

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

digital edition

JANUARY 2024

No. 29

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OHSCA!

OHSCA celebrates its GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

In 2024 we'll be celebrating 50 years since the creation of a residents' association in the Oaten Hill area (Oaten Hill & District Society, as it was then). I wonder whether that original band of neighbours who in 1974 successfully fought to save the Shrubbery at the junction of Dover Street would believe the association is still going strong. We hope to be announcing a celebratory event and/or commemorative in our April newsletter.

Some recipients of this newsletter will already be members but it is at New Year that a copy is distributed to every household in the OHSCA area, regardless of membership or not. You might be familiar with receiving this annual edition, or you may have just moved to the area – but to everyone I would like to extend an invitation to join the Association. It really is an excellent way to know what's going on in South Canterbury – whether it's about planning and major housing schemes, the NHS, local history, transport, local charities (such as the food bank) – our email alerts and quarterly newsletters keep members informed on a range of issues.

In addition we have a busy calendar of social events to which all members are invited so why not join OHSCA today – it costs just £5 per year per household. All residents in the OHSCA area are welcome – if you have received this newsletter, you're in the area! Simply complete the Membership Form on the back of this newsletter (we are legally obliged under GDPR to obtain this information), and send it with your £5 annual subscription to Sophie Scott, Membership Secretary, or pay direct through the bank giving your address as reference (please see 'Payment', p. 2).

It would be wonderful to celebrate our Golden Anniversary by welcoming lots of new members.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Marion Bell, OHSCA Honorary Secretary



OHSCA volunteers at work, Milton Road, 31st August 2023

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

At New Year, *membership* – renewals and recruitment – is always a key concern. New members bring fresh ideas and renewed vigour. And as David Kemsley points out (p. 2), in relation to local planning in particular, the larger our total membership, the more we can impact our Councillors and City administration. The membership form is on the last page . . .

At a time of ever greater inequality in our society, and when many local councils face bankruptcy, the role of charities is shifting more and more to providing basic essentials. A year ago Peter Taylor-Gooby wrote about the Canterbury Food Bank – which, at a recent OHSCA event, inspired us to raise a contribution of more than £600. In this issue I am delighted to include a member's article about East Kent's leading dementia charity, Bright Shadow. I would love to hear about other local charities that OHSCA members actively support.

As noted under section 8 of our last AGM minutes (<https://www.ohsca.org/agm.html>), Greta Cotterrell has now stepped down as Newsletter editor. Greta edited many editions for OHDS, and latterly for OHSCA. We are all greatly indebted to Greta for her outstanding work, over many years.

Dick Vane-Wright, Editor

MEMBERSHIP

A Very Happy New Year from the OHSCA membership team. Our membership year begins January 1st and everyone living in the Oaten Hill and South Canterbury area – well over 2,000 households – is welcome to join. Normally some 250 households pay the modest £5.00 membership fee, for which they receive quarterly newsletters, access to special interest groups such as local history, social events, talks and notifications on planning issues pertinent to the area. For further information on the Association please see our website at <https://www.ohsca.org/>. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. Fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome.

New Members: If joining for the first time, please use the membership form on the last page of this newsletter, or download it from the web site. <https://www.ohsca.org/join.html>. If you don't have a land line, please include a mobile number that we may contact you on. Do complete the section on your interests so we may pass on your details to the relevant interest groups. Any help you can offer is also gratefully received. If possible, we prefer that you send a cheque or cash with the form so that we have all details of the new member(s). It is often very difficult to match up bank transfers (which have very limited space for address details) with membership forms. Details to include on the cheque include house number, road and name if the payee is different from the member.

Renewals: Members renewing should also complete the membership form if any details have changed, particularly email addresses or phone numbers. You may renew by bank transfer, cheque or cash.

Payment: Please send completed new and renewal membership forms to OHSCA, c/o Sophie Scott, 27 Ersham Road, Canterbury CT1 3AR with cash/cheque subscription. If using bank transfer, *it is essential to use the first line of your address as the reference*; an email to Sophie on sophie01@btinternet.com giving details of

the bank transfer would also be very helpful. Our bank details are: NatWest, Sort code: 60-04-27, account no: 90612094.

We look forward to seeing you at an event!

Sophie Scott, Membership Secretary
Lucy Fletcher-Jones, Website and Notifications

FINANCE

As Honorary Treasurer I felt the start of the year was a good time to let our members and neighbours know how OHSCA has spent some of the funds, generated by generous subscriptions and donations from members during the last year.

We have bought plants and bulbs throughout the year to plant in the local areas that we tend; no trees were bought or planted in 2023. We had a request for a voice amplifier for use at our – ever growing number of – social and educational events; another request was made for some folding garden tables for use at our outdoor socials, plant sales and so on. The OHSCA committee was happy to finance these purchases as they both will enhance the quality of our local events. Of course, there are some administrative costs that we encounter each year too: stationery, public-liability insurance, newsletters and IT support to name a few.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Oaten Hill Society, out of which OHSCA grew. We would like to encourage members to come forward with suggestions on ways we can spend our funds to improve the local area. Perhaps some of our members may have ideas on something we can do to also honour this golden jubilee year?

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to pay their annual subscription or offered generous donations to OHSCA.

Jane Pollok, Honorary Treasurer

GREEN TEAM AND TREES

Green Team

The three little gardens are all well established, and now require maintenance. This falls into pruning and dead-heading, weeding, replenishing the bulbs in the autumn, replacing dead plants, and adding colour in the spring. Milton Road also needs some mowing, and Dave would be very glad of a hand. Please get in touch with Deirdre, Dave or me.

Trees



photo: Deirdre Hawkes

We're all very glad to see the 10 new trees in Longport, most of which are flowering pear trees and should be tough enough to grow well in the new situation, unlike the pin oaks they have replaced. Given Kent County Council's financial troubles, we may have to fund any replacement trees in our area. We will keep you advised.

Sophie Scott

PLANNING

Mountfield Park Update

Almost six years to the day since the Mountfield Park development planning application (CCC ref ca//16/00600: go to <https://pa.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>) was first considered by the city council's planning committee, formal approval was granted by the committee in December 2022. During the intervening period local residents had raised serious concerns about environmental protection measures, including air quality and foul water discharge. Together with some technical issues regarding procedural compliance by the city council, these objections had been pursued through the law courts (supported by funds raised by the community), with a high degree of success. The eventual 2022 committee approval was in two parts:

- 1 Detailed approval for phase 1a comprising 140 houses on farmland immediately south of Barton Rd.
- 2 Outline approval for the remainder of the development (phase 1b), comprising 3860 houses, business units, community/social facilities, schools, primary health care services, and possibly a new hospital, on land to the south and south west of phase 1a.

The timespan of the development is estimated to be 20 years. During early 2023 the developer (Corinthian) completed its negotiation of the Section 106 agreement with CCC and Kent County Council. This agreement is the means by which the developer is required to fund the provision of supporting public infrastructure, such as schools, roads, cycle paths, etc. As one would expect, Corinthian's priority task during the last year has been the back-office planning of on-site major infrastructure, involving power and utility services that include fresh water supply and foul water treatment.

At the same time it has approached local residents associations, including OHSCA, about a long term process of genuine community engagement (as opposed to the all too frequent usual practice of a superficial tick box charade). As the first step in that direction, ACRA (Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations) has established a formal subgroup which will meet regularly with the Corinthian team to ensure that the views of the local community are, and are seen to be given serious consideration as the project progresses. Tim Carlyle and I represent OHSCA on that subgroup.

This development will, no matter how well intentioned, have a major and potentially very worrying impact on our day-to-day lives which will certainly start to become apparent later this year, and increase noticeably as each year passes. *It is vital, as the programme of community engagement initiatives accelerates, that local residents make their views known by joining OHSCA, and thereby strengthening our influence.*

Local Plan Update

One of the priority tasks facing the new Lib /Lab coalition which came to power in last May's Canterbury City Council elections is the revision of the Draft Local Plan, before it is sent off to the Government's Planning

Inspector in a about a year's time. The plan circulated by the previous administration had caused a degree of controversy by including a traffic zoning proposal for the city centre, a major bypass east of the city, and an ambitious 20 year housing target of 17,000 additional homes. Unfortunately, the strength of the criticism that these ideas attracted deflected attention from other elements of the plan, particularly those relating to environmental protection which were welcomed by activists as relatively forward thinking.

The current understanding is the new plan will be released for public consultation in March, which we await with great interest. Please be sure to read it and make your views known to OHSCA and your local Councillors. It is a vitally important document which will shape the development of the city area for the next 20 years. ACRA has set up a Local Plan subgroup (Tim Carlyle and I represent OHSCA on this). Rather than sit on our hands and wait until March, we have already submitted formal requests to the Cllrs leading the Local plan process for:

- 1 The commission of an independent professional assessment of local housing need in order that this can be compared with any figure generated by a central government imposed algorithm.
2. That a more up-to-date data source than ONS 2014 be used to update the local population projections that contribute to the housing target.
- 3 That an ongoing record of student accommodation usage is maintained to assess how trends in HMO occupation impact the availability of low-cost starter homes.
- 4 That the methodology by which the housing target is calculated be made fully transparent.
- 5 That full consideration is given before publication to the latest NPPF changes which were published by the Government shortly before Christmas, and which appear to suggest greater empowerment for local authorities to resist development on greenbelt and prime agricultural land.

David J. Kemsley, 4th January 2024

OHC NEWS AND COMMENT

In my OHSCA Healthcare (OHC) note for the Autumn 2023 hard-copy Newsletter, I included a reminder on the inter-relationship of the *Integrated Care Boards*, *Systems* and *Partnerships* (commenced July 2022), and commented on the phenomenon that the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Joint Committee, which exists as the top co-ordinating body for all Health and Care services in Kent and Medway, with NHS, Councillor, and voluntary-partner membership, had then met 'in public' (i.e., accessible to the public on-line) only twice in 2023, and would be holding its third and final 2023 meeting on 7th December, 6 months to the day after its previous meeting.

I 'attended' this meeting (as did only 4 other members of the public.) Scheduled to take 2 hours, it was over in 1½. It received "updates" on the situation of the Integrated Care Board (responsible for all NHS activity), on 'Inequalities, Prevention and Population

Health', and on 'Learning, Disability and Autism', and it gave formal approval for a substantive Integrated Care Strategy covering all co-operating organisations in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System; this Strategy supersedes the interim 2022 version, which was 'refreshed' at the Integrated Care Partnership's *non-public* Workshop, held on 6th September instead of a scheduled '*in public*' Joint Committee meeting.

A couple of the District Councillors present did express commitment, pointing out that approval of the Integrated Care Strategy meant that all member organisations in the IC System must now gear all their policies and action to fulfil the Strategy's promises; but overall, the meeting gave me the impression of an observer body (the Chair at one point said "We are not a scrutiny body"), rather than one proactively driving policy, action and co-ordination for the whole Health and Care system. The ICB update did recognise the aggravation of winter pressures arising from industrial action, but the looming prospect of enormous financial deficits at 31st March was by-passed with talk of "re-balancing" financial and performance pressures."

In an attempt to see how typical the Kent & Medway ICB and ICP are, both in the problems they have and how they address them, I have looked at the website and committee papers of the ICB chaired by Patricia Hewitt, who originated and led the official Review of the Integrated Care concept last winter. My comments on this can be found on pp. 10–11, where my complete article (including the paragraphs above) is presented.

Denis Linfoot (OHC Convenor), December 2023

BRIGHT SHADOW

We tend to avoid thinking about dementia, especially as we grow older. Yet most of us have family members or friends who have lived with these conditions. The media periodically reminds us that there will be over 1.1 million in the UK by 2030. In Canterbury District there are currently about 1600 people diagnosed with dementia and probably another 1500 not diagnosed. And of course, many more whose lives are affected by it. Whilst some of the stigma has been diluted, there remains much fear and negativity associated with such a diagnosis. The assumption remains that it is "all downhill from here", with a preponderance of narratives about loss, distress, and disablement. The impact of cuts in health and social care services leaves charities to provide much of the non-medical ongoing provision. Bright Shadow is one such charity, local to Kent. It works with all those affected by dementia – those living with the condition, their families and friends, and formal carers.

Bright Shadow aims to enable our beneficiaries to live well and thrive, not just survive and suffer. To highlight the "bright" whilst acknowledging the shadow. This is achieved by harnessing the power of creativity – to try something new, discover what is possible, form rewarding and supportive relationships. And above all, to have fun.

Bright Shadow sometimes suffers from the perception that this is for artistic, middle-class folk with minimal dementia. This is far from the case. Most participants have no previous involvement with the arts,



and they come from all walks of life. A recent example was a woman in her 50s, recently diagnosed with a rarer form of dementia. She had been an unskilled NHS worker with no previous arts experience. Living alone, she walked her dog each day and began taking photos on her phone. She wanted to do more, so our

photographer helped her develop skills to capture the images she wanted. They were so good that we had them printed and framed culminating with an exhibition at the Beaney in Canterbury. Those that were not sold will go on tour. You can imagine what this did for her.

What are Bright Shadow's typical offers?

- The backbone of the charity's work are the "Zest" groups in community settings. These are weekly groups for about 10–15 people in Deal, Hythe, Whitstable and soon in Medway. The sessions are led by carefully selected professional artists who are experienced at designing sessions that are accessible to all those attending. The group is fully supported by the workshop assistant and volunteer helpers who provide individual support to those with additional needs. Relatives/ friends/carers are very welcome to join in as equal participants or not.
- Creative sessions in care homes.
- "Picture this". A six-week course combining creative writing and photography.
- A raft of online resources including Zest at home videos to join in with, free activity sheets.
- Bespoke training for care providers, arts and community organisations.



However, what can be provided depends entirely on finances gleaned from a raft of funders, community fundraising activities and individual donations. Participants are not charged to attend but a donation of £5 per session is invited from those able to contribute.

We are always in need of support, whether through volunteering in some capacity, money, or spreading the word. Most importantly, if you know someone who you think might benefit, please do contact us on 01227 467272, leaving a message if necessary.

Bright Shadow, Beach House, Beach Street, Herne Bay CT6 5PT. Email: info@brightshadow.org.uk
Website: <https://brightshadow.org.uk/> (at time of writing, under reconstruction)

Alison Culverwell, January 2024

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES GROUP (SEA)

SEA organises social activities and events to bring the community together. Mailchimp reminders are sent out to those members who have provided their email address to Sophie Scott. We welcome offers to help with activities, to join the SEA sub-committee or any suggestions for future events. Please contact the Convenor, Lorna Durrani, via social@ohsca.org.

SEA ACTIVITIES IN 2023

- **Monthly coffee mornings** continued every fourth Wednesday of the month (except December), at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 St Margaret's Street, 11.00–12.00.
- **Special Walks:** The Bluebell Walk planned for April was cancelled (poor weather). A successful Orchid Walk in Denge Wood took place in May.
- **Pub Games:** Games and social evenings are held at The Phoenix at 7 pm, (usually) on the first Monday of each month.
- **Spring Party:** this took place on Friday 17th March 2023 at the Kent & Canterbury Club. Tim Jones, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media, Art and Design at Canterbury Christ Church University, showed us films of Canterbury in the past. This was followed by a hot and cold buffet. This proved a very popular event and was full to capacity.
- **Talks:** We started to hold talks in the Kent & Canterbury Club in 2022 with four talks by Jenny Uglow, Osman Durrani, Francis Green and Nigel Fletcher-Jones. The talks proved very popular and we arranged seven talks in 2023. Contributors have included: Peter Taylor-Gooby, Yvonne Noble, Lyn Innes, and April Doyle, Malcolm Andrews, and on 12th December by Dick Vane-Wright on *Evolution* (replacing Martin Latham talking about his book *The Bookseller's Tale*). Martin Latham will instead talk to us on 15th March 2024, as part of the Spring Party.
- **Summer Lunch Party 2023:** this year's most enjoyable al fresco event was held, by kind invitation, at the home of Sarah Whittall and Michael Wood, on Sunday 30th July.
- **The annual picnic at St Augustine's Abbey** took place on 20th August 2023. As residents of CT1 and CT2 can now apply for a free annual Resident's Pass, this will not be needed to secure our right to access in the future.
- **The Gardening Interest Group (GIG)** organised a visit to Doddington Place to see the snowdrops in February and a further visit on 22nd May to Carol Bruce's remarkable Old Bladbean Stud Gardens. They also arranged the annual Plant Share on 20th May, hosted by Dick and Hazel Vane-Wright and a Gardeners' Question Time and Seed Share in March at the Phoenix Pub. Signed-up members of GIG are informed of local gardening events, and can make use of the network for sharing information and getting gardening advice by contacting Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley or Sue Hodge.
- **The Safari Sale** planned for August had to be cancelled because of the death of Lorna Durrani's husband followed by her serious accident and hospitalization.

SEA PLANS FOR 2024

- **Coffee mornings** will continue every fourth Wednesday, the first being on 24th January 2024.

