

Hothfield News

February 2008

The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community

WELCOME

February already – how the time flies! Another bumper edition this month with some new – and most welcome – contributors, including the local History Society and a special thank you. The last few editions have attracted quite a few positive comments from local people for which we are really grateful – modesty prevents us publishing them here! But as we have said all along, editing the newsletter is the easy bit – its just getting contributions that's hard!

This month we have an item from the Hothfield Singers but would love to hear from a few more local groups. Come on, don't be shy! We are more than happy to help any group write its article – just give the editor a call! You never know, there may well be someone just wanting to join your club or group.

THANKYOU FOR THE SONGS OF PRAISE – Mary and Tina



Thank you to all the organisers for a lovely service and afternoon tea. It was so nice to see so many people there. We all had a lovely time and are looking forward to the next service. We would also like to thank both vicars and to thank Peter for playing the organ. It was nice to hear cheerful singing in the Village Hall

HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – Shirley Whittington

Sometimes when the agenda arrives for the next monthly Parish Council meeting it looks exactly like the one we had for the previous meeting and the meeting before that. On the surface it can be quite discouraging but I suppose it takes time and a great deal of perseverance to make things happen. For example the street lights on Station Road have not worked for well over a year in spite of monthly calls to Kent Highways Department. Ashford Borough Council's Planning Department continue to refuse to accept our views and recommendations after consulting us. The Old King's Head site is a prime example. In addition the Police do not always seem to be either able or willing to act to resolve our problems. However it is another new year and the positives outweigh the negatives.



On the positive side we have appointed a village orderly to help keep the village clear of litter in so far as his hours permit.

The new Children's Centre is on track to open in March. In addition we have gained an important sum of money from the Lottery Fund to allow us to create a new play park for children. Plans reflecting the needs and wishes of the local community will start to be drawn up in October 2008. This is your chance to have something you want. You can make your views known to Kareen McKeown the 'Fun Day Lady' when you see her out and about in the village or to the Community workers at the Children's Centre when it gets under way. They will listen to you.

These notes provide a brief summary of the discussions we had at our January meeting. A full copy of the January meeting minutes are available at the village Post Office or by emailing the Parish Council Clerk at judith.batt@tiscali.com.

THE HOTHFIELD SINGERS – Ethel Haley, for the Group

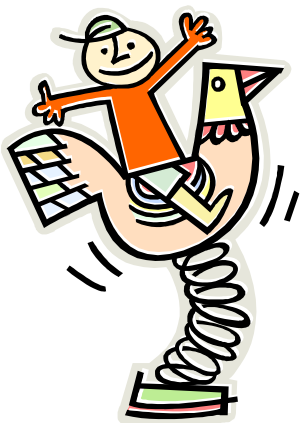
The Hothfield Singers, although small in number, have had another good year going round to all the old people's nursing homes and clubs singing their old time favorites which they enjoy and are able to join in with all the old choruses. This year we were able to send £100 to the Vera Lyn Trust for children with cerebral palsy. Over the past few years we have donated well over £1,000 to this charity so well done ladies, a worthy cause and well worth singing for. Already they are making plans for 2008. I would like to say thanks to all who have supported the group with their donations. With all good wishes for 2008.



MORE PLAY FOR HOTHFIELD – Michelle Byrne, Ashford Council

Hothfield has been chosen, in consultation with the Parish Council, to benefit from Big Lottery funding to provide a 'natural' play area for children up to the age of 16. Ashford Borough Council is leading the project in partnership with the Parish Council and the Kent Children's Fund Network.

Specific details of the play area will not be known until a local consultation has taken place, but it is hoped to use the natural features of the area, such as grass banks, to shape the design and specifications of the play provision. The play area will provide a high quality innovative facility that meets the community's needs and can be enjoyed by children and young people in the community for many years.



The community consultation is being led by the Kent Children's Fund Network and is planned to start in August 2008 and be completed in October. There will then be a period of approximately 11 months when people's opinions and ideas, particularly those of local children, young people and parents, will be used to draw up detailed designs for the play area and to choose a contractor before work will begin on installing the play area in September 2008. It is hoped that it will be officially opened in Spring 2009.

We would like as many members of the community as possible to become involved in the consultation, particularly children and young people, in order to ensure that the design of the play area reflects what the community wants. This is your opportunity to influence the design of an exciting and innovative play area in Hothfield, so watch this space for further details on how to get involved in the consultation!

FROM OUR LOCAL 'BOBBY' – PC Phil Smith

Football

Tuesday 15th January 2008 saw the return of Charlton Athletic Football Club outreach scheme to the multi use games area in Hothfield. This will run every Tuesday between five and six p.m. and is open for 10 to 19 year old boys and girls from Hothfield and the surrounding area. Funding for the scheme comes from numerous sources including Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Ashford Borough Council and the Community Safety Unit.

Bogus Callers

Please be aware of any caller who is unable to satisfactorily identify himself or herself. People who commit this type of crime generally use various excuses for distracting the occupier including bogus Police Officers or other officials, being stranded and needing to borrow money to get home, from water, gas or electricity companies and many others. They normally work in at least twos, one to cause the distraction and one to gain entry via another door and steal property.



You can thwart their attempts by taking some simple precautions:

1. Use a door chain to answer the door to any unsolicited caller.
2. When answering the door to an unsolicited caller, make sure that other doors and windows are secure.
3. Particularly for elderly people, have an agreement with a friend, relative or neighbour that the caller can have their I.D. checked by them.
4. If the caller says that they are from a company, leave them outside until you have checked this on the phone. **Make sure you shut and lock the door whilst doing this.**

The three-month period from October to December saw twenty-two crimes reported in the parish. Eight of these crimes were against individual residents where the offender is unknown. The rest of the crimes are against corporate bodies or the offender has been dealt with. This is down from forty in the same period of 2006. I would like this figure to be zero, but can only do this with your help.

Please contact the Police with any information that you would like to pass. I have included a list of useful numbers below. In the event of a crime in progress, or a serious threat to life or safety phone 999. If you see something that needs a Police response, but does not fit into the above criteria, phone 01622 690690.



If you want advice or to report any long-term issue in the parish please contact me on 07980 770577. If I am not on duty just leave a message and I will contact you upon my return. If you want to pass on information in a completely confidential way either contact me as above or, crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER

A reminder that we can produce large print versions of this newsletter for anyone with poor eyesight. We have had one request so far and can easily run off more. If you would like a large print version, please let me know. It really is no trouble at all for us and can make quite a difference. Thanks Chris

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS - Sue Starkings

Church Services for February are as follows:

Sunday 3rd February 9.30 am Parish Communion
Wednesday 6th February 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 10th February 11 am Service
Sunday 17th February 11 am Service Village Hall (breakfast at 10.30)
Sunday 24th February 9.30 am Parish Communion (BCP)



Church News

Funeral Louise Charlotte Evans

Louise died on Wednesday 12th September 2007 aged 48. Her funeral took place at St. Margaret, Hothfield on Tuesday 11th December 2007. *May God enfold Louise in his tender love and care.*

Friday Night Group

The next meeting of the Friday Night Group will be on Friday 1st February at 7.30p.m., at The Vicarage, Westwell. If you've not been before, but would like to come along, then let Lindsay know. We're going to discuss the background to and significance of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. There's some preliminary reading, so let Lindsay know if you want to come.



CANDLEMAS

This year we celebrate Candlemas, alternatively known as The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on Sunday 3rd February. In addition to the usual services, there will be a special Candlemas service at Charing Heath at 4.00p.m., preceded by tea in the hall opposite the church at 3.00p.m. All welcome, but if you can bring something to share at the tea, that would be wonderful.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday 6th February. There will be two Ash Wednesday services, Holy Communion at Egerton at 10.00a.m., and The Eucharist at Hothfield at 7.30p.m. Both celebrations will include the Imposition of Ashes. All welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Would you like to be confirmed? Or are you just interested in the Christian faith and would like to find out more? We are holding a Confirmation Service in our group of parishes on the 8th July 2008, so if you would like to discuss confirmation, then please get in touch with The Reverend Lindsay Hammond on 01233 712576 (lindsayhammond@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Lent 2008

Thinking about Lent! Below, you will find information about the study groups that will be meeting throughout Lent, together with the contact details:

Tuesday

7.30p.m (beginning 12 th February), Willow Cottage, Charing	Cynthia Shaw	(712637)
8.00p.m (beginning 12 th February) The Vicarage, Charing	Richard King	(712598)

Wednesday

12.30p.m (beginning 13 th February), The Vicarage, Westwell	Lindsay Hammond	(712576)
7.45p.m (beginning 13 th February), Home Meadow, Little Chart	Philip Cox	(840274)

Friday

10.30a.m (beginning 15th February), 34 The Moat, Charing

Alan Duncan

(712632)

All you have to do is ring the relevant group leader to book your place. If you miss a session, then simply go to another group in the same week. This year we shall be taking a close look at The Lord's Prayer, a prayer we use so frequently yet perhaps think about so seldom.

HOTHFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"I can remember the Battle of Britain, sitting on the sheds, watching them fight out there over the field. German planes machine gunning ours as they parachuted out. I can remember that and I can remember when they used to take them up to the mansion. Any Germans they captured, they used to take up there for questioning and that. I saw one bail out and they went out there and got him straightaway."



Hothfield resident

Extract from the Local History Society's oral history of living in Hothfield during the Second World War

Today's events are tomorrow's history. Come and be a part of it.

**Public meeting in the Village Hall
Monday, 25th February at 8.00pm
Refreshments will be available**

The Hothfield Local History Society invites you to a meeting in the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Monday 25th February. We are a small group of people that has come together in the last few years to research the history of Hothfield. We'd like to tell you about the work we've done so far and launch the publication of Reverend Russell's history of Hothfield written in the 19th Century.

We would also welcome your involvement and will be seeking ideas on:

- Which history topics we should be looking at
- How best to share our findings with the rest of the village
- What our regular public meetings should be about

Please come along and help us think about how we can preserve the history of the village for future generations.

If you would like further information on the meeting, please contact Karen Wright on 07968 477497.

'Hothfield in the 20th Century'

'Hothfield in the 20th Century', a publication researched and written by a group of Hothfield residents, will be reprinted in March. For more details and to place an order, please contact Bob Rivers on 01233 631565 before 28th February.



