

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

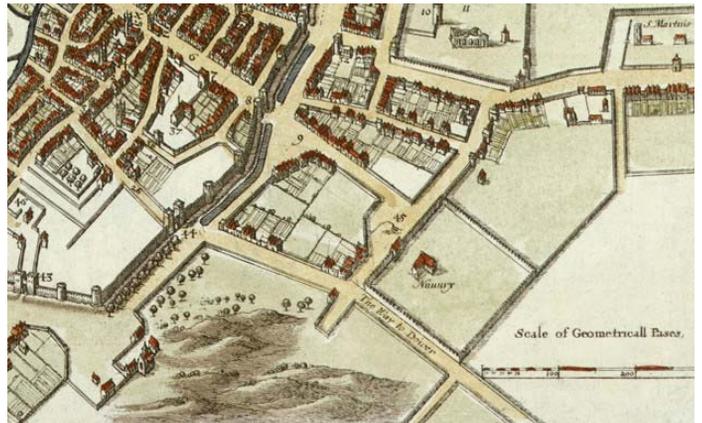


NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

No. 5

“Upwards, a little without Newingate, at Oaten-hill ... was that commodity of oats, sometimes vented; as at the same place before, salt was sold, whence it was called Salt-hill. It had a market crosse to it: for I reade of Crucem de Oat-hill. The place hath a crosse still, but it is ill marketting at it.” (William Somner, 1661, *The Most Accurate History of the Ancient City, and Famous Cathedral of Canterbury*. Richard Thrale, London, pages 148/9). **Now an even more accurate history is on its way!** (page 8)



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Oaten Hill today

OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed:	Towards 10,000 steps (p.4)	16th March:	Spring social event (p.8)
9 th Jan:	History Group meeting (p.8)	8 th May:	History Group meeting (p.8)
18 th Feb:	Gardening group (p.8)	28 th May:	Plant share (p.8)
13 th March:	History Group meeting (p.8)	10 th July:	History Group meeting (p.8)

. . . social events, people, trees, gardening, history, 1066, planning, hospital . . .

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR



First and foremost, a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all residents of Oaten Hill and South Canterbury! (If this newsletter has come through your letterbox it means you are in the OHSCA area.)

OHSCA was formed just over a year ago by amalgamation of the revered Oaten Hill & District Society with South Canterbury Residents Association. I think it fair to say that our first year has been a success. You can read about some of our campaigns and events below.

Success can only come about by hard work. OHSCA is run for the community by members of the community, and is an entirely voluntary organisation. So it is my very special pleasure to thank not only my fellow committee members for all their contributions over the past year, but all members and supporters for all they have done, their enthusiasm, their engagement and their association.

On page nine I note some local issues that have occupied our thoughts and actions this past year, and will almost certainly continue to do so in 2018.

*Dick Vane-Wright**
Chair, OHSCA

*Throughout this newsletter, contact details for all those marked with an asterisk can be found on p. 10.



OHSCA flower power at Milton Road (see page 7)

MEMBERSHIP

The New Year is in, and it's subscription time! Please renew your membership now by completing the back page and sending it with your subscription (cash or cheque) to me at 27

Ersham Rd, CT1 3AR. If you are not already a member, please do join the Association now – we are only as strong as our members. If you would like to set up a Standing Order, please contact me and I will send you the form.

We scrutinise all planning applications, run a Local History Group, have social events, plant trees and look after our mini-gardens and organise litterpicks. Members get a quarterly newsletter and, if they are on email, a weekly planning update. The subscription is £5 per household, but if you would like to contribute a little more, that would be very welcome. We would also very much like to know what you are interested in so we can make sure you don't miss out.

*Sophie Scott**
Membership Secretary

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

OHSCA needs additional volunteer input, notably help with setting up and running social activities (see p. 8), community gardening, good photography (of places, plants, people and events), support with evaluating planning applications, an editor, and (desperately needed) someone to keep the website up-to-date. We also need new faces co-opted to the main committee, as we anticipate several 'old hands' taking a rest at the end of this year. Meanwhile, the locum editor would like to draw attention to two special items in this issue:

Fred Whitmore is perhaps best known to many of us as one of the founder members of the Oaten Hill and District Society and, following his 'retirement' in 2007, as its Chair (2010–2015). This September he decided to step down from the committee of the newly amalgamated OHSCA. We are delighted Fred continues to live in the heart of our community, and that we are now able to publish a short tribute about him and his remarkable contributions to the life of Canterbury over more than 50 years (page 3).

The high mound in Dane John Gardens is a familiar sight. What is not always appreciated is that this mound was once part of the first Norman castle in Canterbury, built only weeks after the Battle of Hastings. Even less well understood is the fact that the now derelict Victorian school on the opposite side of the ring road stands astride part of the outer defences of that castle. Research by OHSCA member Chris Tucker weaves a story about the heritage to be lost forever if this site is totally destroyed (page 4–6), as developers currently propose (page 6).

An editor can only select, organise and publish material that has been submitted. So my most grateful thanks are due to all contributors to this Newsletter. And all Members are reminded that unsolicited submissions to "news and views" are always welcome.

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!

When Fred Whitemore arrived at the newly opened University of Kent in Autumn 1965, Canterbury gained a significant advocate for the City, and over many years an assiduous and skilled public representative with the patience and presence of mind to build alliances and to argue strongly for the policies he believed in.

Appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in Politics, specialising in the British Labour Movement, he immediately became the “Senior Member” for the newly formed University Labour Club and a key figure in the development of the Canterbury Labour Party.

Prior to 1965, Labour's electoral performance in the City had been dire. In all the 120 annual ward contests for the old County Borough between 1945 and 1965, Labour nominees had been elected on only 5 occasions. The local City Party was very small, and the Constituency Party almost moribund. However, the creation of the University began a long period of revival which transformed its membership and leadership, leading to outright control of the Council in 1972 with Labour candidates being elected for every seat.

In this long-term transformation of local politics, Fred Whitemore was key. In effect he created the local political leadership that had been lacking and brought sophisticated campaigning to the City. He wanted an end to the dominance of what he called the local shopocracy and a voice for the marginalised and forgotten families, many of them on housing waiting lists. Elected for the first time in 1972 in what was then Dane John Ward, he is the longest serving Labour Councillor in Canterbury

history, becoming at various times Deputy Leader and then Leader of the Labour Group, Chair of the Housing Committee, and Parliamentary Candidate in the 1992 General Election.

An early victory was the use of major 1940s prefab housing sites at Downs Road and Thanington for new social housing, in preference to the private housing that had been planned there by the outgoing Conservative Council.

Fred advocated the creation of the Northgate Community Centre to support one of the most deprived areas in the City, and was an early activist in the Scrine Foundation, a homeless persons Charity and the forerunner of what is now Porchlight. Becoming Lord Mayor of the wider Canterbury District in 2001 during the period of Lib Dem and Labour control of the Council, he immediately opened Tower House to the public, transforming it from being the Mayor's Parlour to a venue that could be used by all. During this period he pressed the Council to purchase the Ridlands Farm site with the objective of it being used for social housing – and this is part of the land that may now form the core of the proposed new hospital for Canterbury.

After losing his Council seat in 2007 Fred became one of the first lay members of the Cathedral Chapter, and was influential in opening job appointments to advertisement. He also became a Cathedral Guide and enjoyed imparting his deep knowledge of the history of the Cathedral to visitors. As an academic, Fred was a long-term supporter of students and well known for his supportive pastoral care, as well as being Chair of the University Politics Board for several years.

Fred Whitemore has had a significant impact on local politics and has influenced major policy developments in the City for nearly 50 years, as a Councillor, civic activist, community campaigner, and as a lay member of the Chapter.

Reg Race



Fred on holiday, France, 1996

WILLIAM CONQUERS CANTERBURY IN 1066

During OHSCA's campaign to save the mound under the former St Mary Bredin school from total obliteration by "developers" (page 6) the Normans have been much mentioned. However, as few seem aware of the part Canterbury had to play in the invasion we present a summary. In the process the author also proposes a new theory to explain the mystery of the "broken tower".

William of Poitiers, William Duke of Normandy's chaplain, wrote in the 1070s about the invasion of England but there is no evidence that he accompanied the Conqueror or that he had detailed knowledge of the geography of Kent. His description of the events was most likely gleaned second-hand from his master or from members of his household (see GJ Turner, 1912, "William the Conqueror's march to London in 1066").

