



St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for November and December 2016

2016-17 issue 4

1 December 2016

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

The SPRA Christmas Party on 14 December



**Our Christmas Party is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 14 December in
The Beerling Hall.**



We do hope you will come and enjoy some refreshments and the accompanied 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. A flyer with more details is attached or enclosed.

Please let us know if you intend to come

Solly's Orchard gates left unlocked at night

The Canterbury Area Members' Panel (CAMP) is a sub-group of the full Council which meets to discuss matters relating to Canterbury itself. Other panels deal with the coastal towns, rural areas etc. CAMP met on 23 November and one of the Westgate ward councillors, Cllr Michael Dixey, raised the matter of the Orchard gates being left unlocked at night. He was initially concerned that as a ward councillor he had not been consulted or even informed - nor, of course had local residents, the SPRA, the police, the company managing the apple trees etc. There was some discussion, with councillors seeming to be in favour of the gates being locked. One of the Northgate ward councillors, Cllr Alan Baldock, mentioned the danger of negotiating the bridges across the river at night. The Secretary was invited to speak, and drew attention to the issues with which many of us are by now familiar, and was invited to forward the evidence which the SPRA has so far collected. Cllr Dixey has provided us with the name of a councillor who was involved in the decision to hold this trial, and we will be contacting him and asking for the trial to be stopped now – rather than wait for the trial to end in March – after a consultation to which (if the past is any guide) we may not be invited.

Please continue to let us know about anti-social behaviour, vandalism and crime, giving us the date and time. We do need all the evidence we can provide.

Other matters

- ❖ The cul-de-sac sign at the entrance to Mill Lane has now been moved to a better position – on one of the finger posts for city sights. We were told this wasn't possible, since the sign belongs to KCC and the post to CCC, but we're not complaining.
- ❖ Work has now started again on the site at the corner of King Street and Knotts Lane, so perhaps we shall see an end to the ugly grey hoarding in the next few months.

Miller's Field hedge

This hedge, which runs round the edge of the car park, is intended to soften the appearance of the car park and give a more natural feel to the area. The plants will be mostly hawthorn and blackthorn. The Council rotavated the ground to prepare for the planting, and the planting was done on 24 November by a dozen volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership: your reporter was there. The hedge will be maintained (free of charge) by The King's School.



The polypropylene mats suppress weeds



The volunteers' minibus



Looking towards North Lane: a completed stretch



What the plants actually look like

Nature Conservation in Kent

This is mostly managed by two bodies: the Kent Wildlife Trust, and the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. This is relevant to us because these bodies are responsible for a lot of the work that is done to preserve wildlife in our area

They have different methods of operating: the KWT has five Visitor Centres including their main base at Tyland Barn, near Maidstone. The nearest to us is at Reculver. The KWT has 55 nature reserves which are managed for the encouragement of wildlife and biodiversity: each has a volunteer warden. Access to these is always open, and visiting them is a good way to enjoy being in the countryside. The nearest to us are Bigbury Camp, East Blean Wood, West Blean and Thornden Wood, and South Blean. The KWT has also established about 100 roadside nature reserves, which are managed by volunteers. They always need more volunteers, so if you think you could help ring them on 01622 662012. If you have access to the internet, look at <http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk>.

The KSCP is concerned with the corridor of the River Stour: it has no nature reserves. In conjunction with local councils and the Environment Agency, it looks after wildlife along the river from Ashford to the coast. It has some major projects, which include, on our doorstep, the redevelopment of the Westgate Parks. The Development Officer there, Anna Bell, has been seconded to that post by KSCP. It has some paid staff but a lot of the work is done by volunteers. Most weeks there is a task to be done: the hedge planting in Miller's Field is a good example. Others planned for the next few weeks include scrub clearance at Tyler Hill and fencing repairs and footpath maintenance at Hambrook Marshes. KSCP too always need more volunteers. Their phone number is 03000 410 900, their email address is kentishstour@kent.gov.uk, or look at their website <http://www.kentishstour.org.uk>

Neighbourhood Watch

For the second issue in succession we think it worth passing on some of the very many reports we get about postal, telephone and internet scams, partly as a warning but also to reassure you that if a fraudster attempts to cheat you, you are not alone. These are just a few of the latest reports reaching us, but they will serve as examples:

Frauds for week ending 19 November 2016. Please ensure these are widely disseminated.

Thank you to a co-ordinator from Dover who alerted us to a text message received that stated: 'We have been trying to contact you regards your delayed or cancelled flight, you could be owed £510, reply PACK now to check for free, so to opt out'. The number was +44 7425604972. The message was immediately deleted unanswered. Please pass on to neighbours.

Thank you to member from Deal alerting us to two more phishing emails:

One from Boots, with a chance to win a £500 voucher. The address it came from was 'Bootz'...so not as sophisticated as the main part, but I think the clever bit was at the bottom - 'to be unsubscribed from this, click here' or words to that effect. Reported to Boots.

Another from Sainsbury's, with a £450 voucher to be won in a free draw. Again, reported to Sainsbury's. Each of these looked genuine enough at first glance, with Boots and Sainsbury's colours. Please pass on to neighbours.

Thank you to a co-ordinator from Harbledown, Canterbury, who spotted a reference to a fake Aldi voucher in the Kent Messenger. If it looks too good to be true, it is!
Kent's Aldi customers should be on their guard for this Facebook voucher scam. The counterfeit coupons claim to be redeemable at any Aldi store, offering up to £85 to spend at the discount supermarket. The fake voucher links to a survey page, and if you click 'share the result' it spams all of your friends with the 'offer'. Experts fear it could also infect your computer with dangerous malware. Aldi has confirmed the offer is fake.

Thank you to a co-ordinator from Walmer who received a screen during a Facebook session advising him that his computer had been compromised due to a virus. The number given to contact to resolve the problem is on several websites as a scam number. Unfortunately despite having security packages a Trojan was introduced. After much time and research he sends us advice that he has discovered a good program to assist - Adwcleaner.

We have received reports that a fraudulent email purporting to be from the Crown Prosecution Service is

appearing on computers. The message states that the person is required to appear in Court. Do not click on any links in this message but delete it. The Crown Prosecution Service is aware and would never email witnesses in order to summons them to Court.

General reminder not to open attachments or respond to emails that you have not requested, do not recognise - best delete them as soon as possible.

NHW Liaison



We get daily reports of other 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 October and November. 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.

A message from NW: Please could I ask you to remind your members that when/if they call the Police using 101 or 999 to advise the Control Room that they are part of Neighbourhood Watch. This information is recorded on the system and helps us to demonstrate the good work and intelligence that you provide us with.

Date	Time	Premises	Crime
15 October	1920-2200	King Street	Yale lock forced: items of jewellery and bank cards 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

