



# St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association

## In this issue:

- Join in 'The Great British Spring Clean' -details p.3
- Kent Community Oasis Garden -get involved! p.6
- Beverley Meadow consultation update p.8

**SMRARA NEWSLETTER  
NO.1 2018/19**

**MARCH 2019**



*The woodland location previously proposed for the conference centre*

I'm writing this on the warmest February day ever recorded. A bit worrying, maybe, but something to enjoy as the world around us comes to life again and the signs of spring emerge. A theme of this newsletter is our shared activity to protect and enhance the appearance of the area in which we live, our streets and nearby open spaces, which we are so fortunate to have.

Our previous newsletter was sent in September of last year, when the University was once again talking of building a conference hotel on the southern slopes, the fields which we have fought so hard to preserve as a much-valued asset for the whole community. Many thanks to all of you who made your views known to the University. It was a message which they couldn't fail to hear, and it led to a specially convened meeting between representatives of the University and of residents'

associations to discuss the matter. Subsequently, as you probably know, the University changed its mind and decided on a different site for the conference hotel, on the other side of the University Road and close to Turing College. The official line is that the decision was the result of advice from 'expert consultants', but the fact is that the consultants had changed their advice, and there's no doubt that this was largely because of the views which so many of us expressed. The final version of the University Masterplan has not yet been published but we hope that it will confirm the vision of a green campus preserving the fields and woods.

Turning to another valued green space, elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about our cooperation with other residents' associations and with council officers to look at possible improvements to Beverley Meadow. An underlying aim is to safeguard the future of the field, perhaps by creating a 'Friends of Beverley Meadow' group. Our open spaces across Canterbury and across the country are so vulnerable, under threat from the pressure for development and from neglect as a result of cuts in council funding. Our neighbours, the 'Friends of Kingsmead Field', have learned the hard way how important it is to get active and protect such places before you lose them. Many thanks to all of you who responded to the council's consultation. Inevitably, there was a range of different views about the possible enhancements to the field, but the important thing is that people care about the field and are prepared to take an interest in its future.

We are also cooperating with other residents' associations in our contribution to the **Great British Spring Clean**. In this newsletter you'll find details of our litter-pick on **Sunday 24th March**, and others taking place across Canterbury. Picking up litter is another way in which we can cooperate to preserve our area as an attractive place to live. To quote the slogan of the Council's litter campaign, let's 'Love Where We Live', and let's all do what we can to protect it.

*Richard Norman*

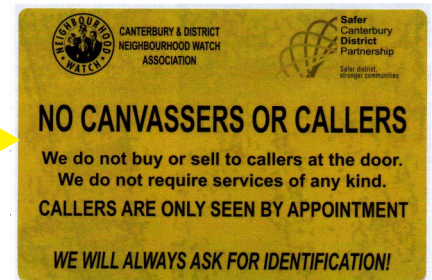
Chair SMRARA

## Message from the Vice-Chairman & NHW Co-ordinator



Are you displaying a Neighbourhood Watch Sticker at the front of your property? I have stock of these. If you require one, please contact me.

No Canvassers or Callers Stickers also in stock. It is worth displaying one of these, they do deter some people from knocking on your door.



If you would like any further advice on security of your property or your possessions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Stay safe out there, kind regards *Terry Westgate.*

Tel: 01227 760780  
Mob: 07857 040214  
Email: [stdancegate@aol.com](mailto:stdancegate@aol.com)



**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY and YOUR POSSESSIONS  
REPORT NON URGENT ISSUES - TELEPHONE 101**



**St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association**





## THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN



Every year the organisation Keep Britain Tidy organises the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Last year this was on the weekend of 3rd-4th March. You may remember that that was the week of the heavy snowfall, and all the Canterbury litter-picks had to be postponed because the litter was invisible under the snow! Wisely the national organisers have decided to extend the Spring Clean to a whole month this year, **from 22 March to 23 April**. There will be a number of litter-picks during that time organised by residents' groups across Canterbury, and they are listed below. SMRARA will be helping with two of these. **On Sunday 24th March we'll be meeting at 2.00 pm on the grassed area in St Michael's Road, starting in our area and moving from there to Beverley Meadow to meet up with fellow-pickers from St Stephen's Residents' Association.**

**Then on Sunday 7th April we'll be cooperating with several other residents' groups in a joint operation to try to clean up the wooded areas around St Stephen's Community Centre and the old Hales Place Cemetery Chapel on Tenterden Drive.** This is a place with an interesting history. As many of you will know, Hales Place was the big house in St Stephen's, built in 1766-68 and located on what is now The Terrace, with extensive grounds around it. In 1880 it was converted into a Jesuit College. The buildings were demolished in 1928-29, and all that remains is the old chapel. You can read more about it on the St Stephen's Residents' Association website:

<http://www.ststephensra.org/historyfour.html>

The woods were part of the Hales Place grounds, and could still be a very attractive area, but have been much neglected lately, so we are all going to do what we can to give them a bit of a spring clean. We hope that there will also be an opportunity to see inside the old chapel.

**Helpers will be very welcome at any of the litter-picks listed here, as well as ours.**

**Sunday 17 March:** Friends of Kingsmead Field, meet 11am at the car-park on Kingsmead Field

**Sunday 24 March: St Michael's Road Area RA and St Stephen's RA – converging on Beverley Meadow. Meet 2.00 pm on the grassed area in St Michael's Road**

**Saturday 30 March:** Headcorn Drive RA. Meet 2.00 pm on the area of grass on Headcorn Drive, close to the turning into Kilndown Gardens

**Saturday 30 March:** St Dunstan's RA. Meet 10am on the corner of Orchard Street and New Street

**Sunday 31st March 2pm** Kingsbrook Park RA. Meet 2.00 pm at the Crescent, Kingsbrook Park

**Saturday 6 April:** Oaten Hill and South Canterbury RA. Meet 10.00 am at Lichfield Avenue, off New Dover Road

**Sunday 7th April:** Various RAs. Meet 2.00 at the old chapel next to St. Stephen's Community Centre in Tenterden Drive

**Saturday 13 April:** Our Stour riverbank and riverside litter-pick starting at Parham Road  
Details TBA

**Sunday 14 April:** Wincheap Society.  
Meet 11.00 am at eastern end of Hollowmede, outside Wincheap Primary School





## STUDENT COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS' QUIZ NIGHT



A church hall full of residents and students met on Friday 1st February for a quiz night, organised by the 'Hales Place and St Michael's Student Community Champions'. The flier urged, 'Don't miss out on our out of this world experience', and was billed as 'A Star Wars Community Quiz' where 'No Star Wars Knowledge Was Required'. As an inter-galactic event it provided a rare opportunity for residents and students to meet and have fun.

The organising team provided a slick, witty event, where goodwill, peanuts and orange juice flowed abundantly. It was clear that two different historical perspectives operated in the responses to the questions. To the students, the 70s were 'ancient history' and to many of the residents they were 'just the other day'. A rapid raffle concluded the event.

Lizzie Rikh



## Messages to members: SOS - PLEASE HELP !

SMRARA desperately needs new committee members! We are a growing RA and several of our committee members have served for over five years. Meetings are held every two months (with refreshments!). We are a friendly, supportive bunch; you may decide to specialise in just one aspect of our work or in as many as you wish. Our committee has been very successful in a range of objectives since the inception of SMRARA in 2010. With no new committee members, however, it is entirely possible that SMRARA will be unable to continue to represent the interests of residents in this area.

Please do consider giving a little of your time to ensure that SMRARA continues and builds on its successes. Contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

**A warm welcome awaits you!**



If you are currently receiving this newsletter in a paper format **please do consider joining our list to receive it in electronic form.** This helps us reduce the amount of paper we use. It also helps us to save money on paper and ink while reducing the time committee members spend on deliveries.

**Thank you for helping us!**

## KENT COMMUNITY OASIS GARDEN

The Kent Community Oasis Garden (KentCOG) is made up of a collection of students, staff and community members working to create a sustainability hub centred around growing food. Located along the Crab and Winkle way on our Canterbury campus, a long term project is unfolding that seeks to become a well-used resource for teaching, learning and engagement and delivers on the following: Create an accessible multiuse space that is welcoming to all; provide opportunities for skills building and training; provide a space to promote and teach about sustainable and healthy food whilst making it more affordable; improve access to growing spaces in the north of Canterbury; enhance social cohesion providing opportunities for students, staff and community members to work together; and create activities and quiet spaces for wellbeing and mental health programmes.

We are made up of a number of partners including The University of Kent, Kent Enterprise Trust, The Gardening and Foraging Society (Kent Union) and the Whitstable and Herne Bay Beekeepers and we hope to expand the number of people involved over the coming months and years. To encourage individuals along we host a Wednesday open session from 10am - 2pm (you can come for as long or as little as you like) where anyone is welcome to come and join in. The session is facilitated by Kent Enterprise Trust who will point you the right direction for tasks that need doing, providing support and plenty of cups of tea!

As sustainability coordinator, I see this type of community project as vital for bringing people together in a shared Experience, where skills can be passed on and the task of creating sustainable spaces is shared between all. At its heart, this project is about people coming together around food, an experience we are all familiar with. Whilst growing food is an amazing thing to do, it is the side effect of reducing social isolation and making new friends that is of the greatest value. I hope to meet some of you soon up at the garden!

For more information on KentCOG please email [kentcog@kent.ac.uk](mailto:kentcog@kent.ac.uk)

Emily Mason





# CATCHING LIVES

At our AGM in November, members voted to renew our annual donation to 'Catching Lives'. Below is a copy of the letter we received in response:



Mr T Westgate  
32 St Michael's Road  
Canterbury  
Kent  
CT2 7HG

28 December 2018

Dear Mr Westgate

I would like to thank you, on behalf of Catching Lives, for the recent generous donation of £200 from the St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association and also thank you for your ongoing support of this charity. Please pass on our thanks to all those who helped collect this amount. All donations we receive are much appreciated and put to good use and help those who are homeless and visit our day centre.

One of our projects this year is a mentoring scheme to support our clients who have recently obtained accommodation after a period of rough sleeping. Pairs of mentors are matched with a client for a minimum of 6 months and meet weekly to tackle together any issues the client is facing including budgeting, social isolation, finding activities and staying healthy and we hope help them move onto the next stage in their lives.

Our Winter Shelter is now up and running. Using various church halls in Canterbury (one each night), we are able to provide bed spaces for homeless individuals. Besides showers, laundry facilities and evening meals we also provide help and advice with housing and work and hopefully are able to find accommodation and work for some of the individuals who come to Catching Lives.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely

**Tricia Bridgeford**  
**Secretary to the Board of Trustees**  
**CatchingLives**



13 Station Road East, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2RB t. 01227 464904 e. [info@catchinglives.org](mailto:info@catchinglives.org) [www.catchinglives.org](http://www.catchinglives.org)

Catching Lives - Registered Office: 13 Station Road East, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2RB - Registered Charity Number 1014868 - Limited Company Number 2719436

## BEVERLEY MEADOW CONSULTATION

In recent weeks, representatives from local residents' associations have met twice with a senior environmental officer from the City Council. These discussions were prompted by our request for a flower meadow to be created on Beverley Meadow. We were told that the on-going costs of maintaining a wild flower meadow are beyond the current budgetary limits and could only be considered if a group of people were to come forward to look after it. We were, however, informed that there is some available money in a separate budget for new trees to be planted and a discussion took place about whether these should be native broad-leaf trees to promote bio-diversity or whether ornamental, non-native trees would be more resilient to disease and climate change. Various views were expressed about where the new trees should be planted.



We also learned that it might be possible to create a more natural-looking grass meadow on the field and that money might be found for some informal seating areas to be created on the non-sports side of the field. It is not proposed to provide a children's playground but it might be an option to create a fitness trail for adults on the sports side of the field. It is also suggested that a second five-a-side goal post should be purchased. A consultation document has been produced by the council to canvass residents' views and, along with St. Stephen's Residents' Association, we delivered 600 of these leaflets in the streets near to Beverley Meadow. We also emailed our members about the proposals.

Once the consultation period has ended, we will be having another meeting with the environment officer to discuss final plans.

If any member with a love of plants or open spaces would like to be involved, please contact Rebecca Booth at Canterbury City Council or let Richard Norman or me know.

Pat Kane  
thekanespm@hotmail.com





## ARCHIVE FILM SCREENINGS

Hello, this is just to remind you about my archive film screenings taking place shortly:

I am repeating Screening No.8 which was originally shown in 2015. This will take place on **Saturday 2 March 2019 at 2pm** and features some great amateur film of Canterbury between the 1930s and 1980s. It may be the last time I show it so make the most of it while you can.

The screening on **Saturday 30 March 2019 at 2pm** focusses on the Hollywood-style silent films starring Count Zborowski, originally shot in 1924 by Sydney Bligh. These were never really 'finished.' I have had a go at completing them. I've edited them together, added inter-titles and had music composed. The final result, *The Map*, will be screened along with my documentary, *Seeking Sydney*, which focusses on amateur filmmaker, Sydney Bligh.

Finally, my new screening No.14 will take place on **Saturday 27 April 2019 at 2pm**, repeated at the same time on **Saturday 18 May 2019**. This includes some lovely Canterbury footage from the 1930s that I have recently discovered.

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased online at:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture/word/word-event-listing.aspx>

Tickets are also available on the door.

The screenings will take place in **Pg09 in the Powell Building at the North Holmes Road Campus** as usual.

See <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/about-us/find-us/canterbury.aspx> for directions.

Very limited parking is available on the North Holmes Road Campus on a first come first served basis.

By the way have you discovered my website yet? **Canterbury Amateur Film Archive** is well worth a look. Here you can see some of the best clips from my screenings. Here's the link:

<https://blogs.canterbury.ac.uk/cafa/>

Tim Jones  
Senior Lecturer  
Canterbury Christ Church University



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### TUESDAY MARCH 12th

#### 'VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF CANTERBURY' LAUNCH EVENT

Canterbury Society

St Peter's Methodist Hall at 7.30

### THURSDAY APRIL 11th

#### HUSTINGS ST STEPHEN'S WARD

(prior to City Council elections)

Organised by local residents' associations.

St Stephen's Church Hall at 7.30

### SATURDAY JUNE 15th

#### SMRARA SUMMER SOCIAL (details to follow)

St. Stephen's Church Hall

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

#### SMRARA AGM (details to follow)

St. Stephen's Church Hall



## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS & DETAILS

### St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association

Richard Norman (Chairman)

34 St Michael's Place, Canterbury

Tel: 01227 760467 Mob: 07732 277001

Email: richardnorman@gn.apc.org

Terry Westgate (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)

32 St Michael's Road, Canterbury

Tel: 01227 760780 Mob: 07857 040214

Email: stdancegate@aol.com

Clare Benfield (Secretary)

17, St Michael's Road,

Canterbury

Mob: 0774 2400 214

Email: c.benfield@tiscali.co.uk

Canterbury City Council

Tel: 01227 862000

Web site: [www.canterbury.gov.uk](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk)

Email:

[customer.services@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@canterbury.gov.uk)

Kent County Council

Tel: 08458 247247

Web site: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

Email: [county.hall@kent.gov.uk](mailto:county.hall@kent.gov.uk)

Canterbury Citizens Advice Bureau

Tel: 01227 452762

Web site:

[www.canterburycitizensadvice.org](http://www.canterburycitizensadvice.org)