

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

Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place on

Thursday 5 April, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.

in The Beerling Hall (ex-Dominican Priory) by kind permission of The King's School, the Hall's lessees. Refreshments will be provided. There are 2 or 3 parking places at the end of the drive (Donsway Drive) which leads to the Hall from St Peter's Lane. There is a lift which gives access to the first floor. The agenda will be published with the next newsletter, due on 1 April. Our guest speaker will be The Reverend Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos, the Cathedral's Canon Treasurer.

Members of the committee are obliged to retire at the end of each year, but may stand for re-election. Their re-election is proposed and seconded at the AGM. Any prospective new members need to be proposed and seconded seven days before the AGM, i.e. by Thursday 29 March.

Changes to Orange Street, Best Lane and The Friars

As some of you know, the Council is proposing a number of changes to Orange Street, Best Lane and The Friars. The profit the council makes from car parking charges is ring-fenced and has to be spent on public realm improvements like this. These changes seem to be business-led: certainly there was a meeting with local businesses in mid October, but the meeting for residents was arranged only as a result of an initiative by one of our members, and that occurred only two days before the date for submission of objections.

Of course we welcome the proposed improvements to the paving in the streets, although even there we have some reservations. Our main concern has been the proposal to place bollards across the roadway near the bridge in The Friars. This proposal seems to be a compromise between (a) indicating the beginning of the pedestrianisation zone (b) the need for anti-terrorist measures to protect the Theatre. We do not think the compromise really works. We would have liked to have seen

1. the start of the pedestrianisation zone indicated by signage
2. the bollards moved to near St Peter's Street, where they would be less obtrusive
3. the theatre protected by its own bollards which would operate 24/7 and be more easily controlled by theatre staff.

We have been corresponding with the Transport and Environment team and also the Chief Executive, but we have not managed to persuade them to change. The only change from the original plans has been to move the bollards few yards closer to the bridge, which was obviously necessary to allow access to The Friends Meeting House and the houses opposite. The documents relating to The Friars (THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CENTRAL AREA, CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No.1) ORDER 2018 has now being published, with a closing date of 5 February for the submission of comments. We shall go through the motions of submitting our preferred solutions, even though there seems little point in doing so.

Graffiti

Our area was attacked by two graffiti 'artists' on the night of 30 December. We're sure most of our members are aware that the Council will remove graffiti from our own property. Phone Serco on 0800 031 9091 or visit the website where the link is https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20044/vandalism_and_graffiti/55/request_graffiti_removal The Council will remove graffiti which is on their own property. It is less easy to get rid of graffiti on student-occupied property since it is the owner who had to give permission but if you are aware of graffiti on such property please leave a note at the house to persuade the landlord to take action.

Gardening in Solly's Orchard

Our volunteers have continued to do excellent work in the orchard, and the photos show the flower bed waiting for the Council to install some wooden edging (awaited now for some months) and the pruned roses. They have also been working in The Butterfly Garden: photos next time.



The SPRA Christmas Party

This took place on 14 December 2017 and we had hoped for more people at this event, after the success of the Summer Party and the Quiz Night, but those who did come found a well-decorated hall, a lot of tasty refreshments and good company. David Clarke again expertly led the carol singing.

Planning

The Barretts site. We objected to this proposed development of student accommodation for 120+, with about a dozen offices, on the grounds that it would be a disproportionately large building for the site, the view over Canterbury's roofs would be marred, and there would be an increase in traffic in the already busy Pound Lane. The closing date for objections was at the end of October, but no decision has been made. The delay may be the result of Southern Water pointing out that one of their sewers runs underneath the site.

52 King Street. The first application to build a house on the site next to 52 King Street was refused: the developer applied again, and this application has also been rejected, which is not surprising, since the second proposal was very similar to the first. We objected, as did the Canterbury Heritage & Design Forum and a number of our members.

Extra street lighting in Donsway Drive

The Marlowe Theatre has installed three new bollard lights in Donsway Drive, in the gap between St Peter's Lane and Victoria Walk.

The street lighting in St Peter's Lane did not cover this area, so it was previously uncomfortably and possibly dangerously dark at night.



Neighbourhood Watch



We are constantly receiving warnings about various scams. We are sure you are aware that cold-calling, whether online or by phone or in person is very likely to lead to an attempt at some kind of fraud, so we will just quote the beginnings of some emails which give the flavour of what is happening.

It was reported that an elderly resident was approached by men to carry out work on the roof of his property in Southwood Road, Whitstable. Having agreed on a price, the victim became suspicious when he was told the roof felting needed replacing and the price increased to nearly ten times the amount.

Telephone call received on a landline advising that they were calling from the bank – they did not specify which bank and naturally this was not questioned. Caller stated he was conducting an internal investigation into bank staff and that she was to tell no one that she was assisting with the investigation.

A message from NHW: '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.'

Useful contact numbers

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| Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti | Serco | 0800 031 9091 |
| Abandoned vehicles | City Council | 01227 862 203 |
| Street lighting, potholes, anything related to roads or footpaths | Kent Highways | 03000 41 81 81 |
| 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