



St Stephen's Residents' Association Newsletter: Spring 2019

www.ststephensra.org Facebook: St Stephen's Residents' Association

Residents who came to the Annual General Meeting in November heard a short talk by the new president of Kent Students' Union, Aaron Thompson, about a variety of voluntary work undertaken by students at the University of Kent. Following Aaron's update, on **Canterbury's Community and Student Radio** that is run by the students, we met with CSR's community outreach representative to investigate making closer links between St Stephen's Residents' Association and Canterbury's Community and Student Radio. As a result, four local residents have contributed to a series of '**Community bites**' consisting of pre-recorded short radio interviews about interests, hobbies, past or current careers and activities such as the St Stephen's resident who has explained how he has built and now operates a model railway in his garden. Members will be updated about the times when interviews are being broadcast on www.csrfm.com (97.4 FM) and we would be very interested to hear from other residents who would be willing to participate in a brief interview for Canterbury's Community and Student Radio's 'Community bites'.

I updated you in the autumn 2018 newsletter about the Association's contribution to the consultations around the development of the University of Kent Framework Masterplan, where we had raised concerns about the proposed location of a 150 bed 'conferencing hotel' on the green slopes to the south of University Road. We are extremely pleased that the University responded in such a positive way to feedback received via extensive consultation, including several meetings with representatives from local Residents' Associations and other organisations, and finally decided to locate the proposed conference centre on a site to the north of University Road, south of Turing College. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise awareness of the value of the green slopes to the local community during the Masterplan consultation. It appeared to demonstrate that a difference can be made by local residents' associations who offer a clear message on behalf of their communities as part of an effective consultation process!

Annual subscriptions are due:

Annual subs of **three pounds** are due in April and we would ask you to deliver them to your street rep. in the next few weeks. These are used to fund hall hire for meetings, printing costs for the newsletter, subscription costs for the Association of Canterbury Residents' Associations and the Canterbury Society; refreshments for the AGM and social events and a contribution towards maintenance of our website.

Other news:

- A joint **litter pick** involving both St Stephen's and St Michael's Road Area Residents' Associations took place on Sunday 24th March as part of the **Great British Spring Clean**. SSRA volunteers paid particular attention to St Stephen's Church Field and the area around the level crossing and St Stephen's Court, which attract a lot of litter, before meeting up with volunteers from St Michael's Area Residents' Association to clear Beverley Meadow.
- A successful bid to County Councillor Graham Gibbens' Combined Member Scheme will fund the cost of **two covered litter bins** to replace the open bins in St Stephen's Church Field that are subject to scavenging from seagulls, urban foxes and vermin. We have also agreed to cover the cost of one replacement bin for Beverley Meadow while three others will be paid for by St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association so that all bins in both St Stephen's Church Field and Beverley Meadow will be replaced within the next few months.
- Many residents will have enjoyed visiting the second **SSRA Art and Crafts Fair** held in November where a wide range of good quality arts and craft items were offered for sale. Thanks to Pauline Walters for organising a very enjoyable event which enabled the League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital, who were offering lunches and teas, to raise more than £300.00 on the day. We are very pleased that Mary Cunningsworth has offered to take over the organisation of this event for 2019 which is planned to take place on Saturday 16th November. Please watch out for updates closer to the time.
- Thanks to a group of committee members, an area of Manwood Green, directly in front of the Almshouses, has now been weeded, prepared and planted with a mixture of plants. Daffodil bulbs planted around the tree and along the wall abutting St Stephen's Road from the road sign to the lamp post have contributed to the **colourful spring display** on the Green.
- In advance of the local elections on 2nd May 2019, all local candidates will be invited to the **St Stephen's Hustings** which is being organised by the North Canterbury

Forum of Residents' Associations. All members are invited to attend this important event which will take place from 7.30-9.30 pm on Thursday 11th April 2019.

With all good wishes - **Jennifer Holland**

SSRA Gardening Interest Group

With the winter receding and the days lengthening, it is a pleasure to be able to get into the garden-there is always so much to work on or simply look at, to wonder at and to enjoy and there is no doubt that being out in the garden is a guaranteed way to lift the spirits and improve one's mood and fitness.

The Gardening Interest Group is an opportunity for St Stephen's Residents to get together informally, to swap ideas and enthusiasm for all things garden-related and absolutely no expertise is required. While we normally meet on Saturday mornings, we will be having some events in the afternoons which we hope may be easier for members with families to attend.

