

MINUTES OF THE 8th OHSCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER 2025

HELD AT KENDALL HALL, ST MARY BREDIN,

59 NUNNERY FIELDS CT1 3JN

Attendees: Denis Linfoot, Keith Rishworth, Rena Boothe, Deirdre Hawkes, Hazel Vane-Wright, Dick Vane-Wright, Marian Heath, John Heath, Cathy Sales, Bert Leslie, Margot Leslie, Hilary Adams, Susanne Hasselbach-O'Bryne, Jennifer MacDonald, Allen MacDonald, Nigel Fletcher-Jones, Mike Brain, Maggie Bower, Carole Denham, Jeff Derham, Alison Culverwell, Sarah Whittall, Rob Veltman, Lorna Durrani, Kathryn Dobrashian, Tom Dobrashian, Steve Raffe, Harry MacDonald, Diane Billam, Daphne Reeve, Jackie Barber, Len Hinksman, Su Cumber, Jackie Eales.

Committee members – David Kemsley, Lucy Fletcher-Jones, Helly Langley, Peter Whisson, Marion Bell.

6.45-7.20 pm – Social Gathering with refreshments provided and served by SEA members Alison Culverwell, Lorna Durrani, Helly Langley, Margot Leslie and Hazel Vane-Wright. Many thanks to them.

7.25 pm AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies: Sophie Scott, David and Gwyn Hartwell, Tom Lynch, Jane Pollok, Deborah MacVean, Glyn and Bill Burnett, Judy Seymour-Ure, Jane Carey-Harris, Madeleine Richardson, Michael Reeve, Susi Brain.

2. Minutes of AGM held 27th October 2024

These were agreed without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Annual Report from the Acting Chairs

David Kemsley represents OHSCA on ACRA and reported the three current issues facing South Canterbury:

1. The Draft Local Plan in which changes have been made and the planned housing in Blean has been dropped resulting in substantial additional housing for East and South Canterbury. The Plan now proposes a great swathe of housing from Thanington, across Mountfield Park (now South Canterbury Development) to the A257 Littlebourne Road. David urged members to read the excellent submission from the Canterbury Society. OHSCA's objections were included in ACRA's. The consultation period has ended and it will following a Section 19 final publication next year be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The problems of water, sewerage and traffic remain unresolved.

2. The South Canterbury Development (Mountfield Park) – the developer, Gummer Leathes, continue to make their preliminary infrastructure investigations and hold open briefing sessions which members are encouraged to attend.

3. Cossington Road Lampposts – local residents were alerted to Council plans to remove the old solid Bigglestons lampposts and replace with cheap tacky copies. If this went ahead it would set a precedent across the City resulting in widespread loss of our heritage lampposts.

Marion Bell thanked Committee members: Helly Langley (litter), Jane Pollok (treasurer), Peter Whisson (membership), Lucy Fletcher-Jones (website and IT) and Melissa Hill who stands in when Lucy is away, and David Kemsley (ACRA rep). Also everyone in the sub groups: SEA, LHG, OHC. Dick Vane-Wright for editing our quarterly newsletter and for creating the evening's power point presentation. Deirdre Hawkes and Peter Whisson were thanked for collecting, collating and distributing the newsletter and thanks to all our deliverers. Marion also thanked Deirdre (Gardening), Keith Rishworth (planning alerts), Denis Linfoot (OHC rep) and Marian Heath (LHG archivist for creating the history board. Hilary Adams was thanked for again certifying our year end Accounts.

Without the continuing support of everyone, including the members themselves, OHSCA could not carry on.

David kindly thanked Marion (Secretary).

5. Annual Report from the Treasurer (copy of Accounts filed with these Minutes)

Jane Pollok was unable to be at the AGM and submitted an explanatory report should queries arise. There were 209 paid-up members by 31st August. She sent her sincere thanks to Hilary Adams for certifying the Accounts.

6. Approval of certified Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025

The Accounts were certified by Hilary Adams, signed copy filed with these Minutes. A copy will be put on the website. We are very grateful to Hilary and she has been presented with a thank-you gift.

7. Annual Report from Membership Secretary

Peter Whisson reported the latest membership figure at 233 households several renewals having been received since the year end 31/8/2025. Peter is happy to receive renewal subs and donations at his business address at 41b Dover Street.

8. Annual Reports from Special Interest Groups

Local History Group – Maggie Bower's full report will be emailed to members. The Group is currently working on the History of the Kent and Canterbury Club for its next publication.

Green Team – Deirdre Hawkes reported that she is now getting some professional help to tackle overgrown shrubs. Sophie Scott has kindly donated tulips which will be planted in November.

SEA – Lorna Durrani's full report will be emailed to members. The Group continues to organise coffee mornings at the Hampton by Hilton in town and has started to arrange informal lunches at the Old Gate Inn. The next local author talk will be by Robert Hayward about St. Augustine's Hospital on 18th November.

OHC – Denis Linfoot continues to update members fully in his newsletter reports.

Newsletter - Dick Vane-Wright has continued as our newsletter Editor for 2025. Every edition is packed with local information and the digital version has additional pictures and commentary. It has been agreed to distribute a flyer to non-members again at New Year.

9. Recommendation regarding annual subscription

Jane Pollok recommended that the annual subscription for 2025-26 remains unchanged at £5 but it is always subject to review.

10. A Proposal for Revisions to the Constitution.

No revisions were proposed.

11. Nominations for Officers and Committee 2025-26

The nomination papers for 8 applicants are filed with these Minutes.

12. Elections for Committee members 2025-26

The following were unanimously elected en bloc to form the next OHSCA Committee.

Chair –

Vice Chair

Hon Treasurer – Jane Pollok

Hon Secretary – Marion Bell

Membership Secretary – Peter Whisson

Committee Members: Lucy Fletcher-Jones, David Kemsley, Helly Langley, Sophie Scott, Deirdre Hawkes.

Hilary Adams was nominated as Auditor for 2026.

The Committee will continue to operate a rotating Chair.

13 Any Other Business

There was no AOB

14. End of formal meeting.

“The New Historical Atlas of Canterbury” presented by Professor Jackie Eales

President British Association for Local History and Canterbury Christ Church University

Jackie told members how she has already been involved with the creation of “An Historical Map of Canterbury” in conjunction with CCCU, Canterbury Archaeological Society and Historic Towns Trust. Now, with help from these bodies, additional funding and students from UKC and CCCU, she has taken on the task of creating The New Historical Atlas of Canterbury. It will cover the period from the Roman occupation up to the end of the 1800s.

She talked about her sourcing information from a 1640 map in the Cathedral archives and books by historians William Sumner, William Gostling, Edward Hasted and William Urry. She also found David Potter’s research into St. Sepulchre’s Nunnery in our History Group’s publication The Story of Oaten Hill very useful. She thanked OHSCA for their donation towards her work.

We all look forward to the Atlas being available in shops next year.

Jackie answered questions from the audience and was then thanked by David Kemsley and presented with a thank-you book token

David thanked everyone for coming and the SEA group for providing the splendid refreshments.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm.