

Jazz, Christmas Songs, Carols & Canapés

Jack is returning to Godinton House & he is bringing his talented wife Marina, and Stephen on piano.

Monday 15th December 2025 6.45pm to 9.00pm

At The Great Hall, Godinton House, TN23 3BP



Beautiful music in magnificent festive surroundings of the 14th century Great Hall at Godinton House. With a wide range of delicious homemade canapés and drinks included in the price.



Tickets £25 each

(Limited number available).



Friends of St Margaret's Church, Hothfield

Please text or phone Sharon /Nick on 07968 054898

Charity Number 1198602

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 13th Nov Hothfield Village Hall

Table Top Sale Hothfield Village Hall 10am 15th Nov (see page 6)

Jazz, Christmas Songs, Carols & Canapes 6.45pm 15th Dec Godinton House

Best Christmas Dressed House Competition 19th Dec

Bygone Days of Hothfield Exhibition - A Great Success!



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Hothfield History Society and the Friends of St Margaret's Church history exhibition in September was a very successful community event and everyone enjoyed themselves. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and to all those who helped out to make the day the success that it was.



Our displays inside the church about Hothfield Place, and the Lords and Ladies who lived there, as well as the displays outside in the churchyard and in the lane proved to be very popular. Visitors came from far and wide: some had never visited Hothfield before, others were returning and met up with old friends and family. We are grateful to those who brought along photographs and objects to share and put on display.



Visits to the bell tower also proved to be very popular. Those who climbed up the steep, circular staircase were given a fascinating insight into the history of our 13th century church and the rarely-seen historic bells by Martin the Belltower Captain.

Thanks also to the Friends of St. Margaret's Church who were busy all day providing refreshments. The delicious homemade cakes and savouries were extremely popular and we are very grateful to everyone who made them, and also to all the kind family members who came and helped out on the day with serving and washing up. Nine Oaks vineyard also kindly allowed visitors to park in the vineyard despite being busy with their harvest.



Thanks to your generosity, the History Society made just over £500 which will be used towards maintaining our website and purchasing a few new historical items of Hothfield's past.



We sold out of paperback copies of our publication of Hothfield in 20th Century and so will be ordering another print run of the book that covers the history of the village in the 1900s with pictures, maps and personal stories. We also have digital copies on CD and USB sticks of the 20th Century book and also of Russell's extensive research into Hothfield up to 1902 (Word and .pdf versions). Please visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Hothfield Parish Council

For full minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council, please either see the noticeboard outside the village shop, or visit www.hothfield.org.uk
PLEASE NOTE: The email address for the Parish Council is parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Could You Help Us Find a Home for a Village Defibrillator?

The Parish Council is very keen to install a defibrillator in the village. These devices are proven to save lives and are an invaluable resource in an emergency, but at present, we don't have one.

The challenge we face is that defibrillators must be housed in a secure, heated cabinet, which requires an electric supply. So far, we have been unable to find a suitable, accessible location in the village where one could be installed.

We are therefore reaching out to residents: would you be willing to have a defibrillator cabinet installed on an outside wall of your property? The Parish Council would meet the costs associated with installation, including the provision of an electrical supply.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance at Parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk. The Council would be very happy to discuss the details further with you.

Having a defibrillator in the village could make all the difference in an emergency and with your help, we hope to make this important project a reality.

Bikeability Courses — Cycle Proficiency

Hothfield Parish Council is exploring whether parents in the community would like to access a free Bikeability course for their children. These are currently offered in local schools but not until year 6 and some pupils haven't had the opportunity to take part.

This would be something that would be funded by the Parish council if there was sufficient interest.

If you are interested please get in touch with;

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Video Door Cameras

Following recent discussions with Kent Police, Hothfield Parish council are exploring purchasing a number of door video cameras for residents who do not currently have one and who feel that having one would enhance their sense of safety and wellbeing.

If you are interested in being considered for a video door bell you would need to have a smartphone and WIFI as a minimum.

Please could you register your interest with

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

An Open Letter to Residents – Keeping Our Footpaths Clear

Hothfield Parish Council has recently been in discussion with KCC Highways about the condition of footways in the village. A number of our pavements are currently obstructed by overhanging vegetation from private properties. In some places, this is reducing the width of the footway to the extent that pedestrians are forced to step into the road.

For the safety and comfort of all residents especially children, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, and those with limited mobility—it is important that our footways remain clear and accessible.

As a general rule, there should always be a **minimum of 1 metre of unobstructed footway** available for pedestrians. We therefore kindly ask all residents to check the boundaries of their properties and ensure that hedges, trees, or plants are cut back so they do not encroach onto pavements or footways.

Your cooperation will help us keep Hothfield safe and accessible for everyone.
Thank you for your support.

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via
www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 10.30am

Dance Visions Zumba

Contact: bookwhen.com/dancevisions

Fridays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Hothfield Village Hall (KCHFT Health Visiting Team)

Tuesday Drop-in Session Weekly 9.30am to 12.30pm

These breastfeeding drop-in sessions are supportive, social, and welcome all pregnant and breastfeeding women and their families, including partners. Trained Breastfeeding Champions from the local Health Visiting Teams will be able to provide information and help if you have a breastfeeding concern. Get more information and support for parenting under-fives at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/kent-baby

Summer colour lingered into mid-October, bright yellow tormentil *Potentilla erecta* in close cropped turf or bogside tussocks, nodding heads of blue-mauve devil's bit scabious, *Sucisa praetensis*, the odd second flowering of red campion, *Silene dioica*, the soft pink of cross-leaved heath, *Erica tetralix*, in damp areas. In the main bog round-leaved sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, had all but disappeared already, curled up in the insulation of the bright green sphagnum moss in a hibernaculum, the odd red little leaf with ragged tentacles still protruding. European gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, had come into flower and will continue throughout the winter. The flowers of dwarf gorse, *Ulex minor*, were nearly over. At the bottom of the narrow path along the north fence of the bird sanctuary leading to the concrete causeway, the two species grow side by side, perfect for contrast and compare. On the slopes above the main bog, the sub-shrub ling, *Calluna vulgaris*, all colour drained from the papery flowers, is maturing well after several clearances of the birch but a new fluttering of birch seedlings is a reminder of the constant work to control this pioneer plant. The birch catkins collapsed several weeks ago, tiny winged seeds flying high and wide. Taking a stack of baking trays out of my oven recently I swept up a dusting of the seeds that must have blown in and settled when the pans were out on a counter.



Red berries are very noticeable now on an unusual plant, not listed in Alex Lockton's 2022 Flora of the reserve and possibly a garden escape, but certainly native on the Downs near Wilmington. In the Hothfield end of the Triangle is a low evergreen sub-shrub with diamond shaped thick 'leaves' ending in very sharp spines and stemless berries seemingly stuck to the reverse of each 'leaf'. This is butchers broom or knee holly, *Ruscus aculeatus* (*aculeatus* is Latin for prickly). It is in the lily family so has parallel veins in the leaves. The 'leaves' are adapted stems, cladodes, with a tiny real leaf at their base. Small greenish stemless flowers appear in the middle of each cladode, male and female on different plants (dioecious), the females producing berries almost larger than the cladode. Bunches were used to scrub clean butcher's blocks, and recent research has discovered antibacterial oil in the plant. It is an ancient woodland indicator, adapted to well-drained, poor soils and shady conditions. A cousin of non-native Alexandrian Laurel, *Danae racemosa*, with softer sprays of shiny evergreen cladodes used in floristry, it is another example of how plants adapt to survive difficult environments, just like the bog and heathland

plants this reserve protects.

Come walking in November to soak up the full autumn display of colour and flying leaves while spotting fungus becoming more visible through the winter. Enjoy too the crunch of the thick layer of mast below the trees on the tolls. (I know one dachshund who will need carrying over the carpet of sweet chestnut prickles, so tender are her paws.) For it has been a mast year, right across the country, when all oaks, beeches, sweet chestnut and other trees and shrubs produce a bumper crop of seeds and fruit in amazing synchronicity. The last mast year was 2020 or 2022 in this country, experts differ. Phenology experts (not phrenologists) are exploring the links to



weather patterns as trees usually produce the same quantity of flowers each year, but substantial precious energy is spent on developing a huge seed crop only every so often. Why? How? A bumper crop is thought to satiate the predators and leave seeds to germinate, while the intervening thin years help reduce the predator population, allowing seedlings to mature and replace ageing trees.

And talking of trees in the wrong place, the volunteers have spent several days coppicing and clearing brash in the former pig area and opening up a nearby pond. Allowing sun back onto these light starved areas will encourage the return of oxygenating plants, followed swifty by dragonflies, frogs and hopefully the return of great crested newts. Margery Thomas

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER at 2.30 pm (doors open from 2.00)

at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

EVERY COLOUR UNDER THE SUN: an insight into the colours used in dyeing.

Our lecturer **SUSAN KAY-WILLIAMS** is President of the Society of Dyers and Colourists and was previously Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership costs £45 for 10 lectures. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.



See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk



Images provided by lecturer

HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE STORES

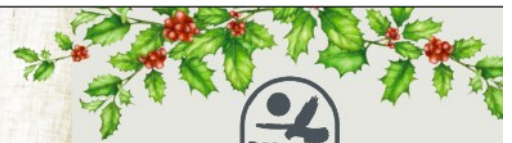
Sunday	0900 To 1200	Post Office closed
Monday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1730
Tuesday	0900 To 1300	
Wednesday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1730
Thursday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1730
Friday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1730
Saturday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1230

Educational Grants



If you live in Hothfield and think that Hothfield Educational Foundation could help with your children's education, or know of someone else who could benefit, please do contact us via HothfieldEducation@gmail.com

Order six or more bottles this Christmas for the chance to win a tour & tasting voucher for two people. Free delivery on any six bottles.



Celebrate this Christmas with award winning still and sparkling wines from Nine Oaks Vineyard

Christmas deliveries week commencing 17th December



www.nine-oaks.co.uk
Church Lane, Hothfield, TN26 1EL



FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD ARE HOSTING A



Free Entry, with delicious homemade cakes, savouries & refreshments available to buy

HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

15 NOVEMBER 2025 10.00 TO 12.30

£10 per table, Telephone Sharon on 07968054898 to reserve a table

Ashford Borough Council—Local Consultation

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Is a local voice important to you – CGR consultation launches

Next year the Government will decide the future shape of councils in Kent. As part of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), County, and Borough/District councils are likely to be replaced by much bigger authorities that will deliver all functions from one place. This will not affect existing Parish or Town Councils; however, a large part of our town is unparished and there are concerns that Ashford's local voice will be silenced.

To that end, Ashford Borough Council is launching a Community Governance Review to gather residents' views on the creation of a town council for the unparished, urban area of Ashford—including the town centre, Repton Park, South Ashford, and parts of Willesborough.

Which parts of Ashford are included?



We are reaching out directly to residents in these areas, sharing information on our website and social media, hosting a stand at the Makers' Market on 1 November, and featuring an article in the next edition of Ashford For You Magazine (out mid-November).

Please support this important consultation by sharing the message in your local networks:

"We want your views – Tell us before 5 December 2025. Have your say at

<https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/community-governance-review> or scan the QR code."

(Please note the consultation/web link will go live Friday 24 October)

Your engagement is crucial to ensuring residents' voices shape the future of local governance in Ashford.

Environment Agency—Hoads Wood Update—Oct 2025

Since our last update we have continued to make good progress with the removal of the main waste pile. To date over 12,000 tonnes of waste has been removed via sub-contracted hauliers to suitably permitted landfills via the designated traffic routes through Hothfield village and onto the A20/ M20. We have also carried out checks on the waste documentation accompanying the loads to ensure that the correct duty of care for transportation of waste has been followed. We have found no issues to date.

We have also continued to carry out periodic monitoring of the surrounding watercourses with no issues from the waste being detected although flows from the site throughout the summer have been very low due to lack of rainfall.

Phase 4 of the project has been split into a) and b) to make removal of waste from the main waste pile logistically less challenging and ensure better environmental protection. Phase 4a has seen the waste removed from the furthest area from the main access track and we are now into Phase 4b which focusses on the waste nearest the main access track.

As we approach the autumn and winter our rate of progress may slow down dependent on weather factors but at this stage, we are still on course to complete the clearance by the Summer of 2026.



In parallel, the preparations for Phases 5 and 6 (waste removal around the periphery and the base of the waste pile and demobilisation) are progressing and we hope to share these plans with the local community in early 2026.

We are aware that Phases 4b and 5 of this project will have a direct impact on the local community such as periodic amenity issues and vehicle movements. We have put mitigation measures in place related to odour, dust and noise from the site and the amount of lorry movements (8-wheeler tipper trucks) are governed by our Traffic Management Plan.

However, if you need to report an issue related to any aspect of our operations at Hoad's Wood, please call our 24-Hour Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 and we will investigate further.

If you have any general questions related to this site or our regulatory role, please email hoadswood@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 03708 506 506.

Saint Margaret's Church

For weddings, baptisms, etc. contact the Parish Office calehillpcc@gmail.com 07395 910317

Rector: Rev. Sandra Marsh The Vicarage Pett Lane Charing Kent TN27 0DL Phone: 01233 713996 email: revsandramarsh@btinternet.com

Services in Nov

Sunday 2nd 11.00am The Eucharist

Sunday 9th 10.45am Remembrance

Sunday 30th 10.30am Benefice Service

GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

JOIN THE GARDENING GROUP AT CHARING SURGERY TO GET FRESH AIR, EXERCISE, MEET OTHER PEOPLE, HAVE FUN & ENJOY BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

OPEN TO ALL PATIENTS AGE 16+ GREEN FINGERS NOT ESSENTIAL!

COME AND JOIN US! TUESDAYS 9AM-12PM POP ALONG & SAY HELLO!

THIS IS A CHARING SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP INITIATIVE

Celebration Cakes for all occasions including Weddings

Special bakes include personalised cupcakes, Brownies, Blondies, chunky cookies and personalised biscuits



You can find me on: Instagram - @flossyfussybakes

Facebook - Flossy's Fussy Bakes
Whatsapp/text - 07769 228842

Sheila's Homemade Damson Jam with Damson Gin

Delicious and ever-so-fruity preserve made with this year's lovely Hothfield damsons and homemade damson gin.

Large (13oz/370g) £3.50

Made in small batches

Makes an ideal gift

Delivered free to Hothfield

Sheila: 01233 624 105 sheila.flynn@hotmail.co.uk



SHIFT HAPPENS

DRIVING TUITION

Paul 07703 685143

www.shifthappensdrivingtuition.co.uk

Art Group

There is a small group that meets twice a month on Monday afternoons in Westwell Village Hall.

We enjoy painting, drawing etc, together with a cup of tea and a chat.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Penny Sutcliffe on 01233 634191 for more details.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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