

Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE.

On the 22nd of November, we held our Hilltop Christmas Fayre. With bells ringing, music playing and lots of laughter and applause, Father Christmas arrived in his sleigh, driven by Errol the Elf. The reindeer were



unfortunately exhausted after the long journey from Lapland and had to rest, so Errol stepped in to help. They gave sweets to the children who then went into the Grotto to speak to Father Christmas and receive a gift. After seeing all the children individually, Father Christmas and Errol had to be on their way to check on the reindeer and then go on to visit many other children. Our thanks go out to them for kindly attending our Fayre. The stalls all looked lovely and colourful and were loaded with goods, games, cakes, Tombola, floral art and, of course, refreshments. The Christmas Draw with its wonderful prizes took place at the end of the morning. There was a



lovely warm friendly atmosphere and it was extremely well attended which resulted in a marvellous total of £1148 towards renovations and repairs to your Hall. Many thanks to the community for your generosity and support for this event and also for the help and hard work of the helpers. **Carole Davis Reporting.** Thanks to all your wonderful support this year we made a grand total of £1147.51 at the Christmas Fayre with £713 coming from the raffle.

Pictures -from the top

- Father Christmas and his elfin friend
- Daisy meets Father Christmas
- Carole and Jan enjoy a joke
- Cake stall ladies Jackie and Marilyn
- Betty and Carol



Diary of Events

Weekly Events:

Friday Open House
Community Evening

Monthly Events:

Craft & Chat afternoon
Second Tuesday of month
14.00 all welcome

Coffee Morning
Last Thursday of month
10:30 just come along

Wellness Clinic
Wed Feb 11th 10.00 & 19.30
Wed Mar 11th 10:00 & 19:30
Wed Apr 8th 10:00 & 19:30

Coming Events:

HCA Main Committee
Wed Mar 18th at 19:30
Trustees meeting
Wed Mar 18th 20:00

HCA AGM
Tue Mar 24th 19:30

Church Services
Hall Evening Service
Sun Feb 1st at 18:00
Sun Mar 1st at 18:00
Sun April 5th at 18:00

Beer & Brains
Sat Feb 28th 19:30

Easter Fair
Sat 28th Mar 11am

Wine & Wisdom
Sat Apr 4th at 19:30

Hilltop News deadline
Thu 23rd April 2015
To Trisha

To book the hall just contact Terry
Maple on 01227 761329

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.

CRAFT LADIES SOCIAL AFTERNOON. Instead of their December meeting "The Crafty Girls" went for a lovely Christmas Lunch at Elham Valley Tea Rooms. The tables were decorated attractively and the food was very good indeed. Plenty of chat and laughter filled the room, all seemed to enjoy the trip. Thanks to our volunteer drivers, without whom we couldn't have got there. It was a good start to the Christmas Festivities. If you are interested in coming along to a craft afternoon, it is held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Hilltop Community Hall, between 2 and 4pm, bring any handicraft or simply come and chat and enjoy the company, it is very much an open house, "do as you please" set up. For more information you can ring Carole on 01227 451485.



Easter Fair

**At HILLTOP COMMUNITY HALL
NEW HOUSE LANE**

SATURDAY 28th MARCH 2015, 11am to 1pm

STALLS, Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Plants, Handicrafts and Refreshments

COMPETITIONS, Easter Bonnet / Hat, Adults, £1 per entry, Children 50p per entry

PRIZES FOR WINNERS

Entry forms available from Cheryl Ives, 01227 760707

There will also be other "Try your luck" games for children and adults with prizes

Please come along and make it a super event for everyone

By the Way.....

- We have vacancies for **four voluntary hall cleaners**. Can you give approximately 30 minutes of your time every 6 weeks to clean the HCA hall? You would be paired with another person. If you are interested, please, contact Chris Ives on 01227 760707 or email Christopher.Ives99@googlemail.com



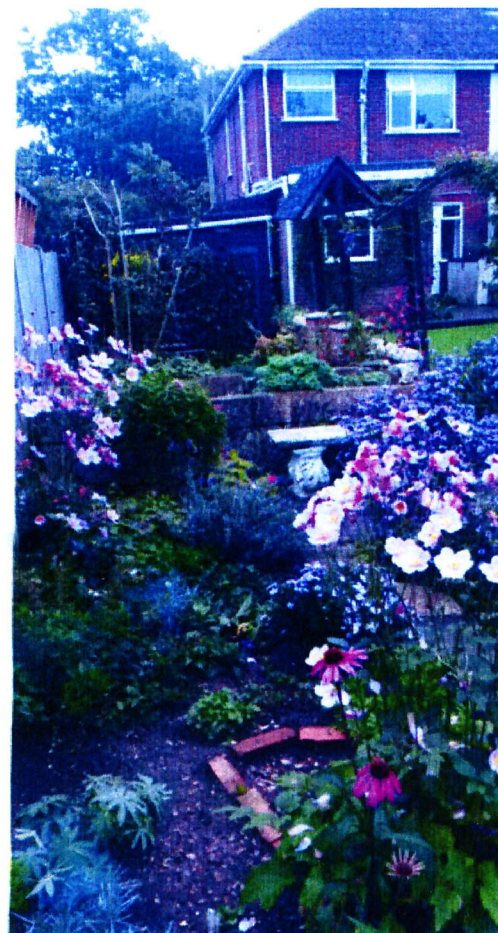
- **A photographic amble Sunday April 26th at 2.30pm** Lyn and Jan invite you to come with us on a photographic amble, weather permitting. We will be meeting outside St Faith's Hall at the above time. If the weather is inclement we will go to a tea shop and talk photos. If this is the case please bring a couple of your favourite photos with you to share with us. Please contact Lyn Gregory on 454614 or Jan Armishaw on 761204 if you want to know more.



- **Hall chairs** –For some time those using the hall have been asked to put away the chairs after use as the monthly Wellness Clinic needed the hall clear. This has raised some health and safety issues and it has been decided by the trustees that it is more sensible to leave 8 chairs at each side of the hall so that 16 are always available for use. They will be removed for the Wellness clinic on the days they have a session.
- **To assist those using the tables** a **photograph** of how the tables fit into the stands will be attached to each stand.



It is now winter and still incredibly mild for this time of year, the other morning I opened up all the doors and let the breeze air the house, only for an hour but great. I now have clumps of snowdrops all over the garden, one of which is next to a pink geranium which is still struggling to produce a few flowers. When we moved in here there were six golden winter aconites without fail. Then one year they never showed up, so I bought a pack in the garden centre. They flowered the next year, but never again. For several years I bought a hundred from a nursery, but none ever flowered more than the first year. Sadly I gave up. Daffodils are shooting through and I expect that by the time you read this some of them will be opening. Have you noticed that most of the spring flowers are yellow? Even the early flowering daisy doricum are yellow. Last year I bought some species tulips. Some scarlet that I can see from my French window and again some yellow which were absolutely fantastic. The flowering cherry is also in full bloom, anything that flowers in the winter is welcome. Unfortunately a lovely viburnum which has lovely scented pink flowers is trying its hardest to die. Going back to the last issue the lack of blackbirds is still apparent in my garden, there are one male and one female. No young. Let's hope they escape the sparrow hawk which puts in an appearance now and again and breed this spring. Feeding the birds I put out a whole very large apple and to my amazement the next morning almost half of it was gone. Has anyone seen a pterodactyl around lately? I still have very few goldfinches, but the woodpecker has been around a lot. They are beautiful. While I was in Ashford hospital my daughter drove along the downs and on two consecutive days saw buzzards. When I came out she took me along and would you believe that we saw one being mobbed by a crow. I don't think that I have ever gone out specifically looking for something and it put in an appearance. Buzzards have been seen there by a neighbour who also thought they saw a red kite. They could not be sure, but wouldn't it be great? I know that they are now quite common in some parts of the country and personally I think they are so much more beautiful than buzzards and having seen them in captivity I was surprised at how large they are. I have just sat down again after a week and it is now quite cold with temperatures in the minus mark on the weather forecast. We have certainly had several quite hard frosts, but still the red geraniums in the tubs outside the front door are in bud and trying to open. A small fuchsia has one flower surviving while the one next to it has house. And finally, last autumn when I became housebound and was bemoaning the fact I was unable to see it, my daughter's partner went round and photographed what looked like him and I chose five. He then asked me to tell him which one I liked best and having told him I managed to get to my daughter's for lunch. Gifts were given after the meal and lots ready to go home and I was presented with one last gift, the opening of which was recording the garden made into a jigsaw. That was really lovely and having finished it to-day winning it on the floor at one point. What a lovely idea. That's all for now and its everything to look forward to with the days increasing gradually. Having had so much mild weather let's hope we don't have too much snow. Looks lovely and wonderful for children, but chaos on roads. Hope to be with you in the late spring. Thanks to all those that have helped me over the last months, I am grateful. Let me know if you have anything interesting. **Joan 451492.**



Weather report from Hilary Spon
2014 SUMMARY :



Maximum temp (18 July) 29.9°C
Minimum temp -2.5°C (29 Dec.)
Maximum rain-fall in one day 31.1mm (28 June)
Total rainfall 917.8mm
2014 was wetter than 2013 (by 210mm). However, what I noted about 2014 was the high humidity throughout much of July.

**In Loving Memory and to Celebrate the Life of
Reg Oulton**



10th December 1931 to 26th December 2014

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Reg Oulton one of our long term residents of the Hilltop community. His funeral was on 14th of January 2015.



"Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die, I have sent up my gladness on wings, to be lost in the blue sky. I have run and leapt with the rain, I have taken the wind to my breast. My cheek like a drowsy child to the face of earth I have pressed. Because I have loved life. I shall have no sorrow to die"

Excerpt from the poem by Amelia Josephine Burr, read by Laura Lee. R.I.P.

Month	Max. Temp °C	Mean Max. °C	Min. temp. °C	Mean Min. °C	Days of rain	Max. rain in 1 day in mm.	Total rain in month in mm.
Oct.	20.4	16.1	4.1	10.3	16	22.6	87.5
Nov.	17.2	11.2	0.5	6.6	19	21.9	125.7
Dec.	12.3	7.7	-2.5	2.5	12	24.7	64.3
Total for quarter							277.5

From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

A public meeting on 24th November at the ARCA hall was well attended. This concerned proposals for a giant housing development from Cockering road to new house lane and down to Wincheap and Thanington, and would create what the developers term as "New Thanington". The meeting had been sanctioned and supported by the Ashford Road Community Association, Hilltop Community Association, Iffin, Merton and New house Lanes' action groups Nicholas Church, Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Thanington Without Parish Council and the Wincheap society. Quinn estates plan 12 zones of new housing, new primary school, open spaces and a park and ride. There would be:

- Up to 800 new homes - including affordable, up to 80,000 sq ft of grade A offices, small scale retail, café, restaurant, pub - up to 10,000 sq ft.
- New primary school set in 4.9 acres. Care home and elderly infirm centre to cater for up to 80 patients.
- Leisure uses.
- 600 space park and ride.
- Community facilities
- Parkland.

Great concern was expressed over traffic that this would generate. The development would be built in phases, probably over a number of years. Cllr Graham Page, as chairman of Thanington Without Parish Council spoke out strongly against the proposal. He said that the pc had previously opposed large scale development in the parish. The road network is totally unsuitable. Historically we had opposed the golf course application for Cockering road and the traffic from that would have been just the tip of the iceberg compared with what could come! The draft Canterbury district local plan had been published in June 2013, and was to set out the vision for the area up to 2031. mention had been made in the draft of improving the quality of life for all people in all areas of the district. How would this development improve the quality of life for the existing residents of Thanington? In his opinion the development should not be allowed to happen now or in the future. The parish council had arranged for a number of posters and 400 flyers to help publicise the meeting. It is likely that there will be a further public meeting in early 2015 once a traffic study has been done, and Quinn estates have answered various questions that have been raised. This particular area is not currently included in the draft local plan which has been submitted, but an appeal can be made to the inspectorate for it to be included if the developers decide to do so. Cont.....

From HCA Trustees



Chairman
Sarah Guest

01227 765703

HCA "HILLTOP PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2015"

Photographic Competition for Amateurs

Now in its second year and we would really welcome your participation! The categories are :-

Adults: "REFLECTIONS" £2-50 per photograph. Size 7 x 5 inches.

Children: "ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL" £1-00 per photograph. Size 7 x 5 inches. There will be a prize for the winners and certificates for all entries, presented at Hilltop Community Centre on **Saturday 24 October 2015, at 2pm to 4pm.** Refreshments on sale and an exhibition of the entries.

Conditions of entry:

- As many entries as you like, accompanied with the appropriate fee.
- All photographs submitted must be taken by the person entering the competition.
- Any friends or family of Hilltop residents are also welcome to enter.
- Please state your name, address and category on a label and attach to the reverse side of the photograph
- More information can be obtained from :-

CAROLE DAVIS 01227 451485.

CHERYL IVES 01227 760707.

- An entry form can be obtained from either Carole or Cheryl.
- Completed entry forms must be submitted with photographs and fee.
- Closing Date :- **Monday 21 September 2015.**
- All entries must be taken to **HILLTOP COMMUNITY HALL** between **5.30pm - 7.30pm**

Once there is any further news, I will update you all in a future hilltop newsletter. Graham Page.

Happy New Year.

As we go into 2015 we are looking forward to hall projects and events, and repairing or replacing the roof is a high priority. However I think the hall is looking a lot more loved than it used to. If you feel there is an issue or repair needed please email a trustee or come along to one of the general committee meetings and have your say. The 100 club is at full strength please can you ensure all subs are paid, if not paid by the January draw we cannot include your number but a reminder will be sent, we will reallocate the number for the February draw if we have not heard from you. The income from the 100 club really does help HCA.

Many of you may have seen the surveys across on the fields and HIMN are keeping a close eye on developments, and any news will be forwarded to the community a.s.a.p. Please find the time to attend any meetings if you think this green space is worth protecting. Myself and the Trustees would like to thank you all for your generous support in 2014 here's looking forward to 2015.

If you have an item for discussion or approval by the trustees, please could you ensure it is given to one of the Trustees in writing ideally a week before the next meeting.

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642

100club@hilltopca.co.uk

100 Club Winners November, December, January

Prize	November	December	January
£50	J.McMillan	T.Maple (£100)	T.Smith
£30	B&G Strandvik	M.Hopkins (£60)	R&A Withall
£20	B.Troope	G.Morgan (£40)	B.Drew
£10	M.Hopkins	T.Smith (£20)	M.Hillman