



Hilltop News

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Letter from your Chairman

Another year nearly gone and I hope you all have had a great summer. Now Christmas is staring us in the eyes, can you believe it?

On the subject of Christmas, we are holding our Christmas Fayre on December 2nd from 11.00-1.00pm. Do please come along and support us. I am pleased to announce that Father Christmas has told me that he will be in his grotto again this year so bring all your little ones along to meet him.

If you would like to help or contribute to this event, or any others, please contact Andrea or any one of the Trustees. In the past Carole & Terry Davis have traditionally organised both this event and the Spring Fair, but after a great deal of thought they have reluctantly decided to call it a day on being the lead. They will still have an input but now helping as part of the team. I'm sure you would all like to join with me in saying a very big 'Thank You' to the both of them on behalf of the community. The Christmas Fayre team is now being led by Andrea Williams and Jo Gurden and the Spring Fair team will be led by Tracey Smith & Marion Sackett.

I would like to send our condolences to David Swain over the loss of his wife in the last few months and also to the family of Richard Gamble who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. Our thoughts are with you both.

To bring things up to date for you with the events that have been put on at the hall recently. All have been well supported and been very successful which I thank you all for (look at the article in the newsletter). Hopefully we can add a few more events in time. If you have any ideas or would like to sponsor and run an event please let me or any of the Trustees know.

Our website, www.hilltop.org, and Facebook Page 'Hilltop Community Association' are both performing well, the amount of followers is increasing all the time. Please tell your friends about us to spread the word.

The advertising section on our website is now up and running so if you would like to promote your business or company you can. Thank you to those of you who have already placed an advertisement.

Our 'community round robin' email service is up and running. We are looking to make a few improvements so please bear with us. If we do not have your email address yet and you would like to be included to be notified of Community News and Events etc. please give your details to jackiegreen-bush@sky.com. For those not keen on social media there will still be the traditional posters put on the noticeboards.

The new calendar will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre, this year. You can pre-order your copy, for £4.99 just let me know. We are linking next year's theme to the now very successful annual Hilltop photographic competition.

A sub-Committee has been set up to research grants available for community projects, led by Sarah Guest & David Bush. I thank them for their help and knowledge so far which is proving invaluable.

Finally we have raised over £500 for Tony the postman, any further donations please deliver to 7 New House Lane.

Keep safe and warm in the coming months.

I hope to see you all at our next events.

John Richardson

Chairman

On behalf of the Trustees.

Christmas Fayre Notice

With the Christmas Fayre fast approaching we need your help!!

Are there any new avid bakers within the community? Every year Hilltop relies on your generous donations of home made cakes and goodies to sell at its events. We would welcome some additional contributions from residents to add to the offering from our regular bakers. These need to be brought to the hall on the day of the Fayre.

We also need donations of good quality new items for the grand prize draw. Items need to be with Carole Davis or myself by Friday 24th November.

Please feel free to contact me about the above or if you would like to get involved with Hilltop's Community events.

Remember to return your raffle tickets (sold or unsold) by Friday 24th November to any of the collection points on the tickets to be in with a chance of winning.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre.

Thank you ,

Andrea Williams (Iffin Lane) tel:07814 709468

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 8th Nov 10:00 & 19:30

Wed 13th Dec 10:00 & 19:30

Evening Church Services

Sun 5th Nov at 18:00

Sun 3rd Dec at 18:00

Christmas Carol Service 20th Dec at 18:30

Forthcoming Events:

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 2nd Dec 11:00 to 13:00

HCA Main Committee

Wed 29th Nov at 19:00

Trustees meeting

Wednesday 29th Nov at 20.00

Wednesday 27th Dec at 19.00

Hilltop News deadline 26th January 2018

To book the hall please contact

Terry Maple on 01227 761329

Hilltop Photographic Competition

The above competition for the fourth year running has taken place. A marvellous volume of entries by both children and adults, many of whom had not taken part previously and others who have been entering from the beginning. Thank you all for your support for this community event.

Quality, standard and brilliant imagination was so good it was difficult to judge the entries. This was efficiently done by Anita Rubins and Lisa Oulton with adjudication by Cheryl Ives.

We held the awards ceremony at the Hall on Saturday 30 September and before the winners were announced Cheryl Ives gave an explanation of the criteria the judges looked for. The winner's prizes and certificates were presented by Dave Sackett [Trustee] and also certificates for Highly Commended and Commended entries. Thank you Dave.

We had tea, coffee and homemade cakes on sale together with pots of Cheryl's homemade raspberry jam plus a very nice raffle, again all prizes being donated. They included two handmade celebration cakes by Anita Rubins depicting the two categories. A Song Title, for Adults. Her interpretation in the form of a cake decoration was, "Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover". For Children, I Spy something beginning with "P". Likewise, the interpretation for the other cake decoration was Hilltop Wildlife Park, with all animals whose names begin with "P".

John Richardson [Chairman] drew the raffle for us and Sue Knott won 1st prize, the Hilltop Wildlife Park cake and very kindly insisted it was cut and shared with everyone present – a lovely gesture from you Sue, thank you! There is a display of the photographs in the Hall, with all positions listed, until at least to the New Year, if you would like to view them.

The winners were: -

Adult.

1st HANGING BY A MOMENT. Katie Lane.

2nd LOVE IS IN THE AIR. Colin Smith.

3rd AUTUMN LEAVES. Hilary Spon.

Children.

1st POT BELLY PIG. Luisa Williams.

2nd PEACOCK. Daniel Gent.

3rd PLANE. Daniel Gent.

A big thank you goes to Christine Bates and Betty Wallis for managing the busy refreshment table and also providing the cakes.

A special thank you to the Trustees for all the extra publicity and advertising they produced. Also to Cheryl Ives for acting as adjudicator in addition to planning, framing and preparing the display of photographs, together with art work advertising the event. Thanks to Chris Ives for being our photographer on the day.

Such a good successful event, raising £255.00 for the funds.

Thank you also for all the donations of prizes etc.

In closing, please keep a lookout for the new categories to be announced in the New Year and make a note to take part in 2018.

WISHING YOU ALL AN EARLY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Carole Davis, organiser.



Editor's note

As mentioned in the Chairman's letter we have been raising money for our local postman, Tony who is currently unwell. As we go to print we have raised over £650 for him. Please drop any money for him to 7 New House Lane. Many thanks.

Mercy in Action

My MiA journey began when my son Daniel decided he would like to actively help impoverished children living in other areas of the world. I must admit that this is not something I had considered doing. However a year later we met Jayne who was preparing for her own trip with MiA and with her help and Daniel's undying enthusiasm, I went ahead and made the applications.

Wherever we went, we were made to feel extremely welcome and the children were all fascinated with Daniel, especially as he was so much bigger than Filipino children of the same age. The children would take Daniel off to play whilst I was shown round and introduced to the staff. The children were not shy at all and they were keen to ask us questions, look at photos I had brought from home and tell me about themselves. They were also very keen to have their photos taken at every opportunity!

Nothing could have prepared me for our first night patrol. I was a little worried on the first night that I was going to lose Daniel as he was surrounded by excited inquisitive children and it was very dark. I needn't have worried as the older boys from MiA took good care of him. This was really the first time on our trip that I fully appreciated the impoverished state that some of the families were living in. Despite our first experiences of night patrol, Daniel and I came to love these times. It was lovely to see the children's excitement and smiling faces when the MiA bus arrived and then to participate in the games, Zumba and distributing food and drink, made for an amazing experience. I enjoyed helping with lessons at home school and at the drop in centre. It was interesting to see how they were taught and quite shocking to see how far behind some of the children were in their education. Daniel also enjoyed it and was even able to help the older boys with their science modules. In return the boys taught Daniel a lot of their language and it wasn't long before he could recognise several words and phrases.

Since our return we have continued to fundraise for the charity and I have recently been appointed as a Mercy in Action ambassador. In March 2018 myself, Julie Robinson, Andrea Williams, Joanne Gurden and Melissa Dachtler will be running the first London Landmarks half marathon for Mercy in Action. Any donations are gratefully received and can be made to any of us in person or to our Justgiving page – www.justgiving.com/.



Nature Notes

Autumn, "a season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" with golden leaves crunching underfoot. I noticed squirrels busy in the woods picking up the sweet chestnuts to nibble. Squirrels also love acorns and there are some signs that this year might be a bumper year for acorns as the trees are laden with them. Acorns and beech nuts are vital food sources for animals and birds including mice, deer, jays, wild boar and squirrels. The most prolific acorn gatherer is the jay as he can store about three acorns in its gullet and one in its beak, then he hides them under leaves, in cracks in tree bark and in any other handy place. An adult jay can collect up to 5000 acorns in a season.

Traveller's Joy or Old Man's Beard is festooning the hedgerows in bearded glory. The French name for Old Man's beard is "herbe aux greux" - the beggar's or rascal's herb. This is a reference to its use by beggars. They used its acrid sap to irritate the skin to give it a sore and ulcerated look, in order to induce sympathy and perhaps a donation from a passing person.

Wasn't the orange red sun on the 16th spectacular with the surrounding misty yellow clouds? This was caused by the storm Ophelia. Smoke from the wild fires causing havoc in Spain and Portugal and dust and sand from the Sahara were swept into the atmosphere by the storm. The dust particles filtered out blue and violet light allowing only red and orange to shine through resulting in the startling phenomenon.

Jan



Crafty Girls

On the 9th May the Crafty Girls went for a Cream Tea at "Poppies" in the Thompsons Nursery on Stone Street. This was instead of our monthly meeting at the Hall.

Just after 2pm fifteen of us set off from Hilltop managing to fit into 4 cars with, as always, our volunteer drivers at the helm. A big thank you to them as it is really appreciated and makes it possible.

On arrival some of the ladies had a wander around the Nursery before we all made our way to the Tea Rooms. The tables were laid out very prettily in a Poppy red and white theme, with Donna and team at the ready to serve us.

Wow, the size of the 2 fruit scones were enormous, hand baked on the premises that morning, so lovely and fresh. Cornish Clotted Cream, Butters, Pots of Jam, plus a pot of Tea or Coffee, completed the package. "Absolutely Fabulous" to coin a phrase!

After plenty of chat and laughter, together with the excellent service from Donna and team who attended to our every need, we made our way outside for the short drive back.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable afternoon for us all.

Well done "Poppies"



Thanington Without Parish Council

It has been quite a busy few months for the Parish Council. The main issues with regards to Hilltop's area of the Parish being the constant discussions and battle with Highways over the deteriorating state of our roads and footways.

It seems at long last that the ridiculous situation with the condition of Hollow Lane by the old Oast House is going to be repaired properly towards the end of October. Incredibly after one of our complaints, Highways Inspectors went along to look and their report came back with the finding that there were no potholes. I did offer to drive him up and down the road and to walk him hand in hand past the invisible potholes, but I had no response.

Rather than the inadequate temporary patching which lasts until either it rains or the first lorry goes over it, a programme for permanent road repair works is now being proposed which is great news. Do bear in mind though, these were first promised to be carried out during the Easter period well over a year ago now but never actually happened. We wait with baited breath to see if they carry out the works this time round – Watch this space.

The Parish Council continue to cut and maintain the verges throughout the Parish as Canterbury City Council refuse to do so. We also supplied, installed and continue to maintain the fencing along the elevated footway from New House Lane down to the Oast House. Again CCC flatly refused to carry out these works even though it was acknowledged by all to be a serious safety issue.

We continue to have input on your behalf with planning within our Parish and are asked to recommend our acceptance or objections to the planning department on each and every application.

We continue to oppose and object to the large scale developments that are planned within our area; our particular concerns being the already seriously overflowing existing infrastructure which as we are all aware is at bursting point and will be totally unable to sustain any major increase both in terms of capacity and air quality.

You may have seen a leaflet delivered through your doors recently from the Parish Council combined with the coverage in local media regarding CCC's proposed changes to local governance with the possibility of disbanding our Parish Council to take control themselves. We at the Parish Council are quite worried about this obviously as from past history it would seem that CCC have proved time and time again that they would not be looking after our area at all thus effectively destroying all the good works carried out by the Parish Council over the years.

Your Parish Council meets every second Monday in the month at 7:00pm with meetings mainly held at the Thanington Road Resource Centre. Visitors are welcomed at any of these meetings and would be glad to see you there. Why not come along to one to see what happens?

We hope your summer has been a good one and the coming months will be too.

Cllrs Terry Maple and Terry Davis
For and on behalf of TWPC

Hall Building Update

The building team met on 24th September 2017 to finalise our tender details for the refurbishment of our hall. We expect to issue this document to 4 local major building contractors before Christmas. We should receive their quotations in the New Year which will then enable us to apply for funding next year.

We would be very lucky to receive the full cost of financing this project, so we expect to proceed in stages with the existing roof being the first priority.

Dave Sackett

100 Club Winners

Please contact: jackiegreenbush@sky.com

Prize	Aug	Sept	Oct
£50	J & R Gurden	Colin Frith	J & R Gurden
£30	Hilary Smith	Sarah Guest	M Forge
£20	M Forge	Roger Withall	C Gent
£10	D & J Bush	John Palmer	K Homersham



The annual 'Fish n Chip supper and Quiz night' took place on Saturday 14th October. This year's event was a sell out - with not a spare seat in the house- thanks to the continued support of everyone in the Hilltop Community. The event made a healthy profit in excess of £230, which will go towards the hall development fund.

The evening started with a lucky ticket draw, followed by a delicious fish and chip supper supplied by Marino's of Wincheap. Big thanks to Jackie Bush for making the mushy peas and providing the bread and butter.

With bellies full, the quiz got under way with eight rounds of trivia and a picture quiz. Congratulations to 'Trevors Team' for being this year's champions. Massive thanks also to Colin -the Quiz Master- for dedicating his time to this event and making the quiz both challenging and fun. We look forward to more questions from Colin next year!

Thanks also to our six mini helpers; who assisted with the raffle, tea and coffee sales and acted as runners, which was much needed due to the somewhat cosy seating arrangements.

It was lovely to see so many new faces with numbers double that of last year. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Andrea Williams & Joanne Gurden

