

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

No. 8



Autumn – why not enter our new photographic competition? (p.4)

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some OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed & Fri:	Weekly walking group (p.4)	1 st November:	Last day Photographs (p.4)
11 th October:	Drop-in OCB (p.4)	13 th November:	Local History Group (p.4)
12 th October:	Last day Nominations (p.6)	14 th November:	Drop-in OCB (p.4)
19 th October:	AGM (pp.5–8)	8 th December:	Xmas Fayre (p.4)
21 st October:	Gardeners Questions (p.4)	13 th December:	Drop-in OCB (p.4)

. . . local news, healthcare, HMOs, hedges, social events, local history, AGM . . .

FROM THE CHAIR

This is the last time I shall be writing “from the Chair”. In the Summer Newsletter I wrote about the future of OHSCA – and the challenge to find my successor. With some 300 households now having one or more Members, surely we can find a suitable person to come forward? The committee Nomination form is on page 6. The AGM Agenda is on page 5. Please note that, as announced on p. 6 of the Summer newsletter, the full text revisions proposed for the Constitution (Item 10 on the Agenda) are only available online, at <http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/Constitution-2018-AGM.pdf>.

Lack of space in this issue is a real pity as so much is currently going on affecting Canterbury. “Stop press” includes the announcement on preferred NHS stroke provision at William Harvey, growing doubts about the multi-storey Canterbury West car park, regret that the University of Kent now seems determined, after all, to build on its slopes, discussion about the idea of a third Canterbury railway station – and, on our patch, the McCarthy & Stone proposals for 35–41 New Dover Rd.

I was sad to see the recent local outbreak of offensive flyposting about Brexit – whatever one’s personal views on the very serious issues at stake, OHSCA could never condone such actions.

Dick Vane-Wright

OHSCA HEALTHCARE REPORT

OHSCA’s HealthCare group continues to be active, with members taking part in such events as the NHS consultation on stroke services; the NHS 60th anniversary Q & A session at Kent University; attending the bi-monthly Patients Representative Group meetings; arranging a lecture by Steve Inett (CEO of HealthWatch Kent); and most importantly, producing the guidance leaflet on Emergency Care: where to go, available to all OHSCA members.

For some 18 months, attention had mostly centred on the Kent & Medway NHS STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan), part of a nationwide drive to integrate primary and acute medical services and social care, involving both NHS and County Council staff and funding. Last autumn and spring, attention in East Kent had concentrated on the re-organisation of acute hospitals, producing an NHS proposal to locate acute and special services at Ashford, other acute services at Margate, and non-urgent care only at Canterbury.

By spring 2018 however, as a second option, NHS planners had included the developer Mark Quinn’s offer to give £100m for a new hospital structure adjacent to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, conditionally on receiving planning consent for an additional 2000 houses in south Canterbury. This raises important issues which have not yet been publicly addressed, but it is clear that several £100m’s more, which the NHS does not appear to have, would be needed, and the project would make Canterbury the main hospital site in East Kent, disadvantaging parts at least of the Ashford and Margate catchments. The NHS has now deferred formal public consultation on hospitals reconfiguration until early 2019.

It is difficult to guess what the public view over all of East Kent would be about the Quinn proposal and the related re-location of services. The Gazette on 2 August invited views about CHEK’s call for an immediate decision (and funding) for the proposal, but responses so far have not been overwhelming. There does seem to be some support from the medical profession (most vocally from retired members) for the creation of a big all-purpose centre at Canterbury, in which the new Kent & Medway Medical School would of course participate – though the Medical School was approved independently of reliance on local acute clinical resources. But money, timing and consents remain crucial issues.

In the meantime, signs of stress on the East Kent NHS increase. Waiting lists here for surgery are lengthening: 200 waiting over a year. And there had recently been suggestions of discontent with the STP process among the four Clinical Commissioning Groups, which control funding. Then two developments have emerged in early August: “Discharge from hospital” is to be reviewed, including “new models which use home as a default option in preparation for winter pressures”; and all four CCGs have been put into Special Measures, mainly (like the East Kent Hospitals Trust, which was already in Special Measures) for financial reasons, but also to achieve “more effective East Kent-wide working”, and to address service delivery times at the Hospitals.

We will continue to monitor the situation, and participate as and when we usefully can.

Denis Linfoot, 14th August 2018

[An extended version of this report is included in the digital, online version of this Newsletter, pp. 9–11.]

NEWS ON HMOs

OHSCA and SMRARA (St Michael’s Rd area association) have raised the issue of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) with CCC’s operational Higher and Further Education group. The issue has recently been raised again at a strategic HE/FE Community Working Group meeting, with respect to imminent changes in Council regulations.

Under new arrangements, where 5 or more unrelated people live in any property it will be classed as an HMO, requiring a licence and compliance with relevant CCC regulations. A key difference is that the property no longer has to be 3 storeys or more. The changes are mandatory from 1st October, and retrospective. A list of all properties so affected should be publicly available about six months after that date. These changes were not widely publicised, but Tricia Marshall, CCC’s Director of Resources, stated more publicity would be forthcoming, which has since happened.

At the meeting Pat Edwards also re-iterated John Bailey’s request from the operational group that HMOs be part of the action plan, and asked if CCC would consider requiring a register of HMOs in the category of 3 or more unrelated people – which were often of great concern for residents. It was confirmed that

where 3 or more unrelated people (students or working sharers) live in a property it is classed as an HMO and CCC's minimum bedroom size applies. These properties need a change of use to be altered from an ordinary family home but apparently none has been approved since April this year, under the Article 4 Directive. Tricia Marshall indicated these were matters that could be put on the agenda for a future meeting in early 2019 when the action plan comes up for review.

The Council is fully aware that the City now has more HMOs than needed, and the OHSCA Committee considers that it is time for the Council to be transparent about HMO numbers. Tricia Marshall should have precise information.

Pat Edwards, 19th September 2018

HEDGES

Cities need hedges as well as trees for the environment (Roger Harrabin BBC 2017)

What is a hedge? Here is one definition: "A fence or boundary formed by closely growing bushes or shrubs." Hedgerow is a term generally used to indicate a hedge in a rural setting, or one that is over 20 metres long. With the growing popularity of less formal gardening and increasing concern for wildlife, hedges and hedgerows are becoming more and more relevant to those living in urban settings.

When looking to protect a hedge in planning terms, dating a hedge can be both interesting and useful. A case close to my own heart is Puckle Lane, where we successfully defended the replacement of a mixed hedge with a fence at the junction with Nunnery Fields, and are in the process of doing the same at the other end, at its junction with Old Dover Road. The Lane appears in ancient maps and included in a Lane's definition is that it is bordered by hedges. In some areas, large numbers of hedges were planted as a result of the Enclosure Acts, the bulk of which were between 1760 and 1820. In some cases the hedge itself may be protected by the specific Enclosure Act.

Some hedges may be much older than this. You may have heard of a formula for dating hedges based on the number of tree and shrub species per unit length. This is known as the 'Hooper formula'. However, this formula must be used with caution. Hedges may have been planted with a mixture of species and there is geographical variation. In upland areas and the north of England hedge species are less diverse. There are also species of shrubs and herbs that are characteristic of old hedges or woodland, such as Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Wild service (*Sorbus torminalis*) or Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).

What is a hedge for? A good hedge has many benefits as a garden boundary, including *Shelter*, reducing wind strength better than a solid barrier; *Filter*, absorbing dust and noise. *Privacy*, as an effective visual screen; *Security*, a prickly hedge is a great deterrent; *Beauty* and interest from seasonal changes; *Background* texture and colour complement other plants; *Wildlife*, food and shelter for insects, birds

and mammals; *Weather-resistance* much better than fences; *Money-saving* compared with most fencing; and *Long-life*, hedges can last hundreds of years.

In addition a hedge can also: *Reduce* air and noise pollution from vehicles; *Improve* air quality and drainage (by preventing run-off); *Create* green corridors for wildlife; *Increase* pest control by giving natural predators a habitat to live and over-winter in; and *Enhance* mental wellbeing.

"IF YOU want a long-lasting boundary for the garden – one that looks natural, benefits wildlife and soaks up traffic noise, pollution and dust – a hedge scores head and shoulders over fences and walls." Alan Titchmarsh 2016.

You can find more information about hedges using these web links:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/parks-gardens-and-landscapes/hedges/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-39943197>

<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/garden/713944/Dream-Gardens-Alan-Titchmarsh-hedgerows-gardening-rennovations>
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/climate-and-sustainability/hedges-for-environmental-benefits.pdf>

Gill Gower, 2018

GREEN TEAM

St George's Garden, the Fire Station garden and Milton Road are at last recovering from the scorching summer weather. We will be planting bulbs soon for the spring and refreshing the planting. The mauve buddleia in Milton Road has been taken out to give the *Pyrus* room to grow.

South & South East in Bloom rated the Fire Station, St Georges and Milton Rd gardens all as "thriving", with the comment that we could do better by an improved internet presence and a QR point. The Green Team will be discussing these and other points raised.

We are going to plant a ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) outside the Police Station in October and we are hoping to plant at least one more tree in the winter. The area outside the Pizza Hut in the New Dover Road would greatly benefit from a lovely tree, and we have three other sites in mind as well.

Sophie Scott, Green Team Lead, with great thanks to Dave, Deirdre and all who have helped

GROWING CANTERBURY'S GREEN HERITAGE: INSPIRING THE FUTURE

This event, organised by Canterbury BID/ Canterbury in Bloom, takes place on Saturday 6th October, 09:30–16.00, at the Cathedral Lodge. Topics include greening the urban environment, the green heritage context in Canterbury, green walls, and the future. Questions from the floor will be very welcome. This is a brilliant opportunity for us all to talk to other people in Canterbury who are keen on growing a green city.

Tickets are £10.00, and available from BID (<https://www.canterburybid.co.uk/greenheritage/>)

Sophie Scott

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (SEA)

SEA aims to connect members and promote a better sense of community. The main social events since July have been:

Tapas on the terrace. .Postponed from July 29th due to heavy rain, the event went ahead the following week (5th August) with some 50 members enjoying a beautifully sunny afternoon. A fine array of tapas, wine and other goodies were shared. Many thanks to all those who helped to erect the gazebos, and to Francis Green and Alison Culverwell for hosting.

Plant and Produce Share. Sunday 19th August. Members shared excess produce and plants from their gardens and allotments; no-one went away empty handed. Many pots and containers were also on offer. We enjoyed coffee and cakes and a warm welcome from Janet and Jon Penton, our generous hosts.

St Augustine's Abbey picnic. On Saturday 25th August members met for the annual picnic in the grounds of the Abbey, to which all residents of CT1 and CT2 have free access.

New Event: Photographic competition

We invite all members to reach for their cameras/ phones and to submit up to 2 photos on the theme of "Autumn in Canterbury". There will be under 16 years and over 16 yrs categories, so please indicate this with your submission, which should be sent electronically to info@ohsca.org by 1st November. The winners will be showcased at the Christmas Fayre, together with a surprise prize. So do get snapping in October!

Walks

The weekly walking group continues every Wednesday and Friday, departing from the Kent & Canterbury hospital gate 09.30, returning *ca* 10.30. All are welcome, just turn up and go. We go at a moderate pace. Sturdy footwear suggested.

OHSCA Recipe Book

Created by OHSCA members, it includes favourite recipes representing varying degrees of complexity. A great gift – or just a window into your neighbours' culinary tastes! Copies at £6 from Alison Culverwell.

Gardening Interest Group (GIG)

The GIG is a network of some 50 individuals who enjoy gardens and gardening. The Group is informal and contact is principally by email or through the GIG (closed) facebook page. There were no organised activities since June other than the Produce and Plant Share, and a visit to David Kemsley's allotment on 16th September.

Sunday 21st October. *Gardeners Question Time*. 15.00–16.30, at the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, off Nackington Lane, near the rugby club. In addition to raising queries and sharing successes, we will plan the coming year's activities, so do bring your ideas.

If you are interested in joining or hearing more about GIG (free to all OHSCA members), or if you are already a member and would like to join the GIG Facebook, please contact facilitators Sarah Perkins or Alison Culverwell (via secretary@ohsca.org).

OHSCA Drop-Ins

These monthly informal sessions are now well established, offering all members the opportunity to meet committee members to express concerns/ interests, and hear what the committee has been up to on their behalf. Drop-ins are held once a month on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting 15.00, usually at the Old City Bar in Oaten Hill Place (back room, or garden). Future dates: Thursday 11th October; Wednesday 14th November; Thursday 13th December.

Xmas Fayre

Following last year's very successful event, we will hold another Xmas Fayre on Saturday 8th December, in the historic (if chilly) undercroft of Eastbridge Hospital, 11.00–14.00. We desperately need additional members to help with this event, including anyone willing to be a Father Christmas/ medieval character to draw in the crowds!

Tool & Equipment Lending Network: please see note by Claire Leggatt in Summer Newsletter (7), p.5.

Ideas for activities are always welcome, as are new members to join the sub-committee, and offers to help with specific events. If you would like to assist or get involved with SEA in any way, please contact me, or any individuals mentioned above.

Alison Culverwell

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

St Mary Bredin Schoolhouse and Mound. The Local History Group has agreed that we should try to protect the schoolhouse and Norman mound from any harmful development. A planning application for the construction of an additional block of student accommodation was refused by the City Council on 1st May. The developers have gone to appeal, which, if successful, will result in their loss.

However, we should continue to promote the retention of the building and the mound to the City Council because, if the appeal is dismissed, more imaginative alternative scenarios can be considered which are more in keeping with planning policies concerning air quality, massing around the ring road, the need for open space, and the protection of the conservation area in which the building stands.

Other LHG news. We are continuing to catalogue the many recordings of local people taken since the mid 1980s, and to make additional ones. The forthcoming book on Oaten Hill is in the final stages of preparation. A storyboard is in preparation on the history of Holmans Meadow car park (which is being re-designed).

Our bi-monthly meetings, held at the Kent & Canterbury Club in Old Dover Road, start at 10.15 am. The next meeting will be on Nov 13th. Please come along. Visit our page of the Association's web site at <http://www.ohsca.org/history.html> to see details of (and how to order) our publications.

Mike Brain, September 2018

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

AGM 2018

Friday 19th October, Kendall Hall, St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunnery Fields CT1 3JN
doors open from 7.00 pm; refreshments and informal discussion

AGENDA

To commence 7.30 pm, OHSCA Members only.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of AGM held 29th September 2017 (see pages 7–8, this Newsletter)
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report from the Chair
5. Annual report from Hon Treasurer
6. Approval of certified accounts for the financial year ending 31 August
7. Annual report from Membership Secretary
8. Receive annual reports from Special Interest Groups (History, Green, SEA, GIG)
9. Recommendation regarding annual subscription
10. Proposal for revisions to the Constitution (see page 6 of OHSCA Newsletter no. 7, July 2018, and <http://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/Constitution-2018-AGM.pdf>)
11. Nominations for Officers and Committee for 2018–2019 (see page 6, this Newsletter)
12. Elections for:
 - o Chair
 - o Vice Chair(s)
 - o Hon Treasurer
 - o Hon Secretary
 - o Membership Secretary
 - o Committee Members
 - o Appointment of suitably qualified person to certify the accounts at the end of the ensuing year (this person shall not be a member of the outgoing and/or incoming Committee)
13. Other business (which must be notified in writing in advance – see page 6)
14. End of formal meeting (approx. 8.15 pm)

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS and informal discussion continued

At approximately 8.30–9.15, open to all residents and guests:

People and Places in Late Medieval Ridingate Ward

A presentation by **Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh**. This short talk will introduce you to some of the people who lived in the ward during the late Middle Ages, including which trades were practised, whether they cared for their parish church, and what they may have done in their spare time. Dr Sweetinburgh is a Principal Research Fellow at Canterbury Christ Church University, and Associate Lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at University of Kent.

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

Officers and Committee Nomination form for 2019

For the Committee, Nominees, Proposers and Seconders must be paid-up Members of OHSCA. Nomination forms should be received not later than Friday 12th October. Signed nomination forms need to be posted or delivered by hand to the OHSCA Secretary, 13 Wells Avenue, Canterbury CT13YB. One copy of the form is required for each nomination. If you need copies, please print from the website (www.ohsca.org), photocopy this page, or contact the Hon Secretary by telephone or email (07713 025245; secretary@ohsca.org). If you are unable to deliver your nomination before 12th October, please advise the Hon Secretary of your intentions as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in finding a seconder for a Nomination please contact any member of the Committee via the Secretary, or direct if you know them personally.

A call is also made here for items to be included on the Agenda under 11: Other Business. Such items must be duly proposed and seconded (with addresses), and signed. This can include Resolutions. Proposals for Items to be included on the Agenda should be sent on paper to the Hon Secretary, and must also be received by 12th October at the latest.

OHSCA: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2018-2019

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE (caps)

.....

Nominated for (please circle one): Chair
 Vice Chair
 Hon. Treasurer
 Hon. Secretary
 Membership Secretary
 Committee Member

PROPOSED by (caps)

.....

Signature

.....

SECONDED by (caps)

.....

Signature

.....

MINUTES OF 1st OHSCA AGM

Friday 29th September 2017

Kendall Hall, St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunnery Fields

Present: a list of those in attendance is filed with these Minutes.

Dick Vane-Wright, OHSCA Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1. Apologies

Cliff Arter, Eileen Bassett, Heather and Chris Briggs, Mr and Mrs Coare, Brian and Yvonne Dale, Tom and Kathryn Dobrashian, Lorna Durrani, Pat Edwards, Jane Farrell, Gill Gower, Helly Langley, Pete Scott, Peter Styles, James Slocombe, Fred Whitemore

2. Minutes of Foundation Meeting held 29th November 2016

These were agreed without amendment and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Annual Report from the Chair (copy filed with these Minutes)

Dick Vane-Wright spoke of a very busy year dealing with local issues including the Local Plan, the future of the Hospital and health services, planning and the preparation of 4 newsletters and he thanked all the Committee members for their hours of hard work and dedication. He spoke about our successes and our involvement in the pilot scheme to monitor air quality in and around the City. He thanked the many OHSCA members who help on sub-committees and with litter clearing, gardening, organising social events, newsletter distribution, etc. He gave special thanks to Local History Group archivist Marion Heath for the creating the splendid "then and now" visual display of local streets and buildings.

He read out the position OHSCA has taken with regard to the proposed Hospital shell and announced the forming of a new sub-committee OHSCA Health Watch to concentrate on the hospital and health services in Canterbury and East Kent.

Dick paid a special tribute to Fred Whitemore, a long-standing member of OHSCA both as past Chair and Committee member and he will arrange a suitable gift to be presented to Fred on his return to Canterbury.

5. Annual Report from the Treasurer (copy of Accounts filed with these Minutes)

Treasurer Alison Culverwell presented the 2016–2017 Accounts which had been approved by Alistair Scott. She explained that with 2 winding up meetings and 1 Foundation Meeting, the increased costs of printing and IT during 2016–2017, OHSCA just about broke even.

6. Approval of certified Accounts for the financial year ending 31st August 2017

The Accounts were agreed and signed by the Chair – a signed copy is filed with these Minutes.

7. Annual Report from Membership Secretary

Sophie Scott explained that, with the merger of OHDS and SCRA, the membership had risen to 304 households. She thanked members for their continued support and encouraged them to ask their neighbours to join.

8. Annual Reports from Special Interest Groups

Local History Group (LHG Chair's full report filed with these Minutes) – Mike Brain told the meeting that the Group were actively campaigning to save the St Mary Bredin School Building on the ring road, seeking to protect the future of the Woods Stores artefacts currently stored at the Canterbury Heritage Museum, working on a new publication centred on Oaten Hill and continuing to collect oral histories. The LHG were also considering installing a history board in Holman's Meadow Car Park.

Green Team – Sophie Scott reported a busy year planting bulbs, flowers and trees, maintaining the raised beds at St George's and Fire Station and creating new beds in Milton Road. The Team entered all the gardens in the "South and South East In Bloom Competition" and were awarded "Thriving" certificates for all. She thanked all her helpers for their gardening efforts.

GIG – there are now 40 members in the Gardening Activity Group and they have their own Facebook page. They visit each other's gardens, offer advice and support and run a Tool and Equipment Lending Library.

SNAG – Alison Culverwell reported a year of social events which included Picnic in St Augustine's, Archive Film Show, 2 Plant swaps, Tapas on the Terrace. The group has published a Recipe Book and a Christmas Fayre is planned for 2/12/17 at Eastbridge Hospital. Many members at the AGM said they would support a Spring Party/Meal.

9. Recommendation regarding annual subscription

Alison Culverwell recommended that the OHSCA annual subscription remain at £5 per household.

10. Proposal for revisions to the Constitution

a) Following discussion with Barton RA, it was unanimously agreed to include Churchill Road in the OHSCA area.

b) Standing Orders: 3 Membership, 3.2: it was unanimously agreed to change the word "misconduct" to "conduct".

11. Nominations for Officers and Committee 2017-2018

The nomination papers for 14 applicants are filed with these Minutes.

12. Elections for Committee members 2017–2018

The following were unanimously elected to form the next OHSCA Committee

Chair – Dick Vane-Wright

Vice Chairs – Tim Carlyle and David Kemsley

Hon Treasurer – Jeff Derham

Hon Secretary – Marion Bell

Committee Members: Alison Culverwell, Pat Edwards, Gill Gower, Helly Langley, Denis Linfoot, Keith Rishworth, Sophie Scott, Chris Tucker, Graham Wood.

13 Other Business (proposed in advance by Sophie Scott)

Graffiti: DVW informed the meeting that member Cathy Sales had obtained a licence from Network Rail to clean graffiti from the 3 railway bridges S Canterbury. In order to carry out this work, she required funds totalling around £3000. A long debate about the extent of OHSCA's involvement ensued. There were photos of the graffitied bridges and of Pilgrims Way bridge which has been successfully cleaned and treated. The majority of members felt that such work was the responsibility of Network Rail and that we should not set a precedent by tackling these issues. Nick Eden-Green suggested we lobby KCC and CCC on the removal of graffiti in

underpasses and walkways, especially as the Council is so keen for everyone to walk in the City. Cathy stated that the graffiti is often gang-related with tags indicating where drug dealing takes place. OHSCA will discuss the possibility of liaising with the Police over this issue at the next Committee meeting.

A vote was taken whether OHSCA funds should be used to support Cathy in cleaning graffiti from, initially, one railway bridge and the majority voted against.

14. End of formal meeting

David Kemsley gave thanks on behalf of the Committee and members to Dick for all his hard work and dedication to steer OHSCA through its very successful first year.

Regrettably, there remained insufficient time for refreshments and Dick's illustrated talk on Kentish Butterflies. The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

2018 OHSCA COMMITTEE and contacts list

Dick Vane-Wright	Chair/Planning/OHC/Newsletter	chair@ohsca.org
Tim Carlyle	joint Vice-Chair/Planning	planning@ohsca.org
David Kemsley	joint Vice-Chair/OHC/ACRA and SCA rep.	vicechairdk@ohsca.org
Marion Bell	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA contact 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Telephone 07713 025245	secretary@ohsca.org
Jeff Derham	Hon. Treasurer	treasurer@ohsca.org
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Telephone 01227 456285	membership@ohsca.org
Alison Culverwell	Committee member/Social Events and Activities (SEA) rep.	
Pat Edwards	Committee member/OHC/Planning	
Gill Gower	Committee member/Tree Champion	trees@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee member/OHC/Planning	
Denis Linfoot	Committee member/OHC	
Chris Tucker	Committee member/IT/Planning bulletins	info@ohsca.org
Graham Wood	Committee member/Local History Group rep. For information about OHSCA Local History publications telephone 01227 472932 or see our webpage:	http://www.ohsca.org/history.html
Newsletter distribution	Deirdre Hawkes	Telephone 01227 454956
Chair Local History Group	Mike Brain	history@ohsca.org
Events bulletins	Karen Thomsett	

ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations

SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance

OHC = OHSCA Health Care subcommittee

OHSCA website <http://www.ohsca.org/>

HEALTHCARE IN EAST KENT – A PERSPECTIVE



Is East Kent on the path to integration of Primary Care, Acute Care and Social Care?

Since the public consultation on proposals for acute stroke services was begun in Spring 2018, official sources on the Kent & Medway STP ['Sustainability & Transformation Plan'] as such have largely dried up, but there has been quite a lot of recent news about various related health and social care matters in East Kent. This note aims at meaningful comment on some at least of these issues, about which members may be interested.

First, we must mention the OHSCA leaflet 'Emergency Care: are you confused where to go?', available on our website and deservedly popular; we think it's the sort of thing some organ of the NHS ought to be producing, but in the meantime we will maintain and update it to the best of our ability.

Regarding primary medical care, OHSCA's Chair has continued attending the alternate-monthly Canterbury Public Reference Group [PRO], which brings together patient representatives from General Practices over the whole District. This group has had some difficulties in identifying its role, but seems now to be achieving greater clarity. An important member is Steve Inett, the CEO of HealthWatch Kent, to whom we are indebted for his insightful lecture to us earlier this summer, and who takes part in many pan-NHS events locally, such as the 70th NHS Anniversary Q & A event at Kent University on 12 July.

At that Anniversary event on 12 July, Professor Sir Nick Black, of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said that after the Lansley NHS 'reforms' of a few years ago, another reorganisation at present would be more than the NHS could stand, but that there is quite a lot of change going on at local level, partly in order to see what would work better before adopting it more

formally. There is some anecdotal evidence that this is happening: for example at the September PRO meeting, we heard that an East Kent Frailty Steering Group is fostering some linked programmes to keep people healthy (especially before they become 'frail'), notably in the area of the 'Encompass' group of practices, where both Age UK and the Red Zebra organisation have been commissioned by the CCGs for specific projects; but the complexity of the participating organisations' relationships in such activities, and the incomplete glimpses we get of them, make it difficult for observers to offer any constructive general comment.

It does appear however that there are some signs of discontent in the Kent NHS's Clinical Commissioning Groups [CCGs] about progress with the Kent & Medway STP (which the CCGs finance, and 'own'). The STPs, nationwide, were intended to integrate Primary Care, Acute Care and Social Care, which are or should be interdependent, and it was especially concern about our Social Care, which is mainly funded by KCC, and which is vital in containing the overload on Acute Care, which prompted OHSCA's Chair to write to the CEO of the STP as long ago as January 2017, questioning the prospects for the STP's realisation.

Relating to the overload on Acute Care, in August we learned first, that "The NHS in East Kent is reviewing current practices around discharge from hospital in order to improve patient outcomes, experience and efficiency. New models of discharge which use home as a default option in preparation for winter pressures and in line with meeting national targets"; then only the next day, we were told that all four East Kent CCGs have been placed in Special Measures. This was automatic for three of them, which had deficits ranging between £7m and £13m in 2017/18. The other, Thanet CCG, broke even financially but was put in Special Measures anyway, the East Kent Hospitals Trust being in financial Special Measures already; so that "the whole system can move ahead together" – as there are care quality as well as financial concerns. We are told that "The challenges that we need to address are: The financial position of the CCGs in East Kent; Delivery of constitutional standards at East Kent Hospitals Trust (such as A&E waiting times, cancer waits, 18-week waits); and The need for more effective East Kent-wide working." The officer who has been CEO of the Kent & Medway STP since we first heard of it in autumn 2016, Glenn Douglas, is now also Accountable Officer for all four CCGs. This sounds like a big, not to say daunting remit, but Mr Douglas is confident: a lot can be done, he says, before decisions can be taken on the reconfiguration of emergency and specialist services; that is, on the future of the acute hospitals in East Kent, on which public consultation is not now expected until next year. And it is evident that although the CCGs have legally separate responsibilities, they and EKHUFT (the Hospitals Trust) are working jointly on overarching matters of policy and delivery.

Until these latest developments, the main if rather intermittent focus of public attention had remained on the Acute Services and the Kent and Medway hospital reorganisation. Then there was a formal public consultation in Spring 2018 on the concentration of acute stroke services, including the creation of three hyper-acute stroke centres in Kent and Medway (only one of them to be in East Kent). Subsequently there was a big press release about the exhaustive analysis of the consultation process, but we had the impression then that it was impossible for any decision to be reached until the acute hospitals configuration in East Kent is settled.

(It may be recalled that the CCGs, through the STP process, by the end of 2017 were apparently ready to offer only one hospitals option for East Kent (briefly: an acute hospital with specialist services at Ashford, a second acute hospital at Margate, and booked secondary services only at Canterbury), but in Autumn 2017 (see especially the Kentish Gazette and BBC in November 2017) Mark Quinn offered to provide the 'shell' of an acute hospital (for the NHS), to adjoin the existing Kent & Canterbury Hospital, on condition of receiving planning consent (from Canterbury City Council, of course) for his organisation to build an additional 2000 houses in south Canterbury (which would be on land not zoned for housing in the latest Local Plan). The figure for the 'shell' is put at £100m, and the costs of completing and commissioning (mainly services and equipment), are unofficially assumed to be some £250m – which (or whatever the real, i.e. higher, figure would be) the NHS would have to find, but currently has not got.)

However, as announced in mid-September (2018), the CCGs have now taken an important though not final step towards locating the sole East Kent hyper-acute stroke centre at the William Harvey Hospital. This is now 'the preferred option', and subject to business-case evaluation and completion of an assurance process, it will be presented to the CCGs jointly in December or January for ratification, irrespective of the acute services configuration issue. It is explained that if a big new Canterbury specialist and acute hospital were to be provided, superseding the Ashford/Margate option summarised in the foregoing paragraph, the hyper-acute stroke service would have to be re-located from Ashford to the new Canterbury hospital along with other specialist and acute services – but this Canterbury hospital option would take a number of years to decide and implement, and action on setting up the hyper-acute stroke service cannot be delayed. Since the reorganisation of the stroke service will involve relocation of a lot of specialist staff, not to mention an officially-estimated £36m investment at the William Harvey Hospital, it may be thought that those concerned would not be eager to re-locate again to Canterbury.

Notwithstanding all this, the four East Kent CCGs are still jointly evaluating their two acute hospital options: specialist and acute services at Ashford, acute at Margate, booked services at Canterbury; or specialist and acute services at a new, part-Quinn-sponsored hospital at Canterbury, with only non-acute services at Ashford and Margate; and we were told earlier in the summer not to expect formal public consultation on the result of their evaluation until after New Year 2019. It is probably pointless to second-guess the CCGs' position (especially as they don't admit having made even a first guess yet), but there seems no reason to believe that the NHS nationally could find the necessary £250m, or possibly much more, to supplement the Quinn £100m; while the complexity of the multi-party arrangements needed to realise the contingent requirements of Mark Quinn's offer (the various collateral guarantees, and notably the relationship with the City Council's planning/housing consent process) does not suggest that the project would be easy to organise. On the other hand, there had been considerable quasi-political pressure in favour of the Quinn scheme earlier this year, and while the Kentish Gazette's lengthy report on 2 August about CHEK's new campaign démarche to get ministerial approval for the additional capital funding got only a very muted response to its invitation for comments, the campaign may recover once the summer is over.

(One should perhaps mention here that the Kent & Medway Medical School project, approved in Spring 2018 and greatly welcomed by all, is expected to have an important beneficial effect on all medical services in this area. The medical school had been promoted by some as ensuring the rescue of acute services at the Kent & Canterbury. However, the Canterbury-based universities have never encouraged this interpretation, and have made it clear that the proposed pattern of clinical training depends on hospitals and other clinical facilities throughout Kent and Medway, not specifically at any Canterbury hospital.)

Of course we share CHEK's desire for the best possible hospital services in Canterbury and throughout East Kent. We must admire their drive and enthusiasm, and a flagship hospital scheme is an ideal project on which to focus public aspirations. However the STP project, whatever its difficulties and failings, began as an attempt at a comprehensive view of the medical and social care services in Kent and Medway, and we should perhaps all be dedicated to identifying the services we would like to have here, and how they fit with primary and community support services, and then testing those aspirations against compatibility with services in East Kent – and last but certainly not least, clinical manpower availability and best clinical practice.

And finally: it is pretty clear that whatever hospital options the CCGs are agonising over, and whatever admirable efforts are being made to keep the frail (none of us, surely? but we might be 'pre-frail') happy and healthy, the hospitals are going to be under great pressure once again this winter. We aren't in the business of offering medical advice to anyone – but may we endorse the advice of those who are: if you qualify for a flu jab, get it done!

Denis Linfoot (4th August 2018, revised 13th August and 19th September)

A MESSAGE FROM TIM JONES

Hello, I thought you might be interested to hear about my archive film screenings taking place this academic year. Here are the dates for your diaries:

My most recent screening, No.13, so far only shown once, will be repeated on Saturday 27 October 2018 at 2 pm. It features all newly discovered amateur material, much of which hasn't been shown publicly for 60 years or more. In addition to footage of Canterbury, clips from across East Kent are included.

I am also repeating Screening No.8 which was originally shown in 2015. This will take place on Saturday 2 March 2019 at 2pm and features some great amateur film of Canterbury between the 1930s and 1980s.

The screening on Saturday 30 March 2019 at 2pm focuses on the Hollywood-style silent films starring Count Zborowski, originally shot in 1924 by Sydney Bligh. These were never really 'finished.' I have had a go at completing them. I've edited them together, added inter-titles and had music composed. The final result, *The Map*, will be screened along with my documentary, *Seeking Sydney*, which focuses on amateur filmmaker, Sydney Bligh.

Finally, my new screening No.14 will take place on Saturday 27 April 2019 at 2pm, repeated at the same time on Saturday 18 May 2019. I am still collecting the film together for this. I have recently come across some lovely Canterbury footage from the 1930s. This will feature alongside film from around East Kent.

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased online at:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture/word/word-event-listing.aspx>

Tickets are also available on the door.

The screenings will take place in theatre Pg09 in the Powell Building at the North Holmes Road Campus, as usual.

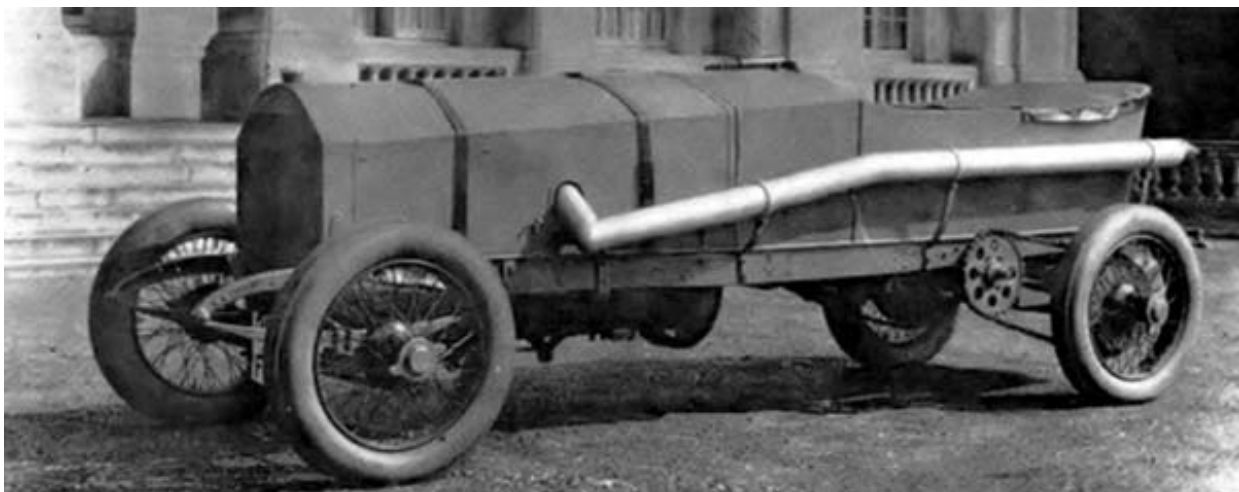
See <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us/find-us/canterbury.aspx> for directions.

Very limited parking is available on the North Holmes Road Campus on a first come first served basis.

By the way have you discovered my website yet? **Canterbury Amateur Film Archive** is well worth a look. Here you can see some of the best clips from my screenings. Here's the link:

<https://blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/cafa/>

Tim Jones, CCCU, 22nd September 2018



. . . . a Count Zborowski racing car(https://myvintage.co.nz/chitty-bang-bang-the-story-of-the-original-monster/)



The pleasures of gardening – do sign up for Gardeners Question Time, 21st October (page 4)



Expect to hear more soon on the fate of the low mound on which the former St Mary Bredin School sits, and from where this picture was taken (see LHG page 4). The low mound is a unique remnant of the outer bailey of the early Norman fortification which also likely incorporated the Dane John mound, shown in the photo, as its motte. A few metres to the west of this late medieval tower was an earlier Roman tower, and that may have been the 'broken tower' where William recovered from illness in 1066 before marching on London.