

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

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No. 32

digital edition

OHSCA in the HEADLINES – and OHSCA upcoming AGM

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Since our summer newsletter, two events have occurred affecting our relationships with the city. First, I am sorry to report that Oaten Hill Pharmacy, despite various rescue attempts, has closed its doors – and will not be re-opening. According to *Pharmacy Magazine* (online), about eight community pharmacies in England are closing permanently every week – a worrying and unprecedented rate.

The second event to which I refer hit local front-page headlines during the first week of August – CLEAN UP YOUR ACT – with two pages of the *KM Gazette* reporting that “Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Association (OHSCA) members ... feel Canterbury has become increasingly shabby and neglected.” The article highlights OHSCA’s calls for much needed improvement – and goes on to report responses from Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID), Canterbury Society (now led by former SCRA member Hilary Brian), KCC, and CCC. In this context, with rapidly increasing tourist numbers affecting Canterbury – a World Heritage Site – I wonder if CCC might consider the possibility of introducing some form of tourist tax. It has recently been reported that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are set to introduce a modest tourist tax expected to generate more than £12 million over five years – the money to be spent on maintenance, and enhancing visitor attractions.

Dick Vane-Wright, Editor



David Kemsley, Helly Langley, Marion Bell and Peter Styles, as photographed by the KM, calling CCC to task for the sorry state of the City. As Marion writes: “At a recent Committee meeting, Helly Langley and Jane Pollok raised the issue of litter, weeds and the lack of pavement collection from vacating student houses. ... South Canterbury is a mess. ... David Kemsley arranged a site meeting with Max Chesson of the Kentish Gazette and we walked round the problem areas including St. George’s Street where the new pavement does not appear to have been cleaned (as promised), and the shrubs are dead in the planters which double up as litter bins.”

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 241 paid-up member households. Many have added a donation to their £5 subscription; these donations total over £1100, and mean that OHSCA is able to fund, as they may arise, small charitable projects of relevance to our community. Our thanks to you all!

The last few months have seen a gradual changing of the guard. Sophie Scott, our long-serving and ever-dependable Membership Secretary, is retiring, her duties being taken over by myself, Peter Whisson. I joined the committee to start learning the ropes in April, and now have charge of the OHSCA database. In future, I will be gathering subscriptions and donations made in cash or cheque form, at the new address of 41B Dover Street CT1 3HQ (Tuition Canterbury). If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, please add the first line of your address as reference, as it will not be possible otherwise to identify you. OHSCA bank details are: NatWest, Sort Code: 60-04-27, account no: 90612094.

Lucy Fletcher-Jones will continue to advise on membership issues to help ensure nothing goes weirdly wrong. The real test will come in 2025.

Peter Whisson, Membership Secretary

FINANCE

As Peter Whisson has already indicated (above), the Association continues to have more than adequate funding. So I would like to remind members of our desire to plant one or more trees in celebration of the OHDS's golden anniversary – please refer back to page 3 of the June newsletter (available online from the OHSCA website). We are still open to suggestions for the type of tree, and where one or more might be sited. Please mail the Treasurer with your ideas (contact details, p. 8).

Recently the Association has paid for a much-needed 'anniversary make-over' of the old but still very useful OHDS notice board in Oaten Hill.

Jane Pollok (Honorary Treasurer)



GREEN TEAM

Over many years, OHDS/OHSCA members have endeavoured to create and maintain gardens in local public areas. A key force has been the 'Green Team'. This group is now in need of recruitment and renewal. For more information, you can make initial contact with the team via the Hon. Secretary, Marion Bell, by email (secretary@ohsca.org) or telephone (01227 459 949) – or by phoning Dave Goddard on 07484 316 613.

Sophie Scott, Dave Goddard and Deirdre Hawkes

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES GROUP (SEA)

SEA organises social activities and events. Mailchimp reminders are sent to those who have given their email address to the Membership Sec. We welcome offers to help with activities, to join the SEA sub-committee, or suggestions for future events. Please contact SEA Convenor Lorna Durrani, via social@ohsca.org.

Summer Lunch Party 2024. On 28th July, Gill Prett kindly hosted this year's special summer lunch party – which celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Oaten Hill & District Society (merged with South Canterbury Residents Association in November 2016, to become OHSCA). Some 50 members, assembled on a hot and sunny day, enjoyed bubbly together with a celebration cake provided by the OHSCA Committee, as well as many excellent shared dishes brought by all. Photographs, including that cake, are included in the digital edition 'extra'.

Gardening Interest Group (GIG). 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. Suggestions for possible activities in 2025 would be greatly welcomed. Contact Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley or Sue Hodge.

Forthcoming SEA activities

- **Monthly coffee mornings** Coffee mornings continue every fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 St Margaret's Street, 11.00–12.00. Next dates: 23rd October, and 27th November (no meeting in December).
- **Games and social gatherings** continue to take place on the first Monday of each month, the next being on Monday 7th October 2024, 7 pm, at *The Phoenix* pub, 67 Old Dover Road.
- **Talks and literary events:** We have two more talks coming up: Stephen Scoffham's rescheduled *There is no Planet B* on 8th October, and Phil Perkins's *Giving the Etruscan Gods Their Due* on 18th November. Both talks at the K&CClub: doors & bar open 6.30 pm, talk at 7 pm, finish by 8.45 pm, £5 per person at the door. Finally for this year, the second of our poetry evenings will take place at the Club on 10th December: doors & bar 6.30 pm, poetry readings from 6.45 pm, end 9 pm. We hope to include a little Christmas fare in the usual £5 charge (collected at the door). Full details for all events in digital extra; reminders by Mailchimp.
- **Weekly walks** on Wednesdays: There is a WhatsApp group to communicate in advance about whether or not the walk will take place. To join the WhatsApp group, please contact Lucy Fletcher-Jones.

