



Newsletter April 2015

I hope that by the time you read this newsletter, the daffodils which were planted last autumn will be giving us a lovely spring display. Just now, the ground is simply too cold, and the bulbs are showing some reluctance to grow. Unlike the bulbs, there is no lack of activity in either St Stephens or the City generally. Every month, more and more information is finding its way onto our website www.ststephensra.org and from the many responses we've had from residents, it's becoming a valuable resource. Just as our list of local trades people has proved popular, we have now been asked whether we might add a section for residents to advertise items for sale or wanted. It would be good to hear your views. Many of you are finding Pauline's email communications both useful and interesting. These have proved their worth recently when we were able to send immediate warnings to be alert to the spate of petty crime in St Stephen's. Much valuable information was passed to the Police, and we hope that particular problem has been resolved.

On the wider front, it will not have escaped your notice that elections are afoot, both at the local and national level. While remaining completely independent of any political party, your committee has joined forces with two other residents' associations in St Stephen's to organise a meeting (hustings) so that residents might hear from all candidates hoping to be elected to the St Stephen's Ward of the reorganised Canterbury City Council. The meeting will take place on **Monday April 13th at 19.30 in the Church Hall, Hales Drive.** Candidates will be invited to speak briefly to their manifesto or reasons for standing, then the meeting will be opened to questions from residents. Several other meetings are planned around the district, and details will be circulated by email as well as being published in the *Kentish Gazette*. From Thursday May 7th (Polling day) **certain Ward boundaries will change**, amongst them St Stephens. To find out how this change will affect you, go to <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/media/968776/St-Stephens.pdf> or apply to the Council Offices in Military Rd.

The Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in December, and we await notification of the dates for the beginning of the public examination of the Plan.

The future of at least 80% of **Kingsmead Field** is now much more secure. That part has now been designated as a 'Protected Public Open Space' by Canterbury City Council. Already, Council Officers are working closely with the newly formed Friends of Kingsmead Field to develop a joint management plan with a view to enhancing the amenities on the field and

protecting the natural environment. The campaign to Save Kingsmead Field is still in existence, and will be looking very carefully at any application to develop the remaining 20% of the field which has been earmarked for development.

The Public Enquiry into the Village Green application in respect of **Chaucer Fields** has begun. It is likely to be spread over two weeks, and a final result is not anticipated for some time.

Your committee continues to meet regularly with both our City and County Councillors. This contact enables us to get your concerns before the right people. Currently we are lobbying for bus routes into and out of the city to be reviewed, as recent changes have left some areas without access to buses. We have continued to report such things as malfunctioning street lights, potholes, broken traffic signs and dangerous pavements. However, do check on our website, as some of these things you can now do yourselves using dedicated phone numbers and email addresses; using that system you should be able to track the progress of your complaint.

We are hoping to arrange a social event in the summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you then, as well at some of the meetings due to take place in St Stephen's over the next few months. In the meantime, my best wishes for a happy Easter and a sunny summer.

Sue Langdown [ststephensra@googlemail.com]

Neighbourhood Watch Report April 2015

A number of incidents were reported during February in St Stephen's Hill, St Stephen's Road, Moorfield, Manwood Avenue, Tyler Close and The Crescent. You may have read of them in Pauline's emails. They involved theft from a car, several instances of garden sheds being broken into and two instances of suspicious daytime activity. Day and night police patrols have led to an arrest, but, unfortunately, after this, other incidents have occurred. Be watchful!

A new national service is being set up by the police-victims can call up Track My Crime Kent on, for example, Google, to obtain easily and securely a progress report on their case and find out how to speak to an investigating officer.

To find out about the latest email and social media hoaxes and current telephone and internet scams go to www.foax-slayer.com. The objectives and methods of this website are set out-it aims to help protect the public from these deceptions. Watch out for the new BT Bill scam – a caller advises you that a BT bill is outstanding and seeks to separate you from your cash!

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre (run by the government and the police service) for fraud and internet crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded, or have experienced cyber crime. Having firstly reported your experience to the police, a report to Action Fraud will help the community at large to be protected through spreading information on combating fraud. An increasing number of victims are signing up. Call Action Fraud on 0300 1213 2040 – THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY SERVICE – DIAL 999 IF IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

– or go to www.actionfraud.police.uk/contact-us and see the fraud stats for Kent.

PCSO Matt Farley is in contact from time to time with residents who have experienced problems. He attends coffee mornings in the Church Hall, other duties permitting, and is available to give general security advice on your property. His email address is 57939@kent.pnn.police.uk, or phone 07772226188.

Terry Patten

Treasurer's update

The annual subscription that is paid by each household to cover the cost of membership of St Stephen's Residents' Association has been held at £2.00 for the last two years. At the AGM in October 2014 it was reported that the income from subscriptions 2013-14 was lower than the planned expenditure for 2014-15, and it was therefore proposed and agreed that the subscription for 2015-16 should be raised from £2.00 to £3.00 per annum for each household from April 2015. Please use the form at the end of the Membership Report to pay your subs, and return it to your street rep. Thank you.

Jennifer Holland

Membership Report

Thank you to all those residents who paid their subs last year and who have given me their email addresses. It has become clear that this is a quick and efficient way of sharing news and information in our community. Please do consider sending me your address when you fill in your subscription form and give it to your street rep. I send out my news using bcc so no one else has the information and I don't give your email to anyone else.

Special thanks go to the street reps. who are the backbone of the Association and have supported us for several years, always willing to help, to deliver newsletters and to email me with ideas and solutions.

We would like to welcome some new people onto the committee. Please let us know if you're interested in coming to a meeting-we have them no more than three or four times a year- to see how you like it before committing yourself. There would be no hard feelings if you felt it was not for you but we'd be delighted if you felt you could offer us a little of your time, expertise and skills.

Don't forget, if you want a list of tradesmen recommended by your neighbours, just email me.

Finally, for all the news and information you could ever need about St Stephen's, go to our website, www.ststephensra.org. Thank you to Ian Hancock for his continuing help and advice.

Subscriptions are now due for 2015-2016.

The subscription is set at a minimum of £3. Please complete this form and return it with your subscription to your street representative who is:

_____ at _____

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE [optional] _____

Email address _____

Please let us have any thoughts you may have about the Residents' Association: