



# Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

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## What a Scorcher!



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Bonny Tillotson



We seem to have had a wonderful year for all the flora and fauna in our area this year. We had

numerous birds to our feeding station in the spring and the pleasure of seeing the babies as we went into summer. The fields have looked spectacular with rape, barley and wheat, most of which was harvested when I was away. I walk around them each day and I hope that whatever changes in our community we can always have access to this lovely countryside.

These two orchids grow each year in the park at the bottom of the lane. This year they appeared in June. On the left is a Pyramid orchid and to the right is a Bee Orchid. **Editor**

**A walk in Larkey Valley Wood Local Nature Reserve July 12<sup>th</sup>**

We walked along New House Lane to the New House Farm lane to

Larkey Valley wood passing the attractive flowering old man's beard sprawling the hedgerow, cream flowered hedge bedstraw and the fragrant pink flowered marjoram. It was a blistering hot day so the wood provided a welcome cool break. Larkey Valley Wood was given to the city council in 1932 by the then Lord Mayor of Canterbury Alderman Frank Hooker. It is now a nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest and is looked after in partnership with Kent Wild life Trust. Often the paths are muddy and churned up but to day the dry paths were easy to walk along. The deciduous woodland is ancient consisting amongst others of beech ash, elm, oak hazel and sweet chestnut with the markedly toothed leaves. We noticed plenty of ivy twisting up the tree trunks. The ground cover at this time of year consisted mainly of the leafy dog's mercury, the erect pale fruits of the bluebell, profuse ivy and bramble. It was very peaceful with the birds singing, sorry Joan, I am unable to say what they were! We passed where the trees had been coppiced by a friend of ours working with the Kent Wild Life Trust. Nearby were the graceful fronds of buckler fern and male fern. In the coppiced area we could clearly see the new shoots growing from the base of the trees which had been cut close to the ground. This provides welcome light for the plants, insects birds and mammals. We saw three different butterflies, cabbage white a meadow brown and tortoiseshell darting and landing on the yellow flowered St John's Wort and pale pink flowered willow herbs. On the way out of the woods there was a carpet of enchanter's night shade which had delicate white flowers with notched petals. We are very fortunate to have this beautiful wood on our doorstep. **Jan Armishaw**

**Joan Gower** sent me this photo of her Arum lily with the comment that it flowers in late February & March which is like our own common arum but this is big. The leaves are now about two ft. high and beginning to die. She also mentions who has been a frequent visitor to her garden feeding youngster, along with three baby Robins with their speckled breasts.





### “CRAFTY GIRLS”

Instead of our usual monthly meeting in May 2015, we went out for the afternoon. There were 14 of us and we headed for the Eltham Valley Tea Rooms to partake of a Cream Tea all round. Karen and her staff, as always, took great care of us with lovely Homemade Fruit Scones, [ size of saucers ], Homemade Raspberry Jam, plus Butter and Cream. Large pots of freshly made coffee and tea were placed along the table to wash it all down. **Absolutely delicious!**



The highlight of the trip was that Joan Gower was brought along by her daughter Carol as a surprise for us and for Joan herself. They joined us at the table for a good chat and many laughs – lovely to have Joan’s company and for her to catch up with the “girls” she has not seen for quite a while. Thanks again, as always, go to our volunteer drivers, without whom we could not go.

**Final note :-** If there are any ladies in the community who would like to join us at The Craft and Social Afternoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month 2 – 4pm at Hilltop Community Hall, we would love to see you – PLEASE COME ALONG. Give us a try – you will be very welcome. **Carole Davis.**

### By the Way.....

- **Weather report from Hilary Spon**



#### 1 Iffin Cottages Weather Records - January to June 2015

Month	Max. temp. °C	Mean (Av.) Max. °C	Min. temp. °C	Mean Min. °C	No. of days of precipitation	Max. rain in 1 day in mm.	Total rain in month in mm.
January	12.6	6.86	-3.2	1.65	21	21.9	82.7
February	10.5	6.5	-3.4	1.59	17	12	63
March	15.1	7.96	-0.1	0.3	9	3.5	15.7
April	24.5	15	-0.1	4.7	6	5.6	11.3
May	22.5	17.1	3	8.4	13	12	27.4
June	28.9	22	5.9	11.5	6	4.9	15.2
<b>Total rain for 6 months</b>							<b>215.3</b>

### SUMMARY

- A storm on 5 June caused a power surge that blew fuses in our house. The first six months of this year was much drier than the same period in 2014, i.e. 215 mm compared with 492 mm last year. The June maximum temp. in 2014 was 25.5°C, compared with this year's 28.9°C, but it will be interesting to see how high it goes in July!
- **Hilltop Community Taxi Scheme comes to an end**  
Sadly, after two and a half years the Hilltop Community Taxi initiative has had to finish. Cheryl Ives, who was the Hilltop lead for the scheme would like to thank the faithful Hilltop residents who have regularly used the community taxi and to say that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Community District Transport Committee which originated the idea.

# Diary of Events

## Weekly Events:

**Friday Open House**  
Community Evening  
**Dance rehearsal group**  
Tuesday 19:30

## 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 Aug 12th 10.00 & 19.30  
Wed Sep 9th 10:00 & 19:30  
Wed Oct 14th 10:00 & 19:30

## Coming Events:

**HCA Main Committee**  
Wed Sep 16th 19:30  
**Trustees meeting**  
Wed Sep 16th 20:00

**Parish Council Meeting**  
Tue Sep 1st from 19:30

## Church Services

**Hall Evening Service**  
Sun Sep 6th at 18:00  
**Harvest Celebration Service**  
Sun Oct 4th at 18:00

**Beer'n Brains Quiz Nite**  
Sat Sep 12th 19:30

**Photo Competition Registration**  
Mon Sep 21st 17:00

**Harvest Supper**  
Mon 5th Oct at 19:00

**Fish & Chip supper & quiz Nite**  
Sat 17th Oct 19:30

**Photo Competition Awards**  
Sat Oct 24th 14:00

**Hilltop News deadline**  
Sat 24th October 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.

## Thanington Park Meeting

**2 July 2015 at 19:00 at the Thanington Resource Centre**

The meeting took place with 55 local residents. Clive Church and Nick Eden-Green opened the meeting. Stating this is the third time this area of land has come around for development planning permission and that the hearing for this is due on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, and this was our chance to have our say regarding the planning proposal. Nick Eden-Green gave an overview of the national planning system. He discussed 'exception sites', of which Thanington Park is one, and how local plans are designed to work. He also mentioned the financial position of the Tory Family Foundation which, it is proposed, will finance the Pilgrims' Hospice building included on the development. The meeting was then opened up to the local residents and a number of points were repeatedly raised.

\* 1) Only 250 homes mentioned, but the full proposal is for 750 homes. The homes set aside are for 'council waiting list' and not necessarily affordable homes. It is feared these will be bought up by landlords and rented out, thereby not really helping those in need.

\* 2) Although a local business park is proposed there is no mention of local jobs or how these might be generated.

\* 3) A new community centre is not needed as we already have three in the local area.

\* 4) Sewage and other utilities may not be able to cope with the increase in population and this could lead to sanitation problems.

\* 5) The plan does not show Wincheap at all and it is hard to locate yourself on the map.

\* 6) Why would there be two Park and Ride operations so close together, surely this will mean the closure of the existing Park and Ride service?

\* 7) The plan proposes a primary school, but the council decides when and where schools are needed and is responsible for finding the funding for these. With no government funding no school can run on this site.

\* 8) Questions were raised about the possibility of saving this site on ecological grounds, but this was thought to be very unlikely.

Other matters discussed were whether a demonstration outside the hearing would be effective; if we should sign a petition against this development; who to write to in the council to object to this proposal; and, who exactly gives or rejects the plan, where they come from and what information they have available to them.

The overriding point that was made repeatedly by a number of different people, and caused some of the most heated and emotional comments of the meeting, was traffic flow along the A28 and the possible effects and design of a slip road coming off the A2 southbound at Wincheap. There were a large number of concerns about traffic up and around Strangers Lane, about the ability of emergency vehicles to access Thanington when the A28 is gridlocked, as it so often is; about the safety of school children in the local area and about the impact on local residents of such a huge housing development exiting onto a relatively small and already struggling feeder road into Canterbury.

Towards the end of the meeting most residents agreed that there was a need for more housing, but that this was not the place for it. Nick Eden-Green briefly discussed the possibility of a garden city at Ebbsfleet as a location perfect both geographically and logistically for ten thousand homes to be built, but that Canterbury did not have the infrastructure to deal with 75 houses along in the Wincheap and Thanington areas. **Report by Bonnie Tillotson**

**Summer Barbeque success!** Hilltop Community Association held its annual Summer Family Barbecue on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Another fantastic day was enjoyed by all. Along with the barbecue there was a bouncy castle for the little ones, a keg of real ale for the big ones and a live jazz band as entertainment for all, who were absolutely brilliant. We were extremely lucky with the weather again this year, the afternoon and evening getting the sunshine. We think there were around 80 people present on the day. Sausages and burgers as usual were prepared fresh that day and supplied by Laurie Wakehams of Bridge. All ably cooked to order by Terry, Dave and John. A big 'Thank You' goes out to all our helpers. Those helping to erect and take down the marquee and those that helped clear up afterwards. With the help of those who came along we managed to raise over £250 towards the community Association funds. Thank you to all of you for your support. We look forward to next year's event, which will come round quicker than we all realise. Terry Maple

## ATTENTION!

## HILLTOP 2015 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## DON'T FORGET

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September** is the final date for entries to the above Competition.

Hand in your photographs at **Hilltop Community Hall**  
between **5-30pm and 7-30pm** on that date.

Additional Entry Forms and Information available from :-

Carole Davis 451485  
Cheryl Ives 760707



Chairman  
Sarah Guest

01227 765703

### UPDATE ON THANINGTON PARK PROPOSAL

As you may have seen in the local press, and circulated information, the issue of plans for building on the land between New House Lane and Cockering Road is very much on the agenda again. The Developer is PENTLAND HOMES. At this time the Council's Local Development Plan is before the Planning Inspector. **He is the authority that either, agrees to it, which sets the planning strategy for the next 25 years, or rejects it.** He can accept it, makes changes or reject it entirely. This then becomes the planning HIMN are attending the meetings being held now. There is pressure on the Council in these hearings on "Consultation with nearby authorities?" "Traffic Strategy planning" "The soundness of the proposed plan" to name but 3. PENTLAND HOMES has re submitted for their development to be considered by the inspector as an "OMMISSION" They have also made a formal planning application submitted to Canterbury City Council (Ref CA/15/01479) **JUST BECAUSE THE SITE WAS NOT CHOSEN TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LOCAL PLAN DOES NOT MEAN IT WILL NOT BE INCLUDED FOLLOWING THE INSPECTORS REVIEW** UPDATE ON THANINGTON PARK PROPOSAL

There are some obvious points to be questioned from this proposal, they are not extensive:

\*The effect on the traffic in Wincheap would be highly negative, particularly taking into account the main traffic plan proposals. It is overloaded at peak times now, and this proposal would seem to take it much higher still. This proposal has completely ignored the issue. Also it is quite evident that the traffic levels in Hollow Lane, Merton Lane, New House Lane & Iffin Lane have increased significantly, as traffic tries to avoid Wincheap. What will happen if this goes ahead?

\*New jobs and commercial benefits cannot be delivered by a developer. It is businesses that delivers that, and it is outside of the developers control to manage that. So is a new business park viable? Given that the development at ALDI could not justify building 2 off Office blocks as part of that development, as they said there was no demand?

\*A new school needs to be funded by the local authority, and Kent County Council has not said they will do that. So will the new school materialise?

\*With the funding for the new 4th Slip road being considerable, will there be any money left in the pot to provide the other facilities promised in the final reckoning?

\*Will the new Park and ride facility materialise given that the original facility in place now could remain, and that could prove an issue with attracting a contract to run this facility?

\*Why was it that PENTLAND never published their meeting at the Cricket Club in the HILLTOP area, and also held the meeting away from the areas that would be most affected by this proposal? They certainly knew that it had not received a welcome when they proposed it back in January?

\*The proposed new hospice, for the Pilgrims Hospice, is to be supported by the Tory Foundation, who just happens to have a very strong link to PENTLAND. They have done much good work in Canterbury, but a view of their accounts for the last few years, does not show anything like the funds required for this proposal. Their outgoings being approx. £100,000 per year. An estimate for a new hospice, could be £4-5 million? Will these funds even materialise?

\*What will happen if these facilities cannot be delivered by the developer? The chances are there will be more houses built than shown, which is what has happened in the past? The 4th slip road cost if delivered, could easily mean there is insufficient funds for these promised amenities?

\*Even though the plans show a green space between the development and New House Lane, this could be easily filled in the future by arguing it is "INFILL"?

\*Will the promised level of Affordable homes materialise? There is a need for these, but there is also a history of developers not delivering, arguing financial constraints?

\*Building on "Green Field" grade 1 agricultural land should be the last resort. Planning protocol requires other forms of land to be used first. Is there really the need for these additional houses on this land?

\*We already have a number of community halls is there a need for one more?

HIMN represents the views of our community in matters such as this, whatever they may be? It came into being when the original proposals reared their head some years ago. The current feeling is that the majority would be against it? Once the Inspector gives his judgement on the Local Plan, if it should include this development, then it will be difficult to fight it. That is why every effort is being made to make representa-

Hello.

Firstly a big thank you to the team coordinating details and meetings for the proposed new development on the New House Lane fields. There is a lot to read and hopefully you have all made your thoughts known to the council in reply to the planning application. The BBQ was a great success well done to all concerned for the hard work particularly as it coincided with the beer festival, and the musicians who were enjoyed by all.

There are many reasons to enjoy living in Hilltop, principally the rural aspect and the community spirit hopefully this will not change too much. Please remember why we love it here, become involved with the issues that impact on our community. Leaving it for someone else to do may mean we lose it forever



The Site - Our Proposal

tions at the hearings. We will update you on any developments, but if anyone does have strong views please make them known to us, or comment to the Council on the latest application?  
**Clive Church:** Chairman HIMN, **Dave Smith:** Secretary HIMN

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