SEA sub-committee

Susi Brain, Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley, Margot Leslie, Hazel & Dick Vane-Wright
Lorna Durrani (Convenor: social@ohsca.org).

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (LHG)

The Story of Oaten Hill – Guided Walk

On a balmy afternoon on Sunday 1st September, David Potter, principal author of the Local History Group's book *The Story of Oaten Hill*, led about 25 members on a 2 hour walk through Oaten Hill, Dover Street, Chantry Lane and Cossington Road. He pointed out the history of the current buildings as well as that of those long demolished. He also gave details of well-known figures associated with the district, such as Michael Powell, The Red Dean and, of course, the Holy Maid of Kent.

The tour illustrated first-hand the fascinating history of Oaten Hill set out in the book, which received the Hayes Award for the best historical publication in Canterbury 2019. To order a copy of this large format book, fully illustrated (many in colour) price £12.00, visit our web page www.ohsca.org/history.html or contact the Local History Group at history@ohsca.org



David Potter commencing his talk, at the 'Heart of Oaten Hill'

Memories of South Canterbury

The LHG invites members to forward memories of life in South Canterbury, in particular, but not exclusively, of The Kent & Canterbury Hospital, and the former South Canterbury Station. Whilst much already has been written, it would be rewarding to bring experiences together in a local publication. Please contact history@ohsca.org.

Margaret Bower (Chair LHG) and Mike Brain

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

This article by Simon Dolby is the latest in our series about local charities actively supported or run by OHSCA members.

Mental health and our wellbeing are hot topics following the Covid lockdown – and Lord Darzi's report of 12th September. We have an increased awareness that mind and body are inextricably linked and, as a society, we are acutely aware that younger generations, particularly of school age, suffered and are continuing to struggle following that period. Less public is the effect on the more aged amongst us because we are often stoic and suffer in silence – but the impact is the same – our mental health is suffering.

After being a CEO of an education charity for two decades, I moved to the mental health sector three years ago with the mission to innovate and normalise conversations around wellbeing.

East Kent Mind provides a wealth of services including face-to-face and online courses that both teach tips and techniques to improve your mental resilience, as well as fun activities to practise that involve learning and reduce isolation. Everything from art, pilates and walk and talk sessions are available, as part of a packed programme of 40 activities.

For me, joining one of the 100 local Mind charities in the UK – and one of five in Kent – was quite an eye-opener. Fortunately I have been able to find ways to help. As Development Lead I am involved in all aspects of fundraising as well as creating new service concepts and events.

One of the first projects I brought in was East Kent Mind's Barbershop Project. Men are statistically more likely to talk to their barber than their GP about mental health issues. We are more likely to see the same barber visit after visit and that relationship can be built upon. My project trained 20 barbers in east Kent to spot signs of anxiety and depression, be empathetic listeners

and be able to signpost customers to support. The project has now won funding to be expanded into another of our operational areas, in Bexley.

Another project I created focuses on veterans and connects men and women of the ex-military with both social activities and practical and wellbeing support. Following a pilot, this has now had funding extended for a year.

A third project was the creation of the Kent Mental Wellbeing Awards. I realised that the sector has nothing to showcase and celebrate best practice in the county. This autumn will see the third year of these awards, honouring 50 individuals, organisations and initiatives that help make life better for us, our families and our workplaces. The winning projects will be published in a best practice booklet.

I fear mental health will continue to be the Cinderella of the health service, suffering from a lower profile and less funding simply because invisible – and less visible illnesses are rarely on our radar.

But you can help with our work in Canterbury. You could make a donation, take part in a fundraiser such as our planned Mental Elf fun run along the Stour on Sunday, 24 November, or become an Ambassador of East Kent Mind. Remember, all the local Mind charities are legally and financially separate charities, so if you want to help our work in Canterbury visit www.eastkentmind.org.uk rather than national Mind. You will also see the wealth of services if you are in need of wellbeing support. To sign up for the fun run or to make a donation, click on the **Get Involved** tab on the website.

Simon Dolby, Development Lead, East Kent Mind
simondolby@eastkentmind.org.uk

Stop Press – UPDATE ON A257 CLOSURES, LITTLEBOURNE RD

The following information has been received from Cllr Mel Dawkins (KCC: telephone 03000 414990; email Mel.Dawkins@kent.gov.uk):

"Taylor Wimpey has been liaising with Kent County Council to find ways to modify their detailed design to lessen community impact. Their civil engineers are expected to submit a new set of plans soon, which inform their traffic management proposals.

Kent County Council will evaluate the impact of these works on local bus services once the revised design is provided. Until then, we are unable to make an assessment of the impact. Once the extent of the work is known we will work with the developer to minimise the potential disruption as far as is possible.

The highway works are being designed and delivered by Taylor Wimpey (lawfully consented in connection with their planning permission for the development at Howe Barracks), and as such Kent County Council cannot provide a timeframe for delivery. This proposal will come from the developer once they have completed their design.

Kent County Council will ensure the agreed diversion route is well signposted, is in accordance with national guidelines and that related issues on this route will be identified and pursued by our team of Highway Stewards and Inspectors."

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

AGM 2023/2024

7.00 for 7.45 pm, Friday 25 October 2024

at Kendall Hall, St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunnery Fields, CT1 3JN

7.00–7.45: **Informal Social Gathering** with drinks and snacks, hosted by OHSCA Social Events & Activities group (this year with more 50th anniversary bubbly and cake!)

7.50: **Connie Nolan** (councillor for Barton Ward) will give a talk about

Via Francigena – the Road from Canterbury to Rome

ca 8.20: **Annual General Meeting**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of AGM held 27 October 2023 (the minutes are reproduced on pp. 6/7; see also <https://www.ohsca.org/OHSCA%20AGM%20Minutes%202023.pdf>)
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report from the Acting Chair (to include work of subcommittees)
5. Annual report from Hon Treasurer
6. Approval of certified accounts for the financial year ending 31 August 2024
7. Annual report from Membership Secretary
8. Receive annual reports from SIGs and subcommittees (History, Green, SEA, OHC)
9. Subscription rate (the Committee will not be recommending any change for the coming year)
10. Proposals for revisions to the Constitution (if any)
11. Nominations for Officers and Committee for 2024–2025 (see page 7)
12. Elections for:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair(s)
 - Hon Treasurer
 - Hon Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
 - Committee Members
 - Appointment of suitably qualified person to certify the accounts at the end of the ensuing year (this person shall not be a member of the outgoing and/or incoming Committee)
13. Other business (which must be notified in writing in advance – see page 7)
14. Vote of thanks and end of meeting (approx. 9.00 pm)

Via Francigena – the Road from Canterbury to Rome

Under her remit of 'Culture' at the Council, Connie is promoting the ancient pilgrimage route of the *Via Francigena*, and has visited Italy and Switzerland, where the route is firmly established and signposted. Connie writes:

"The talk will start with the reason Archbishop Sigeric set out on the long journey from Canterbury to Rome in 990 AD. Sigeric was walking along a well-travelled trade route established many centuries earlier. We will travel along the route together via photos and stories I have collected from modern day pilgrims. Finally we will be up to date with the latest and very exciting news about the future of the *Via Francigena*."



MINUTES OF THE 6th OHSCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023

HELD AT KENDALL HALL, ST MARY BREDIN, 59 NUNNERY FIELDS CT1 3JN

Attendees: Mike and Susi Brain, Jane Pollok, Alison Culverwell, Greta Ross, Michael Wood, Sarah Whittall, Diane Billam, Denis Linfoot, Peter Whisson, Rena Boothe, Marion Bell, Nigel and Lucy Fletcher-Jones, Daphne Reeve, Teresa Lau, Len Hinksman, Tom Lynch, Madeleine Richardson, Helly Langley, Dick and Hazel Vane-Wright, Lorna Durrani, Deirdre Hawkes, David Kemsley, Sophie Scott, Dave Goddard, Jan Pahl [guest speaker].

7–7.45 pm – Social Gathering with refreshments provided and served by SEA members Susi Brain, Alison Culverwell, Lorna Durrani, Helly Langley, and Hazel Vane-Wright. Many thanks to them.

7.50 pm – “**Old Park and Chequer’s Wood**” – Talk by Jan Pahl

Jan is a member of the “Friends of Old Park and Chequer’s Wood” and she spoke about this SSSI area to the east of the City between Sturry Road and Littlebourne Road which includes Reed Pond. The majority of the land is partly owned by the MOD who are planning to dispose of their interest and partly by Canterbury Golf Club who are making efforts to conserve their section.

Her illustrated talk focused on the history – 600,000 yr old flint arrow heads have been discovered, associated with *Homo heidelbergensis* – and it was King Henry VIII’s deer park. Regarding biodiversity, Turtle Doves breed in Old Park, one of few places in Kent, and the Long-tailed blue butterfly, a rare migrant, was seen earlier this year. Threats include trail bikers, and possible development for housing and/or a bypass. The Friends were set up to try to safeguard the park and surrounding areas and Jan encouraged members to join and support their efforts to conserve this wonderful City asset. Contact friendsopcw@gmail.com.

David Kemsley thanked Jan for her fascinating talk and she was presented with a thank-you book token. At the Q&A Nigel Fletcher-Jones said that the park was very probably an Anglo-Saxon estate (or Vill) and raised the possibility of a Roman Villa on the site being so close to the Richborough – Canterbury road.

8.20 AGM AGENDA

1. **Apologies:** Judy Seymour-Ure, Rob Veltman, Michael Reeve, Cathy Sales, Jeff Derham, David and Gwyn Hartwell, Keith Rishworth, Bert and Margot Leslie, Nick and Monica Eden-Green, John and Marian Heath, Francis Green.
2. **Minutes of AGM held 21st October 2022.** These were agreed without amendment.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.
4. **Annual Report from the Rotating Chairs**

David Kemsley told the members that OHSCA had again operated without either a Chair or Vice Chair for another year and sincerely thanked Committee members for carrying out their individual tasks – Helly (litter), Jane (treasurer), Lorraine (volunteers), Lucy (website and IT), Marion (secretary) and Sophie (membership, trees and green team and newsletter distribution). David is on the ACRA Committee reporting back on wider Planning issues. Sadly, Lorraine is moving back to London and therefore leaving the Committee.

In addition David thanked all the other people without whom OHSCA could not operate: Dick Vane-Wright newsletter editor and projectionist for the evening; Lorna Durrani and her SEA helpers for providing the splendid refreshments; David Orr who goes through local planning applications and prepares the Planning Alert emails; Deirdre Hawkes who helps Sophie with newsletter distribution and all their deliverers; Denis Linfoot who attends and reports back on NHS Patient meetings; Hilary Adams who certifies OHSCA accounts; Marian Heath who is the History Group Archivist.

David explained that offers of help both with the work of the committee and all of the Association’s various activities would be greatly welcomed.

The next iteration of the Council’s Draft Local Plan would be published shortly for public consultation and it was important that the Association respond constructively with an evidence-based submission.

David went on to warn the membership that, although it might appear that Mountfield Park plans (4000 new homes, businesses, schools etc) have gone very quiet, the developers are carrying ahead with infrastructure investigations and the impact of the development is imminent and very real.

Finally David remembered Michael Steed who recently passed away. He was not just a personal friend but a stalwart of the OHDS, OHSCA and LHG. He will be sadly missed.

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

Jane Pollok presented and ran through the OHSCA Accounts which show a year-end balance of £7,701. She was pleased to announce that, after months of negotiating with NatWest, OHSCA now has online banking. Items which had been purchased during the year were light, portable plastic tables for social events and a microphone system.

6. Approval of certified Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023

The Accounts were certified by Hilary Adams, signed copy filed with these Minutes. A copy will be put on the website. We are very grateful to Hilary and she has been presented with a thank-you gift.

7. Annual Report from Membership Secretary

Sophie Scott said 242 households have paid their subscriptions; 20 have not renewed to date. She reminded everyone that new members must complete the Membership Form in order to comply with GDPR rules and that any direct payments into the OHSCA bank account must have an address as the reference. It is not possible to identify subs, donations etc without an address as reference.

8. Annual Reports from Special Interest Groups

Local History Group – Mike Brain announced the group's new publication Dover Street Revisited on sale at £10 and that Marian Heath and Sophie Scott were working together to create a visual record next year of the past 50 years of OHDS/OHSCA.

Green Team – Sophie thanked Deirdre Hawkes and Dave Goddard for their continuing hard work in maintaining the OHSCA gardens. Spring bulbs will shortly be planted. There has been a request for a donation from Churchill Road who need to replace 8 trees (mainly funded by residents). This will be considered by the Committee. The team has been waiting to hear KCC and CCC's plans for the revamped Longport before committing to planting trees there. There has also been a request for a new seat in the Secret Garden between Raymond Avenue and Ethelbert Road.

Planning – David Kemsley advised that we do not have a Planning expert on the Committee but we are happy to receive copies of members' responses to the City Council on specific planning applications.

SEA – Lorna ran through a busy year of events in 2022-23 (her report is filed with these Minutes) and announced further Local Author Talks on 21st November and 12th December. The 2023 Spring Party, which combined a hot and cold buffet with a film presentation about Canterbury, was a great success, and SEA plan to repeat this type of formula on 15th March 2024. Pub Games and Coffee Mornings continue.

OHC – The group has continued to attend meetings online and report findings in the newsletter.

Newsletter – Dick Vane-Wright thanked Greta Ross, who has now decided to stand down as joint editor, for all her work on the newsletter over many years. Greta was presented with a thank-you gift. Dick noted that production costs have been kept (almost!) within budget. Now sole editor, he appealed for future assistance, and also encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter by writing articles, letters, etc.

9. Recommendation regarding annual subscription

Jane Pollok recommended that the annual subscription for 2023-24 remains unchanged at £5; it is always subject to review.

10. Proposal for Revisions to the Constitution.

No revisions were proposed.

11. Nominations for Officers and Committee 2023–24

The nomination papers for 6 applicants are filed with these Minutes.

12. Elections for Committee members 2023–24

The following were unanimously elected *en bloc* to form the next OHSCA Committee:

Chair – [no nomination received]

Vice Chair – [no nomination received]

Hon Treasurer – Jane Pollok

Hon Secretary – Marion Bell

Membership Secretary – Sophie Scott

Committee Members: Lucy Fletcher-Jones, David Kemsley, Helly Langley

Hilary Adams was nominated as Auditor for 2024.

The Committee will continue to operate a rotating Chair.

13. Any Other Business There was no AOB

14. End of formal meeting.

David thanked everyone for coming and the SEA group for providing the refreshments.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

Officers and Committee Nomination Form for 2024–2025

For the committee, Nominees, Proposers and Seconders must be paid-up Members of OHSCA. Signed nomination forms need to be posted, or delivered by hand, to the OHSCA Honorary Secretary, 13 Wells Avenue, Canterbury CT13YB. Nomination forms should reach the Hon. Sec., no later than Friday 18 October. One copy of the form is required for each nomination. Please use this page or, if you need copies, scan or photocopy this page, write the essential information longhand, or contact the Hon. Sec. by telephone or email (07713 025245; secretary@ohsca.org). If you are unable to deliver your nomination before 18 October, please let the Hon Sec. know of your intention as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in finding a seconder for a Nomination please contact any member of the Committee via the Secretary, or direct if you know them personally.

A call is also made here for Items to be included on the Agenda under 11: *Other Business*. Such items must be duly proposed and seconded (with addresses), and signed. This can include Resolutions. Proposals for items to be included on the Agenda should be sent on paper to the Honorary Secretary (as above), and must also be received by 18 October, at the latest.

OHSCA: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2024–2025

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE (caps)

.....

Nominated for (please circle one):

Chair

Vice Chair

Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Secretary

Membership Secretary

Committee Member

PROPOSED by (caps):

.....

Signature:

.....

SECONDED by (caps):

.....

Signature:

.....

Date:

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 459 949; secretary@ohsca.org
Jane Pollok	Honorary Treasurer: treasurer@ohsca.org
Peter Whisson	Membership Secretary (co-opted): 41B Dover Street CT1 3HQ (Tuition Canterbury); Tel. 01227 785 549 or mobile 07950 259 845; membership@ohsca.org
Lucy Fletcher-Jones	Website Coordinator/events bulletin alerts: website@ohsca.org
David Kemsley	ACRA rep./OHC subcommittee/Press Liaison: press@ohsca.org
Helly Langley	Committee Member/Planning subcommittee
Sophie Scott	Green Team/Planning subcommittee: sophie01@btinternet.com
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 767 343; 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. 4)
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> : editor@ohsca.org

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

Some useful contacts

- For problems with University of Kent student neighbours contact student community liaison officer: 01227 816 156 or email communityliaison@kent.ac.uk; <https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentservices/community/index.html>
- For problems with Canterbury Christ Church University student neighbours contact student community liaison officer: 01227 925 367 or email communityliaison@canterbury.ac.uk
- Police: call 101 to report non-emergency incidents; 999 for emergencies
- 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 problems with noise or other antisocial behaviour, contact CCC's Environmental Health Team: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk, or telephone 01227 862 429
- For recycling enquiries, or to report missed bin collections, go to <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/bins-and-waste>
- To report illegal parking: <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-and-roads/report-illegal-parking/>, email parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk, or telephone 01227 862 429
- 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, go to: <https://www.ohsca.org/news.html>

All texts and images in this newsletter, *except where indicated below*, are copyright of OHSCA and contributors.

Front page images, Kentish Gazette: <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/tourist-hotspot-is-shabby-and-neglected-now-it-s-time-to-310670/>

OHSCA 2024 dates, October to January

7 October	games/social <i>The Phoenix</i> (p. 2)	18 November	Talk: Phil Perkins (p. 2)
8 October	Talk : Stephen Scoffham (p. 2)	27 November	Coffee morning (p. 2)
23 October	Coffee morning (p. 2)	10 December	Poetry Evening (p. 2)
25 October	<u>OHSCA</u> AGM (pp. 4–7)	6 January	games/social <i>The Phoenix</i>
5 November	games/social <i>The Phoenix</i> (p. 2)	14 January	<u>LHG</u> meeting: <i>Phoenix</i> , 2 pm
12 November	<u>LHG</u> meeting: <i>The Phoenix</i> , 2 pm	22 January	Coffee morning (p. 2)

DIGITAL EXTRA

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Poet's Corner (session 2, 10 th December)	19–21



Milton Road, 17th July 2024

PHOTO GALLERY

Golden Anniversary Garden Party, Sunday 28th July 2024 (see page 2)



Steve Mercer goes to work on the cake – watched with a mixture of appreciation and anticipation by (l to r)
Gill Prett, David Kemsley, Marion Bell and Lorna Durrani



The Worshipful Company of Corner Huggers



Members of the Golden Anniversary General Assembly



David Potter's Guided Walk, Sunday 1st September 2024 (see pages 2/3)



PLANNING

Revealed – a New Local Plan timetable

On 20th September Canterbury City Council issued a statement indicating that, following planning changes recently implemented at national level, the Council is now proposing an extended and revised timetable for our Local Plan. The statement, posted on the Council website, can be accessed using the following live link.

<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/news/new-local-plan-timetable-revealed/>

ACRA and the NPPF

In the context of the Local Plan and changes in central government planning policy, two statements from ACRA are included below. First, the submission ACRA has sent in response to the recent central government public consultation on changes that it is proposing to make regarding the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>) – together with the ACRA Press Release regarding this submission, posted on Monday 30th September. **First, the ACRA response, dated September 2024:**

ALLIANCE OF CANTERBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

ACRA

RESPONSE TO NPPF CONSULTATION

SEPTEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

ACRA welcomed the changes to the NPPF which were introduced last year and the opportunity they offered for planning authority discretion in the establishment of housing targets. By invoking exceptional circumstances, of either a demographic or other nature (for example environment or heritage related), a council could assess housing need in its own way and calculate an annual housing supply number appropriate to the specific characteristics of the local area.

ACRA does not agree with the proposal now to reverse the amendments to the NPPF only introduced in December 2023, because we are firmly opposed to the imposition of mandatory, central government-imposed housing supply targets, calculated according to a rigid methodology. We find this proposed government policy totally contradictory to its declared intention to devolve decision making to a local level whenever possible.

Furthermore, a stronger presumption in favour of development, as also proposed in the consultation document, does not seem necessary, given the already strong skew towards allowing applications to build new houses and apartments. If the presumption is to be strengthened further, it should be balanced by a more emphatic obligation of planning authorities to protect and enhance the environment, when considering applications.

We do, however, support a more ambitious and rigorous obligation for planning authorities to prioritise and prefer brownfield residential development. We have has sight in the last couple of days of additional government policy suggestions, which would set up for planning permission passports. We believe these could offer good solutions for existing buildings with the potential for change of use to residential and for disused land left in a state of limbo. If the anticipated “local development schemes” associated with these policy suggestions will be confined to already developed land, then we would see their introduction as a positive signal.

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

We suggest local housing supply targets should be agreed through a process of *evidence based* negotiation, set within the context of regional and sub-regional strategic development plans.

We furthermore have doubts about a change to the basis of the standard calculation. A fixed calculation methodology per district, whereby a growth factor is applied to the current volume of housing stock in that district, and then adjusted by a standard affordability calculation, is bound to produce perverse results in some areas of the country.

We think that a one size fits all calculation linked to compulsion will produce precisely the lack of flexibility which detracts from the planning discretions vested in local authorities and from the operation of local democracy.

If compulsory targets based on a new standard calculation methodology are to be introduced, then we advocate that in special cases the basic calculation and/ or the affordability factor should be adjustable. Grounds for adjusting downward the standard growth factor in the basic calculation should include:

- The existence of an AONB within the relevant district, covering a large proportion of undeveloped land in that district
- The existence of large areas of ancient woodland and/ or multiple SSSIs in the district
- The existence of important heritage assets within the district, especially if the settings of those assets are protected by a UNESCO designation
- The presence of an unusually large number of HMOs in the district, especially if those HMOs are predominantly occupied by a transitory student population

Grounds for adjusting downward the increment of new housing, over and above the standard growth percentage, calculated using an affordability factor, should include the circumstance that a significant proportion of wage and salary earners living in a district work for employers having their main place of business in an adjoining or remote area, where average remuneration is higher.

MORE IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

In our view, there should be different immediate priorities for a government wishing to stimulate house building. Trying to adjust theoretical annual housing supply numbers only through tweaks to the NPPF is destined to be a failed effort. Instead, ministers should start with clear, comprehensive housing and land use policies.

HOMES

A new national Housing Policy should put social and affordable housing to the fore.

Instead of simply aiming to make planning permission easier for developers to obtain, the first step should be to address the questions:

- What housing is needed?
- Where in the country?
- For whom?
- How can it be made affordable for those who need it?
- What incentives can be put in place for people to downsize, by vacating larger properties the owners may no longer need or be able to afford to maintain?

LAND USE

A national Land Use Policy should in our view encompass specific, enduring environmental protection measures and the ring-fencing of grade 1 and grade 2 agricultural land.

The vital importance of food security cannot be over-emphasised

The use of brownfield sites needs a much more determined push from all layers of government and planning authorities should be obliged to prioritise the choice of such sites for new housing development, by reference to a rigorous set of criteria.

Use of “grey belt” land for new housing may be acceptable in certain circumstances, but otherwise green belt incursion is not.

DELIVERABILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As is emphasised in the submission from the National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA), governments and local authorities do not build houses. Developers do, and they are driven to press ahead with construction, or

not, according to their assessment of the level of demand in the housing market and, accordingly, the prices they are likely to realise for completed units. Realisable prices for new houses and flats in turn depend on the prevailing health of the national and local economy and other factors not directly amenable to government intervention, such as inflation, interest rates and employment prospects.

Thus the government will expose itself to a huge risk of failure and disappointment, by setting a very high national target for new housing completions each year over the next five years. The number, at 300,000, is vastly in excess of the number of new homes completed annually over the last decade, and indeed over all decades since mass construction programmes for publicly owned housing were wound down.

The risk of non-delivery, and indeed non-deliverability, of new housing will persist, whatever the rate at which over-ambitious local plans are put in place and at whatever rate planning permissions may be granted. The risk is exacerbated by a critical absence of infrastructure on and around many sites (especially greenfield sites) identified for housing development.

The evidence to justify this concern is overwhelming, for example:

- Shortage of skilled labour and trades
- Polluted rivers, lakes and seawater, resulting especially in nutrient overload in contained river basins
- Areas already experiencing fresh water supply stress
- Designated air quality management areas
- Road and rail capacity inadequacy and poor take-up of cheaper bus fares aggravated by absence of access of many new housing developments to good public transport and overall slow progress on modal shift
- Constraints on NHS budgets to commission new building , adopt new models of care and and recruit and train the workforce needed

CONCLUSION

We ask the government to withdraw its proposals for centrally calculated mandatory targets. We call upon ministers instead to work collaboratively with planning authorities, to agree the right strategic mix of provision for new housing appropriate to specific regional and local circumstances, bearing in mind, for example, demographic particularities, potential for regeneration of already developed land, environmental constraints, available infrastructure and impact on heritage assets.

In contrast, we provisionally view the “local development schemes” for new housing associated with government policy suggestions for “planning passports” as promising, to the extent such schemes would be confined to already developed land.

David Kemsley (ACRA Business Secretary)

Second, the ACRA Press Release, dated 30th September 2024:

PRESS RELEASE FROM ACRA (ALLIANCE OF CANTERBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACRA Demands Action to Protect Canterbury’s Heritage, Environment, and Residents from Overdevelopment and Failing Infrastructure

Canterbury, September 2024 – The Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations (ACRA) has issued a scathing critique of the government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Canterbury City Council’s draft Local Plan, warning that the proposed policies will accelerate overdevelopment, degrade the city’s unique heritage, and overwhelm its failing infrastructure.

ACRA, representing a coalition of residents and community associations in and around central Canterbury, is calling for urgent action to safeguard the City's World Heritage status, its surrounding natural landscapes, and essential public services—including roads, water supply, and sewage treatment facilities.

We urge the authorities to abandon an over excessive development target which we consider undeliverable and unsustainable. We urge CCC to seriously reconsider the long-term environmental and social impacts of the draft Local Plan as it currently stands.

Accordingly ACRA very much welcomes the proposal of the City Council now to pause the Local Plan process (renamed Local Development Scheme) in order to take the time to fully reflect on the volume and content of the responses received during the recent public consultation, and take due account of the new NPPF which it is anticipated will be published in December.

Overdevelopment Threatens Canterbury's Character

ACRA fiercely opposes the government's imposition of central housing targets and Canterbury City Council's apparent unquestioning acceptance of government figures published last month.

We contend (and this is the central plank of our objections) that over-expansion using valuable greenfield sites is avoidable and will permanently destroy the very essence of what makes Canterbury unique.

Our surrounding AONBs, areas of recreational green open space, nature reserves, SSSIs and prime agricultural land should be protected at all costs.

The priority focus should be proactive identification of brownfield sites (we welcome the emphasis on this in the NPPF consultation), and the use of already developed land and buildings in urban areas supported by the exploration of opportunities offered by those sites for higher density housing.

We completely agree that additional homes are urgently needed here to accommodate families and individuals in need of social housing and affordable starter homes.

However the housing target now proposed is unrealistic and far in excess of the latest available local need calculations.

ACRA is pushing for urgent reconsideration of the housing target, in tandem with a comprehensive assessment of the modernised sustainable infrastructure (especially water, sewage and transportation systems) that will be needed to support the delivery of the target finally agreed.

Failing Infrastructure: A Recipe for Disaster

The Local Plan proposes significant development without adequately addressing Canterbury's strained infrastructure. We point to the already overstretched sewage and water systems, which are at risk of collapse under increased demand. With pollution levels already high in some areas, including dangerously elevated nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in Wincheap.

Our sewer systems, water supply, and roads are on the brink of failing. Without proper investment and planning, Canterbury's infrastructure simply won't cope with the proposed development. We're facing a perfect storm of overdevelopment, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental degradation.

ACRA's critique of the Local Plan's Air Quality Action Plan also highlights concerns about public health. The group argues that the Council's plans fall short of meeting national air quality standards, with no clear strategy to reduce dangerous levels of pollutants like NO₂ and particulate matter (PM2.5). ACRA has called for more robust air quality measures to protect residents from the harmful effects of increased vehicle emissions and traffic congestion.

Preserving Canterbury's World Heritage Status

One of ACRA's major concerns is the potential damage to Canterbury's World Heritage Site (WHS) (the historic Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey, and St. Martin's Church).

Overdevelopment and a lack of proper management could jeopardize not only WHS status, itself but also the overall setting of the site leading to a loss of cultural and substantial economic benefits to the City.

Canterbury's World Heritage Site is a treasure, and it must be protected for future generations. We are urging the City Council to commit to better management and funding for the WHS, ensuring it remains a beacon for global visitors and a source of pride for local residents.

ACRA welcomes the upcoming consultation on the WHS Management Plan and has pledged its continued support for safeguarding Canterbury's historic and cultural assets. The organization believes that any new development must be sensitive to the city's heritage, preserving both the physical landmarks and the surrounding environment.

ACRA's Call to Action

ACRA is calling on the government and Canterbury City Council to rethink their approach to development and infrastructure.

We advocate a collaborative, locally-driven strategy that addresses specific local needs, rather than a blanket imposition of centralised housing targets.

We need responsible, evidence-based planning that takes into account our unique environment, heritage, and infrastructure limitations. It's time for the government and local authorities to listen and work in partnership with residents, scale back unsustainable development, and invest in the infrastructure needed to support the communities already here.

For further information, please contact:

David Kemsley

Business Secretary, ACRA

Email: acra.canterbury@gmail.com

About ACRA

The Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations (ACRA) is a coalition of resident and community groups dedicated to representing the views of our members on key issues impacting the City of Canterbury. Our committee is made up of two nominees from affiliated residents and community associations in and around Canterbury, as well as Bridge Parish Council. Our aim is to influence decision-making at all levels of government by preparing and submitting evidence-based comments and advice to the relevant authorities. ACRA strives to ensure that the voice of the community is heard on matters ranging from planning and housing to environmental sustainability and local governance.

END

Longport Cycle Path

Residents voiced concerns last year about the design and construction of the new dedicated cycle route alongside the frontage of St Augustines Abbey. Our Barton Ward councillors convened an open public meeting last November, at which those concerns were fully aired.

Subsequently KCC officers have been considering the points made and an independent safety audit has been carried out. Below is an update from Mel Dawkins on the outcome of those studies, and a description with drawings of the alterations now proposed.

David Kemsley

Dear Residents

Please find attached* the Road Safety Audit stage 3 (post construction) report for the Longport scheme, along with the designer and scheme sponsor comments to the RSA3. KCC have redacted names other than the officer as scheme sponsor.

The emails sent to the *Active Travel* inbox have been acknowledged and will be looked at thoroughly when the officer is back from holiday. I will meet with the team to discuss the comments brought to the table.

The team are looking at how the existing signing can be improved and to arrange for dropped kerbs to be placed on Littlebourne Road so a cyclist can gain access to the segregated cycle lane just beyond the controlled crossing in front of Barton Court School. Also, they are investigating the narrowed bend/built out pavement, as I discussed with them at my last meeting.

The informal crossing at the roundabout will be revisited as discussed, but this may take a while to implement.

Kind Regards

Mel Dawkins (KCC Councillor for Canterbury City South)
telephone 03000 414 990; email Mel.Dawkins@kent.gov.uk

*The 17 page report from *Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Limited*, dated 17th March 2024, to which Mel refers, can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.ohsca.org/Longport%20Canterbury%20Report%20Redacted.pdf>

TALKS (organised by SEA)

Stephen Scoffham

The fourteenth of our OHSCA Literary Events will be on the revised date of 8th October, with the talk previously advertised by environmentalist Stephen Scoffham, entitled *There is no Planet B*, followed by questions and discussion. Stephen's CV and abstract can be found in the digital edition of our Spring 2024 newsletter – no. 30, page 16:

<https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-30-2024-Spring.pdf>.

- Date: Tuesday 8th October 2024
- Time: Doors & Bar open at 6.30 pm; Talk starts at 7 pm followed by discussion, and will finish at 8.45 pm; Bar 6.30–8.45 pm.
- Payment for drinks by card only. Entry: cash at the door (see below).
- Place: Kent & Canterbury Club, The Elms, 17 Old Dover Road, CT1 3JB. Free parking available at the rear of the building.
- 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 do let us know if you are unable to access the stairs, so we can do all we can to make appropriate arrangements, as otherwise we will be in the upstairs room.
- 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 456 623 to cancel.



Phil Perkins

On Monday 18th November 2024 we will have a talk by OHSCA member, avid gardener, and OU archaeologist Phil Perkins, on *Giving the Etruscan Gods Their Due: discoveries at the 2500 year-old temple at Poggio Colla in Tuscany* – to be followed, as usual, by questions and discussion.

- Arrangements, including booking and payment, will be the same as for Stephen's talk (above). If possible, please book by 12th November.

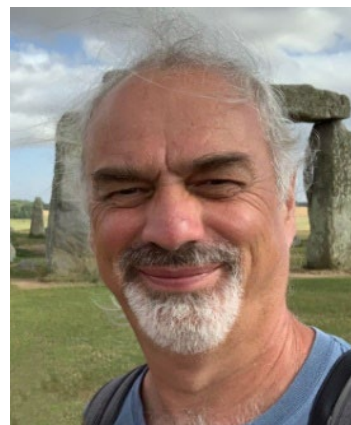
Phil's professional biography can be found here:

<https://fass.open.ac.uk/people/pep3>

This little cameo can also be found on the internet, as part of a fascinating interview:

Phil Perkins is Professor of Archaeology at the Open University. His research focusses on Etruscan archaeology and he is currently writing up the results of excavations and artefact studies at the Etruscan sanctuary of Poggio Colla and the sacred lake at Albagino, both to the north of Florence in Tuscany. In 2016-17 he was a Hugh Last Fellow at the British School at Rome. His teaching at the Open University has ranged from Homer to 19th century netsuke.

<https://classicalstudies.support/2020/06/04/comfort-classics-phil-perkins/>



Poetry Evening, 10th December 2024

The sixteenth of our OHSCA Literary Events will be on Tuesday 10th December, and follows on from the first poetry evening on Tuesday 4th June 2024.

The idea of arranging a poetry evening was generated by discovering a box of copies of *After Sunset*, a collection of poetry written by my late husband Osman Durrani, dedicated to our elder son Alexander, born in 1978. Previously we had only considered people using prose as a medium to express thought. The poets represented are a diverse group of established and published poets as well as casual poets and people taking up writing poetry in retirement.

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

- Date: Tuesday 10th December 2024
- Time: Doors & Bar open at 6.30 pm; Poetry reading 6.45 pm followed by discussion. We will end by 9 pm. Bar 6.30–8.45 pm (*card payment only*).
- Place: Kent & Canterbury Club, The Elms, 17 Old Dover Road, CT1 3JB. Free parking available at the rear of the building.
- 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 2nd December 2024*. Please let us know if you are unable to access the stairs so we can make the 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 (approximately 20 minutes each person). There will be a short comfort break after the first three presentations. This will be followed by a brief discussion.

At the time of 'going to press', four poets are confirmed: Rob Veltman, Georgina Koubel, Osman Durrani, and David Broadbridge.

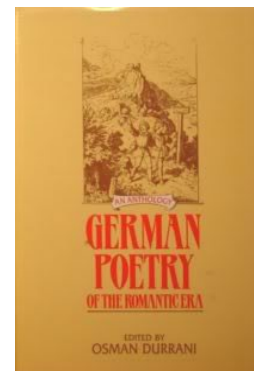
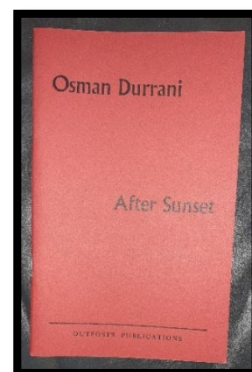
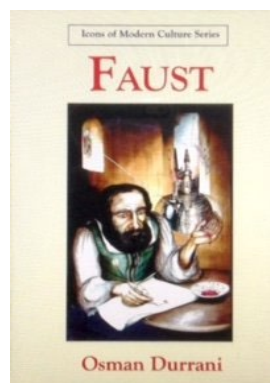
ROBERT VELTMAN was born in Hertfordshire instead of London, owing to the war, and was later evacuated to Huddersfield with his mother. He grew up and was educated in Middlesex, a county he represented as a state grammar schoolboy in rugby. The main part of his career was in teaching, at schools and universities both in England and East Africa, specialising eventually in Linguistics. On retirement from education, he joined a team at the BBC on the 'Speakeasy' project, on completion of which he joined a team of legal caseworkers specialising in immigration and asylum, at the same time studying for a degree in law. After retirement from paid employment until Lockdown, he advised in a voluntary capacity at Citizens' Advice. As a member of Canterbury Ramblers, he has led walks in East Kent and worked voluntarily as a parish footpath warden and local footpath officer for eleven parishes south of Canterbury. He has been learning Welsh most recently. He has been a casual poet for much of his life. The title of the poem he will present is *Quake*.



GEORGINA KUBEL writes:

"In terms of my literary history, I published a number of textbooks during my time working as a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Canterbury Christ Church University. Following retirement, I attended a creative writing class in Deal where I became aware that several members, including myself, were also writing poems. I suggested setting up a separate cohort for poetry, and the Deal Poets Society was born. We agreed to meet monthly as a group to share our work and offer constructive feedback. Since then, we have published two anthologies, *Love, Life, Loss*, which came out just before Lockdown and, more recently, *Tides and Times*. We have been invited to appear at festivals, at Church and Arts events and to work with a local primary school. We have also set up a very popular regular Open Mic poetry night."

OSMAN DURRANI



Lorna will read a poem from Osman's short collection of poetry, *After Sunset*. Osman was born in 1945, graduated with First Class Honours in German from Oxford University, where he also received his PhD in 1976. His publications include *Faust and the Bible* (1977); *After Sunset* (1978); *German Poetry of the Romantic Era. An Anthology* (1986); and *Faust: Icon of Modern Culture* (2004), in which Derek Sellen contributed a short story *Faustus and the Potters*. He was one of eight poets who contributed poems in German and English to *Perspectives*, to accompany paintings by Achim Kiel. He was a Lecturer in German at the University of Durham and Professor of German at the University of Kent. Osman died in May 2023. A copy of *After Sunset* will be available free of charge.



DAVID BROADBRIDGE is a poet and translator. On leaving Oxford University, he worked in education in Denmark and England. His first collection, *'Something in Writing'* (Oversteps 2017), was followed by *'Nativitas'* (Encore Publications 2022) with music by Philip Moore, and he has recently published a pamphlet *The Wound Dresser* (Randolph Press 2024). A number of his poems have been set to music and widely performed. *Adam's Fall*, with music by the Welsh composer Richard Elfyn Jones, was performed by the choir of King's College Cambridge at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve 2017. It was subsequently recorded by the choir on a CD to celebrate 100 years of a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Treading the Dance, a translation of Medieval Danish Ballads (Stacey 2011), was long-listed for the Popescu Prize and described by Seamus Heaney as 'beautifully produced and seriously enjoyable.' *Butterfly Valley*, his translation of Inger Christensen's sonnet sequence, was published in *Modern Poetry in Translation* in 2021. He has also translated a sequence of Dutch poems based on Rembrandt's paintings in the Rijksmuseum,

Amsterdam.

Some reflections to spark thought and discussion: what is poetry?

Poetry is language on a spree. John Hegley

A poem should mean and not be. Archibald MacLeish

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

(Taken from Facebook, Poetry Lovers, 11 December 2023)

Lorna Durrani, OHSCA SEA Convenor