

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER
digital edition

JUNE 2019

No. 11

OHSCA MEMBERS – WE NEED YOU!

Following our May meeting some members indicated that they are minded to step down from the Committee at the AGM in October. So, in order for OHSCA to continue to operate as it currently does, we would like to welcome new members to join the Committee. If you have book-keeping or IT skills, or an interest in planning, trees, health or liaising with local schools and colleges, do consider joining the OHSCA team. For more information, see page 2. If you are interested or might be willing to help, please contact the Association by emailing secretary@ohsca.org, telephoning 07713 025245, or by writing to OHSCA Hon Secretary at 13 Wells Avenue, Canterbury CT1 3YB.



The new Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) planted in NDR (see p. 3)

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OHSCA dates for your diary (note: some dates have changed)

every Wed & Fri:	weekly walking groups (p.5)	8 th September:	produce share (p.6)
22 nd June:	closing date yard sale entry (p.5)	10 th September:	Local History Group (p.4)
9 th July:	Local History Group (p.4)	11 th September:	drop-in OCB (p.5)
10 th July:	drop-in OCB (p.5)	30 th September:	photo comp. closing date (p.5)
13 th July:	Garden & Yard Sale (p.5)	6 th October:	litterpick details tbc (p.3)
4 th August:	Lunch on the Lawn (p.6)	10 th October:	drop-in OCB (p.5)
15 th August:	drop-in OCB (p.5)	13 th October:	Gardeners' Question Time (p.6)
31 st August:	picnic St Augustine's Abbey (p.6)	18 th October:	OHSCA Annual General Meeting

FROM THE CHAIR

As members will recall we were unable to appoint a permanent Chair for the Association this year, and the committee agreed that the role be rotated amongst its members. It is my privilege to hold the position for June/July and to have the opportunity to write this piece for the newsletter.

At the end of the year a number of committee members will be stepping down (election success/length of service/well-earned break) and we have roles to fill which are crucial to our achieving all the good things that we want to do for our community. I do hope everyone who reads this and who is not already involved in our numerous activities will give careful thought to how best they might be able to help. All offers great and small equally welcome. New volunteers will of course be 'mentored' into their role.

One point that I would stress is that the committee is looking very seriously at how it might streamline its business to ensure more effective use of time including, for some activity leads, to reduce obligation of committee attendance to a minimum. Looking ahead, the committee will continue to have a substantial list of major matters (many of which are interrelated) on its agenda, some of which are covered in more detail in this newsletter. Notably:

Mountfield Park; open space; air quality; traffic congestion; pedestrian and cyclist safety; K&C Hospital future; town & gown; CCC corporate and local plans; World Heritage Site plan; Canterbury Society Vision for Canterbury; engagement with schools and young families; and affordable and social housing provision.

These are all big-ticket items that move slowly. OHSCA is committed to work on these alongside 20 other community groups across the wider City area under the umbrella of ACRA (Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations), and the Canterbury Society. Meantime there are lots of things we are doing to make incremental improvements to the appearance and enjoyment of our local area. I will come to some of those good things shortly but, first, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight several things about Canterbury (and there is nowhere I would rather live) where individually and collectively as a city community we need to do better:

We have three World Heritage sites but, despite that, conspicuous parts of the City look shabby and uncared for – exemplified by the increasing number of shop fronts with letters missing from their signs. Some areas are completely devoid of greenery and would be transformed by sensitive tree and hedge planting.

The city centre feels unsafe and threatening after dark. Nonchalant assertions about a vibrant night-time economy are risible.

The city is being overwhelmed in places by new overlarge brutal apartment, hotel, and car park developments arrogantly insensitive to the surrounding heritage.

The gradual removal of back garden green space as developers cram as much brick and concrete as they can get away with whilst cutting down trees galore – New Dover Road is a prime example.

Countless meaningless public consultations where residents views have been completely ignored.

Selfish individuals who drop litter, deface property, leave their vehicle engines running for long periods when stationary, and the priceless minority of dog walkers who leave their pets' droppings for others to clear up (or step in) later.

On the brighter side:

OHSCA has a very full programme of social events and activities as well as a very proactive History Group, renowned for the quality of its publications and recording of social history.

OHSCA members arrange regular litter picks which always gather large quantities of rubbish. I also know that a number of members quietly and without fuss make weekly litter picks on their own, or just do it routinely as they go about their day to day business, including graffiti removal. We are all very grateful for what you do.

Dane John Garden is now much better cared for, pleasant and safer for families during the daytime.

The Hoystings is looking cleaner and brighter.

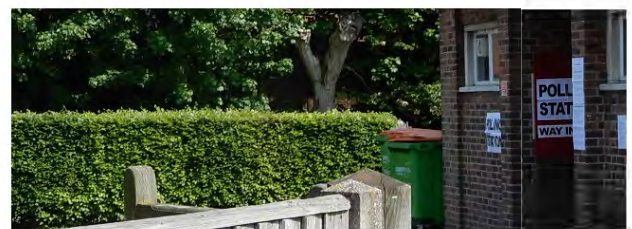
We have two more trees, both beautiful species, a *Ginkgo* beside the police station and a Judas tree (see cover) near the Premier Inn. More are in the pipeline.

For many years our new tree planting has been organised by Sophie Scott who has done a tremendous job selecting the right tree for the right place, persuading people to make money available, and organising the planting itself. I asked Sophie to cast her mind back and let me know how many plantings she has been actively involved with. She sent me a list going back to 1997 (she joined the former OHDS in 2006) and the number totalled 72! Many of these came via local authority money in one way or the other but I reckon some 25 were paid from association funds and member donations.

A study by the University of Surrey has concluded that the most effective natural pollutant removal in an urban setting is a tree/hedge combination. I therefore want to wave a flag for more hedges, particularly along our roadsides, and would ask everyone to visualise how certain parts of our city could look so much more attractive and be a healthier place for us all with the addition of trees and hedges.

In conclusion the recent local elections resulted in three new Councillors in Barton Ward. It is pleasing that they all live locally and know the area intimately. For Wincheap we also welcome another new face, alongside one very familiar! We wish them well and look forward to working with them constructively. At the same time I would like to record our appreciation to the four departing former Councillors for their efforts on our behalf.

David Kemsley, 30th May 2019



In future vote hedge – a good way forward?

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EDITORIAL

Dear OHSCA members

It seems almost like yesterday when I was editing first the OHDS and then the OHSCA newsletter, which role was taken over by Dick Vane-Wright when I went overseas on a two-year contract. Dick brought a professional look to the Newsletter, expertly curated your submissions on the district's local activities and events, and, together with information on planning decisions that have relevance to our area, included many interesting and important articles. Now that I am based back in Canterbury Dick has taken the opportunity to take a well-earned retirement from editing. He has passed back to me the job of Newsletter editor. After this issue, I will be writing to everyone to ask for submissions for the Autumn edition. So, until then, I wish you all a lovely and fruitful summer!

Greta Cotterrell

MEMBERSHIP

We have 243 households who are paid up members but we also have 75 households who have not yet renewed their membership. Please check the back of your paper newsletter – we really do need you to send in your sub of £5 right now if you have not yet paid. If you have any query, please email me on sophie01@btinternet.com or ring on 456 285. We really need all our members!

Sophie Scott

TREES

Our most recent tree is the Judas tree in the New Dover Road, outside Tesco's (see cover page). The owners of the Pizza Hut think it is so good that another next to it would be great. Six of us (thank you Teng, Jane, Sarah, Marion and Deirdre) hit the weeds and rubbish one morning and cleared many sacks away. We then put in some shrubs and flowers so let's see how it does.

We are planning on planting at least two trees this autumn, more if funds permit. If you have any suggestions regarding sites, please do contact me.

Sophie Scott

GREEN TEAM

As well as the Dover Street litterpick on June 15th, we hope to do another on 6th October. If you have strong views about an area that needs attention, please contact Sophie – more information in our next newsletter.

The Green Team has been working really hard to finish the five-month project in Milton Road. We enjoyed a visit in March from Jean Griffin from Radio Kent and we are now reaping the benefits of the waterbutts so generously given by Southeast Water and Danny Reardon, filled from Danny's



rain gutters. We are extremely grateful for all the donations of shrubs, plants, bark and cash that have made this project possible as well as the hard work done by Dave and Deirdre.

In St George's Garden we are seeing the benefit of last year's work changing the soil and replanting the low bed under the lime. We had a brilliant display of flowers from snowdrops through daffodils to tulips. The roses are now looking good – must have benefited from last year's heat. However, the planters need a refresher coat if they are to survive.

The Fire Station garden is very well established. Unfortunately one of the planters has rot which needs urgent treatment – watch this space!

We have entered all three gardens for *Its Your Neighbourhood* as part of Canterbury in Bloom.

It is thanks to the hard work of a few tireless and dependable volunteers that all these gardens exist to cheer us and brighten our part of Canterbury. Please do contact us if you would like to help.

Sophie Scott, Dave Goddard (07484 316613) and Deirdre Hawkes



Above: Green Team triumphant, 6th April 2019 (photo Connie Nolan)
Below: Milton Road transformed (photo Dave Goddard)

OHSCA HEALTHCARE UPDATE

In the previous newsletter, we gave an update on the NHS's continuing efforts to decide between its Hospitals Option 1 (acute and specialist services at Ashford, acute services at Margate, planned surgery etc. at Canterbury) and Option 2 (all East Kent acute and specialist services in a new Canterbury hospital), based on the offer of the developer Mark Quinn to provide a 'shell' hospital building conditional on receiving planning consent for an additional 2,000 houses in south Canterbury.

Early in April CCC Chief Executive Colin Carmichael kindly met with four OHSCA members. Main features of the City Council's situation then appeared to be:

- The Council would of course welcome a major new hospital in Canterbury;
- However, the separation between planning responsibilities and other interests is firmly established, and the Council will avoid any action or statement prejudicial to the proper quasi-judicial consideration of planning applications, either for housing or a hospital;
- The nature and timing of processes and guarantees which might be required to achieve a new Canterbury hospital would need to be clarified;
- The initiative for deciding whether Option 2 is both clinically preferable and financially achievable rests with the NHS;
- At NHS request, the Local Plan included a potential site for a new hospital on land near the Bridge A2 junction, but this request, and therefore the site, were later withdrawn;
- New hospital development in Canterbury would therefore probably be SW of the existing Kent & Canterbury Hospital. To do this, the developer would almost certainly need to have ownership of land currently belonging to CCC ('Ridlands Farm') and KCC ('Langton Field') – areas currently designated for housing. Neither CCC or KCC have as yet entered into any agreement with Mark Quinn about purchase of this land;
- Both the NHS and the Council are aware that in view of the diverse interests involved, judicial review may be sought of any or all decisions in this matter.

Meanwhile, the May edition of the *Kent & Medway STP Bulletin* says that since last December, as part of a national pilot scheme, planned orthopaedic operations such as knee or hip replacements are being done in the Kent & Canterbury Hospital rather than the William Harvey. This of course is a feature of the hospitals reorganisation Option 1. Work also continues, according to the *Bulletin*, on implementing the Stroke Services reorganisation which will locate the sole East Kent hyper-acute stroke unit at Ashford. Although it was previously said that this would be re-located in Canterbury if Option 2 is adopted, the NHS does look as though it is becoming committed to one or two important elements of Option 1.

Judging from what we were hearing up to March, no early decision seemed to be in prospect, but we can only continue to watch for signs, and we will continue doing our best to keep members informed.

The STP's May Bulletin also contained organisational news: there are to be Primary Care Networks (groups of neighbouring GP practices serving communities of 30,000-50,000 – which looks rather like Canterbury-sized); there are plans to replace the numerous Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent and Medway with a single CCG; there are also proposals to establish Integrated Care Systems (working "across organisational boundaries"), and Integrated Care Partnerships offering "seamless health and care . . . within a defined budget" (a significant choice of words?) The search for optimal organisation continues.

Denis Linfoot, 23rd May 2019

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Story of Oaten Hill. In March, David Potter gave a presentation of our new book to the Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society. Many orders were taken and a further presentation to U3A has been requested. The large format, colour illustrated book is available price £10 at the OHSCA website <http://ohsca.org/history.html> or by telephone 01227 472932.

Holmans Meadow Story Board. Negotiations for the erection of a "story board" for Holmans Meadow car park, based on the History Group's booklet "The Holmans of Canterbury", is 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).

Doris Hughes Memorial Plaque. OHSCA planted a Pride of India tree (*Koelreuteria*) on the open space at the junction of Ivy Lane with the ring-road on 17th April 2018, to celebrate the life of Doris Hughes (1920–2018) – an indomitable and passionate campaigner especially on behalf of the Oaten Hill community. A plaque acknowledging her and recording the event is to be placed at the site.

Laurel House. The History Group's attention has been drawn to the possible disposal of Laurel House Old Dover Road by the Kent and Medway Hospital Trust. We have written to the Trust indicating that conversion of this prominent classical style building, close to the centre of our area, should be the subject of conversion to a suitable use, and not demolished.

The Hoystings. We have been encouraged by ongoing works to retain and renovate the original windows.

Local Street Files. The History Group's files, recording activities on each street in our area, are currently with Canterbury Library for amalgamation with those held at *The Beaney*.

We continue 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 9th July and 10th September. New members are welcome and details of all our publications are available on the OHSCA Local History website: <http://ohsca.org/history.html>.

Mike Brain, June 2019

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (SEA)

We continue to organise a range of activities and events which we hope bring the community together. Our thanks go to all those who made them possible. Do contact social@ohsca.org if you have any ideas for future events/activities or are willing to help in anyway. We have two new events coming up:

Garden and Yard Sale – Saturday 13th July, 2–5 pm.

A chance to recycle your unwanted goods. If you are interested in having a sale in your garage/ yard or having a stall in someone else's, please contact Lorna Durrani by 22nd June (at the latest), on 01227 456623 or lornahawkerdurrani@gmail.com.

We will provide information about all the sales so you can do a garage sale crawl.

Photo competition. You are invited to submit up to 2 photos on the topic *Canterbury Flora and Fauna* to social@ohsca.org. As before there will be 2 categories – one for those under 16 years and one for those above. Prizes will be presented at the AGM. Closing date: 30th September.

Our activities since the last newsletter have included:

Walks. The annual Bluebell walk, kindly led by Tim Carlyle, was delightful. Wisely brought forward in response to the early flowering, we enjoyed vast carpets of bluebells.



The Duke – mobilephonegraphed on the day (12th May) by Phil Perkins

We also had a most successful butterfly and orchid walk in Denge Wood, organised by Dick Vane-Wright in association with *Butterfly Conservation Kent Branch* (special thanks to Alan Cooper, Nathan Jones and Dan Tuson). Many Duke of Burgundy butterflies (*Hamearis lucina*) were spotted, as were several varieties of orchid – and one beautiful Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) that obligingly perched for several minutes, shoulder-high on a bush, for all to see. Added to which, Steve Mercer and Chris Laming caught sight of the striking and very local day flying White-spotted Sable moth, *Anania funebris*. Denge is now the only area left in Kent where the little Duke still survives.

Our weekly Wednesday and Friday “towards your 10,000 steps” walks continue. All are welcome to join these perambulations – just turn up and go. You do not need to commit to coming regularly. We go at a moderate pace but sturdy footwear is advised. We typically walk through the orchards and fields, departing from the Kent and Canterbury hospital gate at 9.30 sharp, returning at about 10.30.

OHSCA Drop-ins. These informal meetings, which take place in the Old City Bar in Oaten Hill, are no longer attracting many people. They were introduced to enable members to meet committee members and each other, to give feedback on OHSCA activities, express concerns/ interests and hear what the committee has been up to on their behalf. Should we continue or alter these meetings? Please contact social@ohsca.org with your views.

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, an ice-cream maker, garden shredder, and tea urn.

Gardening Interest Group (GIG). The Gardening Interest Group (GIG) is a network of some 50 individuals who enjoy gardens and/or gardening. We are enthusiasts rather than experts, although there is a good deal of expertise within the group. The organisation and arrangements of the Group are informal and contact is principally via email or through the GIG facebook page (closed group).

In April, we held our third Gardeners' Question Time. Many tips to support environmentally friendly gardening were shared, as were cake and surplus seeds. The meeting, with a wide range of questions from plant identification to slug control, was ably chaired by David Kemsley, for which we thank him. Thanks are also extended to Janet Penton who did a wonderful job with the refreshments.

During May, a small group visited a delightful garden in Chestfield that won the 2018 Kent Life Best Amateur Garden Award. It was beautifully presented and full of unusual plants. The event was arranged by Marie-Jo Ford, a GIG member. Inspirational.



GIGers getting inspired

This year's Plant Share was held on Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May, at 20 Ethelbert Road. Many thanks to Helen and Richard Aylwin for hosting another successful and enjoyable share. As usual, the event was open to all OHSCA area residents and friends.



Comings and Goings: Bank Holiday plants on the move

All OHSCA members might like to know that this year delphinium 'week' at Godinton House, near Ashford, will be 14–23 June.

If you would like to become a member of the GIG group, please contact Alison or Sarah.

Sarah Perkins (sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com)

Alison Culverwell (social@ohsca.org)

Coming SEA Events. See page 1 for diary listing.

- Saturday 13th July pm. Garden and Yard Sale – see page 5 for contact details and booking.
- Sunday 4th August. Summer Lunch on the Lawn (weather permitting). Bring and share lunch social event. 12.30-14.30 at 26 Ethelbert Road.
- Saturday 31st August (NB date change). Picnic St Augustine's Abbey, starting 12 noon. Enjoy the Abbey, bring food and drink to share. Free entry for CT1 & CT2 residents. If not registered with the Abbey, bring evidence of your address. There is seating but you may prefer to bring your own. If weather bad, cancelled! Contact Sophie Scott on 456285 if you have any queries.
- Sunday 8th September produce share. Venue tbc.
- 30th September. Deadline for photo competition (see above).
- Sunday 13th October. Gardeners' Question Time. 3pm. MS therapy centre.

PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The planning picture recently has been fairly predictable, apart from resurgence of the Mountfield Park application, for which Corinthian Land have submitted updated material. Various parties are studying the revised Environmental Impact Statement chapters and appendices, and comments are not due until 14 June, so I cannot provide any definitive comments. The new material reviews updated predictions for traffic flows around the site, and the impacts on air quality and congestion and travel times.

The modelling claims to show that reductions in car journeys will be greater than anticipated three years ago and, therefore, while Mountfield Park will generate an increase in traffic, with the associated harms, because these are in context of lowered baseline traffic movements, the impact of Mountfield Park will be minimal.

Unsurprisingly, CCC have accepted this position and offer no criticism. We are studying the assumptions, and are coming to the general conclusion that, as for the original application, the methodology of calculation of numbers of trips is flawed, and underestimates flows, while the assumptions about the use of electric cars and bikes is very optimistic, overestimating their likely take-up. More later.

The 55 unit student residence application for 68 Old Dover Road is in limbo – CCC have extended the period for consideration. We objected strongly.

In New Dover Road, on the other hand, we have been approached by McCarthy and Stone to discuss with them their retirement community scheme that they withdrew in the face of negative comments – but we have no information yet on specifics. More on that later too.

Otherwise, we carry on much as before, with the smaller applications. It is significant that in the CCC following a recent consultation on how much the council should be charging developers with respect to a new tax – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – they expect to raise £25M over the Local Plan period of 15 years, IN ADDITION to Section 106 taxes, all from permissions for development. Clearly, the local economy relies on the money, but the scale of the money required for CCC's budget resources explains their zeal to encourage development. It remains our job to try to monitor and mitigate the worst effects of the ceaseless flow of applications.

Tim Carlyle, Vice Chair, 30th May 2019



What next for Laurel House? (see p. 4)

OPEN SPACE IN SOUTH CANTERBURY – a discussion paper

The stated aim of OHSCA in our constitution is to support and improve the quality of life of our community. The Association strives to achieve this through a variety of means, including identifying ways to conserve and extend green spaces and advocating for improved recreational facilities. At the start of 2019 the Association's Committee decided that one of the priority areas for action this year should be to explore options to enhance and expand the limited amount of 'open space' in South Canterbury. The first step in this process is to draft a short note which will serve as a discussion paper for members and interested parties such as Canterbury City Council. The text below is extracted from this note which will shortly be circulated to members for their comments and further input.

What is Open Space and why is it so important?

There is no universal definition of open space but it might be described as recreational land without buildings which can be accessed by the public or used for their benefit. Open space has a wide range of uses and includes playing fields, parks and public gardens, allotments, green corridors and even civic areas with hard surfaces such as market squares. It therefore provides vital services to local communities and there is a lot of evidence to show that it makes a big contribution to people's mental and physical health and wellbeing. Children need outside areas in which to play freely and elderly people appreciate, and benefit from, peaceful open-air sites. In addition, green spaces in cities are crucial habitats for wildlife and help to maintain the biodiversity of flora and fauna. This is why Local Authorities are legally required to provide open space and to have a strategy to assess needs and make suitable provision for it.

Where does Open Space fit in local strategies?

Canterbury City Council's Open Space Strategy for the district, supported by an Action Plan, has the overall aim to '...protect and enhance the existing quality of our public open space and promote its usage'. An important element in the sustainability strategy of all Local Authorities is the need to provide facilities that are very local, to promote healthy activity and reduce car travel. The Council acknowledges that open space connects with other issues such as air quality and biodiversity conservation; and so, for example, the Open Space Strategy is linked to the Transport Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Plan. Each of these strategies and plans support the commitment in the Local Plan to safeguarding and improving open spaces.

What is the current state of open space in South Canterbury? In Canterbury City we have Westgate Parks and Dane John Gardens which are easily accessible for city centre residents and visitors. However, some local districts of the city have very limited open space; in particular, South Canterbury where the City Council has highlighted a deficit of amenity green space in the southern sections of Wincheap and Barton wards. The standard adopted by the City Council is that there should be 1.3 ha of amenity open space for every 1000 people. In South Canterbury the available area of open space is

negligible and falls far short of this target. As a result, children lack outdoor facilities to play and the community at large is deprived of a vital resource. Voluntary groups such as the Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association (OHSCA) are working hard to maintain and enhance the small areas of existing open space through activities such as maintaining public gardens and planting trees. But this does not address the larger issue of missing space.

What can be done to improve the situation?

Canterbury City Council has noted that, since the deficit in open space provision in South Canterbury is historic, it would be challenging to address this and it has no plans to do so. We accept that it is difficult to create new open space within the existing street pattern. However, we do believe that there are things that can be done to ameliorate the problem.

Firstly, there are areas where, in spite of the limited space available, positive action could be taken; for example, by establishing sensory gardens. We need to identify such 'quick wins' which can be achieved at limited cost and with active community support. But we also need to create larger areas of open space and this is more challenging to do.

Secondly, excellent opportunities do arise when residential or commercial areas are re-developed or new developments occur. We are aware of several sites where development will take place with a short period of time, and the CCC needs to secure the best developers contribution for residents, a reasonable proportion of which we would like to see channelled into open space projects.

Working together. Underpinning the City Council's Open Space Strategy is a commitment to work in partnership with communities to enhance public open space and instil a sense of civic pride and community cohesion (CCC Open Spaces Strategy, para 3.21). OHSCA is ready to work with the City Council within the context of an Action Plan, to help it deliver on its objectives and realise its stated vision 'To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury district'.

Conclusion. South Canterbury has almost no open space for residents to enjoy and this has a negative impact on their quality of life. It also creates a significant gap in the interconnected network of open spaces envisaged by the City Council, and should be remedied.

When the full text is circulated to Members, it will be accompanied by a draft action plan and strategy, all for comment. Our eventual aim is to present a practical action plan to the Council in the hope that they will agree to work with us in pursuit of agreed objectives.

Tim Carlyle and Tim Chancellor, 1st March 2019



Ridlands Farm seen from the A2 (beyond the houses)

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2018–2019

Tim Carlyle	Vice-Chair/Planning Rep: vicechairtc@ohsca.org
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David Kemsley	ACRA /SCA Rep./Press Liaison: press@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee member
Denis Linfoot	Committee member
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	trees@ohsca.org [<i>Gill Gower</i> resigned May 2019]
Events bulletins	<i>Karen Thomsett</i>
Newsletter editors (this issue)	<i>Greta Cotterell</i> and <i>Dick Vane-Wright</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

Insect alerts

In our Spring newsletter we talked of the critical value of insects in sustaining the great 'web of life'. While the vast majority of organisms, including most insects, are beneficial, in our greatly modified ecosystems the arrival of certain species from elsewhere can cause problems.

Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*), a native of central and southern Europe, has become established in London since about 2006. This moth presents a 'double whammy' – the caterpillars can damage oak trees very badly by defoliation, while their hairs, which can break off and drift on the air, can cause severe dermatitis in humans and pets. Found in Bexley last year, this species could well spread to East Kent in the near future. People are being encouraged to report any sightings. Go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-report-oak-processionary-moth-caterpillar-sightings> – where you can find out how to identify this insect, and how to submit a report.

A second insect currently in the news is the frog hopper (*Philaenus spumarius*), a plant bug that is responsible for the familiar frothy 'cuckoo spit' found on a wide variety of plants, including many that we grow in our gardens.

At present this little insect does not represent a serious problem at all – but in future it could be. *Xylella fastidiosa* is a particularly deadly plant bacterium thought to have originated in the Americas. It was discovered in southern Italy in 2013, where it has now killed millions of olive trees. The bacterium has the known potential to infect over 500 species of plants, including many that we grow in our gardens.

The bacterium can be spread by the frog hopper and several of its cuckoo-spit 'spittle bug' relatives. These are not currently pests – but as they could spread *Xylella* if it does get here, a survey is now being made to get a far better idea of where these insects occur in the UK. If you find cuckoo spit do go to:

<https://www.xylemfeedinginsects.co.uk/> – where again you can get information about identification, and what you need to do to submit a useful record. *Dick Vane-Wright*