

# OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

No. 23

digital edition



## ***Caring for ourselves and the world***

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I hope you have been able enjoy some of the celebrations at this time of our remarkable Queen's *Platinum Jubilee*. Sadly, the stark reality of the last months has been the unimaginable horror in Ukraine following the invasion of the country by Russian forces. The open welcome by Europe to refugees fleeing death and destruction shows the capacity of ordinary people to care for and about each other, strangers or not, when faced with overwhelming catastrophe. This war threatens our assumption of permanent peace in Europe. We need to remember that freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. Neither can the assumption that somehow Nature will carry on thriving regardless of human interference, and that climate change will "go away". Caring for the world's survival, and caring for each other's health and well-being becomes ever more an urgent necessity and not an option. Many OHSCA residents are active in efforts to mitigate climate change, but we also need to continue pressurising our government to do more, and faster. And now, we also face the problems of rampant inflation and,

for many, new forms of poverty. The need for community spirit and caring, supportive action has rarely been greater.

*Greta Cotterrell*

**Dear Editor:** I read in a recent issue of *The Times* (09/05/22, p. 2) that "Government ministers will promise this week to end the 'free for all' enjoyed by big developers by curtailing their powers and giving residents the right to dictate the style of any new development. In an attempt to assuage anger the Government will pledge to consult local residents on 'design codes' that will stipulate the standards that developments must meet." Ministers will also examine how the planning inspectorate enforces local housing needs targets. Areas that are constrained by greenbelt land or areas of natural beauty will no longer be required to reach 'unrealistic' targets if they can produce a plan that is 'well evidenced and drawn up in good faith'. The planning system will also gain a fast track application category for small builders that will exempt them from certain planning fees to 'level the planning field' with big developers.

Well, I am sure we will all be carefully watching how this progresses, especially the apparent contradiction between "right to dictate" and "consultation". I struggle to identify a consultation by any local public authority in recent years that has resulted in a substantial change of policy. Something certainly needs to change.

Landowners are able to sell their land for premium (rather than agricultural) prices and large developers enjoy exorbitant profits, whilst young families struggle to find a genuinely affordable house in their home town.

*David Kemsley*

[For more on the issue of local planning, please see page 4. If you have anything you wish to comment on, or see published in the newsletter, please write to The Editor ([gretaohsca@gmail.com](mailto:gretaohsca@gmail.com)) with your name and email – but do say if you prefer your letter to be anonymous.]

## GRAHAM WOOD (1947–2022)

**Graham was a man of many talents and passions – as well as surprises . . .**

I first knew him through his profession as a history teacher; we'd enjoyed fascinating discussions about history before I realised he lived round the corner from me – let alone our closer personal ties. Then, in May 2001, the Oaten Hill Society set up a successful Open Gardens scheme – the guide I have kept notes the names of the eleven active society members whose gardens were on display, with a question mark against a twelfth, volunteered by someone we didn't know. It turned to be Graham's hidden secret – a garden lovingly created in the space between Lansdown Road and Caledon Terrace.



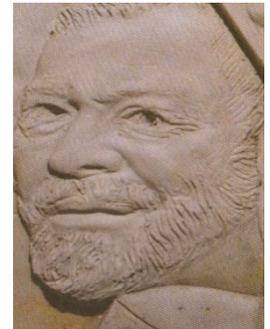
After he retired from teaching at The King's School, he came to talk to me about getting involved in the OHDS Local History Group. Having similar rural Kentish heritages, we explored these together and – Wow – discovered we had third cousins in common, and the same political allegiance. It was a delight to bring him into an active role within LHG and, when I was elected a councillor in 2008 (with his active help), he took over from me as its chair.

Several LHG members had gathered material about the Old Dover Road, but in a 'too many cooks' style. Graham took on what soon turned out to be the mammoth task of turning that into something publishable, while I got stuck into the job of councillor. Then late one evening in March 2011 he rang me to enquire about that job, as he'd been invited to stand in a Lib Dem-held seat. He won then but as our party moved me out of my ward we once more exchanged roles. I now had the time to complete the work he'd done on *Old Dover Road – Past & Present*, which the Group published in 2012. The considerable section there on the St Lawrence Cricket Ground was all his, and the booklet was only completed by building on his foundation.

His four years on the City Council were well summed up by former Lord Mayor Martin Vye in the *Kentish Gazette*: *he brought to debates in the council chamber a rare wisdom that was always focussed on the matter at hand, aided by a wit that enabled him to make very telling points.*

He went on to serve on the OHSCA committee. Fellow committee-member David Kemsley recalls him as *a very clever, highly amusing, and truly gentle man with a penetratingly sharp dry wit, who made well-timed, not over frequent, and acutely astute interventions in our meetings. Sparks would fly occasionally, when he was roused, revealing an underlying great passion for things he cared about.*

Regrettably, I never shared Graham's company in the Council Chamber or the Oaten Hill committee – but, like David, I much enjoyed meeting him in his last debating forum, the aisles of Waitrose, as he continued to shop for himself whilst struggling with declining health. David sums up these encounters so well: *they invariably left me smiling, much better informed, and thoughtful for the rest of the day.*



Graham as Chaucer's Yeoman

He was one of the donors who sponsored the statue of Geoffrey Chaucer which stands near Eastbridge, where Graham is immortalised on its plinth as 'The Yeoman'. English literature was another of his passions, especially Dickens – as I was to enjoy on the last time we sat together, in a quiz team last October. Then there was Gilbert & Sullivan and the daily *Guardian* crossword (not the *Telegraph*, as the *Gazette* wrongly supposed).

His funeral on 19 May brought together the many circles of a full life – former staff and history students from The King's School mingling with family, political colleagues, personal friends, and representatives of the Oaten Hill and South Canterbury communities.

Thank you, Graham.

*Michael Steed*

[The two photographs are from the book of the installation of the statue *Chaucer the Pilgrim Poet*, produced by the Canterbury Commemoration Society]

## FROM THE CHAIR

We were all so saddened to hear that Graham Wood had passed away in April. He had been an active OHDS and OHSCA member representing the Local History Group on the Committee. He kindly allowed us to hold many meetings in his home, and his warm hospitality and wise words were greatly appreciated. Michael Steed has kindly put together a fitting tribute (p. 2, opposite).

Now that we can socialise more easily, it's a great opportunity for all our members to participate once again in OHSCA social events. Maybe you have made new acquaintances during lockdown and those neighbours would like to join OHSCA too, and enjoy the walks, talks and even the litter picks (see below)! If every existing member were to encourage just one new household to join, we could double our subscription income which could then be spent on local issues that matter to you. The Membership Form can be found on our website – I hope you will give it some thought.

[<https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA%20membership%20form%202021.pdf>]

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

*Marion Bell (Acting Chair)*

## LITTER

OHSCA holds regular litter picks to ensure our area looks as attractive and litter-free as possible. You will all know how difficult it is to keep our area clean, and so OHSCA members are invited to take part in a litter pick every two months. Sadly, the last few have been very poorly attended despite the dates being advertised well in advance through the website, newsletter – and email near the time. In March, only 4 volunteers out of a membership of over 200 residents turned out. A poor show. Please, OHSCA members, give a little time and join the next litter pick so that our local environment can be litter free and a place to be proud of. You might even find it both fun as well as satisfying. All equipment is provided. Your next opportunity will be on at 10.30 Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, meeting next to 10 Cromwell Rd (by Milton Rd Garden).

*Helly Langley*

## MEMBERSHIP

More than 200 of you have paid your subscription for 2022 – thank you – and thank you for all your generous donations. However, 40 or so who get their newsletter by email have not yet paid. Please send in your annual household subscription of £5 to me, Sophie Scott (details on back page). Please also contact me if you have moved or don't want to hear from us any longer.

