

**This newsletter is now being published six times a year.  
The next issue will be published on or about 1 February.**

### Some of our concerns . . .

- ❖ The KCC has at last agreed that they will add a cul-de-sac sign to the street sign for St Peter's Lane. For Mill Lane we asked for a new street sign (incorporating the cul-de-sac logo) outside The Miller's Arms, i.e. facing the direction from which most of the misled drivers come, but they are not willing to do this. Apparently a new street sign would be the responsibility of the City Council – whom we have now approached.
  - ❖ The 'No Cycling' notices at both ends of Blackfriars Street will be reinstated – but this was agreed months ago and so far nothing has happened.
  - ❖ The building site at the corner of Knotts Lane and King Street now has new owners and at least there is now the prospect of work starting again here (and there was some work there last week) – but the hoarding will have to remain, for security reasons, until the building work has progressed sufficiently. New signs have been put up directing pedestrians to a tarmac path at the back of the site which at least makes it safer for pedestrians.
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- ❖ The A-boards and other obstructions in Sun Street and Orange Street: this problem is something which Martin Vye, our County Councillor, has been pursuing for some time, and he has arranged for the topic to be on the agenda at the Joint Transportation Board meeting in February. The aim is to get enforcement powers delegated from KCC to the City Council.
  - ❖ There is a planning application to convert the old Orange Street theatre building into a restaurant. This is an attractive Grade II listed building with a lot of history. There will be no changes to the outward appearance and we do not object in principle, but we have concerns about the possible noise from the building, and we have asked the planning department that consent for this development should depend on the implementation of the noise consultant's recommendations – in particular that (a) the doors should be kept closed when customers are not actually entering or leaving (b) there should be additional sound insulation if the extractor fans are going to be run at their maximum speed (c) that the sound system should have tamper-proof noise limiters.
  - ❖ Solly's Orchard. We had a meeting with Aidan Potts, the Council's Senior Contracts Manager, and a representative from Serco, on the site because we felt that it needed more attention. We asked for (a) the apple trees to be weeded (inside their metal protective frames) (b) a flower bed to be created where the roses and honeysuckle have been planted so that Serco contractors could more easily see where they had to mow (c) the supporting wires to be repaired (they have suffered from vandalism) (d) the removal of the vigorous leafy plant in front of the roses, the sycamore stump and holly and ivy growing against the wall. The roses (provided and planted by the SPRA) are doing quite well, but the honeysuckle plants (provided and planted by volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership) are not, and may have to be replaced next spring.

## The Westgate Hall

The Westgate Hall has told us that they have been approached by someone wishing to use the Westgate Hall for a dance event on New Year's Eve (ending at about 3 a.m.). We are grateful for this warning but there were complaints from our members about the event held in the hall last New Year's Eve, and of course there was very considerable concern about the event organized by the City Sound Project earlier this year. We have replied to say that we would very much prefer that events of this kind did not happen in the Hall (for reasons which local residents will know all too well). However their financial situation is such that they need to have events like this, so they will probably decide to go ahead with the event. They would provide stewards inside and outside the hall, and taxis will be directed to the Pound Lane car park. We have also suggested the following:

1. The event should end at 1.00 a.m.
2. The bass beat which seems an inevitable accompaniment to events of this kind should stop at midnight. This seems unaffected by noise limiters and is often the aspect of these events that irritates residents most.
3. The doors at the front and back of the hall should be closed unless people are actually entering or leaving the building.
4. It should be impossible to disable or bypass the noise limiters.
5. The stewards should be uniformed, or otherwise clearly marked, so that residents know whom they can approach for help.
6. There should be a phone number (manned at all times) which can be made available to residents who have concerns on the night.

The Chairman has written a separate letter hoping that the Westgate Hall would try to attract events which are of more interest to local residents.

## The SPRA quiz night on 16 October



This was a very successful event in the Westgate Hall with over 120 people attending. Very many thanks to Kevin Poree who set the intriguing and challenging questions and to Robin Joy, who asked the questions with just the right mixture of authority and patience. A team from The Unicorn (in St Dunstan's Street) won but generously gave back most of their prize. We are also grateful to The Unicorn and The Dolphin who each gave a raffle prize of a meal for two.

## Former Dairy Crest site on Military Road

You may have read in the Kentish Gazette that a student accommodation block is being proposed for this now vacant site on the Military Road (outlined in red on the map). It is proposed to build accommodation for 233 students, and we feel that this is an out-of-scale development which will have a considerable impact on those who live in Notley Street, Clyde Street and Alma Street.



These streets are not actually in our area, and ultimately it ought to be for these residents to decide, but it is not far away from us and we have concerns, including:

1. The overbearing impact of a 3- or 4-storey block on one side of a square which consists of two-storeyed terraced housing.
2. The impact of so many more people in a fairly confined space – there are about 50 houses in the square so that the resident population will triple or quadruple
3. There will be greatly increased footfall in the area, often late at night or early in the morning, and this will affect New Ruttington Lane as well when students visit The Jolly Sailor and the Penny Theatre. There will also be much more noise.
4. The proposed courtyard within the block is quite small, so we think students will spill out into the square, especially if the courtyard is dominated by the smokers.
5. The development is promoted as ‘car-free’ but some students will have cars and there are no parking restrictions between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 a.m. so residents will have to compete for spaces – and there will be deliveries by van or lorry.
6. The provision of more student accommodation instead of more houses for local residents. This seems a very appropriate site for a small-scale development of homes for local people. The proposed development will have a devastating effect on the life of the present residents. The only possible reason for granting permission for this development is financial, but must financial considerations always outweigh all others?

This is despite the fact that these streets are a designated conservation area. We wrote to the Northgate ward councillors expressing our concerns and have made a formal objection to Development Management.

## Miller’s Field developments

You may have seen that one of the sculptures (mentioned in the last newsletter) is taking shape. It should be finished in a few weeks. The photo also shows a section of tarmac path, which is a spur leading from a new path which runs from the car park in the direction of the Westgate. A gravel surface will be added later. The sculpture for Abbot’s Mill Garden will be installed on 9 December.



## The SPRA Christmas Party on 16 December



**You should all have received an invitation to our Christmas Party, which is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 16 December in The Beerling Hall.** We do hope you will come and enjoy some refreshments and some carol singing. There is no charge for this event. We are very grateful to The King's School for allowing us to hold this event on their premises. They have renamed what most of us think of as the Dominican Priory in honour of the remarkable contribution to the community life of Canterbury by Don and Poppy Beerling.



We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent: those relevant to our area in **October and November** are listed below. We are glad to say that there were only four reported crimes in our area during this period, and only one of these was from a domestic property. Here and elsewhere most thefts seem to be opportunistic, with thieves picking up something they see lying around, or making use of unlocked doors, unlocked garages and unsecured windows. There is a message for all of us here. There continue to be many warnings about fraud of different types: cold callers on your doorstep or on your phone, internet scams etc. We have a copy of a very comprehensive document just produced by Neighbourhood Watch entitled '**Scams, Cold Callers and E-mail Fraud**'. If you tell the Secretary he can email it to you as an attachment, or if you do not have an internet connection you could collect a copy from the Secretary at 6 King Street (but please phone him first).

date	time	place	crime
18 October	15.30	Sun House Tanning Saloon, Northgate	Cash stolen from till
24 October	overnight	Broad Street	Car broken into but nothing taken
4 November	17.30	Mill Lane	iPhone, eBook reader and charger (distraction burglary)
7 November	14.00	Canterbury Exotics, Northgate	Collection box

### Useful contact numbers

Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti	Serco	08000 319 091
Abandoned vehicles	City Council	01227 862 203
Street lighting, potholes, anything related to roads or footpaths	Kent Highways	03000 418 181
To report a crime taking place	Police	999
For reporting crime, including anti-social behaviour	Police	101
For anonymous calls with information about crime	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Environmental river problems, e.g. pollution, fish in distress, illegal fishing	Environment Agency	0800 80 70 60

### SPRA Committee 2015-16 and contact information

Richard Parkinson	Chairman	07764 775 672
Andrew Kerin	Vice-Chairman	01227 456 618
Chris Millar	Secretary	01227 766 790
Gary Edelman	Treasurer	01227 788 267
Clive Bowley	Planning consultant	
Gillian Rushton	Events organiser	

You can contact the Secretary on all matters including those relating to this newsletter by phone or by e-mail:

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Our website address is:

[www.stpetersassociation.co.uk](http://www.stpetersassociation.co.uk) and there is an email address for related issues:

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