

# Hothfield News

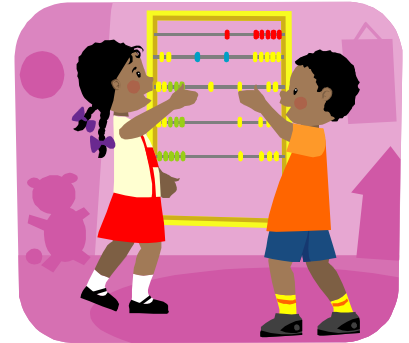
January 2008

*The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community*

## WELCOME

A slightly delayed edition this month because of the various holidays etc but hopefully its worth the wait! It is good to have some more contributions this month but still some people and organisations seem very reluctant to share their information!!! Come on people, tell us what's happening! Let's hear from our Borough and County Councillors and from our Village Warden. What about the numerous community groups in Hothfield? Who has details about booking the MUGA? What's been happening at the Hall? **Please** tell us!

Since the last issue we have had the Children's Centre Fun Day on 1 December. This was a great success which gave a whole day's fun to young people from Hothfield and beyond, completely free of charge. There were so many activities and attractions including arts and crafts, games and sideshows, a football skills workshop, radio controlled cars, refreshments and during, face painting, a treasure hunt and, of course, an early visit from Santa! A very Big THANKYOU to the 150+ people who came along on the day and to everyone who helped in any way.



The Fun Day gave us all an opportunity to say what we wanted in **our** Children's Centre. And there were plenty of ideas and suggestions. Now we need local people to work with the various agencies so that these can actually happen. Meanwhile, the building work at the Centre (the old School) is progressing well and we are told it should be finished by around the end of January. As soon as it is ready, there will be an opportunity for local people to look round and again to help decide what activities should be provided, and how they should be run. Watch this space!



## THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN – Bob Fletcher

The village litter picking team has come to the end of another year. In recognition of their efforts, the Pilgrims Hospice will be given another donation by the Hothfield Parish Council. I hope you will agree that the village does certainly seem much tidier.

The original 'Magnificent Seven' have now been working away for the last three years and sadly some of them are unable to continue with this job any longer. So we now need new volunteers to take over their roles.

Can you help? Please give us your support to continue to keep the village clear of litter and to be able to make annual donations to the Hospice. Without your help this group will come to an end, leaving our village looking less tidy and the Parish Council's contributions to our Hospice will cease. Please make 'litter picking' one of your New Year resolutions – after all, the less we all drop, the less there is to pick up! For more details, please telephone Bob Fletcher on 620892.

## MARIE CURIE CANCER CAMPAIGN COLLECTION – Bob Fletcher

A belated thanks to those residents of The Street who contributed to the autumn door-to-door collection for the Marie Curie Campaign. As a result of your generosity, I was able to send a cheque for £35 to the organisation. So thank you again for your support for this very worthy cause.

Bob subsequently received a receipt which said that the money raised would be used to help fund local Marie Curie Nurses caring for people with cancer in the area. The service is offered free of charge to patients and costs the charity £20 for every hour of care. '*Clearly*', the letter says, '*without the generous support of volunteer collectors we simply could not continue to provide such specialist care to people when they need it most.*' The letter goes on to say that the Charity was well on course to raise its target of £1.75million from house to House envelope collections across the UK.

**Well done Bob, and everyone who contributed.**

## HOTHFIELD VILLAGE SONGS OF PRAISE

Come and sing your favourite hymns and spend some time with your fellow villagers and enjoy afternoon tea.

We are gathering at the Village Hall on Sunday 13 January 2008 at 3pm. Let The Reverend Lindsay Hammond know if you are coming so that we can provide enough tea for everyone! (01233 712576 or [lindsayhammond@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindsayhammond@hotmail.co.uk)).



## CHARING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – Rosemary Olley, Head Teacher

Christmas was a good time at school as always. The many activities planned for the children ensured a range of experiences of Christmas, but the message was always the same – 'goodwill to all' and 'a time for sharing and giving'. We are assured that all the children who joined the school this academic year enjoyed the Charing Christmas experience.

Out thanks to the many people from beyond the school who have made an invaluable contribution to the school during Terms 1 and 2 of this academic year. Their contribution enables the staff and I to plan and deliver a greater range of learning opportunities for the children, which, in turn, enhances interactions and experiences.



It was goodbye to Mrs Collins and Mrs Simmons at the end of term. They have made many contributions to the life of the school, as well as providing good learning opportunities for all the children they have worked with. Mrs Collins plans to have a calmer life – in retirement. Mrs Simons is to undertake a three year Speech and Language Course.

Congratulations to Mrs Cray who has been appointed as Priest in Charge at St. Faiths, Maidstone with effect from April.

The 11+ tests happen during the next two terms, along with Book Week, a Science Workshop, a Home/School project based upon a gardening theme, and the initiation of our new Creative Partnerships project. There is much to keep staff and children enjoying and achieving.

A Happy New Year to you all and especially to those of you who support us and share in our work. The Governors, children, staff and I are most appreciative of the interest that we receive from the parish and the wider community.



Keep in touch with us via our website [www.charingschool.uk.org](http://www.charingschool.uk.org), and do visit us whenever there is an opportunity. There is a Charing Primary School Family Service (CHAFS) Breakfast and Service on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January in the school. Come and spend time with us – you'll receive a warm welcome.

## **HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – Shirley Whittington**

Although there is no Parish Council meeting in December there are still items for me to report. This month has certainly been very busy for all of us. There is so much happening in the village and many more people are becoming involved in the life of the community. We enjoyed the Family Fun Day on December 1. That was a great Saturday with over a hundred and twenty adults and children taking part in a wide variety of events from face painting to Christmas tree decorating.

At the church we had a wonderful Festival of Christmas Trees over three days ending with the Christingle Service which took place in a packed St Margaret's church. By the time you receive this Newsletter there will have been carol singing around the village and another Cabaret evening at the village hall.

Hothfield is really on the move! There are so many people working very hard to try to make life within the village more enjoyable for all of us that the Parish Council wants to say a huge thank you to everyone and to wish you a happy, healthy and fulfilled New Year. Please let us know what your expectations are for the village in 2008.

### **PATRICIA PEMBLE (nee Ottaway)**

We were sad to learn of the death of Patricia Pemble on 1 December after a long battle against cancer. Pat was 89 and was born in Hothfield, spending 20 years living in Coach Drive and 18 years in Beech Drive. Pat was also a member of the Hothfield singers for many years.



*We have also received the following tribute from Ethel Haley on behalf of the Hothfield Singers.*

I would like to say that it was on a very sad 'note' to hear of the passing of our dear friend Pat who for many years had been a loyal and devoted member of our singing group until her last illness prevented her from singing with us. Pat was a very talented and courageous lady, who was a member of the Hothfield Operatic and Dramatic Society back in the 1980s. With some of our members are photographs in the local book 'Hothfield in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century' and have been singing ever since. Pat loved singing, never complained about her disabilities and failing eyesight, a pleasure to have her with our group. A lovely personality always cheerful, was loved by so many, and sadly missed by us all. 'Our Faithful Friend Pat'.

## **NEWS FROM THE MERRY AND BRIGHT CLUB**

During January, the Club will be meeting at the Village Hall on Thursdays 10 and 24 January. We are hoping for more news on the club and what it offers – so watch this space!

# ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS - Sue Starkings



## Church Services for January are as follows:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 am Parish Communion  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 11 am Service  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 3pm Songs of Praise Village Hall  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 11 am Service Village Hall (breakfast at 10.30)  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 am Parish Communion (BCP)

## Church News

### Funerals

#### David William Symonds

David died on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007. His funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007

#### Roy Ronald Stewart

Roy died on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007. His funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007.

*May God enfold David and Roy in his tender love and care.*

### Friday Night Group

The next meeting of the Friday Night Group will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30p.m, at The Vicarage, Westwell. If you've not been before, but would like to come along, then let Lindsay know.



### Hothfield Sings Songs of Praise

Come along to Hothfield Village Hall on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00p.m and join us for our very own Songs of Praise. We need to know your favourite hymn, so please get in touch with Lindsay as soon as you can. After the service, a light tea will be served. This promises to be great fun!

### Lent 2008

One minute we're celebrating Christmas and the next we're 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<sup>th</sup> February), Willow Cottage, Charing

Cynthia Shaw (712637)

8.00p.m (beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February) The Vicarage, Charing

Richard King (712598)

#### Wednesday

12.30p.m (beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February), The Vicarage, Westwell

Lindsay Hammond (712576)

7.45p.m (beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February), Home Meadow, Little Chart

Philip Cox (840274)

#### Friday

10.30a.m (beginning 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

We have also arranged a Quiet Day for Lent, which will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Cautley House in Hythe, from about 10.00a.m until 4.00p.m. Contact Lindsay if you would like to sign up for this (the cost will be about £10.00).

### **Ecumenical Service**

A combined ecumenical service for all of the G7 church will be held at Charing Methodist Church at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome.

## **INTRODUCING 1STBYTE - Local People Encouraging Local Learning**

Some of you may have visited the Children's Centre Family Fun Day held recently at the Hothfield Village Hall and perhaps had the opportunity to talk with the organisers about local needs? Continuing this theme of local community interest, Shirley Whittington, Chair of the Parish Council, has invited us to introduce 1stByte and tell you a little bit about what we do.

1stByte is a Church in Society initiative with centres across East Kent delivering basic IT (computer) learning to local people who are looking to build their confidence and skill levels to find jobs, either for the first time or after a period away from work. It is paid from external grants and relies upon local volunteers to help deliver its own unique style of learning. Courses run by 1stByte are usually held for between 6 – 8 people at a time, and are friendly and fun to do.



1stByte delivers both basic IT qualifications, based upon Microsoft Office programs such as Word (for typing letters etc), useful for so many jobs these days, and 'taster' courses, which explain the basics of how to use a computer. 1stByte also offers simple lessons for those who perhaps just want to use email to speak to distant grandchildren! All are made to feel welcome and valued, whatever age – indeed many of our students have later returned as volunteers to help out or just to maintain the friendships formed. As one ex-student turned volunteer at our Sheerness centre recently commented, "1stByte is family".

In addition to offering IT courses, local centres can offer special interest subjects, such as digital photography, subject to demand and the availability of local expertise. 1stByte also offers an Information, Advice and Guidance service for those looking for work, or wanting to improve their skills to get a better job.

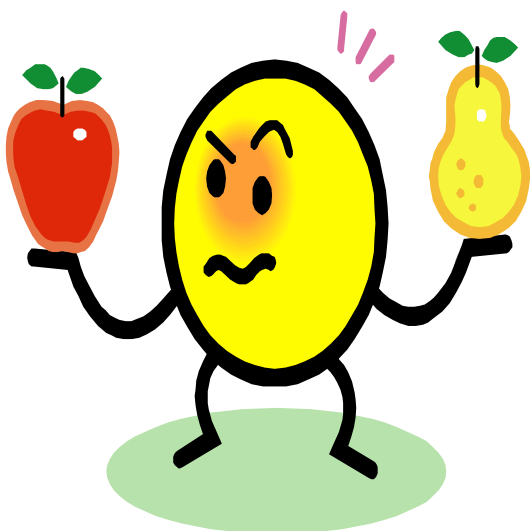
1stByte's training is not just restricted to IT skills; we also offer a group of courses called NextByte which includes confidence building, interview skills and CV writing. This course is very helpful for people who have been out of work for some time. Many of the courses offered can be at little or no cost to the student, depending upon eligibility.

1stByte shares the values of Church in Society, committed to practical acts of service to communities in need, and works together with local church resources, normally but not exclusively co-located in church premises. Although local partner churches provide a willing source of volunteers to our Centres, many of our volunteers also come from the wider community, often as a result of attending a course.

If anyone should require further information on the work of 1stByte, or wish to express an interest in the services offered, please do get in touch with Revd. Lindsay Hammond, vicar of St Margaret's, Hothfield on 01233 712576.

Steve Pattle, 1stbyte Area Co-Ordinator

steve.pattle@1stbyte.org.uk



## NEW YEAR – NEW START?

As we start 2008, we have the options to start afresh, to believe those we have doubted, to trust those we have suspected and to listen to those we have ignored. We can each do our bit to make Hothfield that much better – or we can spend another year moaning and criticising. We can choose whether to listen to just the loud voices – or to ask questions of those who are quieter. We can work together to make our lives better – or we can wallow in despondency and get more and more depressed. Perhaps – just perhaps, if at least half of us each did one more positive thing in 2008, then we might just see Hothfield in a more positive light. But this is 2008 and thankfully, we each have a choice to make. Let's hope we use that choice wisely!

## HOTHFIELD NEWS

All contributions, 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) 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. 01233 635 372.

Kim & Jason by Jason W. Kotecki ©2007

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## AND FINALLY.....

.....is a New Year's resolution something that goes in one Year and out the other?