

# OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

No. 9

**With very best wishes  
for the New Year!  
from Oaten Hill and  
South Canterbury  
Association**

Receiving this newsletter does not mean you are automatically an OHSCA member. New members are always welcome.

Membership (currently £5 per household) enables us to be the effective voice for our local area, and also brings personal benefits. A membership form is on the last page, and also at: <http://www.ohsca.org/join.html>.

The aim of the Association is to support and improve the quality of life of our community. OHSCA is very active, as the list on page 10 shows. Our Constitution can be found at: <http://www.ohsca.org/constitution.html>.



Canterbury Cathedral War Horse (*Canterbury College / Clive Soord*) photographed by Janet Penton – winner of our first Photographic Competition (see page 9)

The display ends on 6<sup>th</sup> January – so last chance to see!

Do you have a resident Cathedral Precincts Pass?

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/precincts-pass.pdf>

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## some OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed & Fri: Weekly walking groups (p.9)  
 8<sup>th</sup> January: Local History Group (p.8)  
 9<sup>th</sup> January: Drop-in OCB (p.9)  
 28<sup>th</sup> January: LHG new book launch (p.8)  
 14<sup>th</sup> February: Drop-in OCB (p.9)  
 1<sup>st</sup> March: Spring Event (supper etc: p.9)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Litterpick (p.4)  
 12<sup>th</sup> March: Local History Group (p.8)

13<sup>th</sup> March: Drop-in OCB (p.9)  
 April (date tbc): Litterpick (p.4)  
 7<sup>th</sup> April: Gardeners' Question Time (p.9)  
 5<sup>th</sup> May: Bluebell Walk (p.9)  
 27<sup>th</sup> May: Plant Share (p.9)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Butterfly Walk (p.9)  
 28<sup>th</sup> July: Summer Event (lunch etc: p.9)  
 1<sup>st</sup> September: St Augustine's Picnic (p.9)  
 8<sup>th</sup> September: Produce Share (p.9)  
 18<sup>th</sup> October: OHSCA Annual General Meeting

## FROM THE CHAIR

As I write we have just held our second Christmas Fayre at the High Street Eastbridge Hospital, which was another success, and for it we produced a summary of what OHSCA does in a year. Looking over the list – which is printed on page 10 in this Newsletter – we were all impressed by the range and quality of our activities, and I for one can say I am proud of our achievements. More of this later.

Looking back over the last year, and particularly since the AGM in September, we have some changes in the Committee: as noted in the planning report, Keith Rishworth stepped down from his committee role as planning member halfway through the year, needing respite from the work load, and Dick Vane-Wright pleaded the same extenuation. Keith gave valuable service in scrutinising our areas planning applications, and Dick's capable and conscientious work over two years as Chair of the new association established a firm basis, and our sincere thanks go to both. We warmly welcome two new committee members – Tim Chancellor and Jenny MacDonald.

As you may well know, there was no candidate for the Chair position this year, so it was agreed by all that we would operate a rotating chair system, which seems to be going well, so far, fingers crossed. We are actively looking for new committee members, and repeat our invitation to all, as noted at the AGM, to find out if you could help – you are most welcome to attend a committee meeting as an observer, or get stuck in to assisting organisation of activities.

Our summary of activities is a rich mix of the entertaining, the fulfilling and the useful, and many thanks to all those who organise them. However, as noted in the Treasurer's Report, the committee is actively considering how to expand these to better meet the full range of our aims, particularly those proposing to foster community spirit, and physical well being. How can OHSCA use its modest excess income to support and enrich our area? For example, Canterbury CC gives small grants to individuals and groups, could we do the same if there are any whose work supports our aims? Are there modest physical improvements we might fund? As always, potential proposals will lead to the question: what is the need? How can our contribution be made complementary to the activities of the major stakeholders – CCC in particular? Suggestions are welcome. (The full Aims and Objectives are of course in our Constitution: <http://www.ohsca.org/constitution.html>.)

Governance features in two of our articles – on health and housing – as well as in our activities supporting ACRA (Association of Canterbury Residents' Associations – whose agendas include debate on air pollution, development and transport, among other things). Some might suggest that these are unusual topics for a community organisation to tackle. But as we look at the cumulative effects of council and health service spending cuts on support services for vulnerable sections of our residents and the upkeep of the fabric of the city, we believe we do

have a responsibility to stimulate debate on policy, as well as offering in our small way, with litter picks etc ,to give direct assistance.  
*Tim Carlyle*

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is growing, with over 300 households. Members get three extra newsletters a year together with regular updates on planning issues and reminders about talks, social activities and other events. Membership costs a modest £5 a year for one household, though we are always happy to receive donations towards any part of OHSCA's work which you particularly support.

This year you can pay by cash, cheque or standing order. For existing members, if you bank online, you can now make a bank transfer to our account. Details are given on the membership form on page 12 of this newsletter. Whichever way you choose, *now* is the time to send in your 2019 subscription. If you are not at present a member, please do join us by filling in the form and sending it to me with your remittance.

We are always interested in hearing what you think we should be doing more (or less) of – I look forward to hearing from you

*Sophie Scott*, Membership Secretary  
([sophie01@btinternet.com](mailto:sophie01@btinternet.com); other contact details p. 10)

## FROM THE TREASURER

For those of you who couldn't make the AGM, here's a brief note of how we managed our finances during 2017–18.

To start at the end, the bottom line is that our bank balance has gone, in round figures, from £4,100 in August 2017 to £5,500 a year later. This significant increase puts OHSCA in a healthy position. The amount raised through subscriptions remained very similar to the previous year but the real growth came from our social events, adding a net total of £970 to our bank balance. Our Social Events and Activities group (pages 8/9) organised various events, including a strawberry tea, a spring party and the Christmas Fayre which generated the bulk of the surplus. On the expenditure side, our costs were a little less, last year's amalgamation expenditure no longer being a factor.

Towards the end of the summer the committee reviewed the subscription rate. It was agreed that subs should cover our annual running costs and, as our estimated costs were slightly less than our subscription income, it was decided to recommend no increase but to review the position again this year. This proposal was agreed at the AGM.

Clearly, our funds are growing and it is likely this trend will continue. Your Committee is actively considering how best to use these funds to improve our area and broaden our activities. If you have any thoughts about how we should use our surplus, please send your views to [treasurer@ohsca.org](mailto:treasurer@ohsca.org).

*Jeff Derham*, December 2018

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

OHSCA recently submitted a commentary on behalf of ACRA regarding Canterbury City Council's *Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy* [HHPS] for 2018–2023. The introduction to the Strategy states:

*This is an overarching document which supports the aims of the Local Plan and Corporate Plan. It presents a comprehensive picture of local housing needs and sets out how the council, along with our partners, will respond to the housing challenges faced by the district. The focus is to offer more choice in housing by developing new homes and improving existing neighbourhoods, which will help communities be sustainable in the longer term and contribute to the city's prosperity and wellbeing. We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable residents to access and maintain good quality housing to prevent homelessness and meet their needs.*

While CCC implies this was written to develop the Local Plan 2017 and Corporate Plan 2016, the real reason for their HHPS is the 2017 *Homelessness Reduction Act* which places significant new duties on councils, effective since April. For information, go to <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>.

The HHPS documents excellent work being done by CCC and its partners in developing strategies to increase housing supply and access to housing, and 89 future initiatives, which we generally applaud. However, we need to look at the wider national and regional picture, and the likely impacts of the initiatives should be quantified against the scale of the problems they are designed to address.

**The Local Plan.** Some of the provisions offer refinements to housing procurement programmes in the Plan, and it offers a much more sophisticated and comprehensive review of the numerous factors that go to determine how well a given housing stock performs: it is not just about numbers of new builds. Those measures that may eventually be adopted should be incorporated into a revised Local Plan. Further, the predicted housing starts for the first 5 year Plan period are affected by the delay in the final planning approval for 4000 houses at Mountfield Park. Since the strategy is so comprehensive, it should offer analysis of how this delay may affect the supply of housing across Canterbury.

**Tip of the iceberg.** Homelessness is the extreme but logical outcome of a housing market in crisis, and the HHPS estimates that there are 37 recorded rough sleepers, but with another 36 'unrecorded' rough sleepers in Canterbury. Many others are in overcrowded housing. The current hostel accommodation available is 38 spaces, which must be doubled – and the quality needs improvement.

Emerging homelessness has been shown to be strongly related to the austerity measures introduced by government in reducing housing and disability benefit. The HHPS reviews the local housing profile: the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is only able to cover 70% of market rent – and up to 50% of private landlords refuse to let to tenants on benefit.

**Local migration.** The LHA/market rent differential is greater in London, forcing significant numbers to emigrate to cheaper districts, thus increasing the need.

**Resources.** The legislation adds to the existing duties of local authorities to procure accommodation for the whole population, requiring preventive steps as part of a personal plan with all applicants to prevent them losing their current accommodation. Local authorities have capped resources, but we would urge CCC to spell out in greater detail how these very difficult issues are affecting our population, and to challenge the operation of the current system more forcefully where legally possible. CCC will be awarded new money in 2017/18 of £70,170, but how they will deal with the major issues of the cost and availability of housing stock, and the provision of timely and skilled advice and intervention?

Government has at last created a rational and caring framework to deal with the short term problems of housing stress, but has been frugal with its provision of extra money for the work, and cannot hope to stem the tide of market forces that have created this stress – i.e. the ever increasing proportion of household income required for rent or mortgage payments.

*Tim Carlyle, December 2018*

## OHSCA HEALTHCARE

Since our report in the Autumn Newsletter (and longer 'Perspective' in the digital edition), our representatives have continued to participate in and monitor NHS development events, including a workshop on Mental Health changes with the SE Coast Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), a further Listening Event on the proposed Acute Hospital changes, and the ongoing Canterbury Public Reference Group (CPRG) meetings at Thanington.

In mid-September, following the public consultation, the Kent & Medway NHS announced a 'preferred option' for configuration of acute stroke services: acute and hyper-acute stroke units to be at the Dartford, Maidstone and Ashford hospitals. This is not the final decision: a decision-making business case will be developed, must go through the South East Clinical Senate, the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and NHS England and NHS Improvement, then comes back to the Kent & Medway Joint Committee of CCGs for a final decision – expected (we heard in September) to be by January 2019. There has been public dissent about the selected locations in West Kent; in East Kent, if Option 2 of the acute hospitals reconfiguration (see below) brings the specialist acute hospital to Canterbury, we understand that the hyper-acute stroke unit would come too. In the meantime, our biggest concern is over ambulance/travel times.

Following the presentation on Frailty to the September CPRG meeting, in November there was emphasis on improvements of access to primary care services, to reduce pressure on acute and emergency services: evening and week-end General Practice appointments, and a Rapid Home Visiting Service (a community nursing service facility of which we have no direct experience). We also learn from the acute

hospitals reconfiguration documents that a national initiative to provide Urgent Treatment Centres, aimed at simplifying provision for non-life-threatening events (and diverting unnecessary demands on A&E) is to be phased in here.

We said in our Autumn report that the next public move on the acute hospitals reconfiguration was expected to be formal public consultation on the CCGs' preferred option, as between (briefly identified) Option 1: Acute and specialist services at Ashford, Acute at Margate, planned treatment only at Canterbury; and Option 2: Acute and specialist services at Canterbury only; the latter is dependent on "an offer by a local developer to build the shell of a new hospital in Canterbury as part of a development of 2,000 new homes and gift it to the NHS." However an additional series of 'Listening Events' has now been held. OHSCA Healthcare Group members attended the one in Canterbury on 7 November. The main points now seem to be:

- The capital cost of Option 2, additional to the 'shell' structure, is (rather informally) put at £300m; that of Option 1 at £225m, spread over perhaps 20 years;
- The funding for neither of these is currently assured; a 'business case' for the 'preferred option' will have to be submitted;
- A guesstimate timescale for implementation is 3½–5 years, with Option 2 at the longer end;
- Fuller details are available on the NHS website – but, to select one of interest: outpatient appointments would not be available at Canterbury under Option 2;
- The CCGs are clearly serious about the possibility of Option 2, and must therefore be assuming that CCC would give planning consent for the 2000 additional houses; but they realise that there are issues about guarantees, other infrastructure etc.

Finally – for the moment – on this: the *KM Gazette* on 29 November carries (a) a reminder that there are only these two Options, and that the final decision on them will be taken by the four CCGs, not by public vote; and (b) on another page – a report that all booked treatment is shortly to be concentrated in Canterbury (a feature of Option 1; *absit omen?*)

We will do our best to keep members up to date on developments, particularly by continuing to monitor health-care provision, and to participate in consultations where appropriate.

*Denis Linfoot, December 2018*

## GREEN TEAM

The Green Team is for people who want to do, rather than talk. We have had an extremely busy year, looking after our beds beside the Fire Station, beside the cinema (St George's Garden) and in Milton Road which links Cromwell Road with South Canterbury Road. All these were entered for *Its Your Neighbourhood*, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, and all three were awarded "thriving". We also have a cultivation licence from KCC for a planter in Albert Road and beds established round trees that we

planted in Ersham Road and St Augustine's Road, where the work is mostly done by people who live close by. We share the big shrubbery at the end of Lichfield Road with Serco (they do the hard pruning). This autumn we planted lots of bulbs to cheer us up in the spring – many thanks to Deirdre and Tricia. We will be pruning during the winter ready for the spring – do contact me if you can help.

**Water butts.** During the hot summer we all struggled with supplying enough water to our parched gardens. Thank you to all those who helped water our gardens in the roasting heat. We were extremely grateful to Danny who gave us a small water butt for Milton Road. Now South East Water have very kindly given us a larger one which will be a great help in watering shrubs and plants without backbreaking labour. We will be installing it in the next couple of months. This will mean removing one of the ancient cotoneasters in Milton Road and replacing it with screening and new shrubs. The aim is always to plant things which will provide year-round interest and will have a long life, backed up with seasonal planting which will bring bursts of colour. Dave will be masterminding the project and if you would like to help, please contact me. All help and donations will be gratefully received.

**Litterpicking.** We held two big litterpicks this year, one in the Old Dover Road and adjoining streets and one in Dover Street and adjoining areas. And, of course, several of our members keep right on throughout the year – Margaret, Helly, Eleanor, Mike, Carole, Cathy and all of you who keep our area good to live in – thank you all.

Our first big litterpick for 2019 is booked for 10 am, Saturday 2 March and we will meet in Longport opposite our excellent Post Office. We will send a reminder email nearer the time, of course. All are welcome but do wear stout shoes. Other kit is provided.

We aim to do another litterpick on the New Dover Road in April – details in the Spring newsletter. Please do let me know of any areas which need a litterpick.

*Sophie Scott, December 2018*



North end of Milton Rd garden, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018. (RIVW)

## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY



Image © North Bayshore

These two very familiar plants are often devalued because they appear so common – but both are quite exceptional in their appearance and importance to the environment.

**Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).** Mature trees can grow up to 15 m and live for 300 years. The bark is smooth and thin with numerous small, brown 'warts', and the stems are dark brown. The leaves are dark green, glossy and oval. Younger plants have spiky leaves, but the leaves of older trees, or if they are in the upper parts of the tree, are likely to be smooth.

The flowers of the Holly (yes it does have them) are dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers occur on separate trees. Worth looking for in spring to see if there will be good berries. Flowers are small with four white petals, and occur in clusters. Once pollinated by insects, female flowers develop into the familiar scarlet berries, which can remain on the tree throughout winter.

Holly is unlikely to be confused with anything else, although many cultivated and variegated varieties exist which can look very different in colour, size and shape. Holly leaves remain green year round, making it invaluable in any rural or urban setting. As with the Ivy this offers shelter, food and protection for many creatures both rare and commonplace, such as the Holly Blue butterfly.



Holly Blue © Butterfly Conservation

**Mythology and symbolism:** Holly branches have long been used to decorate homes in winter. The tree was seen as a fertility symbol and a charm against witches, goblins and the devil. It was thought to be unlucky to cut down a holly tree.

**Ivy (*Hedera helix*).** Ivy is usually seen clinging to buildings and trees and is one of the UK's few native evergreen plants. Sadly, this woody climber is much

maligned, often accused of strangling trees. Ivy uses trees and walls for support, allowing it to reach upwards for better sunlight. It is not parasitic and has a separate soil root system, and so absorbs its own nutrients and water.



Fruiting Ivy © WTML/Woodland Trust

**Does ivy kill trees?** The simple answer is no. As it gets higher into a tree it will often slow its growth, so will not take over the tree (unlike a Strangler Fig in warmer climes). The problem may be that if it clothes a trunk or limb of the tree or wall it may be difficult to see the inherent structural problems beneath. Ivy does not damage trees and its presence doesn't indicate that a tree is unhealthy or create a tree safety issue in its own right. In some cases it may need to be removed, but each case needs to be assessed individually. Conservation and woodland organisations value the wildlife benefits of ivy so highly that in general they do not advocate cutting or removing it from trees. Ivy should be celebrated and valued for the pivotal role it plays in providing wildlife with food and shelter.



Honey Bee on Ivy © Woodland Trust

**Tradition and folklore** hold that as evergreen species both ivy and holly were seen as especially powerful symbols during winter, and sprigs were brought into houses to keep evil spirits at bay. Ivy was and I believe still is used to line graves as a sign of remembrance. Wearing a wreath of ivy leaves around the head is supposed to prevent one from getting drunk. (Could be useful to remember at this time of year – or you may wish you had known it earlier?) Regarded as the emblem of fidelity, priests would also present a wreath of ivy to newly married couples. Today it is still the custom for bridal bouquets to contain a sprig of ivy.

I hope you found this interesting and informative so please look with renewed interest in our familiar but exceptionally useful neighbours and friends. If you are interested in joining me to become part of a tree working group to help raise awareness and protect local trees in the New Year, please contact me. There is a lot of interesting and important work to do as Canterbury undergoes its greatest changes in the post war era with the implementation of the Local Plan and ongoing expansion.

Gill Gower ([trees@ohsca.org](mailto:trees@ohsca.org))

**UPDATE: ST MARY BREDIN SCHOOL AND NORMAN FORTIFICATION**

It is now more than six months since CCC planning committee listened to the pleas of objectors like OHSCA and resolutely, despite the advice of council officers, refused the proposal to level to the ground a well-loved Victorian School landmark and the raised Norman fortification hidden in the mound beneath. This slice of Canterbury's heritage would have been replaced by an ugly five-storey 146 bedroom block of student accommodation. The fortification that would be destroyed is a uniquely surviving section of the rampart of the outer bailey of the circa 1066 Norman castle which has Dane John Mound as its motte.

The objectors at the planning meeting made a clear case for refusal, citing loss of heritage, architectural inadequacy, likely air quality deterioration, and the need for open space along the ring road to break up the canyon effect opposite the city wall and the Dane John Mound. The refusal of the development was however given on narrower grounds: *"The proposed development by reason of its scale, massing and height would have a dominant and therefore adverse impact on the City Wall which is a designated heritage asset. The proposed development is therefore contrary to Local Plan Policy HE1 and the policies set out within the National Planning Policy Framework"*

After some months the developer, rather than rethinking the scheme, decided to go to appeal but at the date of writing, as we understand it, the appeal

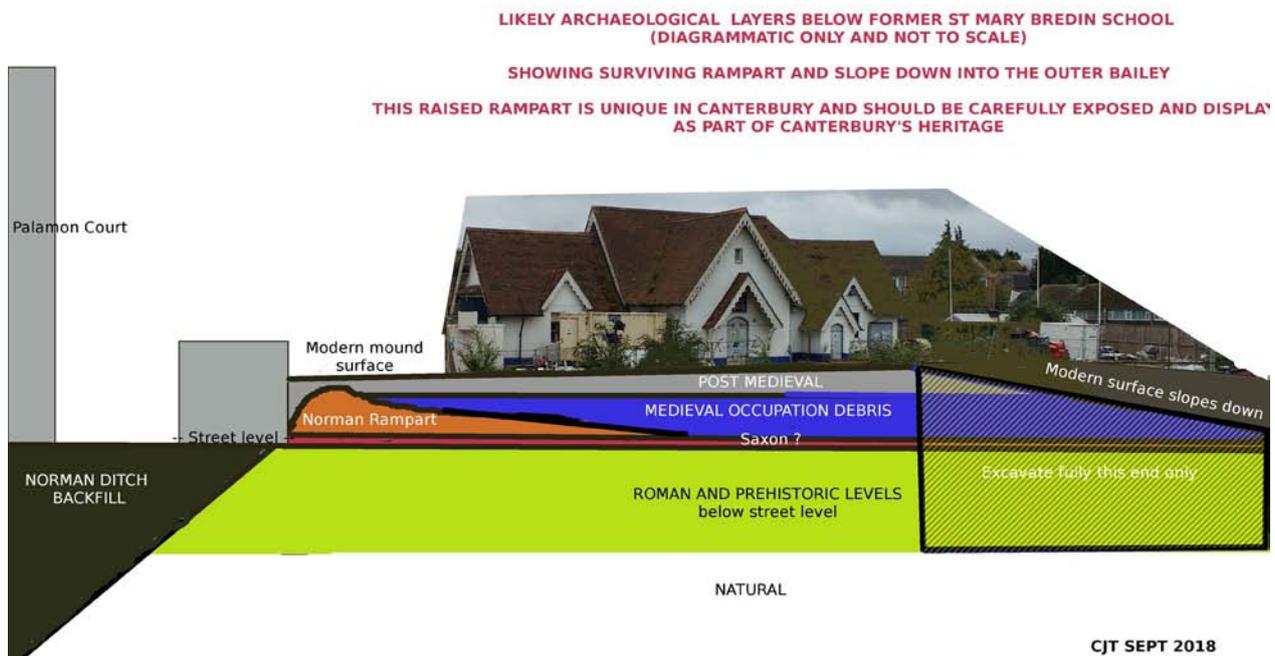
documents have yet to be agreed. We are preparing to make the case again before the Inspector at the hearing where we will hopefully be allowed to bring into the argument the wider heritage and environmental issues which most concern us.

There is still hope that instead of a hearing, even at this late hour, another proposal can be brought forward which will preserve the Norman Rampart at least (see diagram). Three options that will achieve this are:

- 1) retaining the school and allowing the rest of the site to become green space, thus preserving both school and rampart beneath;
- 2) if truly an economic burden, removing the school but landscaping the whole development area as open space. Thus the ancient rampart would be preserved and the bailey surface revealed which, with an added palisade, would become an educational and heritage asset;
- 3) removing the school but allowing limited low-rise development at the Canterbury East Station end of the site. This would enable the rampart to be exposed with some green space at the eastern end of the development, and is a compromise solution.

Any of these three possibilities will permit limited archaeology but will preserve an important and unique part of Canterbury's heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Chris Tucker, December 2018



**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Over the last year, OHSCA activity in monitoring and commenting on planning applications has continued, but with some changes in how the work is done. The committee member for planning – Keith Rishworth – stepped down, feeling the workload was more than he could sustain, perhaps reflecting the great effort he put into preparing monthly reports on applications, and speaking at Council meetings. We are grateful to him

for his high quality work – which left us with a dilemma of how to carry on effectively but avoid the undue pressure that would probably arise if one person were to take it all on.

After debate, we agreed that the function was central to OHSCA work, so we would form a sub-committee, led by Tim Carlyle, to carry out the work on a rota basis, taking turns to review the applications, and meeting when necessary to review larger issues,

with Chris Tucker carrying out the scrutiny of CCC weekly lists for applications in our area. We have a Tree Champion, who specifically looks at applications to remove trees, currently Gill Gower. Other sub-committee members are currently Pat Edwards, Sophie Scott and Helly Langley. We also maintain our membership of the Canterbury Heritage and Design Forum (CHDF) that scrutinises the whole of Canterbury's planning applications, particularly with regard to heritage matters.

The most significant development for us remains the Mountfield Park proposal for 4000 homes, by reason of the traffic and air quality impacts. The consent granted by CCC went to Judicial Review, and that process will shortly conclude, as the appeal hearing was 18<sup>th</sup> October. We will be watching with keen interest for the judgement and, if it confirms the consent, will re-commence our engagement with the developer in concert with South Canterbury Alliance residents' group, to minimise the damage and maximise the benefits as best we can.

Traffic and air quality in our area will also be affected by the other major development in South Canterbury – the 1150 homes in Thanington, and we maintain close links with other groups through ACRA – the Association of Canterbury Residents Associations – to monitor the terms of the development. The developer of this project has also offered provision of a new hospital shell building as an inducement to the Council to grant permission for 2000 further homes! (see pp. 3/4).

Another major project within our area is the final development of the former Peugeot Garage site by the ring road, to provide yet more student housing. We objected to this, on the grounds that we have put

forward for a number of years, that we support well planned purpose built student housing that is part of a comprehensive CCC housing strategy, and if the management of the residents will be good enough to prevent anti-social behaviour. Unusually, Councillors refused to approve this scheme, due in no small part to the efforts of Chris Tucker and other OHSCA members in pointing out the rich history that would be lost (see page 6). The developer is currently appealing the decision. We also objected to an overdevelopment of the former air cadets site in Cossington Road for student accommodation, and another ill-considered scheme to redevelop the Lower Chantry Stafford House building for more student rooms – both of which the developers withdrew.

The other major issue that affects us is the unceasing efforts by developers to install massive developments on New Dover Road sites, replacing family houses with large institutional uses. We recently objected on behalf of members, after carrying out a poll of their wishes, to the very large scheme proposed by McCarthy & Stone for 50 retirement dwellings to replace all four houses at 35–41 NDR (see images below). And of course, we carry on applying these same principles of resisting inappropriate and over-dense development in our reviews of small scale and householder applications that form the typical activity of the sub-committee.

Finally, your own responses are critical in pursuing objections effectively. Only if more than four householders object are Members likely to debate planning applications – if you don't like what you see when you receive our planning alerts, pick up your pen.

