



# St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for September and October 2017

2017-2018: Issue 3

1 October 2017

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

## SPRA Quiz Night: Saturday 14 October

We have had a good response so far, and the quiz night will definitely take place this year, but we still need more people. If you cannot make up a table of six, please try to come with a smaller group or just come by yourselves. Your guests do not have to be members, so please bring a group of your friends.

It takes place in The Beerling Hall (formerly the Dominican Priory) and there is access by lift to the first floor, where the quiz takes place. The flyer, with all the details, is enclosed or attached. Please come.

## Planning matters

- Dairy Crest site: we are still waiting to hear whether the inspector will allow the appeal of the developers against the refusal by the council to grant permission to build a student block on this derelict site. A second application by the same developers has been put on hold until the outcome of the appeal has been determined.
- The Parrot public house: we're waiting to see if the inspector will allow the appeal by Shepherd Neame against the decision by the council to refuse permission for them to place tables and chairs outside the pub. The council's submission to the inspector was robust.
- Benji's sweet shop: the SPRA has objected, as have nearly all the residents in All Saints Lane, to an application by Houdini's Magic Bar to convert the sweet shop into a drinking establishment. We objected on the grounds of increased noise and disturbance for the residents, and, however well the Magic Bar would be run, any subsequent owners of the property might not be so welcome. The reference is 17/01921 but the closing date for objections has now passed.

## St Radigund's Street

As many of you will know, the closure of the street was planned to take 12 weeks, but there has been an extension for a further three weeks. The builders have blamed the need for the extension on the failure by the electricity and water authorities to make the necessary connections to the property in time. The closure has been inconvenient for those with cars who live in The Friars-King Street-Blackfriars Street area, who have had to make a considerable, and with Canterbury's traffic congestion an often time consuming, detour to reach their homes. However, the residents in (most of) St Radigund's Street and Pound Lane have benefited from less traffic. Nothing can be done about genuine local traffic which

is driving to and from the car parks and properties in the area, but there is a perception that drivers use Northgate–St Radigund’s Street–Pound Lane as a rat-run to avoid the ring road. KCC have told us that they have not made any traffic counts in the area and so we have no evidence that the rat-run exists to any extent. Despite the absence of evidence we did, at our last committee meeting, consider a number of suggestions for deterring through traffic, but our ideas all had their drawbacks. If any members think they have a solution, please get in touch.

[Stop Press: we have just had this email from the Estates Bursar at The King’s School: [Just to let you know that the contractors have completed all they have to do at high level at 16 St Radigund’s Street. Scaffolding will be removed this Friday and the road will be re-opened on Monday morning. Would you please pass on our thanks to all St Peter’s residents for their patience and understanding.](#)]

## The Enforcement Team

The city has now increased its enforcement team to 12. They are working in two shifts, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some night operations are also planned. The officers are able to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for litter dropping, dog fouling, graffiti, and other environmental offences. The council is about to announce its Public Space Protection Orders which will cover much of the city: offences against these orders may also result in FPNs. News of this should appear in the local press soon.

## A-frames

This is a continuing source of irritation to most of us, as members made clear at our last AGM. Eighteen months ago, at a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB), all the councillors, from both KCC and CCC, proposed unanimously to ban A-frames entirely - but so far nothing has happened. As this is a highways matter, responsibility lies with KCC, who provide good guidelines as to their use, e.g., their size, where they may be placed, how many there may be, etc. But they do not seem to have either the will or the resources to enforce these guidelines.

At the last Canterbury Area Members Panel (CAMP) meeting there was a statement about A-frames, part of which we quote:

[While KCC are comfortable with their existing policy, which they feel offers a good balance to both users of the highway and local traders, they are prepared to consider a proposal from CCC on how we may look to deliver a district-wide approach to local enforcement of the issues. To that end a paper is being prepared to carry forward the discussion. Were the responsibility to pass to CCC we would try and maintain the balance with a pro-business stance while encouraging the appropriate use of outdoor furniture but would enforce where furniture is causing an obstruction and posing a hazard the mobility of those with disabilities. An update will be provided to a future CAMP meeting when this is to hand. In the meantime CCC Enforcement staff continue to engage with premises in order to ensure compliance with the KCC policy. This is ongoing activity which includes targeted campaigns carrying out audits to check for improvement.](#)

From our point of view, this is a disappointing retreat from the JTB’s vote, and we have written to say so. We have been assured that enforcement will take place, and FPNs will be issued to offending premises. We shall see if there is any improvement.

Whatever action is taken about A-frames, there will still be similar problems with the numerous tables and chairs on city pavements. Businesses need to buy an annual licence from KCC to place tables and chairs on pavements, and we have asked KCC if they can provide, on their website, a register to show which businesses have licences, just as CCC do with premises licences for pubs, clubs and bars.

## Work on the river banks



**River bank reconstruction: stakes, faggots and hessian**



**Area reseeded by KSCP last year, near the Sainsbury's car park**

Those who walk along the footpath towards Sainsbury's will have noticed that volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) there have been doing some work on the river banks. We quote

'The river bank is eroded along this stretch, putting the adjacent footpath at risk. In the past, the bank has been shored up with concrete, but this approach creates areas of riverbank barren of wildlife. To create a 'soft revetment', we installed brushwood faggots (twiggy branches tied into bundles) secured with posts along the river's edge. The void created between bank and faggot was filled with material excavated from the riverbed. The faggots prevent erosion by dissipating the water's energy. They also imitate the tree roots and fallen branches of a natural riverbank, providing cover for small fish and other aquatic creatures. The faggots will gradually collect silt from the water, providing a medium for aquatic plants to grow in.'

It was KSCP volunteers who planted the hedging which is softening the appearance of the car park in Millers Field.

## Gardening in Solly's Orchard

The council, through its contractors Serco, is responsible for maintaining the roses which the SPRA planted along the wall next to St Peter's Lane, and also for the bed generally. Nothing seems to have been done for a few months, and one of our members has volunteered to do some tidying up. Is there anyone else who would like to help? It would involve dead heading, pruning and trying up the roses, and trying to control the weeds. There are also some climbers (clematis, honeysuckle, jasmine etc.), planted by the KSCP, which need some attention. We need to check first that the council is willing for us to do this, but offers of help would be appreciated.

## The L'Arche Community

Many of us will know that this community has a base at 18 St Radigund's Street. We invited its Director, James Cuming, to tell us about it:

L'Arche in Canterbury is a vibrant faith community of people with and without learning disabilities. It is the first of 12 such L'Arche communities around the UK and one of 149 around the world, from Bangladesh to Burkina Faso, Syria to Seattle.

L'Arche creates places and spaces for difference in all its forms to be celebrated and enjoyed. The Canterbury community is proudly diverse – in ability, nationality, faith and age – and is a place where all are accepted for their unique value as a human life, rather than for what they have achieved or what they can 'do'. Some of us are employed, others are volunteers and others still, life-long friends of the community from all walks of life. Our houses are mainly in Wincheap and St Dunstan's and our activities spaces are in St Radigund's Street and St Mildred's church grounds.

Around Canterbury, some people from L'Arche live together, others live independently. What connects us is that we are a community – a group of around 140 people who make time to meet, spend time together, have fun and build friendships.

Throughout the year, events and celebrations bring us together. Day-to-day, we're artisan crafts people, with and without learning disabilities. You'll find us making beautiful handmade candles, greetings cards, succulent planters, bird or bat boxes and selling them at fairs across Kent. Look out for us on Saturdays at St Thomas's Church, next door to the shop and later in the year, we'll be selling from the entrance to St Peter's Anglican Church on the High Street. We also sell our wares at some cafes and shops around the town.

In the last 18 months, we've begun a micro-brewery called Archangel Brewery, which in time will be run and owned by people with learning disabilities – the first of its kind in the UK.

This is who we are. We've been a part of Canterbury for 40 years – so if you bump into us, do say hello!

Cheers!

**James Cuming, Community Leader** [www.larchekent.org.uk](http://www.larchekent.org.uk) Registered Charity No 264166



## 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.

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

Door to door sellers have been taking advantage of vulnerable elderly people in the Birchington area. It is believed that various elderly people have been victims. They sold a battery smoke alarm, a battery carbon monoxide detector and a 2 kg fire extinguisher for £595.

### **Freshers students urged to stay safe**

Kent Police is urging new students arriving in Canterbury this weekend to stay safe and think of others. Today (18 September) marks the start of Freshers' Week and officers will be working alongside the Canterbury Community Partnership to talk to students and help raise awareness of personal safety throughout the week.

High visibility patrols will be out engaging with the public and ensuring personal safety. Officers will also be helping to keep a lid on anti-social behaviour and reduce the impact Freshers' Week can have on local residents.

Sergeant Thompson added: 'The general message is know your limits, look out for one another, don't leave your mobile phones and bags unattended and don't walk anywhere alone late at night. Have fun but be aware of the dangers of drinking too much and think about the impact any unwanted antics can have on the people of Canterbury.'

It is, of course, far too early to be talking about the festive season BUT it is NEVER too early to start thinking about security arrangements for that time of the year. These, as ever, really revolve around simple, sensible precautions that can drastically reduce the chance of becoming a victim of burglary or theft. We have extolled the virtues of these many times before, so the list below is just to help jog the memory for those already 'in-the-know'. For those that maybe aren't, some of your members perhaps, we would encourage you to spread the word - as a reminder in our own Christmas newsletters.

- Close curtains after dark to prevent would-be burglars from viewing valuables / presents under Xmas trees etc.
- When leaving property unattended after dark set time switches to turn on lighting to make premises look occupied.
- Don't leave waste packaging from expensive presents on show whilst awaiting refuse collection.
- Cancel papers and milk delivery if going away for Christmas, and ask trusted neighbours to open / close curtains daily and even perhaps put a car on your driveway to make premises look occupied.
- Take precautions to lock side / back gates and out-houses / sheds.
- Always set burglar alarms at night and when you are out, even during the day – thieves know that we go out shopping a lot near Christmas!
- Keep an eye open for unusual characters who could be 'casing out' the area for potential target properties to burgle.
- Be extra vigilant with wallets and handbags when out shopping – pickpockets take advantage of crowds and distracted shoppers.



## Home safety

### Free 'safe and well' visit

If you are over 70 or have mobility problems it could mean you're at greater risk if a fire breaks out in your home. If you don't need this service yourself, you can refer a relative, friend or client to us, too. Call our friendly home safety team on 0800 923 7000 or email preferred contact details to [home@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:home@kent.fire-uk.org). One of our friendly team will be in touch and let you know if a safe and well visit can help.

### Smoke alarms save lives

We want to make sure all homes in Kent and Medway have working smoke alarms - it's the best protection you can have against fire. That's why we offer free safety advice and services to everyone.

## 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

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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](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)