

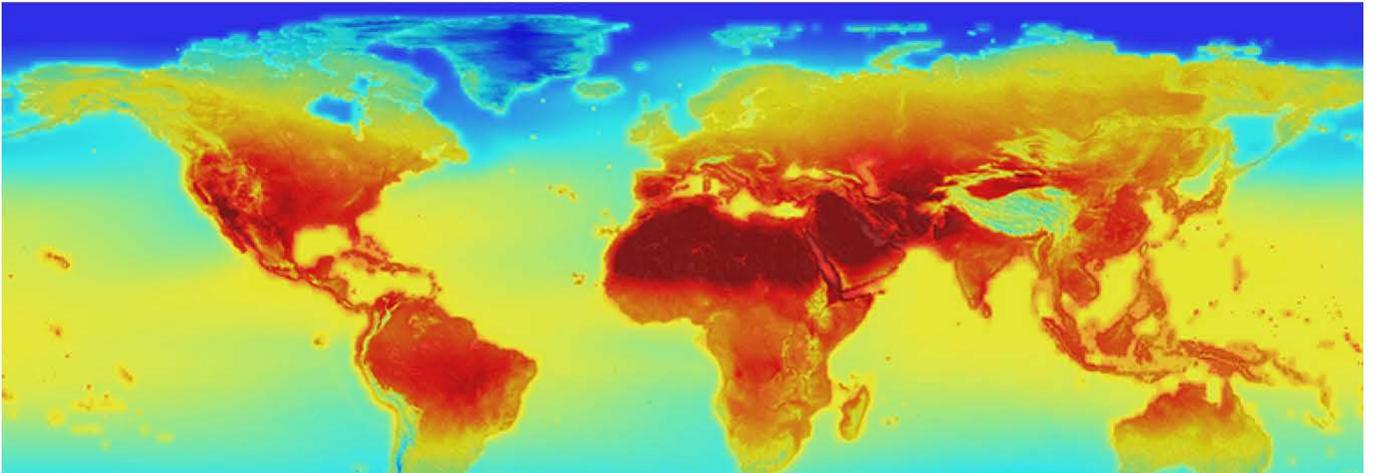
OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER
digital edition

MARCH 2019

No. 10



2015 NASA global climate change projection



<https://canterburyculture.org/press/>

Is our green and pleasant city under threat?
special
ENVIRONMENT EDITION

Contents

Dates	p.1	OHSCA and the Environment	p.4-5
From the Chair	p.2	Healthcare news	p.5-6
Editorial	p.2	Local History Group	p.6
Membership	p.3	Planning report	p.6/8
Trees	p.3	OHSCA and Biodiversity	p.7
Green Team	p.3	OHSCA Committee 2018-19	p.8
Social Events & Activities	p.3	other contacts	p.8
		answers to New Year quiz	p.8
		index to digital edition extra	p.9

some OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed & Fri:	Weekly walking groups (p.3)	2 nd June:	Butterfly Walk (p.3)
6 th April:	Litterpick (p.3)	13 th June:	drop-in OCB (p.3)
7 th April:	Gardeners' Question Time (p.3)	9 th July:	Local History Group (p.6)
11 th April:	drop-in OCB (p.3)	10 th July:	drop-in OCB (p.3)
5 th May:	Bluebell Walk (p.3)	28 th July:	Summer Social Event
14 th May:	Local History Group (p.6)	1 st September	St Augustine's Picnic
15 th May:	drop-in OCB (p.3)	8 th September:	Produce Share
27 th May:	Plant Share (p.3)	18 th October:	OHSCA Annual General Meeting

FROM THE CHAIR

In the absence of a permanent OHSCA chair this year I write as Acting Chair, having been given the privilege of guiding OHSCA through February and March.

A review late last year of how we, as an organisation, were performing against our Aims and Objectives showed that we were covering the ground very well, except in one area "3.3.4 Conservation and extension of green spaces". We have very little open space in the Oaten Hill and South Canterbury area, and the committee decided it was time to work out a policy with clear proposals to guide us forward. As a result Tim Carlyle, Vice Chair, and Tim Chancellor, a new committee member, have put their minds together and have developed an excellent draft Open Space Strategy document; look out for more about this in the summer Newsletter.

On planning matters our sub-committee of five continues to assess all local planning applications. We decide on those which are significant enough to comment upon and submit our objections or otherwise to CCC. We also comment on matters of Canterbury-wide importance, recently the Canterbury West multi-storey car park, the Council's Draft Heritage Strategy, and the Wincheap P&R extension proposal. Thanks are due to those individual members who submitted their own personal comments to the Council, which all add essential weight to our OHSCA comment.

After campaigning to avoid the destruction of the Norman defensive earthwork under the former St Mary Bredin School we were pleased to note that this feature is now noted as a heritage asset in the Draft Heritage Strategy. So we can have some hopes that the development plans could be revised to save this feature, if not the school building.

The future of the Mountfield Park development of 4,000 homes is still unclear though the Court of Appeal in January upheld the previous High Court decision – which rejected the challenge that the Secretary of State had failed in his duty to call in the application for Mountfield Park development in south Canterbury for deliberation because of environmental concerns. Campaigners have yet to decide whether or not to make a further appeal to the Supreme Court.

Whatever happens at Mountfield, air pollution is an important health issue. In the absence of any action by the responsible official bodies to monitor continuously and openly report on the known pollution hotspots in our area, we shall be working with the University of Kent on a project to obtain independent reporting on these hotspots.

OHSCA's finances are in a healthy state, thanks to the good husbandry of our recent honorary treasurers and the generous donations of members. The committee is considering how best to use some of the reserves to benefit the Association and residents, and is considering various options. One suggestion is that we should purchase our own digital projector (we normally need to borrow one). This could be connected to a laptop and be used not only at public talks, but also for committee and planning meetings to display documents being discussed.

Another idea is to install metal plaques at the public gardens we maintain, and to label the various trees we have planted. Each plaque would have a QR code



Try this QR code

(Quick Response) affixed enabling people with a code-reading app installed on their mobile phones to be directed to a page on our website describing the plantings and with general information about OHSCA. A good way to reach the younger generation perhaps, and to explain better our positive

role in the community. There are other ideas we have under review and members are invited to submit their own for consideration.

The OHSCA healthcare group continues its good work and is doing its best to keep abreast of the labyrinthine political machinations behind the scenes, which will ultimately lead to the next health care reorganisation in East Kent – something which will affect us all. The group have prepared a new background document for members to download from <http://ohsca.org/pdfs/nhs-feb2019.pdf>.

Thanks to committee members and others who work so hard on organising and participating in the diverse activities of our Association and best wishes for a productive spring to them, and to all our members. Please note that Marion Bell will be OHSCA Acting Chair for April and May 2019.

Chris Tucker, March 2019

EDITORIAL

This special 'Environment Issue' of the Newsletter pushes our print edition space to the limit. The major article presented here, Chris Tucker's 'OHSCA and the Environment' (pp. 4-5) has had to be abridged. The complete original can be read in full in the digital edition, available at <http://ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-10-2019-Spring.pdf>. In the extended edition, which you can read online, download or even print (but think environment!), you will find other articles including a poem from Gill Gower, and more photographs – and all is in colour.

For the July Newsletter we hope to be able to welcome back to the fold an outstanding former Editor – so please watch this space.



Snowdrops photographed by Phil Perkins at Goodnestone Park Gardens (see page 3, Gardening Interest Group)

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MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to the 181 of you who have paid your subscription for 2019, a warm welcome to our new members and a gentle reminder to the 133 who have not yet paid – please send your £5 subscription to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. You will find a reminder on the back of the newsletter.

One person in three has also sent a donation towards trees, plants or our general work and a big thank you to you all. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Sophie Scott

TREES

We are pleased to see the replacement pin oak in Longport and the replacement flowering pear in Pilgrims Way – thanks to Kent Highways and SARA for their swift action. We are still waiting for a satisfactory Judas tree to be supplied for the site outside the Premier Inn. A new tree is planned for the K&C gateway – a *Koelreuteria* or Pride of India. We are also planning to put another tree on that corner in the autumn, and will be considering two other sites. We know that our street trees will not solve the air pollution problem but we know that every tree planted helps to clean and cool the air. Every tree, shrub and hedge in your garden helps too, so if you are taking a tree out please, please replant another.

Sophie Scott

GREEN TEAM

We made the most of the amazingly warm February by getting a new bed in Milton Road started, under Dave's direction. We have had some generous gifts of plants, shrubs and compost. Our special thanks go to Freddie Parsons at the Oaten Hill Garage who transported a large pot-grown *Paulownia* in his open truck. We have also installed a water butt, the gift of Southeast Water – to whom we are extremely grateful as this will be of great help in watering our plants. Have you got space for a water butt?

In March, Jean (who does the gardening show for Radio Kent) is hoping to come and see what OHSCA members are doing. On 22 March we are to be interviewed about Milton Road for Radio Kent – please do come along to Milton Road just before 11am if you can. And later in the year we have again entered for South and Southeast in Bloom. If you would like to be involved, please contact me.

Litterpick

A successful litter pick was held on 2 March with lots of unwanted material cleared in the Longport area. Thank you to everyone who turned out.

Our next effort is at 10am on Saturday 6 April, part of the **Great British Spring Clean**. Meet at junction of New Dover Road and Lichfield Avenue – we hope to cover the New Dover Road and St Lawrence Road area.

Sophie Scott

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (SEA)

The aim of the SEA subcommittee is to engage and promote connectedness through a range of activities and events. We see these as ways of improving wellbeing, helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation, and increasing a sense of community within south Canterbury. We welcome ideas and new members – please contact Alison Culverwell at social@ohsca.org.

Social Events

The annual *Spring Event* took place on 1st March at the Kent and Canterbury Club. A meal, followed by a raffle and an engaging quiz (many thanks to Chris Tucker our quizmaster), was enjoyed by some 35 members.

Ongoing regular activities

Walks. Wednesday and Friday, 'towards your 10,000 steps'. All are welcome to join these walks – just turn up and go. You do not need to commit to coming regularly. We go at a moderate pace and sturdy footwear is advised. Weather permitting we walk through the orchards and fields, but more frequently on the roads in winter. Departing from the Kent and Canterbury Hospital gate sharp at 9.30 returning at about 10.30. A Bluebell walk is planned for Sunday 5th May, and a Butterfly walk (looking for the Duke of Burgundy!) on Sunday 2nd June.

OHSCA drop-ins. These informal meetings offer members the opportunity to meet committee members, to give feedback on OHSCA activities, express concerns/ interests, and hear what the Committee has been up to on their behalf. And more importantly what people feel they could be doing. These meetings alternate between Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 3 pm, at the Old City Bar in Oaten Hill Place, in the back room or garden if weather permits.

Tool and Equipment Lending Network. The OHSCA Tool and Equipment Lending Network (TELN) continues to coordinate household and gardening items available for local members. If you need to borrow a tool or piece of equipment that you think someone in the neighbourhood might own, or have items you are willing to lend, please contact social@ohsca.org. Examples of items borrowed have included ladders, ice-cream maker, garden waste shredder, tea urn.

See page 1 for dates of future events.

Alison Culverwell (social@ohsca.org)

The Gardening Interest Group (GIG)

All OHSCA members are welcome to join the GIG email-list network – currently some 50 individuals who enjoy gardens and gardening. We are enthusiasts rather than experts, although there is plenty of expertise within the group. Organisation and arrangements are informal, with contact principally via email or Facebook. If you are already on the email list and would like to join the GIG Facebook page (necessarily a closed group), please do contact us (see below).

In February, Helly Langley instigated a visit to Goodnestone Park Gardens to see snowdrops (p.2).

The next and always very popular *Gardeners' Question Time* is scheduled for Sunday 7th April 2019 at the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Bradbury House, Merton Lane North, CT4 7AZ), 15.00–16.30. Further information will follow (via email / Facebook).

The OHSCA *Plant Share* is open to all our OHSCA area community – so do invite neighbours. This year it will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 27th May, at 20 Ethelbert Road, 10.30–12.30. Our hosts will be Richard and Helen Aylwin.

If you are interested in getting on the email list or hearing more about the GIG, please contact the facilitators:

Sarah Perkins (sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com)

Alison Culverwell (social@ohsca.org)

OHSCA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents' associations such as ours can no longer be characterised as focussing solely on local issues. While naturally we in OHSCA are very much concerned with improving the quality of life in our own area, for example by resisting developments we see as having a negative impact, by combatting anti-social behaviour, by tree and garden plantings to enhance the quality of the local landscape, we are also in a strong position to highlight the pressing nature of environmental issues of more global significance.

There was a time when threats to the wider environment were left to 'fringe' green groups to lobby and educate, and these groups were generally ignored by a large section of the public. Many people used to believe that our way of life, based around unlimited consumption, could continue indefinitely. Now most have come to realise there are glaring environmental threats to our health and quality of life, even to the survival of our species itself, which need to be addressed.

Politicians of different persuasions, rather than uniting against these environmental threats with a possible impact as life-changing as war itself, seem unable to work together to solve these problems in a rational way. With strong and common policies across the political spectrum, voters would not be able to find any party that offered just more of the same and would have to agree to go along in a more sustainable direction. Members of groups like ours, coming from all political parties and none, can come together, highlight key problems and demand practical action, without being tied to party dogma or be subservient to industry lobbyists. We can work to bring about small local changes in the right direction – we are, after all, a part of the global jigsaw.

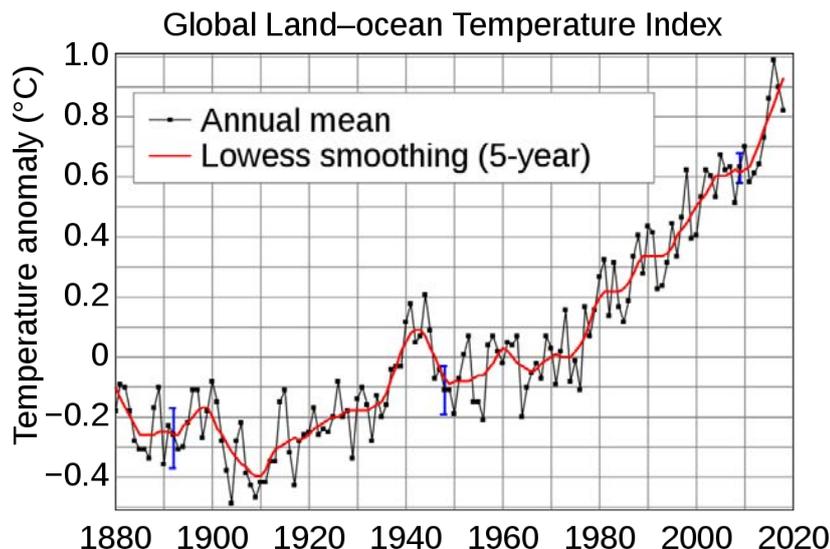
happening? If you think it is happening but has nothing to do with human activity then perhaps you should ignore the rest of this article until you have read a short summary of the scientific evidence from the Royal Society¹.

As far as the activities of OHSCA are concerned perhaps the need to reduce carbon emissions should always be in the back of our minds. For example, for us to support any aspect of the local transport strategy we should think more explicitly about how the proposals would affect climate change. Full mitigation demands a future where all motor vehicles in Canterbury will run on electricity, and that electricity must eventually come from renewable sources. Not only will this reduce carbon emissions from vehicles to nearly zero but it will also reduce pollutants from exhausts, which damage our health. Of course the act of manufacture of even electrically powered motor vehicles consumes a considerable amount of fossil fuel but motor companies are increasingly moving towards using renewable energy in their factories.

From the zero carbon point of view, encouraging pedestrian, electric bus and cycle travel in Canterbury is an obvious necessity. But current transport decisions still favour mollycoddling the petrol and diesel motor car despite overwhelming common-sense arguments put forward by residents and a few enlightened politicians. I recently enquired of the council about progress in implementing the six new cycle routes planned to pass through the OHSCA area, and listed on page 85 of the Transport Strategy of the current Local Plan³. The answer was that none of these routes was yet funded, let alone designed in detail, though the total cost was estimated at only £260,000 for all six, compared to the £9 million being spent on the multi-storey car park at Canterbury West – which surely only encourages more use of motor cars.

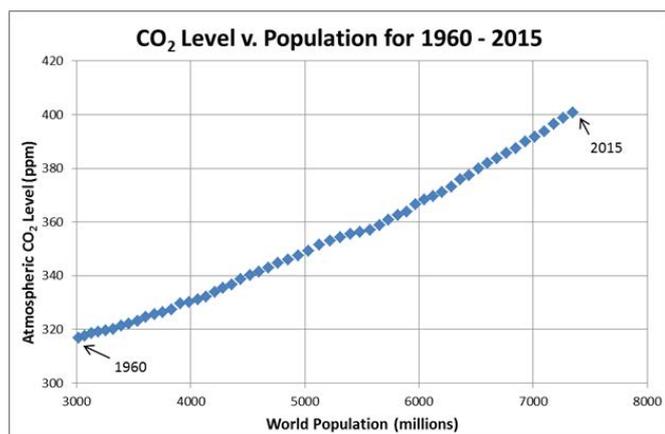
OHSCA members work hard to conserve and improve the visual appearance of our local environment, for example by planting trees and creating flower beds in public places. These efforts are greatly appreciated by passers-by, provide some shade and to a limited extent absorb particulate pollutants from local traffic. However planting a couple of trees a year, as we do, does not go very far to compensate for even the loss of trees felled and not replaced in many of the new local developments, nor do they replace other trees removed by householders.

