

# **OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION**

## **AGM 2022/2023**

7.00 for 7.45 pm, Friday 27th October 2023

at Kendall Hall, St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunnery Fields, CT1 3JN

*7.00–7.45: informal Social Gathering with drinks and snacks, hosted by OHSCA Social Events & Activities group*

7.50: Jan Pahl (Canterbury Society – see below) will give a talk about

***Old Park and Chequers Wood***

## **AGM AGENDA**

ca 8.20 pm:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of AGM held 21st October 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report from the Acting Chair (to include work of subcommittees)
5. Annual report from Hon Treasurer
6. Approval of certified accounts for the financial year ending 31st August 2023
7. Annual report from Membership Secretary
8. Receive annual reports from SIGs and subcommittees (History, Green, SEA, OHC)
9. Subscription rate (the Committee is not recommending any change for coming year)
10. Proposals for revisions to the Constitution (if any)
11. Nominations for Officers and Committee for 2023–2024
12. Elections for:
  - o Chair
  - o Vice Chair(s)
  - o Hon Treasurer
  - o Hon Secretary
  - o Membership Secretary
  - o Committee Members
  - o Appointment of suitably qualified person to certify the accounts at the end of the ensuing year (this person shall not be a member of the outgoing and/or incoming Committee)
13. Other business (which must be notified in writing in advance)
14. Vote of thanks and end of meeting (approx. 9.00 pm)

## **Old Park and Chequers Wood: a well-kept secret with a rich past and plans for the future**

Old Park and Chequers Wood is an area of open space to the east of Canterbury. Recent archaeological digs have shown that early humans lived there around 600,000 years BC, making it the oldest excavatable site in the UK and one of the oldest in Europe. The area supplied water to the religious houses of medieval Canterbury, became a deer park in which Henry VIII went hunting, was used as a training ground for the British army, and now includes the Canterbury Golf course.

Old Park is also rich in wildlife, designated by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Research by local naturalists has revealed the presence of many rare birds, including nightingales and turtle doves, mammals such as badgers, wood mice and shrews, eight different species of bat and 268 different plant species, including the clove-scented broom rape.

However, many local people still do not know that there is such an amazing open space almost on their doorsteps. In addition, there are many threats to the area and much that could be done by way of improvements, both to protect the wildlife and to enable local people to access this open space. Concern about these threats led to the setting up in 2021 of the Friends of Old Park and Chequers Wood (OPCW). Their aim is to:

- Protect the area from development and ensure proper management
- Identify and preserve the diversity of wildlife and connectivity of habitats
- Promote appropriate public access and reduce anti-social behaviour.

This illustrated talk will be concerned with the history of the Old Park and Chequers Wood, with the wealth of wildlife found there and with how this great local asset can be saved and protected both for wildlife and for local residents.

Jan Pahl is on the committee of the Friends of OPCW. As a keen walker she is particularly concerned with opening up access to walkers, while also ensuring the protection and diversity of wildlife. Jan was Chair of the Canterbury Society for over 10 years, and is now a Vice President.

**Contact** the Friends of OPCW on: [info@canterburyoldpark.org.uk](mailto:info@canterburyoldpark.org.uk)

**See the Facebook** page on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofoldpark>