

Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

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Harvest Supper



Chris Ives, event organizer reports on a successful Harvest supper on 8th October.

Can anyone at Hilltop remember a year when we have not had a harvest supper event following the annual harvest service? My records only go back to 1981 and we certainly have



never missed a year since then which must make it our longest standing regular annual event. The tradition continued this year and with thanks to the usual strong team of volunteers, strengthened by some new members, the event was as successful as ever. I also want to record our thanks to New House Farm for their donation of top quality apples and pears, Sarah Guest for the delicious roast pork and Tracey Smith for the stunning flower arrangements. This year the display had the addition of a huge baked wheat sheaf loaf thanks to Colin the head baker at Morrison's superstore. The open square lay-out of the tables that we have been using the past three years continues to prove very popular. Many people have commented how much they enjoyed the evening and they produced a profit of £350.21 to help Hilltop Community Association with its good work. Well done everyone!



Thanington Community Project

The Thanington Community Project is the first stage of an exciting new venture that sees Bright Shadow working in partnership with Claque Theatre with a shared long term goal of producing a community play in Thanington by the end of 2013. Since 1979, Claque Theatre have aimed to empower communities through performance and community plays. Community plays, such as those by Claque, have many social benefits for local communities. Not only can involvement stimulate the individual, but community plays have the power to relieve the sense of alienation that some people experience by creating opportunities to form a sense of collective identity. Stage 1 is the community engagement project,

which aims to work closely and creatively with community groups and individuals in Thanington without to gather and document stories, culminating in a community exhibition celebrating the area. The project covers Thanington Estate, Ashford Road and Hilltop, and is to start in September 2012, and end in December. We are also delighted to be working in partnership with Thanington Neighbourhood Resource and Thanington Youth Club, towards this exciting and rewarding community project. However, we are also seeking new community groups to partner with, so if you are interested in the project, get in touch either via the contact form on this website, or by calling Rhiannon on 07801736695. The Claque team will be at the Thanington Fun Day on the 25th August, where we look forward to meeting members of the community. So, feel free to come and chat, share ideas and help us to name the project!!

Community Treasures
A local history and story project for the Thanington, Ashford Road and Hilltop area

Bright Shadow is a local theatre company that is working in the area on a community history and story project. By 'story' we mean an experience or memory that someone who lives in the area has about it: the memory can be from last week or last decade. Look out for our 3D travelling maps at a location near you! The stories will be presented at our Community Treasures celebratory exhibition (see details below).

This project is running in conjunction with Claque Theatre to research the feasibility of a community play. We hope that the stories we gather will inspire a play that will be written and performed with and for the community, supported by a professional team. Please come along to the events below to find out more, have your say and to become involved.

- 1. Local History Meeting: 7th November, 10.30 am, Hilltop Community Hall**
For anyone who knows about or is interested in the local history of the area: we need your help.
- 2. Community Sounding 1: Monday 12th November, 7.30pm, Hilltop Community Hall**
For anyone who wants to hear more about the project and to tell us what you think about your local community (refreshments provided).
- 3. Community Sounding 2: Wednesday 14th November, 4pm, Thanington Community Centre**
Same as above.
- 4. Community Treasures exhibition: Saturday 8th December, 2-4pm, Ashford Road Community Centre**
A showcase of the stories and memories gathered through the project.
- 5. Public Meeting: Saturday 8th December, 4-5pm, Ashford Road Community Centre**
Community vote on whether a community play project will happen in the area.

Contact: Katy and Rhiannon
info@brightshadow.org.uk
07823697697

Claque
bright shadow

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:

Community Project Meeting Hall

Mon 12th Nov
We need your support

HCA Main Committee Meeting Hall

Wed Nov 14h at 19:30

Trustees meeting

Wed Nov 14h at 21:30

Polling Station

Thurs 15th Nov 6:15

Wine & Wisdom

Sat 24th Nov 19:30
Contact Roger Cheeseworth
To book

Christmas Fair

Sat 1st Dec 11am

Bingo

Tue 11th Dec 19:30

New Year's Eve Community Party Night

31st Dec 20:00
Contact John Richardson/HCA
sponsored event

Remember you can book the hall for your own use. Just contact Terry Maple on 01227 761329

AT LAST! Affordable Public Transport for Hilltop Residents.

