

Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

Issue 2013 / 2

The May is Out!

May 2013

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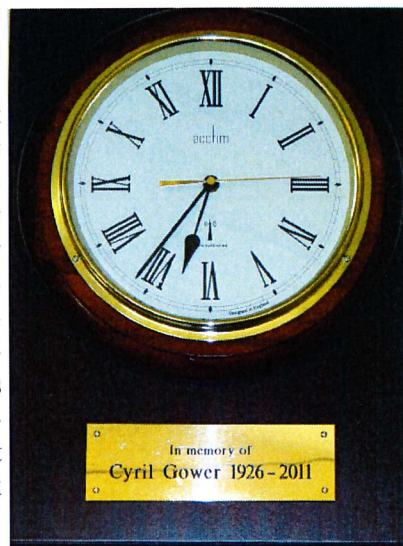
The common Hawthorn, (*Crataegus monogyna*), is now in spectacular bloom at the start of the path by Hollow Lane, hopefully heralding better times for all the insects feasting on its nectar today.

'Ne'er cast a clout till May be out' is an English proverb. The earliest citation is this version of the rhyme from Dr. Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732, although it probably existed in word-of-mouth form well before that. May here is somewhat ambiguous but the consensus seems to be that it refers to the month of May rather than *May* one of the common names of the hawthorn bush, whose blossom indicates the arrival of summer, or warmer weather. Hawthorn has more connections with ancient beliefs and traditions than almost any other tree. It was a powerful supernatural force for good or for evil. The appearance of the May blossom was the herald of the end of winter and the beginning of summer. Often, the May Queen was crowned with May blossom but at the same time it was considered unlucky to bring May flowers into a house.

Memorial Clock graces Hall

Following Cyril's death in 2011 the trustees and members of the Hilltop Community Association thought it would be appropriate to commemorate all the support he gave the community over the years, both by helping with renovations and decorating, delivering leaflets and helping at functions. Whilst he was fit enough he also supported functions and was very sociable and good company. It was agreed with Joan Gower that a new clock for the hall would provide as lasting memorial her husband's contribution to the community. Roger Cheeseworth ordered the clock and the mount and the commemorative plaque and Terry Cogger assembled the parts and erected it on the wall.

Joan said today that Cyril would be very honoured to be recognised in this way and that she is very grateful to the community for recognising Cyril's contribution in this way. Her only regret is that he is not here to see the clock for himself.



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

Wed May 15th at 19:30
Wed July 17th at 19:30

Trustees meeting

Wed May 15th 20:30
Wed June 19th 19:30
Wed: July 17th 20:30

Parish Council AGM

Wed May 29th 19:30

Church Service

Sun May 5th 18:00
Sun July 7th 18:00

Summer Family Barbeque

Sat 20th July 15:00
Contact Terry Maple or
John Richardson to book

Hilltop news copy deadline

Thurs July 25th / items to
Trisha

**Remember you can book the
hall for your own use. 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.

Joan Gower's Nature Notes

The last newsletter ended with a sentence which expected everything in the garden to be flourishing, but until a few days ago that was still to be. More snow in April which although not so severe as the previous downfall dragged on for some days and it was only about a week ago that the bitter wind died down and it became possible to go outside without coats. Yesterday the temperature was around 20c and it was a pleasure to leave doors and windows open.

The flowers of course struggled through and the daffodils had flowered and blew over to put their trumpets on the ground, but rallied and stood up again only to be battered only to be battered by sharp showers, but bravely most recovered to put on as good show as they could and by this time the late flowering varieties in an appearance and by now there are a good show of tulips waiting in the wings to put in an appearance when they fade. I have some small bulbs which at the moment are smothering the ground in blue. I love them because they flower for a fortnight and then disappear completely for the rest of the year.



One item which just missed the last newsletter was that a near neighbour in the Close went out of his door to find two waxwings dead below a window. They are winter visitors to the U.K. And usually only come in small numbers from the continent. They had flown into the window as happens when birds see the reflection of the garden and think it is real. We know that they had been feeding on mistletoe berries as one still had two in its beak. Many years ago the neighbour pressed some berries into the bark of an apple tree and now they bear fruit. He called another neighbour to show her the birds and she brought them to me and I showed them to several others before

disposing of them. What a shame that they were dead they were such beautiful colours, but if they were flying none of us would have seen them. I heard from a friend that a small flock has been seen at Betteshanger. I actually saw a few feeding at Chillham Lake while walking with a friend a very long time ago.

Its all happening in New House Close. Earlier in the month someone at the other end of the road rang me and told me he was trying to identify two small birds that had been feeding in his garden and all he could think from his old bird book was that they may be snow buntings. He described the markings and I looked them up in two of my bird books and there was no question about it he'd got it in one. I had seen them on the coast twice, once at Seasalter with a friend many years ago. It was there that I also saw golden plovers in their winter plumage and only recognised them by their plaintive call.



I actually found it warm enough to eat lunch in the garden a couple of times and saw butterflies, ants, bumble bees and an oddly shaped bee fly which is almost triangular and has only a small paragraph in my insect book that says it feeds on primroses in the spring. It apparently flies low over the ground and scatters its eggs as it flies. I have a great many sparrows that had started to

nest, but a gale blew four or five partially built nests down. I assume a sparrow hawk took a collared dove at my feeding station and plucked it where it was. I was happy not to witness this! The chaffinch pair that have seen off all the others must be nesting because I rarely see the female recently. Long tailed tits have disappeared completely, but someone up the road told me he has two pairs. I still have one pair of goldfinches and I hope they are nesting. That's all for this time, speak to you again in August. **Joan**



Blueberry muffins

Ingredients:

240ml plain yoghurt
1 large egg lightly beaten
60ml corn oil
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
260 grams SR flour
100 grams granulated white sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
150 grams fresh or frozen blueberries



Method:

1. In a large bowl whisk together the dry ingredients. Remove 1 tablespoon to toss with blueberries.
2. In another bowl whisk together the wet ingredients and then with a rubber spatula fold them into the dry ingredients. Stir only until ingredients combined and then gently stir in blueberries (if using frozen do not thaw them and don't over mix batter as it will result in tough muffins)
3. Evenly fill the muffin cases with batter and place in the oven and bake at 190 degrees C for about 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of muffin comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool for about 5 minutes before removing from rack.

Thanington Without (Civil) Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

This year the meeting is at St Faith Hall and with the Local Plan being in its final stages an important chance for all of us to hear direct from a Canterbury City Councillor—**Cllr Nick Eden Green (Guest Speaker)**
Wednesday 29th May 2013 at 7:30

ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME
Light Refreshments served

SUDOKU no 4

100 Club Winners for April

Prize	Number	Name
£50	91	Colin Sherwood
£30	87	Jan Armishaw
£20	49	Maureen Hillman
£10	100	Fiona Roche

Do you not have a 100 Club number or would like another, email 100club@hilltopca.co.uk

1	9	3	4	
8				
6	3		5	9 8
3		7	1	
4				8
	4	2		7
9	8	1		5 6
			1	
1	8	6		3

From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

Just a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St Faiths Hall, New House Lane on Wednesday 29th May at 7.30pm. The guest speaker will be Ward Councillor Nick Eden-Green. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Mobile libraries are constantly at risk through lack of use, so can I take this opportunity to remind you all that the Mobile Library stops at New House Lane fortnightly on Tuesdays between 15.40 and 16.15 hours, and at the ARCA Hall Ashford Road weekly on Wednesdays between 15.30 and 16.00 hours. Please make use of these facilities if you can, the van always has a wide range of both fiction and non fiction books to choose from. It really is a case of use it or lose it. The more users this service has, the better the chance of saving it from cuts in the future.

If you want to find out what is going on with your parish council, look at our user-friendly website: www.thanington-pc.gov.uk. There is a wealth of information within its pages, including the history of the area, and details of councillors past and present. We are probably one of the few parish councils in the county - if not the country, to have our minutes available to view on this site, dating right back to the very beginning. Thanks to Roger Cheeseworth, our clerk for getting this organised.

Graham Page

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642

From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

Hello everyone

<http://democracy.canterbury.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/b19747/Proposal%20Maps%20Canterbury%2013th-May-2013%2019.00%20Overview%20Committee.pdf?T=9>
This is the web link well hidden on the council web site, produced Thursday 2nd May.

If you can get to the web site the map is on its side and Wincheap and HIMN area are at about 10 o'clock, and there does not appear to be any development proposals. This appears to be good news there are proposed large developments for both sides of New Dover Rd and Hersden behind the Spires academy. The meeting is scheduled for 13th May 7pm at the Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury. The contact is Josie Newman 862 009.

To Hilltop matters, the lease appears to be ever nearer so we will keep you informed as soon as we know. **A big thank you to all those in the community who continue to raise money and help with the hall maintenance.** If you have any skills you think may be useful please let us know, we are very mindful of volunteer fatigue so do not think it will be a frequent calling! But having names and skills is a great bonus in our community. This year we will have just the one summer function and will combine the family festival and the barbeque on Saturday 20th July.

Our next function is Bingo on Saturday 11th May at 7pm, everyone welcome please let David know 451201 if you are coming or any of the trustees. And finally in memory of Cyril we have a beautiful new clock in the hall, he was such an asset, as is Joan, to Hilltop thank you.

From the Kent County Council



Councillor
Alex Perkins

Canterbury City

01227 470416

Councillor Alex Perkins will give us some update on the most recent **Canterbury District Local Plan(2011-2031) Preferred Option Draft**. This draft was discussed at a meeting of the overview committee on Monday 13th May. If you want further information please contact Josie Newman on 01227 862009 or email: josie.newman@canterbury.gov.uk

There will be a special information sheet with information on this and the situation on the lease of the hall as soon as this information is available.



Cllr Martin Vye

Kent County
Council

01227 831820

Councillor Martin John Vye (Liberal Democrat) was re-elected to the **Canterbury City South West Ward on 2nd May 2013 with 1555 votes**. The turnout was **28.57%**.

Paul Bellamy (Conservative Party) had **563** votes.

David Perry (UKIP) had **562** votes.

Robert Rowles (Labour Party) had **529** votes.

Elizabeth Kidd (Green Party) had **439** votes.

Electorate 12748; Ballot Papers issued 3655.



Councillor
Nick Eden-Green

Canterbury City

01227 470416

Councillor Nick Eden-Green is the guest speaker at the parish council annual meeting, make sure you come and here his report on local plan