## GREEN TEAM



Fire Station Tulips (Deirdre Hawkes)

We are trying a new approach in Milton Road, with less mowing and a strip of wildflowers. We'd like some feedback on this! Most of our shrubs are now well established and we have plugged the gap left by BT in their effort to bring 5G to South Canterbury.

The Fire Station is doing well despite the April drought and the Fire Service will help with watering, to our great relief. St Georges Garden is pretty well established. We have had some help from the kind attendants at the Covid jab site and appreciative comment from those in the queue

All three gardens have been entered for South & South East in Bloom and will be assessed at the beginning of July. [<https://www.sseib.com/>]

## TREES

This spring we planted two new trees towards the Queen's Green Canopy and, if we have enough money, we aim to plant more this winter. OHSCA hopes to make a contribution to the Council's plan to plant trees in and around car parks. We are particularly interested in Holman's Meadow and Longport.

*Sophie Scott*

## OHSCA PLANNING REPORT

On Mountfield Park, there is little to report. Natural England having objected to the design of the waste water scheme, there has been a deathly public silence, although I imagine there is feverish activity to come up with an acceptable technical improvement. CCC will be under great pressure to start delivery of its housing targets, if it is to avoid being placed in special measures overriding its plan. The pressure for development is on all sides – on BBC *Countryfile* I saw a quite biased interview more or less accusing Natural England of just making their standards up.

The local OHSCA scene remains quiet but for occasional blips – the student housing for 68 Old Dover Rd remains on hold but, in an interesting twist, the applicant resubmitted the uncompromising modern design, because the Appeal Inspectors Report supported this in his judgement. This now leaves the waste water objection by the Council as the sole obstacle: as soon as CCC can cobble something together to facilitate the same issues as at Mountfield Park, I imagine this will be applied here and the scheme will go ahead.

More broadly, the Queen's Speech dropped heavy hints about revisions to the housing and planning systems, in the form of new Regeneration Bills (or perhaps more accurately revisions to the current one going through parliament.) While Michael Gove has let slip that the national housing targets are to be relaxed if need be, to ensure that housing is (a) locally popular and (b) has the right infrastructure, there is also to be 'streamlining' of parts of the planning process to aid 'productivity'. And such populist things as local street votes on planning proposals, and more neighbourhood plans, are in my view mere window dressing in the context of the proposals that the national Local Government structure is to be fundamentally revised with the advent of new Combined County Authorities. One of their main tasks will be to do the government's job for them in setting up comprehensive Levelling Up visions, which all other local plans must comply with, and the National Planning Policy Framework will be revised and its operation made more rigorous. However, there is hopefully good that can come from Gove's comments that development can't just be left to the developers and the councils.

To conclude, another long silence over at CCC surrounds the evolution of the revised Local Plan 2040. No doubt they are having to chew over some of the issues mentioned above. We, together with ACRA, CAST and the Canterbury Society, remain poised to respond as soon as there are further developments. More later, obviously.

*Tim Carlyle, May 2022*

## OHC (OHSCA HealthCare group)

On 28 April I joined a Zoom meeting with 70 members of the Kent & Medway Local Area Patient Groups Network, about wide-ranging changes the Health & Care Act 2022 will introduce on 1 July. The focus was naturally on how this will affect patient consultation and communication, but the Act will transform many aspects of existing NHS organisation: e.g., Hospital Trusts will continue, but all 104 Clinical Commissioning Groups are to be abolished, replaced instead by 42 'Integrated Care Boards'. For Kent and Medway, the new ICB will be coterminous with the existing CCG. But the ICBs will be very different from the CCGs – the inclusion of health professionals has not yet been specified, and will have a remit to bring about substantial though still undefined change. Although the proposed inclusion of Local Authority Care within the ICBs' remit is to be welcomed, the Secretary of State will in future have much greater powers over local proposals and capital investment. Moreover, the whole system of communication with patients and the public, and their representation on consultative groups, is as yet undecided – but is also set to change radically.

Any attempt to achieve better balance between Health and Care services must be welcomed. However, the greatest single problem with Care services, still provided by Local Government, has been the devastating reduction in funding. Local Authority representation on the ICBs will not of itself remedy this. At local level, General Practices will still be required to have Patient Participation Groups. Much of the existing Scrutiny system will remain: the Parliamentary Health & Care 'Ombudsman', the Care Quality Commission, Healthwatch, and the County and Unitary Councils' Scrutiny Committees will all have a role. Work is ongoing to define the future patients' participation systems – a 'Have Your Say' digital platform will start in May, and a Citizens' Panel is to be launched, comprising 'a carefully selected sample of the population which matches the demographics of the people of Kent and Medway'. Not surprisingly, considerable concern was expressed by those attending on 28 April that the new consultation arrangements may turn out to be under too much top-down control, in ways ranging from selection of participants to choice of subjects for discussion. With so much to be put in place by 1 July, and the long shadow of the pandemic still on the NHS, there is much to play for in the next few weeks.

*Denis Linfoot*

## **A CANTERBURY MISCELLANY**

### **Conservation area appraisal and management plan**

The council Development and Engagement Planning Team (led by Karen Britton) is seeking views on a new draft Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. This has been prepared by heritage consultants Purcell. They have reviewed the existing plan, and identified features that make positive or negative contributions to the special character of the areas included. They have also assessed boundaries and drafted a new management plan. A paper copy is available at the Beaney during library opening hours. Any comments, and a response to an online questionnaire, are needed by 5 pm, 31 August. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13RL6E1Qx3KL6mPJChCYrryhIx2XioRAP>  
<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/file/61/canterbury-conservation-area-appraisal-questions>.

### **Canterbury launches its first ever Climate Action Awards 2022**

This is the first of what will be a series of Annual Awards. The winners will be announced at a special Awards Ceremony to be held on Sunday 25 September, and asked to make a short presentation before a high-profile audience. The ceremony will be the conclusion of the 2022 Canterbury Climate Action Festival, 23–25 September, coinciding also with the national Great Big Green Week. All organisations, individuals and households that have submitted entries will be invited. For more information search the BID (Canterbury Business Improvement District) and CCAP (Canterbury Climate Action Partnership) websites.

### **20's Plenty – the speed limit debate**

On 25 April the Canterbury Forum was addressed by Rod King (Campaign Director of '20's Plenty') and his colleague Adrian Berendt, about the benefits that would flow from reducing the speed limit to 20 mph, across the whole city – including the statistic that "The risk of fatality from being hit by a vehicle at 30 mph is seven times that of being hit by a vehicle at 20 mph." Support for 20 mph zones is growing. The forum was told that, in Wales for example, "20 mph limits would be the norm in built-up areas by 2023 and 30 mph would be the exception". The debate is on! [<https://www.20splenty.org/>]

### **Friends of Old Park and Chequer's Wood**

There is growing opposition to the proposed developments affecting the nationally designated conservation area to the north of the old Canterbury Barracks. The new Friends group is now well established. Leading lights include Cllr Pat Edwards (former OHSCA committee member), Jan Pahl (Canterbury Society) and Sian Pettman. If you agree with their aims, sign the petition (<https://www.change.org/p/protect-old-park-and-chequer-s-wood-from-development>).

### **E-scooters**

A further extension has been granted to the 'Bird' electric scooter rental scheme. The trial, initially begun in November 2020, was due to end in March, but KCC has now decided that e-scooters can now be allowed to be ridden in parts of the city until the end of November. The extension was granted so more data could be gathered for the Department for Transport. Meanwhile, many have continued to express concerns about the illegitimate use of e-scooters, as debated recently at the Canterbury Forum meeting of 25 April.

## The Sidney Cooper Centre

The centre, originally an art school that was subsequently left in trust to the Council, is currently not in use. A proposal for its revival as an arts centre has been submitted to CCC, but the Council has decided to put the building out to tender. Its future remains uncertain.

## Julian Barnes at Waterstones

Canterbury was honoured to be the first location in which author Julian Barnes was persuaded to talk about his latest novel, *Elizabeth Finch* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99). The novelist, winner of the Man Booker Prize for *The Sense of an Ending* in 2011, appeared relaxed in Waterstones bookshop on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, where he chatted to manager Martin Latham and answered questions from a diverse audience of aficionados. Osman Durrani has written a review of *Elizabeth Finch* (page 12, below).

**The Repair Café** will be open on Saturday 11 June, and 9 July at the Hub Cafe, Baptist Church (opposite Waitrose). The Canterbury Repair Café is a community initiative of CCAP, supported by the Women's Institute and The Canterbury Society. Apart from the usual repairing skills, the Café is introducing an Energy Help Desk to help residents and businesses save energy. With soaring costs, there is no better time to be considering retrofitting our homes to reduce our demand, and for those on low incomes to get advice on seeking financial help. You can contact the Café's Energy Help Desk. The Repair Café is currently short of volunteers with building knowledge to be able to man the help desk over the coming months, so, if you or any of your contacts has building knowledge and would like to help, please email John Yard (CCAP Secretary), at [jyard98@btinternet.com](mailto:jyard98@btinternet.com).

## Eliminating Digital Exclusion

KCC has a project to help eliminate digital exclusion, and also offers digital skills workshops and training to help people learn and build their confidence. To find out more about this digital inclusion project and other services KCC can provide, visit the Digital Kent website at <https://www.digitalkent.uk/>. Elsa Lewis runs a 'Coffee, Cake and Computers' drop-in session every Friday morning at 10.30–11.30 at Barton Church, 32 Barton Rd, CT1 1YQ. Anyone is welcome at this friendly place, where there is help to get to grips with your phone, tablet, or laptop, at your own pace. There is no charge, and all help and refreshments are free.

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

In the last newsletter I advised that Michael Steed would be acting as editor for the Dover Street book. He has informed me that he does not have the time this year to be editor. I have apologised to him and welcomed his agreement to assist in some form, if he is able, when the shape of the final publication is more advanced. We are therefore pausing work on the project.



With the sad passing of Graham Wood (pictured here last autumn, with some of his beloved books in the background), we have not only lost a dear friend – but also our Treasurer. Mike Brain is currently holding the fort – but we urgently need a new appointment. Would anyone interested please get in touch with Mike (contact details on back page).

The LHG has zoomed and missed meetings during the Covid period and, like most people, we miss meeting face-to-face. Our next meeting, Covid permitting, will be at a new venue and time. We will move from the Kent & Canterbury Club to *The Phoenix* pub (67 Old Dover Rd) to improve disabled access, and meet on Tuesday 21st June at 2.30 pm. Sorry for the delay, it is because of overlapping holiday travel arrangements. The Phoenix does offer non-alcoholic drinks, including tea and coffee, though personally I am fond of their German Pilsner. I do hope you can join us.

*Derek Ray*, Chairman LHG

Photograph courtesy of Rachel Maud

## SEA NEWS

As stated in the March newsletter, the Social Events and Activities sub-committee has now 're-opened for business', with a range of activities.

**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. The picture quiz round is reproduced on page 13 (below).

**Coffee mornings** take place every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel (7 St Margaret's Street). The meetings on 26 January, 23 February, 23 March, 27 April and 25 May, were well attended and participants found the venue comfortable and welcoming. Meetings now start at the earlier time of 10.30 a.m. The next meetings are scheduled for 22 June, 27 July, and 24 August.



**Walks** continue to take place every Wednesday and Friday morning, starting at 9.30 am sharp from the old main entrance gates, Kent & Canterbury Hospital (Ethelbert Rd). The first 2022 special walk took place on 30 April to see the bluebells in Whitehill Wood – 14 people came along, the bluebells were brilliant (our picture here was taken by Lucy Fletcher-Jones – see also page 11), and *The Granville* was later enjoyed by some. We hope an orchid walk will take place in June (details to be announced). Last year's almost rained-off visit to Lydden to see the silver-spotted skipper will be repeated on 21 August, and perhaps another visit to the same area earlier in August, to see the several species of blues that often abound there.