*Tim Carlyle, December 2018*



**Above: existing elevations of houses 35–41 New Dover Road (other houses in grey).  
Below: impression of the McCarthy & Stone proposal (images ex CCC website).**

**WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING?**

Planting trees! (well, arguably, every little helps) During 2018 we tried hard to diversify the trees planted – the summer made it very clear that climate change really is happening! Trees are the simplest way of helping to cool the air, but obviously the possibility of hotter summers means we must look to plant trees which are adapted to the warmer conditions. In April a *Koelreuteria*, otherwise known as Pride of India, was planted in memory of Doris Hughes outside Enterprise Inn (the Chaucer). The tree was grown locally by Aidan Potts and planted by Serco, to the great pleasure of all.

After three years' negotiation the dead birch outside the police station was removed and with much help from Fred McCormack a new tree was planted in October. After consulting Rama Sarkhel, the Royal Horticultural Society and Aidan Potts we chose a *Ginkgo* (Maiden Hair) which we hope will cope with the air pollution on the A28. The Lord Mayor came to plant it and we hope it will flourish. Ginkgos are the tree equivalent to a dinosaur and are sometimes considered living fossils. We know they do well in Canterbury as one of the first four ginkgos brought to England was planted at Barton Court in 1768 and is

still flourishing. We are extremely grateful to Fred, Rama and Aidan, all of whom provided invaluable help, and to the police staff who did the hard work of planting.

Our next tree will be a Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) which KCC will plant for us outside the Premier Inn. This is a species which has been growing happily in the Old Dover Road for 90 years so we hope it will flourish in this hot sunny site. Canterbury City Council will be planting a Japanese maple near the end of Ivy Lane – another new and interesting species for Canterbury.

One of the pear trees planted in Pilgrims Way last year in partnership with SARA met a sad fate when a driver sheared it off (should have gone to Specsavers?). Fortunately some alert residents spotted this right away and we are hoping a replacement will be planted this winter, funded by the errant driver. Serious praise to those who picked this up right away and to SARA.

In 2019 we will consider replacing the two trees that have died outside the Outpatients entrance at the K&C. They were a birch (old age) and an ash (dieback). Different species will be needed here as it is a windy corner. Contributions would be very welcome. Please let us know if you think this is important.



*Ginkgo* planted on 16<sup>th</sup> October outside the ring road Police Station, already turning to its glorious autumn gold. (RIVW)

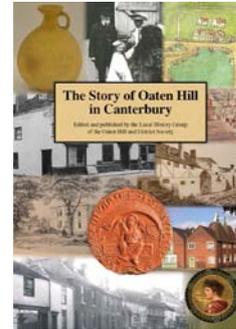
If you have a suggestion for a site which needs a tree, please do contact me. We are aware of the dead pin oak in Longport and hope that KCC will replant soon. Meanwhile, a lot of trees and hedges in private gardens are being lost. Please do plant a new young tree if you have to take one out. If you would like to discuss this, either Gill Gower or I will be very glad to make suggestions.

*Sophie Scott*, December 2018

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

***The History of Oaten Hill.*** Our latest publication, on the History of Oaten Hill, covers St Sepulchre's Nunnery, Oaten Hill, Upper Chantry Lane, Cossington Road and Oaten Hill Place. Currently with the printers it will be published imminently, price £10. The format (A4) is larger than hitherto to best present photographs and colour images. The book illustrates the religious, regal, commercial, social and environmental influences

which have shaped the present day appearance of this most historic part of our area. At its core is the story of the medieval nunnery of the Holy Sepulchre and the subsequent fate of the land on which it was built. If you wish to reserve one or more copies please email [history@ohsca.org](mailto:history@ohsca.org). The lead author, Dr David Potter, will talk about the history of the nunnery and its influence on our area at a presentation on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 pm, at *The Phoenix* (67 Old Dover Rd) – when copies will also be available.



***Holmans Meadow.*** The siting and design of a “story board” notice for Holmans Meadow car park, based on the History Group’s booklet “The Holmans of Canterbury”, is being pursued.

We note and support efforts to save or determine an alternative use for St Mary Bredin School House and the Norman Mound, to benefit the wider community (see page 6). The group continues to record oral histories of local people.

Sadly we announce the passing of Brenda Perris. For many years our minutes secretary, she was a most valued member of the group and a fount of local knowledge. Condolences have been sent to her family.

The Local History Group meets at the Kent and Canterbury Club at 10.15 am every second Tuesday on alternate months. Next meeting is 8th January – our AGM, with a talk by Mr J Asbury-Bailey on his book “The Canon” (Walter Burnside, Headmaster of St Edmund’s School 1908–1932, and Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral 1921–1949).

New members are welcome and details of all our publications are available on the OHSCA Local History web site [www.ohsca.org/history.html](http://www.ohsca.org/history.html)

*Mike Brain*, December 2018

## SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SEA aims to promote connection between members through a wide range of activities and events. We see these as contributions to improving wellbeing, reducing loneliness and social isolation, and increasing a sense of community within our area. The SEA subcommittee was very active during 2018, and dates are in place for 2019. We will continue with firm favourites (see cover for dates), honouring OHDS and SCRA traditions, but would be delighted to have new suggestions – especially events appealing to families and younger people. So, ideas please!

***Social Events.*** There were four main social events in 2018: Spring Event in March with a revamped quiz and supper, a Strawberry Tea in June, Tapas on the Terrace in July, and St Augustine’s picnic in September. Our thanks go to all who hosted and

contributed to making these events so successful. The Spring Event for 2019, with supper, quiz and raffle, will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March, at the Kent & Canterbury Club, 17 Old Dover Rd. Tickets are on sale via the Membership Secretary (contact details p. 10).

**Walks.** The Wednesday “towards 10,000 steps” walk celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday last January. Only one week had been missed throughout 2017, with 2–12 people turning out each week. This year we added a Friday walk, same time, same place. This has enabled more people to take part. All are welcome – just turn up and go. You do not need to commit to coming regularly. We go at moderate pace but sturdy footwear is advised. Weather permitting we walk through the orchards and fields, but more frequently on the roads in winter. Departing from Kent & Canterbury Hospital old gate 09.30 sharp, returning about 10.30.

**Themed walks.** Tim Carlyle led two floral walks: primroses and cowslips in April and a bluebell walk in May. In June, Dick Vane-Wright organised a search for the rare heath fritillary butterfly, and a large colony was found at Blean reserve. Many thanks to Tim and Dick. The bluebell walk will be repeated in 2019. The next butterfly is expected to go in search of the Duke of Burgundy, at Denge Wood (dates on cover).



A very relaxed David Kemsley chairs *Gardeners' Question Time* on 21 October, alongside Sarah and Phil Perkins. (RIVW)

**Gardening Interest Group (GIG).** GIG connects about 50 OHSCA Members who enjoy gardens and/or gardening. Although enthusiasts rather than experts, there is much expertise within the group. Organization and arrangements are informal, with contact usually by email or the GIG Facebook page (closed group). Some support the Green Team community gardens (page 4) directly by helping, or providing plants.

GIG organized the annual Plant Share last May, and the Produce Share in August. A huge array of plants was offered in May, but drought limited produce in August. Our thanks to Helen and Richard Aylwin and Janet and John Penton, respectively, for hosting these most enjoyable events.

Visits to members' gardens and allotments continued. This allows us to develop knowledge and skills as well as share achievements. We enjoyed Helly Langley's lovely clematis collection in June, and Dee and Richard Edwards' splendid roses in June. We learned about green manure from David Kemsley during an allotment visit in September. A most enjoyable visit to Goodnestone Gardens was organised by Helly Langley – led by their Head Gardener, this proved inspirational.

In 2018 we started a new initiative – OHSCA *Gardeners' Question Time*. Two meetings were held, April and October, at the wonderful MS Therapy Centre, Merton Lane North (off Nackington Road). Chaired by David Kemsley, all members were invited to ask questions, with responses from all present. These were well attended and we thank all who provided refreshments and organization.

If you are an existing GIG member who would like to join the Facebook page, or if you are interested in joining the network or hearing more about GIG, please contact Sarah Perkins ([sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com](mailto:sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com)) or Alison Culverwell (via [social@ohsca.org](mailto:social@ohsca.org)).

**OHSCA Drop-ins.** We started our now well established Drop-in sessions in March. These informal meetings offer Members an opportunity to meet committee members, give feedback, express concerns/ interests, and hear what the committee is doing on their behalf – and suggest what it could be doing too! These monthly events alternate on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3pm at the Old City Bar, Oaten Hill Place (dates for next three on page 1).

**Christmas Fayre.** Following the very successful fayre in 2017, we held a second on Saturday 8th December, at Eastbridge Hospital. As well as raising funds for OHSCA this helps publicise the organisation, and provides space for local charities to fund raise too.

**Tool and Equipment Lending Network.** Our Tool & Equipment Lending Network (TELN) coordinates household and gardening items available for OHSCA Members to borrow. If you need to borrow a tool or piece of equipment you think someone in the neighbourhood might own, please contact TELN coordinator Claire Leggatt (via [social@ohsca.org](mailto:social@ohsca.org)). If you have equipment you are willing to lend others, please let Claire know. Items shared by Members have included ladders, an ice-cream maker, garden shredder, and tea urn.

**Photo Competition.** This new initiative included a section for those under 16. Entries on the theme of “Canterbury in Autumn” were judged by local professional photographer Jen Holland (thanks Jen!). The winners and runners-up received a prize, and their photos were on display at the Christmas Fayre. The over-16 winner graces the cover of this Newsletter.



Stephen Brooks' great picture of two black-headed gulls in Westgate Gardens, runner-up in the over-16s competition. (The under-16 winners will appear in a later Newsletter).

The SEA committee, which meets regularly, is always pleased to welcome new members, receive feedback, and especially new ideas. We can be contacted via [social@ohsca.org](mailto:social@ohsca.org).

Alison Culverwell and Sarah Perkins

## WHAT DOES OHSCA DO?

- Association of Canterbury Residents' Association meetings – attendance and action
- Associate member of Canterbury Society
- Campaigns – Air Pollution, Norman Mound, Sustainable Transport
- Canterbury Heritage Design Forum meetings – attendance and action
- Christmas Fayre
- Consultations – influencing developers and council
- Drop-ins – monthly social meetings for members
- Gardeners' Question Time
- Health Group – attendance and action, leaflet
- Higher Education & Further Education Group meetings – attendance and action
- Litter picks and Litter Round Table
- Local history Group – research & publication
- Newsletters – communicating about our activities quarterly
- Organised local walks
- Parties – Spring and Summer
- Photographic competition
- Planning alerts – communicating about local planning applications weekly
- Planning Group – commenting on significant planning applications
- Plant Share – in spring
- Press liaison – communicating about our activities
- Private garden visits and giving gardening advice
- Produce share – in late summer
- Public gardens in Canterbury – St Georges Gardens, Milton Road, Fire Station – created and maintained
- Public tree planting – new trees funded and planted each year
- Renowned gardens – organised visits
- Talks
- Tool share
- Towards 10,000 steps – twice a week
- Website – communicating about our activities

## OHSCA COMMITTEE 2018–2019

<b>Tim Carlyle</b>	Vice-Chair/Planning Rep: <a href="mailto:vicechairtc@ohsca.org">vicechairtc@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Marion Bell</b>	Hon. Secretary/Main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB Tel: 07713 025245; <a href="mailto:secretary@ohsca.org">secretary@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Jeff Derham</b>	Hon Treasurer: <a href="mailto:treasurer@ohsca.org">treasurer@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Sophie Scott</b>	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel: 07713 025245; <a href="mailto:sophie01@btinternet.com">sophie01@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Tim Chancellor</b>	Committee member: <a href="mailto:website@ohsca.org">website@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Alison Culverwell</b>	Committee member/Social Events and Activities rep: <a href="mailto:social@ohsca.org">social@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Pat Edwards</b>	Committee member
<b>David Kemsley</b>	ACRA /SCA rep./Press Liaison: <a href="mailto:press@ohsca.org">press@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Helly Langley</b>	Committee member
<b>Denis Linfoot</b>	Committee member
<b>Jenny MacDonald</b>	Committee member
<b>Chris Tucker</b>	Committee member/Planning Bulletins: <a href="mailto:info@ohsca.org">info@ohsca.org</a>
<b>Graham Wood</b>	Committee member/Local History Group rep. For information about OHSCA Local History Publications, telephone 01227 472932 or see our publications webpage

Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Chair Local History Group	<i>Mike Brain:</i> <a href="mailto:history@ohsca.org">history@ohsca.org</a>
Tree Champion	<i>Gill Gower:</i> <a href="mailto:trees@ohsca.org">trees@ohsca.org</a>
Events bulletins	<i>Karen Thomsett</i>

If you are uncertain who to contact please direct your enquiry to the Honorary Secretary e.g. for OHC, the OHSCA Health Care sub-committee.

Note: ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents' Associations; SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance.

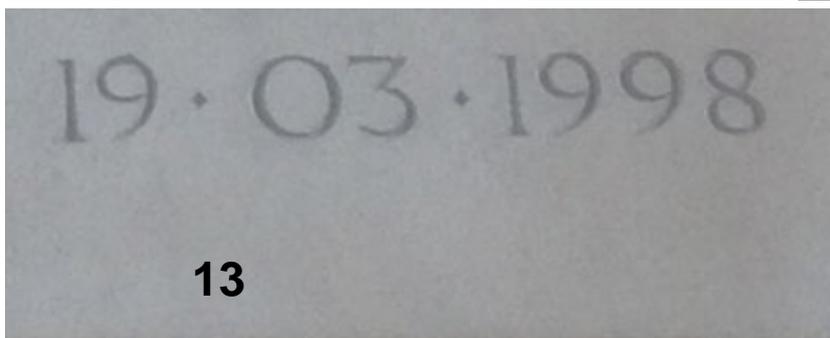
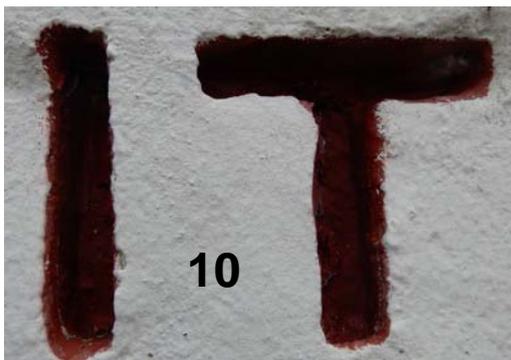
### Some useful contacts

- For problems with student neighbours contact Suzanne Ridley (University of Kent student community liaison officer) 01227 816156; [communityliaison@kent.ac.uk](mailto:communityliaison@kent.ac.uk)
- 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/info/20062/parking\\_fines\\_and\\_restrictions/43/report\\_illegal\\_parking](https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20062/parking_fines_and_restrictions/43/report_illegal_parking)

## NEW YEAR QUIZ

Where would you find these 14 dates, places, plaques, images and other things in the OHSCA area? For (3), as well as where, an extra 'point' for who? No. (7) is a bit beyond the fringe. For (8), which church has this as its highest point (starling not a fixture)? For 10, simply where is "it". (Images MB and RIVW)

*Answers in the Spring Newsletter*





Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association

ohsca.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2019

PERSONAL DETAILS

Address : ..... Phone Number : .....

Your annual subscription of £5 per household allows up to four adults at one address to become members.

Table with 2 columns: First names and surnames of persons to be members, Email Addresses

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

Empty box for local concerns and interests.

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 news of our social events
2. to email OHSCA Newsletters unless you indicate that you prefer a paper copy by ticking here

Small empty box for paper copy preference.

PAYMENT

Table with payment details including Household Annual Subscription (£5), Voluntary Donations, Spring Party Tickets, and Total Payment. Includes contact info for Sophie Scott.

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, or P for Plants and state the amount given.

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.

Tick Box 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.