

**We hope to publish this newsletter six times a year in future, instead of four.
The next issue will be published on or about 1 August, and then 1 October, and so on.**

Our AGM was held on Thursday 9 April 2015 at the Conservative Club in St Margaret's Street. Margaret Hagan retired after nearly 20 years on the committee and Richard Owen, our Secretary, after two years. Both were thanked and presented with gifts. Chris Millar was elected as the new Secretary.

After the formalities members raised various matters about which they were concerned. The first of these was the noise and disruption caused by the New Year's Eve event at the Westgate Hall. Since then a further event has taken place, on 2 and 3 May. This was the City Sound Project organized by a company called Republic Events. It took place at about a dozen venues across the city. One of the venues was Westgate Hall and as before there was considerable noise and disturbance for local residents. Richard Parkinson, who had been a trustee of the Westgate Hall Trust for five years, has resigned as he promised he would do if an event similar to the New Year's Eve event took place again. You may have seen a report of this in the Kentish Gazette. Residents in Broad Street were also disturbed by noise from the Jolly Sailor pub, which was another of the venues. Other SPRA members may have been disturbed by the noise from other venues and we would like to know if that is so.

The Westgate Hall Trust held a meeting on Sunday 25 May, to which they invited local residents. The trustees were present, and also the event organizers, a representative from Curzon Cinemas, one of the council's environmental services officers and one of the council's licensing enforcement officers. The meeting lasted about an hour, and later the Trust produced minutes of the meeting, ending with suggestions as to how matters could be improved. This is a copy pasted in from their minutes:

- To ensure that warning email/letters of major events goes out from event with reasonable notice
- Newsletters from Westgate Hall Trust outlining future events (David Moore, Hall manager, already organizing)
- A contact phone number for the hall to be given to residents so they can make contact if there are issues with specific events
- There would always be a member of hall staff present at big events for residents to contact
- Adam Lee mediating regarding bass levels and would make decisions about any proposed future events of this type based on all feedback and comments
- More stewards present – some residents welcome to be involved on a voluntary basis to help with this
- Ensure organisers provide sufficient stewards for people management around Hall and up to High Street for larger events
- Clear signs to car park entrance – change address for hall on google to the car park so that is used by Sat Nav users and in particular for taxis
- The Trust will prepare a Complaints Policy setting out our procedure which will be available in the Hall and on the website.

We understand that no similar events have been planned at present, but the organisers will no doubt want to promote the City Sound Project again next year. We are writing to Adam Lee, the Council's environmental services officer who was present at the Westgate Hall meeting, to try to find out how well he and his colleagues can monitor such a large event and whether residents can be given a contact number so that they can report disturbances as they occur.

**A date for your diary: the SPRA Quiz Night is on
Saturday evening 17 October at the Westgate Hall**

Some of our concerns . . .

Other matters raised by you at the AGM included

- the obstruction by A-boards and dining tables on the city streets
- the poor placing of cul-de-sac signs at the ends of St Peter's Lane and Mill Lane which means that drivers drive into these streets unnecessarily
- speeding takeaway delivery drivers in St Peter's Lane
- a spiked metal fence which prevents people from walking along the river bank from Barton Mill to Kingsmead Field.

We are taking action on all of these issues.



One of the photos we have sent to KCC.

We always need more members: if your neighbour is not a member please ask them to join.

	<p>We get daily reports of crimes in this area: those relevant to our area are listed below. There are also 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 email 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.</p>	
16 May	Lanfranc student accommodation in Northgate through a partially open window	Handbag stolen, containing driving licence, passport, iPhone etc.
18 May	Orange Street: vehicle entered	Handbag and contents stolen
22 May	Sainsbury's Supermarket, Kingsmead Road: vehicle entered	Computer equipment, suitcase and iPhone stolen
22 May	Broad Street: attempted burglary	Failed intent to steal from a ground floor flat
1 June	Goods Shed, Station Road West: burglary	Two males caught and arrested

Useful contact numbers

Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping and 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 555111

SPRA contact information

SPRA Committee 2015-16

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	Committee member	
Gillian Rushton	Committee member	

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

spra.newsletter@gmail.com

Our website address is: www.stpetersassociation.co.uk and there is an email address for related issues

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