Last year, we attempted growing a small selection of vegetables in pots but the weather (glorious though it was) was against us and most of us had little to show for it. Nevertheless, we had an excellent demonstration of cooking with seasonal vegetables and enjoyed sharing the delicious end results. We also had a demonstration of autumn pruning methods and even the most experienced gardeners amongst us learned something new.

The 2019 programme includes a Spring Seed giveaway in March –seed potatoes and courgettes, cosmos, also sunflowers that we hope lots of children will want to grow. Other events will focus on growing and using herbs, a plant swap and a visit to Goodnestone Park Gardens. We will be having another skilful cookery demo and lunch in September. Finally, in October we plan to experiment by making bug hotels for the garden which is something we hope members' children will enjoy getting involved with. Nevertheless, your suggestions for things we can incorporate in our programme will be appreciated.

The Gardening Interest Group is a great way to meet each other and everyone is very welcome. If you are unsure if this is for you, then maybe if we say that cake is also included, you will be tempted to come along and see for yourself!

Details of Gardening Interest Group events are always circulated through the SSRA e-mail list so keep a look out for forthcoming events. If you would like to find out more contact Jenny Robson, jvkrobson@aol.com or Sue Herivel, srjherivel@talktalk.net

Jenny Robson and Sue Herivel

Kingsmead Field

The Friends of Kingsmead Field are delighted that Canterbury City Council has applied voluntarily to register Kingsmead Field as a Village Green, and can confirm that the necessary paperwork was deposited with Kent County Council in January. All applications are dealt with by the KCC Regulation Committee, in strict order of receipt and we are hopeful that our application will be on the agenda for May 2019, but that has yet to be confirmed.

The majority of the field is included in the application, excluding only the area set aside for housing development at the back of the field, and the riverside corridor and slopes as access may be required in the future by the Environment agency or council to carry out essential maintenance. However, that will make no difference to our access and enjoyment of that part of the field.

This is good news, and we look forward to announcing the completion of the process this year.

Sue Langdown

Neighbourhood Watch

In the last few weeks, there has been a series of attempted break-ins and some successful burglaries in our area. This is unusual for us as we tend to be fairly safe from criminals but garages and cars seem to be very attractive to some offenders, especially if they are unlocked or have poor security. This is not to say that we are at fault but that most of these are opportunistic and the thieves are after easy pickings so make it as hard for them as you possibly can.

- Also, buy a door chain and always use it, and never allow a caller at the door over the threshold.
- Please don't buy from someone who calls at your home, however honest and believable they seem to be.
- Ignore phone calls from the DVLA, the bank or your internet provider that ask for passwords. Use another phone to make checks and never give passwords to anyone.

- Online fraud is growing exponentially and several members have been caught by these fraudsters. No respectable company will ever ask for your passwords.

Our new Love Gardens Group

For the past two years, we have enjoyed Open Gardens Days where we have tried to see as many beautiful gardens as possible in a few hours. The Garden Interest Group has also allowed us to visit gardens for meetings and our new venture is to mix a social event with further garden appreciation.

The plan is to meet neighbours and friends at about seven on a summer evening to potter around a garden and enjoy simple refreshments together. We tried this in a small way last year and it was lovely so, to make it work, this is what I need:

- *Members to offer their gardens for an evening visit*
- *Members who will support this new venture and come for an hour or two to see plants and neighbours....*

If you are in either or both of these categories, please email me and I will set up a calendar of dates in May, June and July. If your garden is best in September, let me know and we may even be able to go on into the early autumn.

With best wishes, Pauline paulinewalters25@gmail.com

Save the Date- July 14th

Members of the Association have planned a summer garden party with a difference, where we will share refreshments and also have the chance to win prizes. There will be a Pop Master competition for those who want to show off their musical knowledge and, for those who prefer a quiet life, to watch and learn and eat and drink and chat....

Tickets will be available soon.

Please use the contact form on the SSRA website if you wish to make a suggestion or have a question that you would like the SSRA committee to answer.

**ST STEPHEN'S RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
SUBSCRIPTIONS FORM, 2019.**

[We ask for a minimum of £3 per household]

Please put it in an envelope WITH THIS FORM and return it to your street rep. whose name and address is:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. [optional] _____

EMAIL ADDRESS [optional] _____

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** requires SSRA members to give their consent to our keeping their personal data, which in our case simply means name, address and email. We have appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) and circulated a copy of the St Stephen's Residents' Association policy for safeguarding all such data.