



Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

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Trustees

Jan Armishaw

Richard Armishaw

Roger Cheeseworth

Trisha Cheeseworth

Sarah Guest

Terry Maple

Fiona Roche

Dave Sackett

John Richardson

Hilltop Annual General Meeting

7:30pm on Wednesday 6th March

This is your chance to have your say, meet friends or make some new ones. Free refreshments! Hilltop is your community do use it. This community has always relied on a small band of dedicated volunteers to keep it going, but without the support of the community St Faiths stands little chance of surviving. Our Chairman says

"Our village hall is the only focal point at Hilltop community and we need to keep it going, do we need a complete rethink over how it is utilized?"

In 2000 the church thought it should be condemned but for a huge community effort it would have been sold as a building plot."

New families have moved in, why not come and make some new friends and see what we have to offer?

Open Day at The Paddocks



On 21st December 10am - 1pm the Paddocks put on an Open Day, all residents and families were welcomed to turn up for pony rides for a donation; cakes and mince pies & other Christmas fare were for sale any profits for the Hilltop Community. Unfortunately on this occasion it was still term time and so many of the local children were still in school. However the few who did go had a great time and for some it was their first experience of riding. The quality of the session offered was very impressive and the children were thrilled with their experience. If this were to be offered in a school holiday it would be a worthwhile opportunity for local families to enjoy giving their children a new experience and also getting a better understanding of what the charity is trying to achieve.

SUDOKU no 3

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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

Second Weds 19:30

Second Thurs 10:00

Coming Events:

HCA Main Committee

Meeting Hall

Wed Feb 27th at 19:30

Trustees meeting

Wed Feb 27th 20:30

HCA AGM

Wed Mar 6th 19:00

Easter Service

Wed April 3rd 18:00

Wine & Wisdom

Sat 20th April 19:30

Contact Roger Cheeseworth

To book

Sign Language lessons

Thurs Mar 7th/14th/21st/

Apr 4th 18:00

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



Have you ever
thought about hav-
ing a go at sign lan-
guage?

BSL Taster group: 5 sessions on a
Thurs eve from 6.30-7.30 at St Faiths
Hall starting Thursday 7 March



To register in-
terest, contact
Lyn Gregory on
07763347424

Joan Gower's Nature Notes

Now that the snow has gone and various small bulbs are in flower daily one could almost think it was already spring if it were not for the biting winds that almost cuts your fingers off when you venture out, but it will not be long. The birds have been collecting nesting material and fighting over nesting sites for some weeks now. The editor of this magazine has had almost all the birds in her garden including two robins, a sure sign that the nesting season has begun.

Firstly to the sightings of jays which have now become almost common-place. I understand from the Gazette that the beech mast and acorn crops failed last year and they have had to look elsewhere for their food. There were some wonderful photographs of jays in the paper, including one in a snow covered tree. I have had several in my garden which is certainly unusual. They have sat by the feeding station making failed attempts to get at the nuts. I put some nuts amongst the food I distribute on the lawn, but of course they had all gone before they dared to come back. There is certainly no shortage of magpies. There were five at one time squabbling and fighting over the food/ It is certainly spectacular to see them doing so, the colours are so wonderful. I do not know what it was that tore the net off the large fat ball and deposited it on the ground, but I suspect a squirrel, but once again the magpies found it and I watched it disappearing before my eyes. It was during the snow, so I am afraid I left it where it was.

It is surprising what we can see from our cars. One day driving down towards Hollow Lane a black cat ran across the road and it was not until it was almost across the road that we could see a squirrel's tail dragging out between its back legs. There have been one or two sightings of weasels crossing the road and one was soon running along a neighbour's wall.

I have several feeders, one in particular with niger to attract goldfinches. It has done so in a parsimonious fashion, I am lucky if I see one or two a day, but having occasion to go along the Red Road there was a house with a great many feeders and so many goldfinches I could not

believe it. My daughter gets more than I do and siskin as well. I am happy with what I get, particularly the sparrow hawk and the beautiful male chaffinch and the small blue, great and long tailed tits. What am I complaining about? The snow may have been a nuisance but it was a lovely sight. On Sunday when it snowed all day and most people did not have to go to work it looked great. Several neighbours rang to see if there was anything I needed if they went down to the shop and one side of me cleared my steps and

the path between us and the other side put down rock salt and on my drive as well as his. Another even walked up the road with something for me to eat in all that snow. We are a great neighbourhood here. When the snow had gone a dog walker told me of unexpectedly coming across a hazel bush which had thawed out as the snow went and had re-frozen with a hard frost that evening. The catkins which were fully out were encased in ice. There is certainly no shortage of magpies. There were five at one time squabbling and fighting over the food/ It is certainly spectacular to see them doing so, the colours are so wonderful. I do not know what it was that tore the net off the large fat ball and deposited it on the ground, but I suspect a squirrel, but once again the magpies found it and I watched it disappearing before my eyes. It was during the snow, so I am afraid I left it where it was. That's all for this time. Next time it will be summer and everything in the garden will be flourishing.

All the best, Joan. 41492





KEY:

- Site boundary
- Existing & proposed roads
- Existing footpaths
- Potential residential
- Potential mixed use centre
- Potential employment
- Potential primary school location
- Potential park & ride/business
- Managed farmland
- Green areas including SUDS & areas for biodiversity enhancement
- Hedgerows, trees, structural planting and woodland
- View corridors to Canterbury Cathedral
- CG Cricket green
- PF Playing fields
- * New Thanington Square
- Larkey Valley Wood - SSSI

What do you think of this plan?

Join us in ensuring we get the best out of any development. What are your priorities?

- A view
- Preserving green space
- Better facilities

At the moment this is a publicity flier, but together if development is inevitable we can at least help to shape it.

Hall Hire Charges

Private Parties and Functions:

HCA Residents: £10:00 per hour

Non-Residents: £12:50 per hour

Security and damage Deposit

£20:00 CASH

Returned after 7 days if no damage, cleaning required etc.

Business / Exhibition Uses:

Details on Hire Charges available on application.



Hilltop Neighbourhood Watch

This is a national scheme run locally by the clerk to the Thanington With-out Parish Council. When every a Item of interest is brought to our attention by the Kent Trading Standards an email is sent around using the HCA mail@hilltopca.co.uk email address.

If your are not on this email list you are missing out on some very important warnings. To get on the list just email

clerk@thanington-pc.gov.uk and put Neighbourhood watch in the subject space and you will be added to the list. Your email address is never shown on any emails so it will not cause any spam.

If you are unsure just send an email we will check and if you are on the list you will receive a confirmation email to re-assure you.

Your email address will not be shared with any other body and will be treated as confidential the only emails you will receive are Neighbourhood Watch emails and HCA Trustees emails about events in the hall and important information about your community.

From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

From the Kent County Council



Cllr Martin Vye

Kent County
Council

01227 831820

Another busy year

There have been numerous potholes and malfunctioning street lights, as well as planning applications to consider.

Any faults with street lights, potholes road surface etc are forwarded to Kent Highways and allocated an individual number - thus it is possible to keep a careful check on each problem and follow it through to a satisfactory conclusion.

The Parish Council supplied a new litter bin next to the Ashford Road bus shelter as well as one for Thanington Road. Salt bins were provided for the end of Tonford Lane and the junction with Grays Way.

During the course of the year vice-chairman, Pamela Blackman announced her resignation from the council as she was moving away from the area. Pam had served on the council since 1986, and had been vice-chairman since 1994. Her contribution has been immense. She is succeeded as vice chairman by Cllr Ian Bain.

All Parish minutes dating back to 1899 have been digitised by the clerk, Roger Cheeseworth, and are available on the parish council website. They provide a fascinating look back over the history of the parish, and many of the problems we face today were being discussed many years ago.

If you get the opportunity, do have a look at our website - its user friendly and packed full of interesting information about Thanington.

The Parish Council is a member of the Friends of Hambrook Marsh, and the South Canterbury Alliance - which is against unreasonable large scale development within Canterbury area.

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642

Dear everyone,

Looking forward into 2013 we are hoping for some better weather, the previous months have been bitterly cold with the frost and snow keeping us all in.

There has been little activity in and around Hilltop; however David Swain ran a very successful bingo, with our table winning the majority of the prizes it seemed! David also ran a charity bingo at the Thanington resource centre attended by Roger and myself in aid of Demelza house and raised £300.

The progress with the lease is still on going; unfortunately this is the third AGM with no news. The church solicitors are governing the pace and in October they were investigating some issues the charity commission had with the final wording. When there is any news we will let you all know. Obtaining the lease will give the community the independence to develop the hall. If you have any ideas for the future please come along to a committee meeting or the AGM and let the Trustees know your thoughts.

Main Committee meetings are open to everyone they are attended by the Trustees and anyone from hilltop community is welcome. Our village hall is the only focal point at Hilltop community and we need to keep it going, do we need a complete re-think over how it is utilized?

In 2000 the church thought it should be condemned but for a huge community effort it would have been sold as a building plot.

The next social event at the hall is Wine and Wisdom April 20th; ring or email Roger to book a table. The hall is also open every Friday evening, just a drop in meet up, chat bring your own refreshments usually from 8pm.

The first bit of good news that I can give you as county councillor is that the County Council has agreed to freeze its share of the Council Tax for the coming financial year. KCC's share is 70% of what you pay in this local tax, so that is significant, and welcome in these belt-tightening times.

Government has reduced the amount it gives to councils, and that makes their job in providing services more difficult. However, KCC got into serious difficulties with its children's services before the cuts began to bite. There was a failure of management, and the inspectors said a number of services were inadequate. Although I am an opposition member I have committed myself to helping to make sure children and families and schools are properly supported---and that takes up a lot of my time. I am not sure the administration have got it right even now. At the Council meeting when the budget was set I proposed switching money from the millions that are spent on publicity to giving support to voluntary organisations which do such sterling work in helping families to avoid crisis. Unfortunately the majority voted us down!

Locally the service that interests most residents is highways and transport. I was delighted that Canterbury Community Transport got off to a good start last autumn, and I want to pay tribute to Charlotte Maccaul and Cheryl Ives especially. I was glad to put in over £3,000, from my councillor's highways fund to cover expenses during the trial period. I hope the community taxi will flourish---but please do tell neighbours about it, so that it can be sustained.

There has been a big drive to get roads mended. Unfortunately winter always makes the situation worse. You have a doughty champion in Roger, who pursues KCC Highways to get potholes and other damage mended. You can also let me know as well.

Finally, the County Council has set up a scheme called Lorry Watch. The idea is that local people can report big trucks using inappropriate narrow country roads, and KCC officers will use their influence to persuade haulage firms not to do so. Do let me know if you see any such big trucks coming along your roads.