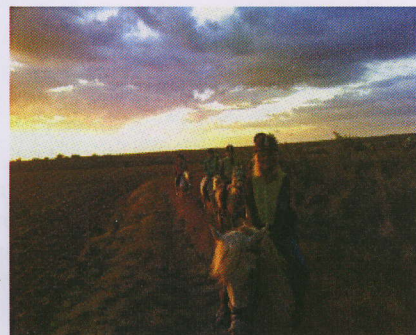
Make the most of this opportunity "Use it or lose it" only £2 single / £4 return per person Following the active involvement of local residents Christine Bates/ Nancy Guest/Olga Hodges /Cheryl Ives & Betty Wallis, Hilltop Community was chosen as the pilot scheme for the Community Transport initiative. A questionnaire was delivered to all residents in New House Lane, New House Close and Iffin Lane and the responses informed the structure of the pilot. By consensus the following was agreed:

- Shuttle service from Hilltop Community area to Watling Street in Canterbury City Centre
- Service to operate on two days: **Wednesdays & Fridays.**
- 3 pick up points: Nancy's Farm Road, NHL/Opposite St Faith's Hall, NHL/Iffin Lane-lay-by
- Pick up time **10.00am**. Return pick up time **2.00pm** from Watling Street in Canterbury.
- Return fare: £4 per person; Single Fare: £2 per person. (NB. this is a subsidized fare).
- Advanced telephone booking system to ensure place.

To Use Service:1. Telephone Longley's on 01227 710777 :2. State which trip you are booking for and at what time (for example: A return journey on the Hilltop Community Taxi from St Faith's Hall, Wednesday at 10.00am):3. Give the telephonist your name:4. The telephonist will then put your name on the outward and return booking and will number them 1- 8 so that he/she will be able to tell you whether you have a seat or not. If you change your mind, please call and cancel the seat so that it may be sold to someone else;5. You may call to book that place at any time of the day or night and can call as late as 30 minutes before departure time.

The Paddocks

began officially in 2002 with funding from Sport England for the new project. The Charity was formed with the efforts of many people, some of whom are no longer here. I would like to mention Daphne and James Page formally of Iffin Lane; they were paramount in the successful beginnings of The Charity. We are formed to serve those people who could not access the sport because of health or social reasons. We can serve 10 % of local people but places are short and many people locally ask for lessons but we cannot always help, as our main priority is with those that fall within our criteria of low income or social needs. We are funded by grants and donations and not for profit; this means we put all our funds into the young people's education, facilities and sporting achievements. Sometimes we really struggle, when every penny has gone and the ponies need shoeing or feeding and no funds are coming in, luckily it is a labour of love! When I started the centre for troubled youth it grew so fast I didn't know how to cope at first! But then things settled down and my husband and I learnt how to expand and create a well run club for all to enjoy. We serve local schools where children are not in full time education and provide an education here with the help of Canterbury College. Canterbury college work with us by delivering the work based diplomas to our young people. We often have young people with learning difficulties and offer them support through our volunteer based staff but not all our students have learning needs, 10 % are local youth. Our volunteer based staffs are made up of many people of all ages, some past participants and some local people with time to spare. All my family work here in their spare time and we do not charge rent for the land and buildings we provide the use of. Volunteers here are highly regarded and recently Elena Wilse (former NHL resident) was runner up for the Canterbury Sports young coach of the year award. Elena has worked as a volunteer for the paddocks for 4 years and is only 16 years old. She teaches disabled children and coaches our young trainee volunteers for competitions. The paddocks young volunteers and participants often compete locally with great successes. We ran 2 camps this year a senior camp and a junior camp. Both were great fun, swimming in our pool, spooky woods and games with camping at night. My shower was a swamp! Katie Flay from Tonford lane Thannington is a trustee here and was formally a young volunteer, she was runner up in the unsung hero award for her contribution to volunteering here and Kerrie Bundock (Tonford lane) is a trustee/ former young volunteer. Kerrie became interested in mental health through our work here and studied as a psychologist. She now works in Cambridge as an assistant psychologist, but still volunteers. The Paddocks is open to applications from young people aged 14 to 18 years to train as a volunteer email me if you wish to apply and I hope to meet some of you at our fundraising event on the 21st December. For more info on us visit www.thepaddocks.org Jean and Paul Sharratt



Joan Gower's Nature Notes

Since I was taken into hospital as an emergency, staying for three weeks of tests, examinations and procedures while the local nurses who had been caring for me at home, social services and the hospital doctors fought over whether I was fit to come home or not, after a week in respite care, three days in hospital for another operation and two weeks in a nursing home, I felt completely out of touch with anything local! Thank you all for your good wishes, cards and visits if you could track down where I was at any particular time. Some regulars have called in to say that they have seen what in a normal month would hardly merit a mention, such as a beautiful jay sitting on her gate surveying the garden for some time, even better a sparrow hawk sitting on her bird box. As she went to find her camera to get a perfect photograph it showed up 'battery low'. Looking for a spare battery the hawk sat there patiently waiting until she found it whereupon it immediately flew away! A great picture of a hawk pinning down a pigeon this week, but the sparrow hawk being interrupted lost its grip and the pigeon got away. I think that the birds in my garden were pleased when I came home and helpers put up feeders, the only thing missing are the goldfinches, I have not seen one yet, but I am very slow and do not spend all my time looking out of the window. A neighbour said that she had only seen a few female pheasants recently, they very rarely come into my garden. Driving along the roads on Saturday the colours were fantastic even though the sun was only weak through the clouds, the field maple is always wonderful bright yellow and lasts a long time and when there is dogwood with it the contrast is amazing, the hedge along the bypass in Merton Lane is especially good. It was great to come home to Iffin lane being lovely and smooth. Thanks to our parish councillors. This is the third year that I have had to miss the Harvest Service and Supper at the hall through ill health and I do hope that next year I am able to come. Everyone I knows enjoys it. I hear that the hall has been redecorated and with a bit of luck I shall be able to go to next month's coffee morning. While I

was institutionalised the bus began to take passengers into Canterbury and I have heard that while usage is low it is regular on Wednesday and Friday. Let us hope that this continues and that it has sufficient support to keep it going. Iffin land is a difficult

matter as there is almost nowhere for the bus to pull in and some of us are quite badly disabled and cannot walk far. If I needed it in Canterbury I could not walk far with my frame. Strange things have been happening, probably at night as nobody has seen anything. A Thanington dog has been losing his squeaky toys, nothing strange there but they have been discovered behind the church. Even more extraordinary, much closer to home a neighbour lost a pair of brand new garden gloves that he had left out ready for use. A few days later looking out of his window he saw a bedraggled lump on his lawn and on going to investigate found the gloves returned minus several fingers! That's all for this time. Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Joan.



Xmas fair - We need your support

**Saturday 1 December 11.00
til 13:00**

Please remember to return
your raffle stubs to
30 New House Lane by
1st Dec 2012—your help with
this is appreciated



**2011 Christmas Draw
at 13:00**



Pantry Stall
If you can donate any
home cooked items
please bring on the day at
10:00



Tombola Prizes
If you have anything suitable for
a prize donations to Marion at
69 New House Lane please.

Tea and coffee available

Rubbish on New House Lane

Some of you may have seen the notices on the lane welcoming our visitors who come to work in the summer and asking for their support in keeping the lane free from rubbish by using the bins. I hope you have also noticed their response to our polite request. There is now no unsightly rubbish strewn about and we can enjoy the usual seasonal changes without food and drink debris all over the place. I hope that the rest of us will now follow their lead in helping to keep the lane tidy.

Open Day at The Paddocks

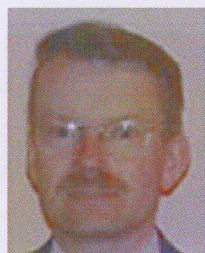
21st December 10am –1pm

All residents and families welcome

Turn up for pony rides for a donation; cakes and mince pies & other Christmas fare will be for sale

We will host a fancy dress to choose the best fairy or Santa Claus and award rosettes to the winner. There is parking in our parking area, toilets and first aid are on site. Profits will be donated to HCA. Hilltop volunteers on the day welcome!

From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

The Chairman, Cllr Graham Page, advised that following the resignation of Cllr Pamela Blackman, a notice of vacancy had been posted on the North Ward notice board. CCC had not received a request from ten electors for an election, so the post could be filled by co-option. There were five electors who had expressed an interest in the vacancy, and it was agreed that Mr Adrian Baker should be invited to join the Parish Council as a co-opted member. Pam Blackman had been a councillor since 1986, and vice chairman from 1994 until her retirement. She was also a long time member of the W.I. And was on the ARCA committee. Pam was a very quick and efficient chair of meetings so was popular in that role. Her memories of Thanington Without were always useful at Parish Council meetings and her cake at our Christmas meeting will be sadly missed.

A representative from Claque came to the meeting and explained that they had been producing community plays for 33 years, and wanted to hold several meetings in Thanington to see if it was something the community wanted to get involved with. A representative from Bright Shadow reported that she had met with Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre and Hilltop Community Association. It was stressed that they did not need financial support from the Parish Council. The Chairman had also met with two representatives from Bright Shadow recently, and said in principle the Parish Council would back the project and help set up meetings with relevant groups.

The white lines by junction of New House Lane, Iffin and Hollow Lane have now been repaired. Request for Iffin Lane to be designated as a quiet area have not been successful.

The Chairman referred to a number of meetings he had attended on behalf of the council recently, including on 12th September the launch of the Community Taxi from Hilltop to the city centre and back Cllr Terry Davis had also attended.

On 20th September the Chairman had attended the presentation of the Assurance Quality Youth Work, Bronze Award to the TNRC Youth Club, and mentioned the PC had donated over £7000 the previous year to stop the youth club from folding when both CCC and KCC had reduced their funding.

Date of next meeting **Monday 12th November 2012 at 7.30 pm - location ARCA Hall.**



From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

Hello everyone, the year is now coming to a close and although Hilltop has not yet secured the lease we believe we are almost there. The charity commission is reviewing the final documents.

The hall has now got a new coat of paint inside and with the curtains back up looks much better.

Chris and Cheryl along with their group of helpers did a fantastic job with the harvest supper and many thanks to them all and the local suppliers. They raised a magnificent £350.

December will see the Christmas fair on the 1st, you will soon be receiving some raffle tickets through your door and this year there are more cash prizes. David Swain's very popular Xmas bingo is back on Tuesday 11th December. The October bingo was well attended and raised £140, thank you David.

I would like to welcome the new residents to Hilltop, the community diary of events is on display at the village hall notice board and available on our website along with lots of information about Hilltop and the parish. If there is anything residents would like included on the website e.g. Recommendations for tradesmen, a good restaurant, and pictures around Hilltop then please email them to Roger Cheeseworth at, webmaster@hilltopca.co.uk

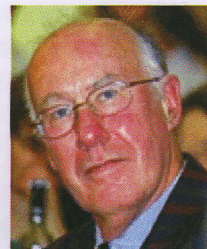
Library Arrangements following hall Decoration

The hall is now looking smarter with its fresh coat of paint and we have reduced the books in the library to encourage a more dynamic use of this resource. If there are books there that you want to read help yourself no need to sign them out, pass them on or bring them back when you have finished with them. If you want to contribute books you have read and enjoyed feel free to add them to the shelves.



If you would like to send Christmas Greetings to Hilltop friends fill in the forms at the Christmas fair or request from editor, each message will cost £10.00 with artwork, or double entries £20.00.

From the City Council



Councillor
Nick Eden-green
Canterbury City

01227 470416

The local plan has been somewhat delayed but is likely to be published for consultation early next year. Residents may remember the earlier Local Development Framework which was effectively a fore-runner of the local plan. This featured a now infamous illustration of two large blobs over South Canterbury indicating several thousand homes in the New House Lane/Hollow Lane/Cockering Road area. I fear the threat has not gone away. Personally I have always favoured major redevelopment and economic renewal going to Sturry/Hersden with associated major road and transport improvements. I am continuing to press hard for this.

The Parish Council and the Hilltop Association are working with the Canterbury Society and their ideas are also against major development in South Canterbury so residents can be assured that their local residents association, parish councillors, district councillors and county councillor are all working in unison to stop our local fields from being concreted over.

I accept that young people need an affordable home. So do many older people so I accept we need more houses. It's just that they must be built in the right place!

SUDOKU no 2

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Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth