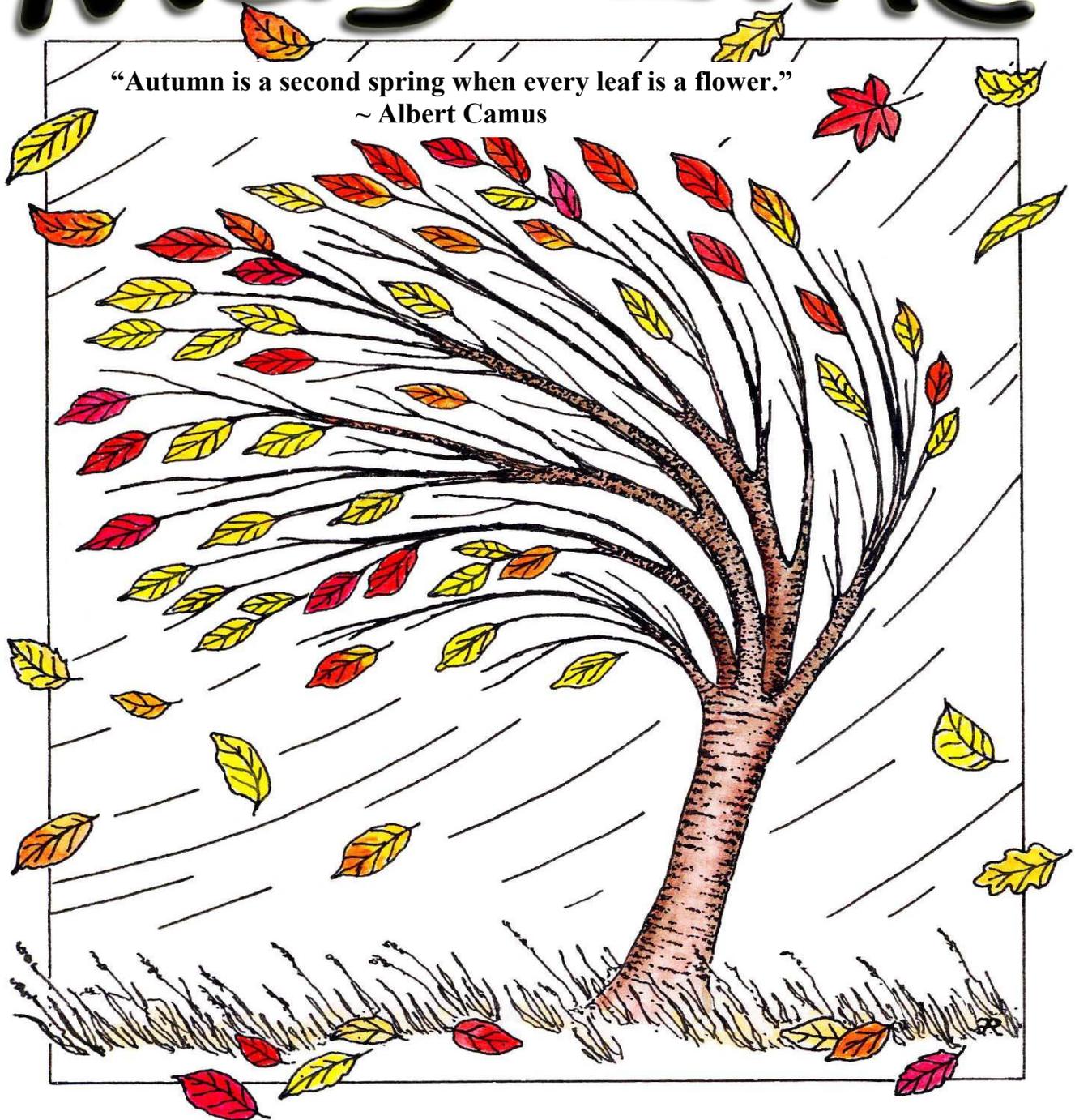


Silchester Magazine

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

~ Albert Camus



October 2020



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Volume 61 No 8

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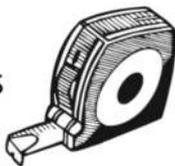
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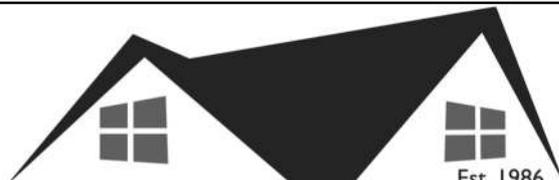
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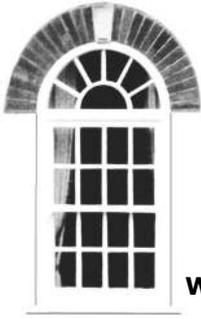
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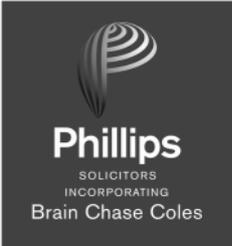
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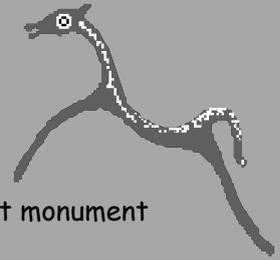
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Silchester Magazine

October 2020

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



October

Sat	3rd		Volunteer Working Party at Flex Ditch ancient monument
		10am	Silchester Village Market ~ CANCELLED
Sun	4th	8am	Book of Common Prayer Communion ~ at St Mary's
Wed	7th	2pm	Phoenix Club ~ CANCELLED
Sat	10th		Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party
Sun	11th	11.30am	Silchester Association Boundary Walk
Tue	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline
Sun	18th	10.45am	Annual Parochial Church (Zoom) Meeting ~ see page 6
Sat	24th		Silchester Association Scarecrow Trail ~ Begins
Sat	31st		'In and Around Silchester' Photography Competition closing date

November

Sun	1st	8am	Book of Common Prayer Communion ~ at St Mary's
Sun	8th	10.55am	Act of Remembrance ~ at Village War Memorial
Fri	13th	midnight	Magazine Copy Deadline for December/January Issue
Sat	14th		Silchester Common Volunteer Working Party

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

PLEASE NOTE: The next deadline for copy for the **November** issue is
midnight on 13th October

Thanks to so many of you for completing our Survey!

We were pleasantly surprised to receive a total of 162 replies to our survey questions.

At present we are studying the results to work out "...What Next", but it is clear that many of you value the printed copy that we have been unable to deliver to you recently because of Covid. We also know many of you have really liked accessing the Magazine online for the first time.

We also appreciate that, whether online or in print format, you have said you are willing to continue subscribing to the Silchester Magazine.

In the next issue, we hope to bring you more on this, and how we will try to go forward in the next year of the Silchester Magazine starting in March 2021.

The Magazine Team

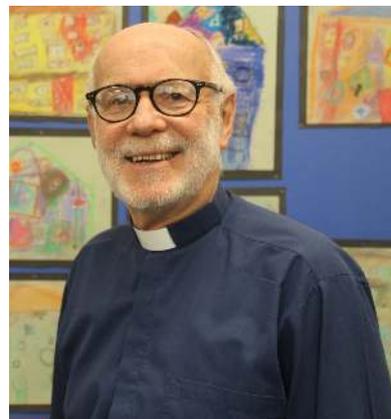




My Dad worked in a Department Store and there were certain times in every year when he became very stressed and Mum shooed us away when he came home from work. He just wanted to sit down and eat his tea. These times were Christmas, the sales and stocktaking. These moments of intense busyness or change marked out the shape of the year for him, and us.

That shape, familiar landmarks in the year, or even more regular landmarks in the week like work days and weekends, is something which often becomes less clear when you retire, but this year at times has been in danger of being lost altogether for some people as one day merged into another.

The reinstatement of events and activities has been in part an attempt to bring some purpose, release and shape back into our lives but that has had to be balanced against Covid considerations, and the age-old question "Just because you can do it, should you?".



It's a question I think we are all tussling with, and for the church and potential community events, a difficult one. At the time of writing I am giving a lot of thought as to how we can best mark Christmas in a Covid-safe way without being able to hold large services, and the "person in the pew" not being allowed to sing carols. One idea we did have was to hold an art exhibition in the church in December with the church decorated, carols playing over the P.A. etc and only 6 people allowed in at a time, but after consultation with the Diocese we have sadly come to the conclusion that, in the words of the Archdeacon, "the vision is great, the idea really positive, but the timing, context and challenge of ensuring the church remains a safe space is too difficult to guarantee and (he is) not convinced that it is in line with the greater caution the government is asking us to practice". Which also leads me to ask myself that question in terms of Covid safety "Just because we might be able to do it, should we?" and we have now reluctantly concluded that in this particular case - we shouldn't. So we will not be proceeding with the Exhibition this year though hopefully we can return to the idea at a better time.

But before we get to Christmas there are other landmarks in the church and community calendar where we believe we can meet Covid safeguarding and "we should do it". The Harvest Service is to be on Zoom 10.00am Sunday 4th October. The Boundary Walk is still planned for 11th October. The Remembrance Sunday Church Service itself will be on Zoom on Sunday 8th November but we are planning with the Parish Council to hold a 11.00am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. We just need to work out how best to keep this Covid-safe. I anticipate some national advice. More information in the next magazine.

So as we face having to adapt and change our marking of the year over the coming months perhaps we should ponder on those immortal words of Eric Idle "Always look on the bright side of life", after all, only catering for 6, and no parties to organise or avoid could take away some of the stress (but also joy?) out of Christmas.

God bless, Rob

Revd Rob Young, Resident Vicar, St Mary the Virgin, Silchester

0118 9700884 robwyong101@gmail.com

Services at St Mary the Virgin Church Silchester

Sunday 4th October

8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion in Church

10.00am Harvest Festival Service on Zoom

Sunday 11th October

10.00am Service on Zoom

Sunday 18th October

10.00am Service on Zoom

11.00am Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Zoom

Sunday 25th October

10.00am Service on Zoom

Sunday 1st November

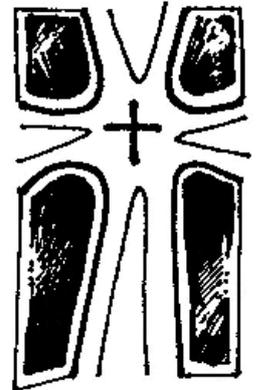
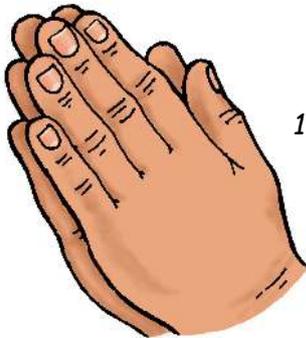
8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion in Church

10.00am Service on Zoom

Sunday 8th November

10.00am Service on Zoom

11.00am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial



The Zoom link can be found each week on the St Mary the Virgin Silchester web site <https://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/> or telephone Revd Rob Young 01189700884.

Revd Rob Young

In the Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester



Prayers & Poems

Need For Healing

Heavenly Father,
We bring to you all those struggling with their
mental health just now.

We pray:

For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're
in pain.

For everyone who is saying they're fine, when
inside they feel drained and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as
the easing of the lockdown brings new
anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of
their world has been stripped back and
emptied.

When loved family and friends have been taken
by illness,
Or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and
sadness.

May you walk with them besides still waters
May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless
them with your abundant love and fullness of
life.

And may they know that they are loved by you
for the beautiful unique person that they are,
created in the image of their heavenly creator
and loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Revd Peter Crumpler

Litter Virus

A face mask is a helpful thing -
It traps those nasty germs!

An extra message I must bring
In these poetic terms:

When you've finished with your mask

A bin is simply found
So drop it in - an easy task!
Don't leave it on the ground!

Nigel Beeton

A Helping Hand

There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress
In the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple
The rewards plain for all men to see
As you did all of this to my brother
Then said Jesus, you did it to me.

Colin Hammacott

The Gates of the Kingdom

Give us, O God, the needs the body feels,
Give us, God, the need-things of the soul;
Give us, O God, the balm which body heals,
Give us, God, the soul-balm which makes whole.

O great God, thou who art upon the throne,
Give to us the heart repentance true,
Forgiveness give us of the sin we own, -
The sin inborn and the sin we do.

Give us, O God, a yearning that is strong,
And the crown of glory of the King;
Give us the safe home, God, for which we long
In thy kingdom's lovely gates to sing.

May Michael, archangel warrior white,
Keep down hostile demons of the fall;
May Jesus Christ ... guide our flight
And give lodging in his peace-bright hall.



St Mary the Virgin Church

Opening Hours and Covid Measures

The church building was re-opened for private prayer as soon as possible after lockdown and there is a continued commitment to keep the church open as far as possible. However, Covid restrictions and cleaning requirements mean that the opening hours are more limited than previous and some restrictions have been placed on access to parts of the church during the week, mainly the pews. This is for a number of reasons.

Those who open and close the church are all volunteers and many are of a vulnerable age in terms of Covid. They are being asked not only to open and shut the church but also to wipe down particularly sensitive areas with antiseptic spray and wipes every day. It felt unreasonable to ask them to leave this until last thing at night. Access to the pews is also restricted to minimise the extent of daily cleaning which would be required. Antiseptic hand gel is available for all visitors and cleaning is also undertaken as far as is reasonable throughout the church once a week, by other volunteers.



During church services 2m distancing is maintained, only alternate pews being open, and masks are to be worn. Takeaway leaflets of the order of service are supplied rather than the usual books to avoid contamination.

We do want to re-open the church for further services as soon as reasonable but many are finding the Zoom services safer and more convenient, and with Covid 2m restrictions still in place we cannot accommodate many more than half our regular 10.00am congregation.

So currently the Church should be open from 9.30am to 4.30pm (which will become earlier in the afternoon as winter approaches) except when there have been services in the church. Such services are typically 8.00am on the first and third Sundays of the month (first Sunday only in October). Regrettably when there are services the church is required to be closed for the next 72 hours to try and ensure no traces of Covid could remain, and this requirement applies not only to advertised services but also to occasional services such as funerals.

I am sorry this all means the church may sometimes be closed when expected to be opened but we are incredibly grateful to our volunteers who come from the whole village community, not just church members. We realise, however that occasionally last minute domestic emergencies or the like will arise which will mean the church opening later or closing earlier and whilst we will do our best to cover them or post a notice in the porch, of necessity, there will be occasions when this cannot be done.

We hope you will all bear with us. The realistic alternative would be to keep the church closed and we are not prepared to do that.

Rob Young (Vicar), Sandra Speight and Richard Eldridge (Church Wardens)



St Mary the Virgin Silchester Annual Parochial Church (Zoom) Meeting Sunday, 18th of October 2020

Last month I wrote to inform you of arrangements for the APCM scheduled for the 18th of October. This time the intention is simply to provide a few reminders, together with renewed encouragement to get involved:

1. The APCM will follow on straight after the regular 10:00am Zoom service, therefore starting around 10:45.
2. All the links you need in order to be fully informed and to take part can be found under the "Information" tab on the web page for St Mary the Virgin, Silchester - go to: <https://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/>
3. This web page also includes the link you need in order to join the Zoom meeting.
4. Please consider who might be suitable for nomination for the posts of: Churchwarden; Parochial Church Council member; Deanery Synod Representative. Remember that the Churchwarden proposals and posts are open to anyone in the Village, not only to church members. Download appropriate nomination forms from the web page, then make sure they are completed and delivered to Colin Hunt (8 Lordswood, Silchester) before the 18th of October.

We hope very much that you will join us.

Colin Hunt

Honorary Secretary to the PCC, St Mary the Virgin, Silchester



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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.

Our ex-resident priest Ken Batt and his wife Linda are very happy to announce 'The baby is born!' on Saturday 10th September, just a few minutes before Midnight. A first child for their daughter Rachael and her husband Paul who were married at Silchester Church on 22nd September 2012 (one of 7 weddings that month). The proud parents have named their daughter Sienna followed by two further family names. Ken and Linda are delighted and very happy for them.

Congratulations to Georgina and Jonty Moody on the birth of their daughter Sybil Jean born on 18th August. A sister for Grace and Ted, Granddaughter for Graham Lemm and Christina Tucker, Mandy Lemm and Murray McGowan and Great granddaughter for Maurice and Anita Withers.

Long time Silchester resident Joan Price moved to South Wales in July to be closer to her daughter. Joan had been a teacher at Tadley School for many years and was also a great supporter and fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society. She has many friends in Silchester and will be missed. We wish her well in her new home.

We are sad to report two deaths of former villagers. Carmel Harding - who had moved to Basingstoke some years ago and Caroline Smith - who was living in America. We send our sympathy to their families. These two friends actually lived next door to each other in Holly Lane.

Nat and Chloe Baker moved into Keepers Cottage in August. They have two children Bethany and Billie. Chloe's parents live in Pamber Heath and she has childhood memories of walking on the Common and passing by Keepers Cottage. They are very much looking forward to living in Silchester.

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).



We love milk, but from where?

Dairy cows have serious competition these days: a third of young people are now opting for vegan milk instead. Recent data from the global market research firm, Mintel, has found that 23 per cent of Britons now use plant-based milk. It has become most popular among the 16 to 24-year-olds.

Many millennials have switched to soya milk because of environmental concerns, but the Sustainable Food Trust has recently warned that vegan milk could actually be far more harmful to the environment. They say that grass-fed dairy milk poses less of a threat to the Amazon and other rainforests than many soya products do.



Silchester Players

At the time of writing, "The Litter Picker" has been recorded and is in the process of being edited ready for broadcast on HHCR Basingstoke's Community Radio (www.hhcr.org.uk) on Tuesday 29th September just after 1pm.

After the broadcast, we will include the recording on our website. To listen, go to www.silchesterplayers.org early in October.

Performing for radio outdoors, under socially distanced conditions, presented new challenges. We set aside Monday 24th August for rehearsals, discovering that although the actors could read from their scripts, it was still necessary for the director to indicate the right moments for special emphasis, pauses or a change in tone of voice. All of this is vitally important when you are reliant solely on sound to create convincing images in the minds of listeners.

The planned recording date was Tuesday 25th August. We could not have chosen worse! That was the day of heavy rain and very strong winds with gusts of up to 50 mph, making it impossible to record outdoors. Fortunately we held the following day, Wednesday 26th August, in reserve when there were far more favourable conditions.

We set up two garden gazebos to cover both equipment and actors. This turned out to have been prudent as, for a few minutes, we experienced a spell of light drizzle. The actors kept at least 1.5 m away from the microphone, from each other, from the director and from the technical crew. Our technicians did three 'takes' to give them plenty of material to go into the editing process. This was just as well as at one point, at a crucial moment, a chainsaw started up in the distance!

Some very catchy original music, excellently capturing the atmosphere of the play, has been composed by our musical expert, Tony Oliver, and will be added to the recording track together with some very atmospheric sound effects. All in all, we are confident that, despite less than ideal conditions, we have produced a first rate radio play.



Our committee met by Zoom as scheduled on 2nd September when we discussed whether, with the easing of restrictions, we could again stage a performance in Silchester Village Hall, possibly with a limited cast. In that event the audience would also be limited and would have to observe social distancing. However there would be huge practical difficulties, particularly as access to the hall is narrow. Since then further restrictions on gathering have been imposed, making meeting for rehearsals almost impossible. Reluctantly, we have concluded that it will be impossible to stage anything in 2020 and sadly our traditional pantomime scheduled for January 2021 cannot go ahead.



Silchester Players ready for a socially distanced recording of 'The Litter Picker'

However there will be some thespian activity during the autumn. On the evening of 29th September we have a Zoom meeting for the entire company when we will read a pantomime script. This is an experiment to decide whether it will be possible to perform and record a pantomime using this medium. Then on Saturday 31st October we will be holding another Zoom social evening taking the form of a Halloween quiz.

Despite the challenges we are determined to keep our skills alive. If you wish to participate please contact us via our website:

www.silchesterplayers.org

Silchester Methodist Church

Minister Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf (0118 9700139)



On 21st September we held a Zoom Extraordinary Meeting of Silchester Methodist Church Council. After a long discussion and a vote it was decided not to reopen the church for October or November.

Every month we are hoping to hold one Outdoor Communion Service for a maximum of 6 people which will be held in the Ebenezer Garden. The practical details and Risk Assessment have to be completed. More information later.

We are still 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.



Photography Competition



"In and Around Silchester"

Calling all Silchester Photographers

In conjunction with St Mary the Virgin Church, the Silchester Association is holding a competition to source photos for a new Silchester calendar for 2021.

All proceeds for the calendar will go to the Church.

Due to the lockdown, there must have been many photographs taken locally this year and we would like to see them!

12 of the best images will be selected for the calendar which will be on sale in the village in December.

We are inviting entries in the following categories:

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

All entries will be available to view online and you will be asked to vote for your favourites.

Please send your photos to lesley@brewin.org.uk along with your name and contact details.

You can enter up to six images in total in one or more categories (e.g. you may enter 6 images in one category or 2 in each category, etc)

Closing date for entries is 31st October



Silchester Association

www.silchester.org

We are, at last, going to have a couple of events in the village. The **Boundary Walk** is booked for Sunday 11th October. For those who have never taken part in it, it is a lovely walk around the boundary of Silchester leaving the Village Hall at 11.30am and usually returning at 3.30-4pm. The entire walk is about 8 miles and we break for lunch on the way. Bring a packed lunch and plenty of water. To comply with Covid regulations this year, we will have to stagger the start time to have smaller groups of no more than 6 people walking together and will have to ask everyone to observe the required social distancing.

If you are planning on coming please could you email treasurer@silchester.org with your name and contact details as we will need these to comply with government regulations.

Silchester will be hosting its second Halloween-themed **Scarecrow Trail** during the October half-term Saturday 24th October to Saturday 31st October.

We are encouraging residents, businesses and clubs in the village to create and display a Halloween or Jim Henson themed scarecrow on their property - locations must be within a reasonable walking distance of the village centre and visible without having to enter any private properties. Each entry will be given a letter to clearly display which will create an anagram once all collected.

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

There will be no entrance fee for scarecrows this year so please join in the fun. If you would like to make and display a scarecrow please could you let the organisers know before 10th October to give them time to include your scarecrow on the map.

Participants can purchase a map for £2 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 announcing a **Photographic Competition** 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 9 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. 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. The winning pictures will be made into the new 'Silchester Calendar' which will be available for sale in December.

Sunday 11th October
24th - 31st October

Boundary Walk
Silchester Scarecrow Trail

The Silchester Association



[@silchesterassociation](https://www.facebook.com/silchesterassociation)



[@silchester_org](https://twitter.com/silchester_org)

Privacy and Refund Policies

If you attend any of our events, you may appear in a photo which may be published on our website or Facebook page. However, if you are unhappy about any photographs that are published, please let us know and we will remove them. For our pre-event ticket sales refund policy please read the information available on our website.



SILCHESTER 1939 – 1945

THOMAS F. HARTLEY.

1912 - 1942

Thomas Fitzhardinge Hartley was born on the 24th October 1912 to Thomas Milham and Cicely Joan (nee Portman) Hartley in Hastings, Sussex. Thomas F had an older sister, Sylvia Evelyn, born in September 1911, and later followed another sister, Alice Pamela, born in December 1915.

His grandfather - also named Thomas Hartley - was a mine owner in Cumberland as well as Chairman of Maryport & Carlisle Railway, a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, owning Armathwaite Hall and estate in Bassenthwaite. Grandfather died in 1926, and after the protracted sale of the hall and estate, Thomas Milham (a civil engineer) bought Silchester House in the early 1930s, and as well as adding a library and music room, he also designed and built the famous Silchester House clock.



Silchester House clock

It seems likely Thomas F attended Harrow School and went onto either Oxford or Cambridge, following his father and grandfather but we don't know for sure. We do know that following his graduation he joined the Royal Artillery as a Second Lieutenant in February 1933. He progressed through the ranks, becoming a Lieutenant in 1936, a full Captain in 1941, and a temporary major later that same year.

The 1939 Register shows us that whilst he was away with the Army, his parents, sisters and one of his aunts were living in Silchester House, along with eight staff and servants.

We are still awaiting his service record from the Army/MoD, so we do not know where he was stationed in the early part of World War II. We do know he was attached (seconded) to the 3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery, who fought the Japanese in the Malayan peninsula in 1941, before falling back to be part of Fortress Singapore.

With the surrender of Allied forces in Singapore on 15th February 1942, and the capture of 80,000 men, his regiment ceased to exist and Thomas was officially reported missing. It seems it was assumed he had become a prisoner of war but he was never formally identified as such. In fact, in April 1942, the official UK Government Casualty List (marked "Secret") reports him as "Previously reported Missing now Not Missing", but with no further detail.

How he evaded capture and escaped Singapore we do not currently know, but we do know he ended up in New Delhi, India, which was the location of the headquarters of British forces in India. Unfortunately, the records show he was to die here of typhoid on 4th September 1942.

Thomas is buried in Delhi War Cemetery, and is remembered not only on the Silchester War Memorial but also on the memorial in Bassenthwaite, Cumbria.

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



Thomas F Hartley's grave in Delhi War Cemetery

Mike Baldock
ww2@silchester.org

Sandi's Next Big Bike Adventure

In November last year while most of us were preparing for Christmas, Sandi Smithers along with 14 other "old enough to know better" part time cyclists flew out to Kenya to cycle more than 300 km along dirt tracks and uneven terrain from Nairobi to the Massai Mara. Thanks to your enormous generosity Sandi raised over £3730 (£4500 with Gift Aid) towards a massive total of £40,000 all of which went to East African charities that concentrate their efforts on the education and development of children from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

On 16th August, because of the pandemic the Ride London festival which has taken place for the last seven years took place as a virtual bike ride allowing cyclists to ride wherever they lived and Sandi cycled 46 miles over a route that started in Silchester and went twice around a 23 mile circuit which included Stratfield Saye, Beech Hill, Bramley, Ramsdell and Tadley and some friends of hers were kind to sponsor her to a total of £230 (£287 with Gift Aid) towards her next big adventure which is still on for November 2021 to ride approx. 600 km around Uganda. No doubt Sandi is hoping that further money-raising events are possible between now and November 2021 but in the meantime if anyone wants to donate towards her personal target of raising a minimum of £2000 then please donate to her webpage on www.virginmoneygiving.com and search for Sandi Smithers Ride Uganda 2021. All money donated to her page goes to Charity Links based in Kent who are an umbrella organisation for various East Africa charities including Build Africa, Education East Africa, SKET, APIE and MSAADA.

During this year Sandi has been busy creating paintings based on her 'Ride the Rift' trek in Kenya last year and with Charity Links a Ride Uganda 2021 calendar featuring her paintings is in preparation and will be available to purchase in the lead up towards Christmas. Cost and date available will be announced shortly.

And finally, many of her paintings and prints of the paintings will be available for sale during the coming months and proceeds from both the calendar and sale of paintings and prints will go towards Ride Uganda 2021.

Neil Smithers



Average debt fell by £2,000 during lockdown

Covid-19 has brought one good thing to some of us: the average amount of personal debt has reduced by nearly £2,000, according to a recent study by Experian. It recently stood at £9,681 (without mortgage), as opposed to £11,615 (without mortgage) in March.



As a spokesman for the credit-checking agency explained: "For some people, a reduction in spending on living costs and commuting have enabled the repayment of existing borrowing." And he urged that as the UK returns to something like normal, people should try and continue with the good financial habits picked up during lockdown.

But Dame Gillian Guy, chief executive of Citizen's Advice, said that while some people have been able to pay off some of their debts in the pandemic, many others have not. Instead, they "are behind on essential bills, building up arrears they may struggle to ever pay back."

Phoenix Club

On Wednesday 2nd September twenty people attended the first indoor Phoenix Club meeting since March. We met in the Main Hall rather than the Club Room to allow for 2 metre distancing.



Our speakers were PCSO Emma Page and trainee Hannah Clapham. They started with a question and answer session covering some of our local issues particularly gangs in vans offering to clean driveways or do gardening for cash. These are difficult for the police to catch but now seem to have moved out of the area. In answer to a question about physical or verbal abuse Emma said there is very little round here. There was a very good response at the beginning of the Covid restrictions although a few problems later with house parties etc.

Hannah then spoke to us about avoiding being scammed. Basically don't believe anybody who phones you! If somebody says they're from your bank tell them nothing, if you are concerned go and visit your local branch. Don't "press 1" or give out any bank details, pins etc. There are currently scam calls about TV Licensing and Amazon accounts, HMRC and one which says they are the London Fraud Squad who will send a courier to collect hundreds of pounds from you to help them catch a gang. We were advised not to keep large amounts of cash at home. The Banking protocol means that banks will inform police if a customer withdraws an unusually large amount of cash. You can also be targeted by post with very legitimate looking letters - half price holidays for example.

We then finished with another question and answer session. To help with our security when out shopping we were given small (but quite noisy!) bells to clip to our purses and stretchy chain clips to attach to phones or wallets in a back pocket.

Emma and Hannah were given a vote of thanks and some chocolates which they very much appreciated.

- On page 18 in the magazine there is an article on the safe use of door chains.
- Next month we had hoped to meet again in the Village Hall but with the current 'Rule of Six' this is not going to be possible.

Ann-Marie and Jan



Honey, Honey!



If your granny gave you honey when you had a cold, she was right.

Research published in The British Medical Journal has found that honey is especially good for treating upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) such as the common cold.

Honey has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. These do better at soothing your cough and sniffles than any of the over-the-counter remedies. In fact, URTI sufferers who were given honey suffered their symptoms for up to two days LESS than those who did not use honey.

All good news, especially as honey is cheap, readily available, and has virtually no side effects.



Parish Council News

COVID-19 Update

Cases of Covid-19 in Hampshire continue to be low, but we would ask all of you to remain vigilant, observe social distancing rules, and respect each other's space. It is especially noticeable that social distancing practises are not being observed in the playground at busy times.

As lockdown restrictions are relaxed and clubs and societies restart their activities, the village is getting busier again. The recent increase in activity peaked on Saturday the 5th of September with another highly successful and busy Village Market being held. We would ask all those driving to these events to park responsibly.

Footpath Representative

We are looking for a new Footpath representative, to compile and publish a monthly update on the footpath conditions around the village. It is expected that the role will take no more than 6 hrs per month (There is no requirement for the individual to walk all the footpath's each month).

Anyone interested should contact the parish clerk Chris Gunnell by email clerk@silchester-pc.gov.uk or on 07470 809086.

Social Media

A working group has been set up to look improving the way SPC communicates with the village. This may well include revamping the Parish Council's website, social media etc. Updates to follow.

Cullum's Mill (Land at Rampiers)

Due to the high level of interest from members of the public wishing to attend the planning appeal (APP/H1705/C/18/3210244), BDBC have determined that it would not be practical to hold this meeting virtually. The meeting planned for later this month has therefore been postponed until the spring of 2021. We will publish the dates of the appeal hearing when it is confirmed. Until such time the appeal is heard, the injunctions remain in force.

Village Flag Pole

We wish to ask an open question as to whether or not the people of Silchester would like a flag pole erected in the grounds of the Village Hall, enabling the flying of flags on appropriate occasions. Please send you views to the parish clerk Chris Gunnell by email to 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

Proposed Solar Farm at Bramley Frith

You may recently have learned that Enso Energy are planning a solar park based around the electricity substation at Bramley Frith. The 81 hectare site encompasses a number of fields, some in Bramley parish and some in Silchester.

Two members of SPC attended a presentation of Enso's proposal via Zoom in August, and made the following notes.

