transparency isn't an option then clever use of colour could be the answer. Sardines, Herrings, and Sea Bass are all darker along their spines, which is called countershading. In natural lighting the tops of objects are illuminated while their undersides fall into shadow. These fish are

darker on top and lighter underneath, creating an optical illusion that helps them blend into their environment.

Seahorses, and flatfish like Plaice, go one step further: they use pigment-filled skin cells called chromatophores to match the colour and pattern of their surroundings. Cuttlefish are masters of this trick, thanks to additional control over cells called papillae, which they can raise to alter the texture of their skin too.



Moon jellyfish © Paul Naylor

Dress to impress

Some of our marine species get crafty and enhance their natural camouflage with items from their environment. Dahlia anemones have sticky warts on their bodies which pick up pieces of shell, sand, and gravel. When their tentacles are retracted the anemones can be almost entirely obscured by these pieces of debris.

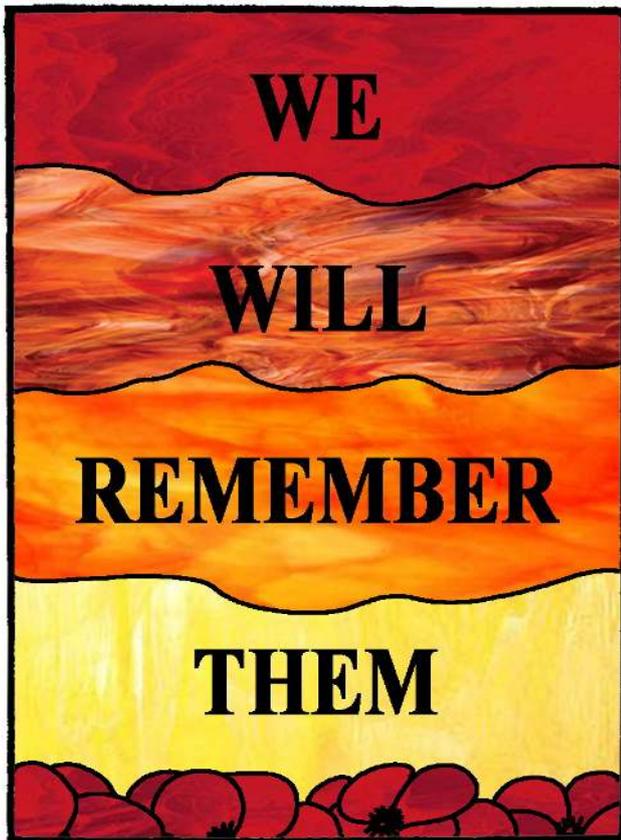
Several species of Spider Crab are called 'decorators' due to their love of accessorising. The Great Spider Crab, for instance, has a shell with a rough and knobby surface; this acts like velcro, allowing the crab to disguise itself with pieces of seaweed and sponge. Over time, these decorations can become a home for tiny animals like hydroids, making each crab a walking habitat!

*Sophie Evingar
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

Help wildlife where you live.
www.hiwwt.org.uk



Poppy Appeal 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount".

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."

And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."

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The revenue from the sale of advertising space helps significantly in keeping down the cost of the magazine.

Would you like to subscribe to this magazine?

Contact: Nancy Jones, Distribution Manager, details as above.

Subscription to the magazine is now £5 per annum for 11 issues. Seniors are £3.

Copy should be sent to editor@silchester.org

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

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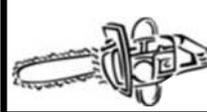
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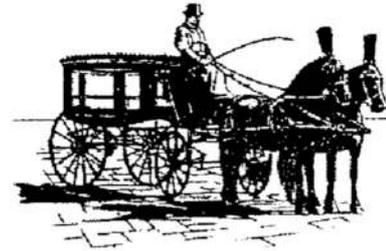
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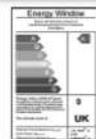
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