

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER
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APRIL 2024

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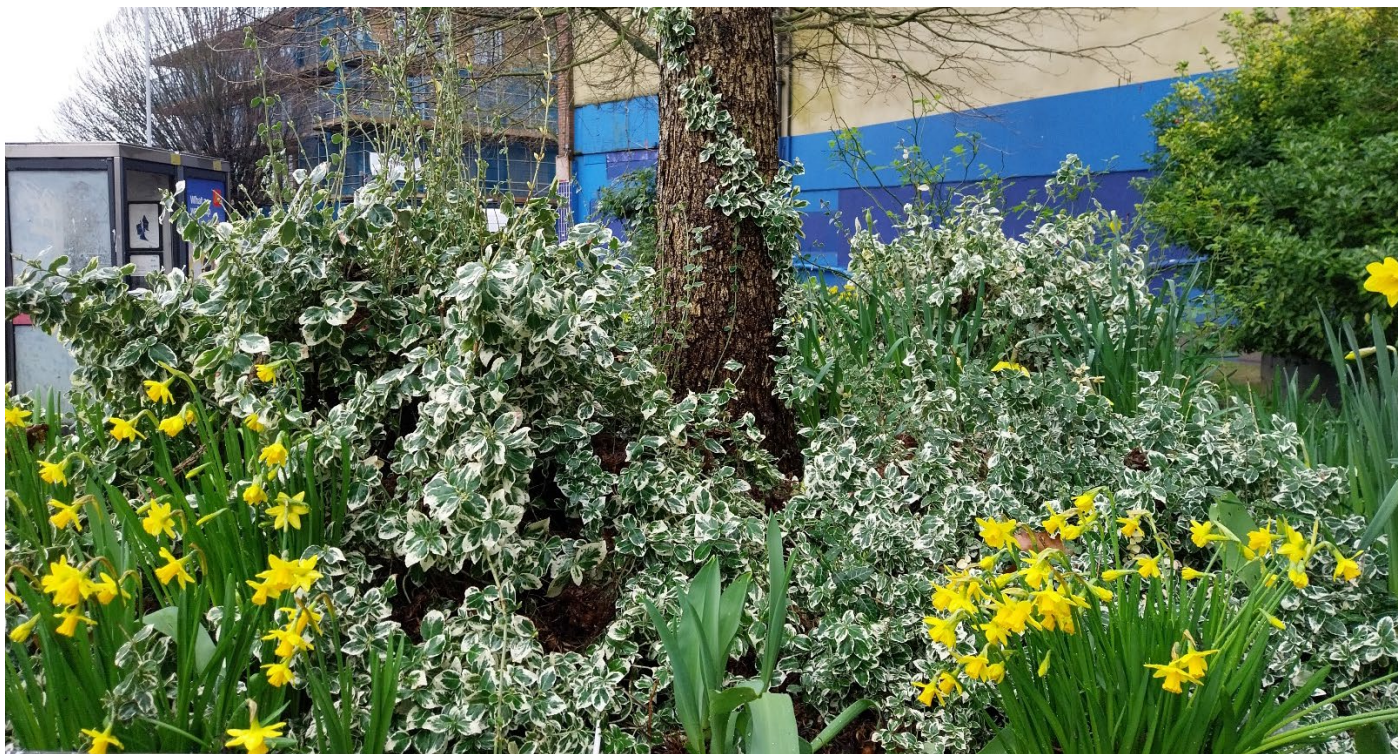
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WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWS!

Celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of *Oaten Hill and District Society* – the ‘senior partner’ in the merger that formed OHSCA – continue. At our summer party in July, with cake and champagne (p. 5); on 1st September, with a walk to tell the story of Oaten Hill (p. 6).

I have often heard it said that residents’ associations only flourish in the face of adversity – when there is something going on that citizens are angry about, or oppose. Certainly opposition to an unwelcome planning proposal sparked the founding of OHDS (likewise SCRA, years later – the ‘junior partner’). But right now we have a rather different challenge – we are faced with huge housing developments that will undoubtedly change Canterbury for ever. Simply being against will not do – the social need for new housing is too great. Fortunately, we are blessed with excellent volunteer groups and remarkable individuals willing and able to negotiate, on our behalf, with the City Council, our elected councillors, and the private developers, to do all that can be done to find the best way forward. As Editor, I am proud to be able to present David Kemsley’s outstanding overview of the current state of play regarding the Local Plan, and all that it entails (pp. 2–3). Your support for OHSCA – through membership and, if you can, active volunteering – is vital if we are to continue to press for our city’s best possible future.

Dick Vane-Wright, Editor



The yellow of Spring at OHSCA’s St George’s garden, March 2024 (photograph: Deirdre Hawkes)

PLANNING

The major planning news this quarter concerns a number of really important public consultations launched by Canterbury City Council – which OHSCA members are urged to read *via* the council's website (<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/search-results?q=consultations>). First, however, news of a consultation that closed on 4th March.

The Corporate Plan

A reminder of its purpose: at least once during an administration, roughly every four years, the council sets out its medium-term vision for the future including its aims, ambitions and a set of objectives. Once agreed, the Corporate Plan is used by council officers to make recommendations to councillors and is used by councillors to make decisions and prioritise limited resources.

The Corporate Plan has to work in harmony with the council's Local Plan, the council's official planning blueprint – which allocates land for new homes, jobs, new schools and community uses as well as imposing rules designed to dictate the quality and density of developments, boost biodiversity, protect valued open spaces over the long term, and ensure any new development minimises its contribution to climate change while also mitigating against its effects. It also has to complement the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which looks at the council's finances. It is the council's intention to build the Corporate Plan



Cllr Alan Baldock, leader of CCC [image © Kent Online]

around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our councillors will now be analyzing the results of the consultation process. We look forward to publication of the finalized plan in due course.

The Draft Local Plan

Canterbury City Council has launched its public consultation on its New Local Plan 2040 (<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/new-local-plan-2040>), in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Consultations on several related strategies and plans are also in progress, including:

- Draft Canterbury District Transport Strategy (<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/the-draft-canterbury-district-transport-strategy/>)
- Draft Canterbury District Open Space Strategy 2024–2040 (<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/draft-open-space-strategy-2024-2040/>)
- Draft Air Quality Action Plan (<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/draft-air-quality-action-plan/>)
- Draft Sustainable Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

(<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/sustainable-design-guide-supplementary-planning-document-spd/>)

Information about the District Local Plan and other documents can be found by using the above links. Views are requested by **5 pm Monday 3 June 2024**. Questionnaires are available for completion – details appear at the end of each set of online papers. If you want to see what questions you will be asked before you start filling in the survey, there is a list of questions. If you need a paper copy of a survey, or if you need a document (or aspects of it) in a different format, please contact Victoria Asimaki, Principal Policy Officer (Engagement) consultations@canterbury.gov.uk.

