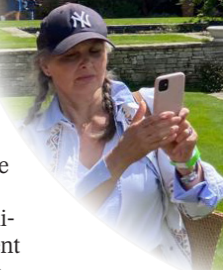


A visit to the RHS at Wisley

IT WAS a lovely sunny Sunday in late June when a group of St Stephen's residents travelled by coach to RHS Garden at Wisley in Surrey, the historic home of the RHS that houses one of the largest plant collections in the world.

After coffee at the Wisley Café near the entrance, we were divided into two pre-booked walking tours; we took the faster tour around the stunning gardens and buildings.

We walked from the Terrace to the Laboratory building which had prolific colourful climbers at the back of the borders. We could see the Jellicoe Canal (constructed in 1970s) which is full of plant, animal and bird life and magnificent waterlilies. Close by is the huge spectacular Persian Ironwood tree (*Parrotia persica*).



We enjoyed the conifer lawn, the attractive laboratory building and the Wisteria Walk which stretches 245 feet long and 10 feet wide. It features two varieties of wisteria (Royal Purple and Kimono), which have been chosen for their beautiful long racemes.

Wisley's mixed borders were at peak flowering at either side of the Broadwalk.

We continued up to the RHS Hilltop new buildings which emphasise the scope of RHS gardening science, its collections and how to garden sustainably in a changing climate.

Our tour ended here but we were able to enjoy the three new gardens nearby and take lunch at the World Food Café.

Judi and Peter Gladman

Gardening Events

In 2022 the Gardening Interest Group were pleased to be able to get back to something like normal and organise several themed events for anyone with an interest in gardening.

The Spring Seed Giveaway and the Plant Swap were popular not only for the opportunity to acquire some new plants (or potential plants), but also to catch up with those friends and neighbours we had not seen for a while; and the session on creating drought-resistant pots turned out to be quite prescient!

The highlight of our gardening programme was the Open Gardens weekends and the trip to Wisley. We would like to thank everyone who was kind enough to invite people through their garden gates to explore what was happening in their gardens - weeds and all. Wisley proved to be a very popular trip.

We are particularly delighted that Judi and Lesley have now joined the group and already we have ideas for gardening events we hope you will enjoy next year.

Jenny, Jennifer & Alison



ONE of the joys of being a Canterbury resident has been the right to apply for a Cathedral Pass which gives holders free admission to the Cathedral and to the extensive precincts on the South and less frequented North side of the main building. Being able to freely view the Cathedral and its associated buildings from less familiar angles has been greatly appreciated by many residents. It has been welcome, especially to swap the crowds and heat of Canterbury's busy streets for the green open spaces and cool, contemplative interiors of this world heritage site.

The Cathedral Pass also enabled holders to take a practical, traffic free shortcut between Northgate and Lady Wootton's Green. You used to be able to enter at the Mint Yard Gate, pass within sight of the famous Norman staircase then walk around the Green Court before negotiating the reputedly haunted Dark

New cathedral pass; Upgrade or retrograde?

Entry passage. Take a left turn and walk through the War Memorial Gardens before emerging through the small Queningate in the footsteps of Queen Bertha who, over 1400 years ago, regularly walked from here to services at St. Martin's Church. It's almost like a mini pilgrimage to be able to retrace her steps.

Alas we can do that no more. Entry from the Borough and Queningate is now restricted to Cathedral and King's School staff and pupils. The Dark Entry has become a 'No Entry' which puts the Green Court firmly out of bounds.

The current free passes are due to be replaced, reportedly at a cost of £6, renewable after so many years. Like a number of restrictions these were intro-

duced during lockdown but are now being implemented on a permanent basis.

The response from the Cathedral authorities has been to insist that it is private property and they are acting within their rights and the changes are in the interests of improving safeguarding of the pupils of King's School and in line with restrictions at most schools.

Community engagement

Opponents of the ban have protested outside the Queningate and been featured in local and national press.

They have pointed out that King's School uses many buildings and facilities in Canterbury where it's pupils can be frequently encountered going to and

from classrooms, sports and arts facilities and accommodation, often unsupervised.

They also point out that the Cathedral is undergoing extensive restoration, paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in return has undertaken to increase community engagement and involvement. Restricting residents from several of the entrances and a significant portion of the precincts hardly seems to be acting in the spirit of improving community involvement.

As we go to press the Cathedral website advises that no old-style passes are being currently issued but to check the website for news of when the replacement pass will be available. It's not clear from this whether there has been some delay or a rethink caused by the protests.

Let's hope that a solution may be found that helps restore good relations between town, gown and cassoock.



Website: www.ststephensra.org

ststephensra@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2022

Dear Residents

WHEN I wrote the last newsletter in April, I looked forward to life becoming 'more normal' and thankfully, it has been. We were able to come together at several events and it was so lovely to meet friends and neighbours and to celebrate the Jubilee. The Gardening Interest Group organised Open Gardens, a trip to Wisley and other events and Mary arranged the Art and Crafts Fair last month.

As usual, my inbox has been busy with members looking for suggestions about getting builders, gardeners and a plethora of other tradespeople and always finding a response. We have Ukrainian families who have been given support locally and so many people offer all sorts of household and gardening items, usually free, that we seem to be truly embracing the WI programme of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to heart.

We are very fortunate to have local Councillors who support us in everything we do. Mel Dawkins, CCC, is extraordinarily active in local affairs and has set up the Friends of Beverly Meadow, which we are very happy to support. Terry Westgate has been the most wonderful

CCC councillor for a number of years, supports us and can always be relied upon to clear ugly graffiti himself! Alister Brady, KCC, also attends our committee meetings, keeps us informed about anything relevant to our area and is working with Mel to establish the 20mph in Canterbury.

Finally, my thanks to Jennifer Holland and Chris McDonnell who participate in the ACRA [Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Groups] meetings and other committees and focus groups and report back to us. Jennifer also completes complex and very, very long consultations and questionnaires that require hours of concentrated attention to detail. We are extremely lucky to have her and Chris.

We are planning to hold the AGM at 7pm on November 14th in the church hall this year. Covid permitting. If there is an upsurge of Covid before then, we will move to a Zoom meeting, and it will be posted on the website and via email to members.

With best wishes

Pauline

DEAR RESIDENTS

I have now been your Kent County Councillor for coming up to a year and a half and I would like to re-affirm my pledges to you as well as to tell you a bit about myself. I first moved to Canterbury in 1989 as a boy and our fantastic City has been my and my family's home ever since.

I worked in the travel industry for over twenty years, but I always had a passion for politics and Canterbury. I would often see politicians seemingly not representing the very people that voted them in and not giving those individuals a voice. Local government, especially Kent County Council, seemed distant from everyday lives and I wanted to change this, so in September 2017 I returned to academia and secured a 1st class honours degree in Philosophy and Politics from the University of Kent. In fact, I campaigned for the election whilst writing my dissertation - It was an incredibly busy time to say the least, but this did not stop me from meeting as many people as possible to talk about local politics, what needs to be done to improve Canterbury, and how I can help.

Within KCC I sit on several Cabinet Committees: Children, Young People, and Education Cabinet Committee, Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee, and Governance and Audit Cabinet Committee, as well as several sub committees. I am also the shadow cabinet member for education and skills. As I see my role as working for you and standing up for your rights, I will be circulating the agendas for these committees and if you would like me



Introducing
ALISTER BRADY

to ask a question on your behalf during these meetings, regarding an item on the agenda, then please do get in touch. I am also exploring other ways to amplify your voices within KCC so if you have ideas on

this, again, please let me know.

What am I doing now you might ask? Well, I and your Residents' Association are working on improving the roads within St Stephen's and I thank you and your Residents Association committee for the great work that has been done on this project. I am building a close relationship with all the schools in the district, as well as youth groups, looking for ways to help school children regain what has been missed due to the pandemic. I am also working with Friends groups in the district to see how I can help you to get the best from our cherished green spaces - but there is so much more to be done for you and the area. There are projects at the drawing board stage which I will write to you about in the near future.

If you would like to contact me and if you require my help to resolve an issue you may have, please do not hesitate to get in touch at my email address below, my councillor phone number, or through my social media pages.

I look forward to meeting you in person when out and about in St Stephens.

Thank you for your support,

Alister Brady – MEM

Member for Canterbury City North
alister.brady@kent.gov.uk
01227 250607

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/AlisterBrady4Canterbury
Twitter: @Alister4KCC

Draft Local Plan is published

CANTERBURY City Council's draft Local Plan will be published in October, following which the Cabinet will be asked to agree to a twelve week public consultation period which will run until the middle of January.

The Canterbury District Local Plan is an important document that will set the blueprint for development of the district until 2045, around matters related to housing and new communities, the local economy and employment, movement and transportation, key infrastructure and the historic and natural environment.

Decisions about the content of this document are especially relevant at a time when we are becoming increasingly aware of the global warming impact of the climate change crisis.

This consultation on the draft Local Plan is the third of four different stages of the process being worked through before the final Canterbury District Local Plan is submitted to the Government's Planning Inspector for examination and adoption if approved.

The final version of the Plan will be published in autumn 2023 following the consultation on the draft Local Plan that should be commencing shortly.

It is extremely important that we comment on this as a Residents Association as well as individually and we will be asking members for their views so that we can develop a response.

Our County Councillor, Alister Brady will be giving an overview of the main points of the draft Local Plan at the SSRA AGM on Monday 14th November. This should be a very interesting talk.



The traffic zones plan has already sparked a strong reaction



The Platinum Jubilee

A glorious occasion!

It didn't rain! Thanks to the efforts of St Michael's Road and Close RA, the church, the Guides and Brownies, the WI, The League of Friends and so many other individuals and groups, we were able to celebrate the Jubilee with about three hundred attendees.

I should mention and give special thanks to the core group who planned and organised the celebrations and who met regularly from February – Rick Norman, Linda Pritchard, Rev Kevin Maddy, Felicity Tasker, Sue Pratt and Shirley Hagger.

The volunteers who acted as stewards, the First Aider, the member who put up the bunting, those stalwarts who moved tables and chairs and cleared up, the litter pickers- all these people made it possible, and we owe them our gratitude.

Local historian Derek Butler provided interesting and thought-provoking exhibitions in the hall which were extremely popular and wonderful Libby Nichols, Angela Doe, Enid Dixon, Maria Thomas, Chris and Lindy McDonnell and Margaret Horwood made and/or served teas and cakes for the visitors.

The other people who made the celebration possible were the stall holders who provided refreshments and sold all manner of goods to the attendees. They had worked for weeks beforehand to gather plants, make cakes, collect books and create artwork, not just on the day itself. Heroes and heroines all.

All the proceeds went to various charities, and it was clear that people enjoyed the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. A good day all round.