Using his narrative and that of other contemporary writers it seems that after the Battle of Hastings (October 14th), fought in countryside 10km north-west of Hastings, the Norman army returned to base camp at Hastings and, after five days (according to Guy, Bishop of Amiens), then advanced to take control of Dover. There the army strengthened existing fortifications, possibly on the eastern or western heights whilst William languished with illness (*dysenteria*)



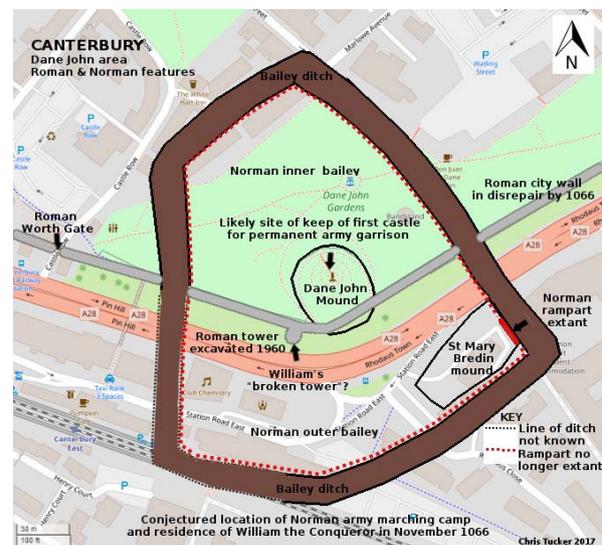
MOTTE BEING BUILT AT HASTINGS BEFORE THE BATTLE - Bayeux tapestry 45
[William orders building of a castle at Hastings in 1066](#)

William of Poitiers describes in four sentences the next part of William's march up the best road then available to London, the Roman road we know as Watling Street: "*Occurrunt ultro Cantuarii haud procul a Dovera, jurant fidelitatem, dant obsides. Contremuit etiam potens Metropolis metu, et, ne funditus caderet ullatenus resistendo, maturavit impetrare statum obediendo. Veniens postero die ad Fractam Turrim castra metatus est, quo in loco gravissima sui corporis valetudine animos familiarium pari conturbavit aegritudine. Volens autem publicum bonum, ne exercitus egestate rerum necessariorum laboraret, noluit indulgere sibi moras ibi agendo.*"

These few words have presented uncertainty to historians ever since as to where the army went when it left Dover. The Latin text indicates that outside Dover it met representatives from Canterbury "trembling in fear" at the threat that their city would be the next to be crushed, so to mitigate this they had brought hostages and swore loyalty to William. The Duke apparently continued forward and the "following day" (*postero die*) laid out his camp near a "broken tower" where he stayed for some days, possibly weeks, to recover, but then decided not to linger further in Canterbury as his army had insufficient basic necessities.

Turner suggested that the "broken tower" mentioned in the chronicle was at Sandwich, allowing for arrival in Canterbury the next day, but others have suggested the broken tower was some yet unknown Roman building beyond Canterbury on Watling Street, or perhaps another one mile west of Sittingbourne where foundations of a Roman building were found in the 19th century (Kent Archaeological Review Issues 156 and 157, 2004). It has also been stated that "the broken tower can hardly be far from Canterbury" (W Urry, 1959, "The Normans in Canterbury", Canterbury Historical & Archaeological Society). However it is proposed here that the circumstantial evidence points to the *Fractam Turrim* being at Canterbury itself. For this we need simply to imagine that William of Poitiers misunderstood slightly what he had heard and that the army camped near a "broken tower" the same day they left Dover, and not the next day. The following then all fits into place:

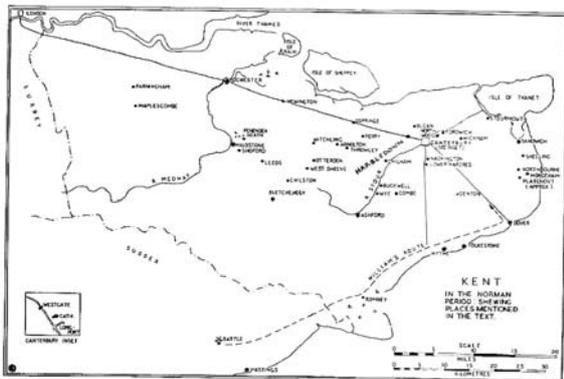
1. Canterbury is a normal day's march from Dover (24 km) so likely to be a convenient place for the main army to make camp after leaving Dover, especially as the city had just surrendered.



[Plan of area near Dane John mound, Canterbury, in 1066](#)

2. The army would normally dig a fortified marching camp wherever they stopped for the night and we now know from sporadic investigations over the past 100 years and most recently since 2014, that there are deep Norman defensive ditches (with a rampart) running around Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill and looping into Dane John Gardens through the city wall, enclosing Dane John mound (diagram lower left). The area enclosed is about 3.5 hectares – sufficient for a tented encampment for 2,500 men (one third of the estimated total Norman invasion force, but we know part had been sent west to secure Winchester).

3. Canterbury would have been a good place to commandeer food and water for the army, whilst William recuperated from his illness. Later in November the army moved on up Watling Street to take Rochester and thence to London where William was crowned on Christmas Day 1066.



[Map of Norman advance by WH Urry, from his Canterbury Historical & Archaeological Society booklet](#)

4. The Roman city wall around Canterbury, 600 years after the departure of the Romans, was probably visually much in need of repair on that day when the Normans arrived at Ridingate. Like many towns in the Roman Empire, Canterbury's walls were most likely completed with a crenellated parapet and defensive towers at intervals, internal and/or external. The foundations of three Roman stone towers have so far been excavated here, one being an internal tower, on display near the bus station, and an external tower was found beneath the later medieval tower still to be seen 61m south of St George's Street. However, most interestingly in this context, the robbed foundations of another Roman external wall tower were discovered in 1960, 10 m to the west of the medieval tower now adjacent to the Dane John mound (F Jenkins, 1982, in The Archaeology of Canterbury volume 2).

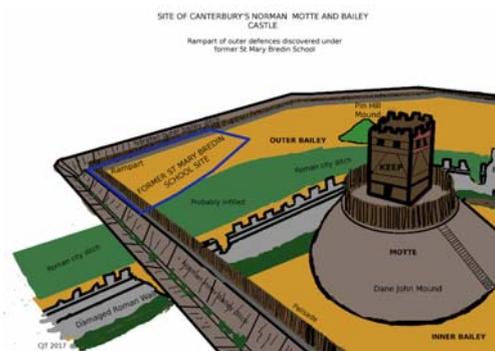
This Roman tower appears to have been horseshoe shaped, about 6m x 7m in floor area and, as can be seen from the plan on page 4, its location was conveniently near the centre of the

Norman ditched enclosure. It may well have looked "broken" in 1066, but this was a substantial building and could well have been used by William as a modest but secure place to live, surrounded by his army. Today in Canterbury the rectangular medieval Sudbury Tower (below), standing at 16 Pound Lane, has three floors containing architects' offices, yet it is smaller than the Roman tower suggested here as William's temporary quarters.



[Sudbury Tower, Canterbury, built ca 1375](#)

5. Although the Norman ditches would have been dug in a few hours by the army on that evening of their arrival in Canterbury, it may have been decided not to build a keep on the mound of Dane John at this stage. Perhaps when William and his army moved on to Rochester, at the end of November, the garrison remaining to protect the rear would have strengthened the fortifications, for example by deepening the ditch, building a palisade around its edge, remodelling the (Dane John) mound and building a "standard" timber keep on top as a strongpoint, to complete the motte and bailey castle (below). The castle bailey enclosures would have been gradually filled with ancillary timber buildings to support the army including stabling, kitchens, a chapel, barracks, stores, forges and workshops, and would thereafter have been the centre of the castle's economic activity.



[Sketch of Canterbury's motte and bailey castle circa 1066](#)

The second Canterbury castle, the stone fortress in Gas Street, though today much in need of repair, was completed around 1086, probably taking 10 years in its construction, but the facilities in the old timber castle bailey may have continued to support the new castle for some time. Eventually the district of the first castle reverted to farmland, with some of the castle ancillary buildings presumably moved to the stone castle's walled enclosure..

Perhaps it is now easier to understand the role that Canterbury played in that autumn of 1066 and why the remarkably well-preserved corner of the Norman fortification, including part of its rampart still surviving under the St Mary Bredin school, should be retained, landscaped in situ, and left for future citizens to appreciate, reminding them of a fascinating episode in our history (see also *Kentish Gazette*, 23rd November 2017).

*Chris Tucker**
December 2017

PLANNING REPORT AUTUMN 2017

In my fourth year dealing with planning, the committee has reviewed 112 planning applications and commented on 35, including 14 objections. At the time of writing, 18 decisions have supported our comments, 6 went against them, 10 were not applicable and 1 is undecided.

Although decisions against us were relatively few, they notably included loss of some valuable trees. Despite many objections, permission was given for building a house in place of the magnificent walnut tree at 20 Rochester Avenue, instead of planting a similar tree. At Camburgh House on New Dover Road, permission was given to remove one of the beautiful magnolias which are a feature of our area in the spring, instead of simply pruning it. We have been seeking an OHSCA tree champion to help our efforts to maintain and enhance the stock of trees in our area, and are very pleased to be welcoming Gill Gower in this role.

