



St Stephen's Residents' Association Newsletter: Autumn 2017

www.ststephensra.org Facebook: St Stephen's Residents' Association

The **Open Garden event** held on a warm and sunny Sunday in June was a memorable highlight of the summer when we had the opportunity to visit many beautiful gardens and, more importantly, to get to know many of our neighbours. Thanks are due to everyone who opened their gardens for this extremely enjoyable event and to Graham and Angela Gibbens for offering us a lovely venue for the afternoon teas that were available. We especially thank Pauline Walters and Chris Molony for the effort they put into organising the day which raised £400.00 in total, £300.00 of which has been given to the Canterbury and District Early Years Project and £100.00 to Porchlight. Margaret and Alan Carver also offered teas and a plant sale in aid of the League of Friends. We plan to repeat the event next year when it will be the turn of residents living in roads not included in the event this year {i.e. St Stephen's Hill, Green, Road, Close and Court, Manwood Avenue and Hales Drive} to open their gardens.

Many thanks to residents who have offered to join with their neighbours to be responsible for clearing litter in their own part of the Residents' Association district. Sue Langdown has organised a couple of **litter picking events**, one of which took place on the 4th of March during The Great British Spring Cleaning weekend. Other events have been organised jointly with neighbouring residents' associations to clear St Stephen's Hill and Beverley Meadow of litter.

Thanks also to Jenny Robson for setting up and organising a successful **Gardening Interest Group** which has now held a couple of enjoyable events. A plant swap and sale held in May raised money to fund bulbs and plants for a Christmas event and an exciting sunflower growing competition led to many children growing sunflowers. Some photographs of the winning entries are on the St Stephen's Residents' Association Facebook site.

AGM in November

All members are invited to attend the **St Stephen's Residents' Association AGM**, to take place from **7.30pm on Tuesday 14th November** at **St Stephen's Church Hall**. There will be an opportunity to ask questions to be answered by local councillors, meet neighbours and put forward your ideas for new initiatives that could be undertaken by the Association over the next year. Anna Bell, the Westgate Parks Development Officer, will give a short update

about recent initiatives and the future planned programme of events for the Westgate Gardens.. Tessa Ivory, the newly appointed Community Support worker for the St Stephen's district will also be telling us about her role.

Other news:

- With autumn approaching, it is likely that we will soon be encountering a build-up of **fallen leaves** that can cause pavements to be slippery underfoot. Enquiries about Canterbury City Council's street cleaning programme last year revealed that Serco do carry out leaf clearing in the Autumn and get extra mechanical sweepers in to cover this. If you spot an area that has a build-up of leaves on the highway you can report this to Serco on 0800 0319091 or via email at help.canterbury@serco.com. The Residents' Association has been informed that there is no specific leaf clearing programme for parks and recreation grounds but that a large pile of leaves can be reported to Serco whose contractor will respond when instructed.
- At the request of the Residents' Association, BT have now repainted the **phone box on St Stephen's Green** a bright red colour to cover the previous silver coating.
- Adults with learning disabilities living in supported accommodation at the **entrance to Stephen's Court** helped members of the St Stephen's Residents' Association committee clear the concrete pavement area of weeds at the junction with St Stephen's Road. It now looks much better around the newly planted hawthorn tree.
- Members of the committee have been participating in workshops held by the **University of Kent** for its consultation in connection with the '**Masterplan**' process. Important points to come out of the discussion at a recent workshop were: support for the principles that any future expansion should be contained within the existing developed areas; that the Parklands to the south of the campus should not be built on; the need to discourage car use by students and to promote walking and cycling; the need for more direct and convenient access to Canterbury West station, including a north entrance from Roper Road.
- The planning application for the **Kingsmead Riverside development** on the old Serco site consisting of a five or six screen multiplex cinema, restaurant units, purpose-built student accommodation, residential accommodation and a riverside walkway has now been submitted to Canterbury City Council. The developers, Linkcity, (formerly Bouygues UK) have taken on board the concerns of the Stakeholder Group, chaired by Sue Langdown, about the need for greening of the site and tree planting. The application can be viewed on the Council's planning portal under the reference number 17/02092.

We would very much like to see some new faces on the St Stephen's Residents' Association committee. If you are interested in helping, could you please speak to me at the AGM or send an e-mail via our website?

With all good wishes

Jennifer Holland

Treasurer's Report

Our finances remain in a satisfactory state with expenditure being safely contained within the amount collected in annual subscriptions leaving a modest safety margin. Payments since the Spring Newsletter have been on litter-pickers, our subscription to Kent Environment and Community Network, hire of the Church Hall for the AGM and committee meetings, Newsletter printing, sunflower seeds for the Gardening Interest Group and fees for our website hosting.

Terry Patten

Kingsmead field

The main focus of activity for the Friends of Kingsmead Field this year has been cooperation with the Council on plans to enhance the field. A footpath has been created around the field to make it accessible in all weather conditions and bike racks and new picnic tables (to replace the tables that were damaged while the funfair was on the field) are being installed.

The Friends' group is also working with the Council on the design of a play area for young children, to be built close to the Riverside Children's Centre later this autumn, together with an outdoor table-tennis table funded by Cllr Graham Gibbens from his KCC Member's grant. A row of lime trees will be planted along the hedge line early next year, and the area at the back of the field will be landscaped.

Works are also under way to improve the riverbank as a habitat for wildlife. A key aspect of these works is the project by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership to create 'a two-stage channel' featuring both a deep, fast-flowing channel to benefit mature fish and a wide area of shallow water to provide a habitat for marginal plants and invertebrates. Signage boards will be installed next year to explain the ecological importance of the River Stour as one of only 200 chalk streams in the world.

For more information about the Kingsmead Field, contact the Friends of Kingsmead Field at kingsmeadfield@gn.apc.org or visit the group's website: kingsmeadfield.org.uk or Facebook page: Friends of Kingsmead Field.

Sian Pettman

Membership Report

We now have 200 members on the email list and the system whereby I send out news and requests means that we have the opportunity to contact other residents when we need help, advice or information. If anyone would like to be added to the list, you can contact me by email at paulinewalters25@gmail.com.

Tony keeps me informed about Neighbourhood Watch issues and I hope that you find the ideas and warnings useful.

Please remember that it is never a good idea to have people who come to the door offering to do work for you. If you need recommendations about which tradesmen to employ, I have a fairly extensive list of people who have worked for your neighbours, with good results. Just let me know if you would like a copy.

With best wishes

Pauline

Community Support Service

In March 2017 the Community Support Service was launched in Canterbury. Led by Age UK, this is a service available to anyone over the age of 65 yrs. Staying independent is important to everyone and there are times during our lives that we could all benefit from free and impartial advice. Tessa, our Community Support Worker can arrange to meet you in your own home to discuss any issues or problems that you may have. We have links to the Diocese, Kent Police, housing authorities, Kent Fire Brigade and charitable organisations, among many others. If you are concerned about your own situation or that of a neighbour contact Tessa on 01227 462368 or 07713466832.

Tessa Ivory, Community Support Worker