

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER

digital edition

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No. 18

Welcome to OHSCA's Spring Newsletter and Happy Easter!

FROM THE EDITOR

It is just over a year since the world became acquainted with Covid-19. I recall the WHO, back in February 2020, deliberating on how to label the new virus. We now inhabit a 'new world', despite the vaccine, knowing many friends and relatives who had contracted Covid, some surviving and some not. One of science's great achievements has been the incredibly rapid development of effective vaccines against the virus. Infection rates in England are falling (at the time of writing), and the government's 'road map' is for all restrictions to be lifted after 21st June. Somehow, it is hard to believe that we can start mixing and going to the theatre or social get-togethers in three months' time. In the meantime, we should all continue to minimise exposure, and to assist one another safely where needed.

As members know, the OHSCA committee and officers continue to act on behalf of all our residents to safeguard our locality, improve the environment and reduce pollution. We regularly check on planning applications, and intervene on your behalf in discussions with councils and contribute through ACRA. On p.6 there is an update on the new Canterbury Medical Practice just built on the K&C hospital site.

In this newsletter OHSCA remembers Fred Whitemore, a prominent local member who recently passed away (obituary on p.2). We also note the death of Diana Pearce who died in hospital recently. Diana joined the Local History Group in 2018; she was an ex-archivist and gave the LHG a lot of useful information on its present project, a new edition of *Dover St Remembered*. Diana's daughter, Emma, is also a member of OHSCA.

We hope to restart the local litterpick when Covid rules and the City Council allow, possibly in May. We will email members if we are able to do this nearer the time. The litterpick scheme complies fully with health and safety requirements, and contributes greatly to keeping our areas clean and attractive.

Greta Cotterrell

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Fred Whitemore (1941–2021)



**An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest;
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warmed,
Few heads with knowledge so informed:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.**

'To a Friend' by Robbie Burns

With Fred Whitemore's death on New Year's Day, we lost one of Oaten Hill's most respected community leaders. Fred received well-deserved tributes in *The Guardian's Other Lives* (15 January) by Reg Race and in the *Kentish Gazette* (7 January), which also drew mainly on Reg's memories. Reg, once a Labour MP, dwelt on Fred's contribution to the Labour Party here in Canterbury. That emphasis may have surprised some who knew Fred principally through his involvements with the Oaten Hill Society or the Cathedral. His was a full, varied, committed life of public service.

Indeed, Fred became part of Canterbury's history. He was one of the longest serving City Councillors, first elected to the former County Borough in 1972, and must be one of the last whose service went back to before the 1974 re-organisation which created the present district. In those days there were just three historic wards – Dane John, Northgate and Westgate; Fred was the first ever Labour representative for the Dane John ward. Within the new district council, he went on to sit for first Wincheap (to 1991) and then Northgate. Quietly, he helped countless people grappling with the complexities of the Council's housing or planning policies. Publicly, in council debates, he was the voice of reason and masterly gentle persuasion. When I was dealing with planning issues for the Oaten Hill Society in the 1990s, I always found Fred, whether private advice or public voice, worth listening to.

His elevation as Lord Mayor in 2001 was welcomed on all sides; his Lady Mayoress was Ann Seller, whose fatal accident was reported in the last OHSCA newsletter. I know that he was delighted that one of his duties was to bestow a mayoral award in January 2002 on Nickie Young, the OHDS's long-time secretary, for outstanding service to the local community.

His defeat in 2007 reflected the national swing that year: for the first time for many decades there was not a single Labour councillor elected within the historic city. Fred's loyalty to our city was unaffected; freedom from Council duties left time for other roles. He became a lay member of the Cathedral Chapter, enjoying passing on his deep knowledge and love of the cathedral (and especially the beautiful precinct gardens) to visitors. He returned to the OHDS committee (he had been involved in its beginning), going on to chair it for five years until ill-health forced him to reduce his role in 2015.

I had moved into Dover Street in 1989 to find to my delight that Fred Whitemore was living opposite me; long ago we had been friends for two student years in Oxford. Our friendship resumed, his deep commitment to Labour and my Liberal allegiance notwithstanding. Indeed, when I stood for the Council myself at a Barton ward by-election in 2008, I received his discreet but very effective support. In 2011, he was asked by his party to stand in Barton. He made it clear that he would not stand against me but since my party chose to switch me to another ward, he raised the Labour flag and won a good personal vote. My party's manoeuvre lost me my seat; Fred was a comfort and support.

Michael Steed

THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the Autumn 2020 Newsletter, when explaining the need to postpone the 2020 AGM during the Coronavirus pandemic, we said that the Committee was planning to bring forward an amendment to the Constitution for approval at the next AGM which can be held, to deal with this situation and with future emergencies if they arise. We do now have a Constitution amendment ready, and since we

hope, in the light of the easing of the Coronavirus restrictions announced on 22 February, that it will be possible to hold an AGM this autumn, we plan to include this item in the Agenda for that meeting. It will of course be provided in full, with the names of proposer and seconders, with the rest of the AGM documentation in the Newsletter preceding the AGM.

In the meantime, and subject to any currently unforeseen developments, members may wish to know that the proposed amendment is intended to authorise the holding of General Meetings, and other meetings and events, by 'remote means' (defined in the amendment, but broadly meaning Zoom, etc.), if for 'good cause' they cannot be held in person; and also to authorise the postponement of an AGM if, as has been the case this year, it is not feasible to hold it before 31 October either in person or by 'remote means'.

Marion Bell, Hon Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

After this very difficult winter it is great that 168 households have paid their subscriptions so promptly. I'm extremely grateful on two levels – you help to keep OHSCA going and it makes my job so much easier. So many of you have also donated most generously and your donations will make it possible for us to continue to improve our neighbourhood. This is also a good moment to welcome our 14 new members. OHSCA grows in strength, with your subscriptions paying for local greening improvements and the upkeep of planters and street gardens (like Milton Rd).

Alas, we have lost some residents this winter and we are very sorry to hear of this.

However, I have not heard from 97 of you. I do hope you are all still alive and well. If you are someone whose subscription has not been received, there will be a label to that effect on the back page; please help us to keep doing all that we can for our locality by sending your subscription of £5 to me, Sophie Scott, at 27 Ersham Road, CT1 3AR. If you bank online you can do an online transfer to the OHSCA account, sort code 60-04-27, a/c 90612094. Reference if paying direct should be SUBS and your postcode. If you'd like to make a donation, please do add it. Thank you.

Sophie Scott, Membership Secretary

GREEN TEAM

Although COVID has curtailed so many of our social activities, we have been able to continue looking after our little gardens – gardening has, after all, been a permitted activity and we have carefully kept an appropriate distance apart. We hope you have all been able to enjoy the spring bulbs, especially in Milton Road and in St George's garden by the cinema. The bulbs in Puckle Lane which were planted as a memorial to Gill Gower should, by now, have blossomed. St George's Garden has attracted rather a lot of people who have felt moved to leave an unacceptable quantity of litter. If you are passing, please do help by shifting anything you notice to the bin at the top of the underpass.

The planters by the Fire Station are ready for a makeover, and we are waiting on a nod from the Fire Service to go ahead. We are seriously grateful for your donations which are making this repair work possible. We can't afford, unfortunately, to rebuild one of the planters completely and we shall be grateful for any further contributions.

We are entering for 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and 'Canterbury in Bloom' again this year. Because it's been a 'staycation' year let's make our area as green and pleasant as possible.

TREES

The two Pyrus at the junction of Pilgrims Way and St Augustine's Road should be in flower shortly. Again, thanks to your tree donations, we have enough funds to plant at least one tree this autumn. Your donations for trees will continue to be put towards greening our environment. If you have any suggestions for future plantings our Green Team will be delighted to hear from you.

Sophie Scott

FROM THE CHAIR

As I write, Spring is making a slow entrance, while Covid is making a slow exit. As the Editor notes, we have all had by now brushes with the virus, and as I make my various 'essential' journeys within the seven miles permitted, I notice that we all seem to have rather more of them this month. Fortunately, Canterbury citizens appear to be better at following the rules than many areas – our incidence rate remains relatively low.

Our Committee has managed to meet via Zoom a couple of times, and collectively we have managed to organise successfully the Fire Brigade planter reconstruction, and the first Spring flowerings of cautious socially distanced social activities.

It is to be seen how well the High Street recovers from its long winter. The Kent Gazette recently featured some of the many changes to be expected in the retail sector. Our Council's cash flow is deeply bound up with the Whitefriars Centre's profitability in two ways: income is geared to the rentals from retail units, and because central government has very largely replaced local government support grant with increased access to business rate income, as the substantial rate rebates continue they are dependent on direct government subsidies, which have been proved to be erratic.

I am involved with the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership, formed to monitor and encourage our council's programme of actions in response to the declared Climate Emergency. For example, we argue the council should be demanding much better carbon reduction measures in the specifications of the new housing estates recently granted planning permission. We see this as an important test of the 'Build Back Better' policy trumpeted by the government: will it survive the pressures of Covid and Brexit disruption and cutbacks? Will our Council manage to replace its lost income? If not, marginal services such as Homelessness support can expect a tough time. The 2021–22 Budget has already proposed reduced council housing maintenance, and the move to replace refuse vehicles with electric powered versions has been given up in favour of cheaper diesel versions.

Meanwhile, the dawn of the new South Canterbury Urban Extension will possibly be delayed once more. Attempts are being made to mount a new Judicial Review, and by the time this Newsletter is with you, the results of that will be known. If it failed to materialise, OHSCA and other concerned amenity Groups will seek to engage with Corinthian Land as they gear up to start detailed development, to make sure the local voice is heard on all design and technical matters.

PLANNING ISSUES

Weeks 1 – 8

There have been no new major local applications, and no developments on earlier decisions. Smaller applications for extensions and replacement windows continue.

Tree applications continue, for reductions mainly, but we did lose one major TPO tree in Ethelbert Road through disease.

Mountfield Park – Approval finally given for the scheme generally as for the 2016 version.

A new Judicial Review is being considered at the time of writing.

OHSCA attended a meeting called by Barton Ward councillors to discuss implementation.

Issues discussed ranged over:

- How to make sure that the build out of the scheme maintains the standards of the permission.
- The demands of a 15–20 year period – over which significant new planning applications will be submitted for the overall master plan and detailed design of the four main phases of 960 houses each, landscaping and the major commercial element of the scheme.
- Maximising public involvement in development of design as offered in the informatives accompanying the Conditions
- Monitoring arrangements for delivering air quality minimum standards as offered in the informatives accompanying the Conditions

Indications are that the developer will keep control of the entire site, which is good, but that the degree of public participation will be limited to last minute focus group meetings with strictly limited scope for change.

Sturry – Shalloak

Not in our district, but of city wide scale: permission for 630 houses plus 400 units in Broad Oak.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS – CONSULTATIONS, REPORTS

CCC has two consultations finishing shortly.

It will make more difference to the outcome if many members lodge comments, rather than relying on a single objection from the Association.

- Draft Corporate Plan – closing 1 April

The Sustainable Development Goals Forum (SDG) will lodge comments, along the lines of the DRAFT Statement, which OHSCA contributed to.

- Draft Canterbury Carbon Action Plan – closed 4 March

Canterbury Action for Sustainable Transport – (CAST) lodged a commentary, along the lines of the DRAFT Statement, circulated to members which OHSCA contributed to.

HMG has a consultation now running on **Revisions to the NPPF** closing 27 March:

to incorporate the gist of the Building Beautiful Report last year, aiming to emphasise quality of build, and to the creation of local Design Codes for all LPAs, and on proposals for what the **Design Codes** should contain.

Finally, there is a new report from the **Church of England** looking at releasing CoE land for affordable housing, and launching an initiative to lobby for changes in the land sale system that constantly inflates land and therefore house prices.

Tim Carlyle, Vice-Chair

EARTH DAY SEMINAR

Canterbury United Nations Association Branch invites you to book for our UN Earth Day Seminar, **Thursday 22 April 2021** at 17.30–19.00 on the hot topic of air pollution.

The UK has just been found guilty of breaching air quality by the Court of Justice of the EU and a key Government Committee (EFRA) has just published a report that asserts that air quality should be at the core of the post-pandemic rebuild.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmenvfru/468/468.pdf>

Professor Stephen Peckham BSc (Hons) MA (Econ) HMFPH and Richard Bourne OBE will be speaking about their work on tackling air pollution.

Professor Peckham is Director of the Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS) and Professor of Health Policy at CHSS at the University of Kent and also in the Department of Health Services Research and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Please book on Eventbrite below and a Zoom link will be sent to you closer to the time.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-mask-free-on-a-healthy-planet-managing-air-pollution-tickets-143731929069?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=destsearch>

OHC AND NEW MEDICAL CENTRE

Happily, the coronavirus pandemic has not halted progress on the new building for the Canterbury Medical Practice, in the Kent & Canterbury grounds adjacent to the junction of Ethelbert and South Canterbury Roads. The Practice website has been carrying illustrations of the building, including some interior views, which reinforce the promise of modern, well-designed premises. The Cossington House and London Road surgeries were transferred to the new building on 22 February.



We were able to participate in a Zoom presentation on 25 January by Gail Locock, Kent & Medway Covid-19 Director of Infection Prevention & Control, on the roll-out of vaccination in East Kent. Concerns raised in January will be quite out of date by the time this Newsletter appears, but a couple of points may be of interest: the delay in starting roll-out in Romney Marsh and the Deal area was due to the decision (no

doubt for technical reasons) by the local GPs to wait until the Astrazeneca vaccine was available; and a question was asked about the possibility of combining the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines, as first and second inoculations – now considered a serious proposition.

We also continued our presence at the Canterbury Patients' Representative Group (CPRG) Zoom 'meetings'. The main item on 27 January was a presentation on progress with the East Kent Acute Hospitals 'Transformation'; basically, whether the proposed specialist/acute hospital should be in Ashford or in Canterbury – the latter originating from Mark Quinn's offer of a 'shell' building. Work on the 'business case' is still proceeding, but the competition for capital finance is intense, and any public consultation is at least months away.

In February, the Government announced a planned full-scale reorganisation of Health and Social Care services. Social Care urgently needs better integration with Health services, and, especially, much better funding (as OHSCA pointed out in response to the Kent & Medway 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' of 2016.) Hopefully, the lessons from an inquiry into the UK response to the pandemic will be fed into the new reorganisation.

Denis Linfoot

DESIGN AWARDS – Nominations sought

The Canterbury Society Design Awards aim to recognise and celebrate buildings, spaces and places that are loved by our community. The Awards celebrate projects nominated by the people who live alongside them and use them and who have a real understanding of their impact on the local area. The Awards will be given in seven categories: new housing, a new building in a Conservation Area, a new building outside a Conservation Area, a building that has been renovated, retro-fitted or refurbished, public realm and open space projects, shop front and signage and the most innovative solution to our climate and ecological emergency. From the category winners, an overall winner will be chosen. The only requirements are that the projects are within Canterbury and the surrounding parishes, can be seen from a public road, path or public open space, and were completed between 30th September 2018 and 30th June 2021.

Nominations will be accepted from anyone, including members of the Canterbury Society, community organisations, residents associations, CCC and parish councils, architects and developers. Suggested projects may be works on buildings, streets or public spaces, or be quite small schemes such as the sensitive repair or alteration of a building or shop front, or the attractive development of a neglected site. Nominations forms are available from jyard98@btinternet.com and on the Canterbury Society website (<https://www.canterburysociety.org.uk/>) and the closing date for nominations is the end of June 2021. So start gazing around and sending in your nominations. The winners will be revealed at an award ceremony to take place in the Cathedral Lodge in November 2021.

For further information please contact John Yard, jyard98@btinternet.com, to whom nominations should be sent.

SEA NEWS

Over the last 12 months all our social events had to be cancelled or suspended. Even now, easing of 'lockdown' restrictions announced for 29th March and 17th May cannot be guaranteed. With this in mind we are planning a few events that have a good chance of going ahead:

- From 29th March, our regular weekly walks will be reinstated (numbers may need to be restricted) on Wednesdays and Fridays (9.30 sharp, at the old K&C main gate, Ethelbert Rd).
- Sunday 18th April, 16.00–17.30, presentation by Zoom of six OHSCA members' gardens. Present your garden using six photos in up to 15 minutes (projects, plants, problems, etc.). If keen to do so please email social@ohsca.org. The Zoom link and programme will be shared by email on 11th April.
- Monday 31st May (Spring Holiday). Traditional OHSCA plant share. Venue, timing and any special 'social distancing' requirements will be notified by email in mid-May.
- Sunday 22nd August. Butterfly walk (postponed from August 2020) – in search of the Silver-spotted Skipper at Lydden Down. Details will be given in the Summer newsletter.

We will reinstate coffee mornings and the summer garden event when and if possible. In lieu of the Spring Party we are planning an Autumn equivalent for October or early November.

Dick Vane-Wright (social@ohsca.org)

What does OHSCA do? A reminder for members:

The Association is a non-party-political voluntary group constituted to represent, promote and protect the interests of all those resident in the Association's Area as set out in our Constitution. The aim of the Association is to support and improve the quality of life of our community.

OHSCA's range of activities include:

- Collaboration with other residents' groups and the Canterbury Society
- Campaigns – Air Pollution, Heritage, Sustainable Transport
- Monthly drop-in coffee meetings
- Local health services – monitoring and information through our OHC
- Gardeners' Question Time forum, plant and produce shares, tool share
- Spring and Summer parties; annual picnic
- Weekly information by email about local planning applications
- Commenting on major planning applications
- Public gardens created and maintained
- Local history Group – research and publication
- Occasional talks, films or lectures by invited guests
- Quarterly 8-page Newsletter; Website (<http://www.ohsca.org/>)
- Public tree planting – new trees funded and planted each year
- Gardening Interest Group
- Organised walks
- Action on litter through regular litterpicks

LHG (Local History Group)

The local history group is continuing to seek people with memories and other info about Dover Street for our next publication. If you have anything you wish to offer, or know of anyone, please contact us through Sophie Scott on sophie01@btinternet.com

Derek Ray (chair LHG)

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2020–2021

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
Jane Pollok	Hon. Treasurer: treasurer@ohsca.org [co-opted October 2020]
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 01227 456285 Email: sophie01@btinternet.com
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.	<i>Derek Ray</i> For information about OHSCA Local History Publications, contact history@ohsca.org or see publications on OHSCA website
Acting SEA convenor	<i>Dick Vane-Wright</i> : social@ohsca.org
Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Tree champion	<i>Helly Langley</i>
Events bulletins	(vacant)
Newsletter editor	<i>Greta Cotterrell</i> : gretaohsca@gmail.com
Website support	http://www.ohsca.org/ is currently kindly managed by Lucy Fletcher-Jones

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>