Much time and energy has gone into responding to proposals for commercially-operated student accommodation. At Rhodaus Town, Palamon Court has recently opened with 539 bedrooms, another site behind it has permission for 153 rooms, and an extension for a further 146 is proposed on the site of St Mary Bredin School. Despite this huge addition to the many students already using Augustine House and Petros Court, there has been no action following our calls for better pedestrian access, which needs an underpass under the Old Dover Road, or for cycle routes which are needed

towards the Christchurch campus and other parts of the town.

We challenge claims from developers that the new blocks will release student HMO houses for residential use. Weekly charges at Palamon Court are significantly more than a room in an HMO, and we have seen no evidence of it happening as yet. We question whether all this commercially-run accommodation will actually be taken up by students. There has already been one application to ease the restrictions for student use at Palamon Court. These blocks are not laid out as residential flats, and alternative uses would presumably be on the lines of hostels, for users as yet undefined.

In Cossington Road a proposal was put forward for a 45-room student block, without any parking or lay-by space. Cossington is a small residential road which already has many student HMOs. We opposed this development, and it has recently been refused.

Other trends we are engaged with include the provision, or not, of parking (such as at 7-9 and 2 & 2A Ethelbert Road), and excessive building heights (such as Palamon Court, originally proposed with 6 storeys and still enormous with 5), and the proposed 6 houses at 14 Ivy Lane (refused). The current pressure for making maximum use of building space needs to be treated with great discretion, or the historic character of our city and its conservation areas will quickly be destroyed.

Planning decisions affect us all, and we urge residents to respond to all applications that concern them. OHSCA e-mail alerts are often the only notification people receive, and we encourage everyone to join up for this service.

*Keith Rishworth**



Palamon Court looms over the City Wall as seen from Dane John. Note the very top of the old St Mary Bredin School at far right – another 5-storey block of studio flats would eliminate all the remaining skyline.

GREEN TEAM

We have had an extremely busy year in 2017. Since the last newsletter in August we have replanted one of the beds in St George's Garden by the cinema, having first refilled it with copious quantities of compost from St Martin's Church – thank you Dave and Deirdre for all your hard work. Thanks to the generosity of Heather Briggs we have transplanted more shrubs to the Lichfield Road bed. Mark Jones has kindly planted a replacement tree in the Fire Station beds. Deirdre and I have planted lots of lovely bulbs to cheer up the spring – starting with St George's Garden and progressing to all the other beds. A litterpick in the pathway from the East Station to Lansdowne Road collected more than 45 sacks of litter and weeds.

We entered St George's Garden, Milton Road and the Fire Station garden for South and South East in Bloom and all three were judged Thriving, thanks to the hard work of all. A nesting bird obviously agreed with this verdict – once the leaves fell we saw a bird's nest in one of the Turkish hazels by the cinema for the first time. We intend to enter again in 2018, so if you would like to get hands-on with one of these areas, please get in touch with me. We will be out pruning soon and a litterpick will be organised in March. Your support, whether you like plants, hate litter or want to contribute financially, is absolutely vital.

Trees



Watched by the Lady Mayoress and Huw Kyffin, the Lord Mayor prepares for the ceremonial tree planting at St Augustine's Road, 23rd November 2017

In November the Lord Mayor, Cllr Rosemary Doyle and Lady Mayoress Jenny Yonge planted two trees in Pilgrims Way near the junction with St Augustine's Road. These were funded jointly by donations from OHSCA members and SARA and we are most grateful for the generosity that made this possible. We are also most grateful to Kent County Council who have replaced or have agreed to replace five trees in our area this year – in Ersham Road, Lesley Avenue and George Roche Road. I'm sure that more trees make our area cleaner, greener and more interesting and if we receive enough in donations we will continue to plant trees. Please let me know if you have a spot in mind, or talk to Gill Gower.

*Sophie Scott**
Green Team Lead

SOCIAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITIES

The Social and Neighbourhood Activities Group (affectionately known as the SNAG), coordinates a range of regular activities and events aimed at connecting people in our area and promoting greater wellbeing and community feeling. Ongoing activities this year have included:



Weekly walking group – “towards 10,000 steps”. Departing at 9.30 sharp every Wednesday from the K&C hospital gates in Ethelbert Rd, this is a 1 hour walk, typically through orchards and neighbouring fields. We go at a moderate pace. All welcome – just turn up and go.

Equipment and tool lending library. This links OHSCA members who would like to borrow some equipment with those who have offered to lend items. Recent loans have included a floor polisher, plant shredder, tea urn and a bicycle! If you would like to offer items or to request something, please contact Claire Leggatt (Claire.Leggatt@gmail.com).

Gardening Interest Group (GIG). This is a network of some 40 gardeners who are enthusiasts rather than experts, although there is a range of expertise amongst members. Visits to members' gardens, attending specialist nurseries

or gardening events, seed swap, sharing information and skills, supporting community gardening projects, and a rose pruning and taking cuttings session, have all taken place this year. Two regular annual events occur: the plant share on the late May Bank Holiday and the produce and plant share in September.

Contact is principally via email so email addresses are shared between the group, and there is an OHSCA gardening group Facebook group. The next event will be on Sunday 18th February 2018, 4 pm at Sarah's house (33 South Canterbury Road) to discuss what members would like to do in the coming year. If you would like to join this group please contact: Sarah Perkins (Sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com) or Alison Culverwell*



Cakes, jams, books and decorations – almost ready for the Christmas Fayre, 2nd Dec.

OHSCA Recipe Book. A new recipe book includes favourite recipes from our members. This delightful collection spanning many levels of difficulty, different culinary heritages and from members young and not so young, is now published and available to purchase. Please contact Alison Culverwell for copies.

Events. Following on from the very well received film show of south Canterbury archival material by Tim Jones, the St Augustine's Abbey picnic, and a talk on local butterflies at the Kent and Canterbury Club by Dick Vane-Wright, we have recently held a Christmas Fayre at the Eastbridge Hospital. This was hugely successful and will enable us to expand our activities in 2018. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Our next event will be the Spring Social on Friday March 16th at the Kent and Canterbury Club (opposite the police station), 7 pm for hot buffet and quiz-orientated entertainment! Tickets are £25 each, which can be bought at the same time as paying membership subscriptions for 2018 (see last page), or by contacting Alison Culverwell* – ideally by mid February. The number of tickets is limited by room capacity.

Safari suppers and a strawberry tea are also in planning stages.

SNAG invites anyone interested in social activities to consider joining the committee – which meets about once a month. Even if unable to make such a commitment it would be very helpful to have your name if you would be willing to help with specific events. Please contact any of the individuals mentioned above, or Hazel Vane-Wright (hazelvanewright@btinternet.com)

Alison Culverwell*

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Woods Stores Video. The group has a VHS Video of Woods Stores with views of the amazing array of stored goods (many names now defunct) and interviews with Mr and Mrs Wood and with customers. This has been transferred to a computer memory stick and forms part of the Group's library.

Protection of St Mary Bredin School House and Mound. We support the submissions of OHSCA and CPRE urging retention of the schoolhouse and mound – the latter being integral to the remains of the Norman motte and bailey (see pages 4–6). Support for the OHSCA campaign has been sought from Rosie Duffield MP at a meeting arranged by the History Group.

Holman Meadow Story Board. Holmans were outstanding in windmill design and construction, and in the production of agricultural machinery (especially traction engines: see our booklet "The Holmans of Canterbury"). The siting of a story board setting out the history of what is now a car park is being discussed with Canterbury City Council.

The History of Oaten Hill. We are working on the history of St Sepulchre's Nunnery, Oaten Hill, Upper Chantry Lane, Cossington Road and Oaten Hill Place. Contributions from members who may have memories, information or photographs should be forwarded to David Potter (D.L.Potter@kent.ac.uk)

Corner Restaurant (ex Flying Horse PH). Information on local history is displayed in the restaurant, including a time-line of the former pub's history.

We continue to record oral histories of local people and welcome contributors.

We meet at 10.15 am at Kent and Canterbury Club. The meetings for 2018 will be on Jan 9th, Mar 13th, May 8th, Jul 10th, Sep 11th and Nov 13th. Please come along.

Visit our page of the Association's web site at www.ohsca.org/history.html to see details of (and to order) our publications.

Mike Brain, Chair Local History Group
Tel. 767343 or familymbrain@gmail.com

OHSCA HEALTHCARE

OHSCA has recently set up a healthcare subcommittee to try to keep track and make sense of the ever-changing rumours and plans (e.g. 'STP') affecting NHS, GP and social care provision in East Kent. Below is a summary of our current understanding.

We reported last January on OHSCA's interest in the NHS Transformation & Sustainability Plan (STP), particularly as it concerns hospital services in Canterbury, and we have followed this up in later Newsletters and on our website. OHSCA members have attended all the main STP-related events over the past year, including two rounds of 'Listening Events', a consultation meeting for voluntary groups, a 'One Year On' review of the STP's progress, hustings events during the General Election campaign, and the recent joint meeting of Clinical Commissioning Groups to decide on hospital services options; we have also attended several meetings of the Canterbury & District Public Reference Group on NHS services, which meets at Thanington. The terms of reference for our new subcommittee are:

"To build and maintain awareness of developments relating to the provision of healthcare for the people of Canterbury, with special reference to the OHSCA area, to hold a watching brief on behalf of OHSCA, gather relevant information, and to provide reports and recommendations to the OHSCA and ACRA committees." [ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents Associations.]

In some ways the situation began to clarify over the past year, but in others it has become more complicated – notably by a developer's offer to provide the 'shell' of a new hospital near the existing Kent & Canterbury (in return for planning consent to build 2,000 houses in our Association's Area), the joint universities bid for a medical school (possibly with an emphasis in general practice, psychiatry and geriatrics), and the anticipated joint relocation of three GP practices at the K&C site.

Now the STP's East Kent managers are proposing that either (after rigorous evaluation) acute, emergency and specialist hospital services should be concentrated at Ashford, other acute and emergency services at Margate, and elective hospital care in Canterbury, or that subject to as yet unspecified investigations, a new multi-purpose hospital based on the 'shell' offer should be located in Canterbury, with GP-led urgent treatment centres etc at Ashford and Margate; and as we write, the leader of KCC is demanding hospitals with full A&E services at all three locations. The medical school bid is widely seen as the salvation of Canterbury health services,

but it is premature to count on its success, or its local applied healthcare significance if successful – which of course we very much hope it will be. Watch this space for updates!

Denis Linfoot and Dick Vane-Wright**
December 2017

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

OHSCA devotes time and effort to scrutinising planning applications and sending responses – sometimes positive! – to the Council. Some say this is all a waste of time – "they always do what they want", "it's hopeless" are comment one gets. But if you look at Keith Rishworth's round-up (page 6), you will see reality is different. Notable refusals include Ivy Lane and Cossington Rd. Another notable "victory" sticks in my mind – when we *supported* the Council against BT's desire to destroy their office accommodation at Becket House in favour of yet more flats. Four OHSCA members attended an appeal over four days during July. At one point it looked as if the flamboyant barrister acting on behalf of BT was going to overwhelm the Council's less assertive brief. Even so, we were able to put forward many reasons why the development would be bad for Canterbury, harmful to the two adjoining conservation areas, and terrible for the immediate neighbours. The Inspector turned down BT's appeal against refusal. Perhaps we are deluding ourselves – but it felt like a great demonstration that real people, in person, putting forward sensible views, CAN be heard and DO make a difference.

Many pressing issues, from local to Kent-wide, will be addressed by OHSCA during 2018. One concerns medical services and the fate of the K&C (see page 7). Mountfield Park has been very quiet of late – but this will not last! Monies from that scheme are expected to contribute to improving the A2 as the major trunk route from Dover to serve the new £6 billion Lower Thames crossing. OHSCA is very active within ACRA, the Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations – which has a full current agenda including air quality, health services, antisocial behaviour and sustainable transport. More immediately in our area we have been invited by CCC to suggest road safety improvements – and we will continue to press about the awful neglect of The Hoystings, the Grade II listed building on Old Dover Road.

*Dick Vane-Wright**



OHSCA COMMITTEE 2017–2018

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Graham Wood, Lansdown Cottage, Lansdown Road, CT1 3JR	Tel: 472932
<i>Newsletter distribution</i> – Deirdre Hawkes, 40 Dover Street, CT1 3HQ	Tel: 454956

SOME OTHER CONTACTS

ROADS

KCC do not actively check for road damage. They rely heavily on the public to report potholes, fallen trees, blocked drains etc. To make a report go to the KCC website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> A photo can be helpful. You get a reference number so you can check later to see what is happening. This really brings results!

Much needed repainting of yellow lines and box junctions on the A28 is scheduled, but needs at least six weeks notice because the road has to be shut overnight.

The Stuppington Lane 'tanktrap' on the sharp corner is not a KCC problem. Partly metalled in the past and now much needed as a passing-place, two large pits have formed on either side. Contact CCC who own that land, or try contacting KCC Cllr Ida Linfield to see if she can help (07976 808647; Ida.Linfield@kent.gov.uk)

UNIVERSITY/COMMUNITY LIAISON

If you have a scheme or project with which university students might be willing or able to assist, or problems with noisy or inconsiderate neighbours and you think they are university students, you can contact:

UK Suzanne Ridley, Student Services, Keynes College, University of Kent, CT2 7NP
communityliaison@kent.ac.uk

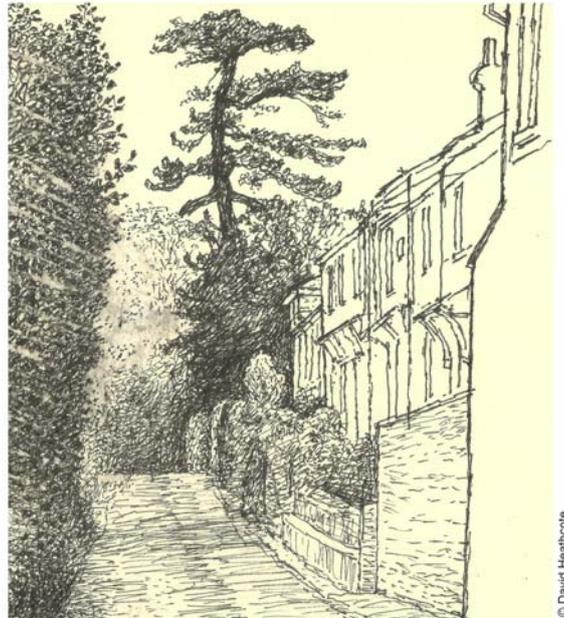
CCCU Community Liaison Manager, Canterbury Christ Church Uni., North Holmes Rd CT1 1QU;
community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

CCC Canterbury Community Safety Unit, 01227 862229
csu@canterbury.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

A W O N S P T X S D
T I I O T U O R R A
N S N S N D Y A E T
A H N E E D C A K E
S A M T S I R H C L
E N A U E N P O A U
K G S K R G L L R Y
O E A A P D E L C C
J L T U R K E Y V I
F S E L D N A C O W

There are 35, mostly very 'Christmassy' words to be found in this puzzle. Can you find them all? Answer in our Spring Newsletter. (Puzzle by Marion Bell.)



Puckle Lane by David Heathcote

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Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association (OHSCA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018

Annual subscription is £5 per household giving membership to up to four persons living at a specified address.

HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS :

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER :

FIRST NAMES AND SURNAMES of persons to be members of OHSCA - Contact Person first please	EMAIL ADDRESSES

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTERESTS / CONCERNS

New planting and maintenance of OHSCA beds	OHSCA (GIG) Gardening Interest Group	
Preservation of local trees and open spaces	OHSCA tree plantings	
OHSCA events e.g. social gatherings, walks, talks	Litter and graffiti cleaning	
OHSCA Local History Group	Local planning and heritage issues	
Environmental issues (air quality, transport etc.)	Licence monitoring	
Do you have particular skills you could offer the Association e.g. gardening, admin, legal, auditing, computing?		

NEWSLETTERS

A printed version of the Winter Newsletter is delivered to *all 2000* households in our area but only OHSCA members receive the Spring, Summer and Autumn newsletters.
For economy we would prefer to send these 3 editions in DIGITAL (pdf) form only using your email addresses.

But please tick this box *if you require a paper copy*

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

We will send weekly details about new Planning Applications to all those members who have given us their email address, you will also be informed by email about OHSCA events.

PAYMENT SECTION

HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£5
VOLUNTARY DONATION (Thank you!) Please specify towards: - General funds - Trees - Plants	
SPRING PARTY at Kent and Canterbury Club 7pm Friday 16th March 2018.....tickets at £25	
OUT OF AREA POSTAGE (£3 if required)	
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	

Please send this form with a cheque, payable to OHSCA or with cash to:

**Sophie Scott, OHSCA Membership Secretary,
27 Ersham Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AR.**

To arrange a Standing Order also contact the Membership Secretary

Phone **01227 456285**

Email sophie01@btinternet.com

Add £3 postage if you live OUT OF OHSCA AREA and require printed newsletters to be delivered.

Note on privacy: Your personal details will be stored on a database which is only accessible to authorised members of the OHSCA committee. Email addresses (only) are supplied to a trusted third party to manage bulk emailing to OHSCA members.