



Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

August 2014

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Your Parish Council working for you



Hilltop lies in the South Ward of Thanington Without Parish Council and we have two councillors to cover our area within a Parish Council of Nine. The Councillors for Hilltop are Cllr Terry Maple (Left) and Cllr Terry Davies (Right). The Parish Council have taken on several of the jobs that the City Council and Kent County council used to do. The photo's around this page show how this has improved our



area. Our verges and footpaths were just left to grow during the summer and the entrance to the raised footpath used to become nearly impassable as the pictures below left show. The Parish Council now has a program in place that cuts our verges twice a month and the footpaths are cut spring and autumn, this has made a huge difference as most of us use the footpaths for many



reasons. Our raised footpath to Wincheap and Canterbury used to be very dangerous with drops onto the road often over 12 feet. The footpath until the A2 bridge is within the Thanington Without Parish Council area, this part was fenced in two stages with the top half being done by Four Seasons Fencing at a cost of £3,000 and the bottom half being completed a couple of years later at a cost of £2,000 this left the Canterbury City Council area still without a fence. Cllr Terry Maple (TWPC) and Cllr Nick Eden-Green (CCC) worked very hard to get CCC to complete the fence to the bottom, but after many emails to CCC this fell on deaf ears and the cry of no money. The Parish Council then received a Open Space Grant from a development within our Parish so decided to use this money to complete the fence as is was for the advantage of the South Ward.



The corner of New House Lane, Iffin Lane and Hollow Lane used to have no kerb and was just earth bank coming to the road and the area was a dumping ground for rubbish. The parish council had the granite kerb stones fitted all around the corner when Kent Highways reported that they did not have the funds. The Grit bin, Seat, Pet Waste bin, step to phone box and landscaping were completed by PC. This area is also looked after twice a month under the grass cutting rota. Hilltop Community Association then provided the notice board which is there today. The seats, rubbish bins, pet waste bins and signs along New House lane have also been provided by the Parish Council and the City council have taken on the emptying of the bins which seems to work well. The salt bin at junction of New House Lane and Close was purchased by the PC but is filled by Kent Highways.



If anyone thinks of something that needs doing or is being missed then contact one of our councillors their details are on the TWPC web site at www.thanington-pc.gov.uk which also has a lot of local information and contacts.

This is a short look at your Parish Council which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre at 19:30 and visitors are very welcome. Our Yearly visit to St Faiths is our next meeting in September which is on **Monday 8th September at 19:30.** This is something our two councillors fought to get so please support them by trying to attend this meeting.



Diary of Events

Weekly Events:

Friday Open House

Community Evening

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 Aug 13th 10:00 & 19:30

Wed Sept 10th 10:00 & 19:30

Wed Oct 8th 10.00 & 19.30

Coming Events:

HCA Main Committee

Wed Sept 17th at 19:30

Trustees meeting

Wed Sept 17th 19:30

Wed Oct 15th 19:30

Church Services

Sun Sept 7th at 18:00

Harvest Service

Sun 5th Oct at 18:00

Harvest Supper

Mon 7th Oct 19:00

Beer & Brains

Sept 6th 19.30

Bingo

Sat 13th 18:30

HCA/ARCA Summer Challenge

Sun 14th at 14:00

Barry's Community Walk

Sat. Sept 21st 09:45

Fish & Chip Supper + Quiz

Sat 18th Oct at 19:30

**Hilltop News deadline 25th October
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.

Hello again. Summer is now with us and everything is incredibly early. Up to the time of writing it has been extremely dry, and after all the rain we had in the winter I suppose the ground water must be sufficient to avoid us having a hosepipe ban. Rain has been forecast, but we only get showers which dry up in up time. However nothing has actually died as yet. My grandson has grown some vegetables in the garden and something kept pulling up the peas, but not actually eating the seeds, just left them lying on the ground. He pushed them back only to find the next day that they were up again. He netted them, but unsurprisingly they have not flourished like previous sowings. We came to the conclusion that it was the pigeons, but why they did not eat the peas I have no idea. I have not heard anything recently about the ash tree disease apart from the fact that new nursery beds have been grown to replace the dead ones. The large tree across the road still has last years keys hanging on it, but it looks healthy although I cannot see any new keys. Eyes perhaps? Of the two small trees in next doors garden, one appears to be dying, but the other looks alright. Birds have been here in plenty, but still no greenfinch has been seen although I have heard one in the garden so I am going to get my eyes tested. I do know that my eyes have deteriorated, but even a female greenfinch is so much more dumpy for want of a better word, although there would be no mistaking wonderful gold of the male. Great spotted woodpecker are feeding on the nuts and one day two came together, a very short space of time between leaving and returning. I was convinced that they must feeding young somewhere very close, but on the following day and since I had not seen a woodpecker for a long time, until one morning a very handsome juvenile clung to the nuts for a very long time. Once again I have not seen any since.



Nice to know they hatched though. Blue tits fledged and there were six young begging for food, some weeks later another small brood were outside and one was really having trouble standing up. It was fine hanging upside down, but fell over as soon as it stood. I wonder how many of them survived. The bank voles that we had last year have returned. We have had more jays than normal and I really thought that they had eaten the voles for breakfast, however, like the woodpecker one at least is back and feeding on dropped birdseed. Thanks entirely to my gardeners the garden is thriving despite the dry conditions. Even the lawn looks good although there are a few dry patches for some reason. They have not watered the lawn until two weeks ago, I have lost some newly bought plants, but that is to be expected when it has been so dry. All the established plants that I had have, I believe survived. Some fuchsias have flowered early as so many other things have done, but most still bloom. Chrysanthemums are starting to flower early and clematis are doing really well, I have winter clematis which is absolutely rampant and flowers from July to the end of March. Only small flowers, but really beautiful speckled pink inside. My grandson has taken over the vegetable garden and we have already eaten salads, strawberries and wonderful young broad beans. Once again the gardener was weeding and came across something he thought was not just a lump of mud so took it home with him to clean up and examine. He researched it and as far as he can tell it is a part formed arrowhead and believes it is 'Late Neolithic'. He said the diagonal ridges show that it was struck from this point. He says the shaping of the tang show that it cannot be natural or the result of ploughing. I showed it to a lady who is very knowledgeable and she believes it may be earlier. Nice to know we are living on an earlier settlement. The owls have nested in the Eastry area and have two young just going outside the nest box. A pity we do not have any locally, but who knows, there may be some closer, but are being kept secret so that they are not flooded with watchers. That's all for now and hopefully Bye for now, Joan.

Craft Social Afternoon Tuesday 13th May—

Instead of our monthly session at St Faiths, the "crafty girls" as we are now officially called (all credit to Maureen Hillman bestowing this title on us) went out for lunch. We went to Elham Valley Vineyard Tearooms, chauffeured by five willing drivers, there being seventeen of us in total. Much merriment, good food and fine venue, plus good company made for a great time. It was discovered that one of our 'girls' was celebrating her birthday, so we spoke to the staff who managed to find us a lemon sponge cake with candles. We all sang "Happy Birthday", followed by a slice of the said very tasty cake!! A really nice impromptu interlude made possible by the efforts of the staff, despite being really busy with a house full of dinners. We strolled down through the vineyard to the pottery and woodwork workshops, making some purchases. They produce lovely items for the home and for the garden. We then walked up to the garden centre, where we saw beautiful hanging baskets made up and ready to go to the Whitefriars Shopping Centre in Canterbury, which will make a lovely display. After purchasing bedding plants etc., some of us went back to the tearooms for another 'cuppa'. To sum up, it made a lovely change and for anyone who has not been there maybe you should try it! It is run by the charity Faith Trust, who provides employment, day centres and homes for both men and women who have learning difficulties. The tea rooms are open seven days a week, situated near Barham, telephone number 01227 831266. Finally a big thank you to our drivers. A return visit is on the cards. Carole Davis



“HILLTOP PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR”

A Hilltop Community Event PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION FOR AMATEURS.

We are holding a Photographic Competition for the first time and would really welcome your participation.

The categories are :-

ADULTS, People and / or Places. £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 25 October 2014, at 2pm to 4pm.

Refreshments on sale and a small 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 age group on a label and attach to the reverse side of the photograph.
- We will endeavour to return photographs after the event, but cannot take any responsibility should this prove impossible.

More information can be obtained from :- **CAROLE DAVIS 01227 451485. CHERYL IVES 01227 760707.**

Taxi Fund Raising Success

Hilltop residents came up trumps on the afternoon of 28 June 2014, when they turned up to support our elderly Hilltop residents who regularly take the Hilltop Community Taxi to Canterbury. The occasion was a fund-raising Afternoon Tea event to help keep the Hilltop Community Taxi going and as well as home-made cakes for sale, there was a nearly new paper back sale and a raffle. The event, made a grand total of £319.10. Councillors Brian Staley and Charlotte MacCaul and Anne Belworthy from the Canterbury & District Community Transport Committee, the organisation which oversees the transport project, attended the event and remarked on the great community spirit which we have up here at Hilltop and what a friendly atmosphere there was during the afternoon. Cheryl, Christine, Betty and Carole who organised the event would like to thank everyone who donated the wonderful cakes, paperbacks and raffle prizes and the Hilltop Community Association for allowing us free use of the hall. Thanks also to Margaret Burr, Terry Davies and Chris Ives for their support and a very special thank you to young Ryan, Carole and Terry's grandson, for his superb manning of the paperback stall. Finally they would like to add grateful thanks to all who attended for their amazing generosity. **Footnote:** The Hilltop Community Taxi Bus, serving Iffin Lane, New House Lane and New House Close and operated by Longley's Taxis, goes to Canterbury every Wednesday at 10 am from St Faith's Hall. Did you know that they are willing to pick you up from your gate if it is too difficult for you to get to the Hall? You just have to let them know where you will be when you ring to book a place. For further information ring Cheryl on 01227 760707.



**VOTER REGISTRATION IS CHANGING.
LOOK OUT FOR YOUR LETTER.
MORE INFO ▶**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



Electoral registration have been working on the biggest change to the way people register to vote in over 100 years. The transition to Individual Electoral Registration in 2014 means that everyone will need to register to vote individually, rather than the head of the household completing the form as they do at the moment. Whilst most people in our area will be transferred automatically to the new register, around 24% will need to re-register. Over the last few weeks, households have been receiving one of the following: A confirmation letter - no action needed An invitation to register - need to apply on line or complete and return the form A household enquiry form - need to complete and return the form or get all individuals in the household to register on line at www.gov.uk/register tovot

By the way.....

Weather report from Hilary Spon of Iffin Cottages April to June 2014

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.
April	19.5	16.1	1.2	6.8	8	12.7	38.3
May	25.2	18.1	1.2	8.9	12	22.6	81.9
June	25.5	21.7	6.8	11.1	4	31.1	41.1
Total for quarter							161.3

April: At the beginning of the month wind brought dust (from the Sahara, we were told) and there were 11 consecutive days without rain.

May: A bit of everything - high temperatures, but the wettest of the three months.

June: The day with the highest rainfall for the quarter was 7 June - 31.1mm (1.2").

- Have any other local gardeners found any **Neolithic ironware** when gardening?

See Joan Gower's interesting report at the end of the nature notes.

NEW HILLTOP READING GROUP

Are you interested in participating in a Reading Group at Hilltop?
If so please contact Cheryl on 01227 760707.

From HCA Trustees



Vice Chairman
Roger Cheeseworth

01227 761642

From HCA Trustees



Chairman
Sarah Guest

01227 765703

From your Parish Council



Councillor
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

As Trustees for the charity our role is to oversee the smooth running of the Hilltop Community Association Charity, having the lease has allowed us to make improvements to the hall that the community has been asking for. During August a new floor is to be installed and we hope to get costing for the refurbishment or replacement of the roof. This will be a big capital investment and although we have a healthy bank balance we will need funding or a grant to help with many areas of the refurbishment planned. We are extremely fortunate at Hilltop we not only have an enthusiastic team of fund raisers, for which we are very grateful but many and skilled residents keen to help in upgrading our hall with advice and workmanship. On behalf of the trustees thank you very much. If you think you have skills or are keen to get involved come along to the next main committee meeting or email/telephone one of the Trustees we welcome everybody. Enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you at Hilltop events.

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New Hall sign for Hilltop.



100club@hilltopca.co.uk

100 Club Winners May, June & July

Prize	May	June	July
£50	Silvia Wraight	Terry Cogger (£100)	Keith Butler
£30	Gareth Morgan	Silvia Wraight (£60)	Roger Beaty
£20	Sarah Heamden	L Pymn (£40)	Iris Purdy
£10	Jo Dorkins	P & R Collins (£20)	Tony Pringle

The clerk, Roger Cheeseworth, is to enquire with ARCA if the parish council can use their hall for the 2015 annual parish meeting.

A new notice board has been ordered for the South Ward, which has now arrived and will be erected shortly.

Dog clean-up signs have been ordered by the parish council, and will be affixed in appropriate places in the parish.

On the Thanington road lower footpath, the highway inspector has concluded that the reason for flooding in this area is that the tarmac was laid with no consideration for water run-off, hence the reason for surface water laying on the footpath.

A new litter bin is to be purchased for the start of Thanington road, to replace one which was stolen.

It was reported that one of the slats on the footbridge over the Stour at Tonford is loose, this has been reported to Kent highways.

Recently, two speed watch patrols have been carried out in new house lane.

Mention was made that the Tonford Lane/Grays Way street light is not working, and the dropped kerb by the junction of strangers lane and Ashford road does not line up with the crossing. Recently a visually impaired gentleman and his guide dog had to be helped because he was led by the dog off the drop point kerb into the road. Onlookers had to assist to prevent an accident.

It was noted that a hedge is overhanging the 30mph sign at the north end of Iffin lane.

Concern was expressed about the safety of trees on both sides of the road near the hanging banks lay-by Ashford road. these were reported promptly to Kent highways and an inspection has been promised within a couple of weeks.

Date of next meeting - there being no meeting in august 2014- Monday September 8th 2014 at 7.30pm.venue; St Faiths hall, New House Lane.

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Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth
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