



Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

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Hilltop Contacts

Hilltop News editor
Trisha Cheeseworth
761642
trishainkent@aol.com

Columnist
Joan Gower
451492

Chairman of Trustees

Sarah Guest 765703
chairman@hilltopca.co.uk

Treasurer

Richard Armishaw
treasurer@hilltopca.co.uk

Hall Booking

Terry Maple 761329
4 New House Close
terry.maple@hilltopca.co.uk

Trustees

Jan Armishaw
Richard Armishaw
Roger Cheeseworth
Trisha Cheeseworth
Sarah Guest
Terry Maple
Fiona Roche
Dave Sackett
John Richardson

PRESS RELEASE



A new charitable body 'Love Hambrook Marshes Trust' has acquired the wetlands near Canterbury city known as Hambrook Marshes. This land was purchased from the previous owners, Kent Enterprise Trust, at the end of March 2014. The first stated objective of the new charity is to ensure that the area remains open, undeveloped marshland, free of new building or commercial development. In addition, it wishes to ensure conservation of the area through effective land manage-

ment, protection of existing vegetation and wildlife, maintenance of the present public access, including free access to the cycle and foot paths. It is anticipating the support of the local community in its endeavours. Discussions with interested parties, including the existing group Friends of Hambrook Marshes, are under way to clarify how these aims can best be put into practice. The Friends group were instrumental in drawing attention last year to the threat of development and possible closure of the cycle route raised by the sale of the land. With the new ownership arrangements these threats have been removed. This is great news as it means our community can continue to enjoy this lovely walk along the riverbank from Wincheap to Chartham.

EASTER FAYRE.



We held the Easter Fayre on Saturday 5th April and were fortunate to have a good weather day. With bunting and balloons outside and plenty of people we were off to a good start. As always, a terrific Tombola with the Easter theme, backed by a lovely Easter decoration. The cake stall did us proud with simnel cakes, fruit cakes, decorated sponges, sausage rolls, fairy cakes with Easter egg decorations, etc., all made by bakers in our community. As it was Grand National Day, we held a sweepstake which was won by PINEAU DE RE, with Chris Silk having the winning horse. The raffle was very popular and attractive with lots of

lovely donated prizes. 1st prize was a Celebration cake made like an Easter bonnet, created by Anita Rubins and won by Fiona Roche. Another side-line was a map of Easter Island where the Easter bunny had hidden a basket of eggs and with a flagged pin you guessed where. Chris Ives was the winner. On the sales table there were great plants, puzzles, knitted toys, [including rabbits and chicks] toiletries, jewellery and much more. The Refreshment ladies were kept very busy with their Teas, Coffees and children's drinks, along with small cakes too. The highlight of the event was the Easter Bonnet Competition masterminded by Cheryl Ives, with several categories for adults and children.

(See overleaf for pictures and results)



Diary of Events

Weekly Events:

Friday Evening Social

All welcome for a chat

Hall Evening Service

First Sunday in the month at 6pm.

EVERYONE WELCOME

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 May 14th 10:00 & 19:30

Wed June 11th 10:00 & 19:30

Wed July 9th 10.00 & 19.30

Coming Events:

HCA Main Committee

Wed June 18th at 19:30

Trustees meeting

Wed May 21st 19:30

Wed June 18th 21:30

Wed July 16th 19.30

Polling Station at Hall

Thurs May 22nd 06.15

Church Service

Sun May 4th at 18:00

David Swain's popular Bingo

May 10th 19.00

70's Music night /Bar Food

(white suits & platforms optional)

Sat. May 24th 19.30

Wine & Wisdom

Sat. June 6th 19:30

Summer BBQ

Sat 13th July 15.00

To book the hall just contact Terry Maple
on 01227 761329

Hilltop News deadline 25th July To Trisha

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

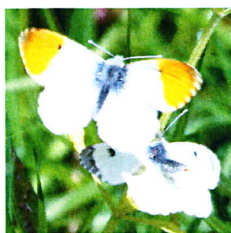
Joan Gower's Nature Notes

Spring is here. Dry weather and sunshine in abundance. Everything began to move very quickly after it dried up, but as I said in my last newsletter there seems to be a shortage of birds at least in my garden. I have still not seen a greenfinch. We have so many house sparrows it seems hard to believe that they are rare in some places. We have two pairs of chaffinches that are fighting it out for nesting sites in my or neighbouring gardens and the colours of the two males when they battle is wonderful. The two females are equally aggressive but not so beautiful. Great to watch. One of my regular contributors in New House Close now has a jay coming regularly to her feeding boxes. I have only ever had jays regularly in the last very cold winter when the acorns and beech mast had failed and there was little for them to eat. They came to the garden for nuts. Two blue tits finally won the battle for the nest box, but unfortunately one must have been taken by a predator as it was entering the box as there were feathers below it one morning. Only one was seen for about a week before it was joined by a second exploring the box. Great tits are nesting somewhere near as they are feeding regularly. One pigeon has devised way of eating from the seed feeder by standing in the water container and leaning sideways and pecking from the bottom hole. The balancing act is entertaining to watch. Talking of balancing acts I have not seen a single squirrel this year. I see in the last issue I typed 'sadly little owl found in the lane'. Wow. Unfortunately I should have put 'dead' in. Sorry.

Bulbs had been shooting since December and opened in mid January looking wonderful when I disappeared into hospital again for three weeks. I lay there languishing in beds, trolleys, scans and blood tests angry that the snowdrops would be over by the time they let me out. My family brought photos to cheer me up, but happily they were still in flower and had been joined by crocuses and some early flowering tulips that I had ordered by post last year. A vivid red, planted just outside the French window with whit crocus. Pale blue crocus out in a pot just opposite have died off, but will soon be replaced by a later bulb with recurved petals something like a cyclamen. Beautiful. The cowslips and primroses planted on the bank by a neighbour some years ago are just coming into flower again in Iffin lane, in a few days they will be fantastic. A few have seeded from polyanthus, but that can't be helped when so close to gardens.

I read in the Daily Mail that a few weeks after the persistent rain of the early year, we are now officially in a drought. We were really pleased when there was a shower to help on the plants and seeds in the garden, but it was very brief and the daily weather forecasts that give rain for the afternoon very seldom materialise. At least they said that there was no risk of a hosepipe ban as the ground water levels are still high. I have a lot of plants still to go in, but a drink on planting will be enough. There are several Alexander plants on the bank opposite me and the lower ones have yellowing leaves while the upper ones are flowering. I have not seen any spraying, but it seems very odd. I wouldn't have thought that it was that dry.

It is now early April and what an amazing Spring this is. I have winter cherry which is still in bloom at the same time as the sweet cherry blossom on the tree in my neighbour's garden. We moved here in May and the Sweet cherry has always bloomed in May until this year. The blackthorn was in flower two or three weeks early. The camellias are not out on the fifth, but with the lovely weather continuing so many things are absolutely wonderful in the garden. I have now seen in the last few days whilst sitting outside brimstone and orange tip butterflies and for a few days the goldfinches put in an appearance and then deserted me again. I will leave out the niger and hope for the best. I have also seen the strange bee fly again. This must be almost a repeat of last spring's



newsletter. I do know that people like to read it as they have told me so, but I feel that it is always the same. There is one different sighting this spring that was great. I did not see it but my gardeners were straightening paving slabs when they came across three common newts hibernating, they looked a bit angry at being disturbed, so the slab was left as it was. I have not seen one here for years, but it is lovely to know that they are still about. It was lovely to read in the January newsletter that the Hilltop lease had finally been granted. When it went on from year to year and when I began the newsletter as a single sheet and it grew to tell us what is happening over the years, I really did not think that I would ever live to see it. But I did. So. Many thanks to all those that did so much for us all. That's all for now. Hope to be with you in three months. Please give me a ring if you have anything interesting. Joan 451492.



HILLTOP COMMUNITY TAXI

Every Wednesday from St Faith's Hall to Canterbury Bus Station

Leaves at 10am Returns at 1pm

Return Fare ONLY £4 Single Fare £2

Book on the morning of your journey: ring Longley's Taxis on 710777 and tell them
you'd like to book a place on the Hilltop Community Taxi.

New House Nursery School

We are so lucky to have this excellent amenity in our community. I always enjoy listening to the young laughter and squeals of delight coming from the well resourced out door area throughout the year. The garden has been developed for all purpose play. The children can start when they are two and each of the classrooms has appropriate equipment to enhance learning and social skills. Jane, the owner, took the Nursery over fourteen years ago. All the children from the nursery including those with complex special and additional needs have gone on to mainstream schooling. Jane told me that it is very important to "Nurture the child and bring the full potential of the child out in both the indoor and outdoor environment" The Adult directed play can be seen clearly in the "Builders' Yard, the Garage involving car washers and the dinosaur den using the large trampoline. Jane wisely likes the children to do a minimum of three sessions a week to start with because of settling in and continuity of seeing regular children. All meals and snacks are provided with lunch being cooked by the brilliant Barbara who has been with us forever. Breakfast snacks Lunch and tea are all cooked by Barbara, a brilliant cook who has been with the Nursery for many years. Lots of the children are local but they also come from several villages as well so put your child's name down early as it is a very popular Nursery. The Nursery is accredited by KQM Kent Quality Mark Alan, Jane's husband, is the site manager. A nice added touch is that there is an after school club with a regular group from Barham Primary. For more details see the website. It is a very



happy well run family business where all the children thrive as reflected in the recent O.F.S.T.E.D. report where it was deemed outstanding in all areas The inspectors recorded that " Children are extremely happy , settled and confident in this welcoming nursery. They play happily with great respect for each other. One of the biggest strengths is children's personal and emotional welfare and ensuring they are very happy" The long term aim is to develop close links with all local village schools, as many as twenty and reception teachers are welcome to see their Nursery journey on site. , To quote just a few comments from parents: " I can't say enough good things, the staff are engaging and very interested" " They find time for the children to do extra things like dance and pottery and make Christmas presents for the grand parents. " They always celebrate the achievements of the children and deal with separation anxieties of the children very well." " There are good traditions with new values, developing the child holistically and preparing the child very well for school"

Feature submitted by Jan Armishaw

By the way.....

• Weather report from Hilary Spoon of Iffin Cottages January to March 2014

The first week of the year was extremely wet and windy, with 21.9 mm of rain on 1 January alone; January continued wet and when it wasn't actually raining it was very grey and overcast. The total rainfall for the month was 168.1 mm. However, it was mild for the time of year with a maximum temperature of 12.0°C and an average max. of 8.6°C. The minimum temperature was -2.1°C, compared with last January's minimum of -4.9°C. February was a much brighter month, although the total rainfall was still high at 134.3 mm - and the Petham winterbourne was flowing again, as it did back in 2000. The average minimum temperature was a mild 3.5°C. March saw an end to the wet period, with only 28.3 mm of rain during the month. The average maximum temperature was 12.8°C , with a high of 19.9°C (67.8°F)!

Summary for the quarter -Maximum temp. 19.9° (30 /03/14)-Minimum temp. -2.1° (11/01/14)-Maximum rainfall 21.9 mm (1 /01/14) -**Total rainfall** for the quarter 330.7 mm (compared with 118.7 mm for the same period last year)

• Mary's Annual Holiday

For the past two years I have gone on holiday to Dawlish in South Devon. You may remember seeing Dawlish on the TV news during the floods when the sea washed away the railway line. I have booked to go again with Mary from 7-14 September. Why? Because I am not a very fit person and this package provides a doctor with us at all times which makes me feel safe! I have also got to know thee other holidaymakers and the friendly staff at the Langham Cliff Hotel. Life at the 4 Crown Langham is all you want from a holiday. There are 2 swimming pools, a fitness room, hairdresser, tennis, etc. Food is excellent and there are 4 coach trips included in the price. Travel to Dawlish is also by coach. For those who are interested, please contact **Mary Hotchkiss at 27 Beacon avenue, Herne Bay. 01227 364561.** By Barbara Markham, 15 New House Close, Phone 763025.

• Further to the research on Iffin Lane

Pam Sherwood writes that the road was not in fact called Iffin Lane it was New House Lane and Iffin Croft was the last house in the lane. My husband's family bought 'Iffin Croft' in 1947-8. There was a hedge on the side which bordered a field owned by two brothers I can't remember their names). They grew vegetables & kept pigs & dogs. They used an entrance into Iffin Lane for their lorries which is now next to Lynor. My father-in-law made a gap in the hedge as he looked after the animals. I went to live in 'Iffin Croft' in 1951 when I got married. Mr & Mrs Tolputt lived next door (the bungalow was later burnt down). I know Albert's father built several houses in the area. My mother-in-law bought the end field about 1968 & had to buy a piece of Mrs Amos' orchard (she lived in Iffin Lane) to make an access wide enough for the road to go when she sold the ground to Mr kelk for building. It was stipulated in the agreement that no entrance was to be made into Iffin Lane. The roads were then renamed New House Lane and New House Close.

Easter Fayre continued...

Stall holders wore their hats from the start of the Fayre, which made it look very colourful. To finish off, many thanks must go to all the people of the community who gave their time, goods and energy in putting the Fayre together and to all of you, the community for supporting the event and spending generously.

A parade was held and prize giving took place. The judges were Cheryl Ives and Anita Rubins.

The winners were as follows:

Children.

Category A. [4 to 6] Albie Port, 1st.

Category B. [7 to 9] Poppy Gower, 1st. Daisy Port, Highly Commended.

Category C. No entries.

Category D. Hat made by parents, Olivia Hicks 1st.

[In this case made by Olivia Hicks who is 3 year old]

Adults.

Category E. Prettiest, Carole Davis 1st and Christine Bates 1st, joint winners.

Category F. Most Original, Chris Ives, 1st. Tracy Smith, Highly Commended, Carol Silk, Commended

More photographs are on display in the Hall. Anyone wanting information on how to get copies could contact Carole Davies or Jan Armishaw.

A magnificent £465 profit was raised, a lovely sum to help improve the facilities at YOUR Community Hall.

Thank you all.

From your Parish clerk



Roger Cheeseworth
01227 761642

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is proposing changes on the advice of Canterbury City Council which have some major effects on our community. Thanington Without Parish Council is made up of two wards, South Ward which is us at Hilltop and the North Ward which is Ashford Road and surrounding roads. At present both of these wards come within the Wincheap Ward of Canterbury City Council and we are served by 3 City Councillors. Nick Eden Green, Charlotte McCaul and Alex Perkins. The Boundary Commission are proposing that the South Ward (Hilltop) of TWPC is moved to the Chartham and Stone Street Ward of the City Council, where it will become a very small part of a large rural City Council ward. The South Ward (Hilltop) would also lose one of its Parish Councillors to the North Ward. The Wincheap Ward of the City Council will lose one of its councillors as well. The proposal to take part of the Parish - wrongly described as Thanington Without - out of Wincheap Ward and to include it in the proposed Chartham and Stone Street ward, contradicts the principle of not dividing parishes which have been applied to Sturry. Parish Council has worked tirelessly to unite the two parts of the parish and believes it has been successful in this. The current status of harmony and cohesion has been achieved by many years of dedicated work by both residents and past and present councillors. We have become a well known and respected team who are truly part of the local community parish. The Parish Council has written a letter to the commission, but it would be helpful if any of you want to write and email to Review Officer (Canterbury) at reviews@lgbce.org.uk you can also go

From HCA Trustees



Chairman
Sarah Guest

01227 765703

Firstly a very big thank you and well done to Carole Davies and her helpers for the Easter fair, a record sum raised well over £400. All proceeds going into the Hilltop Community charity account for the refurbishment of our hall. This is going start with replacement of the floor, estimates have been sought and examined by the trustees and a contractor will undertake this work in August or October this year, thank you John Carpenter for sourcing the replacement. Discussions and plans are ongoing at the main committee meetings please come along if you would like to have a say, the next meeting is 18th June at 7.30pm. The roof is on the agenda and we are seeking prices for replacement and funding and grant opportunities. Please have a look at the diary on the website <http://www.hilltopca.co.uk/events/may.htm> to find out what is on in May, if you would like to organize a community event come along to a main committee meeting or contact one of the trustees to discuss ideas. Finally many thanks to all of you who came to say farewell to Nancy, she has left a big gap in our family and community.

through <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk> if anyone would like the full version email me on reinkent@aol.com It's very important that we get our say, Prof Clive Church and HIMN are putting in their objections on behalf of Hilltop.

THE SAMARITANS – A LISTENING VOICE AT TIMES OF CRISIS AND DESPAIR

Canterbury and District Samaritans took over 14,000 calls in 2013

Since the late Rev Chad Varah founded the Samaritans in London in 1953 the organisation has grown throughout the UK and across the world. It is most famous for its completely confidential telephone service for those contemplating suicide and those in despair and mental distress who feel they have "reached the end of their tether" or who feel they have no one else to turn to. Its branches are staffed and run entirely by volunteers. Confidentiality is assured when calling, e-mailing or having a face to face meeting with a Samaritan. Indeed the total commitment to confidentiality is one of the cornerstones of the training of all Samaritans. Callers don't have to give their name and a caller's telephone number cannot be seen by the Samaritan volunteer and calls can't be recorded. It is open to all regardless of age, gender, nationality, race, ethnic origin, religion or politics. All human beings are welcome. Last year, Canterbury and District Samaritans (which covers Canterbury District and Thanet and Faversham) took 14,135 telephone calls, held 249 face-to-face conversations and answered 1,083 e-mails. Its volunteers, who work in pairs on four hour shifts, took 2,793 more calls in 2013 than the year before. The common denominator is that all callers seek someone to hear them. Someone who's attention is entirely focussed on them, who won't judge them or advise them, but just listen with complete focus on the caller. The Samaritans offer no promises, don't give advice and can work no miracles. They let callers come to their own conclusions and often, though sadly not always, talking to a Samaritan lets in a little light and hope. Just enough to give a caller the strength to keep going. The constant hope of Samaritans is that suicidal callers decide not to take their own lives and that those in anguish have found some relief through talking to a Samaritan. Anguish and despair, depression and distress affect the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the labourer in the field and the lord in his castle. People call the Samaritans for many reasons - bereavement, personal debts, business failure, redundancy, mental illness, relationship breakdown, family break-up, loneliness, a diagnosis of terminal illness, work or study pressures, domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness, sexuality issues and workplace bullying are just some of the concerns that motivate people to call the Samaritans. All of them are treated with the same respect, consideration and patience. There is no such thing as a typical caller to the Samaritans. Every caller is different, for a Samaritan understands that what an individual caller is going through is unique to that person. Canterbury and District Samaritans is a charity in its own right and has to raise its own funds. Money is needed for meeting rooms and offices, telephones and computers, quiet and private areas for taking calls and for heating, lighting, maintenance, insurance, security and even for the tea and biscuits that sustain volunteers on their shifts. One of the biggest costs is the training of volunteers. The branch is busier than ever and in addition to its one to one services it also runs outreach programmes to the area's huge student population and to prisoners in some of Kent's jails.

If you are facing a crisis in your life and would like to talk to a Samaritan Listening Volunteer please call 01227 457777 or, if you prefer, you can e-mail the Samaritans at jo@samaritans.org. Remember, calls and e-mails to the Samaritans are completely confidential and you don't even have to give your name.

100club@hilltopca.co.uk

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
01227 761642

100 Club Winners February, March, April

Prize	February	March	April
£50	I&M Dachtelier	Carole Davies	Collette Warr
£30	Anita Rubens	Tracy Smith	Joan Gower
£20	Veronica Pringle	Marion Sackett	Pam Wood
£10	Lettie Heart	Jan Armishaw	Peter Leonard