The proposed solar farm will be about 230 acres. The land is currently agricultural land, around half is Grade 2A and 3A land, balance is lower grade land. The land is being leased from the farmers (we believe there are 2 farmers involved) and multiple (6) paddocks are involved. The land is leased for 40 years, after which it will revert to the owners and taken into agricultural uses again. Enso have insurances in place to ensure that in the event that the company fails, there will be funding to revert the land to agricultural use. There will be no change in the land use designation despite the land being used for a solar farm, it will remain designated as agricultural land. Enso claim it is very easy to decommission the solar farm and convert the land back to agricultural land, they also claim it is good for the land to be "rested" for some time.

The estimate is that about 4% of the site will need to be excavated, this is for the pads for the panel frames and for the foundations for infrastructure. There is no plan to remove soil or other material from the site, although they have not done a geological survey to determine if there is any issue with bedrock which may need removal.

A key reason for selecting the site in Bramley is that the National Grid substation in Bramley has spare capacity. The plan is to link the output from this solar farm into the National Grid through this spare capacity which will eliminate the need for a (costly) cable to connect a solar farm to the grid. The closest the proposed site comes to Silchester is around the Three Ashes area, the farm edges Three

Ashes which in turn edges the Silchester conservation area. There will be significant standoff between the farm and Silchester Brook.

Enso and their consultants are working on an Environmental Impact Assessment, and hope to get past Bramley council just using the reports which form the basis of the EIA rather than having the full document done quickly. Enso claim that there will be minimal impact on potential archaeological sites, especially those to the north of the farm. They hope to get the planning application complete around mid October, but this may slip back depending on local input.

This call was the first discussion Enso have had with local councils and seems to be intended to get the general feeling of the locals before going to a public meeting. There is a plan for a public meeting (via Zoom), currently planned for 8th September from 5pm to 7pm. To publicise this, Enso are doing a brochure drop to 2,000 addresses in the Bramley area and surroundings to give information about the proposal and also with a registration for the Zoom meeting included. Feedback forms are also included in the brochure, these are required to be back with Enso by 22nd September. The meeting will be recorded so those unable to join can at least catch up later. I have requested a copy of the brochure for Silchester and will distribute to the councillors when I receive it.

The solar farm will have a capacity of 49.9MW, enough for 17,000 homes. It is also equal to taking 8,000 cars off the road. There will also be provision for a battery to take capacity from the farm to be used at non generating times, although this may not be installed for up to 7 years from the solar farm being commissioned. The original plan was to use 400 watt panels, with the rapid advance in technology these will now be changed for 600 watt panels.

There was considerable discussion when the meeting was opened to questions. The key issues raised:

Public footpaths/walkways - there was considerable concern from the Bramley

councillors about the effect on the public walkways. The proposed farm encompasses some of the few remaining walkways in the area, and since the farm is to be surrounded by a 2.5m high deer fence it is obvious that there will be some change to the outlook. Enso state that the walkways will be retained, plan is to have the deer fencing segregating the walkway from the farm and the panels will be a minimum 5 metres from the deer fencing. The Bramley councillors were concerned that this would lead to the loss of the open rural views which the paths currently offer, and Enso could not dispute this. Enso had claimed they would enhance the walkways, which seems not to be the case and the Bramley council see it as a significant issue for the project.

Community benefits - the project has about a £30 million valuation and such projects typically have a 10% annual return. The Bramley councillors asked what benefits would accrue to the local community. Enso are fairly open on this, no numbers were discussed but they are open to the community getting some benefit from the project. Suggestions of allowing the local people to invest in the project and get a return from it were raised, the provision of solar panels for local buildings was raised and a fund for community projects was also mentioned. The possibility of provision of allotments was also raised, noted that Bramley have only 12 allotments available and a waiting list of 30 people and there are areas of the proposed farm which may be conducive to development as allotments.

Traffic - the traffic issue generated a lot of discussion. In the construction phase it is expected that there will be 70 employees on site for a period of 7 months. Concern was raised at the access to Bramley, given the well known delays from the railway crossing in the village. There was also concern about parking, which is very limited in Bramley, and the levels of air pollution which the additional traffic will bring. Deliveries of materials to site will be on HGV, which also raised concerns again due to air pollution, the condition of Minchens Lane, the effect on traffic flow in the village and issues of the level crossing. The main access route

proposed for the site is along the A33 from the south, Bramley councillors suggested it may be better to approach along the A340 from the north to avoid the level crossing.

Overall an interesting discussion and there is likely to be some resistance from Bramley residents if the reaction of the councillors is representative of the feeling. Given the government push for green energy projects it may be that the project will be agreed at high level, but it does seem to have some negative effects for the Bramley residents. There may be more information in the brochure they will provide, and this will also give Silchester an opportunity for comment.

The actual screening request document which contains the proposal can be found here: <https://pad.basingstoke.gov.uk/documents/4753/01/24/49/01244977.PDF>

The full application - including comments submitted to date - can be found on the BDBC planning portal here: <https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QEKO06CROAP00>

This also provides the means for members of the public to comment if they wish to.

The key issue at the moment is whether Enso should be required to complete a full Environmental Impact Assessment as part of their planning application. Silchester Parish Council considered this question at their meeting on Monday 7th September, and it was unanimously agreed that in the opinion of Silchester Parish Council a full Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out. Accordingly, a letter from SPC has been sent to BDBC stating our position.

At the time of writing this article there were over 40 comments on the BDBC portal asking for a full Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out. SPC will keep people informed of the borough councils' decision, and how they can provide input into the next stage should they wish to do so.

Cllr Livingstone



Planning

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	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
2	20/01764/HSE Brook House, Byes Lane, Silchester, RG7 2QB Erection of two storey side extension- Brook House Byes Lane Silchester RG7 2QB	No objection Granted
3	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

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawals*

1	T/00231/20/TCA Woodrow, The Common, Silchester, RG7 2ND Hawthorn T1: remove as it is growing through our boundary fence Holly T2: remove.	No objection Raise no objection
2	20/00876/HSE Woodstock, Byes Lane, Silchester 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	No objection Granted
3	T/00275/20/TCA - Village Hall, Whistlers Lane, Silchester RG7 2NE Fell 1 tree.	Objection Raise no objection
4	T/00297/20/TCA Nuthatch, Holly Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NA Eucalyptus: Fell	No objection Raise no objection
5	20/01826/GPDADW - Silchester Farm, Little London Road, Silchester RG7 2PS Notification of proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. Class C3 dwellinghouse including associated operational development	No objection Granted

Notifications*

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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 Pending Decision
2	Ref. No: 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 Pending Consideration
3	20/01573/HSE Calleva, School Lane, Silchester, RG7 2NJ Erection of detached replacement garage	No objection Pending Consideration

*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.

EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR DOOR CHAIN



REMEMBER!

Your door chain is not a security measure!

WHY SHOULDN'T I LEAVE MY DOOR CHAIN ON ALL THE TIME?

Leaving a door chain in place for any length of time represents a hazard to you in emergency situations. While a door chain will not stop a determined individual from forcing entry, it creates a barrier to anyone needing to open the door in a hurry.

A fixed door chain will hinder your exit from your home in the event of a fire and will delay entry in to your home by emergency services and key holders such as family and friends if you are unable to get to the door.

WHEN AND WHY SHOULD I PUT MY DOOR CHAIN ON?

- You should always put your door chain on when you go to answer the door, even if you are expecting someone and think you know who is calling.
- The act of putting the chain on gives you time to consider how you might need to react to the person who is calling and prepare to ask an unexpected caller to leave.
- The chain allows you to open the door sufficiently to see who is calling and to speak to them, but gives you control over who you allow to enter.
- The gap allowed by the chain is sufficient for genuine callers to pass their identity cards through for you to check.
- The sound of the chain going on will alert bogus callers and rogue traders that you are taking care about who you speak to and will not be an easy target.
- At the same time, hearing the chain go on will reassure genuine callers that you are alert to possible bogus callers.

REMEMBER!

Genuine callers will be pleased to allow you to inspect their identification, will be happy to wait if you wish to verify their identity and will be prepared to come back at another time if you prefer them to.

SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

- It is very rare for doorstep callers to force entry or cause criminal damage. However, their tactics may make you feel uneasy, especially if they do not leave when you ask them to.
- If you have indicated to a door step caller that you do not wish to speak to them but they do not go away you should first warn them that you intend to call the Police. This threat is usually enough to make the caller move on.
- If callers do not take the hint you should not hesitate to close the door, pick up the telephone and dial 999.
- Do not worry about 'wasting Police time'. If you feel threatened it is up to the Police call handler to decide when and how the Police will respond.



WHAT ABOUT CALLING THE POLICE ON 101?

- 101 is the Police non-emergency number which can be used for reporting matters which are not of immediate concern. For instance, if you engage with a doorstep caller, but later have doubts about them.
- 101 must not be used to report urgent matters - if you feel that there is a threat to people or property call 999.

The Blue Lamp Trust Bobby Scheme

The Blue Lamp Trust's Bobby Scheme is a practical service operating throughout Hampshire providing free home security advice, long-life smoke alarms and peace of mind for vulnerable and older residents within Hampshire.

The Bobby Scheme's fitters are uniformed, police vetted and carry ID cards. They spend time with each client, giving both general reassurance and specific crime-prevention advice to improve the safety of their homes. Fitters carry out a full crime-prevention survey and fit locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms as required. For a suggested donation they will also supply and fit key safes. To book a Bobby Scheme home visit from the Blue Lamp Trust, please telephone 0300 777 0157 or visit the web page

<https://bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-landingpage/>

Trading Standards Safeguarding Team

For further advice on dealing with unexpected doorstep callers contact the Trading Standards Safeguarding Team on 01962 833620 or email

ts.safeguarding@hants.gov.uk



Boundary Walk 2020

Join us on our annual walk around the boundary of Silchester

**On Sunday 11th October at 11.30am
Meet in the car park at the Village Hall**

**This is a relaxed walk around the parish boundary
Bring your own lunch and plenty of water**

**To comply with current Covid regulations,
please send your contact details to treasurer@silchester.org if you want to come**

Silchester Association in conjunction with St Mary the Virgin

Re-use/Re-purpose/Re-cycle

Introduction

We have prepared and published this list of **local recycling opportunities** because many people in the village mentioned that, while they support the idea of recycling, they find it difficult to work out what is supposed to be recycled and where. Hopefully this will help. Keep it handy!

Charity shops, Boot fairs, Jumble sales, etc:

Items that are suitable for re-selling (Profit for you or another worthy cause!)

Home:

Green Wheelie bin

Cans (incl. aerosols), PLASTIC bottles, paper & cardboard.

NOTE: Council will supply larger green bin, free, on request!

Brown Wheelie bin or green garden waste bags

Garden rubbish (Chargeable - contact council)

Red Wheelie bin or green crate

Glass only (No lids!)

Black Wheelie bin

Last resort! (goes for incineration or landfill.)

Compost heap?

Bird feeders?

'Place of work' facilities?



Village Hall:

(24/7, in the collection boxes beside the wheelie bins):

DVD/CDs (not cases), batteries, ink cartridges, mobile phones.

(On Monthly market days only):

Egg boxes and glass jam jars (with lids).

'Grazeley/TerraCycle scheme' ** (See below)

We can also accept Ball-point pens and Bras (yes!) at this venue for a separate scheme.

Pavilion:

(24/7): Cans, bottles, PLASTIC bottle tops. (Green crate is now just outside playground)

(On Fridays and other Pop-Up Cafe days only: 'Grazeley/TerraCycle scheme' **)

We can also accept Ball-point pens and Bras at this venue for a separate scheme.

Pavilion Car Park (In the clearing behind the main gate - not all over the car park, please!):

Christmas trees (for about 2 weeks in January. See notices)

Silchester school:

Crisp packets (term time!),

ECO brick scheme.

Clothes, shoes and accessories (good quality items for resale). Twice a year. See notices.

Sainsbury (Tadley):

In store:

Brita filters,

Batteries (now beside the Customer Service tills)

Carrier bags

(Also, some Sainsbury own brand fruit, veg. and frozen food bags - check for this wording near the recycling logo: "Recycle with bags at larger stores")

Charity food box.



Skips: (24/7):

All plastic bottles, plus yoghurt pots, margarine & ice cream tubs;
All metal drinks & food cans, Aerosol cans, Other, clean, household steel cans;
Aluminium foil;
Aluminium food trays;
Cardboard & paper;
Glass bottles & jars;
Clothes & shoes;
Small electrical.



Council:

(Wheelies!)

Household waste recycling centre (Wade Road)

For the official Basingstoke & Dean Council list see:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/61972/Recycling%20in%20homes%20guide%20-%20Jan%202020.pdf>

... which is linked from: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/waste-collection>

**** Grazeley/TerraCycle scheme:**

Run in association with the TerraCycle organisation, its purpose is to collect & recycle plastic items that are not commonly recycled by the council, as they are too complex or costly. Every load sent to the recyclers generates funds for the Primary School in Grazeley (and other local charities). There are currently two collection points in the village - the monthly Market at the Village Hall, and the Pavilion on Fridays and other 'Pop-Up cafe' days.

We collect:

NEW! - Selected cheese packaging

Tassimo pods;

L'OR capsules;

Kenco Eco refill packs;

Kenco Coffee jar lids;

Crisp packets - any brand, includes multipack wrappers (not knotted please!);

Pringles tubes;

Confectionary wrappers (e.g. Kit-kat, Smarties, Fruit Pastilles, etc). Incl. Multipack wrappers;

Sliced bread bags;

Popcorn, pretzel & nut packets;

Biscuit wrappers - any brand, including multipack wrappers;

Plastic Baby food & Yoghurt pouches - any brand, lids ON please!

The soft plastic caps from washing up liquid bottles (Not the bottles -> green wheelie);

The PACKETS for floor cleaning or anti-bacterial wipes. (Not the wipes -> black wheelie !!);

Tooth brushes and tooth paste tubes;

Plastic pet food packets/pouches/treat packets - **washed out and dry please!!**;

Plastic roll-on deodorants; Caps from personal care and beauty products; Face wipe PACKETS.

Note:

We have been advised that pumps and trigger spray mechanisms, contact lenses and their blister packs, are no longer accepted by this scheme. Pumps and trigger sprays can now go in the Green Wheelie bins with their plastic bottles. Lenses and packs -> Grey bins.

Compiled by Chris Hawkes

Update by Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) - your local adult disability charity

BDDF quickly responded to lockdown by moving our services on-line. We focused efforts on tackling isolation for our members by providing support virtually, offering both weekly coffee & chat and chair yoga sessions.

We also continued to provide our signposting activities which help those with disability related queries.

BDDF are slowly reintroducing face-to-face yoga, whilst continuing the online sessions - both are free to attend (Subject to changing Covid-19 regulations).

We are also excited to announce our brand NEW weekly Walking Group which again is free to attend, open to all abilities and strictly follows Government group guidelines. Funded by 'Energise Me' these social walks are already being thoroughly enjoyed by our members, an opportunity to make new connections whilst getting exercise and fresh air.

Our next annual disability information day will take place in The Malls shopping centre on Friday 26th March 2021. If you are a local disability service or business operating in Basingstoke and are interested in exhibiting do get in touch.

Over the summer BDDF organised Chineham and Sherfield Park's first ever Scarecrow Trail. With 5 awards all voted for by the public, the community spirit shone and competition for the coveted title of 'best in show' was fierce with 91 displays all based around the theme of books.

Our local charity partner for 2020 was the incredible Sebastian's Action Trust who support children and the families of children with life limiting and life threatening illnesses.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported, entered a scarecrow, sponsored and donated raffle prizes and of course our volunteers. Thanks to you all it was a huge success raising over £5k.

The feedback suggests we would be welcomed back. We plan to reach out in the new year to seek volunteers to be part of the 2021 organising committee.

We will always find a way to continue supporting the disabled people in our community. Currently our offerings include weekly virtual Chair Yoga & meditation; Walking Clubs; and Online Signposting and Support groups.

We would love to hear from you whether you have feedback, ideas on how we can best serve our disabled community or if you would like more information on our current services - become a member of our BDDF community follow us on Facebook [@BDDForum](#); email us info@bddf.org.uk or call 01256 423869.



It was:

500 years ago, on 21st Oct 1520 that Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's Spanish expedition to the East Indies discovered the Strait of Magellan at the southern tip of Chile.



It is with deep regret that due to the recent resurgence of Covid-19, Basingstoke and Deane Council have strongly advised us to suspend future Markets. Accordingly, I have taken the sad decision to cancel the Market on 3rd October, and further dates, until the guidance allows.

The safety of our customers, our community and stall holders is paramount.

We hope that future monthly Markets will resume as soon as possible and I will keep customers posted via this magazine and FaceBook.

The Market is usually a place to come for provisions and for our stallholders to be able to receive payment in exchange for their wares. A valuable source of income for small businesses, perhaps even more important in these unprecedented times.

- Should you require any **Village Preserves**, marmalades, curds, chutneys, jellies, please contact Felicity McPherson on 0118 9700943
- Should you require any **handmade mustards** or mint sauce, please contact Neil Smithers on 0118 9700394
- Should you require any coffee, ground or beans, from **The Coffee House**, please



It was:

175 years ago, on 12th Oct 1845 that Elizabeth Fry, died. This prison reformer and philanthropist was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

100 years ago, on 7th Oct 1920 that Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

contact Brenda Harding at brenda.harding@btinternet.com

- **Indigo Bakes** will be offering a click and collect service on the first Saturday of the month.

Lillymill country levain £2.25

Lillymill pain au levain £2.25

Seeded sourdough £2.50

Baguette £1.50

White tin £2.25

Malted wheat tin £2.50

Croissant £1.75

Pain au chocolate £1.75

Pain au raisin £1.95

Jam doughnuts £1.50

Payment in advance. The payment will be through PayPal only. They ask customers to place their orders through:

orders@indigobakes.co.uk

I am also liaising with other stall holders who would also be grateful for your continued custom and be prepared and able to deliver to you in a safe way. Information will be made available on FaceBook.

If you'd like to support our stallholders but don't have access to FaceBook, please contact me and I will pass your contact details so you can arrange your purchases.

Sorry for any disappointment due to the cancelling of the Market, it had been so good to be back! Keep safe and well.

Paula Gibbons - Market Organiser
Telephone: 079565 33471

Email: info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk

Website: www.silchestervillagemarket.org.uk

FaceBook: [Silchester Village Market](https://www.facebook.com/SilchesterVillageMarket)

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

The Labours of Heracles

The Sixth Labour - The Stymphalian Birds

Heracles was next sent by King Eurystheus to the River Stymphalia. He was ordered to remove a flock of man-eating birds who were causing great terror to all those who lived nearby.

After travelling to the river, Heracles reached a low-lying spot where the waters merged with the surrounding land to create an enormous marsh. It was not so wet that you could sail a boat upon it, but neither was it so dry that you could easily walk through it. Instead, if you stepped into the sticky mud you were likely to become trapped, unable to escape from its cloying grasp.

The marsh was home to the huge flock of fearsome birds which Heracles was commanded to remove. From a distance the Stymphalian Birds resembled storks, but when they flew you could see that their beaks, claws and even their wings were made of bronze. They were vicious creatures. If they were hungry they would soar away from the marsh, swooping down over the countryside, snatching both men and cattle which they carried off to eat.

This was not the only menace. To make matters worse, their droppings were poisonous. As they flew over the land all the crops beneath became ruined by the stick, stinking, mess falling from these armoured and aggressive birds.

Heracles decided he needed to get close to the enormous flock to be able to hit the birds with his arrows. But, hesitantly setting foot on the edge of the marsh, he realised it was impossible to walk through it. As he could not take a boat there seemed to be no way in which he could approach.

He walked away, scratching his head in puzzlement, and sat down upon a large rock looking out over the marsh. He put down his bow and arrows and wondered what to do, fearing that this was a Labour he would be unable to carry out.

Suddenly, while he was still sitting lost in thought, a beautiful lady appeared at his side. She was the goddess Athene. She had always looked kindly upon Heracles and now came to his rescue.

From the folds of her cloak she produced a gift. It was something simple but very special. It had been made for Athene, at her request, by one of the other gods, Hephaestus.

Hephaestus was the blacksmith of the gods. He was the owner of a wondrous forge, hidden deep inside Mount Olympus. After he had been approached by the beautiful Athene, Hephaestus descended into the mountain and stoked the fire of his forge until it glowed bright red. Then he heated a piece of metal in a Cauldron. Reaching a very high temperature, it became molten and Hephaestus poured it onto his anvil. Hammering quickly and carefully, he shaped a pair of beautiful bronze castanets.

It was these shiny, chiming instruments which Athene handed to Heracles. He rose to take them and as soon as the castanets passed from her outstretched hands, the goddess disappeared.

After thinking for a moment Heracles knew exactly what he had to do. Raising his arms, he waved the castanets violently, making an almighty noise. This terrified the birds standing in the marsh. Like normal birds when they are shocked and scared, the Stymphalian Birds took to the air in a mad frenzy, squawking loudly and madly flapping their bronze wings which crashed and clattered, adding to the dreadful din.

Heracles immediately seized his bow and arrows. He fired rapidly, one arrow after another, until most of the birds had fallen, flopping down in a clattering spiral to be swallowed up by the treacherous marsh. He had successfully completed another Labour.

All the birds had been cleared away from the River Stymphalia and most of them killed. But a few escaped. They flew away to a distant island where they were discovered some years later by another ancient Greek hero named Jason, during his famous voyage with the Argonauts.

The Seventh Labour - The Cretan Bull

The island of Crete was menaced by an enormous bull. It was a truly terrifying creature. When it



charged, heavy and lumbering, the earth shook. From its large, snorting nose and mouth it belched out scorching flames.

For his next Labour, King Eurystheus ordered Heracles to sail to Crete and to capture the bull single-handed.

After a voyage by sea, Heracles was met by the ruler of Crete, King Minos. The king desperately wished to see the bull destroyed or at least carried away from the island. It was causing great devastation and bringing misery to his people. He therefore greeted Heracles joyfully and offered him all possible help.

Heracles did not wish to be rude, but politely refused the offer. He was now very worried that if he accepted any assistance the task would not be counted as having been completed by him single-handed. He had no wish to anger King Eurystheus even more and decided to set off alone in search of the bull.

It was not difficult to find the rampaging creature. Heracles quickly spotted where the bull had trampled over the growing crops. Wheat fields had been flattened by its clumsy, heavy hooves. Orchards had been wrecked by its wild charging in search of fruit, the trees blackened by its fiery breath.

Heracles found the monstrous animal, snorting and stamping, a few feet away from a wall. The bull's head was lowered menacingly. It was ready to charge.

Reaching swiftly for his arrows, at the last minute Heracles remembered his instructions. He had been commanded to capture the bull and take it back alive to King Eurystheus. Despite his excellent skill as a bowman, Heracles knew it would be unwise to fire arrows. If the bull charged, as he expected, it could be stopped only by an arrow, but that could do more damage than intended and even prove fatal.

Instead, very quietly, and keeping out of sight, Heracles carefully made his way around to the back of the wall. He stole silently along it until he was behind the bull, whose snorting and snuffling indicated where it was standing. Nimbly, Heracles vaulted over the wall and, step by step, crept up behind the angry creature.

Standing directly behind the beast's enormous rump, Heracles flexed the large muscles in his

arms. Then, taking a gigantic leap, he grasped the snorting monster around its neck. The bull kicked, stamped and jerked its huge head violently from side to side. Heracles squeezed tighter and tighter, clinging to the creature despite the beast's frantic attempts to throw him off. With sweat pouring off him, Heracles firmly held his steely grip, throttling the bull until it crumpled unconscious at his feet.

Only now did Heracles release the creature for a moment. Snatching a rope, he bound the bull's legs and, with an almighty heave, slung it over his back. Unaided, staggering slightly under the weight, Heracles carried the beast, its legs trussed, its jaw tied firmly shut, down to the harbour. Using more ropes and pulleys, the bull was hoisted on board his ship and Heracles set sail on the voyage back to King Eurystheus.

On hearing of Heracles' arrival, King Eurystheus once again hid in his bronze urn. He was growing more afraid of Heracles and was terrified of the fearsome bull.

From inside the urn he shouted out, his words sounding like a ringing bell, 'Take this monstrous beast to the temple. It shall be a sacrifice to the great goddess Hera.'

But Hera, who had always hated Heracles, ordered the priests in the temple to refuse the sacrifice. She could not bear to see Heracles succeed and certainly would not accept the sacrifice of a beast he had captured using his amazing strength.

Instead the Cretan bull was set free. It was driven out of the land. For many years it roamed the countryside causing destruction wherever it went, until finally it settled near the city named Marathon. Years later another ancient Greek hero, Theseus, found and slew the creature on his way to Crete to encounter a similar monster known as the Minotaur

Stephen Bibby

*To be continued ... Next issue we will have
The Eighth Labour - The Mares of Diomedes
along with The Ninth Labour -
Hippolyta's Girdle*



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

St James the Least of All

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

The Rectory,
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept "just in case" and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that they all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn

portraits from pre-1870 are the worst - they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920's were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents - and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.



Your loving uncle, Eustace



It was:

90 years ago, on 22nd Oct 1930 that the BBC Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert.

80 years ago, on 9th Oct 1940 that during the Blitz, a German bomb destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Later that same month on 31st Oct, the Battle of Britain ended.

70 years ago, on 7th Oct 1950 that Mother Teresa founded what would become the Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata, India.

40 years ago, on 3rd Oct 1980 that the Housing Act came into effect in Britain, giving more than five million council tenants the right to buy their homes.

Spiders: Our Eight-Legged Allies



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Lockdown has been difficult for all of us, but for many people it has put a focus on the wildlife that calls our gardens home. Popular species that visit gardens include various birds and mammals; while I greatly welcome both, some of the most fascinating garden inhabitants are rather overlooked and unpopular.

A recent study estimated that spiders worldwide eat 400-800 metric tonnes in insect flesh every year - for context, humans consume around 400 metric tonnes in meat and fish annually! Without spiders we would be absolutely overrun by certain insects, including disease-spreading and crop-destroying species.

Research is also revealing how the presence of spiders in ecosystems can stop some plants being over-eaten, resulting in greater biodiversity across all species.

According to the World Spider Catalogue, there are currently around 670 species of spider living in the UK. Some of these species are localised or nationally scarce, but some could be living in your neighbourhood - Hampshire is blessed with good spider diversity due to the county's array of special habitats. Here are some tips on exploring the weird and wonderful world of your local spiders.

How to spot spiders outdoors

Many British spiders are active at night, and it's at this time when some of the most fascinating behaviours are observed. Going out into my garden with a torch has revealed predation like a giant house spider eating a black lace web spider, and a noble false widow spider wrapping up two woodlouse spiders at once! It's a spider-eat-spider world out there.

Mimicking the movement of prey on a spider's web can sometimes reveal the occupant - try gently wiggling a piece of grass against the edge. This is a great way to become familiar with the types of web that different species build, such as the sheet webs favoured by giant house spiders or the orb webs of garden cross spiders. You might even encounter a tunnel-like web with 'trip lines' radiating around a hole in a wall or tree; these belong to the aptly-named tube web spider.



Green Crab Spider (*Diaea dorsata*) © Josh Phangurha

Having a wider variety of plant species in your garden will attract a more diverse population of spiders. Although there are many spiders which feel at home in artificial environments, many others prefer to live in woodland, scrub, or open grassland. Leaving a patch of longer grass will provide a home for several spider species, as well as the insects they hunt. Adding oxeye

daisies will make it particularly good for the spectacular, but uncommon, flower crab spider.

There are species that like to live higher up, which is where having shrubs, scrub and perhaps a mature tree becomes important. Keep an eye out for the gorgeous orb-weaving spider *Araneus triguttatus*, the exquisite green crab spider, and the uniquely patterned *Nigma puella*. If you're really lucky, you may spot the remarkable triangle web spider too!

Josh Phangurha

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

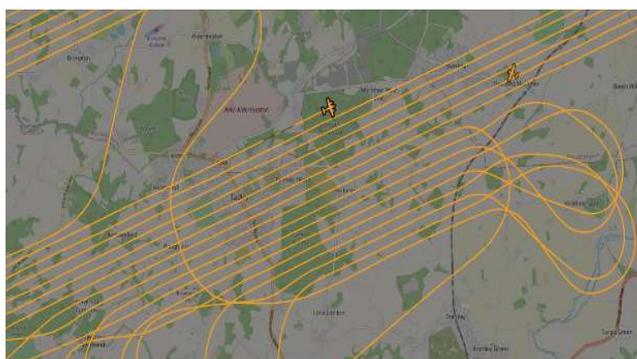
Did You Notice the Plane?

Several people asked me about the light aircraft going to and fro over us on Friday 18th September (and also a couple of other days).

It is a Danish aircraft that is one of three that have been doing survey work over the UK in recent weeks.

The two pictures below show the track it flew on the 18th - amazing straight lines across our area.

BIO05	45B5D3	Share
		
Reg.:	OY-MNS	
Country:	Denmark	
Type code:	P68	
Type:	Partenavia P.68-C	
Type Desc.:	L2P	
Squawk:	0431	



I don't know what the survey is for but it is clearly very detailed from the closeness together of the runs.



This sort of pattern has been seen across southern England over some weeks.

Pete Hughes

The Parochial Church Council accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed by individuals within this publication.

The Parochial Church Council does not endorse claims that are made by advertisers within this publication.

Advertising in the Silchester Magazine

If you have a business, or service to offer to others, you should consider advertising in the Silchester Magazine.

If you feel you would like to advertise on our Yellow Pages, get in touch with me before the copy date of the 13th of the month.

Our annual rates (for 11 issues) are:-

1/12 page 8.5cm x 4cm £50

1/8 page 8.5cm x 6cm £60

1/6 page 8.5cm x 7.75cm £73

1/4 page 8.5cm x 12.25cm £100

1/2 page 18cm x 12.25cm £180

Please contact Nancy at

advertisers@silchester.org

or on **0118 9700546**

for more information

Monthly rates from March 2020 are:

1/12 page - £17; 1/8 page - £20;

1/6 page - £23; 1/4 page - £30

We try to attract advertisements for most of the trades and services you may require so please keep your magazine near the telephone or computer and use it as a local directory.

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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Useful Local Telephone Numbers



THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

Rector	The Revd Richard Harlow	0118 981 4860 E mail: richard73harlow@aol.com
Resident Priest	The Revd Rob Young	0118 9700884 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 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/ Rosemary Evans	0118 970 1055 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	Catharine Smither	0784 123 7333
Rainbow Guides		
Brownies	Kirstie Jones - Kirstie.jones5@btinternet.com	0118 970 1481
Guides, 1st Silchester	Della Raven	0118 970 1627
Scouts, Cubs & Beavers ~ Bramley	Neil Smith	01256 880405
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Local Borough Councillor	Roger Gardiner	0118 970 1109
Local Borough Councillor	Simon Mahaffey	
County Councillor	Rhydian Vaughan	07712 695476

Police**REPORTING AN INCIDENT****101**

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Village Hall and Club Room	Bookings : Vivienne Hartshorn	0118 970 0940
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Village Market	Paula Gibbons: info@silchestervillagemarket.org.uk	0118 970 0999
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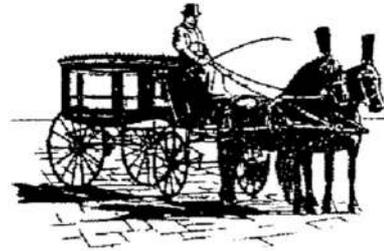
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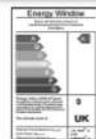
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