

# Hothfield News

August 2008

***The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community***

## WELCOME

August already – where is the year going! Once more we have a fair size issue with lots of information about Hothfield and what's happening in our community. But still there are groups which are not sharing their information – If you give us the information we can make sure the message gets to everyone, not just those who happen to pick it up from word of mouth or from a poster

Readers will notice a different look to this edition. The reasons for this are explained towards the end of this newsletter.

## KENT WILDLIFE TRUST – Ian Rickards

### ***The Wildlife of Hothfield Common***

The HLF funded habitat management work carried out over the last few years, is slowly reverting Hothfield Common to how it would have looked 50 -100 years ago. Short woody plants called heather are spreading across the open areas. We can already see the pink of the Cross-leaved Heath, which flowered at the beginning of July. The majority of the heather is a plant called Ling, whose deep purple flowers will be covering most of the heathy areas by the end of the month.

Where we have been removing top soil, and where the bracken is being controlled, new heather plants will be springing up. So over the next few years expect to see considerably more heather developing.

The masses of pollen and nectar produced by these plants is essential for many insects. As well as the common honey bee, there will be many solitary bees collecting too. These insects make tunnels in the sandy soil, and as the name suggests, work on their own to provide food for the young laid inside.

These bees are also providing food for the hundreds of dragonflies that hunt across the heathland. One of the largest – the Emperor Dragonfly, will grab flying insects in mid air, and then devour them on the wing whilst searching for its next meal. Hothfield's rarest dragonfly is the keeled Skimmer, for which it is the only site in Kent. As the name suggests, this blue bodied dragonfly is usually seen skimming low over the pools and water bodies.

Finally many thanks to everyone who expressed concern for our lame pony at the end of June. He had pulled a muscle in his upper leg, no doubt through over enthusiastic play with the other ponies.



50TH ANNIVERSARY  
1958-2008

We monitored him closely, and were able to treat him on site, which meant he made a full recovery by the end of the week.

Only as a last resort would we have removed him from the site. The stress of separating and containing wild ponies greatly increases the healing time. As he was feeding well and able to get to water we were able to let nature take its course.

The high level of monitoring and care we provide our animals, is greatly due to the vigilance of the Kent Wildlife Trusts group of volunteer checkers. If anyone would like to get involved with regular checks of the cattle and ponies, and can commit to a couple of hours a week, please get in touch with Ian Rickards, the Ashford area warden on 07889 737839.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOTHFIELD ON SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER?**

It's the end of British Summer time and we're putting back the clocks.

On 25 October Hothfield also turns the clock back over decades when we will be looking at village life Then and Now. The Village Hall will be hosting a display of Hothfield past and present.

- Did you work in the Workhouse?
- Do you remember the Hairdressers shop?
- Do you know where the Doodlebugs landed?
- Come and see the model of the village built by George Sainsbury!
- Children - come and practice your handwriting the old fashioned way using a chalk and slate!

We will also have copies of the publication '*Hothfield in the 20th Century*' and copies of the extensive records by the Reverend Russell available.

If you would like to share your Hothfield memories with us before the 25 October, please contact Chris Rogers on 624 105 or email [hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com](mailto:hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com)

Please make a note on your calendar and come along on 25 October to see how we lived in the last century, and more. You can also find out more information by visiting the Hothfield village website at [www.hothfield.org.uk](http://www.hothfield.org.uk)

## **HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL – Phil Holloway**

In the past we have held joint events with the friends of St Margaret's church we are hoping to keep our close ties with this group to continue with events such as the race nite and the harvest supper, that over the last few years have been good fun. We also hope that we can expand on this and hold some other events jointly.

With the new children's centre that is now working from the old school we hope that there will be events that they will need to use the village hall and we would hope to be working with them to arrange these activities.

In addition to this there will be the events that the hall committee will be running. The old favourites will still be there the quiz nite and the jumble sale. Further to this we now have the following events:

- 2 August Family BBQ Day
- 6 September Family Fun Day
- 6 September Ploughmans with a Race Nite
- 20 September Jumble Sale
- 11 October Harvest Supper
- 15 November Ploughmans with a Race Nite
- 31 December NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

As always in Hothfield one of the biggest problems is communication we always hear 'I didn't know it was on'. Well we hope to change that and with the help of the newsletter let everyone in the village know what is going on.

Well that is enough from me for now. Do not forget to tell us what you want in your Village Hall.  
 Phone 01233647266, Mobile 07765367044, Email [hagsos@msn.com](mailto:hagsos@msn.com)

Or just tell to any of the Village Hall committee

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS – Sue Starkings

[www.g7churches.co.uk](http://www.g7churches.co.uk)



### Church Services for August are as follows:

- Sunday 3 August 9.30 am Eucharist Service
- Sunday 10 August 11 am Eucharist Service
- Sunday 17 August 11 am Service Village Hall (breakfast at 10.30)
- Sunday 24 August 9.30 am Parish Communion BCP

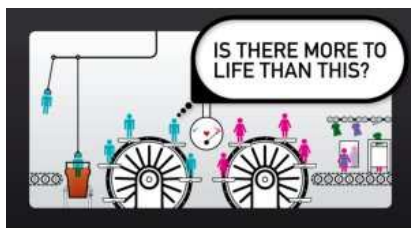
### Church News

#### MONDAY NIGHT GROUP

Next meets on Monday 1 September, when we shall meet at The Vicarage, Westwell, at 7.30pm to study something fascinating. You can find out more from Lindsay if you ring on 01233 712576.

#### ALPHA

All of us are on a journey. This journey is one that we cannot avoid and we embrace it, or not as the case may be, according to how we feel about the particular stage of the journey we are on. The journey is, of course, 'life' with all its joys and challenges. Sometimes we experience great joy. At other times we experience great pain. Through all of life's experiences, we grow in knowledge of ourselves as we try and make sense of the world.



THE ALPHA COURSE  
explore the meaning of life



It seems that part of the change that has happened in our country is that the church no longer boldly states: 'We have the truth — come and listen'. Instead the church now says: 'We are on a journey too — come travel with us'. A wonderful tool that helps us tackle some of life's questions is 'The Alpha Course'. The Alpha Course is an internationally known course that seeks to address some of the issues that face us all as human beings.

The Alpha Course was held last autumn, which was a huge success. Over 30 people enjoyed good food, good company and good debate as we discussed matters of life and death.

It was such a success, that we are repeating the course at Hothfield on Monday evenings. Each week begins with a meal at 7pm for those who wish it, and following that week's course presentation at 7.30pm which lasts for approximately 45 minutes, then we discuss it in small groups around the meal tables, with coffee and sometimes more, before finishing promptly at 9pm

The course begins on the week beginning Monday 15th September. It is free (although we do ask for a contribution of £2 to the cost of the meal). Although September seems a long way off, we have already had requests for places, so to book your place, please call:

For any general questions about the Alpha Course, please don't hesitate to Reverend Richard King on 01233 712598 or email [richardking@g7churches.co.uk](mailto:richardking@g7churches.co.uk) For the course at Hothfield, call Sue Starking on 01233 643497 to book a place.

## Drop In

For a Tea/Coffee and a chat

Every Thursday fortnight 10.00am to 11.30am

At Hothfield Children's Centre, School Road, Hothfield

Toy Library will also be available every fortnight

For more information contact

Heather or Janet on 01233 622296

All Welcome!

## HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - Shirley Whittington

### Why not have your say?

Very soon we shall all be receiving a simple questionnaire to fill in about what we would like for Hothfield. Filling in questionnaires can be tedious and often we feel it is a waste of our time but if everyone of us who lives in Hothfield takes a few moments to complete the different sections of this questionnaire the Parish Council will have a truer understanding of the needs of the local community. It will help Parish Councillors to know what facilities and improvements they should be working to provide wherever they can.

**The Village Appraisal. Hothfield Parish Council** Hothfield Parish Council is sponsoring a village appraisal questionnaire funded by DEFRA. The idea of this appraisal is to produce an up to date picture of our community, identify a range of issues which affect our everyday lives and establish objectives based on fact rather than speculation and guesswork. The questionnaire will be distributed and collected by volunteers from the village and Ashford Borough Council. Completed questionnaires can either be returned to the village Post Office or given to the volunteer collectors no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>. If there are sections in the questionnaire that you do not understand please ask for help. Help is freely available from the Children's Centre or from the person whose name and telephone number is on the last page of the questionnaire. In order to encourage you, each completed questionnaire will be put in a draw. The first name out of the draw will receive £100.



