



## St Stephen's Residents' Association newsletter: Spring 2016

I know that all members of the **St Stephen's Residents' Association committee** would like to thank Sue Langdown for her excellent work as the chairman of the group over the last three years. She said from the outset that she was prepared to undertake the role of chair for three years only and couldn't be persuaded to stay longer so it has fallen to me to take over the role, supported by our very able committee. As a long serving member I couldn't deny that it was my turn to offer to chair the group but at the same time we have been delighted to welcome some new, younger committee members who come with fresh ideas.

We have now set up our **Facebook page**, *St Stephen's Residents' Association* to complement our excellent website. Please feel free to 'like' and follow or post pictures here or make comments about things that you have seen happening in the area. We want to try to bring the St Stephen's community together as much as possible and this will allow us to reach out a bit further and make us more welcoming. We will comment about things going on, local groups, the shops, things to look out for in the area and a whole host of topics, so do find the page, 'like' it and get on board.

Members who attended the **AGM** in November will have enjoyed hearing our current Lord Mayor, Cllr Sally Waters talking about her role in the Canterbury Civic team and Cllr Terry Westgate telling us about the new committee system of the Canterbury City Council and current developments in the city's Westgate Parks. This was your opportunity to ask questions, propose new ideas and also to hear about the work that the Residents' Association Committee has undertaken over the last year. As a result, the following initiatives have been suggested or are underway:

- Concern about inappropriate parking on grass verges in the St Stephen's area was raised at the AGM, so we are applying for a **grass verge and footway parking ban** to be extended from Beaconsfield Road to St Stephen's Green, Manwood Avenue and possibly Hales Drive. If this is successful there will be a series of signs erected requesting motorists not to park on grass verges.

- Residents who sit on the bench next to the green behind the Old St Stephen's School to wait for the bus into town will appreciate the improved display of daffodils following the **bulb planting in October**. More bulbs have also been planted along The Terrace and at the entrance to St Stephen's Court.
- We are hoping to install **two new benches**. The Residents' Association is very fortunate that Canterbury City Council has agreed to fund the cost of a new bench to be placed on or near the footpath across Manwood Green leading to the Church Hall. This will enable local residents to sit and enjoy the display of daffodils and blossom on the new **flowering cherry tree** while en route to the shops in Hales Drive. A second bench, funded by the Residents' Association, will be placed in the St Stephen's Church field, opposite the children's park on the St Stephen's Road side.
- The Residents' Association have successfully applied for a grant of £500.00 to cover the installation costs of two used **picnic tables** from Serco that are now **in place on the central green area of Tyler Close**. Residents have created a very attractive area by clearing the old, overgrown laurels and planting daffodil bulbs as part of the October bulb planting programme. Wild flowers will be sown, shrubs planted and an apple tree has recently been put in by the 'Men of Kent'. The Residents' Association Committee would welcome **suggestions for environmental improvements** in other parts of the St Stephen's district.
- Concern about **noise disturbances** on Sunday afternoons was raised at the AGM as a result of which it has been suggested that residents should try a **voluntary curb** on the use of lawn mowers and other noisy equipment at this time.
- It was agreed at the AGM that there is a need to tackle problems of **litter** in the St Stephen's area. This will be assisted by the appointment of the new **Litter Liaison Councillor** who will work with local residents to improve co-operation with Serco and provide a direct line to report problems. Cllr Oliver Fawcett, who has been appointed to this role, has already held his first meeting with representatives from Residents' Associations to identify 'litter hotspots' in different parts of Canterbury. A small group of volunteers collected eleven bags of rubbish from our Residents' Association district during the *Clean for the Queen* weekend that took place between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March and we look forward to the introduction of new litter awareness campaigns in the near future.
- Residents may not be aware that they can apply for **free graffiti removal** via the Council website ([Canterbury.gov.uk](http://Canterbury.gov.uk)). There will be no charge for the first two hours of labour or up to a maximum of 5 metres square. Anyone who sees a person spray-painting graffiti is asked to report it to the police (01227 762 055).

- Serco are willing to replace inserts to wheelie bins that have broken because they are made of brittle plastic. The broken insert should be taken to Serco who will exchange it.

With all good wishes, **Jennifer Holland**

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

There has been a change of NW Co-ordinator and Tony Whiting has taken over from Terry Patten. Neighbourhood Watch is a successful crime prevention scheme providing up to date warning and advice via e-mail updates (circulated, where relevant, by Pauline) and on the website at [www.ststephensra.org](http://www.ststephensra.org).

Our local PCSO, Matt Farley, is available to give general security advice on your property. His number is 0777 222 6188 or e-mail at [57939@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:57939@kent.pnn.police.uk). We are asked to be vigilant as informed citizens, receiving and passing on concerns. Anything suspicious can be reported to the Police on **101**, or if a crime is in progress **999**. For less urgent matters and if you wish to remain anonymous you can dial **crimestoppers** on 0800555111 (see [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org))

## **Tony Whiting**

### **Treasurer's Report**

At the end of January, the Association's funds were in a satisfactory state amounting to just over £1700.00. The principal items of expenditure have been hire of St Stephen's Church Hall for meetings, refreshments for same, bulbs for planting on selected kerbsides, printing and IT costs, subscriptions to The Canterbury Society and the Association of Canterbury Residents' Associations and assistance with environmental improvements at Tyler Close.

The estimated expenditure budget for the period from a current date until October 31st 2016 is £570.00, based broadly on past experience but allowing a margin for unforeseen requirements.

## **Terry Patten**

### **The Canterbury Riverside development**

Many of you will remember that in 2003, we were invited to participate in a consultation concerning the regeneration of Kingsmead, undertaken by consultants who produced an excellent report in 2004. Residents were asked to list their priorities for development of this large area; open space was the first priority, and you will recall that we had to fight hard to achieve protected status for what is now recognised as Kingsmead Field. A new primary school has not been delivered, in favour of refurbishing St John's Church of England School. A performance venue has been achieved by re-building the Marlowe Theatre, and the housing requirement has to some extent been met by the development of Kingsbrook Park.

The final phase of the regeneration scheme will cover the area presently occupied by Serco and the old coach park, as well as part of Sturry Road. The city council is in the process of selling the land to well-known developers, Bouygues. They have already drawn up plans based upon a brief issued by the council's working group on Kingsmead and presented the outlines in an exhibition that many of you will have seen last October at the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. The new development is to be known as Canterbury Riverside. We are promised a full consultation on the final plans sometime in late spring.

However, there has been a great deal of local concern expressed both to the city council and the developers, that the promise of ongoing consultation with local residents has not been kept. Many residents are upset that they have had no input since 2003, and since that time, much has changed in Canterbury. Consequently, representatives from several local residents' associations met and decided that we would write to Bouygues asking for a meeting to discuss a number of concerns, not least, increased traffic congestion and pollution. We are keen to know how much notice Bouygues has taken of comments from the exhibition/ consultation in October 2015, and how much room there might still be for changes to the plan. Bouygues has agreed to meet with us, and we are awaiting a date. We have invited our local city councillors to join us when we meet the developers, and have made Officers of the city council aware of our approach to Bouygues.

**Sue Langdown**

## Membership Report

It has been another busy year; I never thought I would be asking for a tiara and a raised loo seat, telling you about cheap kitchen refuse bags, rock choirs and Masonic doors and sharing old photos but it makes life interesting....

Thank you to all those residents who paid their subs last year and who have given me their email addresses. It has become clear that this is a quick and efficient way of sharing news and information in our community. Please do consider sending me your email address when you fill in your subscription form and give it to your street rep. I send out my news using bcc so no one else has the information and I don't give your email to anyone else.

Special thanks go to the street reps. who are the backbone of the Association and are always willing to help, to deliver newsletters and to email me with ideas and solutions.

Don't forget, if you want a list of tradesmen recommended by your neighbours, just email me and finally, for all the news and information you could ever need about St Stephen's, go to our website, [www.ststephensra.org](http://www.ststephensra.org) [and look out for Hat Heaven on the website next month, especially if you have a wedding coming up.] Thank you, Ian Hancock, for running the site, which I hope you all consult for news and events. **Pauline Walters**

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### Subscriptions are now due for 2016-2017.

The subscription is set at a minimum of £3. Please complete this form and return it with your subscription to your street representative who is:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE [optional] \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please** let us have any thoughts you may have about the Residents' Association: