

Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

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May 2012

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Wanted!

Volunteers to become Kent Games Time Greeters

Be part of The London 2012 Olympics - we are looking for an army of volunteers to offer a warm welcome, share their love of Kent and of their local area with visitors and local residents. Volunteers will provide 2012 Games related information from the Kent leg of the Torch Relay through to the closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games.

Volunteers will be located at key travel hubs including Ebbsfleet International, at the Paralympic Road Cycling Event at Brands Hatch and at key points along the Torch Relay route including the overnight stops in Dover and Maidstone. Volunteers are required between 17th July and 9th September and must be able to commit to a minimum of three sessions of volunteering, each session lasting up to six hours. Training will be provided with successful volunteers being required to commit to 2 days of training which will take place at various locations across Kent in June. A uniform will be provided. Applicants are required to be 18 years of age or above by 1st January 2012.

Applications are invited throughout May with training taking place in June.

For further information visit our website www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk/gamestimegreeters

Email: sally.wookey@visitkent.co.uk

Telephone: 01227 812908

General Committee
Wednesday 16 May at 19:30

Olympic Torch Relay

The Olympic torch relay will pass through 34 towns and villages in Kent - more stops than any other county in the UK. The torch will arrive in Britain from Greece on the **18th May 2012** and take an 8,000 mile journey across the country before heading into London.

On reaching Dover, home to the famous Dover Castle and White Cliffs, a whole host of celebrations and events are planned for the torch's overnight stay on 18 July before it travels up around Deal, Sholden, Sandwich, Great Stonar, Cliffsend, St Lawrence, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Cliftonville, stopping off at the innovative and award winning Turner Contemporary in Margate.

The next stops for the torch include the World Heritage site of Canterbury and surrounding areas, taking in the quintessential Kentish countryside, before finishing in Maidstone at the beautiful Leeds Castle for a spectacular evening event on **19 July**.

15.34 Canterbury

A28 Sturry Rd fm Vauxhall Rd

A28 Sturry Rd

Northgate

Borough - veer left

Palace Street - veer left

Sun Street - turn left

Cathedral Precincts

Mercury Lane

St Margaret Street

Castle Street

Castle Street to 2nd r'about exit

16.36 Thanington

A28 Wincheap to Ada Road

The final stage of the torch's journey will take place in the historic Medway towns of Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, Higham, and Gravesend, continuing into Borough Green and Seal on **20 July**.

www.visitkent.co.uk/explore/kent_2012.asp

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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

Weds prior 19:30
Second Thurs 10:00

Coming Events

Church Service

Sun 6 May at 18:00
Rev Clive Todd

Committee Meeting

Weds 16 May at 19:30
Everyone welcome

The Big Lunch

Sun 3 June
Jubilee Celebrations

Trustees Meeting

Weds 6 June at 19:30
Everybody welcome

Family Festival

Weds 16 June at 19:30
Book with Trustees

Church Service

Sun 1 July at 18:00
Rev Clive Todd

Committee Meeting

Weds 18 July at 19:30
Everyone welcome

Summer Family BBQ

Sat 28 July at 17:30
Book with Trustees

Your community Hall
Birthday Parties
Family Celebrations

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



Joan Gower's Nature Notes

Here I am again with the second Newsletter of the year. Great to hear that the walkers on the Great Glen Walk made it successfully and raised a very good amount. I look forward to reading about it in this issue. Many years ago I read a book by Hamish Brown, who in mid life decided to bring a childhood dream to fruition. He had walked the Scottish hills all his life and wanted to walk all the summits over 3,000 feet in one long walk, Spending months on logistics and knowing the terrain and people who would keep parcels for him he also, over the months buried caches of food that would last until the next pick up point. It took him six months. I re-read it following the map. A great read!

What an extraordinary winter this has been. Only one fall of snow, but with two extremely hard frosts that caused many casualties in the garden. The autumn flowering cherry I was boasting about in the last issue was brown and dead one morning. I was not expecting it to flower this year but in early March it had a second flush of bloom. A bush with masses of blue berries lost them overnight and the winter Jasmine lived up to its Latin name with completely bare branches. No doubt all will return to normal next year.

The birds have also been scarce all winter. Apparently this national trend is due to the warmer weather as they can still rely on natural food rather than the nuts and fat we leave out for them. Putting fresh Niger out tempted the Goldfinches back and although some Greenfinches have also been seen there have been fewer than usual. Sparrows attracted to the seed and our resident Robin has been about. I have one male Chaffinch with the brightest plumage, the white wing bars look as though they have been painted on with a thick brush and the breast is a dark colour. Several others turn up at the feeders but not a patch on this one.

Two pairs of blue tits are nesting in the garden but the long tailed tits that I hoped

would nest seem to have vanished. Not many blackbirds about, who has got them all? I have not seen many thrushes, but they are singing well morning and evening.. Owls have also been heard opposite. Several folk have reported seeing spotted woodpeckers at their feeders and Green Wood-

peckers are still being seen in the close. A hare was seen in the field off Iffin lane, nice to know that we still have them around.

The lady I mentioned in the last issue who had a Thrush waiting for the cat to finish his food appears disgruntled as the magpies have found the stash and take their share before he can get there. Any remaining small bits are licked clean overnight by the hedgehogs. I have not seen the hedgehogs but have seen their droppings so I know they are in the garden. Lately a fox came into the garden and ate the bread put out for the birds. The fox ignored the remains of the cat food, but the thrush could be forgiven if it was hopping mad at losing its bread as well!

The Cherry blossom in the orchard is fantastic. It is a lovely place to live. During the warm days the leaves opened so quickly it was amazing. One day the trees in the copse looked bare and by the evening of the next there was a faint green haze. Daffodils opened and the plants grew apace, early daffs faded to be replaced by the later small ones, flowered narcissus and tulips came into bud. Perennial plants grew rapidly and the earlier ones produced small buds. Oh! To be in England now that April is here and in May everything grows so quickly it is incredible so we have lots to look forward to. On that cheerful note I will leave you for this time.

Please tell me anything of interest, Joan.
Tel:451492

Marino's Fish Bar



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Email: enq@marino-fishbar.com



Make Kent Quicker



Our Broadband

Kent County Council has identified poor broadband access throughout Kent as a major priority to be dealt with.

The Government has provided £10 million for improving access, and this has been matched by KCC.

The objective is to ensure that at least 90% of Kent properties can access super fast broadband services by 2015, and that the remaining 10% have access of at least 2M.

To get broadband providers to invest it is necessary for KCC to demonstrate the demand.

So the first step is for everyone inter-

ested to register their keen interest. You can do this by going to www.makekentquicker.com

and following the instructions.

County councillor Martin Vye will be happy to take up any questions you raise.

Contact details: 01227 831820

or martin.vye@kent.gov.uk

We are committed to securing better broadband for businesses and communities in Kent.

Our ambition is for 90% of homes and businesses to have super fast broadband access by 2015, and for everyone to have access to a service of at least 2mb.

Kent County Council and the Government are investing over £20 million to help make this happen.

However, to achieve our ambitions, we also need broadband providers to invest. This requires us being able to demonstrate the demand for better broadband. The greater the demand, the more broadband providers will be prepared to invest in Kent.

It only takes five minutes to register your demand and it could make a great difference, so please register now and encourage your neighbours to get involved as well.

Our Broadband



At high water on **Sunday 3rd June 2012**, over one thousand boats will muster on the River Thames in preparation for Her Majesty The Queen to take part in the **Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant**.

The Big Lunch

Sun 3 June

Jubilee Celebrations

The fundraising coffee morning was well supported with a glorious array of cakes, plants and items to raffle. The preparations are well in hand for a full house on June 3rd to ensure a very memorable event. Many thanks to all contributors.



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From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

Meetings

Ashford Road Community Hall
19:30 all welcome

Monday 14 May 2012

Monday 11 June 2012

Monday 9 July 2012

www.thanington-pc.gov.uk

I was delighted when asked if I could write a column on a regular basis for this newsletter. It's a great way to keep in touch with you all, and hopefully, you'll get to know us better too!

The annual parish meeting has been held every other year at St Faith's, but we discussed the possibility of bringing in the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre into the plan, meaning that St Faith's would only be the venue every three years. Reaction to this was mixed, because we always get a good attendance at meetings at St Faith's, so a compromise was reached. Every September a parish council meeting will be held at St Faith's - that way you will get to listen and see a normal Parish Council meeting in progress - September 10th 2012 will be the first - look forward to seeing you then!!

Now an appeal - do any of you have photos or press cuttings of events that have happened in the parish? If so, we would love to hear from you. All material will be copied and returned as soon as possible. The reason for this request is that we are updating our History of Thanington Without, and this will appear on our website. We are also intending to publish this updated history in book form, so that members of the public can purchase if they so wish.

Finally - if you get time - have a look at our user-friendly website - www.thanington-pc.gov.uk for all the latest that's happening in the parish. We've had great reaction to the site from all over the country, and Australia as well!!

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642

From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

We see our second issue of Hilltop News for 2012 with a feeling of great optimism. We have been negotiating with the church and their legal team regarding the lease for St Faiths for some time; it now looks as if we are in the final furlong. Both sides have an agreement that suits and it is now with the church solicitors to finalize.

It will then be passed to the charity commission to approve and that agree that it meets their guidelines. This has taken sometime and I must thank our vicar, Clive Todd and our trustee sub-committee of Roger, Terry and Richard for all their hard work and perseverance in what has sometimes been a very slow and frustrating task.

Our AGM was well attended and we saw retirement of Chris Silk from the board of trustees. I would like to say a big thank you to Chris he has served on the committee for many years both on the general committee and as a Trustee.

We will not lose him completely as he has kindly agreed to return with his train and helpers for the family festival on June 16th, as they were such a hit last time.

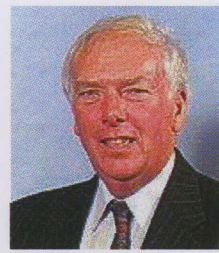
The election of Trustees saw the re-election of the existing Trustees and a new face, John Richardson has joined the fold and we extend a warm welcome and look forward to working together in which I think will be a vibrant and exciting time for Hilltop community Association.

And finally the Diamond Jubilee preparations are going very well, Cheryl had a huge response with all the places taken and is now having to run a reserve list.

The parish council has kindly provided the funding for the children's commemorative mugs, and the fundraising has got off to a fantastic start at the cake and plant sale making an incredible £310. A very big thank you and well done to Tracy & Carol who organized this.

**Write a letter to the editor if
you have something to say**

From the County Council



Cllr Martin Vye

Kent County
Council

01227 831820

As I always try to remind everyone, Kent County Council spends 70% of your council tax. It covers major services such as education, and social services. As your local county councillor, I am always ready to help local people if they have problems in these areas. The sorts of things I have dealt with in the past include helping parents make appeals for school places, and trying to ensure people with learning disabilities have a better choice of day activities.

To be honest the service which provides me with most casework is highways and transport. This is probably because the first things residents come across when they step out of their house are pavements, roads and traffic!

So far as roads are concerned, under-investment in the past has left them in a less than brilliant condition. Potholes are a constant feature, especially along the edges. Your parish council are particularly active in making sure the highways authority know about them. However, I know the frustrations they encounter in getting repairs done, despite their determined efforts. That is why I arranged to meet with the new Area Manager, to press upon him the need for Highways to respond more swiftly to information. I shall hope to see better service in the future. Incidentally, I will be meeting up with Highways officers in the summer to review how the winter maintenance programme went this year. I know we had only a relatively brief episode of snow and ice, but it was pretty intense. Let me know your views on how Highways tackled this. Especially I am interested to know whether extra salt bins could be usefully installed—I have managed to get some extra ones at key locations down in the City.

It is a great pity that Stagecoach do not think it commercially worthwhile running a bus service up to the Hilltop area (I have tried to put the case to them!). As you may know, I have been helping my friend and colleague Brian Staley, councillor for Littlebourne, in his quest to set up a community bus partnership for the rural areas around Canterbury. We still have not reached the point I would like to reach---a reasonably-priced service up to New House Lane and Iffin lane,