

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

No. 16

Welcome to OHSCA's Autumn Newsletter

FROM THE EDITOR

Because of the social distancing requirements and the difficulty of holding a meaningful meeting open to all members during the coronavirus crisis, the annual AGM meeting has been postponed, and the decision taken to keep current office holders in post until the AGM and new elections can take place, as explained more fully on p.3. Alas, the OHSCA committee has also had to cancel almost all group events. The Wednesday and Friday morning walks are still going ahead, but no other events can be organised until further notice

OHSCA can only function on your behalf if enough residents are willing to chip in with their time and commitment to take part in enhancing our community, commenting on planning decisions, and protecting and improving the environment for all. OHSCA is asking for volunteers to be come forward to be proposed for the currently vacant positions of Treasurer and Chair on the Committee. The nomination form is on p.7 and proposals for these posts should be seconded and sent to the OHSCA Secretary, Marion Bell. We would also appreciate any help with assisting the Committee with IT work.

As part of your annual membership, OHSCA distributes the printed Newsletter four times a year. The printed copies are especially important for those members who are not able to download and print the digital newsletter. Our older distributors are now asking for younger volunteers to step up as distributors, one for the Nunnery Fields area, the other in the St Augustine's Road area. Please contact Sophie Scott on 456285, or Deirdre Hawkes on 454956.

A BBC programme (28th August) promoted Canterbury as ideal for "staycations". This is encouraging for local businesses, the Cathedral and cultural organisations, but the ever-changing rules on public gatherings makes a quick economic recovery uncertain. Schools and colleges have re-opened, and I note that, alas, car traffic on Old Dover Rd, and elsewhere, seems to be returning to pre-Covid levels.

You will see in this edition of the newsletter a couple of beautiful photos and a description of local butterflies, thanks to our renowned local butterfly expert, Dick Vane-Wright. Below is one of the Gatekeeper butterflies captured on camera by Dick, and which some of you might have spotted in your own gardens during the Big Butterfly Count, which ran from July 17th to August 9th.

Greta Cotterrell

CONTENTS

From the Editor	p.1
From the Chair	p.2
Planning	p.2
AGM	p.3
OHC	p.4
Green Team	p.4
SEA & Dick's 'Fiendish QUIZ' answers	p.5
Butterfly Roundup	p.6
Committee Nomination form	p.7
OHSCA Committee	p.8



FROM THE CHAIR

As we lurch into the reopening of schools, we have a wide range of opinions in the media to select from – ranging from cautious optimism to some quite angry pessimism. It seems likely that the next month to six weeks will begin to show which is more accurate – will there be a second wave? The return to school of children, my grandchildren among them, is essential in some form, but how successful an experiment is this going to be?

At the time of writing, many other parts of life were returning to near-normal. OHSCA will be planning its first socially-distanced social events. Outside my window the cranes on Pin Hill are putting together the latest block of student accommodations, for some hypothetical students. On we go.

Meanwhile, domestically, OHSCA has been managing its reduced range of activity very well. Our special thanks go to Greta Cotterrell for producing 12 excellent Bulletins. Tim Chancellor is stepping down from the Committee, so thanks to him for all his essential work in the last year managing our IT side, so this obviously leads to another appeal to members – we now lack both a Treasurer and an IT manager. We will particularly struggle without IT services in the current situation. Please talk to any of the current Committee (listed on p.8) if you have some useful skills in Mail Chimp etc.

Locally, our impressive planters by the Fire Station are rapidly being eaten by timber decay and the Committee have agreed that OHSCA should try to replace these. We have a partnership with Canterbury College who will probably be able to do a replacement at no cost to us, but nothing is yet certain. We also have estimates from builders – if we have to fund complete renewal ourselves this might cost £4000, which we could just about afford, but the Committee would need to debate how much work to do with our limited reserves. We will be reporting to you further as details emerge.

PLANNING

As reported in June, the pace of planning applications continues to be at a much reduced rate. No new major schemes have been submitted locally, but there is now an application for the detailed redevelopment of the Nasons store – more or less the same as the consultation design last winter. This lull may not continue, there are reports of a surge in demand for Canterbury housing as distance working for London region workers prompts movers further away from the capital.

LOCAL APPLICATIONS

There is to be an Appeal on the Two Doves decision – no dates yet given.

There have been a variety of extension applications – larger houses in New Dover Road with grand expansions in large gardens, smaller houses in Dover Street with over-scaled plans for small sites.

We seem to be getting more applications to fell large beech trees in rear gardens because of loss of light etc – perhaps the result of people spending more time at home.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The effects of Covid on the city scene are only slowly evolving. One anticipated change is the provision of many new cycle lanes to allow people to avoid public transport, but plans from KCC have not yet been circulated, much less actioned.

Many are worried about the impact of reduced retail demand in the High Street – closures are beginning to mount up. Debates within and with the Council are looking at how the High Street can be re-purposed – conversion of shops to residences being at the top of the list. This is a good move in many ways, but needs to be part of a comprehensive plan, to provide and protect safe streets – there would be little demand if the High Street continues to be a venue for night-time drinking parties. CCC need to review their night-time economy policies.

Mountfield Park might well have been beginning to gear up for a start on site, but in Spring a very helpful opinion was published by Natural England in response to a revised scheme submitted last year, that the effluent from the scheme endangered various protected habitats around Fordwich Lakes, so progress there has been halted until improved on-site capacity is designed. This provides a welcome temporary relief.

We are all probably aware of the forthcoming national legislation on the planning system, sweeping away the current detailed site by site application process, in favour of creation of development zones, in which those classified as Development Areas give developers the automatic right to develop as long as guidelines are met, and with reduced obligations for paying for affordable homes.

We will therefore inevitably be having a second revision to the local plan, replacing both the existing Plan and any revised Plan that current discussions may produce. It will be vital to make representations for that new Plan, because there will be no further local consultation after that point. HM Government is calling for a consultation response by the public to the proposals, and I urge all OHSCA members to write in - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

As if that was not enough, there will also be a new Permitted Development order coming into effect 31 August, extending current arrangements, allowing, among other things, office and house owners to add one or two storeys to their building subject to a few safeguards, except in conservation areas. These applications will be automatically granted. More later on what the technical guidelines are to be.

[Stop Press - We hear a resident's forum have lodged a judicial review to pause the new regulations]

Tim Carlyle

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OHSCA normally holds its AGM in October (to be exact, the Constitution requires it to be held "in the month of September or October each year"), but of course no-one foresaw the present circumstances when the Constitution was drafted. In view of current Government requirements, and of our over-riding obligation to keep members and their families and contacts safe, the Committee does not see any practicable way of holding an AGM which would give all members an opportunity to participate, and we have accordingly decided to postpone the 2020 AGM until circumstances make a normal meeting feasible. (A suitable amendment to the Constitution, to deal with this problem in the future, will be proposed at the AGM when it can be held. The Committee is giving thought to what such an amendment would be like, and will present it to members once it is possible to hold an AGM).

In the meantime, we are aiming to communicate all of what would have been the normal AGM business to members in this Newsletter, and in particular we are now arranging for the certification of the Association's 2019/20 accounts.

St Mary Bredin have kindly cancelled our booking for 23rd October and confirm that they're not taking any bookings from any groups until further notice

All of the present Committee members, with the exception of Tim Chancellor, are willing to continue for the time being, but we would welcome any other members of the Association who would wish to join the Committee; the form for proposing a member to the Committee is on p.7.

The AGM, when held, will be asked to ratify 2020/21 appointments of Officers and to the Committee; any new Committee member coming forward now would be co-opted by the Committee in the meantime. We would really welcome someone with IT expertise onto the Committee to maintain the website and email alerts. Please let us know if you would like to help

We hope members will feel that we, as the Officers and Committee, have been keeping the Association's business and activities going as well as can be expected in the present difficult circumstances, and that our decision about the AGM and its business, as set out above, is the most sensible course pending an easing of the situation.

Marion Bell

Urgent request for volunteers who could act as distributors of the OHSCA newsletters: we distribute your newsletters by hand and unless we can get help, especially for the December-January newsletter, there is a risk that members may not get a copy - our current very small band is getting older and frailer and needs your help. Please contact Sophie Scott on 01227 456285.

OHSCA HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE (OHC)

Dick Vane-Wright has continued to 'attend' by Zoom the Canterbury Patients Representative Group (CPRG) meetings on behalf of OHSCA. With the East Kent Hospitals reorganisation (though not, sadly, some other aspects of their work) currently out of sight, the main recent item of interest at the CPRG has been an update on provision for Urgent Treatment in East Kent, delayed by Covid-19 but effective from August 2020.

Nine **Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs)** have been set up: at QEQM, at William Harvey Hospital, and at Kent & Canterbury Hospital (these three all open 24 hours); and at Estuary View, Whitstable, at Faversham, at Herne Bay, and at Deal, Dover and Folkestone (these all 8am – 8pm). A summary of the model is set out below as provided in the presentation by the NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group:

“The UTC model aims to standardise a confusing range of options for patients – eg walk-in centres, urgent care centres, minor injury units – and simplify the system . . .” They “are an alternative to A&E for both children and adults” and “provide treatment for minor injuries and illnesses that are urgent but not life-threatening.” Fifteen examples of illnesses/injuries suitable for a UTC, beginning with “strains and sprains”, are listed in the full statement that we hope to be able to share soon.

Benefits and objectives of the UTC system are set out; selecting for mention:

- “Greater emphasis on infection prevention and control”
- “Ensure patients are directed to the most appropriate service for their need following 111 assessment”
- “Ensure patients have a clear direction of what they need to do and where they need to go . . .”

Four means of access to UTCs are listed: (1) By calling NHS 111 (open 24/7), who advise on the best action, and may book an appointment for you at a UTC; (2) by 'walk-in' without appointment with a clinical assessment within 15 minutes, or patients may be given a later appointment (to facilitate social distancing), or be redirected to another service; (3) by ambulance; (4) by referral from other health care professionals.

Denis Linfoot, on behalf of the OHC subgroup

GREEN TEAM

We have been busy through the sweltering summer. Our three gardens were entered for a modified 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and were also part of Canterbury's entry for 'Britain in Bloom'. We are delighted to receive awards from South & Southeast in Bloom of 'Outstanding' for Milton Road (the top grade) and 'Thriving' for both St George's Garden and the Fire Station. We think the awards reflect our tenacity in continuing to garden despite COVID and the blistering heat. Many thanks to those involved,

In Milton Road we have been trying out the idea of a wildflower meadow, and we will be very pleased to have your comments. The beds by the Fire Station are in desperate need of replacement for safety reasons. The OHSCA Committee is considering various options and costs of repair. Watch this space!

Bulb planting

We will be planting bulbs under the young trees in Puckle Lane in memory of Gill Gower on Saturday, 3rd October, thanks to the generosity of her friends. Do join us at 10.30 am. Remembering her liking for native species, we are planting the Tenby daffodil and some crocuses that should naturalise.

Later in October, Deirdre and Sophie will be planting tulips in St George's Garden by the cinema and would welcome help - please ring Sophie on 01227 456285.

Trees

We are planning to plant two *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' in Pilgrims Way this autumn to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas a Becket in 1170. Anniversaries like that don't come round often. I wonder how many pilgrims have travelled to Canterbury since then.

Sophie Scott

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (SEA)

The SEA sub-committee had planned a very varied programme this year. Sadly, due to the pandemic and since the mid-March 'lockdown', we reluctantly decided to cancel all OHSCA social gatherings until further notice. Even the AGM, at which drinks are offered and there is an opportunity to socialise, has now been postponed (see p.3). The only events re-instated since March have been the weekly Wednesday and Friday walks. Restarted in July, but with the need to observe social distancing emphasised, understandably attendance has been very low. The traditional St Augustine's annual picnic, this year set for 22nd August, could only go ahead on an individual basis (as noted, "OHSCA will not be making a group booking, in order to comply with social distancing guidelines").

Also sad to say, what we can do or plan for 2021 looks very uncertain. The first main event would normally be the Spring Party, for which we will consider making a provisional booking at the Kent & Canterbury Club for Friday 5th March. But faced with 'the new reality', we need to find new ways of encouraging social contact and inclusion among members, perhaps in part by means of electronic media. If anyone has comments, suggestions or ideas, please email SEA c/o Dick Vane-Wright (dickvanewright@gmail.com), or write to the SEA sub-committee via the Hon Secretary. [We regret to announce that on health grounds Lorna Durrani is temporarily stepping back as convenor of SEA. She will resume once recovered – we all wish her a full and speedy recovery.]

Dick Vane-Wright on behalf of the SEA Sub committee

DICK'S 'FIENDISH' QUIZ : the QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

The summer Newsletter included some unused questions prepared for the 2020 OHSCA Spring Party quiz – for a round to have been called "Old Politics". Here are the questions again, with the answers:

- 1 According to Spitting Image, who were the vegetables?
ANSWER: Maggie Thatcher's cabinet (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spitting_Image)
- 2 Who connects a PM, underpants, and *Salmonella*?
ANSWER: Edwina Currie (<https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/who-edwina-currie-everything-you-4660136>)
- 3 Which politician said "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."
ANSWER: Abraham Lincoln was the answer expected. It may be true, but it is however disputed (<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2010/05/17/remain-silent/>)
- 4 According to Tom Mangold, who was Stephen Ward really working for, but they never admitted it?
ANSWER: MI5 (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7931503/How-M15-fitted-society-osteopath-Stephen-Ward-fears-smoking-gun.html>)
- 5 Which politician, who was later revealed to be a spy for the Czech Republic, faked his own death on a Florida beach in November 1974?
ANSWER: John Stonehouse (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stonehouse)
- 6 Antonia and Mona led to his downfall. What was the nickname of the first Secretary of State for National Heritage?
ANSWER: The 'Minister for Fun' (David Mellor: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Mellor)
- 7 Which British politician was described as a "superb showman, shallow thinker, wit and mimic, cunning opportunist, sinister intriguer, idealistic internationalist and a man with a clandestine homosexual life"?
ANSWER: Jeremy Thorpe (the quotation is from Andrew Rawnsley: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Thorpe)
- 8 How did Alan refer to Valerie, Josephine and Alison?
ANSWER: The coven. [relates to Alan Clark's affairs with three Harkness ladies – mother and her two daughters] (<https://apnews.com/0fafee02f33338f7d260e5be0162be3e>)

Dick Vane-Wright

BUTTERFLY ROUNDUP

When OHSCA was founded it was never my intention to use it as a means to promote my lifelong passion for butterflies – but somehow(!) these creatures of ‘airiness and frivolity’ have crept onto the agenda – not least with the idea of an annual walk to see local rarities (Heath Fritillary in 2018, Duke of Burgundy in 2019 – both successful). The summer Newsletter came with a little guide to all the butterflies you might encounter in a South Canterbury garden over the course of a year – including a note of local species you could not expect to see (<http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-guide-to-garden-butterflies-2020.pdf>). The excuse was twofold: Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count – and something that might bring extra interest as we spent more time in our gardens because of ‘lockdown’.

So here is the list of butterflies I have seen in my Cromwell Rd garden this year: Small Skipper, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Holly Blue (many), Common Blue (two), Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell (one), Peacock, Red Admiral. Just 14 in total. I have not seen any Painted Ladies this year. But I did see, on 3rd July, flying across the road by the converted oast-houses on Stuppington Lane, one species on the unexpected list – a Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea*. Despite its vernacular name and white-spotted pattern, this is not related to the ‘true’ whites, but to the satyrs, which include the Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown. It occurs sporadically in little colonies in chalk-grassland areas, and probably it has been breeding near the footpath from the oast-houses that runs across to Lime Kiln Road. There is a suggestion that this species is chemically defended against would-be predators, and that its bold black and white pattern may have evolved as a warning signal.



Marbled White
Photo: ©Bob Eade/ Butterfly Conservation



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo: ©Bob Eade/ Butterfly Conservation

Our butterfly walk this year was to have taken place during August, to Lydden Down near Dover, in search of the Silver-spotted Skipper (*Hesperia comma*). Like a number our butterflies, this was once much more widespread than it is today – former populations in Yorkshire, Cotswolds and East Anglia have completely disappeared. Now considered a rare butterfly in the UK, it is restricted to scattered chalk downland habitats across southern England. In Kent, the Lydden Temple Ewell National Nature Reserve at Lydden holds the largest population in the county. Most of the other remaining Kent populations also occur in the Dover/Folkestone area, with just a few (including some re-introductions) elsewhere in East and Mid Kent. Active conservation work is ongoing, including that carried out by members of the Kent and SE London branch of Butterfly Conservation (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/kent-and-se-london-branch>), and there has been some improvement over the past 40 years. Perhaps we might get a chance to try again next year?

Dick Vane-Wright

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

Officers and Committee Nomination form for 2021

For the Committee, Nominees, Proposers and Seconders must be paid-up Members of OHSCA. Nomination forms should be received not later than Friday, 30th October. Signed nomination forms need to be posted or delivered by hand to the OHSCA Secretary, 13 Wells Avenue, Canterbury CT13YB. One copy of the form is required for each nomination. If you need copies, please print from the website (www.ohsca.org), photocopy this page, or contact the Hon Secretary by telephone or email (07713 025245; secretary@ohsca.org). If you are unable to deliver your nomination before 30th October, please advise the Hon Secretary of your intentions as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in finding a seconder for a Nomination please contact any member of the Committee via the Secretary, or direct if you know them personally.

A call is also made here for items to be included on the Agenda under 11: Other Business. Such items must be duly proposed and seconded (with addresses), and signed. This can include Resolutions. Proposals for Items to be included on the Agenda should be sent on paper to the Hon Secretary, and must also be received by 30th October at the latest.

OHSCA: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2020-2021

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE (caps)
.....

Nominated for (please circle one): Chair
 Vice Chair
 Hon. Treasurer
 Hon. Secretary
 Membership Secretary
 Committee Member

PROPOSED by (caps)
.....

Signature
.....

SECONDED by (caps)
.....

Signature
.....

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2019–2020

Chair:	vacant
Tim Carlyle	Vice-Chair/Planning subcommittee rep.: vicechairtc@ohsca.org
Marion Bell	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Tel: 07713 025245: secretary@ohsca.org
Hon Treasurer:	vacant
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 01227 456285 sophie01@btinternet.com
Tim Chancellor	Committee member : website@ohsca.org
David Kemsley	ACRA /SCA rep./OHC subcommittee/Press Liaison: press@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee member/Planning subcommittee
Denis Linfoot	Committee member/OHC subcommittee
Dick Vane-Wright	Committee member/SEA rep./OHC subcommittee

Weekly CCC planning bulletin website@ohsca.org

Local History Group rep. *Derek Ray*: for information about OHSCA Local History Publications, contact forstal22@yahoo.co.uk or [see publications on OHSCA webpage](#)

SEA convenor *Lorna Durrani*: social@ohsca.org

Newsletter distribution *Deirdre Hawkes*

Tree champion *Helly Langley*

Events bulletins (vacant)

Newsletter editor *Greta Cotterell*: gretaohsca@gmail.com

info@ohsca.org

If you are uncertain who to contact, please direct your enquiry to the Honorary Secretary (contact details above).

Note: ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations; SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance; OHC = OHSCA HealthCare subcommittee; SEA = Social Events and Activities subcommittee

Some useful contacts

- For problems with student neighbours contact University of Kent student community liaison officer:
01227 816156 or email communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
<https://www.kent.ac.uk/student-services/community/index.html>
- 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