

Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

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February 2012

Winter Storm Havoc

Storms take out trees

Two of these three poplars have suffered lightning strikes in recent storms. The third fell in high winds. A large horse chestnut and an adjacent beech tree also fell further round the pathway in early January.



Inside this issue

Page 2 Upcoming events
Great Glen way walk

Page 3 Festivities

Page 4 Reports from City,
Paris Councils and Hilltop
Chair of Trustees.

Hilltop Contacts

Hilltop News editor

Trisha Cheeseworth
761642

editor@hilltopca.co.uk

Columnist

Joan Gower
451492

Chairman of Trustees

Sarah Guest 765703
chairman@hilltopca.co.uk

Treasurer

Richard Armishaw
treasurer@hilltopca.co.uk

Hall Booking

Terry Maple 761320
4 New House Close
terry@hilltopca.co.uk

Trustees

Jan Armishaw
Richard Armishaw
Roger Cheeseworth
Trisha Cheeseworth

Sarah Guest
Terry Maple
Fiona Roche
Dave Sackett
Chris Silk

Nature Watch

This is the first newsletter of 2012, lets hope it is successful and that we are able to continue with a lot of people making contributions of interest to us locally. The first thing is the effect of the unseasonably warm weather with the geraniums still blooming and snowdrops emerging since last month and now in the middle of the month there are masses flowering. Two crocuses joined them on Sunday and I am looking forward to them increasing soon. About six years ago I bought an Autumn flowering cherry tree in flower. The following year it made an effort to flower but failed miserably and on following years it did not flower until spring. This year it flowered in January and it is glorious against a background of dark conifers. The mild weather has meant that we have seen fewer birds at our feeding stations. Once again this year I seem to be short of greenfinches, but have a great many long tailed tits, they move in flocks in winter and in the bare trees look almost like twinkling lights as they over them so fast. By now they are splitting into pairs and there have been two feeding here regularly—perhaps checking out a nest site. Green woodpeckers sighted in a neighbours garden and a lot in the orchard behind New House Close. An early riser feeding her cat attracts a thrush who regularly waits for the cat to move away and clean her whiskers before stealing the remains whilst keeping a wry eye on the predator. The red-legged partridge still seems to be alone but regularly turns up for a feed at one house in the close and an informant on Iffin Lane reports a low showing of feeding birds and few squirrels.

Joan Gower



Cyril Gower 1926 - 2011

My family and I would like to thank everyone for the support and kindness shown to us after the death of my husband in November. The letters and cards of sympathy helped during this stressful time and the flowers were wonderful, the last few still in flower on the day of the funeral! One of the things we both enjoyed together was helping to keep the hall going, each in our small way. Cyril by helping with the renovation and decorating all those years ago when it was under threat and myself by delivering leaflets and helping at functions. Many of you have said how you enjoyed his company. He was a very sociable man but of course as the years passed he was unable to join in as his hearing failed so badly. This did not stop him attending the Harvest supper which he loved.

I particularly remember events like the successful 'French Evening' when he dressed as an onion seller, complete with beret and onions, or the 'tramps supper' when he won first prize and when he completed the first Barry Allen Walk. Holidays in the motor home and his garden, particularly the lawn and the fish pond were his greatest pleasure, although we seldom agreed on what to do about the garden but generally sorted it out amicably in the end.

Finally many thanks to all of you who made donations in his memory to the Hilltop Community Association. The total amount exceeded £500, an excellent sum for a small charity.

Joan Gower

Diary of Events

Weekly Events

Friday Evening Social

All welcome for a chat

Monthly Events

Coffee Morning

Last Thursday of month
11:00 just come along

Wellness Clinic

Second Weds 19:30
Second Thurs 10:00

Coming Events

Beer n Brains

Sat 25 Feb at 19:30
Book your table

Church Service

Sun 4 March at 18:00
Rev Clive Todd

Fish & Chip Social

Sat 10 March
Book with Trustees

Hilltop A.G.M.

Weds 14 March at 19:30
We need your support

Wine & Wisdom

Sat 7 April at 19:30
Book with Roger

Church Service

Sun 8 April at 18:00
Rev Clive Todd

Committee Meeting

Weds 18 April at 19:30
Everyone welcome

Bingo

Sat 21 April at 19:30
Book with Dave

Church Service

Sun 6 May at 18:00
Rev Clive Todd

**Remember you can book the hall
for your own use. Just contact
Terry Maple on 01227 761320**



The Great Glen Way Walk

A small group of us are planning to undertake a long distance walk along the Great Glen Way [Caledonian Canal] in Scotland and thought we would take the opportunity in treating it as a sponsored walk with any and all proceeds we manage to raise being donated to Hilltop Community Association. The Great Glen way is a magnificent long distance walk of nearly 80 miles stretching between its start at Fort William in the South West and finishing at Inverness, the capital of the Highlands in the North East. It follows the Caledonian Canal starting in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, traverses the country's greatest geological fault and follows sections of Thomas Telford's historic footsteps, and then up and along trails in the majestic forests that cloak the hillsides.

Richard Armishaw will be administering the walk. Richard, an experienced walker has kindly offered to arrange the route itinerary, research and book our accommodation, also to obtain all necessary maps and documentation etc. It is planned to break down the walk into stages and complete the walk over a 5 day period.

Next we turn to your part: We would like to seek your help in sponsorship by the way of donations. We have already pleased to confirm that Ryan Hughes through his local company 'The Document Warehouse' has pledged to provide free of charge a support vehicle with himself as driver to transport the group both to and from Scotland and also to ferry our luggage and provisions between the overnight stopping points en route.

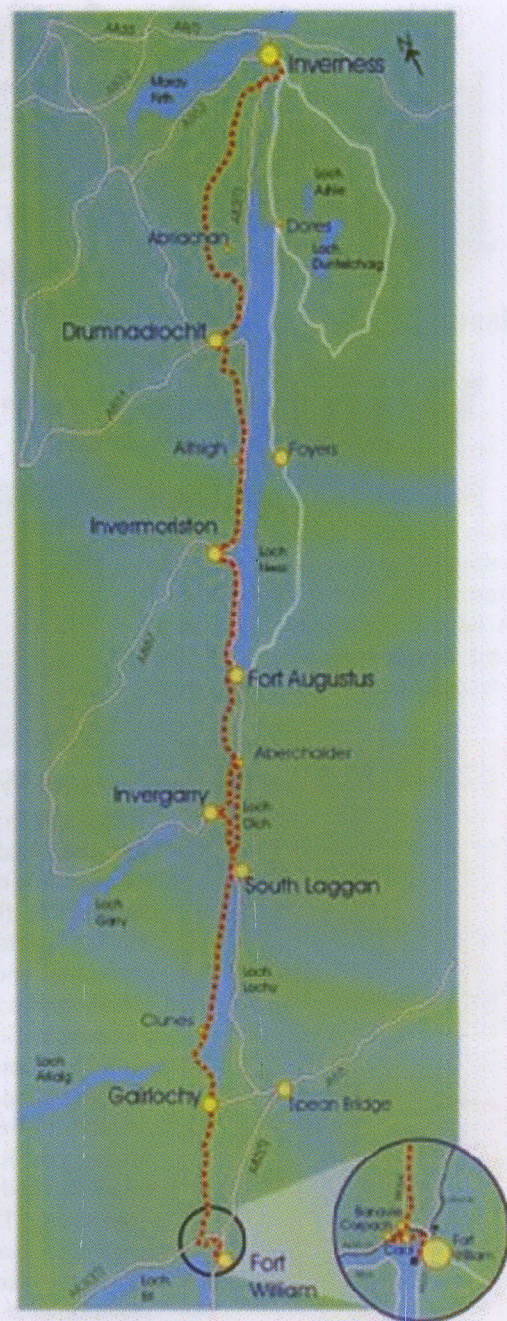
If you are interested in helping raise funds for your Community Association, please drop cash, cheques made payable to Hilltop Community Association, or pledges to one of the following:

Terry Maple
4 New House Close,

Richard Armishaw
5 New House Close,

Roger Cheeseworth
30 New House lane

**Fish & Chip
Social Evening
Sat 10 Mar
£6 per person
- Bring your
own drinks**



**It's time to sharpen
your pencils and
start designing your
entry for our 2nd
"Create a Garden
Monster" competition
to be held in August
2012**

After the fantastic monsters created by our residents last year fired so much enthusiasm, we hope you will be inspired to take part and make this year a bigger event than ever!

Further details and entry forms will be available in March from Cheryl at 36 New House Close

FESTIVE EVENTS

Wine Tasting



We started a wine club by having a tasting at the hall at the end of 2011. It was well attended. It was supported by Mark from Manor Wines of Adisham. We tasted 12 wines 5 whites and 7 reds under the guidance of Roger Cheeseworth who is a judge on the International Wine Challenge board. The outstanding red was a Portuguese Red call Esporão Monte Velho, the wine had an Intense ruby colour. Rich flavours of ripe red berry fruits on the palate with good depth and a soft tannic structure. The white that was very popular was Instinct Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand it showed well and was light gold with green tinges, nettle and lime aromas; on the palate there is passion fruit, mineral and lime characters. Several orders were given shortly after the event and they were delivered around Hilltop, members receive a discount from the Manor Wine trade price list at <http://www.manorwines.com/NewFiles/pricelist.pdf> anyone who lives in Hilltop can order from their web site just tell them you are from HCA. The wines were of a very good quality and we are hoping to have another tasting in the spring, so keep your eyes open for the date.

Roger Cheeseworth

Christmas Fair

Once again the Christmas fair was a great success. Thanks to all those who supported the event by coming and buying raffle tickets and produce. We made a grand total of £800.00 for the community.



We asked some of our participants for their comments on the day:

'I really enjoyed the Christmas Fair as the whole family were there and I enjoyed the food'
Thomas aged 10

'I thought the raffle prizes were great, we won a delicious cake!'
Emma



Above everyone enjoying the Christmas Fair

'The nail painter was really good, doing a Christmas tree on my thumbs & Holly on my fingernails also the Santa was fun'
Bethany aged 12

'The Santa was a bit embarrassing as my cousin and I had to have our photos taken with him, but the little ones enjoyed him. I did like having my nails painted with Christmas trees and holly'
Eve aged 14

'Father Christmas was great! He told me to leave out a biscuit and some beer for him on Christmas eve. I had my nails painted with Ivy to match my name.'
Ivy aged 6

Ed note—A big thank you to father Christmas once again for visiting Hilltop again.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Twenty enjoy the Christmas coffee morning. Last Thursday in the month at 11:00, all welcome



From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

Meetings

Ashford Road Community Hall

19:30 all welcome

Monday 12 March 2012

Monday 9 April 2012

Monday 14 May 2012

www.thanington-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets in the Ashford Road Community Association Hall in Ashford road on the second Monday of the month at 19:30.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors. If you have a planning application it is always worth coming along so questions can be answered. If your having a problem with the City council often we can help. Need support or help with a club your running or wanting to start, again some times we can help

If you feel that we can do something in your ward please ask your local councillors Terry Maple (New House Close) and Terry Davis (Iffin Lane).

I am looking forward to keeping you informed and thank Hilltop Trustees for giving me this space in your magazine.

SUDOKU no 1

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	6							8
5			2					

Easy — This is a twelve minute puzzle so try and beat that.

From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

2011 has gone and it was a good year for HCA ending with a very successful Christmas fair and a record profit of over £800. Thank you everyone who attended and lent a hand on the day.

2012 already sees a few dates in the diary. David Swain has another bingo night booked for April 21st the last one being very successful with a packed house, a good profit for Hilltop and a generous donation to Demelza house, David's chosen charity.

We will be having our usual summer events and a new event of a Fish & Chip Social evening, more details are in this issue. Our committee meetings have been well attended and as residents you are all invited to general committee meetings, your views and ideas are useful for guiding the way Hilltop functions to help our community.

In 2012 we want your views on issues discussed these include, sprucing up the hall, revamp of the ladies and gents toilets and does the garden need attention? This is not the final list, If you have any other ideas or would like to contribute to the discussion please do attend. Our next main committee meeting is February 15th at 7.30.

As Trustees there are guidelines from the charity commission we have to adhere to. In conjunction with some committee members we have been looking at risk assessments for St Faiths hall and I am pleased to say that we now have a comprehensive folder full of completed assessments. These are at the hall for anyone to inspect and would ask that if you are hiring the hall you make yourself familiar with them please.

March sees our AGM and along with the usual AGM business Trustees are up for re-election, this year we have 2 vacancies. If you feel you would like to become involved and help in the management of the Hilltop community association charity, please contact one of us or have a look at the charity commission website. This outlines the responsibilities of a trustee. At Hilltop we meet monthly and try not to make more work than we need to! It probably takes us a couple of hours a week each on Hilltop business.

From the City Council



Councillor
Nick Eden-Green

Canterbury City

01227 470416

Homes Threat?

The 'threat' of massive new development on the southern side of Canterbury has not gone away. Should we regard building new homes for the people of our district as a threat? I don't think so. I think people have a right to a decent, affordable home.

Young people need affordable homes to get on the housing ladder. Older people need purpose built sometimes semi sheltered housing and so on.

However, the trick is to build homes in the right place. That's not easy. In theory a year ago the coalition government abandoned the housing targets set by John Prescott.

Canterbury City Council will now get significant government funding based on the number of houses built. It's bribery to build. A funding offer the present administration of the council surely won't be able to afford to refuse!

For the last few years we have granted planning consents for about 500-600 homes a year. Personally I think we will need to maintain this sort of figure. However, I don't see that as a threat but a challenge.

Where do we build? Well, of course on previously built or brownfield sites first. Then look at the transport infrastructure. Look at access to good roads, bus routes and railways. Build homes around them. That means using the underused Thanet Way, putting a local rail shuttle service into Canterbury West from Hersden, modest infill development in some of our bigger villages on bus routes.

It seems daft to me to build in areas where the transport routes are already clogged or inadequate. I accept the challenge to build more homes in our district and I'm prepared to offer some solutions. However, southern Canterbury with its clogged roads and grade 1 farmland seems to be about the worst possible place to build.

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642