



Autumn Newsletter 2020
Website www.ststephensra.org

Dear Residents

I suppose that many of us hoped that life would be back to normal by now but, sadly, that doesn't seem to be the case so your committee has been discussing how we manage without an AGM and without our street reps delivering our newsletter. The only way seems to be by email for the latter and for us to accept that this year, we will have to manage without meeting. We did consider a Zoom meeting but felt that it would be too unwieldy so I hope that you will accept our compromise.

This newsletter will go out to everyone who is a member by email and a few hard copies will be delivered to those who do not use technology. This is a great loss for us as we usually print and deliver 600+ newsletters to our whole area, members or not, which we hope makes everyone feel that they are part of a community, aware of us and what we do. Please feel free to share this newsletter with neighbours.

As for the AGM, we have made some changes to the committee for 2020-2021 and these are as follows:

Chair	Pauline Walters
Secretary	Chris Molony
Treasurer	Alan Cunningsworth
Neighbourhood Watch	Maria Thomas
Committee members	Jennifer Holland, Sue Pratt, Felicity Tasker, Tony Whiting, Chris McDonnell, Ron Waters, Simon Pettman, Lindy McDonnell, Alison Coles.

As we are not holding an AGM, we would value your comments on the Association and your agreement with what we have decided to do. Any questions, comments, positive or negative, and suggestions can be sent to me at paulinewalters25@gmail.com and I will share them with the committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee, most especially Jennifer and Sue, who have attended I don't know how many meetings and groups, representing SSRA, that have an impact on the lives of all of us who live in St Stephen's. They do all the hard work and report to the committee and we are grateful that they do this for us. Chris and Alan are both completely essential to the workings of SSRA and are always on top of their game, thank goodness.

Maria has done sterling work as our NW coordinator and she sends me all the alerts so that I can share them with you. Felicity manages our Facebook page brilliantly and lovely Ian manages our website and keeps it up to date. Alison has joined the committee as our Risk Assessment expert so she does all the boring but necessary work to ensure that we follow correct procedures. Having Simon, Chris and Lindy on the committee has meant that what was the Market Way RA and SSRA have had a seamless amalgamation. Lastly, Sue Pratt, Ron and Tony are the ballast and keep us all on the straight and narrow.

Alan has provided us with his Treasurer's report which is included in this newsletter.

Finally, if you are feeling down, just re-read the spring newsletter [it's on the website] to cheer you up. It made me smile

With best wishes, Pauline

From Sue Langdown

ACRA, the *Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations*, is continuing to respond to residents' concerns:

- Currently, working with the universities and police to ensure that students living in *Houses in Multiple Occupation* [HMOs] are adequately sanctioned should they continue to ignore Covid regulations.
- Encouraging associations to respond to current Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council consultations, providing additional information as available and collating where appropriate material in order to make an ACRA submission
- Continuing to represent resident groups on the *Business Improvement District Board, Canterbury Alliance for Sustainable Transport and Canterbury Climate Action Partnership*
- Sending regular updates to ACRA committee members from *North Canterbury Residents' Association* and other bodies. Jennifer Holland and Chris MacDonnell are the committee reps for SSRA
- No immediate plans for a zoom meeting, but being kept under review, and will respond should there be a request from a committee member

2. *North Canterbury Forum of Residents' Associations*: There have been no meetings and in an email exchange, it was decided that all current matters are being adequately dealt with by other means. This could change as and when information is released about the Local Plan, road changes, and any other matter which affects residents across the north Canterbury wards.

3. *Friends of Kingsmead Field*: We are continuing to water trees and shrubs (as required) and small groups regularly pick up litter. Repairs have been made to a picnic table damaged by a BBQ and benches will be examined to see if work needs to be done to protect them during the winter. The playground has re-opened, and weeds treated. No major litter picks are planned at the moment.

From Jennifer

Although I'm sure that many members will have already contacted Pauline to thank her for the helpful and informative e-mails that she sent to everyone throughout the lockdown, I would like to officially extend thanks to her on behalf of all SSRA members and the Committee for keeping us in touch with things that we might not otherwise have known and more importantly for helping us to feel at a time when we were confined to our homes that we are all part of a wider St Stephen's community. Although we are unable to hold an AGM this year where a new Committee would normally be elected, Pauline has offered to continue to undertake the role of Chairman of St Stephen's Residents' Association while I will stand down from my co-chair role, having previously spent four challenging but enjoyable years as chair, with the proviso that I will always be available to help where necessary.

All other Committee members apart from one have agreed to continue in their current roles for the ensuing year from November.

Sue Langdown, who has been an invaluable help and guiding light of the SSRA Committee for many years, has decided to take a well-earned break. Sue has always been one of the first people to step forward and offer to help with regard to matters with which the Committee is involved, whether this is chairing the Committee, co-ordinating litter picking events, planting bulbs, responding to consultations or attending meetings to which a representative from SSRA is invited. Sue has a knack for solving problems in a practical and sensible way and her contribution to the Committee will be very much missed. I would like to thank her for the immense amount that she has done to help the Association and am reassured that she has said that she will always be available to help out when needed!

Jennifer Holland

Ron's lighter look at life

I am in my eighties and when I walk into town, I usually go along Victoria Walk near The Marlowe to Dave Lee's statue. I sometimes put my hand on his head and say something like, 'Nice day, Dave,' or 'Soon be Christmas' but last week, I tried something different. 'Dave, you spent your life making people happy; could I have wish that would make me happy?' I told him that I had bought two lottery tickets, one for the Euro and one on the Lotto and could I just have a small win.

To my surprise, they were both winners!

But £3.50 on the Euro and a lucky dip on the Lotto gave me a profit of £1.00. 'I know you have a sense of humour, Dave and I know I said a small win, but I had hoped for a little more than a pound.'

Thinking positive, I could start a trend. A secure collection box could be placed near Dave and they could set up a 'Have a Lucky dip on Dave' site with the

donations going to Dave's charities. A sign saying, 'Local man has two wins in a week!' would be completely true and it might even give Canterbury a brand new tourist attraction!

Our members' best buys, so far....

Jarkey Screw Top Jar Opener £4.49

Jarkey Jar Opener opens jars in a jiffy by simply releasing the vacuum. Open even the stiffest of sealed screw-top jars really easily using this failsafe jar opening tool. So simple to use, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it!

So effective that even the most tightly sealed jars can be opened using only one hand, they're ideal for anyone with wrist problems and will save a whole lot of struggling when it comes to shifting stubborn screw-top lids without resorting to brute force.

How it Works: A little like opening a beer bottle, just pop the device onto the lid of the jar so that it grips under the rim; give it a quick flick and the vacuum seal is broken allowing you to effortlessly loosen and remove the lid every time.

Soup maker

We have a Morphy Richards Soup Maker a present some years ago. A boon if you're into soup which we are

Robot Vacuum Cleaner

We have the Roborock S5 max (white one) and it is amazing!

Robot Vacuum Cleaner 2

I have this one and I love it.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07PLHK1GC/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_ujVcFbW6RA965

Robot Vacuum Cleaner 3

We have one called Eufy which is amazing. Bought my brother one as so good. We got ours from Amazon but I think the best deal is from the manufacturer direct.

Compostable liners for the kitchen waste bin

Unlike the supermarket ones, which disintegrate, these from Amazon are brilliant. All-Green Food Waste Bin Liners. 150 for £10.99

Non-stick re-sable baking liners

Incredible! Use again and again for baking, roasting vegetables, pies and almost anything. Amazon. 10 large sheets that you cut to size for £10.99. I've had mine for months.

Loaf tin and cake tin liners from Lakeland. Nowhere else can you get this quality.

St Stephens Residents' Association

Treasurer's Report for period 1 November 2019 - 31 October 2020

Opening balance on 01.11.19		£2013.80
Income:		
Subscriptions	£ nil	
KCC for litter bin	£400.00	
Total	£400.00	£400.00
		<u>£2413.80</u>
Expenditure		
		£550.98
Balance		<u>£1862.82</u>
Represented by		
Lloyds Bank current account		£1862.82
Additionally, petty cash		£28.55

Expenditure	Budget 2019-2020	Expenditure 2019-20	Budget 2020- 21
Printing etc. (including photocopying and stationery)	£200.00	£89.58	
Hire of Hall	£185.00	£104.00	
Open gardens expenses	£100.00	--	
Donations to campaigns	£50.00	--	
Gardening interest group	--	--	
Contingency	£75.00	--	
Refreshments	£100.00	£40.40	
Membership of Canterbury Society (SO 1 November annually)	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00
Membership of ACRA	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00
Website	£35.00	£48.00	£48.00
Improvements to environment	£75.00	--	
Litter bin	--	--	£445.00
Plants	£100.00	--	
Insurance (RHA)	--	£110.00	£110.00
Lehane Travel (coach to RHA Wisley)	--	£119.00	
Total	£960.00	£550.98	

Notes:

1. Lehane Travel have issued a credit note for £119.00 as the coach trip to Wisley could not take place in June as planned, due to Covid-19.
2. The sum of £400.00 provided by KCC for the provision of one litter bin is being held in our account until the work is carried out by CCC. It is estimated that the total cost will be £445.00.
3. £36.00 was paid in advance to St Stephen's Parish Council for hall hire on 27 April and 22 June in respect of committee meetings. These did not take place.
4. Position on 30 September 2020.