

Serving the community since 1936

Letter from your Chairman

Whilst typing this report, I have noticed that Summer is now slowly moving into Autumn and the nights are starting to draw in.

I hope you have all had a lovely Summer, even though the weather was not brilliant. At least now we are having a short spell of an Indian Summer to make up for it.

Looking back over the last few months since our last newsletter. The Hilltop Gardeners had a very successful Open Gardens event. There were six gardens opened up to the community and the event was very well supported, even though it was a very hot day. I do know that a lot of effort was put into it by the organisers and also by those people who kindly opened their gardens. The funds raised on the day were divided between both the Pilgrims Hospice and Hilltop Community Association. I would like to say thank you to the Garden Club for all their hard work in making this event so successful.

The Gardeners wish to continue with the event, but it will be a biennial event.

Back on 15th July, we held our annual Family BBQ. As always this turned out to be a great evening, it was very well attended and supported by the community. Sadly, in the evening it was very windy, this meant us having to stage the excellent group 'Covered' inside the Marquee, which was a challenge for all and made it very interesting.

Their gig though was great, and again they played some excellent music.

Looking forward to the 14th October, we have our Quiz Night and fish & chips supper. All are welcome.

If you would like to make up a table then please contact me. The price per person for the quiz and supper are: £10 for fish and chips, or £6 for a large sausage and chips.

Thank you to Carole & Terry Davis who are pulling together all the pictures and to all of you who have submitted their photos forward for the HCA 2024 calendar. This year we will not be having a Presentation Ceremony, so if you have submitted a photo then look out to see if it has made its way into the calendar.

This years calendars will be going on sale at the Christmas Fair on 25th November. They will again be priced at £4.99 each.

On the 27th October, there is going to be a Christmas Fair workshop from 6-8pm, drinks will be supplied.

The aim of the evening is to make some easily crafted items which can then be sold at the Christmas Craft stall.

For more information, or to come along, please contact either Kate on 07526 766083 or Anemone on 07813 80486.

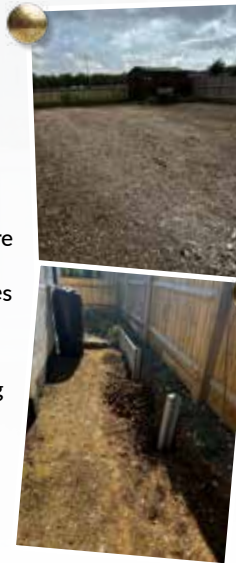
For those of you who may be interested in helping out with any small building or maintenance jobs at the hall.

We have set up a small works group who meet on Tuesday mornings between 9 and 11am. It is all very informal, mainly to get together, chat about what jobs are needed over a cup of tea or coffee, sometimes even with a biscuit or a piece of cake.

If any work needs doing to the hall, then it is a good opportunity to get some things done. Currently, we are putting in a small retaining wall along the side of the hall between the path and the next door garden fence. We are also changing the direction of the fire escape route towards the front of the hall.

Other projects being tackled include getting the back garden area of the hall levelled and seeded. This will help when we have the marquee out, and also will make for a much better rear garden area for the hall hirers for parties etc.

So, if you find yourself at a loose end on Tuesday mornings, or just fancy popping along for a chat and a cuppa, (don't worry, you don't have to do any work) then come and drop in. We would look forward to seeing you. Have a lovely Autumn.



WRITTEN
BY JOHN
RICHARDSON

Hilltop Contacts

Chairman of Trustees
John Richardson
chairman@hilltopca.org

Treasurer
Andrea Williams
treasurer@hilltopca.org

Hall Bookings
Alison Buontempo
HCAbookings@hilltopca.org

Secretary
Claire Gent
secretary@hilltopca.org

Hilltop Newsletter Editor
Katherine Richardson
x-kr-x@hotmail.com

Trustees
John Richardson
Dave Sackett
Andrea Williams
Dave Smith
Claire Gent
Tracey Smith
Alan Clapson
Alison Buontempo

