



# Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

## Issue 2017 / 1

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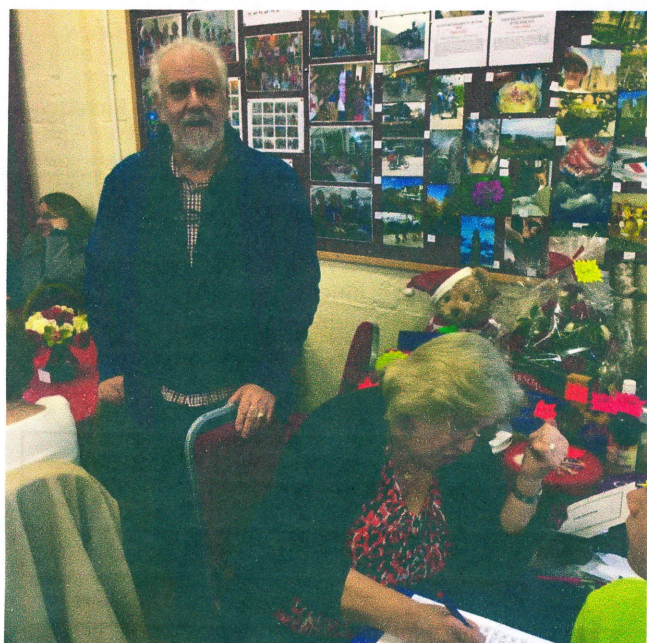
### Trustees

John Richardson Sarah Guest

Terry Maple Jackie Bush

Bonnie Tillotson Andrea Williams

Joanne Gurden Dave Sackett



Terry and Carole Davis at the Christmas Fayre 2016

### Letter from the Chairman

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year from the trustees and the main committee. Just looking back to the end of 2016 the Christmas Fayre was our best ever, we made a grand profit of **£1034.43** up £386. I would not only like to thank Carole Davis for her commitment and her hard work that she puts into making this a great success along with all her helpers for their support to this event, but to you the community also for coming and giving so generously.

The next big event is the Spring Fayre on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The launch of our calendar has been a great success. With the help of Cheryl Ives supplying the photos we named the theme 'Memories'. So far we have made a profit of £63: if you know someone would like a calendar please contact me. For 2018 we are naming the calendar 'Community Landscapes', so start taking photographs of something that reflects our community. You can put them on our Facebook page if you wish or send them to me. Towards the end of the year we will judge the photographs and the winning ones go into the calendar - so get snapping!

Our Facebook site is proving very successful and it is reaching a lot of people in our area. With the proposed involvement of Thanington Park looming across the fields we intend reporting updates to you through Facebook.

We are still working on the website and are now very close to a launch. The site will have a new web address [www.hilltopca.org](http://www.hilltopca.org). If you have any ideas for the website or you wanted something put on the site please contact me or a trustee. If we don't have your e-mail address please make it known to any of our trustees so you can go on our database. This way we can keep you all up to date with events and news.

We have a lot of upcoming events so please keep an eye out for notices and, as always, it will be great to see you supporting the community hall.

This coming mid-April I will have been chairman for a year and it has been challenging to say the least, but I have a great team around me who are giving me a lot of support. Over the years there have been a lot of people in the background, not only working hard to raise money, but working to get the lease for the hall and also working towards improving the hall and facilities.

During December Terry Davis submitted the plans for improvements to the hall to Canterbury City Council. I am now very pleased to announce that Planning Permission was granted on 17<sup>th</sup> January so we can move forward in 2017. Now the trustees can get very busy and draw up our plan of action. Just a reminder that our AGM is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm look forward to seeing you all.

Enjoy the Spring!

John Richardson, Chairman.  
On behalf of the trustees





## Diary of Events

### Monthly Events:

#### **Crafty Girls Meetings afternoon 14:00**

Second Tuesday of month. All welcome

#### **Coffee Morning 10:30**

Last Thursday of month. All welcome

#### **Wellness Clinic**

Wed Feb 8th 10:00 & 19:30

Wed Mar 8th 10:00 & 19:30

#### **Evening Church Services**

Sun Mar 5th at 18:00

### Forthcoming Events:

#### **HCA Main Committee**

Wed Mar 15th at 20:00

#### **Trustees meeting**

Wed Feb 15th at 19:00

Wed Mar 15th at 19:00

#### **Spring Fair**

Sat Apr 22nd at 14:00

#### **Hilltop News deadline Saturday 23rd April**

To book the hall please contact

Terry Maple on 01227 761329

### Hilltop Photographic Competition 2017

#### **CATEGORIES:-**

**ADULTS:** A photographic interpretation of a SONG TITLE.

**CHILDREN:** Spy something beginning with P.

Additional information and instructions will be issued at a later date. In the meantime, start thinking and looking for subject matter!

Please take part – the photographs are really of interest to the community.

Carole Davis.

### Children's Christmas Craft Workshop 2016

December saw the first Hilltop Children's Christmas Craft Workshop. Children had the opportunity to make a whole range of festive goodies from Rudolph cup cakes, Christmas book marks, Christmas cards, pine cone reindeers and toilet roll Santas.

The turnout was fantastic with nearly all seats occupied which was wonderful considering how busy people are at Christmas time. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and some new ones.

Thanks to Maralyn Porter and Jackie Bush for helping with the festive refreshments; mince pies, mulled wine and teas and coffees and to Dave Bush for taking some wonderful photos in the Christmas fun photo booth, which took place in Santa's grotto. Thanks also to all the helpers on the craft tables which made this event possible and to those who came along to enjoy the morning. The event made a profit for Hilltop of £79.

We hope to be able to put on more craft events throughout the year, hopefully starting with something around the Spring Fair so keep your eyes open for postings on Facebook and for the usual Hilltop posters. We are always looking for volunteers to help with future Hilltop events so please do not hesitate to contact one of the trustees if you have a little time to spare. Many thanks!!

Joanne Gurden & Andrea Williams

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for all the material forwarded to me for this newsletter. As you can see we hardly have space for photos of events in this issue! Please forward me any pictures or articles that you would like included in the Spring newsletter by 23rd April. Best, Bonnie.

### 100club@hilltop.co.uk

### 100 Club Winners

Prize	Nov	Dec (double payment)	Jan
£50	L Roberts	J Richardson	T Pringle
£30	T Smith	B Drew	A Rubins
£20	G Court	D Smith	B Drew
£10	M Forge	D Swain	J Richardson

### A brief review of weather records for 2016 from 1 Iffin Cottages



**Hottest day** – 31.7°C on 24 August **Coldest day** – 4.5°C on 18 January **Wettest day** – 33.1 mm on 17 June

**Hottest month** by mean max temperature – August (23.6°C)

**Wettest month** – June (127mm)

**Coldest month** by mean min temperature – February (2.4°C)

**Driest month** – December (11.4mm)

**Bad storm** on 13 April when Morrisons was struck by lightning.

### **Annual key figures since OUR records began:**

Year	Max. temp.	Min. temp.	Total rain	Year	Max. temp.	Min. temp.	Total rain
2009	29.2	-7.9	721.7	2010	28.9	-7.6	589.8
2011	29.8	-3.6	511	2012	30.8	-10.8	757.4
2013	31.5	-4.9	707.9	2014	29.9	-2.5	917.8
2015	34.7	-3.4	648.5	2016	31.7	-4.5	669.8

**Note:** `rain` means any precipitation

Hilary Spon



## Hilltop Christmas Fayre 2016

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, we held the Annual Christmas Fayre at the Community Hall. There were quite a few stalls to fit in so a slightly new layout was called for. We did, however, manage to still squeeze in tables and chairs for people to sit and have a cup of tea or coffee with cake supplied by our refreshment ladies who were busy from start to finish and managed to sell all their marmalade too. What would we do without them?

We must pay tribute to the lovely redesigned grotto, put together by some of our community members. They held a children's workshop on a previous weekend and incorporated items made under supervision for the grotto, aptly depicted as a "Winter Wonderland". A very fitting backdrop for Father Christmas, I am sure you will agree.

Our elf photographer captured Father Christmas' arrival, and the round of applause and the excitement of the children. Father Christmas personally greeted and chatted with the children in his grotto, gave them a present and had a photograph taken with them, (with parental permission of course). We were very grateful to Father Christmas for staying until closing time.

Our elf was kept busy taking photographs for us to record the event. Many thanks for doing a grand job.

Our Tombola was, as always, extremely attractive with great prizes beautifully displayed, many having the seasonal touch. This is always a popular stall with the young and old alike.

There was a table collecting 100 club subscriptions, updating e-mail addresses etc., very efficiently manned despite being in a draughty position facing the forever opening and closing doors. Well Done!

Handmade holly wreaths were displayed attractively, along with festive table decorations, some with candles, thus forming a lovely Christmas show.

Lucky Boxes were a roaring success – total sell out! Name the Teddy was also on this table and did very well. The winner was KIRA HARDAKER who chose the correct name of GEORGE. Well done Kira!

Our Fancy Goods stall was stocked with hand knitted garments, toys, toiletries and Christmas decorations amongst plenty of other assorted items, all proving to be as popular as ever.

The Cake Stall, together with "Sweeties" seemed to have a nice selection but was a little down on contributions compared to other years. We are always extremely grateful and pleased with any donations of goods to any stalls, so thank you for all of those. Perhaps there are other members of our community who would kindly bake / produce goodies for future events – just a small amount – but it would be greatly appreciated.

A new venture also went on sale "HILLTOP 2017 CALENDAR", entitled, "Memories". This was a delightful publication of events gone by, together with lovely shots of people past and present. At £4.99, it was a bargain and made an excellent Christmas gift too. The young lady who helped create the calendar also had handmade notebooks bookmarks etc., further helping to swell the funds.

Finally, last but not least was the Grand Christmas Draw. The table was laden with so many beautiful prizes. Some large, some small but all making such an eye catching display. There were far too many winners to list, however, here are the names of the first three

£100.00 Hamper	A and J Jeanes, NHC
£100.00 Cash	Beaty, NHL
£50.00 M and S Voucher	Hillman, NHL

Thank you to everyone for attending, spending, selling, donating, taking pictures, furniture shifting, decorating the hall, printing, delivering, and collecting, in fact,  
**A BIG THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR INPUT IN WHATEVER WAY!**

A Happy Healthy New Year to you all.  
Carole Davis.

## Notes from Parish Council to Hilltop News

Good day to all Hilltop Residents and wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Being your two South Ward Parish Councillors sitting on the Thanington Without Parish Council Terry Davis and Terry Maple have been asked if they would contribute a short news item for including in the Hilltop News Letters.

Firstly, for those of you who do not know us, an introduction. Terry Davis lives in Iffin Lane and Terry Maple in New House Close. We have both been residents for far more years than we care to remember. Terry Maple is also one of the Hilltop Community Association Charity Commission Trustees.

Parish Council meetings commence at 7:00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month and are usually at the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre on Ashford Road. The September meeting is traditionally held at the Hilltop Community Hall and the Annual meeting shared between Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Ashford Road Community Association and Hilltop Community Association halls as a three year alternating venue. All meetings are open to the public and we invite you to pop along to one of them to see what happens.

Whilst a lot of work goes on in the background, probably the most instantly visible things we do is look after and maintain the verges and also have supplied and continue to repair the fencing along the footpath along Hollow Lane. Both of these items Canterbury City Council have refused to do themselves.

We report on issues concerning the Parish including pot-holes and the general poor conditions of the carriage and footways. We are notified of planning applications and are asked to recommend acceptance or objections to Canterbury City Council's Planning Department.

Over the last few months we have been involved, along with other groups in the objections to the large housing estates that are currently in the process of being planned for our parish.

If you have any concerns about your local community please let us know and we will be glad to help, or at least point you in the right direction if we can.

All the best for 2017

Terry Davis and Terry Maple

## Crafty Girls' Christmas Lunch

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, instead of a meeting, we went out to Christmas lunch at the Lord Whisky Tea Rooms, Rhodes Minnis. It was a damp, murky and quite foggy day when we set off from the Hall. We travelled in cars driven by our volunteer drivers, Alison Buontempo, Anita Rubens, Cheryl Ives, Jan Armishaw and Caroline Silk. Without them we could not go to the Tea Rooms and it is much appreciated by all the other girls – Thanks Ladies!

We had already chosen from a very varied and traditional menu prior to going, so that helped the staff. Marvellous selection to choose from in all courses, and the table had been set with pretty cloths, flowers, crackers, serviettes, etc., so nice to walk into a lovely festive atmosphere. There were jugs of squash and water, plus a welcome 'cuppa', whilst we all settled in. The meals were ready in no time, prepared and served, plenty of it too! We did not have long waits between courses – all flowed really nicely.

Lots of laughter, chatter etc. took place, exchanging of Christmas cards too! After eating, the girls managed to find items to buy from the 'shelves' containing fund raising goods for the Sanctuary, which is where the money goes from the meal too! So a very enjoyable time for us helped in a small way to help the Sanctuary raise some very necessary funds. We had a great time there; our second time at Christmas and can thoroughly recommend it for all occasions, i.e. afternoon tea, lunches, even fish and chip evenings. Pleasant and helpful staff, with home cooked food and plenty of parking – give it a try if you have not been before and if you have – GO AGAIN!

Looking forward to the New Year of 'Crafty Girls', see you soon.

Regards, Carole Davis.

P.S. Do not worry if you were not able to eat all your meal, Wilma, the pig will have loved the leftovers!



### **DATE FOR SPRING FAIR 2017**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Community Hall  
2pm – 4pm. Note the New time**

### **DATE FOR CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2017**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the Community Hall  
11am – 1pm. Usual time**

### **Nature Notes**

In November a couple of herons were spotted in the fields along New House Lane., a startling sight. The oldest heronry is in Chilham and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The magnificent bill changes from a grey yellow colour to an orange pink in the breeding season. The other day our back lawn was a battle scene as three magpies and three crows, both carrion eaters, fought over a meal deal of a much wanted worm. They were pecking and clawing at each other. Peace was restored when a cat appeared.

A friend over the road recently saw a kestrel soaring over Larky Valley woods and later on over Rabbit Wood.

This January is so different to last January when crocuses and snowdrops were in full flower and daffodils were in bud. The severe cold weather has certainly delayed everything. As yet there are just snowdrop shoots. However the frost has been startlingly beautiful clinging to the branches like silver sparkling jewels. A few wild flowers seem to survive the hard frosts; notably in this area, daisy, dandelion, speedwell and shepherd's purse. Shepherd's purse has been known by several other interesting common names over the centuries, including Witches' Pouches, Poverty Weed, or Poor Man's Pharmacy. The name Shepherd's Purse comes from the shape of the purse carried by the shepherds of Bethlehem. In the Middle Ages Shepherd's Purse was used for the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery and stomach cramps.

Jan

### **Review: So you think you want a revolution**

I went along to the 'Revolution' exhibition at the V&A Museum. It looks at the culture and politics of an epic 5 years 1966-1970. Revolution in youth identity, in the head (the use of drugs) revolution in the street, in consuming, in living, and in communicating. You are given a headset which plays throughout, interacting with exhibits as you walk around, and at the end on a huge screen is the film 'Woodstock' The most famous three-day festival 'of peace and music' in 1969. Showing iconic Woodstock performances, it is fabulous. Considered integral to the inventive counterculture and political thought of the '60s songs of revolution and anti-establishment. The fashion, civil rights, women's liberation, communication all bursting out to the masses.

Fascinating go and take a look. Sarah Guest

### **HIMN meeting notes from 18th January 2017**

#### **Thanington Park**

Outline planning permission granted for 750 houses. PENTLAND are preparing detailed planning application which is still to be submitted

- Work on site is sampling for ground conditions.
- Princes trust involved with PENTLAND on details for sustainability
- Construction cannot start until detailed permission granted, and there will be conditions to this
- Traffic assessment prediction and pollution predictions seriously flawed and Government Planning Inspector is currently assessing these for the whole local plan
- Main issue is that no consideration has been given to traffic congestion, infrastructure and pollution.
- Existing proposals will lead to severe traffic congestion on A28

#### **Mountfield Park**

Outline planning permission granted for 4000 homes

- Detailed planning permission granted for 140 homes
- This despite strong logical argument from 20 plus resident associations
- Main issues are traffic, lack of viable infrastructure build, inaccurate mondal shift projections and traffic assessments. Also developers ignored promises on green buffer zone and building on slope directed at city
- Further detailed applications expected
- Serious investigation proceeding on challenging this application re prematurity and pollution and traffic projections by residents assoc's.
- Canterbury needs a strategy for the WHOLE of the planned expansion NOT just look at individual developments on their own and in isolation, which is what is happening
- City council is being driven

#### **Cockering Road**

QUINNS preparing outline planning application for 400 houses

- Meeting to take place at TRC on 26th Jan to review plans
- They must take into account the 750 Thanington Park situation and its impact as well as the overall infrastructure requirements
- Application expected to be submitted in next 2-3 months

#### **Hollow Lane**

- Construction work started opposite Homersham for 58 dwellings
- Estimated disruption for 16 weeks

**Any issues please report them to TWPC or CCC  
TWPC councillors Terry Maple on 01227 761329 or  
Councillor Terry Davies on 01227 451485**

### **Hall Building Update January 2017**

On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 the fire alarm panel was renewed following a fault with the old unit. Apologies to all those who had to suffer the bleeping during the Christmas Carol Service and other activities. We have agreed a twice yearly service of the system so this should not happen again.

In December 2016 the Parish Council approved the new plans for the proposed hall extensions and we are delighted to report that in January the plans were passed in full by Canterbury City Council planning department.

The first phase now will be to replace the old existing roof which can be done separately without affecting any of the proposed extensions and we will be actively looking at what funding is available to help us achieve this.

This should be an exciting year for the hall and the start of a new era for Hilltop, ensuring the future of our community for the next generations to come.

Thank you all so much for your continued support in our community without which this project could not happen.

Happy New Year! Dave Sackett