



# Hothfield News

March 2009

*The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community*

## INVITATION TO ALL HOTHFIELD RESIDENTS

We have completed the first stage of the Village Appraisal. Now it is time to talk about what we learned from villagers and to engage even more people in the next stage of developing our Village Plan.

*Tell us what you think, your opinion counts*

Please join us on **Friday 6 March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall** to make your contribution to the future of Hothfield. There will be free refreshments for all (a Ploughman's Supper).

Even if you didn't manage to participate in the first stage, do come along and participate in the next stage! Your opinions are very important to the future of the village.

As a taster, here are some of the key messages coming out of the Village Appraisal. (We will discuss them on 6 March.)



### Transport

- ◆ Lack of sufficient car parking in the village
- ◆ Lack of a good enough bus service



### New Housing

- ◆ Some interest in more housing for the village



### The Police

- ◆ Need for a greater police presence in the village
- ◆ Need for more communication between the police and the community
- ◆ Improved street lighting



### The Parish Council

- ◆ Improvements to communication
- ◆ Better understanding how the Parish Precept is spent

### Unsafe areas of Hothfield



### Improvements to Village Life

- ◆ More street lights
- ◆ Introduce speed bumps
- ◆ Cycle paths
- ◆ More footpaths



**We look forward to seeing you there!**

# HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - Shirley Whittington

On one very rainy Sunday followed by a second Sunday, this time very snowy, a group of willing volunteers left the comfort and warmth of their homes to begin to clear the rubbish which had been dumped illegally in the wood bordering Coach Drive. These groups on both occasions were small but so hardworking that the total amount of rubbish collected reached well over six tons not counting the disused tyres numbering about a hundred.



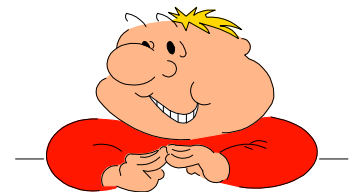
It is impossible to know how to thank these volunteers for the effort they were willing to make on our behalf. No doubt they would say that the best way to thank them is not to dump any more rubbish in this

small wood which forms a lovely part of our village. It is obvious there is a problem for all of us when we wish to dispose of old carpets, car batteries, empty oil containers, furniture, fridges, tin cans and more. If you do have any ideas as to how the Parish Council may be able to help please talk to us either by coming along to the appraisal feedback meeting on Friday, 6 March or by telephoning our clerk, Judith Batt on 733994. You can also call me, Shirley, on 621495.



We also need your help with our village hall. It is such a good asset for the village but unfortunately is largely underused by us. We know that both parents and children love the activities organised there by the Children's Centre. We also know that residents living along Park Drive are being disturbed by noise during some of the events held there. If we want to keep our village hall, we need to make it a place for village events rather than those run by folks from outside our village.

There must be many of you with lots of good ideas. Why not go along to the village hall meeting on the first Monday of every month at 7pm. Alternatively if this is not convenient for you, please talk to Dave Beckley, our Community Rural Warden or to Heather Curtin, the Community Involvement worker at the Children's Centre or any member of the Village Hall Committee. These are Sue Holloway, John Collins, John Nicholls and Peter Patten. They will be interested to listen to your views.



## WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH! - Ed

Following on from Shirley's article, (and a big thank you to everyone who helped with the cleanup) it might be helpful to remind everyone that Ashford Borough Council will collect bulky rubbish from our houses. This includes furniture, white goods, electrical appliances and most other items that you would expect to take with you if you were moving house. There is a charge depending on what you have with a minimum charge of £20. To book or to get a price contact the Council on 01233 331111 or email [customercare@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@ashford.gov.uk) with your bulk collection request. Details are on the Council's web site. [www.ashford.gov.uk/environment](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/environment).

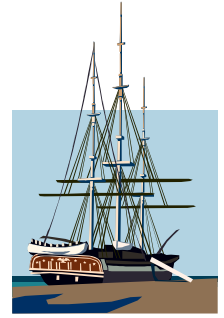


The various councils have a zero tolerance towards flytipping and dumping rubbish and Ashford Council says on its web site that large fines will be given to those responsible. The Council says that working closely with the County Environmental Crime Unit, the last case resulted in the person responsible being fined over £2,000. If you see anyone flytipping, or dumping rubbish, we are asked to call either Ashford Council on 01233 331111 or the dedicated Hotline on 0845 345 0210.

# HOTHFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY – Bob Rivers

## From Hothfield to New England

Most of us know that the foundations of the USA were laid when pioneers from England landed on the east coast in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Few people know that Hothfield provided one of those early settlers Thomas Baker who, aged 21, left Hothfield to make the long and perilous journey across the Atlantic Ocean to land at the Bay Colony near Boston in Massachusetts to begin a new life.



Thomas Baker was born at Hothfield in 1618, a son of Thomas and Frances Baker. We know nothing of their lifestyle in Hothfield, but must assume that they could afford to pay Thomas's passage to America, and he arrived with enough money to purchase land. We cannot be certain of his motives for leaving Hothfield in 1639 and committing himself to the back-breaking task of constructing a house from tree trunks, but he may have been influenced by the stories told by ships crews, and a few of the early settlers who had returned to England, of how the small settlements had developed a system of government in which everyone had a voice, and crime and drunkenness was negligible. This contrasted sharply with the situation in England where the communities were governed by the lord of the manor and villagers had little influence.



Soon after arriving at Bay Colony, Thomas Baker and others travelled south about 100 miles to join the colony of New Haven that had been formed a year or two earlier on the Connecticut coast opposite Long Island. Ralph Dayton, a shoemaker from Ashford, his wife, sons and daughters also settled in New Haven in 1639.

After about 3 months, Thomas and others travelled another nine miles along the coast to begin to clear land and build houses to establish the settlement of Milford on land that had been bought from Indians for 6 coats, 10 blankets, 1 kettle, 12 hatchets, 12 hoes, 24 knives and 12 small mirrors purchased from England. Ralph Dayton and his family remained at New Haven. Thomas Baker contributed towards the purchase of the land and the cost of developing the settlement. He quickly became a leader of the community and was a member of the church qualified to take communion. Thomas married Alice Dayton in 1643, some four years after landing at Bay Colony.

The Bakers left Milford in 1650 for East Hampton (originally named Maidstone) on the coast of Long Island that had been settled about a year earlier on land totalling 31,000 acres bought from friendly Indians for articles of the value of £30 4 shillings and 8 pence (worth about £2,285 at 2009 prices). Ralph Dayton also moved to East Hampton at the same time. The Bakers and the Daytons were prominent in making East Hampton into a community that was totally democratic, had a set of laws and a Court, an economy based upon bartering grain, tobacco, melons, pumpkins, sheep, hogs, cattle and horses produced by the farmers, and clams oysters, crabs and fish by the fishermen. Thomas Baker imported goods from England and exported whale oil. In 1643 England was at war with Holland. The New England settlers, being loyal Englishmen, formed an army to fight the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam (now New York) on Manhattan Island. The war ended before the colonies could clash.



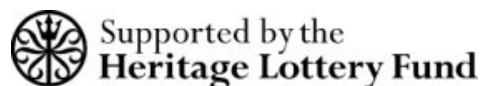
Thomas Baker was Spokesman and negotiator for Milford and East Hampton, Magistrate, Foreman of the first Grand Jury to sit in New York City, Overseer, Constable, Justice of the Peace, soldier, church minister and victualler. Most citizens were designated as 'Goodman'. Only a few, of which Thomas Baker was one, were given the respectful title of 'Mr'. In 17<sup>th</sup> century England, only the gentry were called 'Mr'.



East Hampton still has reminders of its historic link with Kent. On the site of Thomas Baker's house is a small hotel called the Baker 1650 House, roads are called Maidstone Avenue, Maidstone Lane and Dayton Lane. The Maidstone Arms is a bed & breakfast establishment and residents can relax at the Maidstone Golf Club. East Hampton is now a wealthy city, and is the home of many famous and rich people.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Thomas Baker can borrow my booklet, a copy of which is in the Baker collection at the East Hampton library. Call Bob Rivers on 631565.

## KENT WILDLIFE TRUST - Ian Rickards



### Why are we always cutting down trees?



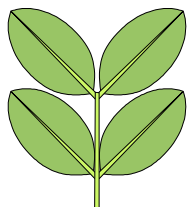
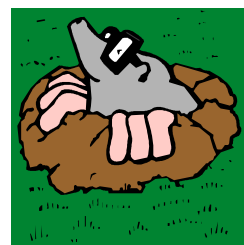
The 5 year Heritage Lottery Funded conservation project was successfully completed at the end of January.

The future management of the site will rely mainly on the control of our grazing animals. However, an essential part of the reserves continuing management has always been controversial, which is the removal of trees and scrub encroaching onto the reserve.

There will always be trees on Hothfield Heathlands, the boundary will remain wooded, particularly as some of these trees were planted in the 1800's and are excellent for bats and hole nesting birds, which are then able to feed out on the heathland. The central part of the reserve will always have areas of scattered scrub and feature trees; however, these trees are part of a habitat that needs to be predominately open.

There are many reasons why the tree and scrub control is so important.

1. **Historical:** Apart from specimens planted on the Tolls, trees have only appeared on the reserve since the 1950's, before that, the landscape had been treeless for hundreds, but more likely thousands of years.
2. **Wildlife:** Because the area had been treeless for so long, wildlife becomes reliant on open ground and direct sunlight. When it becomes shaded, heathland plants are unable to grow, it becomes too cold for insects to breed, reptiles lose their basking places, and birds and mammals lose their food!
3. **Landscape:** Kent contains 80,000 acres of woodland, and only 200 acres of Heathland – most of which is at Hothfield! There is nowhere else in Kent where you can walk through swathes of purple heather, whilst watching hundreds of fluffy cotton grasses blowing in the breeze. It is the best place to find grass snakes, and the only place to find many of our dragonflies, spiders and bees.



It is sad to have to remove any tree, but they are replaced by something unique and essential for the future of Kent's wildlife.

To find out more about the work of the Kent Wildlife Trust, or how you could become involved, please contact Ian Rickards (Ashford Area Warden) on 01622 662012.

# BINGO

Bingo has restarted at the Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.30 (doors open at 7pm). Why not go along – you never know, you might win the jackpot! Further details from Tina Marden.



## DO YOU LIKE FISH AND CHIPS?

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat fish and chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15 May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.



You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. *[perhaps an idea for the Village Hall? – Ed]*. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 people and asking them to donate an additional £5 means you will raise at least £35 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. The money raised will help support the 1,000 people who experience a spinal cord injury each year.



For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

## FROM THE EDITOR

In the Hothfield Post Office windows I recently saw an advert from a local hairdresser, two adverts from people selling things, a poster about a local meeting to discuss Council Tax proposals, a poster about a lost dog and a poster about a charity auction in aid of Charing surgery. Not one bit of this information had been given to me for the newsletter! If organisers really want to reach the 900 or so people in Hothfield, the Newsletter is there for them!

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS – Lindsay Hammond

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

### SERVICES FOR MARCH

#### Sunday 1 March: The First Sunday of Lent

9.30am The Eucharist

#### Sunday 8 March: The Second Sunday of Lent

11.00am The Eucharist *Hothfield*

#### Sunday 15 March: The Third Sunday of Lent

11.00am Re:fresh All-Age Service at *Hothfield Village Hall* preceded by a free bacon roll, with tea or coffee from 10.30am

#### Sunday 22 March: Mothering Sunday

9.30am Family Eucharist *Hothfield*

#### Sunday 29 March: The Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00am G7 Holy Communion *Charing Heath*

9.30am G7 Eucharist *Pluckley*



Every Tuesday 10.00am Holy Communion Charing  
Every Wednesday 6.30pm Night Prayer Pluckley

## FUNERALS

### John Allen CHARGE (Hothfield)

John died on Saturday 3rd January 2009 aged 75. His funeral, followed by burial, took place at St. Margaret, Hothfield on Thursday 22 January 2009. *May God enfold John in his tender love and care.*

**A Lily for Easter – Jane Oliver** It is time to start thinking about lilies for Easter. If you would like to give a lily to St Margaret's Church for Easter in memory of a loved friend or relative please will you let me know in good time. We make a list of all the names and they are read out on Easter Sunday by the Vicar. Give me a ring on 01233 840310 and also if you would like to come along and help decorate the Church.



**Carol Singing in Hothfield** No, not an early booking for next Christmas but a notice that the sum of £47.21 was raised for Demelza House by the carol singers who toured Hothfield just before last Christmas. Thank you to everyone who sang and gave a donation.

**Hothfield Coffee Morning** The monthly free coffee and cake (and company too) will next be served in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March between 10.30 and 11.30am. Why not pop along?

**Annual Parochial Church Meetings** Hothfield Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held this year during the morning worship on Sunday 8 March at 11am. All welcome.

**Mothering Sunday** We celebrate Mothering Sunday on 22 March. Look on the website, in the parish magazines, or at the posters to find out details of our Mothering Sunday services.



**G7 DVD** Have you got your copy of the G7 DVD yet? The DVD features our seven villages and churches. If you've recently moved in to one of our villages, then this would be a good way of getting to know the area. Or you might simply want to buy one as a keepsake. The DVD retails at £8 and you can get hold of your copy by ringing Lindsay (712576), Sally (756224), or by calling in to Hothfield Village Shop or the butchers at Pluckley.

**Our Website** Simply go to [www.g7churches.co.uk](http://www.g7churches.co.uk) where you will find out all you need to know about everything that matters.

## 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.....

.....today's mighty oak is just yesterday's acorn that held its ground.