



Hilltop News

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Letter from your Chairman

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of all the Trustees and Main Committee.

We held our Christmas Fair on 2nd December. As you probably know, the lead on this event has now been taken on by Andrea Williams as Carole Davis has decided to take a well-earned step back. Andrea informs me that Carole is still giving her a lot of support, but now as one of the backstage team. The event itself was well attended and for me it is always great to see a lot of new people coming to the community hall. I did say last year that 2016 was our best year ever for the Christmas Fair but with all your generosity you made 2017 even better by making a grand profit of £1122, up £88. A really big, and deserved "Thank You" to all of you for your continued support.

The next big Event for your diary is our Easter Fair which is being held on March 24th and we look forward to seeing you all there. We are now into our second year of the HCA calendar and this is proving to be a success and a good fund raiser for the hall. If you would like a copy I still have a few remaining so please let me know. For the theme of the 2019 calendar we are going to work in conjunction with the Hilltop Photographic Competition which I'm sure you agree last years was a great success. Hopefully if you enter into the competition your picture may well go into the next calendar.

Our Facebook page is fully up and running **Hilltop Community Association** and proving a good tool to promote or share with the community. We launched our website at the last AGM and also this is also proving to be quite a success www.hilltopca.org If you want to keep up with events make sure and check in.

We now have a good data base on e-mails this being another platform where we can make contact with you our mem-bers. If you would like to be added to the list then please contact Jackie Bush members@hilltopca.org.

Just an update on the planned refurbishment on the hall. Tender packs have now been sent out and David Smith, our Project Manager is awaiting their return. We will keep you all informed through these newsletters and on the website what progress is being made.

Just a reminder that our AGM is on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm. Please keep a look out for notices and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Don't forget that the hall is there for you all to enjoy. It is available to hire for any parties or functions you have coming up. Check our website for availability or to enquire.

Enjoy the Spring

John Richardson
Chairman
On behalf of the Trustees.

ATTENTION!

2018 HILLTOP PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



CATEGORIES

ADULTS "In and Around South East England".

CHILDREN "I Spy something beginning with L".

Additional information and instructions will be issued at a later date, but in the meantime, start thinking and looking for subject matter!

Please take part – the photographs are really of interest to the community.

Carole Davis and Cheryl Ives.



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 14th Feb 10:00 & 19:30

Wed 14th Mar 10:00 & 19:30

Wed 11th Apr 10:00 & 19:30

Evening Church Services

Sun 1st Apr at 18:00

Forthcoming Events:

Curry 'n Quiz Night

Fri 2nd Mar 19:00—22:00

Boot Fair

Sat 17th Mar 10:00 —13:00

Easter Fair

Sat 24th Mar 11:00—13:00

Beer 'n Brains

Sat 14th Apr 19:30—22:30

HCA Main Committee

Wed 31st Jan at 19:00

Trustees meeting

Wednesday 31st Jan at 20.00

Wednesday 28th Feb at 19.30

Hilltop News deadline 21st April 2018

To book the hall please contact

Terry Maple on 01227 761329

Crafty Girls Christmas Lunch 2017

On Tuesday 12th December, the "Crafty Girls" set off for the above treat instead of their usual meeting. There were 17 ladies in all, yet again transported by the volunteer drivers, for which we were very grateful. Our destination was The Chequers at Stone Street, Petham, so not too far to travel.

On our arrival we were greeted by the landlord, Brian, in the very attractively decorated establishment and were shown into the restaurant. The tables were laid out in a rectangle, thus allowing all of us to chat to each other and move around with ease, especially when the obligatory exchanging of Christmas cards took place! The tables looked attractive dressed out in white / silver mini Christmas trees and crackers etc. We had pre-booked our Festive meal, so did not have long to wait. The food was really good, with such a variety of different dishes in each course to choose from.

"Mrs Brian" was extremely busy in the kitchen whilst Brian and a young lady served. If you have never been to The Chequers then do give it a try, very varied assorted priced meals plus a carvery on a Sunday.

A very enjoyable outing!

Carole Davis.



1 Iffln Cottage Weather Records - July to December 2017



Month	Max. temp. °C	Mean (Av.) Max. °C	Min. temp. °C	Mean Min. °C	No. of days with rain*	Max. rain in 1 day in mm.	Total rain in month
July	30.4	23.5	9	14.2	11	25.4	57.9
August	27.3	22.2	8.5	13.1	13	14.8	83.9
September	21.1	18.5	5.6	10.3	17	8.5	49.3
October	22.1	15.8	2.7	9	6	4.2	11.9
November	14	9.7	-1.1	3.7	11	7.8	34.7
December	11.5	7.1	-2.7	2.1	20	19.8	104

*means any precipitation

REVIEW OF 2017

Hottest day - 21 June (31.3°C)

Wettest day - 11 July (25.4mm.)

Coldest month by mean (average) min. - January (0.08°C)

Driest month - April (4.2 mm.)

TOTAL RAIN FOR YEAR - 522.1mm. - THE DRIEST YEAR SINCE 2011

Coldest day - 21 January (-5.3°C)

Hottest month by mean (average) max. - June (24.01°C)

Wettest month - December (104 mm.)

Hilary Spon

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2017

The Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 3rd of December. Father Christmas arrived on time, which was surprising when he had so much to do. The children and the adults all cheered and clapped as he entered.

The Hall looked really pretty with such a lovely newly decorated Grotto for Father Christmas to sit in and chat to each child, ending with the giving of a gift.

Our Hilltop Calendars were on sale again, this being the second year of the venture, appearing to be very popular.

We had a Bottle Tombola which did very well, particularly as all the bottles were donated by Hilltop residents. Moving on to the Cake Stall, well stocked with a really good variety of cakes, pastries and savouries, our bakers provide so well for us at all our events.

Magnificent Tombola, colourful and very prettily laid out. Loads of large and small prizes that are required to make a good attraction – which it always is. Our local florist was there with her floral table decorations, such a work of art – very clever lady! Orders were taken for her Christmas Door Wreaths etc. which are extremely popular.

Our lovely Refreshment Ladies, provided the cakes to go with the Teas and Coffees, always a must have stall especially as they look after the Stallholders interests as well. It would not work without them!

The Grand Christmas Draw was absolutely loaded with prizes which looked really festive and colourful and made it so interesting. Such generosity once again from so many sources is making it such a success. All prizes were collected or delivered on the day and were extremely well received too!

A game of chance was the Christmas Tree Puzzle – you had to pick from numbered Christmas Trees where you thought Santa had left his hidden prize which was a gorgeous soft toy, Rudolph, complete with his red nose. A simple game that all ages can do and enjoy. There were 60 trees to choose from, a forest in fact [result listed further on].

The stall which had knitted articles was quite full with baby items such as matinee coats, hats, mittens, jumpers and cardigans. Lots of lovely knitted toys, large ones, small ones, Christmas tree decorations, tea cosies, pram blankets and much more and there were additional items such as toiletries, gifts etc. Guess the number of sweets in a jar was also accommodated on this stall as an added attraction [result listed further on].

Very eye-catching was the Basket of Goods stall with such a varied stock. Cupcakes with socks in the middle, so pretty and sold like "hot cakes", pardon the pun! Handmade Christmas bunting, aprons and knitting bags were also for sale. Lucky boxes containing surprise varieties of goodies were also a popular item. There were toiletries made up in gift boxes, mugs with boxes containing speciality teas inside, soft toys etc. Everything so beautifully made and presented. Also on this stall was the competition, Guess the name of the Polar Bear [result listed further on].

Another new attraction this year was a gazebo put up outside for the children to do craft work and face painting. They also had a variety of items for sale. It was lucky that the weather was alright, but then children do not seem to feel the cold.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we had our official photographer [complete in Elf costume] to take photographs of the stalls, helpers and any child with Father Christmas [with parents approval of course]. These will have been e-mailed out to the participating parents of the children. Incidentally we welcomed 29 children who went into see Father Christmas, more than ever before. May its popularity continue in future years.

Before finishing thanks must go to everyone who helped in all ways, those who attended, donated goods, behind the scenes jobs, i.e. furniture shifting, advertising etc. So a big THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

In a definite final comment, the lady who deserves a big handclap and lots of praise is Andrea Williams. She took on the organising of the Christmas Fayre and made a really good job of it too. The excellent result of the Fayre highlights this. Well done Andrea! Competition results.

Guess the name of the Polar Bear "JEFF" was won by Emma.

Guess the number of sweets in a jar was won by Alan Jeanes, a total of 68 sweets.

Christmas Tree Puzzle was won by Liam Long, the answer to which was Tree Number 53.

Grand Christmas Draw:

1st £100 Waitrose Hamper won by Ollie and Kirsty Knight.

2nd £100 Cash won by Trudy Goldsack.

3rd £50 Marks & Spencer Voucher, won by Tony and Donna James [Postie].

There were 37 prizes in all.

The Final Total of the Christmas Fayre was £1120-00.

Carole Davis.



Nature Notes 2018

We have had some beautiful cold but sunny days, perfect for walking. It is surprising the number of wild flowers which have survived the frosts for example dandelions, moon daisies, prickly ox-tongue, round leaved cranesbill and common field speedwell.

In the last two weeks I have seen snowdrops in our garden and crocuses and to my amazement I saw daffodils in full flower along New House Lane so perhaps Spring is on its way.

I have noticed robins and a friend along Iffin Lane has coal tits and long tailed tits feeding from her bird table. In the woodland near her house she has seen and heard the striking greater spotted woodpecker.

Moon daisy is known by other names such as dog daisy, marguerite and oxeye daisy. Floriography is the language of flowers. Overtime numerous meanings have become associated with the daisy for example purity and innocence, gentleness, modesty and romance. Parts of the ox eye daisy are edible. The leaves and roots may be eaten raw or cooked. They have a strong flavour so it probably would be wise just to eat a little of it or mix it with a salad.. The daisy has been used in the treatment of whooping cough, asthma, and nervous excitability. The sticky leaves have been used in wound dressings. An eye lotion for conjunctivitis can be made from these flowers.

Jan Armishaw

Thanington Without Parish Council

THANINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL.

What can I tell you with regard to the Parish Council affairs that is of interest and not mundane, well in all honesty, not much. Being on the Parish Council is being your voice, in trying to put right some of the bits and pieces that may get overlooked. We are only a few looking and sometimes challenging everyday items that need to be reported and hopefully put right. There is an army of you out there who do see some things that we do not, so all we ask is for you to please tell us. When it comes to reporting at the end of the Parish Council meeting, the items are more or less the same, our favourite being potholes, not a month goes by that one is not reported. Sometimes it is a street light not working, maybe branches of trees causing problems when overhanging pavements or branches obscuring road traffic signs these are the usual items.

However, this month something different and something that is not wanted, THEFT. There have been a number of thefts in and around Hilltop, from a metal dog cage to a cast iron garden table and chairs, so we all need to be more vigilant, more aware of items that are not fixed down, just take that extra time to put items out of sight.

In our Parish and beyond, the Ashford Road area has had an epidemic of graffiti, bus shelters, walls and fences. They have all been quickly removed, but unfortunately targeted again. They also have been removed promptly.

On another point we have tried to get repaired, made level and finished with tarmac, the passing places caused by vehicles overtime wearing the banks away and therefore leaving depressions and raised sharp flints exposed. At the present time, there is no money available for this work, but we will try again in the future. A thought on this also is if you take these passing places away completely, our lanes will not work as being in the main they are single track. Maybe, therefore, repair would be a good solution!

Clrs Terry Davis and Terry Maple.

For and on behalf of TWPC

UPDATE ON MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Thanington Park: (750 homes)

1. PENTLAND HOMES have submitted a full planning application for the first phase build. It is before the City Council at the moment and we wait the date for it to go before the planning committee. TWPC will speak against this application.

2. Main issue is the proposal for the new London bound slip modifications and the subsequent additional traffic lights and complexity of the A2 /A28 junction. There is major concern on the way this will impact on traffic movement and flow capacity.

3. There is a condition applied to this application that they MUST show a workable solution before any build begins. Another major issue is they propose to use ST NICHOLAS ROAD as the ACCESS to the site. They should not be allowed to do this, and the slip road modifications should be done first and this becomes the major access for construction traffic. The fear being that the slip road modifications will NEVER be built and the access will be the existing roads which are not built for this purpose.

100 Club Winners

Please contact: jackiegreenbush@sky.com

Prize	Oct	Nov	Dec
			DOUBLE PRIZE MONEY
£50	Ross & Jo Gurden	Peter Lanard	Betty Wallace
£30	Maureen Forge	Colin Firth	Kelly Penfold
£20	Clare Gent	Terry Davis	Hillary Smith
£10	Kate Hom- ersham	Andrea Wil- liams	David Swan

Cockering Road: (450Homes)

1. QUINN ESTATES have submitted and outline planning application for this site. No date has yet been set for it to be heard by the Council's planning committee. TWPC will speak against the application

2. Again there are issues with the traffic projections and also how people will access the site and move on and off it. Many inconsistencies in the traffic assessment report

3. The major concern here is that QUINNS will sell the build rights on the other builders which will mean difficulty in ensuring that any imposed conditions are adhered to

General Points:

1. Gillian Bull of the WINSOC has drafted a general letter to the city council and KCC outlining the concerns and issues with the works proposed for South Canterbury. This has been signed by various bodies and resi-dents societies. Nick Eden Green has also written to KCC concerning the issues with the applications

2. The local KCC councillor has called a meeting at the resource centre for 29th January. She has serious concerns on the impact of these developments for Canterbury and will be briefed at this meeting. This is the first action by KCC in response to issues that have been raised.

3. People who have opinions on these should express their concerns in the relevant application section on CCC web site or write direct to the planning department stating the reference number for the applications.

Clr Dave Smith.

Come and join us at these informal, friendly social events at the Community Hall, New House Lane

HILLTOP COFFEE MORNINGS on the last Thursday of every month, 10-30am - noon

HILLTOP CRAFTY GIRLS meet on the second Tuesday of every month, 2 – 4pm,

You do not have to participate in the craft side; you can join us for a good chat and a cup of tea.

Come along, all are very welcome.