## What's On Children's Centre - Hothfield August 2008

THURSDAY 7	<p><b>Paddling Pool Party and Picnic</b></p> <p>On Thursday 7th August we will be holding a Water Party from 10.00am-12noon for pre-school aged children. There will be paddling pools, lots of bubbles and water play. Bring along your own picnic to eat in the garden.</p>
TUESDAY 12	<p><b>Keeping Everyone Smiling</b></p> <p>Join the legendary Sue Scrivens on Tuesday 12th August 10.00am-11.30am at the Children's Centre to learn about giving your child a healthy start in life and foods with hidden sugars. Dental hygiene will also be covered in this session. Children will be in crèche for the first hour then will join the parents for a talk with her friendly puppet crocodile.</p>
WEDNESDAY 13	<p><b>Art Workshop</b></p> <p>On Wednesday 13th August join in the fun with activities such as Messy Art for the younger children and Decorating T-Shirts for the older siblings. Bring along an old T-Shirt to redesign and get creative on. This workshop runs between 10.00am -11.30am.</p>
TUESDAY 19	<p><b>Wildlife Day</b></p> <p>Create your very own bird box at our Nature Trail. Flat pack bird box will be provided. There will also be chance to create a fat ball for the birds. Bring your own picnic to eat in the garden and join in a nature walk across Hothfield Common. Please contact Heather on 01233 622296 to book your space so we can bring along enough bird boxes for everyone!</p>
WEDNESDAY 27	<p><b>Activity Day</b></p> <p>This Activity Day is for children of all ages. There will be football for the older children, rounders for the middle years and an Activ Movement group for under 5s. Meet at the Children's Centre and have some fun!</p>

At the Hothfield Children's Centre we have 50 adult and 50 children's books for people of Hothfield to borrow. They can come into the Children's Centre anytime during opening hours and borrow a book(s). This was organised with the Stanhope Library because folk had told us that the Mobile Library doesn't stop in Hothfield very long.

We have also started Health Walks for Mums/Dads/little ones in their buggies and anyone else - whatever age - to come along from Hothfield as well as anyone who lives in Godington, Charing and Challock. So if anyone is interested please contact me at the Centre on 01233- 622296.

The Toy Library is also up and running and proving very successful. It costs £2.50 to join for a year and 50p for a small toy and £1 for larger toys. All toys are new and range from babies to 4+ years.

A Drop-In group for Mums/Dads/Nans/Carers is also being held every fortnight on a Thursday from 10.0am - 11.30am for people to come along to if they wish. We normally have activities to do ie; messy art plus a break for fruit and juices and coffee/tea and then a sing song to end the session. It is also a great opportunity for mums/dads/carers to meet up and have a chat. The first one was held on 3rd July and is every fortnight from that date.

# THANKS

Well done to Caroline and Les who organised a very pleasant Quiz Night at the Village Hall on 12 July. Five teams took part and tackled questions on a wide range of subjects. Thanks to both of them from Chris and Chris.

## THIS NEWSLETTER AND THE PARISH COUNCIL – Chris Twydell

I was asked to attend the last Hothfield Parish Council meeting for a *'full and frank discussion about the future of the newsletter'*. I attended the meeting and was able to explain the purpose of the newsletter (which was to help share information, thoughts and ideas within the whole community) which I had set out in a detailed letter to the Parish Council last September. I was also able to demonstrate how successful it had been in the last nine months with 162 separate items, contributions from most parts of Hothfield and a considerable amount of very positive feedback (including from the Parish Council itself following the first issue!).

Some members of the Parish Council had concerns on a number of aspects of the newsletter, including my decision a couple of months ago to print the letter signed 'Mr Ordinary' (to which the Parish Council responded both at the time **and** in a subsequent edition), issues over copyright of clipart (the pictures I use), the legal position on taking public information from council and Government web sites without formally having sought permission, and the legal position of the Parish Council in the event of someone suing for libel or slander. The discussion on these issues lasted an hour.

Having taken advice, the Parish Council had identified two options for the newsletter, if Parish Council funding was to be used. The first being that the Parish Council takes on *'full editorial control'* which in my opinion would be against the spirit of a community publication (and I said so at the meeting). The second option would be to set up a separate group, with its own constitution, bank account and insurance cover. The suggestion was that this group should include a Parish Councillor and would meet every three months to look at the previous three issues and to ensure the content was acceptable to the Parish Council. In the event that the Parish Council was not happy with anything that was included, it then could withdraw funding for the newsletter.

These ideas really did not go down very well with me but given I was between a rock and a hard place, I have agreed to edit the newsletter for three more issues on the basis that we no longer include any pictures, clipart, information nor anything else where we cannot demonstrate we have copyright permission. Neither can we include anything where we are not given the writer's name and address (although we would be allowed to not print the name and address if the writer requested).

## HOTHFIELD NEWS

All contributions, letters, comments etc for the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Chris Twydell, at 37 Coach Drive by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month or by email to [hothfieldnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hothfieldnewsletter@gmail.com) 01233 635 372. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by e mail, or would like a large print copy, please let me know. Thanks.

## AND FINALLY.....

.....just think what a chair would look like if our knees bent in the other direction!