

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

No. 22

Spring is here. Better times ahead?

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A full return to "normal"? With the removal of Covid restrictions for most things the government believes we will be able to live with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the same way we now live with the influenza virus. The emergence of new variants will continue, however, which might not be as responsive to present vaccines. Scientists still advise wearing a mask in shops and enclosed public spaces as new infections continue. The British Medical Journal has expressed its dismay about too early a ditching of all restrictions (see p.6), and it makes sense for all of us to continue to take care and not think the pandemic is "over".

Sewage released into our waters is a disgrace.

A petition is out to make it illegal for water companies to dump sewage into rivers and seas. Please support it. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/599873>

"Help with energy bills" - the following is a message to all residents from the government:

If you own your own home, or are a tenant, or a private landlord with tenants, you could be eligible to apply for energy-saving improvements. The Greater South East Energy Hub is helping fund local authority schemes that make energy-saving improvements to the homes of people who struggle to pay their heating bills. These improvements will help residents to use less energy and spend less on their energy bills. The improvements will also help cut carbon emissions. This is from £79.6 million of Government funding for the second phase of the Local Authority Delivery scheme, also known as LAD2. For information on grant eligibility visit <http://surveys.est.org.uk/s/GreenHomesGrantSchemeLAD> or call the Greater South East Energy Hub free on **0808 196 8255**. The Hub's agent, WarmWorks, will arrange for the surveys and supervise works from accredited installers that meet the grant criteria for quality home energy saving improvements.

OHSCA is opening up again to social meetings and events. A full list of events is being organised by SEA, and details are on p.4. A reminder: the OHSCA informal coffee mornings are every 4th Wednesday at 11am at the Hampton by Hilton hotel in St Margaret's St. Canterbury. Members have a chance to meet up in comfort, chat and share ideas. More good news: **the Repair Café is opening again.** The Canterbury Repair Café is a community initiative of the CCAP (Canterbury Climate Action Partnership) supported by the Women's Institute and The Canterbury Society. A list of dates and activities is on pages 3-4.

Eliminate Digital Exclusion. Kent County Council is working on a project to eliminate digital exclusion. A key part includes recruiting a team of digital champions, whose role will be to support their local communities with digital skills and awareness. KCC also offers digital skills workshops and training to help people learn how to use digital technology and build their confidence. To find out more about the digital inclusion project and other services KCC can provide, please visit the Digital Kent website at digitalkent.uk

If you have anything you wish to comment on, or see published in the newsletter, please write to The Editor (gretaohsca@gmail.com) with your name and email (but do say if you prefer the letter to be anonymous).

Greta Cotterrell

FROM THE CHAIR

At the time of writing, English Heritage have confirmed that they are again allowing free access to St. Augustine's Abbey to residents who produce proof of a CT1 address. They had been denying free access because of "anti-social behaviour on the site during Covid". The original arrangement when EH took over the site was that CT1, 2, 3 and 4 residents would have free access but "the Manager has restricted it to CT1 only".

A quick look on Rightmove reveals a surprising number of privately-owned student rental properties for sale in and around the City. A landlord recently told me that it has become much harder to find student tenants because of the purpose-built accommodation blocks on and off campus and Brexit, which has resulted in fewer overseas students. House prices are up and it is a seller's market so an ideal time to sell. It would be great if these houses were to become family homes once again and begs the question - is Mountfield Park really needed?

Marion Bell, OHSCA Secretary and Acting Chair

PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

General Comments

The application rate remains fairly low, with only one significant extension on New Dover Road of concern. There is no news yet of the next stage on the South Canterbury Extension.

Mountfield Park

There have been relatively few developments in the last month, except on the issue of foul and fresh water. Tom Lynch and others continue vigorously to pursue the council about the vagueness of the proposed site engineering works required to make the scheme work, but this remains a matter principally for the applicant to propose as a detailed scheme, for Southern Water's approval. The waste or foul water issues are more serious, with as yet only outline details submitted about the all important Waste Water Treatment Plant: will the detailed designs when ready be available for public comment, how will it be operated, what are the impacts of the 'clean' output water on the ecosystem, when will the original proposed upgrading of the permanent sewer take place.

On **Transport**, we are issuing briefing to councillors to aid their assessment of the scheme – the three Barton councillors are particularly helpful, and will be raising all our concerns.

68 Old Dover Rd (20/02186) is of concern. Having been refused permission, on the modernist brick box scheme, an Appeal was heard, but no judgement is listed on the CCC site. The Applicant has now submitted the same drawings that were refused as revisions to the scheme as of 10 Feb, with no covering letter. Highly unusual. We will write to the Planning Dept to raise concerns: have there been negotiations that have not been publicized?

44 New Dover Road (21/03100) has a new application to create a massive three story side extension highly visible from the road. This is placed on top of the previously consented side extension, and increases massively the bulk – the previous scheme was for ground floor only.

On tree pruning, we objected to the severe reduction proposed for the mature sycamore at the back of Millwright Mews, leaving it with the profile of a Scots Pine – but it has now been passed unfortunately! As planners generally agree, it's always a disaster for the trees whenever new buildings are placed near to them – the tree always loses.

Tim Carlyle, Planning subcommittee

Appeal for members to join in with the running of OHSCA

Dear members, we will be getting back to something like normal very soon, and it's now even more urgent that we address the continuation of OHSCA in the light of current and forthcoming vacancies on the committee. OHSCA is a voluntary association that was set up for the benefit of all residents in the Oaten Hill/ South Canterbury areas, but it will cease to exist unless new committee volunteers step up to fill vacant posts. The roles are not onerous, and you will have a hand in steering local decisions about planning, policies, street safety and the environment. Please think about helping. For a friendly chat and information do contact the OHSCA Secretary, Marion Bell (secretary@ohsca.org or 07713 025245).

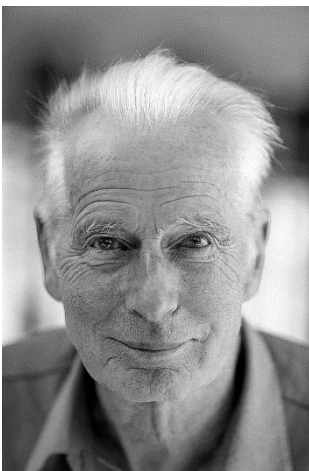
DEEP ECOLOGY: WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR WORLD?

A PERSONAL OPINION

“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” *Holy Bible* (1611). London: Church of England, Genesis 1:28.

In 1967, in *Science*, historian Lynn White wrote “With the population explosion, the carcinoma of planless urbanism, the now geological deposits of sewage and garbage, surely no creature other than man has ever managed to foul its nest in such short order.”

Our population has more than doubled since, and ‘planless urbanism’, garbage and sewage are local issues right now. White concluded “... we shall continue to have a worsening ecologic crisis until we reject the Christian axiom [*Genesis* 1:28] that nature has no reason for existence save to serve man.” Inevitably, White’s attack on Christian values sparked heated debate. Some counterclaimed that *Genesis* provides a compelling model for human stewardship of planet Earth. Others have pointed to the ‘greening-of-religions’ as evidence that religion can help overcome the problems White identified. However, a major analysis published in *Conservation Biology* in 2016 concluded “On balance, we found the thrust of White’s thesis is supported, whereas the greening-of-religion hypothesis is not.”



Is there an alternative? Can we free ourselves from the anthropocentric view that sets us apart from nature, its only value being to serve our needs and desires? I suggest the best contender is *Deep Ecology*, a movement inspired by Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, founded in the 1970s by two philosophers: Arne Naess (1912–2009, pictured) from Norway, and George Sessions from California. The fundamental principle is that “The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves [intrinsic value]. These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.” (Arne Naess, writing in 1986).

Well, that’s the easy bit. The consequences that Naess and Sessions drew from it are profound – and very challenging to our current way of life, including the sacred cow of unrelenting material growth. I guess the majority, including myself, still act as if we can cling on to our cosy ways so long as we reduce our CO₂ ‘footprint’ a bit, and put our plastic garbage in a plastic bin every fortnight.

But on reflection, how many of us *really* believe we can overcome human-induced biodiversity loss, pollution and devastating climate change so easily? Business more or less as usual will not suffice. We need to readdress completely our relationship with the rest of nature. This will require a fundamental shift in values – including respect for the intrinsic worth of all living systems. Although old people like me can lightly air such views, only the young (including another remarkable Scandinavian) can achieve the necessary change. Those of us who can should support their aspirations – and desist from the mockery meted out by some of our so-called ‘leaders’.

Reading: Arne Naess (2021) *There is No Point of No Return*. Penguin Classics, 102 pp, £4.99.

Lynn White transcript: <https://www.cmu.ca/faculty/gmatties/lynnwhiterootsofcrisis.pdf>

Dick Vane-Wright

LITTERPICK

OHSCA’s next litterpick is booked for **Sat 26 March**. Meet at Biggleston’s Link, off Dover St. at 10.30am. Gloves, sacks, etc all provided. Clean up for the spring!

THE REPAIR CAFÉ IS OPEN

The venue is Hub Café, Baptist Church, St George’s Place, Canterbury (opposite Waitrose). The Repair Café relies on local volunteers with craft and trade skills to help people mend clothes or repair broken things such as household objects, woodwork, toys, ceramics, jewellery, electrical goods, computers/IT, bicycles etc. Repairs are free, although donations are welcome!

(ctd next page)



Saturday 9 April • Repair Café
Saturday 14 May • Repair Café + Clothes Swap!
Saturday 11 June • Repair Café
Saturday 9 July • Repair Café + Clothes Swap!
10am – 12.30pm

Clothes Swap — bring clothes in good condition and swap for anything else — all for free! If you don't have something to bring, don't worry, please come along and choose something anyway.

If you have got a skill and would like to help the Canterbury Repair Café please email them at canterburyrepaircafe@gmail.com with your name, email address, telephone number and skills offered (e.g. bicycles, clock repairs, sewing, committee, etc).

OHSKA MEMBERSHIP

More than half the membership have paid up – thank you all for being so prompt, and thank you for your kind donations. However, a substantial number have not yet paid, so please check your paper newsletter – the label on it will say whether you are paid or not. If you haven't paid, please send your £5 to me as soon as possible, before you forget (address on back page).

Sophie Scott, Membership Secretary

SEA NEWS

The Social Events and Activities sub-committee are now back in business and face to face activities have resumed. **Coffee mornings** take place every fourth Wednesday of the month, starting 11.00 am at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel (7 St Margaret's St.). The first meeting on 26 January was well attended and the venue was found to be more comfortable and quieter than the previous one. The second meeting took place on 23 February. The next will be on 23 March, and then 27 April.

Walks take place every Wednesday and Friday morning meeting at 9.30 am at the Old Gates to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. At least two **special walks** are planned: Bluebell Walk in Whitehill Wood (near Lower Hardres) in April/May, and Butterflies and Orchids at Lydden Temple Ewell Reserve in the summer (21st August confirmed; another possibly mid July).

Talks. A new venture organised by SEA is to hold a series of talks by local authors. We were fortunate to start on 16 February, at the Kent & Canterbury Club, with a talk by acclaimed writer Jenny Uglow – who kindly agreed to talk about her latest book, *Cyril and Sybil*.

Jenny Uglow lives in Canterbury and has written a number of highly regarded biographies including the prize-winning *Lunar Men* and a vivid depiction of 18th C life in her biography of *William Hogarth*. Jenny is a person of wide-ranging interests and has also written about the engraver, *Thomas Bewick*, and a delightful small book entitled *A little history of gardening* which we urge all gardening devotees to read.



Tillers of the Soil, Sybil Andrews, 1934

Jenny gave a fascinating glimpse not only into the content of her new book but also into the personal reasons for having chosen to write about these, to most of us at least, totally unknown artists. She explained how these linocut prints had hung in her childhood home all her life, transferred to her mother's home in Whitstable and now hang in her home in Canterbury. In deciding to find out more about the artists she uncovered a thrilling and moving story of the two artists Sybil Andrews and Cyril Power, who changed each other's lives and became famous for their dynamic and modernist linocuts against a backdrop of artistic and industrial change, the depression and the looming threat of war.

Jenny brought their lives and their brilliant, colourful work to life with a number of beautiful prints and her attention to the detail of their lives, and her own warmth and personal comments on her appreciation of

their art. You can get an idea of Jenny's presentation from a YouTube video, 'Cutting Through Time': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QPDyUhv9ZE>.

The talk was sold out and greatly enjoyed by all, judging by the number of questions addressed to the speaker. Overall, we are delighted with this first of our series of talks and look forward to others over the course of the coming year. The next is likely to be in May.

The Spring Party took place on Friday 4 March at 7 pm at the Kent & Canterbury Club, with the customary quiz, raffle and sit-down dinner. **A Summer Party** will be held outdoors in July.

The Annual Picnic at St Augustine's Abbey will take place on Saturday 20 August. This event is to confirm the right of access of residents in CT1 to the Abbey grounds.

The reformed **GIG (Gardeners' Interest Group)** has planned several activities, including a Gardeners' Question Time on Sunday 3 April, a Plant Share on 30 May, and a tour of the gardens at Goodnestone Park hosted by the Head Gardener in May. Members were notified of events such as the Snowdrop Festivals at Doddington Place and Compton Ash, and also encouraged to make use of the network for sharing information by contacting Alison Culverwell or Helly Langley.

SEA aims to organise events to bring the community together. If you wish to help or suggest activities, please contact Dick Vane-Wright at social@ohsca.org (01227 768 624).

SEA sub-committee: Alison Culverwell, Hazel and Dick Vane-Wright, Helly Langley, Lorna Durrani, Margot Leslie and Susi Brain

OHSCA HEALTH CARE (OHC)

We said, Stop Press, in our New Year Newsletter that we would say more about Urgent Treatment Centres, which had been mentioned in the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) December Bulletin. There is, as we said, a UTC at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, open 24/7, and the web-site lists the following as treatable at UTCs: sprains and strains, suspected broken limbs, minor head injuries, cuts and grazes, bites and stings, minor scalds and burns, ear and throat infections, skin infections and rashes, eye problems, coughs and colds, feverish illness in adults, feverish illness in children, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, and emergency contraception. There are eight other UTCs in Kent, the next nearest being at Estuary View, Whitstable, and the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay.

We have mentioned the CCG, above and in previous reports; for those who have followed its activities with interest, we have to reveal that its days are numbered; the CCG's February Bulletin announces that subject to the enactment of the Health & Care Bill, now before Parliament, CCGs are to be replaced by ICBs – Integrated Care Boards, whose purpose is defined as: to improve outcomes (population health and care); to tackle inequalities in outcomes and access; to enhance productivity and value for money; and to support broader social economic development. The Chair (Cedi Frederick) and CEO (Paul Bentley), and four other non-executive members of the ICB have been appointed. The announcement does not say how many other ICB members there will be; I hope there will be a strong representation of Health and Care professionals – particularly in view of the third 'purpose' (productivity and value for money), of which the Newspeak meaning will be clear.

We also wrote in the New Year Newsletter about the Pending East Kent Hospital reorganisation. There is no further hard news on this – Dick Vane-Wright raised it at the February Patients' Consultative Group – but informally, the view seems to be that as there is no firm date for news on the CCG's bid for the necessary £460m (or so), and as the whole process of deciding and consulting on the choice between the renovation/update of the William Harvey and the Canterbury Quinn-assisted new build, realistically no new East Kent super-specialist hospital will be receiving patients before 2030.

As south Canterbury residents, we are of course concerned not only about having modern medical services, but about the 2,000-dwelling *quid pro quo* for Mark Quinn's offer to provide/finance a new hospital 'shell' in Canterbury. One assumes that the CCG's bid for £460m takes account of this 'shell' gift, if its decision were to be for the new Canterbury hospital; it will be 5 years this summer since Mark Quinn made his offer, and one wonders whether his offer can remain open indefinitely. One also assumes that a William Harvey renovation would not need comparable outside funding, from Mark Quinn or elsewhere; but of course we don't really know.

Denis Linfoot, OHC subcommittee

LHG

The Local History Group had a zoom meeting on Tuesday 8 February, taken up by our AGM.

1. Three office bearers were re-elected *nem.con.* (as a group!): Mike Brain (Sec), Graham Wood (Treasurer) and Derek Ray (Chair). Eight LHG members attended the zoom.
2. The Chairman's report for 21/22 did not have any new material and mirrored the report published in the New Year newsletter, so it was deemed not necessary to reproduce it (members can refer to the last newsletter to refresh their memory about details).
3. Graham Wood is recovering from an accident and was unable to attend the zoom or give a Treasurer's Report. Mike Brain summarised the situation. We have not paid for the Dover Street 3rd Edition yet. This book should be published in the Spring, and our reserves will cover this cost.
4. The Dover Street publication draft has been to an editor (Michael Steed) for comments. Maggie Bower and I met on Thursday 24 February to decide how to incorporate the editor's comments.

Future LHG work: a majority at the AGM indicated they wanted next a project on 'History of OHDS/ OHSCA 2000 +' to be completed by the 50th anniversary of the Society/ Association. We will discuss this idea in more detail at a meeting on Tues 12 April if not before.

Derek Ray, Chair LHG

GREEN TEAM



Photo of the red hazel by Deirdre Hawkes

Trees

Thanks to the great generosity of our members we have been able to plant two trees this spring towards the Queen's Green Canopy - a red hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in Puckle Lane and an *Amelanchier* in Lesley Avenue. KCC have kindly funded two beech trees in Spring Lane.

Once the plans for the cycle path in Longport are finalised we are hoping for more trees there – and if anyone has suggestions please contact me.

We have entered our three gardens for South & South East in Bloom again – Canterbury has been invited to compete for Britain in Bloom so our efforts strengthen the city entry.

We have been at work on winter pruning and weeding and the bulbs we planted last autumn are now starting to flower. BT have made a bit of a mess in Milton Road but once they have finished installing 5G we hope to get it sorted out. Help wanted!

Sophie Scott, Green Team and Trees subcommittee

Scientists and medics warn that it is too soon to lift all restrictions in England

The following is from a free access article printed in the British Medical Journal, 25 February, 2022:

The UK government has announced an end to all covid-19 restrictions in England, saying that vaccines and treatments will be the “first line of defence” from now on. Most of the public will lose access to free tests, and people who become infected with SARS-CoV-2 will no longer be legally required to self isolate, under a “Living with Covid” strategy that is designed to shift the focus from government interventions to personal responsibility. Trish Greenhalgh, professor of primary care health sciences at the University of Oxford, said that ending isolation and free testing in England was a “huge mistake” and called on the government to publish the scientific reasoning for its decisions.

More than 3360 scientists and doctors have signed an open letter to England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, and the UK's chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, asking them to clarify the evidence for the

government's decisions. They said that the policy was "almost certain to increase the circulation of the virus and remove the visibility of emerging variants of concern."

From 1 April free mass symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public will end. Johnson said that the government would continue to provide free tests to the most elderly and most vulnerable people with symptoms and to social care staff. "We're working with retailers to ensure that everyone who wants to can buy a test," he said. Chaand Nagpaul, the BMA's chair of council, said that the government's strategy would create a two tier system, where people who could afford to pay for testing and to self-isolate would do so, while others would be "forced to gamble on the health of themselves and others." He said, "Providing free tests to clinically vulnerable people—and only once they develop symptoms and are potentially very unwell—but not providing any free tests to friends or family who come into contact with them is completely illogical, as the priority should be protecting them from infection in the first place."

On 18 February Peter Openshaw, professor of experimental medicine at Imperial College London, adviser to the government on covid through the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (Nervtag), had said that the plan did not seem very cautious in terms of its overall health impact. "It would be wholly wrong to call the pandemic over," he told the BBC.

Simon Clarke, associate professor in cellular microbiology at the University of Reading, said that lifting the self-isolation requirement would prove to be either "very brave or very stupid." As we have seen before, the virus is in the best possible position to mutate again, and there is absolutely no certainty that any new variant would be less dangerous.

Greta Cotterrell

ANAGRAM FUN ANSWERS from last newsletter:

THE PHOENIX PUB
SPITFIRE GROUND
IVY LANE
KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL
NUNNERY FIELDS
ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY
BIGGLESTON'S LINK
OLD CITY BAR

FOR ALL BUTTERFLY AND MOTH LOVERS:

Dick Vane-Wright is presenting a talk and slideshow at Waterstones bookshop on Thursday 28 April at 6.30pm. Their leaflet states "living moths or butterflies will be in attendance" – well, maybe, Dick tells us! Locally, East Kent has some very notable moths, which he will briefly describe. For butterflies, the net will cover the world – with special reference to some of the 200 exotic species first made known to science through the paintings of William Jones of Chelsea (1735–1818), all of which were recently published in *Iconotypes* (Thames & Hudson, 2021: <https://www.waterstones.com/book/iconotypes/richard-i-vane-wright/9780500024324>). Tickets at Waterstones are £5 (redeemable on books).



William Jones's painting of *Papilio homerus* – with a wingspan of up to 6 inches, it is the largest New World swallowtail – and unique to Jamaica.

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2021–2022

Chair:	vacant (currently the Committee operates a rotating Chair)
Tim Carlyle	Planning subcommittee
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
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 01227 456285 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
Lucy Fletcher-Jones	Website Coordinator: website@ohsca.org Events Bulletin alerts

Weekly CCC planning bulletin	vicechairtc@ohsca.org
Local History Group	Chair LHG: <i>Derek Ray</i> forstal22@yahoo.co.uk 01227 464845 For information about Local History Publications, history@ohsca.org or see publications on OHSCA website Secretary LHG: Michael Brain history@ohsca.org 01227 767343
SEA convenor	<i>Dick Vane-Wright</i> : social@ohsca.org
Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Tree champion	<i>Helly Langley</i>
Newsletter editor	<i>Greta Cotterrell</i> : gretaohsca@gmail.com

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/studentservices/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/parking-and-roads/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