

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

SPRA Summer Picnic Party

This took place at The Beerling Hall on Thursday 21 July. It's a pity there were not more members present to enjoy a warm summer evening listening to the Ben Rogers Band, who played a selection of easy-listening music. Kevin Porée arranged a miniquiz for each table. First prize in the raffle was a magnificent box of vegetables from the Chairman's allotment. Two German tourists, attracted by the music, came in from outside and spent a very enjoyable evening with us. We know that several people were away on holiday, or otherwise engaged that evening, but we would like to know if there would be a better date, day or time for such an event, or whether members would like a different kind of event in the summer.



Members enjoying their evening



The Ben Rogers Band

Our next event is the Quiz Night, which will take place in The Beerling Hall on Saturday 8 October. Please make a note in your diaries.

Planning applications

The application to place solar panels on the roofs of the Friends' Meeting House was approved by the Planning Committee, despite objections from ourselves, the CHDF (formerly Canterbury Conservation Advisory Committee) and several residents. The roof is clearly visible from King Street (and will be more so in the winter, when there is less shielding vegetation). It is unfortunate that the planning officers and the councilors did not sufficiently take into account one of the required considerations of the Local Plan, as applied to Conservation Areas, namely 'The

impact of the proposal on the townscape, roofscape, skyline, landscape and the relative scale and importance of buildings in the area’.

A planning application has been made by the new owners of No 12 King Street for a ground floor extension and a first floor balcony above. Numbers 10-15 King Street, built in the 1970s, have survived intact without external alteration (apart from two conservatories which are hardly visible from the street). This proposed extension would be in brick and reach to first floor level, thus shadowing the windows and doors of Nos 11 and 13, and obstructing the view along the gardens of all the houses. The first floor balcony would be a very visible alteration to the streetscape, and all the gardens would be overlooked by people on the balcony. The CHDF have objected, and so have the SPRA and 9 local residents. The closing date for objections was 22 July.

Theatre House, 4-6 Orange Street

Planning permission was granted for a new restaurant here, despite objections from a number of residents. The owners then submitted an application for a premises licence with plans which were totally different from those for the planning application. The kitchen area was reduced to a fraction of its former size, the designated dining areas were no longer there, and instead there were booths, high chairs, sofas etc., and some open space, all of which suggested that this would be more of a bar than a restaurant. Indeed the company’s name is ‘Theatre House Bar Ltd’. Several residents spoke at the hearing of the Licensing Sub-Committee (and we were represented by Niall McKernan). The committee refused the application for a licence saying that the plans ‘gave the impression of a bar rather than a restaurant’. In a further development we wrote to the enforcement team at the Council and alerted them to the fact that the plans were now different from those for which the planning application had been granted, and the owner has had to stop work until the position is clarified.

Traffic in our area

We are concerned about speeding traffic in our area. At each entry to the area (Northgate, The Causeway, Pound Lane) there is a sign with a 20 mph speed limit, and a ‘No entry except for access’ sign but these are not easy to see, with drivers concentrating on safely negotiating the junctions. We have asked KCC if they can put some small ‘20 mph’ repeater signs on some of the lampposts in our area. Traffic calming measures, such as sleeping policemen, are considered only if there has been an accident involving personal injury recently.

The ‘No Cycling’ signs, fixed to bollards at both ends of Blackfriars Street, were replaced by KCC but vandalized again almost immediately. They will now be replaced by signs on posts – which, we’re told, will be placed discreetly.

A correction to something relating to the AGM in our last newsletter: the point which our member was making was that the two parking spaces on either side of the exit from the Pound Lane car park would reduce visibility for Marlowe Theatre patrons wishing to cross the road.

The Westgate Hall

The City Sound Project arranged viewings of the England football matches in the Westgate Hall during June but despite the hype of the CSP's website ('hundreds of fans', 'largest bar in Canterbury', 'beer bucket at half time' etc.) the events passed off peacefully with, as far as we know, no disturbance to the neighbours. The trustees seem now to be managing potential noise and disruption very successfully.

Solly's Orchard

The training wires on the wall have been repaired and have stayed intact, and the roses are flourishing. The honeysuckles are not doing so well, and may need to be replaced. The sycamore stump in front of the roses is unfortunately also flourishing: it has been treated but will need treating again. It can't be dug up, and the stump ground out, because Historic England won't allow digging in this scheduled ancient monument. Most of the apple trees are now fruiting, but the five nearest the Priory have died, probably because of honey fungus. The new wavy flower beds, which are meant to have a mix of wild flowers in them, are mostly doing well, especially the one nearest the Priory. The others will need reseeding or replanting.



Roses planted by the SPRA



Wildflowers in one of the wavy beds

Poppy Beerling

Poppy moved away from Canterbury on 25 July to be nearer to her relatives in Lincoln. Don and Poppy bought the Guest House of the Dominican Priory in 1969 and at their own expense maintained it as a place where scouts and other community groups could meet. On Don's death it was bequeathed to The Cantiacorum Trust, who have leased it to The King's School, but with the proviso that the hall should continue to be available for community use. It has been renamed The Beerling Hall. As one of the many groups who have benefited from Don and Poppy's remarkable generosity, the SPRA has written to thank her and to wish her well.

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 were only two reported crimes in our area in June and July. 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 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
31 May – 1 June	Overnight	Blackfriars Street	3 wing mirrors were damaged on parked cars belonging to our members
23 July	12.30 – 12.40	House in Pound Lane	An estate agent surprised 3 youths in a (presumably) empty house

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