As part of the consultation process, the Council will be arranging a meeting with various amenity societies across the district. OHSCA will be represented at this event via its membership of ACRA (Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations)

The Local Plan contains the revised targets for new homes in the area and proposed sites for the period ending 2040. Taken together with previously approved developments not yet built, the number of new builds needed over the next 17 years equates to about 1180 dwellings per annum.

So this is a very important set of documents, totaling over 600 pages of material, which need to be read through with great care. Although predominantly about new homes, there is much about environmental conservation, with open space, transport, and air quality being covered by strategic plans of their own. The standout out features for me from these documents include a bus-led transport strategy, encouragement of walking and cycling, and a focus on reduction of nitrogen dioxide emissions (primarily from diesel cars and light goods vehicles). There is reference to improvements in rail services – but although I do not want to denigrate the importance of what is proposed, this only relates to station access rather than train journeys.

A long-established ACRA Local Plan Subgroup, of which I am a member, is now looking at the detail of these proposals. Our starting point in scrutinising the Local Plan itself centres around three issues:

- The revised National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) government guidance released in Dec 2023 and subsequent, significant explanatory statements by Ministers;
- Assessment of housing need in light of the waiting list for social housing, the latest available population projections, and student accommodation trends; and
- Deliverability of both that volume of new homes every year, and long-term essential supporting infrastructure.

In this context, the following extract from a speech in the House of Commons made this January by the Minister of Housing is of special interest:

"The ... update of the NPPF framework ... delivers on the intent set out by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities last year. It does so in a way that seeks to promote building the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure, *which will ensure that the environment is protected and will give local people a greater say*

on where, and where not, to place development. [emphasis added]

“... we have been consistently clear that the standard method is a starting point for local authorities in assessing what to plan for and that it does not set a mandatory target. The framework now sets that out in national policy. Local authorities should be in no doubt that the outcome of the standard method is an advisory starting point for establishing housing requirements through plan-making. Again, for the avoidance of doubt, that means that local authorities can put forward their own approach to assessing needs where certain exceptional circumstances exist.

“In response to a specific question by Maria Miller as to whether the Minister could “... confirm that there will be more types of exceptional circumstances put forward in the future than there have been in the past?”, I am absolutely certain that there will be more cases for exceptional circumstances put forward in the future, and I encourage councils to consider them if they believe that they apply. Logically, I would then expect more cases for exceptional circumstances to be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, although that will also be for the inspectorate to determine on a case-by-case basis. It is the Government's intention to indicate that cases for exceptional circumstances can be made, that local authorities should weigh up making them and that, if they feel that they have a strong case through the Planning Inspectorate process, they do so for the good of the communities they seek to serve.”



Stodmarsh NNR [image © Visit Kent]

In light of the Minister's statement, the ACRA subgroup will be asking the City Council to explain to residents why it has not so far taken advantage of this new discretion given by central government to planning authorities when they assess the number of new homes to be built in the district. We will also ask why the Council believes this new plan is compliant with the new NPPF guidance.

In ACRA's view, the combination here of our World Heritage Site designation, the pressures on local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (which include the internationally important Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve), and the extremely high ratio of university students to the local resident population, most certainly qualify as exceptional factors, using the Minister's criteria.

We will therefore be strongly urging the City Council to reconsider the opportunity to make a case for exceptional circumstances for Canterbury and, by so doing, fulfil (and be seen to fulfil) its duty of care to the local community. [for Stop Press update – see p. 17.]

CCC Ward Boundaries

Draft recommendations for new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names for Canterbury City Council have now been published. Consultation closes on **6 May 2024**; comments are invited via <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/canterbury>. My reading of the proposals is that the number of CCC councillors has increased by 1 to 40, and the Barton and Wincheap wards as such will disappear and be replaced by St Martins and St Lawrence. The boundary line effectively follows the railway line from Canterbury East in the Dover direction. Thus Ersham Road would be in St Martins and Wells Avenue in St Lawrence.

Longport Cycle Path



[image © Kent Online]

OHSCA members who attended the “lively” public meeting in November to voice their concerns about this scheme will be interested to know that the long awaited independent safety audit has now been commissioned; we await the results with great interest. What the assessor will make of it all remains to be seen and, in particular, the ludicrously extensive area of paving on the bend leading into Monastery Street – but I know from the meeting that there are many other unresolved concerns.

Mountfield Meetings



CORINTHIAN
LAND

The ACRA South Canterbury Community engagement group continues to meet the developer every quarter.

It is clear that efforts are being made to contact as many groups/organizations in the area to sound out their views about a development that is contextually in keeping with Canterbury's culture and heritage. Work continues on the planning of the service infrastructure that will be required. This is a long-term project – for example, the power supply cabling installation is expected to take three years.

David J. Kemsley, 17th March 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Firstly, welcome to our new members. We hope you enjoy the various activities listed in this newsletter. If you would like to volunteer for anything that fits your special interests, please contact the relevant committee member (contact details on p. 8). We could always do with more help and it is a good way to get to know other members, and the area.

A special *Thank You* to all those members (more than 160, so far) who have renewed their subscriptions promptly – you will continue to receive your newsletter and emails, if subscribed to the email list, until the end of the year. We are especially delighted to see so many returning members. Also, very many thanks for the many generous donations we have received.

If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as you can, as it makes the life of a membership secretary so much easier! The back of a printed newsletter will indicate if you have already renewed or not. Please remember to complete a membership form (you can download it from our web site membership page: <https://www.ohsca.org/join.html>) if any of your details have changed, such as email addresses and phone numbers, or you are a returning member.

Please send payment and membership forms to OHSCA, c/o Sophie Scott, 27 Ersham Road, Canterbury CT1 3AR with cash/cheque subscription, cheques payable to OHSCA. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, please be sure to *add the first line of your address to the reference* – so that we can correctly identify you and your subscription. Our bank details are: NatWest, Sort code: 60-04-27, account name Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association, account no: 90612094.

*Sophie Scott, Membership Secretary
Lucy Fletcher-Jones*

Website and Email Notifications

OHSCA uses the quarterly newsletter as its primary means of communication with members, but I would just like to inform new members and remind existing members that we do also have a good website (<https://www.ohsca.org/>) which acts as a back-up to the newsletter. You can view the website at any time and it is especially useful if you lose your paper newsletter or the digital version gets lost in the deluge of emails we each receive every day!

The website is updated monthly and contains an events diary <http://www.ohsca.org/events.html>. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see on the website, please let me know at the email address below. If you take any photographs of events, please do send them to me. It is always good to keep the website fresh.

I also send out email alerts, usually reminders of specific activities, but also any changes in previously published activity information. You can sign up to these by including your email address on the membership form (<https://www.ohsca.org/join.html>) and agreeing to its use, or you can send an email to me (see my email address below) asking to be subscribed.

*Lucy Fletcher-Jones, OHSCA Website, and events
bulletin alerts website@ohsca.org*

FINANCE

To date our OHSCA funds remain very healthy. Thank you to the many members, including some new ones, who have paid their annual subscriptions on time and have been very generous with donations to the Association.

Since the previous newsletter we have made donations to the Canterbury Heritage and Design Forum, the Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations, and to Churchill Road Tree fund to assist them with maintaining their wonderful Spring blossom display. The deposit for a 50th Anniversary cake to be made for our Summer Party has been paid.

Plans for future expenditure include a replacement notice board in Oaten Hill – with the help of a local resident. We are also in discussion with the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to plant a tree in the grounds, again to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Association. As a hospital and GP centre in our area and one that many members use, we thought this would be a good idea.

The committee always welcome any ideas that members have with a view to enhancing our environment.

Jane Pollok, Honorary Treasurer, March 2024

GREEN TEAM

Deirdre's photographs taken in March at our St George's garden (page 1), and here at the Fire Station, show how our efforts reward residents, visitors and volunteers all alike, with vibrant Spring colours.



And very many thanks to the eleven OHSCA volunteers who made the litter pick of 16th March such a success!

Sophie Scott and Helly Langley

OHC NEWS AND COMMENT

The Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board met on 6 February and 5 March, concentrating at the latter meeting on two matters: Primary Care (including Dentistry), and 'Governance'.

On Primary Care, we know that Kent and Medway are exceptionally under-provided with GPs; also with NHS dentists. There is a sudden national 'initiative' to fund more of the latter; it is to be 'targeted', so adopting the metaphor, we must hope it won't also be 'hit-and-miss'.

On Governance, the ICB has been doing a big self-scrutiny, thus at the March meeting there were glimpses of a welcome dissatisfaction with the failure to achieve overall leadership of the Integrated Care Partnership, whose Joint Committee meeting was postponed from 6 March to 4 April.

There seems unlikely to be much indication before the coming general election campaign (if then) as to how the Health and Care services may be re-shaped to address their many current challenges. The only certainty is that the NHS will not be going back to any Golden Age of a decade or two ago. But before the election manifestoes appear, there has been a substantial contribution from another source:

On 3 March, readers of *The Times* newspaper will have seen the eleven-page summary of the *Times Health Commission* (THC) Report, with a further nine-page contribution on 5 March. You can (as I write this) download the full, 100 page account using this link: https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/24398476/times-health-commission_report_2024.pdf.

From a rough count, the text of the Report is around 55,000–60,000 words – far too much to summarise here. It includes ten recommendations for action thought necessary for the recovery of the Health and Care 'system'. The full Report provides two versions of these, one totalling 330 words, the other (2350 words) also too long for this Newsletter. The 330-word recommendations are presented below, on p. 10; summarising here, they address perceived issues as follows:



(1) 'Patient passports' for all, giving electronic access to personal NHS data etc.; (2) week-end operation of 'surgical hubs', to keep lists clear; (3) reform of the GP contract, to "restore continuity of care"; (4) write-off of student loans, to encourage NHS staff retention; (5) no-blame compensation for errors; (6) a National Care System, parallel with the NHS; (7) guarantee of prompt mental health support for the young; (8) tackling obesity with taxes, control of advertising; (9) improve health professionals' participation in research; (10) establishing a Healthy Lives Committee, with commitment to increase healthy life-expectancy.

Space permits just one rather random comment, on recommendation (6): the 'National Care System' – to be "administered locally and delivered by a mixture of

public and private sectors" – is perhaps the most mysterious idea; would it mean giving up (already) on the 'integrate' aspiration central to the two-year-old local Integrated Care Partnerships?

But there's little point in trying to guess. We must just be thankful that in spite of everything – the waiting lists, staff pressures and shortages etc. – there is still a very great deal of willing, effective and largely timely health service being given for us.

Denis Linfoot (OHSCA HealthCare Convenor), March 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 2024

- *Monthly coffee mornings* continue every fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 St Margaret's Street, 11.00–12.00. Future dates: April, 22nd May, 26th June, 24th July, 28th August, 25th September, 23rd October, and 27th November (no meeting in December).
- *Games and social gatherings* are held on the first Monday of each month at *The Phoenix*, 67 Old Dover Road (the next is on the 6th May bank holiday), starting from 7 pm.
- *Special Walks*. We are planning a Bluebell Walk on Saturday 27th April (details to be confirmed), and then, probably in June, a two mile ramble from Canterbury via the section of Stour Valley Walk that runs through Timpson Wood, along the edge of Old Park, and thence via the water-meadows cycle path to Fordwich. End at *The George & Dragon*. Walk back, or return by bus or train.
- *Spring Party*. The Spring Party took place on Friday 15th March 2024 at the Kent & Canterbury Club with a talk by Martin Latham, Manager at Waterstones, about his book *The Bookseller's Tale*, followed by a buffet meal. Those present were royally entertained by Martin, and greatly enjoyed the buffet – and a glass of wine to celebrate the occasion.
- *Talks*. We started to hold talks by local authors at the Kent & Canterbury Club in 2022, with Jenny Uglow, Osman Durrani, Francis Green and Nigel Fletcher-Jones. These events proved very popular and we arranged seven in 2023. Including Martin Latham, we have arranged six talks for 2024. On 20th February Simon Williams offered a fascinating account of his experiences as a diplomat. Two Poetry Evenings will take place, one on 4th June the other in December, with ten poets participating. Stephen Scoffham (CCCU) will talk 23rd September about sustainability, and in November we have OHSCA member Phil Perkins (Open University) to give a presentation about his archaeological work.
- *Summer Lunch Party 2024*. This year Gill Prett (Cromwell Road) has kindly agreed to host this year's summer lunch party. On 28th July we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Oaten Hill &

District Society (which merged with SCRA in 2016, to form OHSCA), with bubbly and a celebration cake provided by the OHSCA Committee. Members will bring food and drink contributions as usual.

- *Gardening Interest Group (GIG)*. A Seed Share and Gardeners' Question Time took place at *The Phoenix* on Friday 8th March. A visit to Goodnestone Gardens is planned for Wednesday 8th May. This year's Plant Share will take place on Sunday 26th May, at the Cromwell Road home of Dick and Hazel Vane-Wright.
- *Weekly local walks* take place on Wednesdays. There is a WhatsApp group who communicate in advance about whether or not the walk will take place. Anyone wanting to join the WhatsApp group should contact Alison Culverwell or Lucy Fletcher-Jones.

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

Lorna Durrani, SEA Convenor



Camellia -- early spring colour from Alison -- anyone for Theaceae, vicar?

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thank you Derek Ray for your four years as Chair of OHSCA's Local History Group. As his successor, I would like to acknowledge Derek personally, and also particularly for all the support he gave to our latest project, *Dover Street Revisited*.

We are currently finalising our contribution to the celebration of Oaten Hill & District Society/Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association's 50th anniversary, in association with which, David Potter will be guiding a tour around Oaten Hill. The basis of the tour will be our book *The Story of Oaten Hill*, of which David was the principal author. The tour will take place on Sunday 1st September, meeting outside the City Bar at 11.00 am. *The Story of Oaten Hill*, together with other booklets on roads and families in our area, is illustrated on our web site <https://www.ohsca.org/history.html>, and is available via history@ohsca.org.

The dates of our next two meetings are 14th May and 9th July.

Maggie Bower, LHG Chair, March 2024

THE NEW PILGRIMS WAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Work is currently underway in Pilgrims Way to construct a brand new school to replace the current 1960s building. The rebuild has been commissioned by the

Department of Education to ensure basic needs – like the number of toilets and hall size – are met. The new school will be constructed on site around the existing buildings, which will then be demolished to become the new playground.

Classes 5 and 6 (four classes) have moved into portable classrooms while the rest of the school remain in their current accommodation. The project, which started in January 2024, is due to be completed by October 2025, with children starting in the new building in September 2025. The school will continue to operate a two form entry with a PAN (Published Admissions Number) of 60 pupils.

Marion Bell, with thanks to Mrs E Campbell, H/T



Preparing for the delivery of mobile classrooms, Pilgrims Way, 13th February 2024

CONNECTING CANTERBURY

Connecting Canterbury is a small charity, supported by Christians and churches in Canterbury, dedicated to helping local people in need. We are able to make small, discreet, emergency grants for energy, and larger grants for white goods etc. In 2023, we helped 231 people, with grants totalling over £6000. Eighty-eight larger grants were also made, through our links to supporting charities, the City Council, KCC, and other supportive trusts and agencies.

We meet weekly at our two principal hubs: on Thursdays at Lily's Cafe, Canterbury Baptist Church, opposite Waitrose at 11 am – 1 pm, and on Fridays at All Saints Church, Military Road, next to the GPO, 10.00–12.00. Free food is provided at both hubs to anyone in need, and there is often clothing and bedding available. Citizen's Advice provide inspirational help and advice, and other supportive agencies are regularly present too. Where possible, we encourage people to save and borrow responsibly, and are able to refer people to the Kent Savers Credit Union, which is soon to become part of a larger body 'Wave'.

Through the help of many kind supporters and benefactors, a Christmas Lunch was also provided to 84 people and families who were in need or alone.

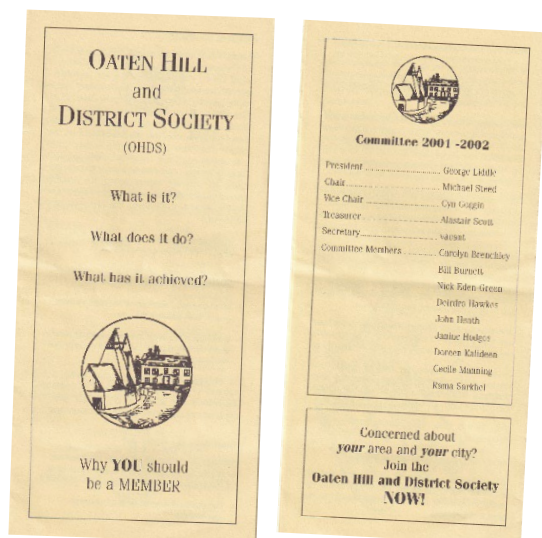
We very much welcome people willing to come and see how we seek to serve people in need, and you could text 079 9990 0659, or visit our website at <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/mission/socialjustice/network/connecting-canterbury/>. We work ecumenically, helping people of faith or no faith, and are part of the Social Justice body c/o the Diocese of Canterbury. Help financially would also be appreciated, because needs now are so great.

David Hartwell, 7 Lichfield Avenue, CT1 3YA

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.

OHDS 2001–2002



These images are from an OHDS tri-fold A4 promotional leaflet produced 22 years ago that was kindly brought to the Editor's attention. Fascinating – insofar as the aims of OHDS back then were virtually identical to those of OHSCA today – including “publishing ... an informative Member's Newsletter”, “scrutiny of local planning applications”, “making representation to the City Council on behalf of members”, “talks”, “coffee mornings”, “social events”, and “publishing booklets on [local] history”. Of great interest is the statement “A Committee administers the affairs of the Society *with the opportunity to serve being open to all members.*” [emphasis added]. At that time the Chair was the late and greatly missed Michael Steed – and Nick Eden-Green (just moved away from Canterbury) and Deirdre Hawkes were committee members. The complete leaflet is imaged on page 11.



WHITHER THE BAT & BALL IN 2024?

Many of us will remember the exterior (at least!) of the Bat & Ball pub that stood opposite what is now the entrance to Sainsbury's (tsk, sorry, the St Lawrence County Cricket Ground). Many facts about this old hostelry, including a tale of stolen pigs and hard labour, can be found on the very entertaining 'Dover Kent Archives' website (<http://www.dover-kent.com/Bat-and-Ball-Canterbury.html>) – where the images include the 1991 photograph by Kevin Thorpe (©) shown below.

Sold in 2017 and converted into *L'Hôte Boutique Hotel Bar & Grill*, a rather upmarket affair that seems to have been killed off (it closed in 2022) by that powerful trio of covid, inflation and, probably, the decline in well-heeled tourists visiting our shores. Whatever, this local landmark which, not least, acts as a boundary stone on the southeast corner of the OHSCA area, has been sold again. Proposals for its latest transformation have been submitted to CCC.

Permission is being requested, I quote, to “Change ... use from pub to assisted living accommodation and cafe in addition to a single-storey rear extension and pergola together with the change of use of a dwelling to ancillary managers accommodation”. Does almost everything in Canterbury end up as either a nail bar, a charity shop or a café? But at least it does sound as if the intention is to put this rather fine old building to good use again.

The applicants are Canterbury Atlas Hotels Ltd. Based in Merton Lane, there does not seem to be much about them online (<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10505399>).

Anyone interested should have commented by 12th April – a fast moving world is planning. Besides, the CCC planning system is down as I write, due to cyber-attack. If and when it is up and running again, the relevant number is (or was) CA/24/00290. Meanwhile, never mind a pint from the old Bat & Ball, mine's a Kopi Luwak (and they don't serve that at 7 St Margaret Street!).



Asian Palm Civet

[© <http://animal.memozee.com/view.php?tid=3&did=39236>]

Dick Vane-Wright, 20th March 2024.

MARION'S OHSCA NEW YEAR WORDSEARCH

Anselm, Marlowe, Station, Augustine, Martin, Stour, Bredin, Nunnery, Thomas, Cricket, OHSCA, Westgate, Dunstan, Old Park, Hospital, Pilgrim, Langton, Roman, Longport, Sidney Cooper.

Congratulations to anyone who found them all!

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: Maggie Bower, maggie_bower18@outlook.com 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).

- ACRA Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations
- OHC OHSCA HealthCare subcommittee
- SEA Social Events and Activities subcommittee
- For information about Cathedral Pass: <https://www.ohsca.org/publications.html> [Spring 2023 Newsletter, p.1]
- For St Augustine's Abbey Annual Pass, go to: <https://www.ohsca.org/news.html>

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/news.html>

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OHSCA 2024 dates, mid-April to August		26 June	Coffee morning (p. 5)
24 April	Coffee morning (p. 5)	1 July	games/social <i>Phoenix</i> (p. 5)
27 April	Bluebell walk (p. 5)	9 July	Local History Group (p. 6)
6 May	pub games/social at <i>The Phoenix</i> (p. 5)	24 July	Coffee morning (p. 5)
8 May	<u>Goodnestone</u> Gardens (p. 6)	28 July	Summer Lunch (p. 5)
14 May	Local History Group (p. 6)	5 August	games/social <i>Phoenix</i> (p. 5)
22 May	Coffee morning (p. 5)	28 August	Coffee morning (p. 5)
26 May	Plant Share (p. 6)	1 September	<i>Story of Oaten Hill</i> (p. 6)
3 June	pub games/social at <i>The Phoenix</i> (p. 5)	23 September	Talk at K&C Club (p. 5)
4 June	Poetry evening at <u>K&C Club</u> (p. 5)	25 October	<u>OHSCA</u> AGM (Kendall Hall)

DIGITAL EXTRA

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Signs of Spring: fox (Cromwell Rd 11th April), blossom, OHSCA coffee morning (27th March 2024)

A ten-point plan for health

- 1** Create digital health accounts for patients, called patient passports, accessed through the NHS app, to book appointments, order prescriptions, view records, test results or referral letters and contact clinicians.
- 2** Tackle waiting lists by introducing a national programme of weekend high-intensity theatre lists to get through a week of planned operations in a day and create seven-day-a-week surgical hubs.
- 3** Reform the GP contract to focus on wider health outcomes, ensure prompt appointments and restore continuity of care. Encourage more super-practices and create community health centres.
- 4** Write off student loans for doctors, nurses and midwives who stay in the NHS. Debt should be cut by 30 per cent for those staying three years, 70 per cent for seven years and 100 per cent for ten.
- 5** Introduce no-blame compensation for medical errors with settlements determined according to need to ensure families get quick support and encourage the NHS to learn from mistakes.
- 6** A National Care System giving the right to appropriate support in a timely fashion. Equal but different from the NHS, it should be administered locally and delivered by a mixture of public and private sectors.
- 7** Guarantee that all children and young people requiring mental health support can get timely treatment and rapid follow-up appointments. Publish data on waiting times for all mental health services.
- 8** Tackle obesity by expanding the sugar tax, taxing salt, implementing a pre-watershed ban on junk food advertising and reducing cartoons on packaging to minimise children's exposure to unhealthy food.
- 9** Incentivise NHS staff to take part in research and put the case for research to their patients by giving 20 per cent of consultants and other senior clinicians 20 per cent protected time for research.
- 10** Establish a Healthy Lives Committee empowered by a legally binding commitment to increase healthy life expectancy by five years in a decade.

Reproduced from https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/24398476/times-health-commission_report_2024.pdf. ©

As related by Denis Linfoot on page 5, the *Times Health Commission* includes these ten recommendations for action thought necessary for the recovery of the UK's health and care system.

The Times Health Commission was set up in January last year to take a long, hard look at the NHS and social care system. Its aim was to consider the future of healthcare in the light of the pandemic, the opportunities presented by new technology, the ageing population, workforce pressures, an obesity crisis and growing health inequalities ... The NHS is facing the worst crisis in its history. The waiting lists, ambulance delays, struggling A&E departments, overwhelmed GP surgeries and social care backlogs mean that fundamental change can no longer be avoided.

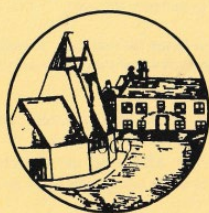
Quotation from Tony Gallagher, Editor, *Times Health Commission* Report

OATEN HILL and DISTRICT SOCIETY (OHDS)

What is it?

What does it do?

What has it achieved?



Why **YOU** should
be a MEMBER

What is the OHDS?

Oaten Hill, along with Longport, forms two of the City of Canterbury's five historic medieval suburbs. In April 1974 a planning application was submitted to convert the house known as *The Shrubbery*, located at the junction of Oaten Hill and Upper Chantry Lane, into offices. If successful this would have led to the many fine trees in the garden being pulled down. Local residents went into action and the trees were saved. The Oaten Hill and District Society (OHDS) was also born. Today, OHDS is a lively and active amenity society. Currently with some 400 members, OHDS is concerned with preserving the distinctive character of what is one of the most interesting and diverse areas of Canterbury. The objectives of the OHDS are:

- Enabling the members of the community to control their physical environment
- Promoting the balance between the residential and business interests in the area
- Informing local residents of the opportunities available to enhance the area
- Providing a forum for residents, keeping them in touch with each other through newsletters and social activities

An energetic Local History Group forms a key element of the Society's work. A Committee administers the affairs of the Society with the opportunity to serve being open to all members.

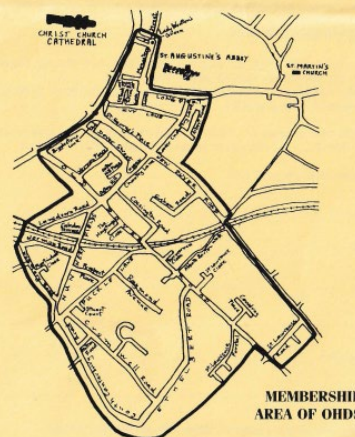
What does the OHDS do?

Amongst its regular activities are the following:

- Publishing a minimum of 3 issues a year of an informative *Members' Newsletter*
- The thorough scrutiny of local planning applications

- Commenting on a wide range of development, amenity and transport proposals affecting the whole district
- Making representation to the City Council on behalf of members with legitimate environmental grievances
- Talks, discussions, coffee mornings, slide shows and social events
- An 'open gardens' scheme
- Maintaining a photographic record of buildings and trees in the area
- Publishing booklets on the history of local families and streets

On many issues the Society does not act alone but in partnership with other like-minded organisations, actively participating in the Canterbury Conservation Advisory Committee, the Canterbury Environment Centre and other similar bodies.



What has the OHDS achieved?

In the fulfillment of its objectives the Society has been active over the years in a wide-ranging number of activities and initiatives. The following are but a few recent examples.

The Society initially opposed and has subsequently maintained a constant watch over the activities of the St. George's Place Chicago Rock Café (formerly Churchills) and Planet Lazer and has, on numerous occasions, objected to the expansion of their activities and operating hours.

The Society commissioned the creation of the murals depicting local scenes and prominent personalities that are to be found on the walls of the south-western side of the St. George's Underpass.

The Society spearheaded the campaign that successfully saw the removal of the City Coach Park from the Longport to Kingsmead in 1994. More recently, it vigorously opposed twelve-month trial of a coach dropping-off and pick up facility at Longport and is closely monitoring its effectiveness.

Tree planting at St. George's Place, New Dover Road and Upper Chantry Lane has been supported with donations from the Society and Local History Group.

At the Public Enquiry the Society opposed the relocation of Canterbury College, concerned about additional traffic and wanting to keep the College close to the local community.

The Society has been amongst the leading campaigners in the fight to stop the downgrading of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital and helped to set up of Concern for Health in East Kent (CHEK).

Generally the vigilance of the Society and its members over planning matters has prevented the worst excesses of development detrimental to the area to take place.



Committee 2001 -2002

President.....	George Liddle
Chair	Michael Steed
Vice Chair	Cyn Goggin
Treasurer.....	Alastair Scott
Secretary.....	vacant
Committee Members	Carolyn Brenchley
	Bill Burnett
	Nick Eden-Green
	Deirdre Hawkes
	John Heath
	Janine Hodges
	Doreen Kalideen
	Cecile Manning
	Rama Sarkhel

Concerned about
your area and your city?
Join the
Oaten Hill and District Society
NOW!

Who can become a Member of the OHDS?

Anyone who supports its objectives and lives within the area covered by the outline map above is most welcome to become a Member. The annual subscription is currently a very modest £2 per person. Persons residing outside the Society's membership area but who nevertheless wish to support its objectives can also become associated by being an Out-area Member for which the annual subscription is £3.

Please complete the application form below (block letters please) and send to:

Mr Alastair Scott, Treasurer, at the Society's correspondence address: c/o 34 Oaten Hill (next to the Oast), Canterbury CT1 3JZ

Application Form

* Being resident within the area covered by the Oaten Hill and District Society I/We wish to apply for membership.
I/We enclose £..... being my/our annual subscription of £2.00 per person for of the year 2002

* I/We wish to apply for Out-Area Membership (£3.00 per person) and enclose £..... being my/our annual subscription for the year 2002

* please delete as applicable

Name(s)

Address

Telephone

Signature(s)

Please make cheques payable to: 'Oaten Hill and District Society'

Scanned images from a folded OHDS promotional leaflet dated 2001–2002 (see page 7, above).

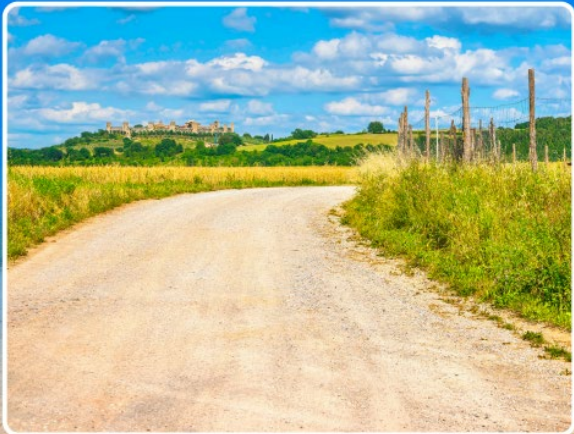
Note that the OHSCA area differs slightly from the OHDS map shown here. OHDS was first founded 50 years ago, in 1974.

VIA FRANCIGENA – DO ALL OUR ROADS ULTIMATELY LEAD TO ROME?

On 23rd March several OHSCA members joined this very enjoyable event, organised by Connie Nolan (Cllr for Barton Ward; Cabinet Member for Community, Culture, Safety and Engagement). Growing interest in this ancient way may yet affect development in the south-east quadrant of the city.

VIA FRANCIGENA WALK

2pm, Saturday 23rd March 2024
Have you ever wondered about how many footpaths there are starting or finishing in Canterbury?





Perhaps the best known Canterbury footpath is the one from London made famous in Chaucer's Pilgrim's Tales.

But there is a far older walk which starts in Canterbury and ends in Rome. Soon it will be as famous as the Camino de Compostello in Spain because it will gain World Heritage status, like the Camino and the Silk Road.

Please join us to walk the first stage to St Mary's in Patricbourne, as you follow in the footsteps of Archbishop Sigeric who travelled to Rome in 990. Starting at the Buttermarket in Canterbury city centre, we will walk past St Augustine's Abbey and stop at St Martin's church. We will then turn into Spring Lane, walk past Pilgrims Way Primary School, up through Barton Fields, finishing at St Mary's Patricbourne. From there group members will have the option to walk to Bridge to catch a bus back to Canterbury.

.....

If you are interested please email
connie.nolan@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk



Residents of St Augustine's Road clearly know the way – and where it goes!

Cllr Nolan is trying very hard to highlight the importance of this historic route. Among the walkers was an advisor to Corinthian Land (see p. 3) on special features of the area, including the *Via Francigena*. [Many thanks to Marion Bell and Jane Pollok for information. Ed.]

JUNE POETRY EVENING

The thirteenth of our OHSCA Literary Events is on **Tuesday 4th June 2024** and will take the form of a Poetry Evening. This will be followed on Tuesday 10th December 2024 with a second poetry evening, as we have too many poets to include in one evening to do them justice.

The idea of arranging a poetry evening was generated by Lorna discovering a box of copies of *After Sunset*, a collection of poetry written by her late husband Osman Durrani, dedicated to their elder son Alexander, born in 1978. Previously our events have only considered people using prose as a medium to express thought.

Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought, and the thought has found words. Robert Frost

Date: Tuesday 4th June 2024

Time: Doors & Bar open at 6.30 pm; Poetry reading 6.45 pm followed by discussion. We will end by 9 pm. Cash Bar 6.30-8.45 pm.

Place: Kent & Canterbury Club, The Elms, 17 Old Dover Road, CT1 3JB. Parking available at rear of Club.

Booking: Places are limited; open to all OHSCA members and their guests on a first come first served basis who book via. **Please book as early as possible so that we can ensure the event is viable and preferably at the latest by Monday 27th May 2024. Please let us know if you are unable to access the stairs so we can make appropriate arrangements.**

Payment: £5.00 per head (to cover room hire costs), payable in cash on the door. If you book but later find you are unable to attend, please contact social@ohsca.org or 01227 456623/07753514351.

Each of the poets will introduce their work and read one or two poems. This will be followed by a brief discussion.

The poets represented on 4th June are as follows: Tim Armstrong, Keith Oliver, Greta Ross, Derek Sellen, and Mary Anne Sellen.

The poets represented on 10th December are as follows: David Broadbridge, Osman Durrani, Nancy Gaffield, Georgina Koubel, and Rob Veltman.

Tim Armstrong

Tim Armstrong is the prizewinning author of *Walter and the Resurrection of G* and *Cecilia's Vision* (based in medieval Canterbury); he also plays and sings with the local Kamikaze Reunion Blues Band; he has worked as a translator of books on philosophy and archaeology, and he was the Head of Languages at the King's School, Canterbury. He regularly performs his poetry locally, driven by a passion for dada and the surreal.



Keith Oliver



Keith Oliver was 55 and the head-teacher of a large primary school when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Now in his 60s, Keith's life has seen many changes, but he refuses to be defined by the condition. Although retired from teaching, he continues to stay busy through volunteering work and as an activist championing the voices of people living with dementia.

Keith's first book *Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk* (published in 2016 by Forget-Me-Nots, Canterbury) was written after he was told in 2010 by a doctor that he had Alzheimer's, and tells the story of Keith's life, before, during and since receiving his diagnosis. Keith's second book *Dear Alzheimer's: A Diary of Living with Dementia* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers,

April 2019) gives a moving account of his journey to live a full life after diagnosis. Each chapter concludes with a brief letter addressed 'Dear Alzheimer's', based on notes taken from Keith's diaries and journals. Keith's new book *Talking with Dementia Reconsidered* will be published by OUP on 30 April 2024.

Keith co-led a national poetry project for people with dementia in 2020-21 which resulted in the publication of an anthology – *Time and Place* (available on Amazon). He was the first person in the world with dementia to address the United Nations CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in Geneva which resulted in the UK government making improvements in the provision of care and support for people with a dementia diagnosis.

Keith has discovered a creative side in his journey, painting and writing poetry, to complement the many talks he gives at conferences on dementia.

Greta Ross

Born in Sydney, Australia, Greta graduated in Medicine, and then spent 40 years in general practice and as a community health doctor in Manchester and Lincolnshire, and then as international consultant in health projects in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Greta gained an MA (Distinction) in Writing Poetry from the University of Newcastle and Poetry School, London, in 2022. Her poetry collection, *Facts of Life*, was published in 2008, and her poems have appeared in over 30 poetry magazines and anthologies. One of her poems, 'Leavings', reflecting her grief following the death of her parents and her experiences supporting carers in her work, featured in an anthology called *This Was Not in the Plan* (2017). Greta won the 2022 Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year competition for her poem, 'Ivan Makes a Violin for His Son', awarded on National Poetry Day in October 2022. She held the Poet of the Year title for 2023, and she acted as one of the three judges for the 2023 Festival competition.



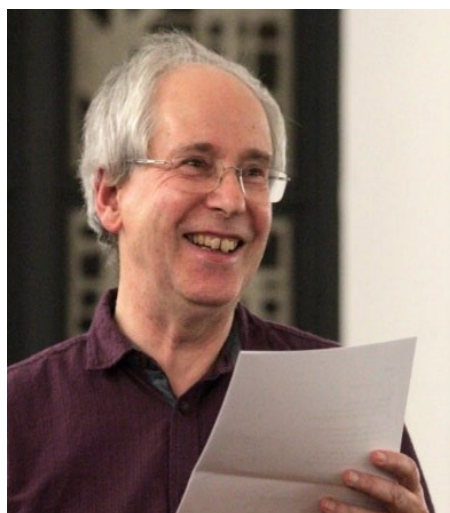
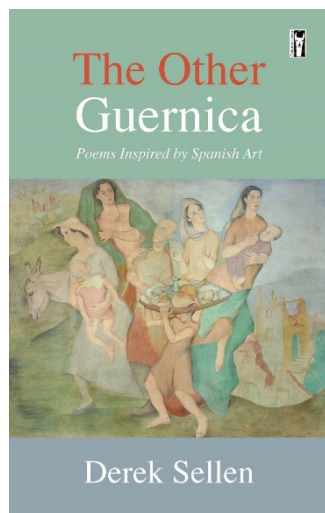
Greta enjoys exploring different poetic forms and has won first prize in several international competitions and been commended in others. Many of her poems are a response to the natural world, and the effect of social problems and world events on people's lives.

Mary Ann Smith Sellen



Mary Anne Smith Sellen is a poet and painter from Canterbury in Kent. Her work has been recognized in many competitions, including 1st Sentinel Literary Quarterly November 2017, 1st O Bheal Five Words Competition 2019, and 2nd 2024. She has been widely published both in print and online, including Sentinel Literary Quarterly, Grey Hen Press, Confluence, Dream Catcher, Beautiful Dragons, Wildfire Words and Linen Press. Her first full poetry collection *The Shape of Our Lives* was long-listed in the 2023 Indigo Dreams First Collection competition. In her poetry she particularly enjoys writing about the lives of artists and writers, and responding to works of art. She is currently working on poems for a new pamphlet, this time themed around memories and photographs from her 1960s childhood. Mary Anne is a regular reader at events and festivals.

Derek Sellen



Derek Sellen has been writing poetry, stories and plays over many years. He has read his work widely, in the UK, Italy, Germany, Russia (in better times) and Ireland and has won various poetry awards, including Poets Meet Politics and Poets Meet Painters. He has twice won the O'Bheal Five Words, and also twice won the Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year international competition. His poems have been placed or highly commended in the Plough Poetry Competition, Richmond Arts, Sentinel, and many other competitions.

His collection of poems inspired by Spanish art, *The Other Guernica* (Cultured Llama 2018), was a finalist in the Poetry Book Award 2020 and was very positively reviewed in Poetry Salzburg, London Grip, and other places. His first collection was *The Arch and its Shadow* (2009). His work has been widely published in anthologies, online, and in magazines.

What is poetry?

Some reflections below to spark thought and discussion:

Poetry is language on a spree. John Hegley

A poem should mean and not be. Archibald McLeish

I started writing poetry because I didn't like poetry. Benjamin Zephaniah

Poetry is a hotline to the emotions. Andrew Motion

Poetry, like music is meant to be heard. Basil Bunting

Poetry is language in orbit. Seamus Heaney

Poetry is words with a tune. Jon Stallworthy

Poetry begins with delight and ends in wisdom. Robert Frost

Prose: Words in their best order. Poetry: The best words in the best order. Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Poetry is naked words dancing together. Adrian Mitchell

Poetry is like a multi-coloured marquee that has room for all kinds of forms and voices. Vicki Feaver

Every poem is an island. To get to a poem requires sailing out from the mainland of routine language. Robert Crawford

Epigrams from Facebook, *Poetry Lovers*, 11 December 2023

Lorna Durrani, OHSCA SEA Convenor

THERE IS NO PLANET B

The fourteenth of our OHSCA Literary Events is on Monday 23 September 2024 and will be a talk by Stephen Scoffham, entitled *There is no Planet B*, followed by questions and discussion.

Date: Monday 23 September 2024

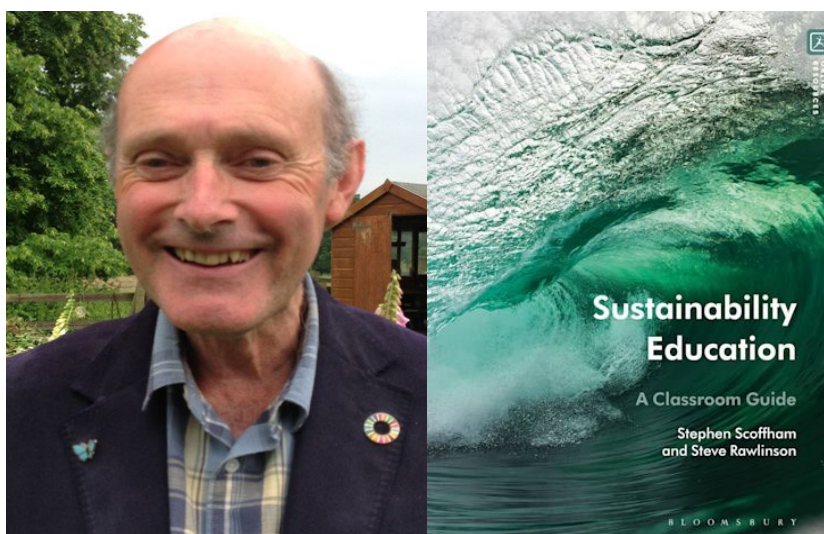
Time: Doors & Bar open at 6.30 pm; Talk starts at 7 pm and will finish at 8.45 pm; Cash Bar 6.30-8:45 pm.

Place: Kent & Canterbury Club, The Elms, 17 Old Dover Road, CT1 3JB. Parking available at rear of Club.

Booking: Places are limited; open to all OHSCA members and their guests on a first come first served basis who book via social@ohsca.org. **Please book as early as possible so that we can ensure the event is viable and preferably at the latest by Monday 16th September 2024. Please let us know if you are unable to access the stairs so we can make appropriate arrangements.**

Payment: £5.00 per head (to cover room hire costs), *payable on the door*. If you book but later find you are unable to attend, please contact social@ohsca.org or 01227 456623.

Dr Stephen Scoffham is Visiting Reader in Sustainability and Education at Canterbury Christ Church University. Stephen worked for many years training primary school teachers at Canterbury Christ Church University before retiring. Previously a teacher and Education Officer at the Canterbury Urban Studies Centre, he was elected President of the UK Geographical Association (2018–19). Stephen has written widely on sustainability, geography, international understanding, creativity, and learning. He is a long-term advisor/consultant for Collins school atlases. Recent publications are *Sustainability Education: A Classroom Guide*, (2022) London: Bloomsbury Academic (with Steve Rawlinson), *UK and World in Maps*, (2023) (3rd edn.) London: Collins, and *Teaching Primary Geography* (2024) (2nd edn.) London: Bloomsbury (with Paula Owens).



Stephen's talk: *There is no Planet B*

"The astronauts who took the first photographs of the Earth from space in the 1960s captured the public imagination with images that showed the lonely serenity and fragile beauty of our planet. The message was clear. Earth is the only home that we have, and we need to treat it with respect. Since then, the environmental crisis has gathered momentum, and we now know that the loss of wildlife and increasing levels of carbon dioxide threaten to destabilise the life systems on which we depend. In this wide-ranging talk Stephen will review what has been happening and what can be done about it, especially with respect to education."

Lorna Durrani, OHSCA SEA Convenor



CCC LOCAL PLAN – THE ACRA FILES!

News from ACRA just in, relating to our headline article on pp. 2–3. David Kemsley writes:

The ACRA Local Plan subgroup is tasked with the preparation of ACRA's response to the proposals for submission in June. Very early on in our work we identified (despite there being a number of initiatives which we welcomed) a number of items primarily around the calculation and deliverability of the housing targets.

As reported in my article on pages 2–3, these concerns were in part triggered by the issue of revised NPPF guidance in December 2023 and accompanying ministerial statements. These now offer local councils the opportunity to use discretion by regarding previously rigid central government calculated figures only as an *advisory starting point* for targets appropriate to local needs and population changes – and also to make a case for exceptional circumstances. In our view, Canterbury as a designated World Heritage Site, and its exceptionally high student/resident ratio, fits the criteria for the latter revision perfectly.

Regrettably, to date CCC has so far not given any indication that it wishes to avail itself of that opportunity. We hope it reconsiders. In these circumstances, I was deputed, on behalf of the ACRA subgroup, to sound out local politicians from across the spectrum, as well as other professionals and people that I knew to have an interest in these matters, for their views – with the stipulation that any material sent in had to be evidence based

Dave Wilson, a former CCC Labour Councillor with considerable experience of Local Government, responded positively by offering to produce a discussion paper – which he has now done. (ACRA is of course neutral with respect to party politics, but welcomes contributions and ideas from all (legal!) quarters.)

In addition, David Silcock (an ACRA committee member) has sourced a 2014 article from the Kentish Gazette (see <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/views-on-draft-local-plan-21520/>) featuring our former Chair, the late Clive Church, and his comments on the then current Draft Local plan public consultation. No words from me are needed about Clive's foresight. Clive was the first Chair of ACRA and a driving force behind its formation.

Both documents are freely available. Simply email ACRA Canterbury on acra.canterbury@gmail.com and ask for the Dave Wilson discussion paper, and the Clive Church local plan file.

David Kemsley, 13th April 2024



Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations