



# Hilltop News

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Parish Council and Hilltop  
Chair of Trustees.

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## Group Erection of new Marquee!



**A Big Thank You** to those friends and neighbors' who came to my husband's funeral on 28th May and for the donations to the Pilgrims Hospice.

Anita Rubins



See the new resource in action at the July 28th Bar-B-Que. This stalwart effort is available in full motion colour and sound at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn0s4D1jXPk&feature=channel&list=UL>



## Coffee Mornings

Are held at

St Faiths Hall, New House Lane  
The last Thursday of every month.

10.30 to 12 noon.

Very informal—ALL ARE WELCOME

Tea or coffee, plus biscuits,

**£1 (free refill)**

All proceeds to:-

**HILLTOP COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**

Please come and join us for a 'cuppa' and a chat!

## Race for Life

Two friends and myself walked the Race for Life in June at Herne Bay. It was a very moving, emotional and humbling experience to walk 5 km with two and a half thousand other people all with a shared goal of raising money for Cancer research. The tragic messages on people's backs where a majority of a family might have been wiped out because of cancer certainly made you count your blessings.

The drizzly weather did not diminish the spirits. It was wonderful to do something to help physically and show that loved ones had not been forgotten and that there is hope for those at present suffering.

Thank you very much for all your generous donations. I raised £535.

Jan Armishaw



# 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 1st Sep at 19:30  
Book your table

**Parish Council Meeting**  
Mon 10 September at 19:30  
We need your support

**Barry's Walk**  
Sun 16 September

**Committee Meeting**  
Weds 19 Sept at 19:30  
Everyone welcome

**Harvest Celebration Service**  
Sun 7 October at 18:00  
Rev Clive Todd  
**Harvest Festival Supper**  
Mon 8 October at 19:00  
Tickets £3.50  
Chris Ives 01227 760707

[christopherives99@googlemail.com](mailto:christopherives99@googlemail.com)

**Trustees meeting**  
Weds 16 October

**Cheryl regrets that the Garden Monster Competition** has been cancelled due to low number of entries, therefore the **Fun Afternoon** arranged on the **26 August** for the presentation of prizes will not now take place. **Remember you can book the hall for your own use. Just contact Terry Maple on 01227 761329**

## A Summer Treat

**Cranachan** serves 4

**Ingredients**  
600g Strawberries  
50mls Cassis liqueur  
25g caster sugar  
50g oatmeal (medium)  
500 Natural whole milk bio yogurt  
50g light brown sugar  
4 sprigs of fresh mint to decorate

### Method

Place strawberries in a large bowl and gently stir in liqueur and castor sugar.

Allow 10 minutes for the fruit to soften and absorb the liqueur.

Place the oatmeal and brown sugar in a small heavy based saucepan over a gentle heat and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring continuously until the sugar has dissolved and the oatmeal is golden and caramelized. Remove from the heat and spread oatmeal on a plate to cool, breaking up any large clusters with a fork.

Just before you are ready to serve, fold the caramelized oatmeal gently into the yogurt. Assemble the desert by spooning a layer of the strawberries and liqueur into the base of 4 small glasses top with a layer of yoghurt mixture. Repeat the layers spooning any extra liqueur over the top. Decorate with a sprig of mint to serve.

This classic Scottish Recipe was submitted by :-  
**Moirra Gower. Enjoy!**



## Our Local Businesses:

My name is **Tracey Smith** and I live in Iffin Lane... Back in 2008 the Florist shop in Canterbury where I worked closed, when the owners retired. It was the start of the recession and there weren't any vacancies in local florists, so I decided to set up a small Floristry Business working from the garden shed at home! Christmas was fast approaching and I started off by selling Christmas Table Decorations and Door Wreaths at St Faiths Hall and at a local Farmers Market at Chartham. This was a totally new experience for me and I thoroughly enjoyed working for myself. I started to be asked to do orders for gifts, Basket Arrangements, Bouquets, Handtied's - Then I was given my first Wedding order... followed by a second one the following week later...! Things were looking good!

Since starting up, I've now promoted myself to working in a new workshop - the Garage! The light is just so much better than in the shed and I've got so much more room to work too! This is great when I'm involved in larger functions like Weddings, Christenings, Parties and Funerals. Even my husband Dave has given me a helping hand during really busy periods - cutting the flowers, mossing up door wreaths. Bless him! At times it's all hands on deck!

While I was working at the shop in Canterbury, we were often asked to make up special designer floral tributes. These stretch my artistic talents and I enjoy making them - recently I made a Bottle of Jack Daniels! It had to be fixed to a tray along with a glass of JD and ice! It looked great but I didn't test it! (I don't drink JD!!!)

I've now been trading for almost four years and many of my customers are from or connected to Hilltop, so I would like to take this opportunity to say a very BIG Thank You to you all for your custom - I'm always delighted to help you, and have enjoyed working with your floral requests. If you would like to place an order give me a call my number is **01227 - 478483** Look forward to hearing from you!



## New non-emergency number

Call **101** to:

- report non-urgent crime
- speak to your local officer
- make an enquiry

**101** is available  
24 hours a day,  
seven days a week.  
Each call will never  
cost more than 15p,  
even from mobiles.



### Need immediate help?

If life is in danger or crime is in progress call **999**.

If Deaf or speech impaired text 'Police' and your message to **60066**.

For more information on **101** visit [www.kent.police.uk/101](http://www.kent.police.uk/101)



**Protecting and serving**  
the people of Kent



## Joan Gower's Nature Notes

I am half afraid to say it, but it looks as though summer has arrived. For the last few days fans have been brought into action and the blinds drawn. Let us hope so. While driving, not in the immediate area but close, I saw a hoopoe. Not a bird you could miss seeing and recognising. Reaching for my trusty Mitchell Beasley I read that they are very rare visitors to Britain, but on even rarer occasions have nested here.

During May when we had that short heat wave we drove through all the places I was familiar with as a teenager. I particularly wanted to see if the cowslip bank still existed on the road between Stelling Minnis and Duckpit Lane, and was pleased to see that they are still there and in several fields the top of the banks were also full of them. We drove along the road bordering West Wood between Six Mile Service Station and Mockbeggar pond and the verges on both sides were covered with more primroses than I ever remember, so things are looking up. My daughter drove me down Sandy Lane hoping to see harebells, but it was too early and the hedges had been cut.

Among the rest of the wild flowers massed on the banks was lots of wild garlic. You could smell it through the car window. I don't remember ever seeing that when I was a child. With everything flourishing in May I do hate it when the banks are cut just when the cow parsley is flowering. With the hawthorn in bloom above the little single track roads used to look spectacular. When we moved here there were sweet violets on the bank opposite and the children would come home from school with fists full of squashed wild strawberries to be put in a sandwich with sugar. I know of some places where they still exist, but on this rat run the car is king and the banks must be kept tidy. Some years ago some Alexander appeared on the bank opposite and that flowers earlier than cow parsley and so is slowly taking over, I know there is a lot near the coast but it is now spreading inland. The name for cow parsley in Scotland is Queen Anne's lace, much more appropriate! Another lane we drove along was covered in soil on one side forcing us to drive around it and as we did so it was apparent that it was spoil from a badger sett. We parked a little further along and walked back. There were three large holes. What a place for them to dig. I do know that there are some badgers in the area as a good many years ago we spent an evening sitting on a bank close to a Nature Reserve to observe what was frequenting the well used path. We only spotted a solitary badger but it was a pleasure to see. This sett was right on the edge of the road and I would think the National Farmer's Union, Kent County Council and all the organisations for the protection of wildlife would be very vocal.

There are so many young birds flocking round the feeders all shouting to be fed at the same time that it is hard to identify them all. They simply will not keep still. Every time the adult moves it is followed by the respective young – they look so harassed. The spotted woodpecker that came quite regularly has decided that the nuts in my garden are not so good as elsewhere, and sadly the goldfinches that were coming and going for most of the day so often that I thought they must be feeding young in a nest disappeared one day and never came back, and apart from the odd one or two visits I have not seen many at all. It was so sudden that I think someone must have been cutting the hedge and taken the nest out by accident. The growth in June is so rampant that the hedges are understandably cut to keep them back.

The lady in the close rang me to say she had a good chuckle when she read the bit about the thrush, I just wished I could draw so that I could do a sketch of a mad thrush. A close neighbour rang to say



there was a kestrel circling the gardens and the next day a young hawk flew briefly on to the fence in our garden before leaving. Was the larger one a parent baby sitting?

The banks in New House Lane are now being planted with primroses in several places and look lovely. It was great this year to see that the ground by the phone box has been planted with primroses to join those planted by the children for the millennium along the footpath and all private banks. Almost everyone living in the upper part of Iffin Lane has seen the wild flower bank which was started some years ago with a few cowslips and now contains primroses and bluebells as well. One of the cowslips has seeded in my garden. Thanks a lot. **Joan Gower 01227 459412**

**Family Festival Fun**— with Magic Alan for the children, and Dulcimer's band "Co Co and the Butterfields" for the not so young.



Cheryl's face painting was also a hit!



**Bat Boxes**—Back in late December 2010 to early January 2011 the bat boxes were placed in the woodlands down in the valley across from the hall, their position is still secret and only known to a few. (maybe some of you have seen them?)



We would like to thank all the people for their kind donations back in 2010 for this project to happen. It can take some time for the little visitors to become established in their new home. The boxes have been checked recently and to date we are unsure if new visitors have settled in.

**John Carpenter**



## From your Parish Council



Councillor  
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

### Meetings

St Faiths Hall, NHL

19:30 all welcome

**Monday 10 September 2012**

**Monday 8 October 2012**

**[www.thanington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.thanington-pc.gov.uk)**

Discussion took place with reference to using a photographer to take some pictures for the web site.

It was agreed that starting in 2014, councillors allowances would be capped at £600.00 and the chairman's capped at £1200.00.

Two salt bins are to be ordered - one at the end of Tonford Lane Bridge and the other at the junction with Grays Way.

Repairs have been carried out to the carriageway at Bramley Avenue which had been in a very poor state of repair.

Councillors expressed their annoyance at the change of route for the Olympic torch which meant that it would leave Ada Road Wincheap and then turn off on the slip road for Faversham, rather than coming through Thanington itself. This was most unfair to people who had been looking forward to seeing the torch for the first time, and some for the only time since 1948.

The chairman, cllr Graham Page, reported on a meeting attended concerning possibility of setting up a drama group in Thanington. This was in its early stages as yet.

It was reported that the top of Tonford Lane needs edge repairs to the carriageway outside numbers 1 and 2 Tonford lane.

Concern was expressed over the long grass which has encroached onto the new Riverside Walk - this will be monitored over the summer period.

There are weeds on the pavement at the bottom of Strangers Lane, and indeed also along Strangers Lane itself.

It was noted that the footpath outside 21 Tonford Lane is being covered up with vegetation.

The road surface outside 121 to 133 Ashford road is breaking up. This has already been reported to Kent highways by email.

Date of next meeting - Monday 10th September 2012 at St Faiths Hall, New House Lane - 7.30pm.

There is no meeting in August 2012.

## From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman  
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

Hello everyone, it has been good to see many neighbours over the summer at the various Hilltop functions, and talking to many of you the trustees and committee have gained many ideas about how you wish us to proceed. As ever we are still awaiting the final correspondence regarding the lease but we move on and have decided to have a full structural survey undertaken of the hall. This will enable us to proceed with the renovations once the lease is granted.

However one of our first priorities is to repaint the ladies cloakroom, this will be completed in the very near future.

The weather has been a challenge this summer and after seeking the views of the community we have purchased a new marquee. This is a robust structure and it is possible that we might erect the frame and leave it standing over the summer for use with the cover fitted at our functions. Thank you to all who responded to the email. Another purchase has been an insect zapper, which seems to have done the trick with the wasps that keep appearing in the hall.

Once again Barry's walk will take place again this September on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> all are welcome. It is suitable for children and pushchairs if you don't mind a steep hill! We meet at the hall at 9.45 for a 10am start and aim to arrive at The Compasses at Crundale for 12 o'clock. Where there is food available to buy and a large child friendly garden. We usually have about 50 people walking mostly one way, after lunch many drive home however there is always a trusty group that manage the walk back.

There will be a Parish council meeting at the Hall on Monday September 10<sup>th</sup> everyone is invited to attend. It is your chance to come along and see how a Parish Council Meeting is run.

### Stop Press

Hilltop community has been chosen by the community Taxi Partnership to run a pilot scheme starting September 1st 2012. An information and survey leaflet will be out shortly. Your quick response will be urgently needed to inform how the pilot is delivered. **Cheryl Ives**

## From the City Council



Councillor  
Alex Perkins

Canterbury City

01227 470416

I really don't want to spoil your summer any more than it already has been by the current unsettled climate - but I am afraid the spectre of large scale housing-development on our doorsteps is once again raising its ugly head.

Many of you will remember that a few years ago land between New House Lane & Cockerling Rd was included by the council's leader in the draft version of a housing master-plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF). This was because a housing developer had applied to the council to build thousands of houses there - transforming an idyllic valley into a giant housing estate. Many of you made angry submissions to the council's LDF consultation - though the results of that consultation were never published.

Unfortunately, and I continue to argue against this, the council's development strategy for the district continues to be developer-led. The council don't identify sites suitable for development and then invite plans - they wait for developers to choose the sites they want to develop - and then decide which to allow.

I believe that process is fundamentally flawed. I want future development of our district to be led by local residents on the basis of desirability, sustainability practicality and democratic choice. By allowing developers to take the lead in the process it leaves communities vulnerable. Why should developers control the process by choosing sites where they can make the best profits? It's our city - we should get to decide where new homes are built! The council have already asked developers to submit their wish-lists for large housing developments to what they call the **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)**. Lots of sites are under threat, including agricultural sites stretching south from Cockerling Rd and in Hollow Lane.

You can see for yourself here:

**<http://tinyurl.com/Developersproposals>**

**Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth**  
**01227 761642**