You can keep up to date with what is happening in your Community Association via our website: www.hilltopca.org or our Facebook page - Hilltop Community Association @HCACanterbury. If you would like to join our round-robin e-mail list please send an e-mail with your details to: chairman@hilltopca.org

WRITTEN
BY
CAROLE DAVIS



Coffee morning

The Ladies are still holding their montly get-together on the **last Thursday of the month** at St Faiths Hall [Hilltop Community], New House Lane, 10-30am until noon. £1 for tea or coffee [free refills] plus biscuits, together with good company and plenty of chat. If you know of any new residents that would like to meet with us, then perhaps you could mention it to them, the more the merrier. Hope to see you there, all are welcome.

Calling on all Christmas fair donations!

I know it sounds a bit early but Kate, who is helping me organize the Christmas fair, and I have put our heads together and come up with some ideas for stalls.

We would like to give you advance notice for any items you may be able donate please. We would very much appreciate donations to the Raffle, the Children's Tombola, a Bottle Tombola for adults and this year we will also have a Chocolate Tombola!

Donations can be left with Anemone at 57 New House Lane, Alison at 12 New House Lane and Kate at 8 New House Close.

Thank you very much in advance, we could not do it without you !

MESSAGE
FROM
ANEMONE
JONES



Sausages and Plums Bake

WRITTEN BY
SARAH
LOUDON



Ingredients

Serves 2:

- 4 sausages
- 150ml chicken stock
- 2 tblspn maple syrup
- 2 tblspn cider vinegar
- 4-5 plums, halved and pitted
- 1 large red onion, peeled and thickly sliced
- Salt and pepper

This dish is so adaptable and perfect as we say goodbye to summer and embrace autumn. I try to keep things local so I used some Korker's sausages that were in the freezer and bought some kentish plums from a local farm shop. I think this would be equally good with vegan or veggie sausages or even venison ones. The cider vinegar could be swapped out for red wine vinegar and, once the plum season has finished, a bramley apple might be a good alternative.

Method

- 1) Brown the sausages in a frying pan and pop into a small casserole dish.
- 2) Use the chicken stock to deglaze the pan, don't forget the crusty brown bits that get stuck to the pan, and then add the maple syrup and vinegar and plenty of seasoning.
- 3) Pour over the sausages and add the plums and the onion to the casserole.
- 4) Put into a preheated oven at 190c, uncovered and cook for 30 minutes until the onions and the sausages are cooked through and the plums are almost melting.

We enjoyed this with buttery mash and plenty of peas!



Hilltop Garden Group



The garden group number have increased recently to seventeen as Honey, Louise, Cheryl, Lucy and Ben and Beth have now joined us, we take great pleasure in welcoming them!

In addition to planting the large tubs at the front of the hall with seasonal flowers and bulbs and the tubs at the rear with flowers and tomatoes, the garden club have continued to maintain the borders and herb area at St Faith's. A rota was drawn up in April and members have taken turns to deadhead, weed and water. Many thanks to them for the care they have taken, the garden has looked splendid and the comments we have received are all very encouraging and positive.

We have enjoyed several garden excursions this year; the first in May when we went to Chestfield for a trip to 'The Ridings' a delightful small garden brimming with interesting plants. We were shown around by the owner Sylvie and we then tucked into tea and cake in the garden, perfect!

We also had a 'pre-open garden' tour of our own gardens on the evening before the June event in the summer. It was great to have the opportunity to wander around and admire everything that each owner had lovingly spent time preparing for others to enjoy and to raise money for good causes. After all the gardens had been visited, we settled down for drinks and snacks on the patio, courtesy of Wendy!

Our most recent trip was at the beginning of September to 'Eagleswood' in Lenham 'a large garden with trees and shrubs, herbaceous and woodland plants for long interest'. Cheryl said 'I really enjoyed the afternoon, thanks to everyone for great company'. Jo commented, the owner Mike was 'a real plantsman and passionate gardener and strawberry cake to finish! What a great afternoon'.

Anyone wishing to join our group please contact Kate on 07813804862 or our Hilltop chairman at chairman@hilltopca.org The Hilltop Gardeners



WRITTEN BY CAROLE DAVIS



HILLTOP "CRAFTY GIRLS" - Handicrafts

On Tuesday 11th July, instead of our usual meeting at St. Faiths Hall, we went on our annual Cream Tea.

This year we travelled to Perry Court Farm, Farm Shop and Tea Rooms, at Wye [A28]. There were 12 of us, split into 4 cars with one of the ladies making her own way from Whitstable. Everyone had the Cream Tea consisting of a pot of tea or coffee, one large freshly baked fruit or plain scone, butter, jam and cream, served by Emma and her assistants, absolutely brilliant. The Tea Rooms were very sunny and warm, but not uncomfortable. When we had all finished in the Tea Room, we adjourned to the Farm Shop which had lovely fresh strawberries, cherries, veg etc, cakes, biscuits, greeting cards plus an array of plants to purchase. We all enjoyed the trip out, it made a very nice change

Our next meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Faiths Hall [Hilltop Community], New House Lane, 2 to 4pm. £1 for refreshments with free refills. Give us a try, we are very informal and friendly. Bring your hobby with you or just simply come to chat. Hope to see you some time soon. Carole Davis [01227 451485]

WE MEET ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 2-4PM

OPEN GARDEN 2023

WRITTEN BY
KATE
CORNISH



For the third 'Open Gardens' event since 2019, six members of the Hilltop Garden Group kindly and quite bravely put their precious gardens on display for the community and local visitors to enjoy.

The gardens were very varied in design and size, with safari style planting, vegetables in raised beds, overflowing pots and vibrantly colourful containers. Greenhouses, gazebos and gravel, cottage garden flowers, eco-friendly and waste saving ideas were also on show along with how to make the most of a small spaces; all of these making a most interesting and worthwhile tour. The day was very warm, which unfortunately may have kept some visitors indoors but cold drinks were on offer and of course the obligatory and delicious tea and cake donated by bakers made up of local residents, friends and family. A plant stall at St Faith's and the ever-popular tombola, along with some very kind monetary

donations added to the overall total raised of just over £1,000! £500 has been given to The Pilgrims Hospices and the remainder to the community hall fund, thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Many thanks to Anne-Marie, Jo, Wendy, Honey, Anemone and Kate for working hard to make their gardens so inviting and the afternoon so successful and enjoyable. Thank you also to Hilary and Jeremy for running the plant stall and Jan and Julie for selling tickets at St Faith's.

It is such a great photo of Richard and Pauline enjoying the sunshine with their neighbours. We send our love and very best wishes to them both and look forward to seeing Richard well and back home from hospital soon.



£1000

FOR THE HILLTOP COMMUNITY
HALL FUND &
THE PILGRIMS HOSPICES



WEATHER RECORDS JANUARY TO JUNE 2023



WRITTEN BY
HILARY SPON

Month	Max. temp. °C	Mean (Av.) Max. °C	Min. temp. °C	Mean Min.	No. of days with rain*	Max. rain in 1 day in mm.	Total rain in month
°C	No. of days with rain*	Max. rain in 1 day in mm.	Total rain in month	14.5	3	7.5	10
January	12.4	6.9	-2.3	3	17	8.8	61.7
February	13.1	8.8	-1.8	3.7	6	1.8	7.5
March	13.7	9.7	-1.3	4.9	23	21.5	108.7
April	18.4	13.1	0	5.6	17	15.5	83.5
May	22.9	18.2	5.9	10.3	7	10.5	20.2
June	30.7	24	10.6	14.6	6	17.9	23.4

*means any precipitation

To sum up this six month period:

- February was the driest month with a total of only 7.5mm.
- March was the wettest month (108.7mm) – it rained on 23 of the 31 days and there was snow on 7 March and 21.5mm of rain on 23 March
- May was rather cloudy and overcast
- June was sunny and hot – 30.7° on 10 June - hotter than any day in June 2022

NATURE NOTES BY JAN ARMISHAW

It has been an unusual Summer with good weather in May and June followed by a very disappointing July and August and now we really are experiencing an "Indian Summer" with plenty of sunshine.

I have seen several different kinds of butterflies darting about and spreading their wings in the sunshine including the startling Painted lady, Meadow brown, Common blue, Brimstone, Large skipper, Large and Small Whites, Red admiral and the beautiful Marbled white. I expect you might have seen some others as well. Interestingly, some butterflies migrate. Our butterfly immigrants include the Painted lady, the Clouded Yellow, the Red Admiral and the Large and Small Whites. The Painted lady migrates from North Africa and a lepidopterist observed a large migratory swarm of Painted ladies, rising, rustling, settling



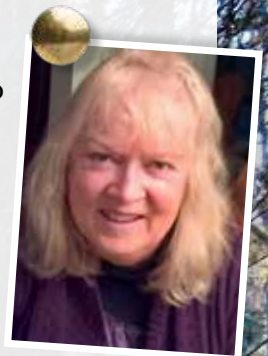
and then rustling again over an area of mountainside in Sardinia. I would love to have seen this. The red Admiral and the Clouded Yellow migrate from the Mediterranean area.

Originally in the 18th century the Red Admiral was called the Red Admirable, but it was changed to Red Admiral possibly because of the Red Admiral of the Red Squadron who flew red colours in the old organisation of the Navy.

Males of quite a few butterflies, have scent patches on their fore wings on the upper side and the scents encourage the females. The strongest scent of any British butterfly comes from the Green veined White. of damp grassland, where its larvae feed on Lady's Smock which has a smell of lemon verbena, I have occasionally seen Green veined White on the fringes of Larkey Valley Woods. The Common Blue shells of chocolate.

I hope you have learnt something new. I certainly have after doing a bit of research.

I hope you have learnt something new. I certainly have after doing a bit of research.



CALLING ALL NEW RESIDENTS!

WRITTEN BY
CHERYL IVES &
REVD NICK
WHITE



Did you know that Hilltop Community Centre is also used by Thanington church for services. It was built as a community space by local residents in 1951 from monies raised by the community. Many church services, celebrations, and community events later, it continues to thrive and provide a central hub for all the community to enjoy.

Church Services coming up.....

Messy Church Taster Session

Sunday 5th November 4 - 5 pm at Hilltop Community Hall.

Come and try Messy Church. Starting with a choice of activities. Then a lively song, bible story, and a prayer. Finish with a snack and a drink and sparklers outside. This is planned with families in mind. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge, donations welcome.



St Faith's Christingle

Sunday 3rd December 4 - 5 pm at Hilltop Community Hall

Come and make your own Christingle and discover its meaning, all followed by refreshments in the hall. This is planned with families in mind. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No charge, donations welcome.



St Faith's Carol Service

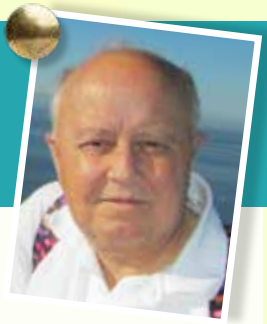
Wednesday 20th December 6:30pm at Hilltop Community Hall

Come together to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. You can expect plenty of carols, along with bible readings, a Christmas message, and prayers. All followed with seasonal refreshments.

Do come along to make new friends and have a good old sing-a-long,



CAN WE FIX IT? YES WE CAN? BY DAVE SMITH



We sometimes have local issues, with repairs damage etc., in our area that need to be reported to the relevant authority for action. This can be the source of frustration, if it is not done, easily checked for progress and completed. We have had a situation with the street light outside the HCA HALL. This has been out of action for some time. The reasons are not difficult to discover if you read below.

It might be useful to understand how to report faults, and then check their progress, which anyone can do. It might assist in progressing works and lead to some success in getting things done. Though being honest it still needs some effort.

Anyone can report a fault to KCC on line, like potholes, damage street furniture like lights and signs. It is then put onto their backlog work list, decided who will pay for this work, money assigned, and then action it.

So, as test examples, we have reported 2 faults to KCC. The first being the HCA HALL STREET LIGHT and the second being the STREET LIGHT IN NEW HOUSE CLOSE adjacent to No. 28.

If the fault is correctly reported it will go into KCC work log and can then be tracked to see how it is progressing and status. The key is reporting it in the right way and to the right people and then checking the progress.

TO REPORT A FAULT YOURSELF:

- 1/ Anyone can access the on line KCC fault reporting page, and enter the details of the fault and its location. You search on the INTERNET "REPORT A ROAD FAULT TO KCC" Then select that page from the search results
- 2/ Review the page to ensure the fault falls within the remit of what you can report, then follow the "NEXT" command to record your fault and type. Note you may need details on location or any other information like post code to help locate the area of the fault.
- 3/ Having successfully entered the fault, the system will give you a FAULT REF NO. i.e. 123456. Keep a note of that number as you will need it to TRACK your fault.
- 4/ If you have a problem with submitting a fault yourself, please contact one of the HCA committee members, or trustees, and we will enter the details for you and record the fault ref no. to allow it to be tracked.

TO TRACK A FAULT YOURSELF :

- 1/ Access the KCC ONLINE web page by entering "TRACK A FAULT KENT COUNTY COUNCIL".
- 2/ Then enter the FAULT REF NUMBER, for the fault and work you wish to track and the web page will show the fault update. I have shown the update reports for the 2 lights mentioned above below.
- 3/ Again if you have problems with that please contact an HCA committee member or trustee and we will be happy to assist. AGAIN THE FAULT REF NUMBER IS KEY HERE SO MAKE SURE IF YOU HAVE ENTERED THE FAULT YOU HAVE A REF NUMBER RECORDED

A little bit of background on why problems can occur.

The first issue is as always who will pay for it. Some things are paid for by the COUNTY COUNCIL and some are paid for by the Local Authority and in our case that is Canterbury City Council (CCC).

The second issue is the system for controlling and logging the work. Which can have issues and sometimes badly managed.

In the case of the street light faults mentioned, the fault is then reported to Canterbury City Council by KCC. Because it is CCC who have the responsibility for funding these repair works. When that funding is approved by CCC and approval passed back to KCC, then KCC will organise the work. In the light repairs case, KCC organise and approve UK POWER NETWORKS to carry out the work. Yes a bit of a long route but that is the way it works.

So why is that a problem, and it takes so long for these jobs to be carried out? Again the answer is money. CCC is currently in debt to approx. £180 million. They are currently paying approx. £12 million per year interest on that debt, or approx. £76 for every resident in Canterbury per year. How that has happened is not for this piece, but it hopefully explains why it can take so long for even the simplest of things to be done, if at all?

You will see in the attached as an example for tracking, the NEW HOUSE CLOSE light has been passed to the DISTRICT COUNCIL for approval i.e. CCC. So we wait and see how long it takes to approve the funding for that? The HCA light took nearly 2 years!!!! On that one the tracking info also attached shows it having been COMPLETED. KCC have given notice of a road closure in NEW HOUSE LANE in the next few weeks, and this would appear to be linked to the work on the HCA HALL LIGHT. So hopefully this light will finally be fixed

Systems are fine and we can help them work but in the present day and age the importance of using the system and of follow up cannot be over emphasised. At last then the fault is recorded and on the system.

We can use the system, monitor it and chase up when there are issues, hopefully have some success in making things happen. Also push back when things don't happen and find out why?

Report a Fault

This page will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity

Report a fault

Track an existing fault

Emergencies

Do not use this form if the problem may cause an accident. Call us immediately on 03000 418181 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or on 03000 419191 at all other times

Tell us about the problem

You will need to tell us exactly where the fault is on a map or using an address. If you can't do this now, please come back when you can

This symbol means that you must enter this information

What are you reporting?

-- Please select fault type --

Next

Please click/tap here for information on how we use and share your personal information (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/privacy>) for purposes of investigating a fault, customer enquiry or complaint, booking a driver improvement course, improving the level of customer services to you or to recover costs due to damage to the highway or enforcement action.

Report a Fault

This page will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity

Track a fault

Reference number:

237598

Fault category:

Street Lighting

Fault type:

Not Working

Street name:

NEW HOUSE LANE

Town name:

THANINGTON WITHOUT

Status:

Works Completed

Logged date/time:

01/08/2023 18:28:11

Enter your reference number to see what's happening about the fault you reported:

737398

Submit

Report and view faults

Report a Fault

This page will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity

Track a fault

Reference number:

737483

Fault category:

Street Lighting

Fault type:

Not Working

Street name:

NEW HOUSE CLOSE

Town name:

THANINGTON WITHOUT

Status:

No. of lights: - passed to District Council

Logged date/time:

02/08/2023 10:08:21

Enter your reference number to see what's happening about the fault you reported:

737483

Submit

Report and view faults

100 CLUB WINNERS

	June	July	August	Sept
£50	Leanne Cogger	Paula Wooding	Nikki Murphy	Nikki Murphy
£30	Alan Clapson	Cheryl Ives	Gary Port	Jean Sharratt
£20	Colin Sherwood	Arlette Hart	Kate Cornish	Toni & Adrain Baker
£10	Becky Cook	Hillary Smith	Alan & Jane Gower	Alan Jane Gower

Diary of Events

Fish & Chips Quiz
Saturday October 14th

HCA Christmas Fair
Saturday November 25th

Monthly Events
Crafty Girls - Second Tuesday of the month from 2pm

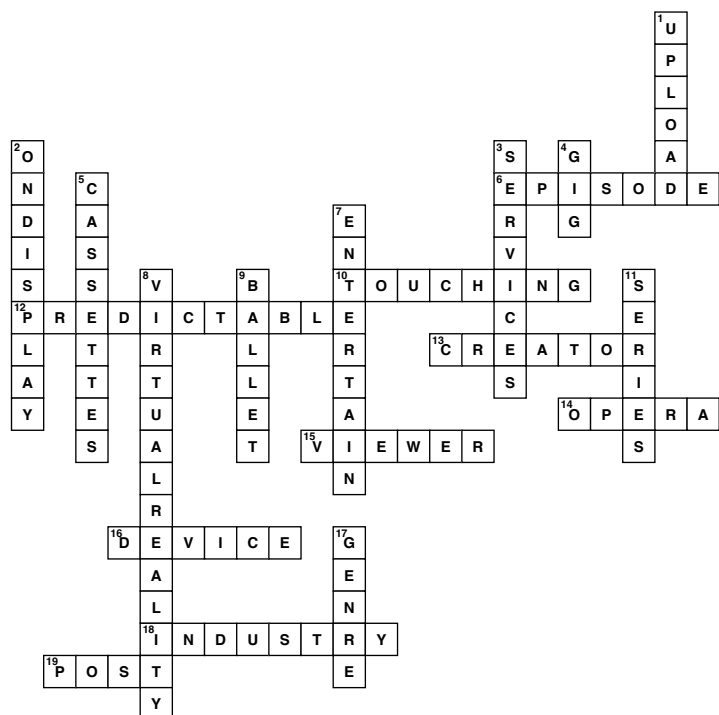
Coffee Mornings
Last Thursday of the month
10:30am onwards

Evening Church Service
The first Sunday of the month
between April and September
at 6pm

If you would like to book the hall
for your occasion contact
Alison Buontempo on
07903216803 or visit
HCAbookings@hilltopca.org



Scan this code with
your mobile
camera and visit
our website



Spring Crossword answers

NEW CLEANERS WANTED!

We are looking for new cleaners for the hall in January.

If you would like to apply please message the Chairman John Richardson at **chairman@hilltopca.org** or Call 07889233327

Do we have your email address?

We send a lot of our updates and reminders via email to our residents. If you would like to keep up to date then please make sure you send us your email address to **chairman@hilltopca.org**

Thank you to all our sponsors

HCACanterbury

