

**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 in the garden of The Beerling Hall on Thursday 13 July. There was a new format this year: members could either bring their own picnic or enjoy fish-and-chips from Ossie's in The Borough. Strawberries and cream were also provided. This seemed to be a popular arrangement, as, with over 50 members present, numbers were well up on last year. Those present enjoyed a warm summer evening listening to the Ben Rogers Band, who played a selection of easy-listening music. Some members and guests came up to the microphone and sang to us. Kevin Porée arranged a miniquiz with a fish-and-chips theme. As last year, first prize in the raffle was a magnificent box of vegetables from the Chairman's allotment. Many thanks to Tania Hoser, who organised it.



Members enjoying their evening



The Ben Rogers Band



Singers



Dessert

[All images by Richard Parkinson]

Our next event is the Quiz Night, which will take place in The Beerling Hall on Saturday 14 October. Please make a note in your diaries.

Planning applications

The Parrot public house

A few months ago the Council refused permission for the pub to place tables and chairs outside. The applicants have made an appeal against this decision, and an inspector has been appointed to adjudicate. If you wrote to object to the original application you will have received a letter or e-mail from the Council informing you of the appeal. The Inspector will see the comments already made, but if you did not object then, or if you wish to add to or reinforce your original comment you may do so by emailing East2@pins.gsi.gov.uk or by writing (with three copies) to The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3P Kite, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN. The reference number is W/17/3177167. We objected on the grounds that

1. There would be noise and disturbance for nearby residents, especially as the drinkers would probably spill over into the paved area beyond.
2. The seating area, with its café style barriers, would adversely affect the view of the medieval building.
3. The seating area would detract from the view of the best preserved piece of Canterbury's Roman wall.
4. This would be another example of the colonisation of public space by commercial interests.

The Dairy Crest site, Military Road

The applicants appealed against the decision of the Council to refuse the original 2015 application to build an accommodation block for students on this site. Their appeal was heard by an inspector last Thursday, 20 July. We await the outcome of that hearing.

Concurrently there is also the 2017 application, which has been slightly modified, twice, but neither of these modifications begins to address the fact that this is a building in the wrong place. Its presence at one end of this square of small-scale two-storey houses in a conservation area would be dominating, and the addition of 194 students would have a devastating effect on residents' lives.

St Radigund's Street closure

The closure has been caused by the need for scaffolding on the pavement outside 16 St Radigund's Street, where The King's School is developing a new day house. The presence of the scaffolding means there is no safe passage for pedestrians, especially as the pedestrians often form part of large groups such as coach parties. We accept that the street closure is justified. We have been in touch with KCC and The King's School: the school was apologetic (though it was the KCC who made the decision to close the road) and will do all it can to expedite the building works so that the scaffolding can be removed and the road opened again. However, we do appreciate that one consequence of this is that the rat-run via Northgate, St Radigund's Street and Pound Lane has been blocked, and perhaps we need to look at ways in which the rat-run can be permanently blocked, for the benefit of those who live in Pound Lane and St Radigund's Street.

Membership recruitment drive

We are grateful to those members who volunteered to distribute material to the households in our area who are not already members. They delivered an application form, the most recent newsletter and an invitation to the summer party. 620 households were contacted, but the fact

that as many as 18 people volunteered to help, meant that no one had to deliver more than 40 or 50 letters. We have already had ten new members, but hope for more.

Solly's orchard gates

These continue to be locked at night, much to the relief of all of us but particularly those who live nearby, although there has been no official statement from the council that this will continue. Of course we shall object again if they begin to be left unlocked.

Solly's Orchard

The roses, planted by the SPRA, are flourishing. Some of the wavy wild flower beds are doing well, as shown in the photos, but the others less so. The flower bed next to St Peter's Lane needs quite a lot of weeding, but there are some plants there (e.g. clematis and jasmine) which are starting to do well, as are the two vines.



Roses planted by the SPRA



The wavy wild-flower bed near the Priory



Another of the wild flower beds



One of the vines

Neighbourhood Watch



We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent and until recently we have passed these on to you in a table under the headings Date | Time | Premises | Crime. In future we shall copy some of the relevant messages and print them below – the information is too varied to fit into the format we have been using so far. We attach or enclose the quarterly newsletter from Neighbourhood Watch

Here are some of the messages we have received from Neighbourhood Watch recently:

We have received reports of a doorstep criminal knocking on doors in the Thanington Without area of Canterbury.

One resident reported the man falsely claimed to be working on the opposite driveway when he noticed their ridge tile was missing. The resident was already aware but the man went on to say that the wind would push up the other tiles allowing rain to get in and he offered to do the repair.

Accepting work from a doorstep criminal can result in paying much more than you intended for very poor, unnecessary and sometimes dangerous work.

The man was seen heading towards Canterbury city centre driving a small, white, sign-written van.

Report any suspicious doorstep criminals to us.

A Kent resident received an email which appeared to be from their builder requesting the next instalment. The email requested £18,000 to be paid into a new bank account. The resident only found out it was a scam when their builder told them they hadn't sent the email and hadn't changed their bank account.

Be wary of emails asking for payment even if they are from someone you know. Contact the emailer on a telephone number you know to be correct to find out if the email is genuine.

Always regularly update antivirus software on computers and laptops and change passwords regularly.

Visit kent.gov.uk/scams to find out how you can protect yourself and your family from online scams.

I have received reports of burglaries that have occurred where homes have been insecure. It is thought that owing to the hot weather occupants are leaving doors and windows open to allow cooling.

This is an invitation to opportunist criminals. Please be aware of the possible consequences and look out for persons acting suspiciously. If you see a crime in progress dial 999; any other information dial 101.

Some information to obtain: Are the suspect/s alone or in a group? Are they trespassing? Do they have equipment with them? Where are they going? Where have they been? What do they look like? Have they any vehicles? What are the number plates and vehicle models? Can you safely get a photograph?

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 2017-18 and contact information

Richard Parkinson	Chairman	07764 775 672
Andrew Kerin	Vice-Chairman	01227 456 618
Chris Millar	Secretary	01227 766 790
Alan Turner	Treasurer	01227 451 217
Clive Bowley	Planning consultant	
Gillian Rushton	Events organiser	
Kevin Porée	Events organiser	
Tania Hoser	Events organiser	

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