



# St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for January and February 2016

2015-16 issue 5:

1 February 2016

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

## The SPRA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14 April

This will be held at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. in The Beerling Hall (ex-Dominican Priory) by kind permission of The King's School, the Hall's lessees. Refreshments will be provided. There are 2 or 3 parking places for blue badge holders at the end of the drive which leads to the Hall from St Peter's Lane. There is a lift which gives access to the first floor. The agenda will be published with the next newsletter, due on 1 April. Our guest speaker will be David Lewis, sometime chairman of the Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society, who will talk to us about some aspects of the history of the St Peter's area.

## Proposed change to the Association's Constitution

**Membership of the Committee:** At present members of the committee are obliged to retire at the end of each year, but may stand for re-election. Their re-election is proposed and seconded at the AGM. Likewise any new members may be proposed and seconded at the AGM. We wish to propose that both retiring and new members should be proposed and seconded seven days before the AGM, so that members of the Association may be able to consider the proposals in advance of the meeting, and so that the existing committee can discuss what is involved with any proposed new members.

This proposal will be put to the members of the Association at the AGM and would be decided (in accordance with the constitution) by a majority vote.

Kevin Porée, whom many of you will know as the question-setter for our annual quiz night, has been co-opted on to the committee

## Some of our concerns . . .

- ❖ KCC agreed to add a cul-de-sac sign to the street sign for St Peter's Lane and this is now in place. We hope that satnav users will look up from their screens and notice it.
- ❖ 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 cul-de-sac sign for Mill Lane has now been moved for a second time. However, we asked KCC 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 confused drivers come, but they told us that a new street sign would be the responsibility of the City Council – whom we approached. They have said that the pavement is not wide enough but we have written to them again.
- ❖ The new owners of the building site at the corner of Knotts Lane and King Street have started work on the development of 11 apartments.
- ❖ We are no nearer solving the problem of the A-boards and other obstructions in Sun Street and Orange Street (and elsewhere). However, this will be an item 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.

- ❖ 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. As a result (a) the apple trees have been weeded (inside their metal protective frames) (b) a flower bed has been created where the roses and honeysuckle have been planted (c) the supporting wires have been repaired (d) the vigorous leafy plant in front of the roses has been removed. The sycamore stump, in front of the rose bed, is a more intractable problem: because the site is a scheduled ancient monument, Historic England won't allow the stump to be ground out – but the stump has been treated so should die away eventually.

## The Westgate Hall New Year's Eve Event

The Westgate Community Trust told us in November that they had 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 objected on your behalf, and several other residents (members and non-members) did so too. As a result the Council's Licensing Department decided that the proposal would be rejected if it were submitted, because of concerns that there would insufficient noise limitation.

## The SPRA Christmas Party on 16 December

This was well attended by about 60 members who enjoyed mince pies and wine and each other's company.

Jonathan Duke provided a musical accompaniment for those who wished to sing carols.

We are grateful to The King's School for allowing us to use The Beerling Hall, and were glad that Poppy Beerling could be present for this first social use of the Hall.



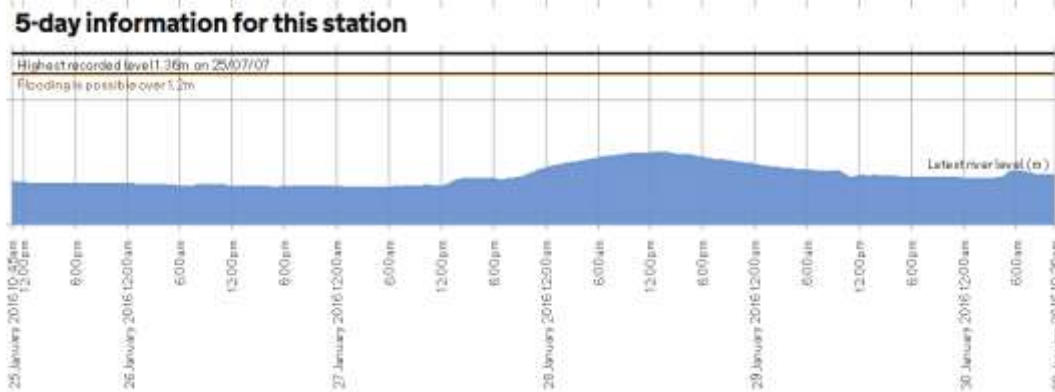
## The Pound Lane car park

You probably know that this has been chosen as one of the car parks to use as a trial for the Council's proposed new car parking scheme, which involves the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). We had concerns because the car park is used as a route for taxis and delivery vehicles wanting access to the Westgate Hall, and if it was not possible to use the car park, the traffic would have to use St Peter's Lane and Westgate Hall Lane instead. One of us has now met one of the council officers responsible for the scheme, and we now know that there will be a 15-minute free-parking period, which will enable taxis and most delivery vehicles to get in and out of the car park without paying - so there should not be any extra traffic in our streets. The system is in fact quite sophisticated: there is an intercom at the entrance and exit barriers and at the Westgate Hall, which connects to the Council's Control Centre, 24 hours a day, and a CCTV camera can observe the entrance. So drivers with problems can have them resolved reasonably quickly (including having the barrier opened remotely). The only problem remaining is that there is no provision for blue badge holders to have the three hours' free parking to which they have been accustomed. This is a difficult problem to resolve, because the badge is associated with the person, not the vehicle. The trial will start on 4 April, and not on 12 February as originally planned.

Associated with this is a plan to improve the condition of some of Canterbury's streets: the streets affected in our area would be Orange Street, Best Lane and The Friars. Details will not be announced until the beginning of next year, and there will be a separate consultation.

## Flooding

So far, so good, despite the very heavy rain in the early part of January, which triggered a yellow alert from the Environment Agency. If you haven't already done so, you can register to get these alerts from the EA by phoning them at 03708 506 506, or by visiting their website. Those with an internet connection may like to keep an eye on the river levels at <https://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding> where you can see a graph which shows how the river level is changing – the one shown here is for the levels at Vauxhall Bridge from 25-30 January. You can alternatively see the level at Horton Weir, which is between Chartham and Canterbury.



Another page on the website gives a detailed forecast for the Stour in our area.

## Former Dairy Crest site on Military Road

In our last issue we drew attention to the proposal to replace the redundant dairy processing building in Military Road with a student block with 233 accommodation units. There have been objections from The Canterbury Society, the Canterbury Conservation Advisory Committee, the Craddock Road Residents' Association and ourselves. There were also 22 letters of objection (and none in favour) from local residents. A revised application has now been submitted, to take account of some suggestions by the planning department, but the changes are only minor. The third floor has been stepped back to make the building seem less overpowering, and there have been some cosmetic changes: e.g., the walls are faced with less metal and more brick. However, it remains a dominating development on one side of a quiet residential square and will have a devastating effect on the lives of those who live there. See our last issue for our detailed comments. We shall be writing to object again.

## New seat-sculptures




Miller's Field



Abbot's Mill Garden

The two seat-sculptures in our area have been installed (there is another which has just been installed in the Greyfriars Garden). The Miller's Field seat is at the end of 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 seat in Abbot's Mill Garden is carved from a single oak trunk, from a tree in a wood near Old Wives Lees, near Chilham.

	<p>We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent: those relevant to our area would be listed below. We are glad to say that there were <b>no reported crimes</b> in our area in <b>December and January</b>. 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.</p> <p>There are also distraction crimes: i.e., two people approach you and one asks directions, or to change some money, while the other commits the crime.</p> <p>There continue to be many warnings about fraud of different types: cold callers on your doorstep or on your phone, internet scams etc., and indeed one of our members reported a man who wanted to repair her roof. This was investigated and he turned out to be a bogus operator.</p> <p>We have a copy of a very comprehensive document just produced by Neighbourhood Watch entitled '<b>Scams, Cold Callers and E-mail Fraud</b>'. If you ask 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).</p>
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**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
Reporting a crime taking place	Police	999
Reporting other 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	
Kevin Porée		

You can contact the Secretary on all matters including those relating to this newsletter by phone or by e-mail: [spra.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:spra.newsletter@gmail.com)

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