



Hothfield News

November 2008

The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community

WELCOME

So Hothfield is a quiet place, is it, where nothing happens? Read on and be amazed! This month we have feedback on the Harvest Supper attended by over eighty people and news of a range of events planned for the Village Hall. At the time of preparing this newsletter, final arrangements are being made for the History day on 25 October as well as the Halloween event at the Village Hall. We have an update on Hothfield Common as well as news on what the Parish Council has been considering. Mind you, some groups and organisations still seem so shy of telling us what they are doing but our spies know that much is happening. If your group never gets a mention in the Newsletter its because they do not tell us. Why not remind them to share the news?



HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – Shirley Whittington

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday, 13 October, we were pleased to have several members from the village as well as Heather Curtin, the Community Involvement Worker from the Children's Centre. We were particularly pleased to welcome Yasmin Holloway who represents the interests of our young people at Ashford Borough Council's Youth Forum. Yasmin's input towards the end of our meeting was really useful helping us to focus on what needs to be done to provide new opportunities and activities for all our young people. She felt the appointment of a Youth Leader for Hothfield would be invaluable. We promised to do our very best to make this happen.

It was also decided to go ahead and have the bus shelter on Station Road refurbished and that we would press all the appropriate agencies and our Borough Councillor to help us tidy and clear the area around Beech Drive as very many of you continue to tell us that the current state of that area is really distressing to you.

Hopefully, sometime in December, a large Christmas tree will be placed in the playing field near the Children's Centre for the whole village to enjoy during the Christmas period.

The good news too is that at long last the Planning Department at Ashford Borough Council has granted planning permission for the Old King's Head pub to be converted to a family home thus putting an end to a great deal of speculation about its future.

Our new Community Warden, David Beckley, will join us on 17 November. David is an experienced warden and has requested to be placed in Hothfield and Charing. In the meantime Aaron Kaye, will continue to work with us. His contribution is much appreciated.



And finally another piece of good news is that Chris Twydell, editor of the Hothfield Newsletter, has agreed to continue to produce our newsletter. Thank you, Chris, for the splendid job you do (*no prob!* – Ed).

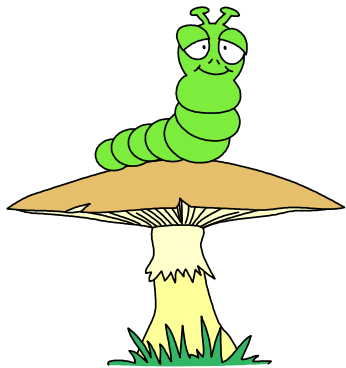
News Flash! All of us who filled in the appraisal questionnaire will remember that a prize of £100 would be given to the first name drawn from all the returned forms. The draw has been made and the lucky person has now received the £100 as promised – Shirley.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE – Bob Fletcher

On behalf of the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity, a few words of sincere thanks to all the residents of The Street, who donated so generously to my door-step collection. A cheque for £40 has been sent on your behalf. So thank you all for your support.



KENT WILDLIFE TRUST - Ian Rickards



We are reaching the last couple of months of the Heritage Lottery Funded conservation works, and the wildlife has responded wonderfully. Some of Hothfield's exclusive plants such as sundew, bog asphodel and cotton grass have been growing in huge numbers this year. The Heath Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids were flowering in their thousands and dragonfly numbers were some of the best ever seen.

There are a number of projects still to complete, some of which will involve having mechanical excavators out on the site, predominately they will be scraping away the last remnants of Bracken from the banks. This has two benefits, as well as further weakening the bracken, the patches of bare soil it creates are wonderful for basking snakes and lizards. Look out for tiny pencil sized holes in the sand – these have been excavated by many different species of insects that like to burrow into the exposed sand to lay their eggs.

I am aware that there are several gateways and tracks that are becoming increasingly wet and muddy during the winter. Whilst I have the machinery on site, I intend to remedy some of these problems. However if the winter is half as wet as the summer, a sturdy pair of Wellington boots may be advisable for visits later in the year!

If anyone would like to get involved with the practical work on the site, Kent Wildlife Trust run volunteer tasks on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and many Tuesdays too. Most of the winter work involves controlling the birch scrub that has got too big for the cattle to eat. We also want to encourage the gorse, as these create wonderful nesting areas for our heathland birds. So if the idea of working around a roaring bonfire surrounded by the wildlife of the Hothfield Heaths appeals please get in touch. Ian Rickards, Ashford Area Warden. 01622 662012 or Ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk



HARVEST SUPPER – Graham Warren

Saturday 11 October saw another very successful Harvest Supper, hosted by the Village Hall and Friends of St Margaret's Church; with 90 guests at the table and a magnificent ham and turkey feast; plus a very traditional accordion accompaniment and dancing till late. Grateful thanks to all who helped to make it such a memorable event for the whole village.



HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL – Phil Holloway

Once again the month is over and we look back on what we have done and look forward to and what we would like to do. The harvest supper was an outstanding success again this year. New friends old friends and a good time was had by all. This event was held with the friends of St Margaret's and we hope will continue for a long time to come. Chances for a good village get together. Every year we see some new faces and they are always welcome.

This is the point where I would like to thank all the people who worked to make the night as good as it was. I would like to thank all those who gave up their time prior to the event, to make it as good as ever. I would like to name you all but I would forget someone and that would not be fair. So you know who you are so a very big THANK YOU from all of us.



I would like to apologise to the friends of St Margaret's who seem to have done so much. This is due to the limited number of members we have in the Village Hall Committee. At the moment we are running with the minimum number of members if this should fall below this number then I am sorry to say that the village hall would be forced to close. So if you have a few hours that you can spare each month come and join us in the hall on the first Monday of every month at 7pm you are always welcome.

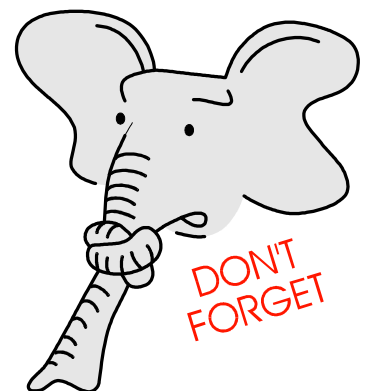
Many thanks to Margaret Collins and Mary Cooper for the Jumble sales over the years, as you may have heard they have both now retired. Over the years they and others have raised £9,700 (approx) for the running of the hall. We are now looking for new people to volunteer to carry on where they have left off.

By the time this goes to print the Hothfield History Exhibition will have taken place and we hope this event will go down in Hothfield's history as a date to remember. We wish Chris (*that's Chris Rogers - Ed*) and all the people involved all the best for the day

Now we have come to the point where we look at events that are coming up over the next month

Dates for the rest of the year for you to remember:-

- ◆ **15 November Ploughman's with a Race Nite**
£3.50 per person tickets on sale at the Post Office.
- ◆ **13 December Quiz Nite with a Christmas theme**
£2 per person, bring your own food and drink.
- ◆ **31 December New Years Eve with Sarah O'Shea.**
£10 per person. Tickets on sale at the Post Office from 1 December.



NO PERSON UNDER 18 WITHOUT THEIR PARENT. Full bar, bring your own food. This event will have a limited number of tickets for sale so avoid disappointment book now and for a small deposit save a ticket. Just remember that there is a full bar so you will be close to home no need to drink and drive.

We are looking for events for the New Year please tell us what you want.

Well that is enough from me for now. Do not forget to tell us what you want in your Village Hall.

Members of the hall committee are

- ◆ Phil Holloway (Chairman)
- ◆ John Collins (Vice Chair)
- ◆ Peter Patten (Treasurer)
- ◆ Sue Holloway (Booking Clerk)
- ◆ John Nichols
- ◆ Malcolm Brind
- ◆ Yasmin Holloway (Junior Member) for the Hothfield Youth Forum



Phone 01233 647266, Mobile 07765367044, Email hagsos@msn.com or just tell to any of the Village Hall committee

Regular Events at the Village Hall

- ◆ Every Tuesday -- **Short Mat Bowls**, 7-10pm in the Village Hall.
- ◆ Every Wednesday-- **Martial Arts Group**, 6-8pm in the Village Hall.
- ◆ Every other Thursday -- **Merry and Bright Club**, 2pm afternoons in the Village Hall.
- ◆ First Monday of every month Village Hall meeting 7pm
- ◆ Second Monday of every month Parish meeting 7pm
- ◆ First Tuesday of every month Coffee Morning 10am
- ◆ November club dates. 5, 12, 26 Darts 2pm. 6, 20 Bingo 2pm

If you have any Questions please contact Phil on 01233647266

DEAR EDITOR - Isobel Deeley and Gavin Erickson



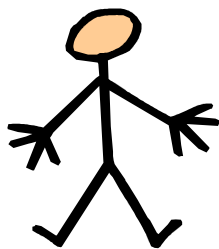
Ten months ago my partner, myself and our dog moved to Hothfield from London - and we liked it so much we decided to settle here. We love the uniqueness and beauty of the place, particularly the Heath, the church and parkland area, and the friendliness of the people.

Unfortunately, since moving to our new home in Coach Drive, we've been quite shocked by the evidence of prior fly tipping and the continued, occasional rubbish dumping in the woods opposite the houses in the Drive - this is not only an eyesore for the residents, but a very real, potential health hazard - especially for the local children who play there.

We understand that these woods are privately owned, so it may not be possible to ask the council to carry out a clean-up, but were wondering whether anything has been done in the past to try to resolve the situation? Could the owner possibly be persuaded to put up some kind of fencing or barrier planting (of holly or similar) along the accessible, open areas in order to dissuade rubbish dumping?

As relative newcomers to Hothfield, we'd be interested in hearing of any initiatives that may have been suggested or tried in the past to help resolve this problem - perhaps it could be put forward for discussion at a future Parish Council meeting? **Responses welcome please! – Ed.**

CHARING CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL - Ruth Burns



As many of you know Mrs Olley decided to leave her position as Headteacher at Charing Primary School this summer. The governing body reluctantly accepted her decision and we would like to take this public opportunity to thank Mrs Olley for the spirit and enthusiasm with which she led the school during the last nine years.

Mrs Olley believed strongly in the Christian ethos of the school, the place of the school within the community, and the talents of every child. We look forward to continuing these traditions. Whilst we reflect on Mrs Oley's decision with sadness, we appreciate that we are presented with new challenges and opportunities. The process of appointing a new Headteacher has begun and we anticipate the new Head will be in post in April. In the meantime we continue to work with Mrs Lawrence, our Advisory Head, to develop the school further.

May we also take this opportunity to thank the staff and those of you who continue to so actively support the school.

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE

15th November 5-7pm

SCHOOL HALL

TICKETS £2.50 (under 5's free!)

Includes a Shepherds Pie Supper
(Adults please bring your own drinks!)

Tickets available from the school Office or PTA parents



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS – Sue Patten

www.q7churches.co.uk

Church services for November are as follows:

Sunday 2 November	9.30am Eucharist Service 4pm Service of Commemoration of the Departed
Sunday 9 November	10.45am Service of Remembrance
Sunday 16 November	11am Re:fresh: An- All- Age -Service Village Hall (breakfast 10.30)
Sunday 23 November	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 30 November	9.30am G7 Eucharist (continental breakfast 8.30am)



Church News

The Service of Commemoration for the Departed will be held at St Margaret's at 4pm on 2 November. If you would like someone remembered please contact Richard Webb 713663.

The Bishop of Dover, Stephen Venner, will be at the G7 Eucharist on 30 November. The Service will celebrate the beginning of Advent. If you would like to come to the Continental Breakfast, to be served before the service at 8.30am, please ring Lindsay Hammond, as soon as possible, on 712576, or e mail to lindsayhammond@hotmail.co.uk

To find out more information about the form of service in each case, please look at the list of services on posters in our churches, or on the website www.g7churches.co.uk



The Parish Church of St Margaret, Hothfield

Invites you to a

FREE COFFEE MORNING At Hothfield Village Hall

Open to ALL ages!

4 November from 11.30am to 1.30pm

Why not pop along and join us for a coffee, a chat and a slice of cake?

The Village Hall Committee and The Friends of St Margaret's

Invite you to a

Ploughman's Supper and Race Night

at the Village Hall on Saturday 15 November at 7pm.

Tickets £3.50 available at the Post Office.

Bring your own drinks and glasses.



HOTHFIELD NEWS

All contributions, letters, comments etc for the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Chris Twydell, at 37 Coach Drive (01233 635 372) by the 15th of each month or by email to 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.

AND FINALLY..... when the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail - Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)