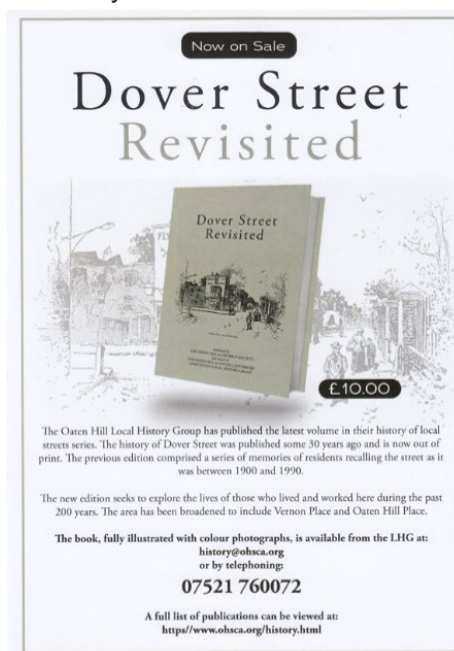
- **Special Walks** one or two nature walks will be planned (bluebell walk: 27th April, date & details tbc).
- **Games and social events** will continue to take place on the first Monday of each month, the next being Monday 5th February 2024 at *The Phoenix* pub, 67 Old Dover Road (from 7 pm).
- **Members' Spring Party** will take place on Friday 15th March 2024 at the Kent & Canterbury Club, with talk by Martin Latham, and buffet meal. £30.00 each. Please send cash or cheque (payable to OHSCA) to Hazel Vane-Wright (42 Cromwell Rd CT1 3LE), with your name and postal address, *by 1st March at the latest*. Tickets delivered by hand, email, or in the post. *Please go to pp. 14–15 for more information*.
- **Talks** will continue [e.g. see p. 17]. A Poetry Evening is planned [for early June, tbc]. Any poets wishing to take part please contact the Convenor. Any suggestions for talks or contributions welcome.
- **Summer Lunch Party** is planned for 28th July (tbc). Offers to host welcomed.
- **Gardening Interest Group (GIG).** Wed 28th Feb., 2.30–4.30 Seed Share (bring your excess) and Gardener's Questions at *The Phoenix*. Wed. 8th May: visit to Goodnestone Gardens (meet 2 pm). Sunday 26th May: annual Plant Share, 10.30–12, at 42 Cromwell Rd CT1 3LE (free plants, free coffee!).

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

Lorna Durrani, SEA Convenor social@ohsca.org

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

OHSCA members are automatically members of the Local History Group, and all are very welcome to attend any meetings or events. If you would like to join in and are new to the LHG, please let one of us have your email address so we can send you any relevant information. The dates of the next two meetings are 12th March and 14th May.



Dover Street Revisited is our latest publication, now on sale for £10.00 (see p. 6 for contact and purchase details; and p. 13).

Mike Brain and Derek Ray

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2023–2024 AND CONTACTS LIST

Chair:	Vacant (currently the Committee operates a rotating Chair)
Marion Bell	Hon. Secretary/main OHSCA Contact: 13 Wells Avenue, CT1 3YB; Tel. 01227 459949 or mobile 07850 576655; secretary@ohsca.org
Jane Pollok	Honorary Treasurer: treasurer@ohsca.org
Sophie Scott	Membership Secretary/Green Team/Planning subcommittee: 27 Ersham Road CT1 3AR Tel. 01227 456285; sophie01@btinternet.com
David Kemsley	ACRA rep./OHC subcommittee/Press Liaison: press@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee Member/Planning subcommittee
Lucy Fletcher-Jones	Website Coordinator/events bulletin alerts: website@ohsca.org
Planning	Additional volunteers needed (please contact secretary@ohsca.org)
Local History Group	Chair LHG: <i>Derek Ray</i> , tel. 01227 464845; forstal22@yahoo.co.uk Secretary LHG: Michael Brain, tel. 01227 767343; history@ohsca.org For information about Local History publications, email: history@ohsca.org – or go to OHSCA website: https://www.ohsca.org/history.html
SEA convenor	<i>Lorna Durrani</i> : social@ohsca.org (current members listed on p. 5)
OHC	<i>David Kemsley, Alison Culverwell, Denis Linfoot</i> (convenor), <i>Dick Vane-Wright</i>
Newsletter distribution	<i>Deirdre Hawkes</i>
Tree champion	<i>Helly Langley</i>
Newsletter editor	<i>Dick Vane-Wright</i> : dickvanewright@gmail.com

If you are uncertain who to contact, please direct your enquiry to the Honorary Secretary (contact details above).
Note: ACRA = Alliance of pan-Canterbury Residents Associations; OHC = OHSCA HealthCare subcommittee; SEA = Social Events and Activities subcommittee

Some useful contacts

- For problems with student neighbours contact University of Kent student community liaison officer: 01227 816156 or email communityliaison@kent.ac.uk; <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student-services/community/index.html>
- If you are concerned about security or have an urgent query and need to talk to the Canterbury City Council 'Out of Hours' team, their number is 01227 781 879. This redirects to CCC Control Room staff on duty 24/7.
- To report illegal parking: <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-and-roads/report-illegal-parking/>
- To report graffiti (with possibility of removal depending on circumstances) <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/environmental-problems/report-graffiti>
- For information about Cathedral Pass: <https://www.ohsca.org/publications.html> [Spring 2023 Newsletter, p.1]
- For St Augustine's Abbey Annual Pass: <https://www.ohsca.org/> [scroll down on Home Page]
- **Coffee, Cake & Computers.** This community drop-in group has been running every Friday at 32 Barton Rd Church Hall, 10.30–11.30, for the past six years. Things that have been done together include: online safety and what not to click, the NHS app, installing printer drivers, getting computers to work faster, getting phone pictures backed up on the computer, and lots of coffee and cake. Everyone is welcome and you don't need to pre-book. Affiliated with Digital Kent (a KCC venture) and Barton Church. Coordinators: Elsa Lewis and Dawn Horne. Tel. 07914013611.

OHSCA dates, mid January – June (new talk 20 Feb p. 17; other details etc. p. 5)

24 January	Coffee morning	24 April	Coffee morning
5 February	Pub games at <i>The Phoenix</i>	27 April	Bluebell walk
28 February	Coffee morning	6 May	Pub games
28 February	Seed swap & Gardener's questions	8 May	<u>Goodnestone Gardens</u>
4 March	Pub games at <i>The Phoenix</i>	14 May	Local History Group
12 March	Local History Group	22 May	Coffee morning
15 March	Spring Party / Martin Latham	26 May	Plant Share
27 March	Coffee morning	3 June	Pub games
1 April	Pub games at <i>The Phoenix</i>	26 June	Coffee morning

OHSCA NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

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

Target: there are 20 names and words associated with Canterbury to find in Marion's latest word puzzle. The answers list will appear in our Spring newsletter (no. 30).

POET'S CORNER

As noted on page 5, the Social Events and Activities group is considering a Poetry Evening. It seems not only are there many members who enjoy verse, but we have quite a few who actually write it. Not least among these is our former Newsletter Editor, Greta Cotterrell – who writes under her maiden name, *Greta Ross*.

In our last New Year newsletter (no. 25, January 2023), we featured her prize-winning poem *Ivan Makes a Violin for His Son*. As Chris and Marianne Tucker wrote at the time “We had the pleasure of reading Greta's winning poem today, she won in the 2022 Canterbury Festival annual competition . . . Hundreds of competitors from around the world.”

At the time Greta left a few other examples of her poetry in the ‘editorial drawer’ – and so it seems appropriate to include three of them here, in the hope that they will stimulate other budding (or published) poets among the OHSCA membership to take up Lorna's challenge.

The Dreamer's Rose

In his secret nightly dream house
a gardener again tosses in sleep:
when will beauty come to surprise?



A new bud unfurls its petals and grows,
the glinting rays of the new day's sun
feeding the leaves' life glow.

A golden beam finds the house, throws
a dart of sun to lick the sleeper's cheek,
and wakes him to his newborn rose.

Esse est percipi

= to be perceived is to exist

(poem inspired by Jenny Joseph's poem *The Warning*: “When I am an old woman I shall wear purple”)



My well-lived decades
might label me as long past
social media's 'best-by' date,
blinker out of younger eyes
like a winter-grey mist,
a mere shadow in the street
or nuisance underfoot,
somehow there but not really seen.

So, to upstage all that,
I'll write daring poems
to prove I am proudly alive,
or dress *a la stravaganza*,
wild flowered like a Westwood,
eat what I fancy,
drink the best wine,
and sing risqué songs to absent friends
– and why not ?

Lazulum

(in medieval times the intense blue stone, *lapis lazuli*, was said to fall from *lazulum*, the heavens)

Kingfisher's wings flare
with heaven's fiercest blue,
she arrows through the water
shattering the mirrored sky,



a lightning flash of lazuli
impales the flailing fish,

and I watch stunned as if
nailed to the quivering air.

Greta Ross©

Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENT

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

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

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

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

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

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

To store it securely for membership and administrative purposes. To communicate with you as an OHSCA member. To share it with the leaders of OHSCA special interest groups which you have joined. To send you, if you have supplied one or more email addresses, emails via a trusted third party organisation.

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

Signed:

Date:

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

DIGITAL EXTRA

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Hips and Haws, Ridlands Farm, 24th October 2023 (Dick Vane-Wright)

OHC NEWS AND COMMENT (complete article – continued from pp. 3–4)

In my OHSCA Healthcare (OHC) note for the Autumn 2023 hard-copy Newsletter [see p. 4 of the digital version, at <https://www.ohsca.org/publications.html> shortly], I included a reminder on the inter-relationship of the *Integrated Care Boards, Systems and Partnerships* (commenced July 2022), and commented on the phenomenon that the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Joint Committee, which exists as the top co-ordinating body for all Health and Care services in Kent and Medway, with NHS, Councillor, and voluntary-partner membership, had then met ‘in public’ (i.e., accessible to the public on-line) only twice in 2023, and would be holding its third and final 2023 meeting on 7th December, 6 months to the day after its previous meeting.

I ‘attended’ this meeting (as did only four other members of the public.) Scheduled to take two hours, it was over in 90 minutes. It received “updates” on the situation of the Integrated Care Board (responsible for all NHS activity), on ‘Inequalities, Prevention and Population Health’, and on ‘Learning, Disability and Autism’, and it gave formal approval for a substantive Integrated Care Strategy covering all co-operating organisations in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System; this Strategy supersedes the interim 2022 version, which was ‘refreshed’ at the Integrated Care Partnership’s *non-public* Workshop, held on 6th September instead of a scheduled ‘in public’ Joint Committee meeting.

A couple of the District Councillors present did express commitment, pointing out that approval of the Integrated Care Strategy meant that all member organisations in the IC System must now gear all their policies and action to fulfil the Strategy’s promises; but overall, the meeting gave me the impression of an observer body (the Chair at one point said “We are not a scrutiny body”), rather than one proactively driving policy, action and co-ordination for the whole Health and Care system. The ICB update did recognise the aggravation of winter pressures arising from industrial action, but the looming prospect of enormous financial deficits at 31st March was by-passed with talk of “re-balancing’ financial and performance pressures.”

In an attempt to see how typical the Kent & Medway ICB and ICP are, both in the problems they have and how they address them, I have looked at the website and committee papers of the ICB chaired by Patricia Hewitt, who originated and led the official Review of the Integrated Care concept last winter.

I am curious to know how the Integrated Care concept is being tackled elsewhere in England, partly because in Kent & Medway genuine fusion of Health and Care services seems elusive, and partly because in one area at least (Norfolk) there was clearly an awareness last year that Integrated Care was being launched while only half-constructed.

I recalled in earlier OHC Notes that Patricia Hewitt, Health Secretary in 2005–07 but no longer an MP, who has worked extensively in Health and Care consultancy, is Chair of Norfolk & Waveney ICB, and also Vice-Chair of the ICS for that area. Very early in the Integrated Care era, she began writing about how it should work, and by October 2022 had persuaded the Health & Care Secretary to set up a Review, chaired by herself (Hewitt). This reported in April 2023, with 36 recommendations, 19 addressed solely to the Government and a further 15 addressed jointly to the Government and other participants such as Local Authorities. The Government referred the Report to a Commons Committee which was briefed only to consider the “autonomy and accountability” aspect of the Integrated Care structure, not its actual functioning; and in the words of one Royal College (Paediatrics) staffer, “the Government’s response agreed with the principles expressed in the reports [i.e. *those of both Hewitt and the Parliamentary Committee*] but not the substance of the recommendations”; and there the Hewitt Report rests.

So it seemed interesting to see how the Kent & Medway IC System might compare with what could be gleaned about the Norfolk & Waveney (N&W hereinafter) IC System, whose Board Chair clearly has ideas and views on the matter. It might take most of a lifetime to explore all the nuances of Integrated Care, so I can only offer general impressions, but for what mine are worth: N&W is noticeably more accessible and user-friendly to the public than Kent & Medway (K&M); N&W’s documentation, of everything from its membership and personnel, through its organisation to its decision-taking activities and recording thereof, seems to me to be more convincing evidence than is available from K&M of clear thought, comprehensive

activity, and a determination to achieve seamless collaboration between NHS Health and Local Authority Care services.

For a member of the public, starting on-line with little knowledge of Integrated Care organisation, 'googling' 'Norfolk & Waveney', with or without specifying ICB, ICS, or 'Partnership', all lead to the same all-embracing website (<https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/>), from which all aspects of the Norfolk Integrated care activity and organisation seem relatively easy to find. Doing the same with 'Kent and Medway', one is offered different selections of web-sites, including separate ones for the ICB, the IC Partnership, the NHS Trust, the (now defunct) CCG, amid others. While the public in Norfolk are given a single, integrated source of information, in Kent/Medway we are not.

N&W's 'improvinglivesnw' website has an admirably clear home-page, from which you can go straight to the basic data (committee members, executive officers, policies, meeting dates, committee papers etc.), equally about either the Board or the Partnership (as well as the five Place (-based) Boards, seven Health & Wellbeing Partnerships etc.). And while both Systems are implementing the Government's drive to digitise everything, N&W's papers seem to me to suggest a more purposeful approach to educating all sectors of their public to cope with this, and to ensure that all their public papers, from Committee minutes onwards, carry links to explanatory notes.

The N&W Integrated Care Partnership itself appears to have been developed from a Norfolk County Health & Wellbeing Board, which although a County Council body with a Councillor Chair, had contained various NHS representatives, including Patricia Hewitt in her capacity as Chair of the ICB (and as Vice-Chair of the Partnership). By November 2023, the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board and the Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Partnership appear to have coalesced, with the same membership and a combined agenda; meetings start in the guise of the County Health & Wellbeing Board, which deals only with formal business, e.g. Members' Interests, and with questions from the public; then the meeting transmutes into the Partnership, and deals with all the substantive business. This seems to me to attach the responsibility for integration of services more strongly onto the County Council than the rather arm's-length arrangement in Kent and Medway; though admittedly, it could not be mapped directly onto Kent and Medway, with two upper-tier Authorities.

At ground level, most peoples' personal experience of the NHS is still good or very good – except for waiting times, postponements and cancellations, which may certainly be damaging and distressing for some. The 2024 general election is now the next milestone, but in any case, the shortages of money and trained staff are a daunting problem. In the last 20 years we have seen small PCTs, large PCTs, STPs, small CCGs, large CCGs, Integrated Care – will ICBs be superseded after only two years, or will they be re-defined into a new life? Whatever happens, it will take time and money; perhaps the 2029 election will be even more important for the Health Service than the 2024 one.

Denis Linfoot (OHC Convenor), December 2023



Paul Bentley, Inaugural Chief Executive of NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board.



Patricia Hewitt, Chair of NHS Norfolk and Waveney, and Deputy Chair of Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Partnership.

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON ITS CORPORATE PLAN 2024: environmental, climate protection and sustainability dimensions

The City Council is currently consulting on its proposed new Corporate Plan. The consultation period continues until March. The more residents in Canterbury who respond to the consultation, the better. One thing to watch out for in the online questionnaire is the simplicity of the multiple-choice questions. They are structured to elicit agreement to the approach the Council intends to adopt. There is little room for disagreement with elements of the approach, except under main question 3, which invites suggestions as to “anything else” the respondent thinks the Council “should be considering”.

The City Council intends to construct its new Corporate Plan around four themes, derived from the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG.) While this is a welcome move overall, the way in which the themes are explained in the introduction to the questionnaire gives rise to some doubts.

The second theme is “protecting our district for future generations”. The Council’s explanation of this theme belies an implicit compartmentalisation of environmental protection and climate action in the district. *There seems to be an assumption that a concentration on trees, hedgerows, water quality and biodiversity in the rural and coastal areas would be sufficient to ensure progress.* As we know, large parts of the district are urban and suburban. *It is crucial, in my view, that the City Council aspire to enhance our urban environment as well as protect rural and coastal areas.* Residents in the city of Canterbury advocating real improvements and determined climate action should demand the Council commit to action *throughout the district.* An ambitious programme would encompass an expansion of tree cover in built-up areas, planting of more hedges and shrubs, elimination of pollution and littering of waterways and footpaths, and a reduction of urban traffic emissions and noise. No commitments of these types are mentioned in the questionnaire.

The fourth theme is “growing our district sustainably”. There is an objectionable assumption in the way this theme is explained that there must sometimes be a trade-off between growth and environmental impact in the district. *Reduction of environmental damage and of greenhouse gas emissions should in my view be paramount in the Corporate Plan, not somehow negotiable owing to some perceived “growth opportunity”.* Unemployment and deprivation in the district are not so bad that our precious environment and our unique heritage need to be put in jeopardy. There are plenty of employment, housing, and further education opportunities in surrounding districts and in other parts of England (or indeed abroad) available to residents in the district. Potential new residents, potential students, potential new businesses, and potential visitors alike will be put off choosing Canterbury as a location or destination, if we ruin our own surroundings. A failure to enhance our environment and protect our heritage will thus impair the very economic prosperity, which the Council apparently aspires to achieve through a concentration on “growth”.

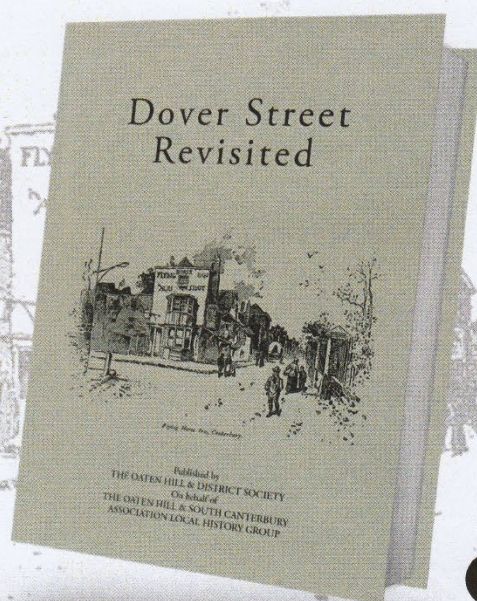
Those residents who have read David Kemsley’s excellent article on p. 3 of this edition of the OHSCA newsletter, about revision of the Canterbury District Local Plan, will be aware of the continuing risk that large greenfield sites around our existing conurbations become covered by unsustainable housing developments. In South Canterbury we already face the environmental consequences of the build-out of the vast Mountfield Park development. If the Council allocates, in addition, large sites along the Littlebourne Road for new housing, it is hard to imagine how travel around and between built-up sections of the south-east quadrant of the city will be practicable, let alone sustainable. In this way we see the inter-linkage between the draft Corporate Plan and the draft Local Plan. If the former is not based solidly on absolute prioritisation of sustainability (with an emphasis on carbon neutrality), then we are likely to be very disappointed with the content of the latter.

Peter Styles (OHSCA member, Vice Chair of SARA, member of the ACRA Committee, Vice Chair of CAST), 10th January 2023

<https://www.ccap.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CAST-The-New-Canterbury-Transport-Strategy-2020.pdf>

Now on Sale

Dover Street Revisited



£10.00

The Oaten Hill Local History Group has published the latest volume in their history of local streets series. The history of Dover Street was published some 30 years ago and is now out of print. The previous edition comprised a series of memories of residents recalling the street as it was between 1900 and 1990.

The new edition seeks to explore the lives of those who lived and worked here during the past 200 years. The area has been broadened to include Vernon Place and Oaten Hill Place.

**The book, fully illustrated with colour photographs, is available from the LHG at:
history@ohsca.org
or by telephoning:**

07521 760072

**A full list of publications can be viewed at:
<https://www.ohsca.org/history.html>**

Dover Street Revisited, the latest publication from the OHSCA Local History Group (see also p. 5)

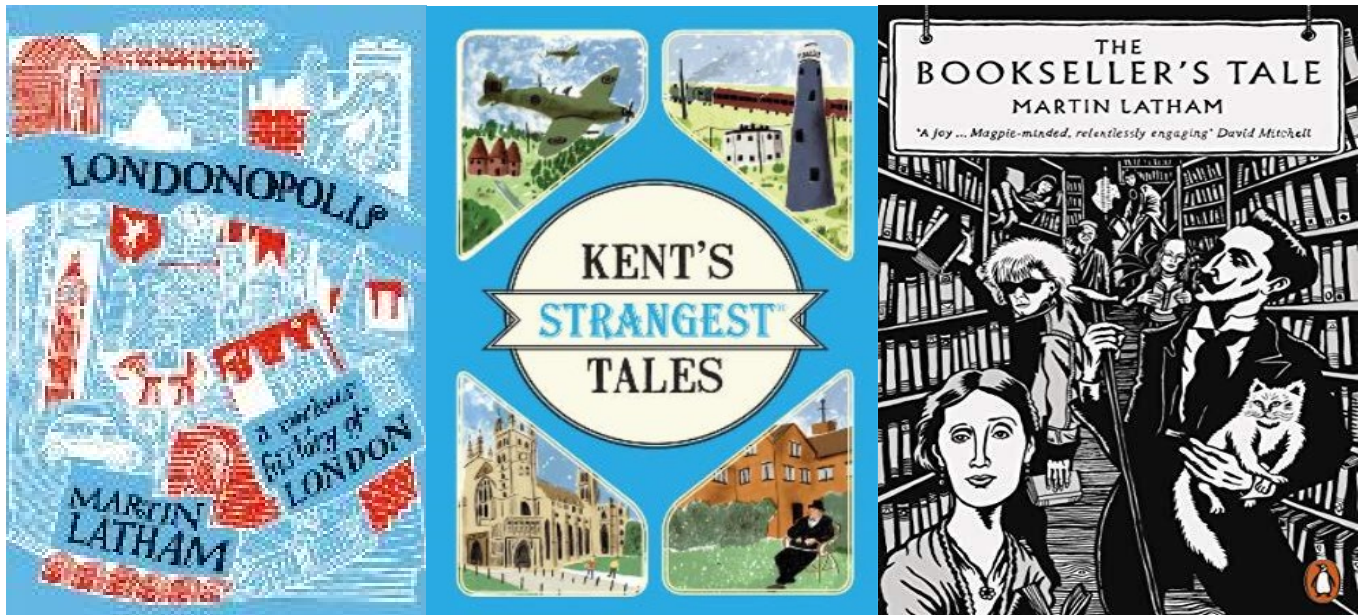
OHSCA SPRING PARTY FRIDAY 15TH MARCH 2024

We invite all members to join us for the OHSCA Spring Party on Friday 15th March 2024 at the Kent and Canterbury Club, The Elms, 17 Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3JB. It promises to be an enjoyable evening, with an opportunity to socialise with members and guests, to hear a talk by Martin Latham, Manager of the Canterbury Branch of Waterstones, and to enjoy a hot and cold buffet.



We will start at 6.30 pm with an opportunity to socialise in the Bar, followed at 7 pm in the upstairs or downstairs room with a talk by Waterstones' longest serving manager, Martin Latham. Martin has been the Manager of the Canterbury Branch of Waterstones for over 35 years, and is the author of *The Bookseller's Tale*; *Londonopolis: A Curious and Quirky History of London*; and *Kent's Strangest Tales: Extraordinary but True Stories from a Very Curious County*. Martin will be talking about *Kent's Strangest Tales* at the Faversham Literary Festival in February.





Following Martin's talk at 8pm, a hot and cold buffet will be served in the downstairs room. Drinks will continue to be available in the bar. This will offer members the opportunity to sit at the small tables or circulate as they wish. The evening will end at 9 pm.

There is ample parking at the rear of the Kent & Canterbury Club.

The cost of the event will be £30. We have kept the price of tickets as low as possible to cover the cost of the buffet and hire of the venue. Places are limited to 35 so please book early to secure your place and **at the latest by 1st March**. Please contact social@ohsca.org or by telephone 01227 768 624 to reserve a place, and send £30 in cash/cheque (*cheques made out to OHSCA*) by post or by hand to Dick & Hazel Vane-Wright, 42 Cromwell Road, Canterbury CT1 3LE. Please include your email address and/or postal address if not on the internet. We will then send you a ticket electronically to your email address or by post if you are not on the internet. There will be no admission without a ticket. *Please indicate if you are unable to access the upstairs room so that we can plan accordingly.*

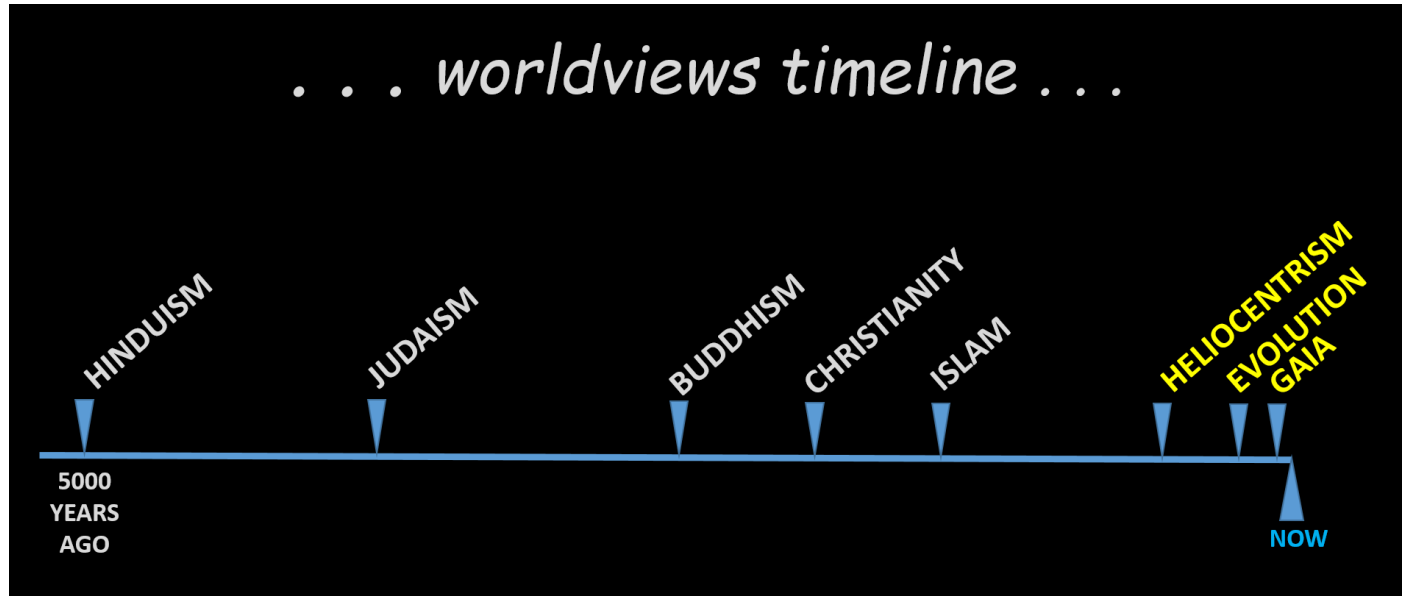
Lorna Durrani, SEA Convenor, 19th January 2024



Needs to get out more?
(Bike and Flowering Bindweed Embrace, Canterbury West Station, 6th August 2023. Ed.)

EVOLUTION OF SOME WORLDVIEWS

At the 12th December 'local author' talk about evolution, among many diagrams, texts and charts, one stood out that raised interesting questions without need for much explanation: a timeline of the origin of the world's five major religions, and that of three major stages in the progress of modern science that occurred during and since the Reformation. As this chart is unlikely to appear in any other forum or medium, the Editor includes it here for those of a questioning disposition!



Hinduism is thought to have originated about 5000 years ago.

Judaism originated about 3800 years ago.

Buddhism about 2500 years ago.

Christianity originated some 2000 years ago.

Islam originated just over 1400 years ago.

It was not properly understood that the Sun did not travel around the Earth, but the reverse, until about 500 years ago ('heliocentrism') – an insight primarily associated with Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543).

The first plausible theories of organic evolution, placing people as part of nature rather than separate, did not appear until about 200 years ago (associated with the writings of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace) – ideas still probably rejected by a majority of people alive today.

Systems theory, cybernetics and modern ecology are fields of scientific understanding that only originated after the turn of the 20th Century, being associated with such names as Alexander Bogdanoff, Charles Elton, Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Norbert Wiener, Gregory Bateson, Margaret Mead, Heinz von Foerster, John von Neumann, Humberto Maturana, Francisco Varela and Howard T. Odum. In the hands of the late James Lovelock, originator of the *Gaia Hypothesis*, came the realisation that all actions within the biosphere are interconnected and consequential in complex, unexpected and potentially destabilising ways. Systems theory is thus the essential science for any possibility of understanding and managing climate change. Contrast this with conventional economics, whereby the environment has often been seen as an 'externality' [<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2010/12/basics.htm>] that can be ignored.

Do we have ancient wisdom? Does our Council have wisdom, ancient or modern? (cf. p. 12). Ed.

SIMON WILLIAMS

Simon Williams will be sharing some of his experiences of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) at the Kent & Canterbury Club, 17 Old Dover Road, on Tuesday 20th February, 18.45 for 17.15 (end by 20.45).

Cost: £5.00 per person. Please book in advance, via social@ohsca.org. Numbers are limited, so be early to avoid disappointment!

The FCDO: 44 years – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Simon Williams, career diplomat, recently retired after 44 years serving in the Philippines, Swaziland, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Morocco, Syria, Kenya, Libya, Kuwait, Dubai and Afghanistan. Simon has done a range of FCDO work, including political reporting, consular work, managing Entry Clearance operations, Senior Management Officer – but over the last 15 years, predominantly acting as Director of Trade and Investment.



Main FCDO building, Whitehall