



## Spring Newsletter 2021

Website [www.ststephensra.org](http://www.ststephensra.org)

[ststephensra@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensra@gmail.com)

Dear Residents

At long last, we are able to distribute our newsletter to the whole of the St Stephen's area, thanks to our wonderful Street Reps. so this is the first time many of you have heard from us since September 2019. Although there has been so much hardship and sadness, the pandemic has meant that many members have been supported and assisted by neighbours over the past year and the value of neighbourliness has been appreciated by everyone.

It has been difficult to come up with ideas that bring the community together during lockdown but we organised a **spooky Halloween Trail and a festive Christmas Trail**, [although the weather was awful] which made a number of children very happy, especially when they received their prizes.....

In April, we had a **Fabulous Front Gardens** competition which was won by the gardeners of 120, St Stephen's Road and we will be doing this again in June so be ready to email your votes to me at [paulinewalters25@gmail.com](mailto:paulinewalters25@gmail.com) As you walk around the neighbourhood, you will see many lovely gardens and you can vote as many times as you wish. Any ideas for other events that we could hold in the summer, social distancing in mind, would be very welcome.

Many of you will be sad to learn that **Graham Gibbens**, our KCC councillor, is retiring after many years of service to St Stephen's. He has been generous to our area with his member grant fund and always supported our Association in every way. We wish him and Angela a very happy retirement.

## St Stephen's Residents' Association Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

Email address .....

Phone number .....

**Paying in cash or by cheque:** Please complete this form with your subscription, which is a minimum of £5 per household, and place in an envelope. Deliver to your Street Rep:

### Payment by electronic transfer

Our account details:

Contact the association if you wish to join and pay by electronic transfer

Please include the first line of your address in the reference area. If necessary (more than 18 characters including spaces) please use the following abbreviations:

St Stephen's Road	SSR
St Stephen's Hill	SSH
St Stephen's Court	SSCo
St Stephen's Close	SSCI
St Stephen's Green	SSG

**Don't forget your house number!**

If you are a new member, please complete a membership form and give it to your street rep.

Thank you.

Last year, we did not collect **subscriptions** for obvious reasons and you will see that this year, we are moving over to electronic payments. However, you may still put the cash or cheque into an envelope and give it to your street representative whose name you will find on the subscription form, if you prefer.

If you are not a member, please **have a look at our website**. There you will find lots of photos and details about the Association. Have a look at Lend and Borrow, Hat Heaven, our Arts and Crafts page, the Writers' Page, the Garden Interest Group, Neighbourhood Watch, reports of events, the history of St Stephen's, all our newsletters and much more.

One advantage of being a member is that you can access our **Trades List**. This has developed over the past ten years and every entry has been suggested by a member. It covers everything from plumbers to pest control and piano teachers and tilers to typists. With well over 100 recommendations, it has proven to be very useful.

We are hoping to resurrect our individual **street litter rotas**. If you are happy to litter pick once in every two or three weeks, please email me. We will provide any equipment that you need.

**Friends of Beverley Meadow** Whether you live near the meadow or just like to walk there or take your dog for a run, most residents will agree that it is a lovely amenity for St Stephen's. A new group is soon to be set up and, if you are interested in being a Friend, let me know and I will pass on your details to the organisers.

Finally, we need a couple of **street reps** for some roads in the Market Way area. You would deliver newsletters twice a year to about 25 homes in your road so please let me know if you can help.

With best wishes,  
Pauline Walters, Chair, SSRA

## Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations (ACRA)

Chris McDonnell and I attend the Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations meetings which have continued to be held via zoom since the start of the pandemic. All representatives are provided with up to date, comprehensive and unbiased information on local and national issues, including current Canterbury City Council consultations such as the Local, Corporate and Climate Action Plans, that are relevant to local Residents' Associations.

It is expected that ACRA members consult with their committees regarding important local issues and feed back their views to determine ACRA policy direction. With some topics, such as the current Canterbury Electric Scooter Rental Trial, which will extend until November 2021, it has seemed relevant to ask members of the local community about their views, experiences and concerns which can be sent to me via the St Stephen's Residents' Association e-mail account, [ststephensra@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensra@gmail.com) which I will then pass on to ACRA as a contribution to local debate. It is difficult for the authorities, local and national, to balance conflicting demands. For example, we don't want too much building and development but we want people to have places to live, work and play. We don't want too much traffic but we want to be able to travel around easily. We want more people to walk, cycle and, perhaps, even scooter but we don't want to be run over in shared spaces. With bodies like ACRA there is more chance to keep Canterbury a great place to live and even improve it for more of its residents.

I would be very pleased to receive any comments on local issues on which I have consulted members, although in the majority of cases I will just remind members about opportunities for individuals to contribute to Canterbury City Council or KCC consultations.

Jennifer Holland, Vice Chair of SSRA, Chris McDonnell

## St Stephen's Residents' Association and Covid 19

When disaster strikes, it's a comfort to know that help is available but how to help when social distancing, isolation, shielding and staying at home are the watchwords. This was the dilemma when the government announced the national lockdown in 2020 and more recently this year. Our situation was probably better than most as we have an organised and effective communication system that has kept us in touch with each other for a number of years. We have the email addresses of 247 households and thus could disseminate information quickly and make plans to assist members in need. We assembled a list of volunteers who were prepared to shop, collect medication, deliver items, walk dogs and make phone calls. As a result families 'adopted' individuals and couples who could not leave their homes, and other members asked for assistance with a range of one-off problems. Now that the lockdown is easing we very much hope that the community spirit that was such a blessing when the pandemic was at its height will continue.