

**This newsletter is published six times each year.
The next issue will be published on or about 1 August.**

The Annual General Meeting

This took place on 14 April at The Beerling Hall, by kind permission of The King's School, who lease the hall from the Cantiacorum Trust. The Chairman welcomed the 40 members present and was glad to be able to say that we have now been able to return to The Beerling Hall (ex-Dominican Priory) for our events. He announced that the summer party and the quiz night would be held on 21 July and 8 October respectively.

The Treasurer announced a loss of £287 for the year, but explained that this should not recur, since it was largely due to the high cost of hiring the Westgate Hall for the quiz night, and that we expected to break even in the current financial year. The membership subscriptions would remain unchanged at £6 and £4.

The seven existing members of the committee were re-elected unanimously. One new member, Amy Barron, was also elected unanimously.

The Secretary had given notice of some proposed changes to the Constitution and explained them to the members. The gist of these changes was that co-opted members would be able to form part of a quorum at committee meetings, and would be able to vote. The proposals were agreed unanimously.

Members raised concerns about

1. Overflowing bins in Solly's Orchard – but two members thought that this must be an unusual occurrence, since the Serco employee who locked the Orchard at night was assiduous in keeping it tidy.
2. The difficulties of driving along Northgate. The Secretary explained that Council officers were aware of the problem, and were going to convert most of the passing places into loading bays for goods vehicles (only). The success of this will depend on enforcement and so far parking attendants have not been obvious in Northgate.
3. Access to the Pound Lane car park to drop people off. The Secretary explained that there was a 15-minute period of grace: if drivers got in and out of the car park within 15 minutes they did not have to pay.

4. The new parking arrangements in St Peter's Lane: a member was concerned that having cars parked on both sides of the road would reduce visibility and increase the possibility of accidents.

Our guest speaker was David Lewis, sometime Chairman of the Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society, and a frequent contributor to one of the local papers. He spoke to us about some of the oddities and mysteries in the St Peter's area. There is so much that most of us have not noticed. It was an interesting and entertaining talk which was extremely well illustrated and much appreciated.

SPRA Summer Picnic Party

This will take place at The Beerling Hall on Thursday 21 July, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. We shall not be able to use the kitchen facilities at the hall, so this will not be a barbecue, and members are invited to bring their own picnic. The party will take place in the garden which lies between the river and Victoria Walk, if fine, and inside if it is damp or cold. More details will follow later.

Proposed solar panels on the Friends' Meeting House

There is a planning application to install 11 solar panels on the east-facing roof of the Friends' Meeting House. In the application it is claimed that the panels would be hardly visible, but the first photo shows that they would be clearly visible from King Street, and the second shows the unfortunate effect the panels would have on the roofscape of this conservation area. The panels would be black and shiny. There have been objections from six individuals, from the SPRA and from the CHDF (Canterbury Heritage and Design Forum – formerly the CCAC).



There is a clear view of the roof from King Street



The black lines show the outline of the solar panels: there would be three other less visible panels as well

Licensing application

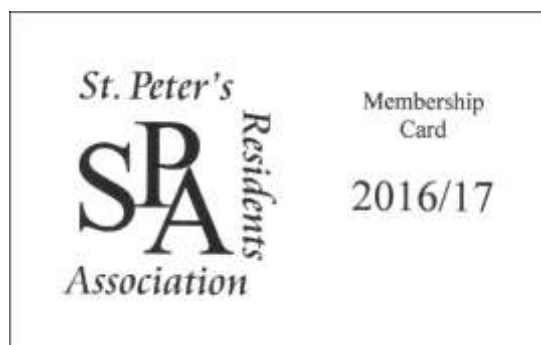
Planning permission was granted for a new restaurant in Theatre House, Orange Street, despite objections from a number of residents, and Orange Street being a 'saturation zone' i.e. a street where there already enough bars and restaurants. There is now a licensing application which suggests that the premises will be more of a bar than a restaurant, with the inevitable noise and disturbance that that would entail. The Greek restaurant, Zeus, further along the road is just that – a restaurant – and we hope to persuade the licensing authorities that this new restaurant should be bound by the same rules as the other. This is in Niall McKernan's capable hands. The application will be considered by the Licensing Committee at 12 noon on Tuesday 14 June at the Guildhall.

The Westgate Hall

The City Sound Project were again operating in Canterbury on Sunday and Monday, 1 and 2 May, and were using the Westgate Hall again. But the event there was timed to finish at 11 p.m., and did so. A great improvement on the previous year, and we have written to the trustees to thank them.

Membership subscriptions

Members agreed at the AGM that these should remain at £6 per household (but £4 if the household has only one resident). If you pay by standing order, or if you have already paid for the year 2016-17, or you joined in the last few months of the 2015-16 year (and are therefore entitled to free membership this year) you will already have received a membership card. **If not, please pay the sub to Niall McKernan at 9 King Street CT1 2AR.**



Neighbourhood Watch



We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent: those relevant to our area are listed below. We are glad to say that there was only one reported crime in our area in April and May. 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 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.

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 ask the Secretary he can email it to you as an attachment, or if you do not have an internet connection you could collect one from him at 6 King Street (but please phone him first so that he can print a copy).

Date	Time	Premises	Crime
8-10 May		House in Black Griffin Lane	A motorcycle was stolen.

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 2016-17 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		
Amy Barron		

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:

spa@stpetersassociation.co.uk