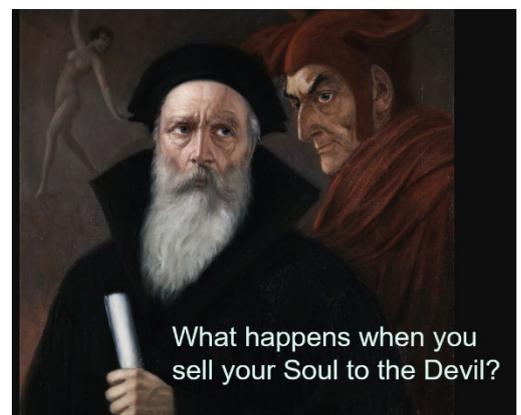
**A Summer Party** will be held on 6 August by kind invitation of Alison Culverwell and Francis Green, in their Ethelbert Road garden.

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

The reformed **GIG (Gardening Interest Group)** has planned several activities, including an enjoyable Gardeners' Question Time which took place on Sunday 3

April (in Alison Culverwell's garden), and a successful annual Plant Share and informal social gathering (Saturday 28 May, Cromwell Rd – see page 14). A tour of the gardens at Goodnestone Park hosted by the Head Gardener is to be arranged. Members were notified of events such as the Snowdrop Festivals at Doddington Place and Compton Ash, and encouraged to make use of the network for sharing information by contacting Alison Culverwell or Helly Langley.

**Talks.** A new venture organised by SEA is talks by local authors. We were fortunate to start the series in February with a wonderful presentation by acclaimed local author, Jenny Uglow, about her 2021 book *Cyril and Sybil*. The second took place on 18 May at the Kent & Canterbury Club, when Osman Durrani gave a talk entitled *What happens when you sell your Soul to the Devil?* Osman, Emeritus Professor at University of Kent, has published extensively on German literature, from Goethe to Günter Grass. His account of Faustus, brilliantly illustrated and delivered with insight and humour, was greatly appreciated. The series will continue in autumn, most likely with a talk on ancient Egyptian jewellery.



What happens when you sell your Soul to the Devil?

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](mailto:social@ohsca.org).

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

## OHSCA COMMITTEE 2021–2022

Chair:	vacant (currently the Committee operates a rotating Chair)
<b>Tim Carlyle</b>	Planning subcommittee
<b>Marion Bell</b>	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Tel: 07713 025245: <a href="mailto:secretary@ohsca.org">secretary@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Jane Pollok</b>	Hon. Treasurer: <a href="mailto:treasurer@ohsca.org">treasurer@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Sophie Scott</b>	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 01227 456285 <a href="mailto:sophie01@btinternet.com">sophie01@btinternet.com</a>
<b>David Kemsley</b>	ACRA /SCA rep./OHC subcommittee/Press Liaison: <a href="mailto:press@ohsca.org">press@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Helly Langley</b>	Committee member/Planning subcommittee
<b>Denis Linfoot</b>	Committee member/OHC subcommittee
<b>Dick Vane-Wright</b>	Committee member/SEA rep./OHC subcommittee
<b>Lucy Fletcher-Jones</b>	Website Coordinator: <a href="mailto:website@ohsca.org">website@ohsca.org</a> Events Bulletin alerts

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

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](mailto: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/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](https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20044/vandalism_and_graffiti/55/report_graffiti)

### some OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed and Fri: 1 hr local walk (p.5)	27 July:	Coffee morning (p.7)
every Friday: digital inclusion (p.6)	6 August:	Summer Party (p.7)
11 June: Repair Café (p.6)	20 August:	St Augustine picnic (p.7)
21 June: Local History Group (p.6)	21 August:	Butterfly Walk (p.7)
22 June: Coffee morning (p.7)	24 August:	Coffee morning (p.7)
25 June: Litterpick (p.3)	31 August:	conservation areas (p.5)
9 July: Repair Café (p.6)	21 October:	AGM

# **OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION**

## **Summer Newsletter 2022 (no. 23) Digital Edition EXTRA**

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Roses at OHSCA's Green Team Milton Road Garden, 30 May 2022.

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF FRED WHITEMORE

Fred Whitemore, who died on New Year's Day 2021, was arguably the most distinguished and locally important person to have been associated with the Oaten Hill & District Society (one of the two groups that merged to form OHSCA). His death, in Norfolk, occurred during the pandemic, and it was not possible until now to arrange a thanksgiving service in his honour. This finally took place, in the Cathedral Undercroft (Chapel of Our Lady), on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Some 150 people gathered for the 50 minute service, which included a fascinating recollection of his life by close friend Jane Petzing, and an address by Raymond Collins (The Lord Collins of Highbury), who was among many students influenced by Fred when he was a lecturer at the School of Politics and International Relations. Fred helped create SPIR as one of the founding schools of the University of Kent when it first opened, in 1965. Lord Collins ended with a personal tribute sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Canon Andrew Dodd, who, following David McLellan's reading from *Ecclesiastes* 3:1–8, focused his address on service to others, including the local community – a self-effacing mission that Fred pursued with kindness, concern and devotion.

Music included choral works by Bach, and John Rutter (the beautiful *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*). Very fittingly, a collection was made after the end of the service to raise funds for Canterbury Foodbank. Donations in Fred's memory can still be made to this charity at [www.canterburyfoodbank.org](http://www.canterburyfoodbank.org).

Many stayed on for a reception organised at the Cathedral Lodge, organised by Patrick Leech and Jane Petzing. OHSCA members in attendance included Marion Bell, Jeff Derham, Pat Edwards, Deidre Hawkes, David and Terri Kemsley, and Sophie Scott.

*Dick Vane-Wright, 30 May 2022*

Two tributes to Fred have been published in the OHSCA newsletter – the first in no. 5 (January 2018, page 3: <http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-5-2018-New-Year.pdf>) by Reg Race, and the second after his death by Michael Steed (no. 18, April 2021, page 2: <http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-18-2021-Spring.pdf>).

FRED WHITEMORE



A founder member of OHDS, soon after joining the committee in 2008 he chaired the society for six years. Fred's contribution to Canterbury life has been very special – so we hope he enjoys reading this little account!

Fred Whitemore (1941–2021)



The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ, Canterbury

### Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

Fred Whitemore

20<sup>th</sup> February 1941 - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021



30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

11.00 am

The Chapel of Our Lady Undercroft

**BLUEBELLS AT WHITEHILL WOOD, 30 APRIL 2022**



## JULIAN BARNES AT WATERSTONES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Canterbury was honoured to be the first location in which author Julian Barnes was persuaded to talk about his latest novel, *Elizabeth Finch* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99). The novelist, winner of the Man Booker Prize for *The Sense of an Ending* in 2011, appeared relaxed in Waterstones bookshop on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, where he chatted to manager Martin Latham and answered questions from a diverse audience of aficionados, some of whom had come from as far as Malta to hear their favourite author introduce his work.



*Elizabeth Finch* is an ambiguous text, which is perhaps why the publisher chose to issue it in two different dust-jackets, one yellow and the other blue. We learned that the two colours had been chosen so that when the books were placed side by side, they replicated the design of the Ukrainian flag: very now. Sadly, Waterstones had not alternated them in the pile of pre-signed copies offered for sale at the event.

Julian began by explaining that each of his novels was as different as possible from all others (there are some 16 of them, not including a detective series and non-fiction) that he had written. *Elizabeth Finch* has had mixed reviews, but as the author observed, some apparently negative pieces turn out to be favourable when re-read, others that look promising may seem less so when re-examined. *Elizabeth Finch* was generally welcomed by those present, though few had had a chance to read it.

The novel has a strong documentary flavour, in that the central section takes the form of a treatise, mercifully without footnotes, about the author's (but not the narrator's) namesake, Emperor Julian the Apostate. Elizabeth is the elusive adult education teacher who belatedly inspires the narrator to write his essay after her death, as a tribute to her inspirational teaching skills and also in the hope of achieving a better understanding of her as a person. Sections 1 and 3 are devoted to her, the former an account of her mystifying but strangely charismatic qualities, the latter a failed attempt to learn more about her from those who knew her personally, albeit from a different angle: a brother and several of her erstwhile pupils.

If you are looking for a neat ending, you will be disappointed, but then, you would probably not seek out Julian Barnes for an evening's entertainment. The novel turns out to be rich in many ways other than plot and style, as the narrator muses about his favourite authors. There is a hilarious re-write of the opening sentence of *Anna Karenina*, and we even learn how Ibsen spent the substantial royalties he received for his all but unstageable play *Emperor and Galilean*.

The section on the apostate who attempted to revive Hellenic paganism without bothering to persecute Christians serves to break up a narrative which might otherwise have become sentimental. It is a device not unknown in fiction – Thomas Mann inserts a history of cholera into *Death in Venice* – and is the book's secondary, or perhaps central, issue. What would the world look like today, if Christianity had been swept into oblivion by a return of the old gods of Greece and Rome? It is a question that preoccupied eighteenth-century authors including Montesquieu, Voltaire, Gibbon, and Schiller, all of whom are favoured with a passing mention. But would a revived paganism have been strong enough to withstand the next onslaught of monotheism? Would Jupiter and Mars have successfully led Charles Martel to victory in the Battle of Tours in 732? It is a question the author chose not to engage with.

Osman Durrani, April 2022

Osman, Emeritus Professor of German at the School of Cultures and Languages, University of Kent, has published extensively on German literature. He lectured at Buckland, Coventry and Durham before being appointed Chair of German at Kent, in 1995. <https://www.kent.ac.uk/cultures-languages/people/1762/durrani-osman>

## PICTURE ROUND FROM OHSCA SPRING PARTY 2022

Do you know the first and second names of the artists who created the 10 images below? There are 19 names required, in total – a little clue in itself. On the night, any team getting all 19 correct scored a bonus point, for a maximum score of 20. The answers are on the last page of this digital edition newsletter.



1



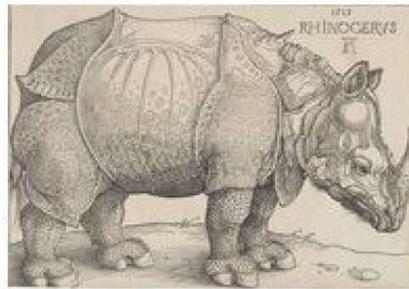
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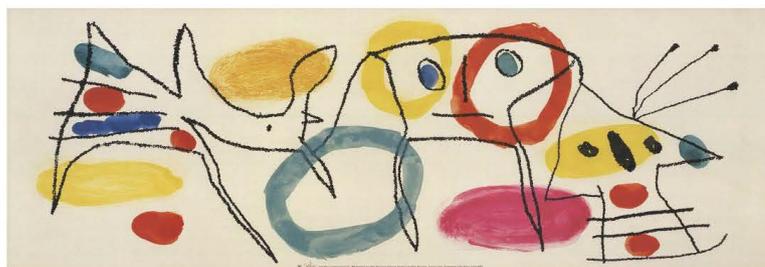
6



7



8



9



10

**PLANT SHARE, CROMWELL ROAD, 28 MAY 2022**





Chapel of Our Lady, Canterbury Cathedral, 30 May 2022

### ANSWERS TO PICTURE QUIZ (page 13)

- 1 Sybil Andrews\*
- 2 Banksy
- 3 Vincent van Gogh
- 4 Yves Tanguy
- 5 Albrecht Dürer
- 6 Eric Ravilious
- 7 Pablo Picasso
- 8 John Constable
- 9 Joan Miro
- 10 Edvard Munch

\*Sybil Andrews was one of the two subjects of Jenny Uglow's local author talk (February 2022).

The images on page 13 are all from the Internet – please do not copy or post this quiz elsewhere.