



Hothfield News

August 2009

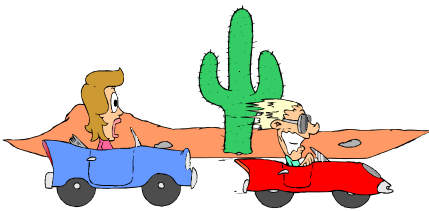
The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community



Another full issue this month with information about a range of activities planned for the coming months, a plea to slow down and information about Hothfield's own football team! And news of where we can find our own two fat women and a couple of ducks, more about the jumble sale and how to buy a tile, not to mention the 5,000 new trees planted. Yes, its all happening in Hothfield!

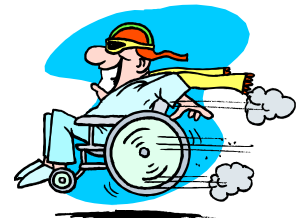
HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - Shirley Whittington

First and foremost the Parish Council would like to congratulate the seven young men from Hothfield who took part in the Kent Community Wardens 7 a side soccer competition. Our team played really well reaching the semi final and only losing out to the eventual winners. A photograph of the team with their runners up medals has been placed on the village website and another is on show at the Children's Centre. *[Please see also the more detailed report later on in the Newsletter].*

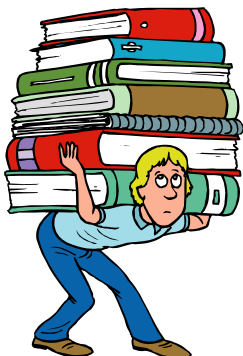


On a more serious note all of us are becoming increasingly concerned about the both the amount of traffic and the speed at which it comes through the village. Those of us who have been limiting our speed to 30 mph have had some success in slowing down cars travelling over the limit.

The more Hothfield drivers who stick to the speed limit the safer it will be. However this will not solve the problem. The Parish Council is pursuing with Kent Highways the need for flashing lights but this will take time. In the meantime we need to operate the police speed watch scheme so that drivers may be fined for speeding. Volunteers to operate the speed trap equipment are urgently needed. If you feel you can spare just an hour a week or if you would like more details please talk to Dave Beckley , our Community Warden or ring me on 621495. Don't forget YOU can help make a difference!



CHARING SCHOOL – Ruth Burns



Thank you to everyone who has collected various tokens for school over the last few months. We have now obtained 18 new books for the children through the Times scheme (titles include classics by C.S. Lewis as well as newer titles by Michael Morpugo and Jaqueline Wilson). We have collected nearly £70 worth of cooking equipment through Flora tokens. Our Tesco vouchers have enabled us to 'buy' two 'Data Logits' which are hand held digital recording devices (for temperature, sound and light) that can then be downloaded to a pc and will be used as part of the science curriculum. Thank you all very much for taking the time to collect vouchers and drop them into school.



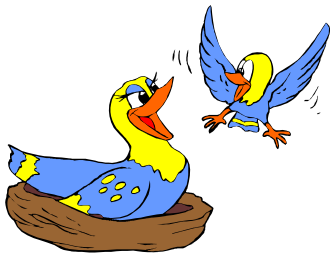
BINGO – Tina and Ken Marden

If you are a bingo fan, why not come down to the Village Hall on Thursday evenings? Books are £1, flyers £2 per strip, entry 50p, tea and coffee 50p and the raffle just £1 a strip. Eyes down at 7.30. For more information, contact Tina or Ken Marden on 07773 191 050.

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST - Ian Rickards

Hothfield Heathland Report

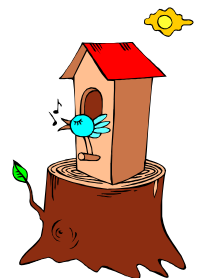
Regular visitors to the Hothfield Heathlands nature reserve will probably have noticed the activity on the extension land to the West of the reserve.



In 2007, the Kent Wildlife Trust bought 40 acres of land, with the intention of increasing the size of the Hothfield nature reserve. This was one of the reasons why the reserve is now called Hothfield Heathlands, as the area known as Hothfield Common becomes the central hub of a much bigger reserve.

We are halfway through a four year project to encourage as much wildlife onto this extension site as possible. The first step was relatively straightforward, simply by taking the land out of agricultural grain production allowed the wildflowers, insects and birds to flourish. We introduced grazing, which begins to encourage a much wider range of flowers.

We will be creating gaps in the trees and scrub between the old and new parts of the nature reserve, which will encourage the wildlife to move between the two. On our new boundary, we have also planted over 5,000 trees, creating hedgerows and headlands, and effectively creating a new boundary for the Heathland reserve.



This new land lies in the flood plain of the River Stour, and in the past would have been considerably wetter – we have had an excavator carefully sculpting pools, ponds and scrapes, which in the winter will fill with water. These pools gradually dry in the spring, and the soft muddy ground is perfect for birds hunting for creatures hiding in the mud.



For more information the work of the Kent Wildlife Trust, and how you could get involved – please ring our main office on 01622 662012 or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

LAKESIDE VILLAGE – Amanda Odd

Chris Taylor and Amanda Odd from Lakeside Village would like to invite the senior citizens of Hothfield to our Garden Party held on 28th August between 2 and 4pm. Please come along and enjoy tea, scones and cakes with us, whilst enjoying a sing a long entertainment with Trevor. Transport will be provided by Lakeside and we will pick up from designated venues. If you are interested and need transport please let Dave Bleckley, the Community Warden know. It's all free, please come and meet us.



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS – Sue Patten

www.g7churches.co.uk



St Margaret's News and Services

Services in August

Sunday 2 August The Eucharist 9.30am
Blessing of Animals 11 am at Pluckley

Sunday 9 August The Eucharist 11am

Sunday 16 August Re:fresh 11am Village Hall
10.30am for coffee and bacon rolls.

Sunday 23 August Holy Communion 9.30am

Sunday 30 August G7 Eucharist 9.30 am at Charing.



Coffee Morning

There will not be a coffee morning in August. The next coffee morning will be held on Tuesday 1 September.

Alpha Course

This year the Alpha Course is being held on Tuesday evening beginning on 29 September. The course is free except for a contribution towards the meal, if you would like one, which starts at 7pm. To book your place, or for further information, please call Caroline Asteraki-Speer on 01233 714028

Caroline@riverfordhomedelivery.co.uk

A LETTER ABOUT SOUTHERN WATER - Steve

Steve has written to ask what is happening regarding Southern Water? He says he has sent letters to Southern Water (which he says was a waste of time) he has contacted OFWAT, who he says are meant to make sure your bills are fair, (but Steve says they are not interested) and he has called the Consumer Council for Water in London and the South East but they told him they won't do anything unless Southern Water admit what they have done. **Steve is asking what else he can do – does anyone else have advice for Steve?**



MULTI USE GAMES AREA – Peter Patten

The Multiuse games area can now be booked for the following:

Football Basketball Netball Tennis

If you would like to book to use the MUGA, please contact Emma at Bluebells Children's Centre on 01233 622 296. Charges are £8 per hour without lights and £10 per hour with lights, payable in advance.

Bookings will be restricted to three days/nights per week and will take priority over casual usage.

KENT HANDYVAN SERVICE – Dave Beckley

Many older people feel scared to leave their homes or answer their door to strangers. There are also those who need some support to remain living independently in their own homes. Through our HandyVan Service, we provide peace of mind to older people by making their homes more safe and secure, thereby reducing the risk of loss through burglary.



The HandyVan Service provides and fits a range of safety and security products in clients homes. It is primarily aimed at older people on low incomes and no charges are made for labour nor the produces installed. The range of products installed include

- smoke alarms.
- door security chains.
- mortice locks.
- mortice bolts.
- window locks.
- door viewers.
- locks are available for uPVC doors and windows.



HandyVan fitters always carry photo identification cards and arrive by appointment.

REMEMBER

- always ask for identification.
- secure your door chain if you have one.
- Make sure you are happy that the caller is genuine before letting a stranger into your home.

For more information contact Dave Beckley your KCC Community Warden on 07811 271306.

BLUEBELLS CHILDREN'S CENTRE – Ann Parker

Breakfast Club

Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Term time from 07.50 to 8.35. 50p per child each morning. Parents: Please can you make sure that children arrive before 8:20 for breakfast.

Summer Fun

- Family Day Trip to Rare Breeds
- Pizza Making
- Glass and T Shirt Painting
- Gardening



For parents and children aged 5-11 years old and younger brothers and sisters welcome. Every Tuesday 10 -12 noon from 21 July to 25 August 2009 at Hothfield Village Hall.

PLEASE NOTE PLACES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE & CONSENT FORMS COMPLETED

Please call Emma at Bluebells Children's Centre to book a place or for more information on 622296

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2009 – Dave Beckley

The Ashford Community Wardens Football Tournament which took place at 'Pitchside 3G', Stanhope, Ashford on Saturday 27 June 2009. The team was made up of Gary Penfold, James Graves, Luke Parsonage, Jack Smith, George Latter, Tom Collins and Jethro Smith. The team performed very well winning their first game against Wye 5 - 0. In the second game against an Ashford team called Pure Excellent we came out as 2 - 1 winners. Game 3 was another walk over where the guys worked very hard and played well with the winning result a 6 - 0 victory. That put our team through to the semi final where we were drawn to play a team from Tenterden called the 'Thrillers'. Unfortunately we narrowly lost this game 2-1 after a very hard fought game.



I would like to say a big thank you to all the Hothfield team who did their families and other residents of Hothfield proud. Well done lads. I hope you enjoyed the day as much as we all did.

Can I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to Hothfield Parish Council for their offer of help during the run up to the day, also thanks to the Bluebells Children's Centre Manager Ann Parker for her offer of help and last but not less thanks to Stuart, Bridget and the staff from the KCC Youth Team for their support on the day and for providing transport to get our team safely to and from Hothfield and Stanhope. *[Note. This article was received too late to include in the July Newsletter].*



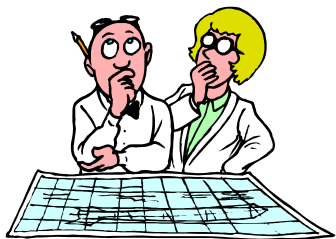
THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Join the rest of Kent on **Friday 25 September** in supporting the **World's Biggest Coffee Morning**. Have a coffee with your friends, family, colleagues in your local community and together help raise money for people affected by cancer. Whether you raise £10 or £200 every penny counts! To take part and hold your own coffee morning log onto www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call the hotline on 0845 602 1246.

HOTHFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY – Chris Rogers

Birth of a New Village

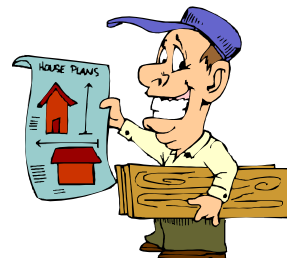
Continuing last month's theme we find in the minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council some records of the first glimpses of the new village being planned:



In June 1943 the minutes state: 'The members of the Council do not consider any post-war erection of houses necessary for this parish.' The use of the words 'post war' is a little curious given that the war had not yet ended and there would have been no way of knowing how much longer the war would continue to rage over the heads of Kentish folk.

A year later, in May 1944, the Parish Council might have started to get used to the idea of a few new homes in the area: The Minute is entitled 'Post-war Housing – Council Houses: A letter was read from the West Ashford Rural District Council as to the erection of 54 houses in the area inviting suggestions for the need for houses in the Parish of Hothfield.' It continues: 'The members present considered the erection of houses necessary, providing suitable land could be acquired.'

Another year later, March 1945, and another letter from the West Ashford District Council directing the Parish Council to suggest a site for four houses. 'The site unanimously proposed was on the main Maidstone Road towards Ashford opposite the two cottages Station Road corner. The reasons being given all services available including bus route and central position.' (*central to what wonders Chris Rogers?*).



In August 1946 the situation had escalated and the minutes quote: 'Mr Meech proposed site of field adjoining Thanet Arms and adjacent ground now used as a nursery. ... The second site proposed by Mr Woolley was on land adjoining Home Farm Cottages.'

The rest, as they say, is history! Work started on the houses in the late 1940's/early 1950's.

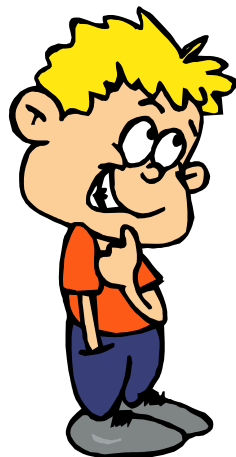


Looking for Ellen Louisa Brown (nee Swan)

We continue to receive snippets of information through our e-mail address: Hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com. This week we have been asked to trace Ellen Louisa Swan who is thought to have been in the Hothfield area in the early 1930s and who married a local land agent Alexander Brown. Do you, or did you, know Louisa Brown or do you know where her family might be now?

The History Society is looking through the Church records and also the school log-books to see if the names 'Swan' or 'Brown' appear. If you have any information on Louisa or her successors then please contact Chris Rogers on 01233 624105 or use the e-mail at the above address, or via the editor of this newsletter, and we will put them in contact with our correspondent.

LOCAL INFORMATION - Ed



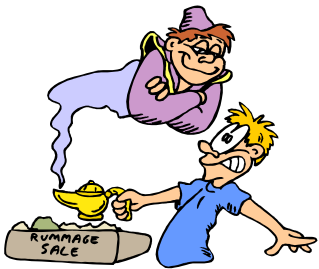
- What times do our buses run?
- When is the Hothfield Post Office open?
- What groups are there in Hothfield?
- Who can join the 'Merry and Bright Club'?
- What is the Hothfield Housing Surgery (*will it help if my house catches a cold?*)
- What is happening about the state of the old pub in Hothfield (which is looking more and more awful each week it is left empty)?
- Where is the nearest cash point?

These are all questions I have asked in the past month and for some of them I have had great difficulty finding the answers! We have our own web site (but that is only of help to those people who can use a computer and has limited information) and there are various odd notices in the shop window. I suspect other people have similar questions but how can we get the answers? The Hothfield Website may be helpful for some people but what about others? A while ago I did suggest a Hothfield Handbook but that fell on death ears. Is that now something worth thinking about? Any other suggestions – all welcome!

HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL - John Collins

After a long time supporting the Village Hall we would like to thank Peter Patten for giving up so much of his time and energy. Peter has been a member of the Committee for longer than anyone dares to remember, and held the post of Treasurer for many years. Peter's dedication and contributions to the Hall are already being missed.





Jumble Sale and Nearly New Sale – 8 August

Don't forget to come to the Village Hall from 2pm on Saturday 8 August for our Jumble Sale. We have a number of nearly new items including men's suits and other high-quality barely-used homeware and clothing ready to be snapped up. We've been donated good items of furniture and plants as well. Entrance is free and there will be refreshments and a Barbeque. There will also be a prize tombola. If you're still clearing out that cupboard or loft you can still take your items to John and Margaret Collins.

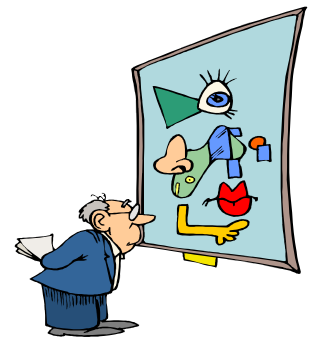
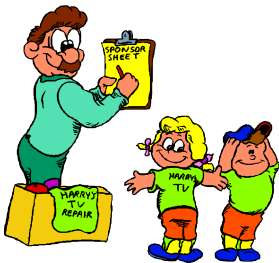
Future Events

Other important dates for your diary include:

- **Harvest Supper** on 26 September brought to you by the Friends of St Margaret's and the Village Hall,
- **Race Night and Ploughman's** on 17 October – this is always a fun event, come along and pick a horse to cheer through the race. Get a party together or just come along and join the crowd.
- **Hallowe'en.** we're planning another day of fun activities for children – watch this space for more information nearer the time.
- **Quiz Night** in November – there will be a round of questions on Hothfield so come and show us what you know. Persuade your friends to form a team or join another group.

Village Hall Make-Over

By the time you read this the entrance to the Hall will have been painted and a mural is planned to brighten up the space. Ann, Debbie and Sarah from KCC are also hoping to provide us with some local artwork and pictures to decorate the main Hall. However, we really want to improve the toilet areas too, and are bidding for funds to replace the toilets, cisterns and sinks. You can help too by sponsoring a tile (or two) for the walls. The brick walls of the toilets are now dirty and difficult to maintain so we want to tile the area with tiles that will brighten up the loos and be easier to wipe down.



At the Jumble Sale, and future events, there will be an opportunity to sponsor a tile for just £1 which will cover the cost of the tile, adhesive, grout and installation. Sponsors can write their name on the back of the tile and we'll list all the sponsors' names to mark our appreciation for your generous contribution.

Booking the Hall

Want to hold a summer party, or need an affordable venue for a wedding or birthday? Hothfield has one of the largest halls in the area at a very competitive price. Call Sharon on (01233) 661237 to check availability.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

All contributions, letters, comments etc for the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Chris Twydell, at 37 Coach Drive by the 15th of each month or by email to 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.....many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices (William James).