

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

No. 25

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MEMBERSHIP OF OHSCA

A Happy New Year from OHSCA! – your local residents association. We deliver our New Year Newsletter freely to all private addresses in the Oaten Hill and South Canterbury area – well over 2,000. Everyone living in this area is eligible to join. Normally, some 250 households (about 11%) pay the modest £5 annual subscription. Membership means you will get copies of the quarterly newsletters (Spring, Summer, Autumn), and access to the special interest groups whose activities are detailed. You will also be eligible to speak and vote at the AGM. If you would like to become a member, please use the form on page 12 (or download from our website: <https://www.ohsca.org/join.html>). Once completed, please send to OHSCA, c/o Sophie Scott, 27 Ersham Road, Canterbury CT1 3AR, with your subscription. *Do include your current email address, clearly written, if you have one.*

How to pay? – cash or cheque made out to OHSCA and delivered to 27 Ersham Road. Or you can set up a standing order with your bank. Or you can pay by bank transfer: the sort code is 60-04-27, and the OHSCA account number is 90612094. Please use the first line of your address as the reference.

When to pay? – now! This includes those who wish to continue their existing household membership.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Sophie Scott*, Membership Secretary

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE MONEY?

As Honorary Treasurer, I thought the January newsletter, where we invite new households to join, and remind existing members to renew their subscriptions, would be an ideal forum to let you know how some of your subscriptions and generous donations have been spent during our last financial year, August 2021 to August 2022.

The planters at the Fire Station cost £2,964 to rebuild. £202 was spent on plants and bulbs throughout the year. £560 on new trees planted within our area. We commissioned two reviews from environmental consultants regarding the Mountfield Park development, at a total cost of £2,725. Some of this outlay was met by donations from members of nearby residents' groups. A new projector was purchased at a cost of £398 – to help improve communications at our various social and educational meetings, as well as our formal events (such as the AGM). We have a healthy budget at present, so if any members have suggestions for a particular project you feel we should consider, please contact a committee member (contact details: page 10).

On behalf of the committee, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you, in anticipation, for your support – and renewed subscriptions!

Jane Pollok, Honorary Treasurer

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

OHSCA is organised according to a formal constitution (<https://www.ohsca.org/constitution.html>), and run on an entirely voluntary basis. The basic aims of our non-party-political association are to represent, promote and protect the interests of all those resident in the Association's area, and support and try to improve the quality of life in our community. To do this effectively, especially when, for example, we negotiate on behalf of local residents with Canterbury City Council over planning issues, engage with national schemes such as those run by the Royal Horticultural Society, or act together with other local groups, including the Canterbury Society and ACRA (the Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations), strong local membership, and voluntary help and engagement, are vital. The more members we have, the stronger and more representative is our voice.

In 2023 we face extraordinary environmental, social, economic and political challenges, with a cost-of-living crisis affecting millions, understaffing of the NHS a threat to all, and a 'winter of discontent' seemingly upon us. In previous years our New Year newsletter was often a relatively 'light' affair, with local stories, seasonal quizzes, and various 'festive' entertainments. In contrast, this edition strikes a more sombre tone, with major articles on the 'Mountfield Park' project (p. 3) for 4000 new homes in our immediate area (which could easily rise to 6000 if developers also wish to build over the Ridlands Farm and orchard area – so much appreciated by local residents during 'lockdown'), the perplexing national planning criteria that are driving the new Local Plan (p. 5), the desperate needs of the Canterbury Food Bank (p. 7), and the particular plight of the NHS in East Kent (p. 8).

The bread is, however, leavened by news about our voluntary efforts at increasing community spirit through social events and activities, the work of our local history group, and by community tree planting and gardening. Thus Milton Road was judged 'outstanding' in the 2022 RHS *It's Your Neighbourhood* scheme. And on the matter of gardening, special thanks are due to Deirdre Hawkes, Dave Goddard, Sophie Scott and other members of the Green Team for autumn bulb planting at the Fire Station and St George's gardens, and along Milton Road. As David Kemsley rightly says, "something to look forward to next Spring!"



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

Recent New Year newsletters have included the minutes of the previous OHSCA AGM (usually held in October). This year we are trialling something different. The Minutes for 2022 will be posted (by the end of January) on our website (<https://www.ohsca.org/agm.html>). Members who need a printed copy should request one from the Honorary Secretary (contact details p. 9).

Finally, many congratulations to our Editor, Greta Ross, for becoming *Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year*, 2022. Greta is currently away – but I am delighted to say that she will be back for the Spring edition. Here is her prize-winning entry for this international competition:

Ivan makes a violin for his son

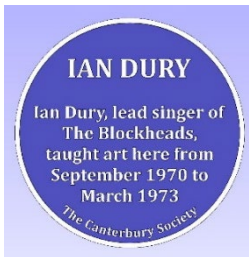
What did it take to make one
in the stone kitchen
evenings after eating,
choosing hand tools
from the master's shed
the best of wood
tapped for sound,
sketches and maths
cursing the errors
in shaping the box,
priming its hollow.
So many months
before the varnish
and the boy is growing,
then sourcing the gut
testing its stretch,
the bridge is fixed
and finally the bow.
Ivan watches the eyes
of his quiet boy
taking the bow, and
the firstborn note
dazzles the room
like a silver birch.

Greta Ross

Some Local News

Access to the Cathedral Precincts and to *St Augustine's*. Many will be aware of the recent increasing restrictions on the former, reported in the local press, and additional requirements for local residents' access to the latter. We will give an update on both in the Spring Newsletter, including the new formalities affecting access to the Abbey.

Canterbury District Pollinator Action Plan. By the time this newsletter reaches you, public consultation on this section of the Local Plan will be closed. This element of the *National Pollinator Strategy* will be of great interest for naturalists, gardeners and horticulturalists alike. We also hope to provide some information about this in the Spring newsletter for OHSCA members.



New Blue Plaques for Canterbury. One of the first 'recipients' of this Canterbury Society initiative will be Ian Dury (of *Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick*, *Reasons To Be Cheerful*, and *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll* fame). Another will commemorate the Canterbury to Whitstable railway – the world's first steam-powered passenger service. Despite having been home to many significant people, Canterbury has few blue plaques. The Society is now raising money to highlight and honour a wide variety of people and events that have made our city such an interesting place. To send a donation and find out more, go to the Canterbury Society website. A total of £3000 is needed to make the scheme viable.

New Free KCC Resource for Residents and Tradespeople

Worried about rogue traders? Then you might be interested in a new scheme launched by Kent County Council, concerning traders and standards. Go to <https://tschecked.kent.gov.uk/> and <https://keepkentsafe.co.uk/>.

Dick Vane-Wright, Acting Editor

PLANNING

Local planning issues in 2022

On the local planning front, activity has been at a low level generally, but with a couple of exceptions:

Residents and OHSCA had success at the Worthgate School site in New Dover Road, opposite Cowdrey Place, over a noisy games pitch. Protests resulted in undertakings from the college to review and reduce all noise outputs, and to create a better noise barrier.

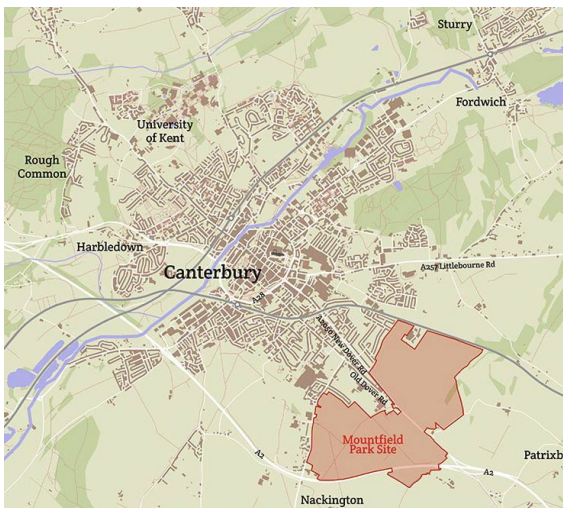
At 68 Old Dover Road, CCC have issued a permission for 27 student flats, on two grounds:

- that the design of the building was judged good enough by an Appeal Inspector; and
- that the Natural England embargo on new outputs of foul water from housing developments could be said not to apply, since there was an earlier consent for a fairly similar scheme given in 2015, which is still a live consent that could be built.

We strongly disagree with the second issue, unless the applicant either builds the actual 2015 scheme, or applies to substitute the 2020 drawings for the 2015 drawings, which will need a new examination.

Tim Carlyle and David Kemsley

The Mountfield Park Planning Application



As you probably know, the application for the 2.3 square kilometre South Canterbury Urban Extension (referred to here by the shorter and more familiar name 'Mountfield Park') was passed by Canterbury City Council, for the third time, on 1 December 2022. I give detail below of what in particular the final application contained, as far as we can tell, but it is also interesting to see how we got to this point.

The application has a reference ca//16/00600 – and was registered in Summer 2016, with some community presentations: first to representatives of community groups, and then to the whole community, in the form of a public exhibition. The site had been included in 2013 as part of the housing allocations proposed by Canterbury Council in their draft Local Plan – to which the former South Canterbury Residents Association (SCRA) had lodged various objections.

At the 2016 meeting, we could immediately see that detailed design preparations had been in hand for a least a year or more, and clearly negotiations had been carrying on with the council and landowners for longer than that. We registered our objection in principle with the developer's team that they had chosen to keep the community who were to host the small new town on their door step, completely in the dark. They responded that the Planning Department had advised them to avoid consultations because they knew we would not support the project. This advice was clearly incompatible with the purpose and principles of public consultation.

By 2016, the Local Plan had been passed, and so it was that the Mountfield Park application was passed in December 2016, with the principle of 4000 dwellings approved long before the dubious traffic congestion calculations were submitted – and despite the commissioning of an independent traffic report from Railton Transport Planning Consultancy by SCRA, challenging the basic science. Kent CC and CCC planning department maintained that the new estate would have the same traffic generation as Spring Lane Estate, and that is how it has remained ever since.

After the planning application was passed, an application for a Judicial Review was made, on the grounds of air quality, but this was struck down. In 2020, the application went back to committee with some areas of traffic flow documentation revised, and in December 2020 it was again passed by the planning committee. 2021 saw a new Judicial Review process, that resulted in October 2021 with the High Court striking down the decision on two grounds – the master plan did not have authority under the approved Local Plan land uses to replace the proposed possible future hospital with a hotel, and the viability study justifying a small reduction in affordable housing should have been made public.

Not deterred, the applicant made a new application in December 2021, re-inserting the potential future hospital site, and agreeing to fully fund 100% of the required affordable housing, removing the need for a viability study. However, Natural England changed the rules on nutrient run-off following a European test case, and objected to the scheme's foul drainage provision. In September, the applicant agreed to provide on-site sewage treatment, and the scheme went to committee in September. Your committee members and others carried on their presentation of critical comments, focussing on congestion, air quality, and the failure of the sewage scheme to include all parts of the site from the beginning (meaning sewage from 460 houses in Phase 1A was to be ferried in road tankers for several years before the permanent treatment works came on stream). Members were sufficiently concerned to vote to defer the scheme, but the applicant, Corinthian Land, submitted further technical clarifications, and on 1 December 2022, when it returned to committee, Members voted it through.



We are at an interesting position. On the one hand, various individuals are currently investigating whether there are grounds for a new Judicial Review, and if so we will be going back to groundhog-day again, and you can expect more fundraising approaches. If there is no new JR, the permission stands, and a lengthy and complex process of delivering 4000 houses begins. Perhaps we should take a moment to review just what the permission grants:

Full Consent – 140 houses and flats, plus *Outline Consent* for 3860 houses and community and transport elements of the whole estate – *it is important to note* that detailed design drawings for numerous road projects are included in the Outline Consent, so they will be built as drawn despite being outline consents only, and they are important to study. The (slightly abbreviated) Council schedule gives the full picture:

FULL CONSENT

- 140 dwellings;
- vehicular/cycle/pedestrian access via New Dover Road;
- internal vehicular/cycle/pedestrian routes;
- drainage/utilities infrastructure;
- public open space.

OUTLINE APPLICATION – with all matters *reserved* except Access

- up to 3,860 additional dwellings;
- up to 70,000 m² employment floor-space;
- two primary schools;
- community hub including shops, financial/professional services, food/drink outlets, business, residential institutions, non-residential institutions (medical/health) services, crèches, community centres & places of worship), assembly/leisure & petrol station;

- local centre: generally as for community hub, but smaller
- land reserved for potential relocation of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital (medical/health services);
- energy centre; or if not required, business;
- park & ride facility: 1,000 spaces
- public open space: parks, gardens, green corridors, amenity green space, play areas, semi-natural/natural open space, outdoor sports pitches, associated community pavilions, allotments/community orchards, associated storage buildings and civic spaces;
- vehicular access via A2: construction of replacement junction near Bridge & link roads;
- vehicular/cycle/pedestrian access via New Dover Road/Nackington Road/Pilgrims Way, and bus-only access via Nackington Road;
- cycle/pedestrian access via North Downs Way;
- internal vehicular/cycle/pedestrian routes: green bridge for cyclists/pedestrians over New Dover Road;
- drainage/utilities infrastructure including wastewater treatment works and diversion of 132kV overhead lines

While council Planning Committee Members did not accede to the arguments made by protestors, they did give them some weight, and expressed concerns over how the very large scheme can be effectively controlled as it unfolds, so that the final product matches the developer's promise. Its impact on Canterbury is too great to take chances. So from this point onward, a new phase of tracking the development begins. The Committee agreed to set up a Mountfield Park Management and Monitoring Group, to check that the built scheme complied with the agreed standards or designs:

“To task Planning Sub-committee to monitor this application on a regular basis (recommended every 6 months) to begin within 6 months of the May 2023 local election and ask them to engage with all interested communities including impacted residents.”

This includes road traffic levels, which are to have their own Manage and Monitor system to verify that future traffic patterns comply with the models, the sewage treatment systems comply with Ofwat standards, construction operations observe a detailed management plan, and there is also a detailed timetable for provision of all the infrastructure or financial contributions.

While Phase 1A gears up to provide 140 houses, there will be corresponding detailed design work in Phase 1 followed by Phase 2, roughly equal in size, one to each side of the New Dover Road (A2050). Because the Master Plan is *illustrative* there will be opportunity for the detailed design to re-interpret the details, which will need to be carefully scrutinised to ensure the quality promised in the Design and Access Statement is fully delivered. It seems essential to us that the community voice is heard in this scrutiny process, and OHSCA will play its part in discussing how this is to be brought about.

We have learnt over the last six years that planning officers do not support active community representation, and this does not bode well for the forthcoming Local Plan consultations projecting 31,000 new houses for our whole district. However, the developer does credibly claim to be interested in building a high quality estate, although they are in our opinion, seriously over-optimistic about traffic impact on the existing community of South Canterbury, and the current planning councillors do intend to take an active interest in the delivery. So in the writer's opinion, there are some grounds for guarded confidence that, despite uncertainties generated by possible housing recessions and forthcoming elections, the new South Canterbury Urban Extension will have some positive impacts.

Tim Carlyle

Canterbury City Council *Local Plan* – Processes and Criteria



The closing date of the latest public consultation on the Draft Canterbury district Local Plan 2020–2045 is Monday 16 January – just after this newsletter hits the streets. I hope that everyone with an interest in the long term future of our area will have taken a look at the extremely comprehensive information pack posted on the CCC website, or attended one of the open public forums and subsequently made their views known either through completion of the questionnaire or by letter or email.

At the time of writing the deadline we have set ourselves for the completion of the OHSCA submission is Thursday 12 January. That submission will have been

informed by the discussion at an open meeting for all OHSCA members the previous week (3 January), details of which were circulated to members by email before the Christmas break.

This is just one stage in a process which has another year or so to run before the final plan is put to full Council for consideration – but it is now that the plan starts to take shape and it is vital that the views of the public are fully voiced. Local Plans are regarded as crucially important by Planning Inspectors when they consider individual application appeals.

The first indication that the site now known as the South Canterbury Urban Extension (previously Mountfield Park) might be designated for housing in the current Local Plan emerged in 2010. Its subsequent formal inclusion in 2013 effectively tied the hands of the City Council into approving in principle schemes on the land which complied with the requisite planning and environmental standards. Hence the need to contribute our thoughts now about South Canterbury in 2030 and beyond.

Although Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) has set down some thoughts about how the overall process for preparing these Local Plans might change reasonably soon with, for example, greater community involvement, the top-down approach from central government currently remains in operation. As someone who has always believed that the starting point for any plan (after establishment of the baseline) is a needs-based assessment, I find it all rather curious, if not completely bizarre. At present, central government sets non-negotiable housing targets for District Council areas based on Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures for 2014 – yes, 2014! It then feeds those figures into a complex algorithm which measures the average wage in the area with average house prices. The differential is then used to adjust the target figure. Thus 'low' wages in areas with 'high' house prices, such as Canterbury, means that the housing targets in those areas are increased proportionately to secure the extra supply which in theory will eventually deliver equilibrium.

A further complication is that a similarly arcane process is used to calculate the size of the properties needed in various parts of the district. Thus CCC believes that a higher proportion than average of the 10,000+ new homes proposed for SE Canterbury should be 3/4 bedrooms properties. That feels highly unreal to me.

Thus the whole process is supply-led and very prone to market fluctuation. For the record, the CCC target is now just over 1200 new houses per annum until 2045. This figure includes the need to make good the shortfall in provision that has accumulated in recent years. Whereas District Councils are required to meet their housing targets to avoid financial penalties, one minor problem is that councils themselves do not build any houses. They are completely dependent on developers choosing to invest where and when they wish, as determined no doubt by anticipated levels of profit. Naive to think otherwise I suggest.

A further indication that the draft Local Plan is supply-led is that CCC are only able to locate housing developments on sites offered to them by the landowners. A statement of the obvious but the implications for the environment are huge. Apart from the loss of prime agricultural land in some locations, the required supporting infrastructure such as roads, water, healthcare, schools and shops all have then to be shoehorned in to support the new homes, irrespective of their overall environmental impact. It is difficult to reconcile this piecemeal, fragmented approach with a plan that purports to be completely sustainable – and this will be of serious concern for successive generations.

One other matter which I would like to comment on is Heritage. Awareness of the fact that Canterbury is a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site (WHS) is not, sadly, widespread throughout our wider Canterbury area, as evidenced by a recent admission to that effect from a reasonably prominent City Cllr. Drill down, and relatively few people know that:

- The WHS comprises three sites: St Martin's Church, St Augustine's Abbey, and the Cathedral;
- A local WHS management committee was set up 20 years ago – but it is difficult to find any evidence of achievement in that time. I and others have tried to access the minutes of this committee, but to no avail (until now);
- The current WHS management plan was finalised in 2002, and should have been updated every 5 years since – but there is no evidence that this has been done.

During this period Heritage seems to have fallen to the bottom of the pecking order of criteria used to critique or evaluate planning applications. Not once in my observation has the phrase "impact on the WHS" cropped up in council planning debates, or on application forms.

But happily that has now begun to change – possibly prompted by the impact of Mountfield Park on the WHS, and, just as significant, a 'yellow card' warning that WHS status could be at risk. Liverpool was stripped of WHS designation in 2021 – a long overdue wake-up call. Thus it is pleasing now to see recognition of Heritage as Canterbury's Unique Selling Point – which it is by a country mile. If we don't care for our Heritage properly, visitors will not come, and the economic consequences for the city will be dire. Consequently, I am pleased to

report that the WHS management committee has been reinvigorated, with community engagement top of its to-do list.

Equally encouraging is that Purcell consultancy, which led the preparation of the recent conservation area plan, have taken on responsibility for refreshing the WHS management plan. I for one am very much looking forward to reading their recommendations.

David Kemsley

CANTERBURY FOOD BANK

Canterbury is a fairly average sort of town (or city) for the UK. It comes round about the middle of the government's multiple deprivation index, according to Kent County Council analysis, has very little manufacturing, some agricultural, and a great deal of service sector employment – and has the extremes of wealth and poverty that characterise the country as a whole. This is the context in which Canterbury Food Bank (CFB) operates.

If the food bank were a small business you might say that it is highly successful. Since it was founded at the height of the international financial crisis in 2008 it has expanded enormously. We are still a relatively rich country but have exceptionally high levels of poverty and of inequality compared to the rest of the developed world. The Institute for Fiscal Studies analysis of the most recent government figures shows that about a third of children now live in poverty. The proportion of all incomes taken by the richest one per cent has doubled during the past three decades to eight per cent of all incomes – eight times as much as they would receive if incomes were distributed equally. Wealth inequality is even more marked. The original trustees of the food bank expected it to have worked itself out of a job within two years. It has continued to expand.

As the result of mergers with other food banks CFB now covers the whole district including Whitstable, Herne Bay and the villages surrounding Canterbury. Each of our food parcels is designed to contain sufficient food stuffs to make up nine meals. The number of meals distributed since the beginning of Covid-19 in March 2019 has risen from about 2,250 a month to more than 8,000, or by three and a half times, roughly 100,000 meals during the past year. The major trends are a steady rise in the proportion of children's parcels we supply and the growth in the proportion of recipients who are in low-waged work.



The food bank in Canterbury is large compared to the average. No good national statistics are available. The Trussell Trust represents 1,200 food banks, a bit less than half the 2,800 we can trace. These food banks gave out 2.7 million food parcels, or an average of 2,250 parcels or 20,250 meals each, in comparison with our 100,000 in the year to November. These figures are subject to wide margins of error. The size of the local food bank reflects the large and growing area it covers.

We allocate food parcels mainly in response to requests from agencies in whom we have confidence. These include, as the top three, Kent County Council Social Services Department, Early Help (the Kent County Council Education Department agency which seeks to identify and support children and families who are facing hardship), and Porchlight (the charity for homeless people). In addition, various local churches and schools, GPs and the NHS, Sure Start and other day nurseries and other agencies and charities refer families to us. The food bank employs four people as sign-posters whose job is to assess those who contact us by phone for food aid and, when appropriate, to refer them to other agencies which can help with housing and benefit problems, and other challenges that they may face.

Need varies by area, the four areas which receive the most parcels are the large urban wards of St Stephens, Northgate and Barton in Canterbury, and Gorrell in Whitstable. These are also the areas which score highest on the government's multiple deprivation index.

We also work with schools to identify families in need of support during school holidays, now that the government scheme to supply school meals or equivalent vouchers to those entitled to free school meals during school holidays has ended. In addition we supply food to holiday play schemes, and homeless charities such as Catching Lives in Canterbury.

The food bank operates from a warehouse on the outskirts of Whitstable. It delivers about two-thirds of the food parcels by van or private car (we have recently acquired a second van, electric powered, under a KCC scheme to help charities purchase such vehicles), and about one third through our contact agencies. We have

more than 150 volunteers who support us by collecting food from our food bins in shops, supermarkets, play-groups, nurseries, schools and churches throughout the district, sorting it, packing parcels and delivering them.

We anticipate that 2023 will be another year of expansion for us as food and fuel price increases bear heavily on the poorest families, as wage rises particularly for the lowest-paid workers fail to keep pace with inflation, and as benefit increases next April will fail to raise the amounts paid above the lowest level for two decades.

Food banks, far from being a temporary solution to a temporary problem have become a necessity in order to help the poorest and most vulnerable families survive in our unequal society. We are always in need of support, whether through volunteering, food donations or money. The easiest way to contact us is through our website at: <https://canterburyfoodbank.org/donating/>. This gives details of how to make text, standing order, Paypal and credit card donations, and how to claim gift aid on them.

Peter Taylor-Gooby (OHSCA member, and CFB Trustee)

HEALTHCARE IN EAST KENT

If anything is more difficult to comment on constructively than the kaleidoscopic recent experience, nationally and locally, of the NHS, it is the NHS's immediate future. OHSCA HealthCare started in 2017 with a response to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan; with attempts to make impartial comments on plans for acute and specialist hospitals in East Kent (the Quinn offer); and with a then well-received guide to local emergency health services. It has proved difficult to keep this last item in touch with the Protean changes of the NHS; the East Kent hospitals question remains in Whitehall mists from which no early emergence is foreseeable; and although the STP is still occasionally mentioned, it is effectively now two gyrations of the NHS roundabout out of date.

In spite of difficulties, there has of course been a continued history of devoted service by NHS staff at all levels; the relocation of Canterbury Medical [General] Practice in OHSCA's area was satisfactorily achieved, and here as elsewhere the pandemic and related vaccination programmes have been effectively managed, on balance at least (arguably, the starting-point for criticism of the authorities' pandemic performance is their long-standing neglect of preparations for what was known to be a potentially catastrophic risk); staff shortages continue worsening; while the chain comprising failing care services, bed-blocking and ambulance delays, and the revelations about the East Kent Hospitals Maternity service – though apparently not unique nationally – defy moderate comment.



Some OHSCA members will recall previous NHS crises – consultants' pay during the inflation of the 1970s, even perhaps the dental charges controversy of the 1950s – but one may perhaps be forgiven for feeling that we are now seeing the closest the NHS has got to an existential crisis. But we must try to be positive, and we continue to glean what indications we can about the future of local medical and care services. Since mid-October, we have attended the talk given by retired consultant Richard Collins, to the Canterbury Society; 'attended' on-line the second 'meeting in public' of the Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board (the ICB, which replaced the previous NHS structure from 1 July 2022); and have been welcomed by staff and students at the new Kent & Medway Medical School's teaching facilities at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The ICB meeting gave evidence of wide interest and activity on both medical and care services (although County and Unitary Councils remain responsible for financing the latter – which is perhaps the key problem), but it was making preparations for substantial saving in the medical budget in the rest of the 2022/23 year (a deficit of £400K as of 1 November was mentioned). But they also referred to some further concentration of specialist vascular services at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital (namely, the consolidation of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm surgery there), which could be read as strengthening Canterbury's case for the eventual specialist/acute East Kent hospital. The way in which high-quality specialist staff have been retained at Canterbury in recent decades, making a sound foundation for Canterbury's case, was also a message from Richard Collins. And although it was always clear that the new Medical School is not reliant on a specialist Canterbury teaching hospital, it would no doubt be an advantageous co-location. The Medical School is not however going to solve the current East Kent staff shortage. Although its curriculum provides for early involvement in Kent general practices, which it is hoped may encourage local retention, the first graduates will not be independent GPs before 2030 – a date mentioned at the ICB, corroborated informally at the Medical School.

New Years are a time for hope: there remains much to hope for!

Denis Linfoot, convenor, OHSCA HealthCare monitoring group (OHC)

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2022–2023 and contacts list

Chair:	vacant (currently the Committee operates a rotating Chair)
Marion Bell	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Tel: 07713 025245: secretary@ohsca.org
Jane Pollok	Honorary 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
Lucy Fletcher-Jones	Website Coordinator/events bulletin alerts: website@ohsca.org
Lorraine Woodleigh	Committee Member

Weekly CCC planning bulletin *Tim Carlyle and David Orr*

Local History Group Chair LHG: *Derek Ray* forstal22@yahoo.co.uk 01227 464845. For information about Local History publications, email: history@ohsca.org – or go to OHSCA website: <https://www.ohsca.org/history.html>

Secretary LHG: *Michael Brain*: history@ohsca.org – 01227 767343

SEA convenor *Lorna Durrani*: social@ohsca.org (current members listed on p. 11)

OHC *David Kemsley, Alison Culverwell, Denis Linfoot* (convenor), *Dick Vane-Wright*

Newsletter distribution *Deirdre Hawkes*

Tree champion *Helly Langley*

Newsletter editors *Greta Ross* (Cotterrell): gretaohsca@gmail.com

Dick Vane-Wright: dickvanewright@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/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/environmental-problems/report-graffiti>

some OHSCA dates for your diary (more in Spring newsletter):

every Friday:	1 hour local walk (p.10)	22 March:	Coffee morning (p.10)
25 January:	Coffee morning (p.10)	29 April:	<i>tbc</i> – Bluebell Walk
13 February:	Games at the <i>Phoenix</i> (p.10)	24 May:	Yvonne Noble talk (p.10)
22 February:	Coffee morning (p.10)	26 June:	Lyn Innes talk (p.10)
22 February:	Peter Taylor-Gooby talk (p.10)	25 September:	April Doyle talk (p.10)
13 March:	Games at the <i>Phoenix</i> (p.10)	October:	<i>date tbc</i> – OHSCA AGM
14 March:	LHG at the <i>Phoenix</i> (p.10)	21 November:	Malcolm Andrews talk (p.10)

GREEN TEAM AND TREES

They say the weather always pays its debts. With a heat wave and a drought in 2022, followed by unending rain and then snow, we can only hope that things settle down. Despite the difficult weather we managed to plant up our beds with spring bulbs and refresh the planting – we'll see what needs to be done in February. Help would be greatly welcome.

The Royal Horticultural Society says that gardens made in odd patches of land are the essence of the *It's Your Neighbourhood* category. Thanks to Dave and Deirdre, their hard work has got us excellent results. Sadly, I can no longer do what I used to, and help is badly needed. Please make yourself known if you can help. Help with our street litter collecting efforts is also desperately needed.

Trees are still one of our priorities. Longport is at the top of the list and we would welcome any other suggestions. Sites may become apparent after the winter.

Sophie Scott, OHSCA Green Team lead

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES GROUP (SEA)

Monthly coffee mornings continue to take place every fourth Wednesday of the month in the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, St Margaret's Street, from 11.00–12.00. Future dates are 25 January, 22 February and 22 March 2023. More dates will be announced in the members' Spring newsletter.

Walks: The regular walk now takes place just once a week, on Friday, starting 9.30 sharp at the old main gates to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. These walks are open to all members and their friends.

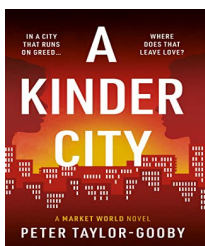
Special Walks: Two Natural History Walks will be organised in 2023.

Primroses on Bluebell Walk, 30 April 2022



Talks: Four talks were successfully held in 2022, including Francis Green on *Britain's Private School Problem and What to do about it* on 28 November, and Nigel Fletcher-Jones on *Ancient Egyptian Jewellery* on 6 December. Five talks have been planned in 2023: Wednesday 22 February 2023 Peter Taylor-Gooby, *The uses of fiction*; Wednesday 24 May 2023 Yvonne Noble, *Women writers of East Kent before Jane Austen*; Monday 26 June 2023 Lyn Innes, *The last prince of Bengal*; Monday 25 September 2023 April Doyle, *Hive*; and Tuesday 21 November 2023 Malcolm Andrews, *A Sweet View. The making of an English Idyll*.

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby, OBE, is Research Professor of Social Policy at the University of Kent, a Fellow of the British Academy, a Founding Academician at the Academy of Social Sciences and, previously, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sociology and Social Policy Section. He is a founder member of the Food Bank in Canterbury (see p. 7). Alongside his academic writing, he has written three fiction books: *A Kinder City*, *Ardent Justice*, and *The Baby Auction*. His talk on 22 February will focus on the relationship between non-fiction and fiction books. He writes:



Non-fiction books help us to understand and explain the world. Novels deal with creativity, passion and imagination. This talk is about the relationship between the two. I'm an academic who has moved away from social science to treat issues such as modern slavery, the climate emergency, community and what it means to be an individual in a market society through fiction. We all know that the choices we make and the way we live our lives are driven more by passion than by reason. Can imagination and empathy for others cast light on matters that are also studied in the cold world of knowledge? This talk uses examples including the contemporary fiction of Monica Ali, the historical novels of Maggie O'Farrell, the dystopian satire of George Orwell, and my recent *A Kinder City* to address these issues.

Pub Games at The Phoenix The first meeting at the Phoenix was held on 14 November and attracted 11 people playing mahjong and dominoes. In 2023 it will be held on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Phoenix, including 13 February and 13 March. Please note that this has been changed from the first Monday to the second Monday of the month. Members can watch out for the mailchimp reminders.

The Gardeners' Interest Group (GIG) held a Gardeners' Question Time on Sunday 3 April in Alison Culverwell's garden – also the venue for the Summer Little Lunch on 6 August. The annual picnic in the grounds of St Augustine's Abbey took place on 28 August. A successful Plant Share and informal social gathering was held on Saturday 28 May. Members were informed of local events and encouraged to make use of the network for sharing information and problems by contacting Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley or Sue Hodge.

At the AGM on 21 October 2022 SEA organised a social get-together with food and drinks before and after the meeting. At the time of writing, no final decision has been reached about a 2023 Spring Party – except that, if we do go ahead in March, it will not be in the traditional sit-down dinner form. Members on email can anticipate updates by ‘mailchimp’ – if interested but no email, contact the Hon Sec in February (details p. 9). We plan to hold a **Garage/Safari Sale** in the summer 2023. Further details in the New Year. It’s a good opportunity to think about de-cluttering and to start putting to one side what you want to sell.

SEA aims to organise a range of activities and events to bring the community together. If you wish to help or suggest activities, please email the Convenor, Lorna Durrani, on social@ohsca.org. The SEA sub-committee currently comprises:

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

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

OHSCA members are automatically members of the Local History Group, and are very welcome to attend any meetings or events. If you would like to join in and are new to the LHG, please let one of us have your email address so we can send you any relevant information (see below). Current LHG projects include a third edition of Remembering Dover Street, and a booklet to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Oaten Hill and District Society (OHDS – a precursor of OHSCA). The next meeting of the LHG will be on Tuesday 14 March, 2.30 pm, at The Phoenix public house, 67 Old Dover Road.

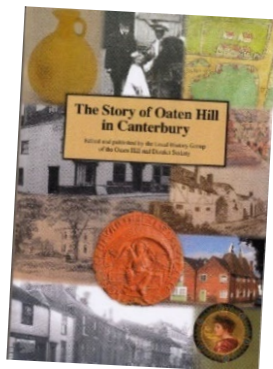
LHG books: special sale offer

Our publications are illustrated on our webpage www.ohsca.org/history.html. We are now offering a selection of four publications from the 1990s, *en bloc*, at £5.00 for the four books:

- *The Holmans of Canterbury* – the story of the historic firm which constructed the windmills of East Kent and beyond and whose iron works manufactured traction engines (remembered at Holmans Meadow Car Park)
- *The Pinnocks of Canterbury* – four generations of the family living through the changes in the City from the 1890s.
- *Wheels* – the memories of Kenneth Pinnock growing up in the City during the 1920s and 30s during the transition between horse- drawn and motor vehicles.
- *The Jubilee publication of the Oaten Hill and District Society* recording their environmental successes and achievements 1974–1999.

To purchase these books on offer, or any of our other publications and to receive details of, and to take part in, our activities, please email the Local History Group at history@ohsca.org (other contact details on p. 9).

Mike Brain and Derek Ray



LHG’s *The Story of Oaten Hill in Canterbury* won the Hayes Award in 2019
– “an annual award for the best work on Canterbury relating to history or archaeology”

Puzzle: what's the connection?

pains moan tearier
reign regalia chain
serial plane mail
also pure rabies

[Answer in members’ Spring Newsletter]

Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2023

First name and surname (of all those who wish to be included as Members within a single household)	email address, per person, if available

Please write your household postal address, with postcode and telephone number, here:

Please indicate your particular local concerns and interests. Can you offer us any help?

Email Please check we have your **up-to-date email addresses** as we will use these:

1. to email you with a weekly list of planning and tree applications and occasional news of our social events

2. to email OHSCA Newsletters unless you indicate that you prefer a paper copy by ticking here:

PAYMENT		
HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (one £5.00 payment per household)	£ 5	New Membership Please complete this form and send with Cash or Cheque , payable to Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association, to: Sophie Scott, OHSCA Membership Secretary, 27 Ersham Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AR. Email: sophie01@btinternet.com To arrange a standing order please contact your own bank quoting the Natwest account details given below, and give the first line of your address as the reference.
VOLUNTARY DONATION(S) TOWARDS: General funds: Trees: Plants:		
OUT OF AREA POSTAGE – £4 if required		
TOTAL PAYMENT:		

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
 If your details have not changed then there is no need to complete a form, simply send your payment by **Cash**, or **Cheque** payable to Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association, to the address above, or pay by **Bank Transfer** to **NatWest, Sort Code 60 04 27, Account Number 90612094.**

a) With cash or cheque please include your name and address
 b) With a bank transfer please specify **SUBS**, and if you are kindly adding a donation, put **G** for General funds, **T** for Trees, **P** for Plants, and state the amount given. *Please be sure to give the first line of your address as the reference.*

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The 2018 Act requires all **new OHSCA household members** and those **renewing** where one or more household members' names have changed, to give explicit consent for us to retain and use personal information as entered on this form.

Our Data Privacy Policy can be found on our website at <http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/privacy.pdf>. **Please tick the box below** to give OHSCA permission to use your information in the following ways:

To store it securely for membership and administrative purposes. To communicate with you as an OHSCA member.

To share it with the leaders of OHSCA special interest groups which you have joined.

To send you, if you have supplied one or more email addresses, emails via a trusted third party organisation.

I consent to my data being used for the purposes detailed and I have obtained similar consent from the other household members listed above.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please be advised that you can request for your data not to be used for any of these purposes at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary.