

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER

digital edition

APRIL 2025

No. 34

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING EDITION – AND *LIVES OF MEANING*

CONTENTS

Lives of Meaning (editorial)	p. 1
Membership	p. 2
Green Team	p. 2
Local government	p. 2
Social Events	p. 2
Books & Beads	p. 3
Local History	p. 3
HealthCare news	p. 4
Sophie	p. 4
Saint Ninian School	p. 5
Moving Memory	p. 5
Useful contacts	p. 7
Committee 2024–2025	p. 8
Word Game answers	p. 8
Dates for Your Diary	p. 8
Digital Extra: Contents	..p. 9

The late Brian Goodwin, a ground-breaking developmental biologist and outstanding mentor at the much lamented Schumacher College, used to exhort people not to seek ‘the meaning of life’, but instead ‘Seek a Life of Meaning’. I spent 12 years of my career in science as a manager, and along the way I was naively surprised to discover that many of ‘my staff’ preferred to do things that involved helping other people, rather than undertaking original research (always my own obsession). So, when I first heard Brian make his point, it certainly struck a chord.

In recent editions of our OHSCA newsletter, I have had the pleasure of getting OHSCA members and other residents to write about local charities they actively support. For them all, I feel sure, these activities are part of the way in which they create or enhance their own lives of meaning. In this edition I am delighted to be able to highlight two more – the remarkable dance troupe *Moving Memory* (p. 5)—and another of those wonderful local organisations we have, dedicated to alleviating hardship.

On 28 February, my neighbour and fellow OHSCA member Steve Mercer invited me to experience lunch at the *Hub Community Fridge and Cafe*. Operating out of one of the large halls at the Baptist Church on St George’s Place (“Opposite Waitrose”), the Hub aims to support anyone in the local community suffering as a result of poverty, mental health issues, or social exclusion. Advice on debt, finances, health and related needs are included in the services offered by the Hub.

Opening on Thursdays and Fridays, a primary goal is to provide a safe place where those accessing their services can address their problems, be offered ongoing support, and an opportunity ‘to get back on their feet’. The Fridge and Cafe was set up in 2019, and is currently offering emergency food parcels to more than 120 families weekly (accessing surplus food from local supermarkets, and by various donations), while the Cafe, which runs alongside, produces and serves about 100 meals every week. The time given by the dedicated volunteer group, of which Steve is one, amounts to well over 5000 hours a year.

Steve introduced me to Julie Board, remarkable leader of this dedicated band. I have to say, I was hugely impressed by all that I heard, saw (and tasted – the *beef bourguignon* was excellent!). With the help of Julie, I hope to include a fuller account of the *Hub Community Fridge and Cafe* and its activities in our summer newsletter. Meanwhile, if you feel motivated to volunteer, donate or help in any way you might be able, you can make contact by email: hubcafe@canterburybaptistchurch.org.uk.

Dick Vane-Wright, Editor (editor@ohsca.org)



MEMBERSHIP

The good news is that membership has grown! Not by very many, but, since the last posting, we have had a few joiners, and no leavers that I am aware of. This should mean, at least, that OHSCA is satisfying the existing membership with its communications and various regular activities. Subscription renewals poured in during January – many enhanced with a donation, for which a big collective OHSCA thank you. Personally I have enjoyed meeting those who have dropped in to 41B Dover Street (the new address) with cash or a cheque.

A few of us may not yet have got round to our intended renewal – there is a reminder on the back of the print edition. Hopefully we are getting those reminders right – if you think you have subscribed but not been credited, please let me know.

Finally, as we all know, OHSCA is easy to join, and there are no catches or great obligations to being a member. Perhaps mention OHSCA to a neighbour, especially someone new to the district? Active members know it provides many different events and activities to dip into, and much congenial company.

Peter Whisson, Membership Secretary
membership@ohsca.org



Twelve Green Team members and volunteers foraged for litter around Oaten Hill on 1 February 2025 – and achieved an impressive even if depressing result!

GREEN TEAM SPRING NEWS

Now that Spring has at last Sprung, the rather diminished Green Team is trying to get to grips with our three main gardens: St George's, the Fire Station beds, and Milton Road (the little cutting between South Canterbury Road and Cromwell Road).

Although now unable to help physically, Sophie Scott is still able to give helpful and encouraging advice, and she originally designed the gardens to need minimum maintenance; unfortunately over the past year, they haven't even had that. So we have used the services of a professional gardener, Paul, Sophie's own gardener.

This has been very helpful with the heavier work, cutting things back etc., and I have worked alongside Paul. But is this the way forward? Good to get things going, but maybe not in the spirit of OHSCA's volunteer gardening tradition. So what is the way forward? Do we

have a Gardening Day, much like our Litter Picking Day, or a specific day each month? Much to discuss.

But St George's Garden is coming into its own now, it really is a spring garden. The daffodils are increasing and look lovely right now (p. 1), and we have the tulips to look forward to next. And hopefully the roses, pruned hard early this year, will also surprise us with their blooms.

Deirdre Hawkes

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

At the last Canterbury Forum meeting, in February (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a09Y26FWP4w>), it was suggested that there should be an extra meeting in March, to continue public engagement on the important matter of local government reorganisation. However, the submission to the government which is required by the 21 March deadline will not make substantive decisions about the future; it will be essentially a 'holding' response which will simply commit existing councils to ongoing discussions about having either three or four new unitary authorities, and "does not include specific proposals for the geographic make up of potential unitaries in Kent". The issues went to a special CCC meeting on 17 March, and subsequently a full Cabinet meeting.

The next scheduled Canterbury Forum meeting is expected to be in June, which appears to be good timing, as serious substantive discussions about the new arrangements for unitaries should be under way by then.

Based on a statement by *Richard Norman*, received via David Kemsley – please contact David (press@ohsca.org) if you are interested in the work of the Canterbury Forum.

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 Peter Whisson. We welcome offers to help with activities, to join the SEA sub-committee, or any suggestions for future events. To this end, a **questionnaire** is included below; please complete and return to social@ohsca.org.

SEA Activities 2025

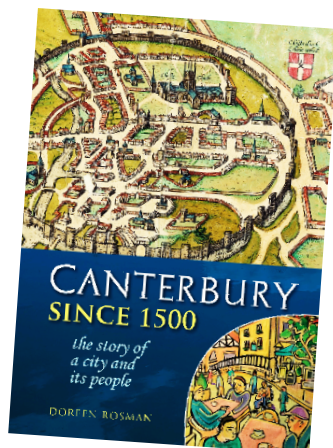
- **Monthly coffee mornings** will continue to take place every fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 St Margaret's Street, 11.00–12.00. The next will take place on Wednesday 23 April and 28 May 2025.
- **The Spring Party** took place on 14 March 2025 at the Kent & Canterbury Club. The very enjoyable evening included a talk, an excellent buffet, picture quiz and raffle. Very kindly stepping in at the last moment for our original speaker (unable to give the talk as planned, due to unforeseen circumstances), well-known local historian Doreen Rosman gave an intriguing account of Canterbury, 'Living through two world wars: Canterbury 1914–1945'.
- **Special Walks:** A Bluebell Walk will take place on 26 April (27 April if rainy on 26 April) venue to be confirmed. A special butterfly walk may be arranged

at short notice if the rare Emperor's Purple Clothes are to be seen (period: end June to early August).

- **Weekly Walk** takes place on Fridays, meeting at 9.30 am at the entrance to the old part of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. Please check in advance on WhatsApp to see if anyone is planning to join the walk.
- **Summer Lunch Party** (bring and share) will be held on Saturday 19 July 2025 at the home of Peter Taylor-Gooby and Sue Lakeman.
- **The Gardening Interest Group (GIG)** held a Seed Share and Gardeners' Question Time at the Phoenix Pub on 27 February which was well attended. A visit to see the snowdrops at Goodnestone Park took place on 23 February, followed by a visit to the Tea shop. A Plant and Produce Share will take place on Monday 26 May at the home of Dick & Hazel Vane-Wright. A visit to Godinton House to see the delphiniums will take place on Friday 20 June at 2 pm. Signed-up members of GIG are informed of local gardening events and can make use of the network for sharing information and getting gardening advice by contacting Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley, or Sue Hodge.
- **Talks & Literary Events:** Peter Taylor-Gooby's talk about his latest book about Aspasia, *The Immigrant Queen*, on Tuesday 28 January was very popular. Peter Donaldson will talk about his book on the Sports Personality of the Year Award on Tuesday 29 April (p. 15). Pat Marsh will talk about her book on Aphra Behn, whose statue (p. 9) was recently unveiled by Queen Camilla by the Beaney, on Tuesday 30 Sept. More talks and visits are planned.
- There will be a **Beads and Books Sale** on 28 June, arranged by Marion Bell (see below).
- A **Sale** is proposed to take place, probably in September, venue to be arranged. Save your books, jewellery and clothes etc. to sell.
- An **informal Open Lunch** at the Old Gate Inn will be arranged. If successful, further lunch meetings will be arranged.
- As usual SEA will provide **refreshments at the AGM** on Friday 24 October.

Lorna Durrani (OHSCA SEA Convenor
social@ohsca.org)

SEA sub-committee: *Susi Brain, Alison Culverwell, Lorna, Terri Kemsley, Helly Langley, Margot Leslie, Hazel & Dick Vane-Wright*



On 14 March, local author Doreen Rosman gave a fascinating talk about Canterbury, as part of the OHSCA Spring Party, and stayed on to sign copies of her excellent 2022 book.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOd6yWmR_Ds

SEA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you receive Mailchimp reminders of OHSCA social events & activities? If not, why not?
2. What events, if any, have you attended? e.g. coffee mornings; talks at the Kent & Canterbury club; spring party; summer garden lunch; GIG visits to gardens; seed swap & gardeners' question time; plant share; walks: Friday walks and/or organised nature walks?
3. What events have you enjoyed and would attend again? If so, why?
4. Is there anything that you did not enjoy about the events you attended?
5. What stops you from attending any of the events?
6. Do you have any suggestions for future events?

Using the numbers, answers on a postcard perhaps? But if possible, by email please, to social@ohsca.org.

BOOKS AND BEADS SALE

Saturday 28 June 2025, 2 pm, at 13 Wells Avenue CT1 3YB

All are welcome. Marion Bell is hosting this sale of donated books and dress jewellery so there'll be something for everyone. Refreshments will also be available, so please remember to bring some cash. The event will be held outside, so will be subject to the weather. Any money raised at this event will go to OHSCA; the Committee will then decide how it is used.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (LHG)

The Local History Group is currently working on the history of the Kent and Canterbury Club, and would welcome contributions from members. Please see our contact details (p. 8). We meet on the second Tuesday of every other month, 2.00 pm at *The Phoenix*, 67 Old Dover Road. Our next meeting will be on 13 May.

Mike Brain (Secretary LHG, history@ohsca.org)

OHC (OHSCA HEALTH CARE GROUP)

Our Future Health

Many of you will have received, by post or perhaps by other means, a request to take part in the NHS's *Our Future Health* – "the UK's largest ever health research programme". With an explicit aim to prevent, detect and treat diseases earlier, such as dementia, cancer, stroke and diabetes, it is very much part of the 'Prevent' element of the NHS 'change' initiative that Denis notes below.

I have to confess I have not engaged yet – but I intend to. Taking part involves answering some online questions, and having your blood pressure and a blood sample taken at a local clinic (a session that takes about 20 minutes, so I am told). Based on the findings and analyses, you have the option to be informed of the medical risks you might face in future.

If you have questions, call 0808 501 5634, or email support@ourfuturehealth.org.uk. To join, go to:

<https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk/get-involved/taking-part/>
Dick Vane-Wright

But what Future NHS England?

Latterly, news and comments on many matters of public concern have proved obsolete almost before printed, and with the recent (11 March) announcement of NHS England's (NHSE) early termination, Health is no exception. Until that news, I had thought that there was not yet enough from the Kent & Medway ICB (although it had met again on 25 February) or the Integrated Care Joint Committee (which had not met again since December), to be worth a report in this Newsletter. These bodies are next to meet respectively on 23 and 24 March, too late for this Newsletter's deadline. But the fate of NHSE does invite comment.

I did have an intangible impression from these two bodies' last meetings that their managers were waiting for something to happen: the Joint Committee, though including ICB, KCC and Medway Unitary representatives, has never seemed to me like the proactive leader of an integrated Health and Care service; and while at ICB meetings, members are very properly concerned about effective performance monitoring, both clinical and financial, the main management attention there seemed now to be on NHSE's supervision of its deficits issue. Not that this is strange; in the time of the first Primary Care Trusts (2002–06), there was a national scramble at each year-end to show, albeit with less than perfect conviction, that the NHS in England was not really in overall deficit, whereas now, it is the level of deficit tolerance about which NHSE has become accustomed to negotiate with the IDBs.

Of course it is an end to deficit tolerance which the Prime Minister now seeks to achieve; mentioning two means in particular: one is the re-direction to actual services of the costs of running NHSE, the other is a repatriation of policy and financial control to elected representatives. The first of these is promised to make a substantial subvention to functional costs, and the Health and Social Care Secretary's 'Change NHS' programme is intended to encourage patients' care at the lowest, and least expensive, effective level in the Health hierarchy, with the 'Prevent' element, it is hoped, reducing long-term needs. This is fine, but it is in the nature of medical research to generate additional costs through the development of new treatments and drugs, so recycling the cost of NHSE is unlikely to be a permanent solution. The PM's other objective – the return of decision-making to elected representatives – is an interesting reversal: it was precisely the unpopularity from taking decisions about priorities in treatments, clinical facilities and drug approvals that led past Governments to try to distance themselves from these responsibilities. So taking them back may be what Sir Humphrey would have called a "brave" decision.

But are we yet sure which elected representatives the Prime Minister means? I believe there has been some talk of rationalising, or harmonising, public-sector/public-service boundaries (the Kent & Medway ICB territory does coincide with the KCC + Medway UC continuum, but many of the 41 other ICBs are seriously cross-boundary) – and the Local Government reorganisation now under way seems certain to result in

three or four Unitaries in Kent and Medway. And (as an otherwise supportive Member's intervention in the Health Secretary's Commons statement of 12 March pointed out, none of these recent announcements has addressed Social Care. Bed-blocking remains a very substantial cause of Health overspend (not to mention mistreatment of patients) – and Social Care is, as we know, a Local Government responsibility.

Elected Mayors, where they do or will exist, are intended to have a very wide oversight of services in their territory; do we know whether such local elected oversight is a universal objective of the current reorganisation? We heard at the Kent & Medway ICB's February meeting that the NHS's views would be taken into account in the Local Government reorganisation process – may we hope that this, with the forthcoming Health reorganisation, will effectively address, at last, the disconnect between Health and Care services which we, in our humble way, pointed out in 2016 in our letter to the Kent and Medway Director of the NHS's Sustainability and Transformation Programme?

Denis Linfoot 15 March 2025

SOPHIE SCOTT – A LIFE OF MEANING

For almost three decades Sophie Scott has been a Trojan acting in support of the local community, including her exceptional engagement with the Oaten Hill & District Society and, since 2016, with its successor, OHSCA. This article is based on an extensive interview, made recently at her home. A longer version, including some of Sophie's personal reminiscences, appears in this digital (online) edition (pages 10–11).



Sophie joined the former Oaten Hill and District Society (OHDS) in 1996, having moved from Scotland to Canterbury. She joined the OHDS Committee as Treasurer in 2006 and has attended every Committee Meeting bar one ever since – even through the amalgamation with the South Canterbury Residents Association (SCRA) to form OHSCA. She has served as Membership Secretary since then, up to the end of 2024, when mobility problems made getting to the bank very difficult.

Trees

Over the years Sophie has organised the planting of more than 50 trees in the OHSCA area, including those in memory of George Liddle, Doris Hughes and Nickie Young, and the pin oaks in Longport. KCC Tree Department arranged for a tree to be planted

acknowledging Sophie's own contribution to the green street scene.

Gardens

In addition to trees, Sophie has long been involved with the Green Team, overseeing the planting and maintenance of four gardens in the OHSCA area – including those at St. George's (by the old cinema), Milton Road, and the Fire Station. The St. George's garden was an OHDS project started in 1978 where the Council chose the trees and paid for the raised planters. Sophie entered the OHSCA gardens in the annual South East in Bloom competitions, achieving considerable success and winning awards.

Newsletter Distribution

Sophie, together with Deirdre Hawkes, has over the years organised the labelling of newsletters for distribution by our dedicated team of deliverers – quite a mammoth task at New Year when every home received a copy.

Continuing with the Committee

Since the end of the covid pandemic Sophie has very kindly hosted Committee meetings at her house, for which we are all very grateful.

Mike Brain and Marion Bell

THE SAINT NINIAN SCHOOL



This, as some readers may recollect, was a boys' preparatory school with day boys and boarders, before it became the Ebury Hotel and is now the Canterbury Hotel on the New Dover Road.

Who was Saint Ninian? He was born in Cumbria about 360 AD and became a Bishop in Scotland. His Saint's day is 16 September and his Bishopric was in Galloway. He set up a community of monks who went on missionary journeys to Perth and Stirling. He died about 432 AD.

It was a well-run, happy school and I was a boarder from 1954–1958. Boarders had the option of returning home at weekends or remaining in school. There was no homework set at the weekends so we were free on a Saturday morning to roam around the City – clad in our bright red blazers and school caps, so instantly conspicuous!

Sometimes on a Sunday afternoon we would, accompanied by our excellent Headmaster, go to watch Canterbury City football play in the Kent League. In those days before the Kingsmead Stadium, they played at Bretts Corner where Morrisons and other stores are now. I remember those games especially because Bill Higgins, the player manager, came to our school playing field, now farmland on the Nackington Road, to help us improve our game. Our cricket matches and athletic sports between the rival houses named Marlowe and Chaucer were really competitive! I enjoyed my first games of cricket especially.

The School provided a good grounding for the Common Entrance Examination and we also had regular times for classical music appreciation, art, singing and craft work. I remember well my teacher's comments on my craftwork proclaiming "He has finished his grey donkey with the help of myself and half the class!"

On Sundays we attended the morning service at Holy Cross Church by the Westgate and there was a strong Christian ethos at the school under the excellent leadership of our Headmaster, Eric Sargent. Altogether the Saint Ninian School provided me and many others with a strong Christian basis for further education. I have many happy memories of this special place.

Remarkably, the adjoining King's School playing fields where we were allowed to play once a week, are now the site of four roads, Wells, Lichfield, Rochester and Lincoln Avenues, which form our estate today. So this part of Canterbury will always be special to me and for many others. It has a particular place in the City's history.

Michael Reeve

MOVING MEMORY

Moving Memory is a ground-breaking dance theatre company that puts the older body centre stage (<https://www.movingmemorydance.com/about-us/>).

They have been making striking visual performances for public spaces, festivals and theatres for over a decade. Their work supports older people to have greater access to creative activities, and challenges the preconceptions of ageing. A company limited by guarantee, Moving Memory is a registered charity that has been supported by the Arts Council, Kent County Council and the University of Kent. In this article, OHSCA member Glyn Burnett describes her experience of being involved with this truly dynamic foundation.

In 2010 I picked up a flyer which was asking for women volunteers over 50 years of age to take part in a performance later that year. Rehearsals progressed, the performance of 'Moving Memory' took place and the group realised that, far from being the end, we all wanted to continue to do more.

Collectively we were aware that as older women we didn't want to be defined by our age, ignored or seen as 'past it'. With lifetimes of rich experience we had more to offer and had found the perfect medium to share these stories through the unique movement practice devised and led by Sian Stevenson, Creative director of the *Moving Memory Dance Theatre Company*.

'Moving on Moving' and 'More Please' followed, working with members of the local community and students. Warmly greeted by audiences but with venues reluctant to programme a group of old women, we devised our first pop up piece 'Cracking the Crinoline' which could be performed anywhere. With striking, cleverly designed costume and a surprising transformational twist, audiences never fail to be delighted and surprised. Since 2014 this has been performed in venues as far apart as Glasgow and Paris, including Sadler's Wells, Parliament square, shopping centres, festivals, a monastery and art galleries. More recently we 'popped up' in London Royal parks and Farleigh house in Sussex.



As the core company worked together we became increasingly confident in our role as co-authors, and our ability to rise to the challenges of performance in a variety of public places. Three more pop-up pieces were devised and performed across Kent. The culmination of an intergenerational project involving community groups and primary schools 'Love Grows' was performed at the 2019 bOing! Festival, held at the Gulbenkian Arts Centre, (<https://boingfestival.com/archive/2019/>).

An ambitious production, 'Beside Me', which involved serving a three course meal to our audience as part of the performance, was staged as part of the POW! (Power of Women) festival in March 2020 – just as the country went into lockdown!

Undeterred, the company continued to rehearse online. We also ran workshop sessions which proved to be a lifeline to participants in counteracting the isolation induced through lockdown, as well as a challenging exercise to the facilitators in adapting to remote working.

As time has gone on the company has become increasingly aware of the marginalised place of the elderly in society, of ageism, and the prevailing misogyny in many aspects of life. This is reflected in our most recent venue-based show, 'The Devil's Doorbell'.

The current project 'Golden Slumbers' which will premier in Margate includes a moving 'chorus' of volunteers drawn from our Moving Well groups, a quartet of musicians and a new 'performer' in the shape of a large mobile 4-poster bed. During the summer this will be performed in Lordswood Chatham, at the RE-ignite festival in Hertfordshire, the Tunbridge Wells Fringe Festival at Southborough, and the bOing! Festival in Canterbury (at the Gulbenkian, 23/24 August 2025).

Moving Memory not only produces performances by the core company but also runs workshops and training, offers guidance to others, and contributes to research so that people everywhere perceive ageing differently.

Having trained more creative facilitators we are now able to deliver workshops across the county. The company's unique Moving Well collaborative practice engages people of all ages and backgrounds with the creative process, and is designed to enable participants to work together to tell the stories they want to tell, express their individual identity, and have a voice in wider society.

Moving Well groups are offered free of charge and take place in public places like libraries and community spaces, in order to make them accessible to all. The sessions are inclusive, non-judgemental, collaborative and fun. Feedback shows that participants feel relaxed, valued and encouraged to express

themselves. The sessions are usually in blocks of six weeks. Even in that short time groups become bonded, and often lead to enduring connections and friendships.



Over the past seven years, *Moving Memory* has performed to 13,000 people and involved 3,000 people through its participatory work. It has been a privilege to be part of this company and to see the effect that the work has on people that we meet.

Glyn Burnett (Core company performer and facilitator)

Contact: info@movingmemorydance.com; tel. admin 01303 762872; tel. Creative & Participation 01304 800300
<https://www.movingmemorydance.com/contact-us/>

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

This little section is often included on page 8, below the list of Committee members – where perhaps it tends to get missed. So for once, with the addition of some information about ‘scams’, community policing, e-scooters and e-bikes, here it is promoted to a more prominent position. If any members have other suggestions for inclusion, please contact the Editor (editor@ohsca.org).

My Community Voice

Operated by Kent Police, My Community Voice “is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.” In the Editor’s experience the flow of information can be a bit overwhelming (are they all behind screens rather than ‘on the beat!’), but I suggest signing up, which you can do via the link – if you find it too much, you can always unsubscribe:

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

Other useful contact details:

- Police: call 101 to report non-emergency incidents; 999 for emergencies
- Health: call 111 for online help (<https://111.nhs.uk/>)
- 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
- 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: go to p. 1 of the OHSCA Spring 2023 Newsletter: <https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-26-2023-Spring.pdf>
- For St Augustine’s Abbey Annual Pass, go to: <https://www.ohsca.org/news.html>

Scams

Ever been scammed? Not sure what a ‘scam’ is? (if not, this KCC website is a must for you!). “Scammers are criminals who trick millions of people into parting with billions of pounds every year. These criminals are devious and will try to scam you into handing over money or personal details, like bank account information. They may even claim to be someone official like a Police Officer, a Trading Standards Officer or from HM Revenue and Customs.” For more information, to sign up for regular alerts and report a scam, go to the KCC website using this ‘hotlink’:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/consumer-protection/common-scams>

Kent Police Advice on E-scooters

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

Government Rules on riding E-bikes

<https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>



OHSCA GIGgers at Goodnestone, for the snowdrops (just visible!), tea and cakes, 23 February 2025

OHSCA COMMITTEE 2024–2025 AND CONTACTS LIST

Chair and Vice 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: 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
Sophie Scott	Committee Member
Planning	We are grateful to Keith Rishworth, who has kindly taken on the preparation of the regular planning application alerts.
Local History Group	Chair LHG: Maggie Bower, maggie_bower18@icloud.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. 3)
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

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

Page 6: 'Beyond-the-Marigolds' and 'Beside Me', courtesy of *Sian Stevenson*, Creative Director, Moving Memory Dance-Theatre Company© (www.movingmemorydance.com).

ANSWERS TO MARION'S NEW YEAR WORD GAME (<https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-33-2025-New%20Year.pdf>, page 11)

1 VIVID; 2 DIM; 3 MIMIC; 4 DILL; 5 LIVID; 6 CIVIC; 7 VIM; 8 MIX; 9 ILL; 10 DID.

The connection? All the letters are Roman numerals.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. BRIGHT (5) | 5. CROSS (5) | 9. MALICE (3) |
| 2. NOT BRIGHT (3) | 6. PUBLIC (5) | 10. COMPLETED (3) |
| 3. APE (5) | 7. BRIO (3) | |
| 4. HERB (4) | 8. MERGE (3) | |

OHSCA 2025 dates, April – October		20 June	Godinton House (p. 3)
(more dates in summer newsletter, or by 'mailchimp')		25 June	Coffee morning (p. 2)
23 April	Coffee morning (p. 2)	28 June	Books & Beads sale (p. 3)
26 April (tbc)	Bluebell Walk (p. 2)	8 July	LHG meeting (p. 3)
29 April	Talk: Peter Donaldson (p. 3)	19 July	Summer Lunch party (p. 3)
13 May	LHG meeting (p. 3)	23 July	Coffee morning (p. 2)
26 May	Plant share (p. 3)	30 September	Talk: Pat Marsh (p. 3)
28 May	Coffee morning (p. 2)	24 October	AGM

DIGITAL EXTRA

CONTENTS

Aphra Benn	9
Sophie Scott	10–11
South Canterbury Spring – Bloomin' Marvellous	12–13
Bright Shadow (local charity event)	14
<i>And the Winner Is . . .</i> (talk by Peter Donaldson, 29 April)	15–16
Goodnestone (2)	16



After a very long wait, Aphra finally Hits the High Street!
Want to know more? Make a note of Tuesday 30 September (see p. 3)

SOPHIE SCOTT



Sophie at OHSCA Summer Lunch Party, 21 August 2021

This article about Sophie, which expands on the summary given on page 4, includes some of her reminiscences, as recalled in a recent conversation with OHSCA Secretary Marion Bell.

Sophie moved to Canterbury from Scotland in 1975 aged 24 with a young family. She didn't work initially so joined the Conservatives and got involved, volunteering at the Women's Centre in Stour Street.

In the 1980s she worked for EKV (East Kent Automotive), arranging car orders, and then the Chartered Institute of Bankers, assessing applicant qualifications. She loved meeting interesting people and travelling out of Canterbury into rural Kent. Her failing hearing forced her to retire at 50.

Sophie joined the OHDS Committee in 2006 and has attended every Committee Meeting bar one ever since – even through the amalgamation with SCRA in 2016. She felt it was only fair to attend the Meetings so she could hear what was going on rather than keep asking others.

Her interests and hobbies include embroidery and playing bridge.

On arrival

'We moved to Canterbury to be near my parents but not to be under their feet. It had a university and therefore young people, as we were, and our parents helped us to buy a terraced house. We then had to find out what happened in Canterbury and join it.'

Women's Centre

'I got a couple of part-time jobs and our son went to playgroup when he was three, in the September of 1975. A couple of weeks later we had a leaflet saying "Women's centre being founded, come and join us", in a squat in Stour Street. For a while, I had two free mornings in the week which I thought I would use to do something and meet other people. It was fascinating and rapidly expanded into about 10 hours a day. In the evening I might go again. The people involved, some were lecturers, social workers, some were students and some were women who turned up there. A wide selection of people.

Most Councillors were worried about us because we were squatting. This was not in itself illegal, but was not the usual way of going about things. After a few months, when the centre was established as a refuge, my father, who was a County Councillor, came to a conference at the University, with his MP, and said "you should visit this place – my daughter is involved. This turned the attitude of Conservative Councillors right around." Jan Pahl and I went knocking on doors to get support. This took up five years of our life.'

OHDS/OHSCA

'I joined the OHDS as a member having moved to Ersham Road in 1996. In 2006 a leaflet came round appealing for a Treasurer and Membership Secretary, saying if we don't get one, we'll have to close. My mother had just died and my social life had disintegrated because of being away from home during the last year. I thought this is something I could do, as I had been a Treasurer before, at Canterbury Women's Aid.

I asked my friend David Anning who was an accountant and he said "of course you can do it Sophie, and I'll volunteer to be your auditor, and if you have any problems I can sort it out." I've been Membership Secretary ever since. When OHDS merged with SCRA, there was a deal of discussion about equal representation on the Committee from each organisation. It was also suggested members should only serve for a maximum of 5 years. I thought that was total bollocks¹ and made myself unpopular for saying so!

Our members tend to be elderly as younger people are generally busy doing something else, having a life, children and grandchildren.

I worked with many Chairmen and remember the one who lived in Puckle Lane, Paul Talbot, who left to live in Torquay but came back after a year to live in Blean, having deeply regretted the move. He came to the Doris Hughes tree planting.

I enjoyed my time at OHDS/OHSCA as I liked improving things. There's no point in joining a residents' association if all you're going to do is moan, although that's very important. The ability to scrutinise and

¹ nonsense; rubbish (used to express disagreement, or as an exclamation of annoyance). <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>

comment on planning applications is very important. So many people don't bother and then say that street doesn't look like it used to.'

Trees

As noted on page 4, over the years, Sophie has been a prime-mover in getting more than 50 trees planted in the OHSCA area. How did this come about?

The view of Telephone House from her Ersham Road home prompted Sophie to contact the Council early on, and plead for a tree to be planted outside to improve the view. She met Aidan Potts at CCC, who arranged for two trees to be planted immediately, and then a cherry outside her house. As older trees in the street started to die, in 2004 she launched a petition with neighbours (all signed) and made an appeal raising £204 – kindly matched by the Council – which, in Spring 2005, paid for eight more trees in Ersham Road. For the next 15 years she watered and attended those trees. Aidan arranged for a particular tree to be planted acknowledging Sophie's own contribution to the green street scene – he knew Sophie could be persistent – she would hang on the phone until he was available!

Since 2006, trees have been supplied and planted by Cllr Northey from his tree budget, and also by Daniel Kemsley at KCC. During this time, Sophie has also acted as a vigorous 'tree champion' – questioning many planning requests to remove trees. If permission was still finally granted, she would then campaign to persuade owners to replace felled trees with suitable replacements.

A Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) has recently been planted in the avenue approach in the grounds of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, in recognition of Sophie's long involvement with OHDS/OHSCA (see page 2: <https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-33-2025-New%20Year.pdf>).

Gardens

As also described on page 4, Sophie has long been associated with the OHDS/OHSCA Green Team, overseeing the planting and maintenance of several gardens in our area. The St. George's garden was an OHDS project started in 1978 (the Council chose the trees, and paid for the raised planters).

Over the years, assisted by Deirdre Hawkes and Dave Goddard, these gardens are still well maintained although Sophie feels the current Committee needs to decide on a budget for plants and bulbs (all have increased in cost recently) and to plan for the future maintenance of these sites rather than rely on Deirdre, Dave and her own gardener.

Sophie entered the OHSCA gardens in the annual South East In Bloom competitions, winning several awards – notably in 2021, as recorded in a previous OHSCA newsletter (<https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-20-2021-Autumn.pdf> – see p. 12).



Membership Secretary

In addition to the Gardens and Trees work, Sophie was, until very recently, our Membership Secretary. She managed the database and banking of subs. She recalls that, if members failed to renew their subscription, she would politely call on them and ask what was it that OHSCA was doing wrong? This usually produced a renewal sub! She got to know everyone and managed, over the years, to recruit members onto the Committee.

Newsletter Distribution

For many years Sophie and Deirdre Hawkes organised parcelling out newsletters to our faithful team of deliverers – a particularly taxing task at New Year, when every home in our area received a 12-page edition (there are over 2000 letterboxes in 'our patch').

With an increase in the number of members willing to accept the digital version, Sophie has stood firm that a paper newsletter is still preferred by some members. Even now, despite her mobility issues, Sophie enjoys going round in Deirdre's car to visit deliverers and catch up with their news.

On continuation

Since the end of the covid pandemic, Sophie has very kindly hosted Committee meetings at her house. And although she has very recently felt it necessary to 'retire' from all her formal roles, Sophie is continuing as a valued member of the OHSCA Committee. For all the things that Sophie has done, and her continuing help and support, we are all very grateful.

Marion Bell and Mike Brain





BRIGHT SHADOW

Bright Shadow is a local charity that “works with all those affected by dementia – those living with the condition, their families and friends, and formal carers” (Alison Culverwell, <https://www.ohsca.org/pdfs/OHSCA-Newsletter-29-2024-New%20Year.pdf>, page 4).



Garden Party

SATURDAY JUN 7 2:30 – 5 PM

26 Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NF

<i>Plant Sale</i>	<i>Live Music</i>	<i>Book stall</i>
<i>Tombola</i>	<i>Hand-made crafts</i>	<i>Cake & Tea</i>

Rain day on 8 June
www.brightshadow.org.uk
registered charity no: 1171042

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

The second of our OHSCA Talks for 2025 is on Tuesday 29 April 2025. Dr Peter Donaldson will talk about his book *And the Winner Is: the BBC Sports Personality of the Year and British Sport*.



Date: Tuesday 29 April 2025.

Time: Doors & Bar open at 6.30 pm; Talk starts at 7 pm followed by discussion. We will end by 8.45 pm. Bar 6.30-8.45 pm. Payment for drinks by **credit card only**.

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

Booking: Places are 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 21 April. The talk will be held in the upstairs room unless you notify me in good time that you are unable to access the stairs so that I can make alternative arrangements.

Payment: £5.00 per head (to cover room hire costs), **in cash payable on the door**.

Cancellation: If you book but later find you are unable to attend, please contact social@ohsca.org or ring 07753514351.

About the Author

Dr Peter Donaldson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Kent. He is the author of three other books, including *Sport, War and the British* which was shortlisted for the British Society of Sports History's Lord Aberdare Literary Prize in 2020. He has yet to be nominated for the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year award himself!

Peter Donaldson outlines his talk:

'The BBC's sports personality of the year is now 71 years old. Love it or hate it, the show serves not only as a barometer of shifting sporting passions but also of societal change. Although, with Keely Hodgkinson's recent triumph, we have had four female winners in a row, only 16½ women (if you count Torvill and Dean as one which, rather like Ant and Dec, they must be getting sick of) have ever held the BBC trophy.

SPOTY's inequity, however, does not stop with gender. Ethnicity and class get a look in as well. Will a black footballer ever win SPOTY? What do anglers and darts players have to do to be voted in as the nation's favourite sporting personality? And how can it be possible that more royals have topped the public poll than rugby players (of either code)? This talk will attempt to address questions such as these.'

Outline from Amazon:

And the Winner Is takes a fascinating look at the 70 holders of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year trophy. Together, their stories – and the moments that define them – offer a unique account of British sport in the television age.

Since it was first broadcast 70 years ago, the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) is a national institution, with the announcement of the winner guaranteed to spark heated debates in the press and online, as well as in the front rooms of viewers.



Why have more royals won than rugby players? What do Ronnie or Rory have to do to win? And should winning the F1 Drivers' Championship really trump gold medals at four consecutive Olympic Games? Damon Hill's mum certainly didn't think so.

Some of the winners, and the moments that define them, are cornerstones of the nation's sporting fabric – Bobby Moore and the World Cup in 1966 or Andy Murray and Wimbledon in 2013. But others are less familiar: 44-year-old golfer Dai Rees in 1957 or 17-year-old swimmer Ian Black a year later. Discover them all here.

Who do you think you are?

Dr Donaldson featured in a recent episode of BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?*, to advise actress Claire Foy on her family history.



Peter met Claire at Carlisle Castle, a former military barracks where her great-great-grandparents Henry and Maria Stimpson lived until Henry's death. Peter was able to share the tragic circumstances of Henry's untimely passing – a drowning during an off-duty cross-country race – which enabled Claire to visit the river where her great-great-grandad died.

The story concludes on a happier note as documents provided by Peter describe how the local community rallied together to raise money for Maria

and her five children, allowing them to continue their lives.

Reflecting on the experience, Peter said: 'It was great fun to be able to help Claire find out more about the lives of her ancestors in Carlisle'.

The full episode is available to view on BBC iPlayer, with Peter's segment beginning around nine minutes in.

Lorna Durrani, OHSCA SEA Convenor



More Jolly GIG Fun at Goodnestone (p. 3)