



# Action 4 U



*When washday was the end of the line for Sandy...*



WHEN Sandy Stokes had finished hanging out her washing on a fine summer's day a few weeks ago, she sat in the garden with a cup of tea congratulating herself on having completed all the household chores, including cleaning the windows and the kitchen floor, and emptying the washing basket.

The sky was blue, a warm wind was blowing and the tea was very refreshing. Sandy and husband Ken's garden in Manor Close, Canterbury, has views across the fields of Cockerling Farm and, on this idyllic afternoon, Sandy could hear only the songs of birds and the wind in the trees.

She closed her eyes and enjoyed the tranquillity. It didn't last long.

The farmer's combine harvester roared into view

and moments later the washing turned a dusty yellow, the black and white tiled kitchen floor looked more like the straw floor of a cowshed and the newly-wiped window ledges were caked in flakes of chaff.

The scene wasn't tranquil any more and Sandy wasn't happy.

'I understand that farmers have to harvest their crops,' she said, 'but would it be too much to ask for them to just put up a notice somewhere to say when they're going to do it?'

'If I'd known the wheat field was going to be cut that day I would have kept the doors and windows closed and waited before doing my major cleaning exercise.

'As it was, I had to start all over again!'

## *...And less than beautiful laundry in Ashford Road*



A GROUP of Ashford Road residents are fuming over a series of summer bonfires in the area, complaining that their washing has frequently been ruined by the smoke.

'It is inconsiderate to light bonfires during the day when people have their windows open and their washing on the line,' said one angry resident.

'One neighbour walked into her sitting room to find black ash all over her sofa. And with rising energy costs, it is

unacceptable to have to do the same load of washing twice!'

Kent Police say most local authorities no longer have by-laws regarding bonfires but that if people persistently lights fires that cause a nuisance to neighbours it becomes an Environmental Health issue.

Environmental health officers recommend that people talk to neighbours and take the wind direction into account before lighting fires in their gardens.

All correspondence to Thanington Without Parish Council should be addressed to:  
Roger Cheeseworth, Parish Council Clerk,  
30 New House Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7BH

Telephone: 01227 761 642  
Or by email  
via the website link on the Home Page  
[www.thanington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.thanington-pc.gov.uk)