



ST STEPHEN'S RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2015

In our April newsletter, I commented upon the wonderful spring display of daffodils; this time I'm appealing for volunteers to join us in planting more bulbs for an even more impressive display in 2016. We are planning to meet on the Green next to The Old School House at the corner of Beaconsfield Rd and St Stephen's Rd on **Saturday October 17th at 10.00**. All that is needed apart from yourselves might be your favourite trowel or spade, and possibly a kneeling mat and gloves. The occasion is always very companionable, a chance to meet our fellow residents, and happily ending with coffee and biscuits. Please do join us.

The next important date for your diaries is our **AGM on Monday November 2nd at 7.30pm in St Stephen's Church Hall**. Please let Pauline know (paulinewalters25@gmail.com) if you would like to be nominated for the committee, as we would welcome some new faces. The role is not onerous, and our committee meetings offer a unique opportunity to meet with our elected representatives on both the County and City Council. We are regularly consulted on matters of interest to our members, as well as being able to raise concerns directly with those responsible. The speakers at our AGM will be the current Lord Mayor, Cllr Sally Waters, who will be telling us about the role of the Canterbury Civic Team, and Cllr Terry Westgate who will be giving his thoughts on the first six months of the new committee system. Both Sally and Terry represent St Stephen's on Canterbury City Council. *The AGM will be your opportunity to hear what the committee has done over the past year, and to suggest projects or ideas for the year ahead.*

In the meantime the following are brief updates on some of the continuing issues in St Stephen's.

- The second stage of the public examination of the **Local Plan** has been postponed by the Inspector to enable the council to undertake further work. For details of the Inspector's findings and the reasons for the postponement see: <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/>
- The final decision on the **Chaucer Fields Village Green application** will be made by the KCC Member Panel when it meets in December or January.
- A consultation on how **Kingsmead Field** might be enhanced has been launched and can be viewed at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/kingsmeadfield>. As part of this consultation, the Council is inviting residents to try out a new consultation tool called Stickyworld. This provides a series of thematic slides and encourages users to post-up virtual sticky-notes with their own ideas and comments, enables users to respond to the suggestions made by others and to add photos to illustrate their own ideas. Please give it a go (see link below)! It's innovative, it's visual, it's interactive and it's refreshing. Even if you have already filled in the standard questionnaire, you are welcome to feed in additional comments via Stickyworld. - <https://canterbury.stickyworld.com/room/presentation?roomid=4#page/about>

- **Canterbury was awarded a gold medal in this year's South and South East in Bloom competition**, part of 'Britain in Bloom', the UK's largest horticultural campaign. Many local groups, as well as individual projects participated to show that Canterbury is working hard to enhance our environment. Next year your committee will be considering whether we might enter the 'It's your neighbourhood' category of this prestigious campaign run by the Royal Horticultural Society. Over the past few years we have enhanced our environment by planting bulbs and trees. There is evidence that more residents are beginning to look after the grass verges in front of their homes, rather than relying on the council, and are even joining together as neighbourhood groups to carry out projects. One such group is in Tyler Close where several families are working together to create a community area from an overgrown and unloved piece of open space.
- **Several members living in St Stephen's Road with gardens running down to the Stour** have long been concerned that their views concerning the river and ongoing enhancement of the riverside are not heard. We are therefore delighted to announce that St Stephen's Residents' Association is now affiliated to *The Friends of the Riverside* and a member of your committee will represent the Association at future meetings.
- Our Association continues to maintain very close working links with other associations in the north of the city through the North Canterbury Forum of Residents' Associations and we are also a member of the Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations which covers the entire city as well as bordering Parish Councils. We also have membership of The Canterbury Society and we hope that, from next year, we shall be able to keep residents more fully informed about what is happening in and around our city and in these different groups through our website.

In the meantime, this will be my last newsletter as Chairman. My term of office ends at our AGM in November, but I hope to continue to contribute through membership of the committee. It has been a privilege to meet so many of you on social occasions, at meetings or simply planting bulbs. I do hope that you will continue to support the Residents' Association and your new Chairman.

With my very best wishes to you all

Sue Langdown ststephensra@googlemail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Autumn 2015

Terry Patten, our NW coordinator, is convalescing after major surgery and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Terry has, however, been monitoring everything that comes in from our PCSO, Matt Farley, as well as from the Police NW Scheme. We have been fortunate that many members send Pauline security information that keeps members aware of possible problems. Unfortunately, there have been several thefts from cars parked outside homes so do please keep your cars locked. Also, if you have any concerns about emails from other accounts or companies like PayPal and banks, do check online at, for example, www.hoax-slayer.com or www.scambusters.org.

On our website, if you click on Neighbourhood Watch, Ian has put all the Watching Brief Newsletters sent to us by the Canterbury and District NW.