On a global scale half the planet's tropical rainforests, which act as a crucial carbon sink, have now been cleared and, although there has been replanting elsewhere (most significantly in China), the net loss of billions of trees per annum amounts to roughly one tree per person on the planet per year. If our city was to plant its *per capita* share of new trees to compensate for this loss that would be approximately 40,000 trees every year, not really practical for a raft of reasons! But what we can do is lobby local and national government harder so that regulations are strengthened to ensure that developers and householders replace all our lost trees, and encourage area planting by the local authority when

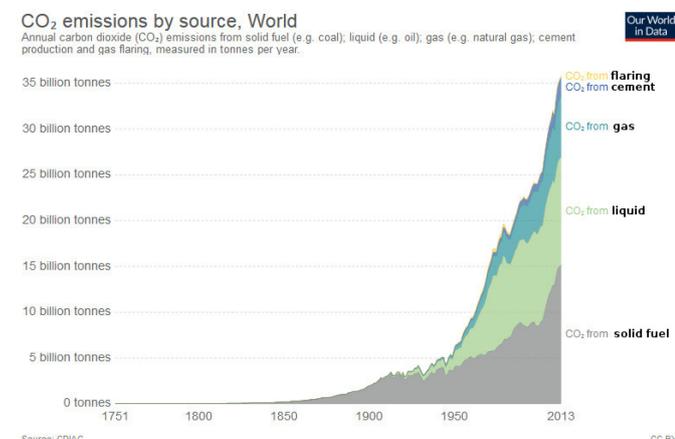


Issues like climate change, loss of wildlife, pollution of air and water, loss of topsoil, are interlinked issues which if not resolved will at the very least diminish the human-inhabitable areas on earth, as well as its sustaining biodiversity (see p.7). Climate change is surely the overarching issue of our times? As I write the newscasts are telling me that the highest ever recorded February temperature of 18.3° C has been reached in Scotland. Does anyone still believe that climate change is not

the opportunity arises. We could aim to change a net loss in Canterbury to a net gain. The OHSCA planning group has begun to consider how we can assess the current tree count in our area, possibly using Google Earth.



Another basic way to reduce fossil fuel use is to reduce the endless manufacturing of new consumer products which feed our shopping culture. This demand also puts stresses on supplies of limited natural resources. But can we learn to consume less? For a sustainable future we really do need to abandon the throwaway society. However, an integrated approach needs fundamentally new thinking, ranging from the power of consumer advertising to the nature of employment, all with a new emphasis on a simpler but perhaps more healthy and fulfilling life style. So far this cannot happen because of vested interests determining the commercial agenda. We can start locally by following the old but largely ignored mantra: reduce, reuse and recycle – which would in itself cut down on the amount of waste we create and energy we use. In OHSCA we already have a small but underused Tool and Equipment Lending network. Perhaps we could also take a lead and inform residents about shops in the city which are best at offering recyclable packaging or have otherwise sustainable credentials – a Green Guide for Canterbury perhaps? Any volunteers?



Another area where we could exert some influence is in monitoring the energy efficiency of new local housing⁴. In the 2011 budget, the national coalition government confirmed the commitment that from 2016 all new homes would be 'zero carbon', but this important proposal was unceremoniously abandoned in 2016. When we scrutinise and comment on future development plans

(for example Mountfield Park), perhaps we should publicly report on the energy efficiency of the significant number of new homes planned. Space and water heating systems for homes in our area like elsewhere are now largely dependent on burning fossil fuels, mainly natural gas, and our emissions of carbon dioxide are continuing to rise from these inefficient systems.

Somehow these emissions need to be reduced and research has shown that the replacement of fossil fuel driven systems by hybrid heat pumps, which use renewable electricity to take heat energy from outside the house and use it to heat water for use inside the house, could satisfy up to 85% of a consumer's heat demand. One of OHSCA's pioneering committee members, Graham Wood, recently successfully replaced a coal burning heating system in his house with an all-electric heat pump system of this type, and has also installed a solar panel on his roof.

OHSCA has a significant membership of 300 households, representing perhaps one tenth of all local residents. We could easily increase general awareness of some of these important environmental issues and not only kick up a fuss when local government or business seem to be moving in the wrong direction, but also to offer positive guidance towards some of the solutions we can take into our own hands.

Useful Links

1. Climate change

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/>

2. Greenhouse effect data

<https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

3. CCC Transport Strategy

https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/file/157/transport_strategy_2014_to_2031

4. Energy efficient homes

https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Zero_carbon_homes

Chris Tucker

[Note: the views expressed here are entirely my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OHSCA committee.]

HEALTHCARE NEWS

Stroke Services

The media have reported reactions to the Joint CCGs' confirmation on 14 February of their decision on future emergency stroke services in Kent & Medway. MPs and Local Authorities in Mid-Kent speak of challenging this decision through judicial review. This note summarises our present understanding of the issue.

The clinical view is that a suspected stroke is most successfully dealt with by getting the patient within an hour to a Hyper-Acute Stroke Unit (HASU), where the fullest possible range of diagnostic and treatment services, and the widest professional qualification and experience, are constantly available. Bearing in mind population distribution, numbers of cases, transport routes and the location of hospital and human resources, the intention, subject to public consultation, to create three HASUs in Kent & Medway was announced in Spring 2018. The three favoured locations were at the

William Harvey Hospital for East Kent, and at Darent Valley Hospital and Maidstone Hospital for Mid- and West Kent. The public consultation process then followed.

The William Harvey Hospital was the only East Kent location considered realistic, on grounds of facilities and staffing and of journey times; there was a wider range of options available in Mid- and West Kent. In East Kent, objections were based mainly on the campaign to re-create a full acute hospital in Canterbury, and on concerns that travel times to Ashford, for example from Thanet, would exceed the one-hour target. However a demand to set up two HASUs, at the QEQM in Margate as well as at Ashford, was resisted not only as a dilution of resources, but on the ground that neither Unit would have a sufficient flow of patients to maintain the necessary range of expertise. It has been added that if, as a result of the pending decision on acute hospitals in East Kent, Canterbury instead of Ashford were to have the hyper-acute hospital, then the HASU would be transferred, with the other acute services, from the William Harvey Hospital to Canterbury.

The target date for setting up the Ashford HASU is said to be 2020/21. It is open to speculation how much this might be affected in the event of a judicial challenge to the location of HASUs in Mid- and West Kent.

General Practice

A new five-year GP (General Medical Services) contract framework, starting from 2019/20, has just been announced. It appears to continue the efforts to create and develop local networks of primary services, including the diversion of demands on acute services. It also refers to new funding for “additional clinical pharmacists, physician associates, first contact physiotherapists, community paramedics and social prescribing link workers” – so evidently some reduction of pressure on medical primary staff is also envisaged.

Denis Linfoot, February 2019

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

New Book – The Story of Oaten Hill in Canterbury

Our latest publication, on the History of Oaten Hill based on St Sepulchre’s Nunnery, Oaten Hill, Upper Chantry Lane, Cossington Road and Oaten Hill Place, has been published and was successfully launched at a packed meeting at *The Phoenix*, Old Dover Road, on 28th January. Following the launch the first print run sold out and a second printing is now taking place.

The format (A4) is larger than hitherto in order to best illustrate photographs and colour images. The book illustrates the religious, regal, commercial, social and environmental influences which have shaped the present day appearance of this most historic part of our area.

At its core is the story of the medieval nunnery of the Holy Sepulchre and the fate of the land on which it was built in subsequent centuries.

If you wish to obtain a copy, price £10.00, please contact LHG at history@ohsca.org.

Holmans Meadow

Negotiations for the erection of a “story board” for Holmans Meadow car park, based on the History Group’s booklet “The Holmans of Canterbury”, are at an advanced stage. The board will illustrate the history of Holmans manufacturing of agricultural machinery, especially traction engines, together with their legacy of windmills still standing throughout East Kent (and Jerusalem).

We note and support efforts to save, or determine an alternative use for St Mary Bredin School House and the Norman Mound on which it stands to benefit the wider community.

We are continuing to record oral histories of local people.

The Local History Group meets at the Kent and Canterbury Club at 10.15 am every second Tuesday on alternate months. Next meetings will be on 14th May and 9th July.

New members are welcome and details of all our publications are available on the OHSCA Local History web site <http://ohsca.org/history.html>.

Mike Brain (history@ohsca.org), March 2019

PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

It has been a relatively quiet quarter on the planning front, with no blockbuster schemes to report, and no conclusive changes to the status of the Mountfield Park scheme appeals – but consultations on strategies and other matters have kept us busy.

Planning Applications

35-41 New Dover Road – this was refused, on design grounds, and insufficient provision of affordable housing contribution. It is encouraging to see both these issues being supported by CCC – we promote them often enough in our comments.

2/2A Ethelbert Road – conversion to 14 Flats. This scheme was objected to by OHSCA, refused permission by CCC, went to Appeal and was rejected by the Inspector, but has since been re-submitted with minor cosmetic changes. We objected on the same grounds as before – excessive length of frontage, hideous design. Fingers crossed.

14 Ivy Lane – erection of six house – addition of three penthouse rooms. Refused by CCC, but after being granted at Appeal the developer over-interpreted the judgement by going for a large increase. Again it is encouraging to see some sign of application of rational standards by CCC.

6 Bridge Street – chip shop – an application for later hours – we objected as this is increasing the impact of the night time economy on flat dwellers over shops.

Two Doves PH, Nunnery Fields – we are objecting to the loss of a community resource, and against a crude design. Interestingly, there is a possibility that a Canterbury landlord could take it over as a community pub.

Mountfield Park

The two applications for Judicial Review (re the Planning Permission and the Air Quality Report) have received ...

[CONTINUED FOOT PAGE 8]

OHSCA AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity has become a jargon word, often in the news, often misunderstood. What is it? Is its loss important? And if it is, can we do anything about it, as we go about our daily lives in suburban Canterbury?

Biologists have long studied biological diversity – genetic variation within species, the number and relative abundance of species in a habitat, and differences in the species composition of living communities (ecosystems) from place to place. All very much the preserve of academics. However, a few did raise fears long ago about the likely negative impact on natural systems of our extraordinary population and industrial growth. [I find it scary that since I was born the global human population has *literally* trebled.]

With publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in 1962, this all changed. The real impacts of our actions – in this case the toxic effects of pesticides then promoted as essential for feeding our burgeoning population – struck home. We are poisoning and degrading the biosphere, the Earth's delicate living mantle, of which every living thing is a part, and on which all life, including our own, is totally dependent.

First coined in 1968, the contraction *biodiversity* sprang to the fore in 1988 when used as the title for a landmark book edited by famous American entomologist E.O. Wilson. No longer just a scientific issue, this new discipline sought to address the significance of biodiversity for our future. But it is not solved. As I type this, the United Nations has just released yet another report on the threats to global food production by accelerating biodiversity loss.

In what ways is biodiversity important? It is vital for all living organisms, in so many ways. Extensive genetic diversity within species, not fully appreciated until the 1960s, is crucial for their ability to adapt to changing conditions. Genetic differences between species reflect how each sort (maybe more than 10 million on the planet) differs in its properties. We have long exploited this material aspect – oak for buildings, ash for tool handles, willow for baskets, medicinal plants, fibres, foods and so on, and on, almost *ad infinitum*.



The Marmalade Fly – not a wasp, not a bee, this common hover-fly is an efficient pollinator – and its larvae eat aphids! (Wikimedia)

Arguably even more significant are the (collective) *activities* of organisms in the great 'web of life'. The Earth's primal atmosphere was devoid of oxygen – now essential for almost all life as we know it, and only generated by plant photosynthesis. A compelling case can be made that, without life, the Earth would have lost all its water billions of years ago. This is part of James Lovelock's *Gaia Hypothesis* – how the myriad feedback

systems operating within the intact biosphere keep our planet life-sustaining.

But the resilience of the biosphere has limits. For example, the build-up of CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels causes acidification of the oceans. This is a massive threat to marine life and thus to us, because marine biodiversity plays a pivotal role in the Earth's natural climate control system. Apparently heedless, or in denial, every year our 'enterprise' releases ever more carbon (page 4). No wonder our children protest!

What can we do as individual citizens? Concern about biodiversity is often voiced in terms of extinction risk – blue whales, pandas, condors . . . here in Kent we have many species, such as the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, close to local demise. If this worries you, give support to organisation like Kent Wildlife Trust. In reality there is not a lot we can do in our own gardens to help rare plants and animals. But with respect to the crucial *activities*, or 'ecosystem services' that biodiversity delivers, we can help.



Natural soils are very complex. Their fertility depends on countless interactions between innumerable bacteria, fungi, worms, mites, insects and other creatures (see <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/themes/soil-biodiversity>) that recycle all natural materials available to them. Earthworms are well-known 'engineers', fertilising and diversifying soil structure in a way that promotes other organisms. Help preserve and enhance this living world by organic gardening. Read about permaculture. Try not to use pesticides and herbicides. Plant native species whenever and wherever possible.

Pollinators. Most insecticides are non-specific, causing more harm to beneficial species than 'pests'. Pollination is a major service provided not just by honey and bumble bees, but also our 250 species of solitary bees – and innumerable beetles, flies, and other insects. Suburban areas (including allotments) can act as 'reserves' for pollinator species if we grow the right variety of flowering plants abundantly in our gardens. If you fancy trying to help sustain pollinator diversity, you can make a really good start by going to <https://beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/>.

Biodiversity is a complex issue, not just the biology, but also the politics and ethics. The vast majority of those who have studied these matters are convinced the biosphere has limits – limits which we are now pushing to the point of irreparable damage. Specifically, there have been recent reports of major declines in insect numbers and diversity – and this has now evidently become global (e.g. <http://www.rosspiper.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/10.1016@j.biocon.2019.01.020.pdf>). So please be careful when you decide to get rid of those old pesticide cans! Look on biodiversity not as horrid worms or bugs, but security . . . now and for the future.

Dick Vane-Wright

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Jenny MacDonald	Committee member [resigned February 2019]
Chris Tucker	Committee member/Planning Bulletins: info@ohsca.org
Graham Wood	Committee member/Local History Group rep. For information about OHSCA Local History Publications, telephone 01227 472932 or see our publications webpage
Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Chair Local History Group	<i>Mike Brain:</i> history@ohsca.org
Tree Champion	<i>Gill Gower:</i> trees@ohsca.org
Events bulletins	<i>Karen Thomsett</i>
Newsletter editor	<i>Dick Vane-Wright (2017–2019)</i>

If you are uncertain who to contact please direct your enquiry to the Honorary Secretary e.g. for OHC, the OHSCA Health Care sub-committee.

Note: ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations; SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance.

Some useful contacts

- For problems with student neighbours contact Suzanne Ridley (University of Kent student community liaison officer) 01227 816156; communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
- If you are concerned about security or have an urgent query and need to talk to the Canterbury City Council 'Out of Hours' team, their number is 01227 781 879. This redirects to CCC Control Room staff on duty 24/7.
- To report illegal parking:
https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20062/parking_fines_and_restrictions/43/report_illegal_parking
- To report graffiti (with possibility of removal depending on circumstances)
https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20044/vandalism_and_graffiti/55/report_graffiti

ANSWERS to NEW YEAR QUIZ

(1) gable of St Mary Bredin School; (2) stone marking former site of Dane John Manor House (or 'Dungeon Manor'), Rhodaus Town; (3) Millennium Mural, St George's Place underpass (film director Michael Powell, born Bekesbourne, 1905); (4) old building at Rhodaus Town; (5) mural, Lansdown rail footbridge; (6) house in Nunnery Rd; (7) Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Merton Lane North (venue for Gardeners' Question Time); (8) St Mary Bredin Church; (9) mural, Lansdown path; (10) the IT is in HospiTAl, on gates of K&C, Ethelbert Rd (recently repainted); (11) part of old pub sign, Nunnery Fields (former *Two Doves*, now closed and sign removed!); (12) 1860 date is on side wall of Luxmoore House, 75 New Dover Road; (13) 1998 date is on the Nicky Young memorial plaque in Upper Chantry Lane (when she planted the Holm Oak nearby); (14) 1880 is on Annie Purchas House (now CATS student hostel), 56–60 New Dover Road.

(PLANNING REPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

... judgements, and been turned down. This is of course a major setback, but there are still further legal steps that can be taken, so watch out for further news

Consultations

The Canterbury CC Heritage Strategy – we have objected to the structure and contents of this, finding that there is in fact no strategy, only notice of how CCC intends to go about developing one. There is however a lot of nebulous discussion about the value of Heritage, followed by vague hints that funding systems will have to change. Rather typical for CCC, but not surprising, given their ever shrinking budgets.

Open Spaces

We are about to release to the membership for comment a proposed OHSCA Open Spaces Strategy, objecting to the under-provision of open space in the OHSCA area, particularly in south Canterbury, and making initial suggestions for an action plan.

Remember – keep writing in to object if you are not happy with applications – if CCC receive four objections it must go to Committee for debate. Something from OHSCA only counts as one!

Tim Carlyle, March 2019

OSHCA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019 EXTRA

Two of the great benefits of having a digital edition of the OHSCA newsletter are colour, and unlimited space – both prohibitively expensive if we wish to go beyond the 36 pages we print in half-tone each year. Two more big advantages are that images can be magnified on-screen to see more detail, and we can include live ‘blue’ links to websites, downloadable documents and email addresses – so much more information is then just a click or two away! This applies not only to sources potentially anywhere in the world, but also our own website. Right now, as already noted on page 2, some current deliberations from OHSCA Health-Care subcommittee about the NHS Hospitals Reorganisation in East Kent offer a case in point:

For a really easy question, it would be hard to beat “Would you like the best possible, hyper-acute hospital in Kent to be located at Canterbury?” As may have been noticed elsewhere, a really easy question may have hidden depths. The hospitals reorganisation plans for East Kent in particular have shown a tendency to move on without being resolved, and it seems harder now (February 2019) to be sure what the situation is about this reorganisation than it was six or twelve months ago . . .

. . . if you want to read on, please go to: <http://ohsca.org/pdfs/nhs-feb2019.pdf>

Not every digital edition of the Newsletter will carry an **EXTRA** section – but this bumper issue is one, with many additional contributions that have recently come our way. What is included is listed here – starting off with the full text of Chris Tucker’s article on OHSCA and the Environment – to help navigate through what is on offer.

OHSCA and the Environment [unabridged]	pages 10–13
Ten Major Threats to Biodiversity	page 14
At local risk – the Duke of Burgundy	page 15
Gill Gower – on Logs	page 16
Winners of the OHSCA photo competition 2018	page 17
Some other OHSCA photographs . . .	page 18,19
Some local charities actively supported by Members	page 20,21
Some healthcare information	page 22
Tailpiece – and image credits	page 23

Pages 10–16 amplify the two environmental concerns explored on pages 4/5 and 7, and some related thoughts on burning logs. Pages 17–19 offer a miscellany of OHSCA photographs, while pages 20 and 21 introduce some local charities with which OHSCA members engage.

St Georges Post Office under threat of closure

Just over two years ago we published this note: Post offices are seen by most of us as a vital part of any community. Sadly, due to changing ‘economics’, many have been lost (such as our former sub-post-office in Oaten Hill), and more will surely follow. The OHSCA area still benefits from one, originally on Lower Bridge Street, now located within the Londis convenience store at 15–16 Longport (CT1 1PE), where the counter is run most expertly and efficiently by store owner Mrs Kirti Patel. Kirti is invariably on hand 06.30–21.00 Monday to Friday, and at week-ends too (Saturday 07.00–21.00; Sunday (08.00–20.00). So, if you value having a local post office, please remember to use Longport – otherwise we might lose that one too!

OHSCA Newsletter (1) page 9, January 2017

Sad to say, the threat of closure is now actually upon us. It appears that Royal Mail are intending to withdraw some significant services that the St Georges Post Office at Longport can offer – which could make the business unsustainable. Marion Bell has spoken to Mrs Patel, who would much appreciate local residents writing to Royal Mail to ask them to reinstate full services, including the issue of Passports and International Driving Licences. Marion has already contacted Royal Mail on behalf of OHSCA. If you are concerned about this real threat to our local amenities, it would be great if you wrote individually as well. You might be able to make a start at <https://personal.help.royalmail.com/app/contact>. Their main postal address is Group Communications, Royal Mail Group, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

OHSCA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents' associations such as ours can no longer be characterised as focussing solely on local issues. While naturally we in OHSCA are very much concerned with improving the quality of life in our own area, for example by resisting developments we see as having a negative impact, by combatting anti-social behaviour, by tree and garden plantings to enhance the quality of the local landscape, we are also in a strong position to highlight the pressing nature of environmental issues of more global significance.

There was a time when threats to the wider environment were left to "fringe" green groups to lobby and educate, and these groups were generally ignored by a large section of the public. Many people used to believe that our way of life, based around unlimited consumption, could continue indefinitely. Now most have come to realise there are glaring environmental threats to our health and quality of life, even to the survival of our species itself, which need to be addressed.

Politicians of different persuasions, rather than uniting against these environmental threats with a possible impact as life-changing as global war, seem unable to work together to solve these problems in a rational way. If there were strong and common policies across the political spectrum, voters would

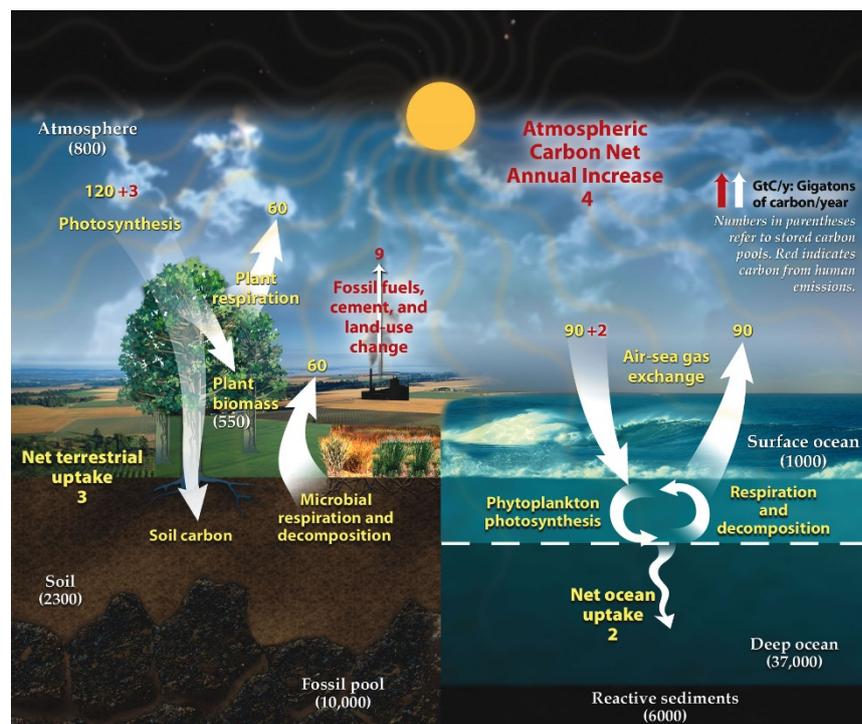


Figure 1. The Carbon Cycle (Wikipedia)

Issues like climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution of air and water, loss of topsoil, are interlinked issues which if not resolved will at the very least diminish the inhabitable areas on earth. Climate change is surely the overarching issue of our times. As I write the newscasts are telling me that the highest ever recorded February temperature of 18.3° C has been reached in Scotland. Does anyone still believe that climate change is not happening? If you think it is happening but has nothing to do with man's activities then please ignore the rest of this article until you have read a short summary of the scientific evidence from the Royal Society¹.

Water vapour accounts for about 50% of Earth's greenhouse effect, with clouds contributing 25%, carbon dioxide 20%, and the minor greenhouse gases and aerosols accounting for the remaining 5%. As greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) increase due to human activity (Figure 1) and global temperatures consequentially rise, more water

not be able to find any party that offered just "more of the same" and would have to agree to go along in a more sustainable direction. Members of groups like ours, coming from all political parties and none, can come together, highlight key problems and demand practical action, without being tied to party dogma or be subservient to industry lobbyists. We can work to bring about small local changes in the right direction, we are after all, a part of the global jigsaw.

vapour from the oceans is able to accumulate in the atmosphere and this in turn further exacerbates temperature rises, in a positive feedback cycle.

Global carbon dioxide emissions², from the burning of fossil fuels, continue to reach new heights (Figure 2), and mean temperatures continue to rise in step (Figure 3), currently being 0.8° C above the 1880 mean of 13.7° C. Depending on the future scenario up to 40% of this emitted CO₂ will remain in the atmosphere for 1000 years and it is this accumulation of carbon that will cause any temperature rise to persist. That is why carbon emissions need to be reduced to as near to zero, and as rapidly as possible. A doubling of CO₂ from a pre-industrial 280 ppm (parts per million) to 560 ppm could cause a rise of as much as 4.5° C in the earth's mean temperature. (The CO₂ concentration now stands at 410 ppm.)

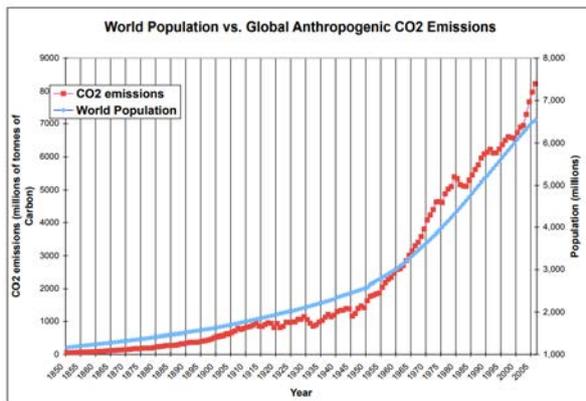


Figure 2. CO₂ emissions and population 1850–2007

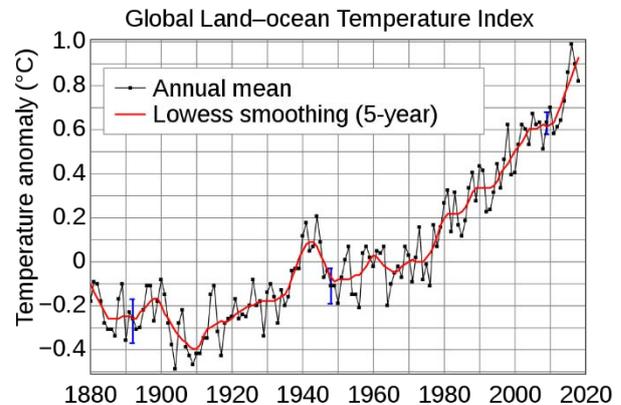


Figure 3. Global mean temperature index 1880–2018 (Wikipedia)

The world's leading climate change scientists have warned that we have only a dozen years to keep climate change down to 1.5° C above the historic mean. Even another half a degree above that level will significantly increase the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and more widespread poverty.

Figure 2 also shows that CO₂ emissions have been increasing roughly in line with global population growth. There is some hope of the world's population (currently at about 7.7 billion) stabilising at around 10 billion by 2100. Assuming that greenhouse emissions can be curtailed very soon this huge population is likely to be at around the maximum carrying capacity of the planet, taking account of available natural resources.

What these total emission figures do not take into account is that emissions per capita in the developed and the developing worlds are very different. In fact each person in the developed world is now on average responsible for approximately 8.7 tons of carbon emissions per annum compared to an average of 3.7 tons per capita in developing nations.

If the undeveloped world is permitted, and chooses, to "catch up" with the developed world's life style then this can clearly only practically happen under a zero carbon emission scenario. (Clearly if all on the planet were to consume fossil fuels at the current rate of the richest nations then total annual emissions of CO₂ would soon double for that reason alone, with catastrophic effects on the world's climate.)

Figure 4 (below) shows the main sources of CO₂ emissions which all need to be reduced to nearly zero for a sustainable future. Coal, oil and gas, where used for energy rather than as raw materials for industry, must be replaced by electricity from wind, geothermal, wave and solar, all renewable energy sources, or from secondary sources like hydrogen, a key element in 100% renewable energy systems of the future, which can be produced cleanly from water using surplus renewable electricity.

The production of cement is a source of as much as 7% of global CO₂ emissions and is the most widely used material on earth apart from water, with nearly three tons used annually for each man, woman, and child, and rising with development. The cement industry is working on ideas to reduce this emissions figure but there seems very little of significance that can be done at present to reduce this 7%.

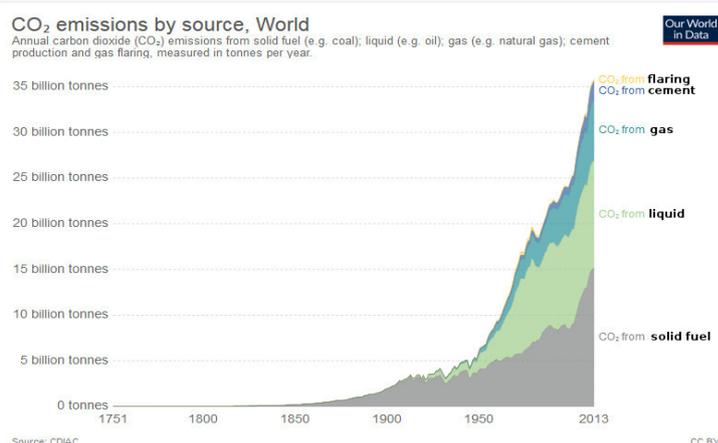


Figure 4. Sources of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions 1751–2013 (Our World in Data)

As far as the activities of OHSCA are concerned perhaps the need to reduce carbon emissions should always be in the back of our minds. For example for us to support any aspect of the local transport strategy we should think more explicitly of how the proposals would affect climate change. Full mitigation demands a future where all motor vehicles in Canterbury will run on electricity, and that electricity must eventually come from renewable sources. Not only will

this reduce carbon emissions from vehicles to nearly zero but will also reduce pollutants from exhausts, which damage our health. Of course the act of manufacture of even electrically powered motor vehicles consumes a considerable amount of fossil fuel but motor companies are increasingly moving towards using renewable energy in their factories.

From the zero carbon point of view, encouraging pedestrian, electric bus and cycle travel in Canterbury is an obvious necessity. But current transport decisions still favour mollycoddling the petrol and diesel motor car despite overwhelming common-sense arguments put forward by residents and a few enlightened politicians. I recently enquired of the council about progress in implementing the six new cycle routes planned to pass through the OHSCA area, and listed on page 85 of the Transport Strategy of the current Local Plan³. The answer was that none of these routes were yet funded, let alone designed in detail, though the total cost was estimated at only £260,000 for all six, compared to the £9 million being so easily to be spent on the white elephant of a multi-storey car park at Canterbury West which only encourages more use of motor cars.



OHSCA members work hard to conserve and improve the visual appearance of our local environment, for example by the planting of trees and beds in public places. These efforts are greatly appreciated by passers-by, provide some shade and to a very limited extent absorb particulate pollutants from local traffic. However planting a couple of trees a year, as we do, does not go very far to compensate

for even the loss of trees felled and not replaced in new local developments, nor do they replace other trees removed by householders. On a global scale half the planet's tropical rainforests, which act as a crucial carbon sink (Figure 1), have now been cleared and although there has been replanting elsewhere (most significantly in China) the net loss of billions of trees per annum amounts to roughly one tree per person on the planet per year.

If our city was to plant its per capita share of new trees to compensate for this loss that would be approximately 40,000 trees every year, not really practical for a raft of reasons! But what we can do is lobby local and national government harder so that regulations are strengthened to ensure that developers and householders replace all our lost trees, and

encourage area planting by the local authority when the opportunity arises. We could aim to change a net loss in Canterbury to a net gain and the OHSCA planning group has begun to consider how we can assess the current tree count in our area, possibly using Google Earth.

Another basic way to reduce fossil fuel use is to reduce the endless manufacturing of new consumer products which feed our shopping culture. This demand also puts stresses on supplies of limited natural resources and may pollute land and water resources close to mining and industrial areas. But can we learn to consume less? For a sustainable future we really do need to abandon the throwaway society but an integrated approach needs fundamentally new thinking, ranging from the power of consumer advertising to the nature of employment, all with a new emphasis on a simpler but perhaps more healthy and fulfilling life style. So far this cannot happen because of vested interests determining the commercial agenda. We can start locally by following the old but largely ignored mantra: reduce, reuse and recycle which would in itself cut down on the amount of waste we throw away and the energy we use. In OHSCA we already have a small but underused Tool and Equipment Lending network and perhaps we could also take the lead and inform residents about shops in the city which are best at offering recyclable packaging or have otherwise sustainable credentials- a Green Guide for Canterbury perhaps? Any volunteers?

Another area where we could exert some influence is in monitoring the energy efficiency of new local housing⁴. In the 2011 budget, the national coalition government confirmed the commitment that from 2016 all new homes would be "zero carbon", but this important proposal was unceremoniously abandoned in 2016. When we scrutinise and comment on future development plans (for example Mountfield Park) perhaps we should publicly report on the energy efficiency of the significant number of new homes planned. Space and water heating systems for homes in our area like elsewhere are now largely dependent on the burning of fossil fuels, mainly natural gas, and our emissions of carbon dioxide are continuing to rise from these inefficient and climate-damaging systems. Somehow these emissions need to be reduced and research has shown that one way is to replace fossil fuel driven systems by hybrid heat pumps, which use renewable electricity to take heat energy from outside the house and use it to heat water for use inside the house. This can satisfy up to 85% of a consumer's heat demand. One of OHSCA's pioneering committee members, Graham Wood, recently successfully replaced a coal burning heating system in his house with an all-electric heat pump system of this type, and has also installed a solar panel on his roof.

OHSCA has a significant membership of 300 households, representing perhaps one tenth of all local residents. We could easily increase general awareness of some of these important environmental issues and not only kick up a fuss when local government or business seem to be moving in the wrong direction but also to offer positive guidance towards some of the solutions we can take into our own hands.

Note: the views expressed above are entirely my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OHSCA committee.

Chris Tucker

Useful Links

1. *Climate change*

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/>

2. *Greenhouse effect data*

<https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

3. *CCC Transport Strategy*

https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/file/157/transport_strategy_2014_to_2031

4. *Energy efficient homes*

https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Zero_carbon_homes

Ten major threats to biodiversity. This list is not exhaustive, nor are the categories mutually exclusive. While climate change may now be seen as the most potent short-term threat, faith-based responses to biodiversity loss should address all categories, and in particular 2, 3 and 9. Will they also tackle 10, when many politicians seem unwilling to do so?

Threat	Comment
1. <i>Climate change</i>	Increasingly anthropogenic since the onset of the industrial revolution, current changes are now driven by massive and still rapidly increasing release of fossil carbon by burning mineral oil, natural gas and coal, coupled with massive deforestation in many parts of the Earth.
2. <i>Poverty</i>	Impoverished people living off the land have little or no control over their resources, and can severely damage local ecosystems, especially when faced with starvation. Much poverty appears to be linked to globalisation, due to macroeconomic forces dependent on cheap fossil energy that have made consumer overexploitation possible.
3. <i>Overexploitation</i>	Wholesale 'resource' and landscape conversion (e.g., clear felling of tropical forests, opencast mining), global economics, transnational corporations, industrialised farming, 'commoditisation' of nature for profit, and the adoption of excessive consumer lifestyles, have very negative impacts on local and global biodiversity.
4. <i>Fragmentation</i>	Fragmentation of natural habitats as a result of overexploitation, highway construction, urban and agricultural expansion etc., has numerous negative effects on biodiversity, notably a great increase in local extinction due to normal stochastic population fluctuations. Coupled with climate change, the loss of continuous habitat also means that many sedentary species cannot respond by moving to new areas, but become trapped and go extinct as climate change advances beyond their limits of tolerance.
5. <i>Human use of net primary productivity</i>	Humans now capture or divert 25 percent (and rising) of all photosynthetic activity in support of our single species. This is totally out of proportion with any other large animal that has ever lived, and is reason alone to question the sustainability of the current human "enterprise."
6. <i>Human appropriation of available fresh water</i>	Wholesale diversion of water for human use, including irrigation, has already brought about extinction of entire freshwater biotas (such as the freshwater insect fauna of the main Canary Islands). Water is life for other species as well as humans
7. <i>Invasive and translocated species; GMOs</i>	Species introduced by accident or intention from their native ecosystem into another ecosystem often cause unexpected damage and loss to local biodiversity, sometimes with near-disastrous results. The outcomes of such translocations are typically impossible to predict. Each translocation of a gene from one species to another by 'genetic engineering' is an uncontrolled and irreversible experiment with largely unknown ecological consequences. GMOs represent the commoditisation of genetic diversity in which the rest of biodiversity is treated as a disconnected "externality," as in all economic systems which regard the environment in this (ultimately) irresponsible way. Genetic "engineering," based on the 'atomistic' concept of genes, reflects an outmoded concept of how genomes are constructed and operate.
8. <i>Pollution</i>	Chemical pollutants, including pesticides, stress and poison wildlife, even in remote areas; run-off from artificial fertilizers causes eutrophication of waterways and wetlands, often with disastrous consequences for biodiversity; plastic bags and plastic particles are ingested by macrofauna (e.g., fish) and microfauna (e.g., filter-feeders) with various deleterious effects, etc.
9. <i>Alienation and indifference to nature</i>	With more than half the world's human population now living in cities, alienation from and indifference to nature are likely to rise, even leading to increased biophobia, making the task of helping people to understand their dependence on the rest of nature ever more difficult.
10. <i>Population growth of humans and farm animals</i>	The human population trebled in the 20th century, from 2 billion to 6 billion, and looks set to rise to 9 billion by 2050; at the same time the number of large farm animals such as cows (currently estimated at 1.5 billion) has also increased by a comparable magnitude (cf.5). Such numbers are almost certainly unsustainable; meanwhile our "enterprise" causes ever-accelerating changes to the biosphere and concomitant losses of biodiversity.

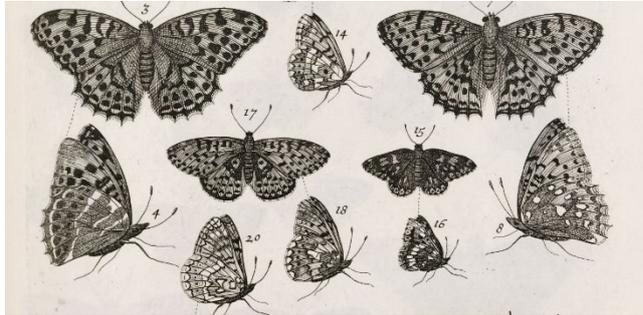
Reset from Table 1 of 'Planetary Awareness, Worldviews, and the Conservation of Biodiversity' (2009):

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/278679384_Planetary_awareness_worldviews_and_the_conservation_of_biodiversity

The Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*) – part of our biodiversity in danger of extinction in Kent

This little creature is the only European member of one of the major groups of butterflies, the ‘metal marks’ (family Riodinidae). Closely related to our more familiar blues, coppers and hairstreaks (family Lycaenidae), the metal marks are most numerous in South America (well over 1000 species), with just a few dozen in Africa, Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

First discovered in Cambridgeshire by William Vernon in about 1695, this species was named in



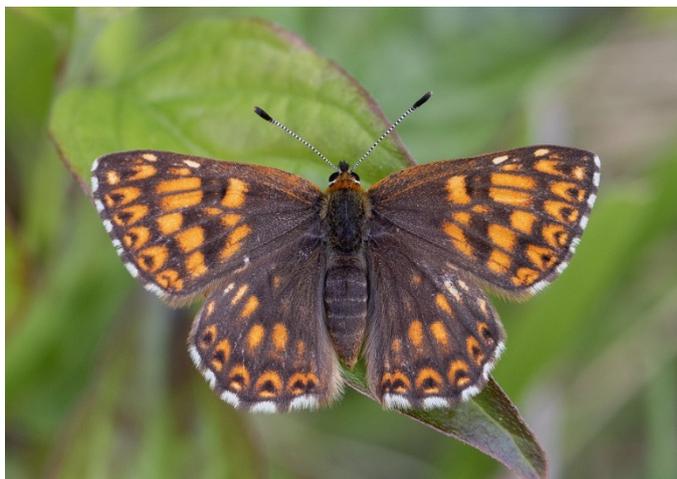
1699 by James Petiver, ‘father of British butterflies’, as Mr Vernon’s Small Fritillary – fritillary then being a name given to any butterfly with a pattern of small chequers or spots. In 1717, in *Papilionum Britanniae*, the first ever attempt at a comprehensive account of British butterflies, Petiver stated that it was “found in several woods round London”.

Part of Plate 4 from Petiver 1717 – 15 and 16 are ‘Vernon’s small Fritillary’ (compare with photos below).

Sad to say, ‘round London’ is no longer the case. The last remaining colonies of this butterfly in Kent, which all occur in and about Denge Woods, are among the closest to the capital that still survive. Its ongoing decline is due to a complex mixture of changes affecting the management of our woodlands and grazing of downlands. The caterpillars eat only primroses or cowslips. The chrysalid stage last about nine months, typically formed just above the ground in grass tussocks, where they seem vulnerable to predation by shrews. It appears that the continued existence of this insect in England (it is already extinct in Scotland and Wales) will depend on continual effort by conservationists. If you are interested in the idea of helping, contact Butterfly Conservation (<https://butterfly.hs.to/how-you-can-help/get-involved/volunteer>).

Curiously, the origin of its current colloquial name, the Duke of Burgundy, is something of a mystery – but from Moses Harris’s *Aurelian* (1766), it is apparent that by then it had already been re-named ‘the Burgundy’, or Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. In recent years it has become the practice to drop the Fritillary part of its common name, as most ‘fritillaries’ belong to a different family of butterflies.

The adults fly from early May until mid-June, peaking a bit earlier on downlands and a little later in woods. Dick Vane-Wright will try to locate some colonies in Denge during May and, if successful, lead an OHSCA butterfly walk to see the butterfly on Sunday 2nd June (weather permitting!). Details will be posted by email close to the time (*we might need to go on 25th May*).



Duke of Burgundy photographed at Denge (Alex Perry, left) and near Chartham (Bob Eade/Butterfly Conservation, right).

LOGS

In these times when burning wood has become more popular with the rise in wood burning stoves, we need to pay more attention to warnings about air pollution that log burning can cause (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46823440>). The new concerns mainly relate to old stoves without mechanisms to 'clean' the emissions, present in most stoves fitted in the last five years. The warnings also emphasise the importance of using dry and well-seasoned logs, which give off far less toxic fumes and particulates (<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/ard/documents/ard-36.pdf>).

I thought you might like to see this poem that has been in my family for many years:

Beech-wood fires burn bright and clear
If logs are kept a year:
Store your beech for Christmastide,
With new-cut Holly laid beside,
Chestnut only good, they say,
If long years it's stored away:
Birch and Firwood burn too fast,
Blaze too bright and do not last:
Flames from Larch will shoot up high,
Dangerously the sparks will fly.

But Ashwood green and Ashwood brown
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown

Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter's cold;
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke;
Elm-wood burns like churchyard mould,
Even the very flames are cold.
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread –
So it is in Ireland said;
Apple-wood will scent the room,
Pear-wood smells like flowers in bloom.

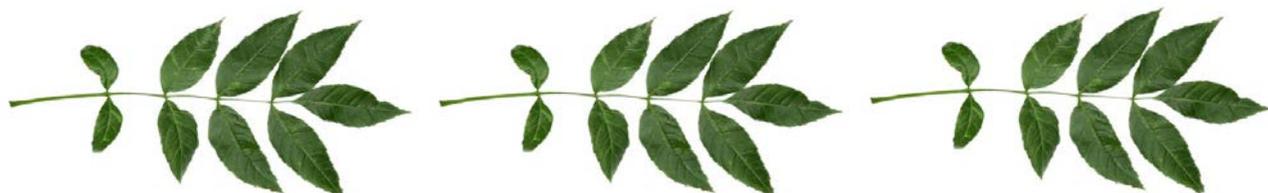
But Ash-wood wet and Ash-wood dry
A King may warm his slippers by.

Anon



Rather sad to note how high Ash is rated when it is currently under such threat from Ash dieback. Destined to go the way of Elm, 80% of native Ash trees are expected to be lost in the next few years. It is important to become familiar with the Ash, as signs of dieback need to be reported and, more importantly, trees that can resist the virus be identified. There is a lot of information about Ash and Ash dieback symptoms on the Forestry Commission website: (<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8zsjbc>; <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/ashdieback>).

Gill Gower



WINNERS OF THE OHSCA PHOTO COMPETITION 2018



The over-16 winners' photographs were included in the New Year Newsletter, and both they and the under-16 winners were announced, congratulated and awarded with their prizes at the Christmas Fayre on December 8. Thanks again to Jen Holland for judging – her comments on each photo are included here.

(Left) Runner-up over-16s: **Stephen Brooks**. "Good timing of the birds looking towards each other, and lovely colours."



(Left) Runner-up under-16s: **Sienna Durrani** (Age 6). "I like the close up angle, and the texture and pattern in the picture."

(Below) Winner over-16s: **Janet Penton**. "I've seen quite a few photos of the horse but this is a really nice angle, the composition is great and the time of day gives really flattering light with the shadows of the trees leading the viewer's eyes in."



(Left) Winner under-16s: **Alicia Durrani** (Age 9). "Lots of interesting things incorporated into the photo that give you a sense of being there as they have been."



Gardeners' Question Time, 21st October. The next GQT is on Sunday 7th April (see page 3).



Christmas Fayre, 8th December.



Jeff Derham sees the funny side – but Father Christmas (aka David Kemsley) is not so sure!



GIGgers at Goodnestone Gardens (see page 4)



Ceiling detail – Jenny and Allen MacDonald, together with Chris Tucker, visited *The Hoystings* amid continuing concern regarding its fate.



Two Doves – gone but not forgotten (see page 6)



As all who attended the Spring Event now know, St George the Martyr

Those Goodnestone snowdrops again ...

SOME LOCAL CHARITIES ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS

Several Members have expressed an interest in hearing about local charities run or supported by other OHSCA members. Below is information about three we are aware of. There are probably more, perhaps many more. So if you would like to see your local charity mentioned in a future OHSCA *Extra* (subject to normal editorial review), please do get in contact – and send us a little description and any request for support – we suggest a maximum of 300 words.



Charity number 1171042

BRIGHT SHADOW is an award winning charity, based in East Kent, offering creative opportunities to people with dementia, their families and supporters. The aim is to enable those affected by dementia to live well and thrive. Too often those with a dementia find themselves excluded from participating in cultural and creative activities. Using an immersive arts-based approach, Bright Shadow offers participants with cognitive (and often additional) difficulties, and their families/friends, the chance to engage in a range of ways. This is both hugely enjoyable and has enhanced peoples' wellbeing significantly.

The charity operates primarily in east Kent. It runs workshops in care homes and provides staff training, but the main focus is currently on providing community Zest workshops. These run weekly for 2 hours in a number of locations including Canterbury (at the Beaney) and in Whitstable. These workshops are facilitated by professional artists from a variety of artistic backgrounds, supported by a permanent workshop assistant.

How might you help?

- Spread the word to those affected by dementia
- Volunteering opportunities are available – to support the charity in ways that suit your skills/ interests/availability
- We also are looking to recruit an additional trustee
- Support fundraisers e.g. Plant Sale on Saturday 13th April, 2 pm onward at 26 Ethelbert Road (if rainy, then Sunday 14th April).

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Alison Culverwell (aculverwell99@gmail.com) or info@brightshadow.org

Canterbury Welcomes Refugees Charity number 1181225

Might you be able to help a refugee family from Syria? Canterbury Welcomes Refugees (CWR) is a small, local charity that undertakes various activities supporting refugees living in Canterbury and the surrounding area.

Exactly a year ago we decided to offer a home to a family displaced by the conflict in Syria under the government's Community Sponsorship Scheme. We have been heartened by the wonderful support we have received from local people, both in their generous financial contributions and also in their offers of practical help and services. We have now raised the required sum of money, have a team of volunteers recruited and have the substantial documentation required in place. We are due to receive the pre-approval visit from Home Office representatives this month and we will then be in a position to go ahead.

What we need is a house to rent in a safe area in Canterbury, suitable for a family. The exact size of the house is not prescribed, but three or more bedrooms would be ideal. The UNHCR will identify a family who, most probably, will be living in a refugee camp at present, who would like to rebuild their lives in Canterbury and whose needs match the available house. As soon as the family arrive they will be entitled to apply for state benefits until they are able to start work. CWR may be able to pay void costs for a short period prior to the arrival of the family to secure the tenancy.

If you have, or know of, a house that is available now or in the near future, at an affordable rent, for at least 2 years, in the Canterbury area, please contact OHSCA member Claire Leggatt on 01227 479029, or claire.leggatt@gmail.com.

Friends of Westgate Parks Charity number 1178364

Registered in May 2018 as successor to the community group of the same name that formed part of the 2013–2018 HLF-funded 'parks for people project', Friends of Westgate Parks is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its aim is to help preserve, protect and improve the Westgate Parks in Canterbury as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty, promote conservation of the plant and animal life of the parks, advance public education, and promote research on the local biodiversity, natural history and archaeology. 'FoWP' works in close collaboration with Canterbury City Council.

In addition to promoting education and research, the charity organises volunteer conservation work in the parks (which comprise Westgate Gardens, Toddlers' Cove adventure playground, Tannery Field, and Bingley Island urban nature reserve). To support this work a number of fund-raising activities are organised during the year, including the family-orientated spring Easter Trail and autumn Scarecrow Trail events. FoWP also contributes to the now annual Canterbury Medieval Pageant, which will take place this year on 6th July (<https://www.canterburybid.co.uk/canterbury-medieval-pageant/>).

There are opportunities for volunteering. We are also looking to recruit new Trustees and committee members, especially anyone with an interest in event and volunteer organisation, conservation, website development (<https://www.westgateparks.co.uk/>), and education. If you are interested or would just like to know more, contact Michael Pocock, Secretary of the Trustees (friendsofwestgateparks@gmail.com), or Dick Vane-Wright (dickvanewright@btinternet.com), an OHSCA member who has been associated with the project since 2011.



Improvements to the Rheims Way underpass was a volunteer project organised by Friends of Westgate Parks.

And finally in this section, although we are not aware of any OHSCA members directly involved, this might be of interest to some members, families, neighbours and friends:



Charity number 271028

Rethink Mental Illness (<https://www.rethink.org/>) is an advocacy service designed to support those who are vulnerable or who need help in making informed decisions and secure the rights and services to which they are entitled. A general description of its activities can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rethink_Mental_Illness. Rethink has experience across a variety of settings in a community and in secure hospitals and secure units.

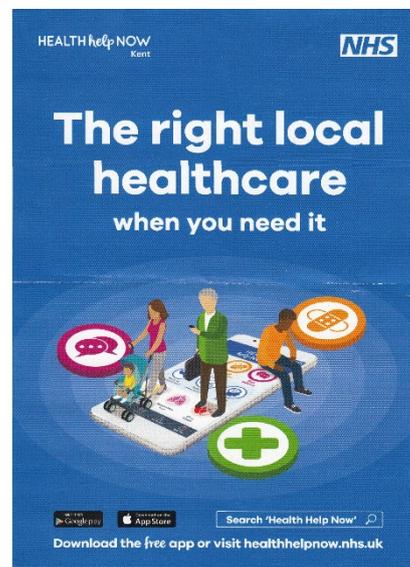
Here are some contact details for Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone, Shepway and Thanet – Canterbury 01227 760707, email: rethinkcanterbury@googlemail.com; East Kent Advocacy Service, 66 High Street, Margate, 01843 224511 email: eastkent.advocacy@rethink.org; Folkestone Mind Resource Centre, 3 Mill Bay, Folkestone, Kent 01303 244726. Maidstone Community Centre, Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent 01622 678674 email: maidstoneadvocacy@rethink.org.

The Canterbury group is organising a sponsored 'Cloisters to Oysters' bike ride on Sun. 12th May. For details contact rethinkcanterbury@googlemail.com or tel. 01227 760 707.

SOME HEALTHCARE INFORMATION

A year has passed since OHSCA launched its ground-breaking four-page local advice leaflet *Emergency Health Care: are you confused where to go?* Do you have your copy? – and do you know where to download it? If not, please contact info@ohsca.org.

Although this leaflet continues to be very useful, in the face of endless ongoing changes to local healthcare provision, the OHSCA HealthCare subcommittee is about to embark on an update. Meanwhile, a few notices that have recently come our way are pasted below:



<http://kent.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk/health-help/services>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/gp-appointments-and-bookings/>




Faversham Minor Injury Unit and X-Ray

You can get treatment for

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Minor Injuries and Falls • Cuts, Wounds and Grazes • Bites and Stings • Abscesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye and Ear Injuries • Burns and Scalds • Sprains and Strains • Foreign Bodies Removal
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You can also get treatment for **any Minor Illnesses** like
infections, rashes, coughs, colds and emergency contraception
when your GP surgery is closed

Faversham Health Centre
Bank Street
Faversham
ME13 8QR

Tel: 01795 562005
www.favershammiu.co.uk
MIU opening hours

8am – 8pm 7 days a week including Bank Holidays
X-Ray opening hours
10am – 4pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays

TAILPIECE – AND IMAGE CREDITS

It has been my privilege to act as OHSCA's first Newsletter editor, helping to bring issues 1–10 to completion. Amazingly (and it is amazing to anyone who knows me), all on time! But nothing could have been done without the equally timely ideas and copy received from committee members and other contributors, throughout. My thanks go to all of you. I also owe much to Greta Cotterrell for her support and invaluable advice in getting started. And, of course, Andy Jones at *PrintMatters*, and Deirdre Hawkes and Sophie Scott and their faithful band of distributors for, respectively, printing and delivering some 8000 paper copies over the past 2½ years, and Chris Tucker for 'posting' all the digital editions.

If I have any regrets about my time as Editor of the Newsletter it is that so few members have taken the opportunity to write about things they love or loathe about Canterbury, and issues they feel OHSCA should address. Letters, which are unpredictable in length and number, can be difficult to fit into the limited space of the print editions – but, subject to essential scrutiny and subediting, they are easy to add to a digital edition. In the transition to the next editorial 'reign', I hope I will be able to work with my successor to resuscitate 'Your News and Views' – such a great feature of OHDS newsletters.

Dick Vane-Wright

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- Page 2 Phil Perkins
- Page 4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instrumental_temperature_record
- Page 5 <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/05/17/the-correlation-between-global-population-and-global-co2/>; Our World in Data <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>
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- Page 10 carbon cycle: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_cycle
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- Page 12 figure 4: Our World in Data <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>; cars: Kent Online <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/car-free-day-proposed-for-118618/>
- Page 15 petiver: Natural History Museum London/Dick Vane-Wright; duke at denge: Alex Perry Wildlife Photography; duke underside: Bob Eade/<https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/england/restoration-to-stabilise-duke-of-burgundy-metapopulations>
- Page 16 split logs: unknown; burning logs <https://gizmodo.com/build-a-perfect-fire-on-christmas-eve-without-burning-d-1485900358>; ash leaves: Woodland Trust <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-uk-native-trees/ash/>
- Page 18 Dick Vane-Wright
- Page 19 goodnestone: Phil Perkins; 2 doves, clock: Dick Vane-Wright; hoystings: Chris Tucker
- Page 21 <https://annaoutdoors.co.uk/portfolio/interpretation-toddlers-cove-underpass-project-main-wall/>