



Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

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Trustees

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Letter from the Chairman

How time flies; who can believe it is a year now since I have taken over as your chairman and a tremendous amount has happened in that short time.

Firstly I must announce with regret that Sarah Guest has decided to stand down from being a trustee and her role as our vice chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work not only as vice chairman but also in her capacity as your chairman for the past five years. I know it was a very difficult decision and her tenure has not been easy at times, but she has worked hard with the past trustees and was instrumental in us being successful in finally getting the lease for the hall which is now secured. Sarah is not leaving us, just standing down from her role as an active trustee. She is still going to help the trustees by assisting us in trying to obtain that important funding for the hall refurbishment and our planned building works.

As Sarah's successor, I asked if Terry Maple would consider taking on the role as vice chairman. I was pleased to announce at our recent AGM that he accepted my offer and has now taken over the role of our new vice chairman. I hope you feel like me, that his experience and knowledge of our Community Association gained since its formation back in 2000 will prove invaluable and will hopefully be a great asset and back up to me

Our Facebook page has continued to prove to be a great success and by the feedback we get back from all of you we are now reaching a lot of people. It has been a great medium for the trustees to keep the community up to date with all the events and news.

At the AGM we were happy to be able to launch our new website. Please take a time to log in and check it out: www.hilltopca.org We would ask that you kindly let us know your thoughts and if you have any comments or suggestions as to how it can be improved or what else you would want to see included. We hope this will prove as great a success as our Facebook page has proven.

At this point I would like to say thank you to my daughter Katherine for helping us with the new website. She has designed it from scratch, working extremely hard in the background over the past few months or so, all in her spare time. All the trustees are very grateful for her contribution to the community.

In the future, one thought perhaps is that we may possibly accept advertisements to promote some of the local businesses within our community. If you would like to advertise your business then please in the first instance visit the website and make an enquiry.

In the coming year, we the trustees with the help of Sarah as mentioned earlier will be starting to seek and applying for funding or part funding for the hall refurbishment and building projects. We will be starting with the roof; please refer to Dave Sackett's column elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, we had our Spring Fair in April. This was changed from a morning to an afternoon for the first time and I know Carole Davis was wondering if this move was going to work. In the end it was proved that she had not needed to worry as I was informed that a lot of the community attended the event and supported what turned out to be a very successful afternoon. I am very pleased indeed to be able to tell you that with all her and her many helpers' hard work the event raised a staggering £602.25. A very well done to you all.

We as community need these events to continue and succeed as running a community hall needs the money to survive. The responsibilities for bills alone to run the hall for the past financial year was in excess of £1500, without counting all the other costs and event running and repair expenses. It with that in mind that we all need to keep supporting our hall over the coming year. I'm sure that you feel as I that we all still want a Community Hall for the future.

Enjoy your summer

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 May 10th 10:00 & 19:30
Wed June 14th 10.00 & 19.30
Evening Church Services
Sun 4th June at 18:00
Sun 2nd Jul at 18:00

Forthcoming Events:

HCA Main Committee
Thu 25th May at 19:00

Trustees meeting
Thursday 25th May at 20.00
Wednesday 21st June 20.00

70's Disco Saturday 27th May
Boules, Bat and Trap Saturday 11th June
Quiz Night Saturday 22nd July
Summer BBQ Saturday 12th August
Fish and Chip Night Saturday 21st October

Hilltop News deadline Saturday 29th July

To book the hall please contact
Terry Maple on 01227 761329

100 Club Winners

Please contact: jackiegreenbush@sky.com

Prize	Mar	Apr	May
£50	E&M Hawkins	J Gurden	M&E Gurden
£30	N Ives	R Campbell	D Smith
£20	C Davies	J Nancoo	A Allen
£10	C&A Naude	M Hopkins	R Beatty

COFFEE MORNING

In Aid of Mercy In Action

SATURDAY 24th JUNE
10AM-12PM

ST FAITH'S HALL
NEW HOUSE LANE
CT4 7BH

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES | RAFFLE | REFRESHMENTS



Mercy in Action

Nature notes

Kestrels have been seen again soaring over the local woods. The typical flight of the kestrel is a series of flaps interspersed with glides. Sadly however Sparrow hawks have swooped down recently and killed a couple of racing pigeons.

Larkey Valley woods are looking really beautiful at the moment with a rich carpet of blue bells, clumps of primroses and wood anemones though these are just going over. The fresh green beech leaves and the hawthorn are welcoming the month of May.

One of my favourite plants in Larkey Valley woods is the moschatel. Other names for this plant are five faced bishop,



hollow root and town hall clock. It is an herbaceous perennial. It is difficult to find because of its greenish yellow flowers and delicate structure of the stem and lobed leaves. The plant and its flower smell of musk which is strongest in the evening. The name five faced bishop alludes to the structure of its inflorescence. This consists of five flowers, one four petalled flower facing upwards and four five petalled flowers facing horizontally as seen in the picture.

Jan

HILLTOP SPRING FAIR 2017

On Saturday 22nd April the above Fair was held at your Community Hall. The time was changed from other years to 2 to 4pm and this seemed to work a treat, both with prior preparation and to the number of people attending, lot of families with children which is good. The sun shone brightly after a drizzly overcast morning which enabled us to spread outside with goods for sale, i.e. decorative flower pots, attractive plants in pots and books. It also enabled people to stay longer as they could be outside socializing and having refreshments too. Outside also was a table taking names and e-mail addresses, so that a data base could be formed to distribute information easily.

If you haven't given yours then please send to Jackie Bush,
jackiegreenbush@sky.com.

The Hall looked really inviting with stalls well stocked and pretty.

We had the Tombola as always which was as popular as ever. Young and old alike were keeping the helpers really busy. Lovely varied prizes, very colourful and beautifully displayed.

There were several competitions to take part in which were as follows: - "How many Sweets in the Jar", winner Sheila Curtis with "350". The actual number was 356, so nearest number was declared the winner. "Name the Baby Doll", winner Carole Davis with the name "Fiona". "Name the Adult Doll", winner Christine Bates with the name "Isabella". "Guess where the Treasure Chest [full of sweets] is Buried on the Map", winner Jessica Dudley.

The Knitted stall was colourful and had a variety of homemade articles ranging from, matinee coats, jumpers, cardigans, jackets, toys, small Animals, dolls clothes to car seat/buggy blankets. A very small quantity was left over – that's always a great incentive to get the needles out for next time.

Refreshment Ladies – well what can be said, so, so busy making and serving the drinks, washing up, boiling kettles etc. They also made cakes to be sold with drinks which are a good touch. They also said they sold a lot of squash for the children, maybe that's because of it being in the afternoon and warm so they could run around outside, thus working up a thirst!!

The Raffle Stall was resplendent in lovely prizes, baskets of toys and goodies, bottles of Wine, whisky, chocolates, toiletries, Easter egg, bunny dressed for cricket complete with bat engraved "Hilltop CC!", photo album, jigsaw, garden obelisk, cactus garden, dressing gown, candle set, and last but not least a Celebration iced cake depicting Saint George and the Dragon on top.

The first three prize winners,
1st Prize, Pam Wood. Basket of toys.
2nd Prize, Betty Wallis. Dressing gown.
3rd Prize, P and R Collins. Celebration cake.

On the subject of Saint George – as Sunday was Saint George's Day, [hence the cake decoration] we decided to dot a few references around. A toy Dragon on the Tombola and on the Raffle, a Saint George bendy figure on the Tombola, notices on the tea tables giving the story of Saint George for people to read and there was also a hand knitted Saint George and Dragon on a knitted mat which was open to offers and was sold to a delighted little girl, complete with a copy of the story.

The Cake Stall was so well supported with a huge variety of homemade cakes, round, square, oblong, small, large, pastries, savouries, fairy cakes, a big thank you to all who slaved over the hot stove to produce such a lovely display.

"This and That" stall speaks for itself. It was loaded with kitchen items, such as bread bins, tools, wine cooler, assorted mugs, jewellery, handbags, smellies, toys, puzzles, games, etc., etc. Again a great variety of goods.

We have to thank our Official Photographer, Lyn Gregory, who was in attendance from beginning to end taking loads of photographs of the people and the stalls. We look forward to seeing a selection of them sometime in the near future on the notice board in the Hall, the Newsletter and also maybe the Hilltop Calendar, which hopefully will be on sale again for Christmas, [don't mention that word yet!!].

In closing we do hope that we have covered everything and everyone. Grateful thanks go out to all who took part in the Fair, whether it be running a stall, making goods, printing posters and flyers or collecting articles. Big huge thanks for all donations and finally, THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING and spending so generously.

The Final Total taken on the day was:- **£602-25**

Carole Davis – Organiser.

Hilltop Photographic Competition 2017

CATEGORIES:-

ADULTS: A photographic interpretation of a SONG TITLE.

CHILDREN: I 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.



Note from the Editor

Firstly a thank you to all those who gave their e mail addresses at the Spring Fair. While a database of residents' e mail addresses has been made in the past we felt it was time to update this and make sure we can contact as many of you as possible about upcoming events regarding our hall and community. If you have not given your e mail address already and would like to be kept up to date with residents' news please e mail **Jackie Bush** at **jackiegreenbush@sky.com**

Similarly, if you are interested in advertising on our website, or in our newsletter please contact me, **bmted@live.co.uk**

While I always request articles from any members of the community it is the same reliable people who produce the articles that go into this newsletter. It would be very much appreciated if we received more articles from more of our community about any news they would like to share.

I look forward to hearing from more of you in the future.
Bonnie Tillotson, Hilltop News Editor



Hall Building Update

As announced at this year's AGM we are pleased to report that we have formed a Building sub-committee to progress the hall project. We are very lucky in having 3 professionals in our community who are offering their services free of charge and are Terry Davis providing Architectural Advice, Terry Maple who will be our Quantity Surveyor and Dave Smith who will be our Project Manager. John Richardson and Dave Sackett will support this team.

The cost of replacing the roof, extensions and alterations are estimated to cost in excess of £120,000 and although we have substantial funds, Sarah Guest is part of the support team looking at what funding is available to us from organisations such as Kent County Council, Lottery and local developers to help us achieve our goal.

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

Dave Sackett

Notes from the Thanington Parish Council to Hilltop News

A lot of work by the Parish Council is mundane and repetitive but it needs to be done. Items such as junction lines re-painting, land slip in Hollow Lane, manhole cover has become loose, causing a noise each time a vehicle rides over it, day-time, not perhaps such a problem, but at night it could be keeping you awake. We see problems outside of the South Ward, like the flower beds at the bottom of Strangers Lane. They were neglected by CCC so we decided that we would manage them, planting more shrubs and flowers. Unfortunately CCC every now and again gets involved damaging what we have done. We are talking to CCC to resolve the matter. The favourite and the top of the poll is potholes, never a month goes by without them getting a mention.

Sitting at the last Parish Council meeting in April, everything was going as per normal, when Councillor Nick Eden Green arrived at the meeting with a plan of the £4.4 million A2 slip road from London.

Much discussion was had on the advantages and the disadvantages of the scheme. Alas not many advantages, just a scheme that was fraught with more problems than it appeared to solve. It was reported on in the Gazette dated Thursday 3 April 2017, Parish Council Clerk, Roger Cheese-worth said that he fears that the impact will not ease congestion on the city ring road and the effects of 1150 new homes in Thanington, but fears that it will have opposite effect on the already gridlocked A28 through the Parish. He further said, "It's a joke because Highways England rules say that traffic from the A2 must have priority so that traffic lights at Wincheap will have to be set that way. That can only have a knock-on effect for traffic in Thanington and Wincheap which will be backed up even further, adding to the high air pollution risk". Councillor Nick Eden-Green said "It has already been published, significantly without any knowledge or pre-consultation with city councillors, parish councillors or residents. The relief of traffic on Wincheap, our most polluted road, with many homes along it, does not seem to be addressed at all. Yet this has always been our prime objective in seeking improvements". KKC spokesman Thom Morris said that the plan was only preliminary, one submitted to the government for funding and more detail would be worked on before it was put out for public consultation. Watch this space!

Sometimes problems occur on another "patch", not in our Parish, but our understanding Clerk sympathises and knows that the problem may not always be picked up by the other Parish Council, so where necessary we liaise. We have a problem with fly tipping, which is not on the highway, but just in a farmers field, so cannot be removed by CCC, remaining the farmers problem and an eyesore to us all. What we Parish Councillors of the South Ward require is a team of informers, yes **YOU**. **Give us a ring if there is something that requires attention, we will do the rest. Do not think, "Someone else will report that", you may be the only one. It is your Parish, you can make it better.**

The telephone numbers are Terry Davis, 01227 451485 or Terry Maple 01227 761329.

Parish Council meetings commence at 7pm on the second Monday in the month. Why not come along and see what happens at a Parish Council Meeting.

Graham Page

for 2017