

Spring Coffee Morning

St Margaret's Church, Hothfield

Saturday 9th May

10am to 12.30pm

Delicious cakes

Refreshments

Plant stall

Well behaved dogs welcome!

Brought to you by Friends of St Margaret's Church, Hothfield

Charity No. 1198602

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 14th May

Hothfield Village Hall

Spring Coffee Morning Sat 9th May 10am St Margarets Church

Arts Society Egerton 2.30pm Egerton Millennium Hall Wed 13th May

History Society Talk 7pm 25th June Hothfield Village Hall

Friends of St Margaret's Church - Summer Cream Tea St Margarets Church Sat 27th
June 2pm - 4.30pm

MAY ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS

The glossy green spears that pierced dense leaf litter in late winter are now transformed into sheets of violet-purple-blue in the woodland edges of the reserve. The magical blue-bell weeks began fairly early, a soft scent and a flood of colour that changes with the light and is tricky to catch accurately in photos since the flowers are not one solid colour. Scientists now believe that the coloured petals of most insect-pollinated flowers have conical cells on their surfaces which focus light onto the underlying pigments contained in the cell, silvers, pinks and yellows in the case of bluebells, not the blue humans see. Jonathan Buckley's superb photo of a single bluebell on the cover of Sarah Raven's *Wild Flowers* and of bluebell woods on the next pages reflect the emotional resonance this iconic flower evokes. The British Isles have up to fifty per cent of the world population of this plant, limited anyway to the Atlantic countries of Europe, so on the island of Skomer you get puffins and bluebells, wonderful. But no bluebells on Shetland or Orkney.



Up to 20 flowers hang from one side of the arching stem, producing nectar and cream coloured pollen to attract pollinating butterflies, bees and other insects. Some bees pierce the shoulder of the flower to get at the goodies by the back door. As the tree canopy thickens, the leaves wither, having made food for the ripening seed capsules and for the bulb to overwinter and initiate next year's flowers. But the leaves are fragile and don't recover from being crushed by trampling and the bulb may die. The shed seed germinates on the surface of the ground and the stiff stems of bleached opened capsules often stand all winter, catching the low light.

The botanical name I learned as a child, *Endymion non-scripta*, changed twice late last century and is now *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* ie like a hyacinth with no markings, the latter epithet used originally to distinguish it from the classical Greek hyacinth. It is in the *Asparagaceae* family but is **not** edible. A reminder that digging up the plant or trading wild bulbs and seed is prohibited.

A group of less spectacular but significant plants, the sedges, is also starting to flower now, a source of pollen ahead of the grasses, on the heathland and in the bogs and mires, part of what Alex Lockton considers to be the most distinctive plant community of the reserve. Sedges have triangular flower stems and, like plantains, have no petals. The clusters of male and female flowers are often held separately on the same stem, the prominent often cream coloured stamens attracting the eye. In flower now around the edges of bog no 2 (with the causeway), is star sedge, *Carex echinata*, 30cm tall, axiophyte of mires and wet heath, recorded here back in 1875 and listed on the current Kent Rare Plant Register. Also on the register and in flower is the carnation sedge, *Carex panicea*, up to 40cm tall with blue-green leaves ending in triangular tips, found in all the bogs, an axiophyte of acidic flushes and wet grassland which is very rare in Kent.



In early April volunteer David Rayner spotted green tiger beetle, sun beetles and a slow worm, with spring butterflies and early damselflies about. Colleague Neil Burt heard nightingale, willow warbler and firecrest singing in mid-April but no cuckoo so far. Come and discover for yourself.

Margery Thomas

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

Video Door Cameras

Following a wonderful response we will be ordering Ring Doorbells for those residents who have registered and will confirm a collection date in our next Newsletter.

Defibrillator

A Defibrillator will be installed very soon outside the Post Office. Full details to follow.

Charing Scout Group

Firstly, a date for your diary – Saturday May 9th . Our youngest section, beavers are working towards a new badge sponsored by the Air Ambulance. They are organising a coffee morning, with all profits going to this wonderful charity. They will be serving from 10-12 on the Saturday morning. If you've never been served coffee and cake by a beaver scout you haven't lived!

For all of us the warmer weather and lighter evenings means getting out and about. It's brilliant seeing our young people learning the skills of navigating, compass reading and safe hiking. By the time they become explorers at the age of 14 many of them are confident and competent enough to lead expedition groups. All sections are planning nights away. You can't beat a sing-song around the campfire and the taste of a smoky toasted marshmallow.

Our other fundraiser for the year is to support Perla, one of our explorer scouts who has been chosen to represent us and the Ashford District at the World Scout Jamboree in Poland next year. We'll be collecting unwanted wearable clothes and shoes at the beginning of May. If you have any you'd like to donate we'd be very grateful

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via
www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School
www.targetshootingsschool.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

Free talk – Medieval history of Hothfield – 25 June



We know quite a bit about Hothfield during the 1900s, particularly from WWII onwards, but we don't have much information on the parish before that. We know that there was a big manor and estate owned by the Tuftons, who were the Earls, Lords and Ladies. The Tuftons also owned most of Westwell, Great Chart, Repton Manor and countryside that is now South Ashford, Beaver Green, Shipwash Farm etc. They owned most of the properties in and around Hothfield including the public houses; and most residents worked for the estate. That's it, perhaps there's not much else to know?

The Reverend Russell traced habitation in this area back to the 600s; Roman artefacts have been found; some parts of the church are thought to be 13th Century, and maybe Saxon origins (400's AD up to 1066). But where were the houses for the peasants and workers before the 1700s? Most of the oldest houses that are now in Hothfield date from the late 1700s or early 1800s (or much more recent).

We know from old maps that the road between Ashford and Maidstone ran through the village on what we now call Coach Drive and Cades Road – the A20 that we use today didn't exist; and School Road wasn't originally there either. We also know that there were houses along the northern side of Coach Drive including a school.

The Tuftons didn't have a stronghold in neighbouring Little Chart and Pluckley which were dominated by the Dering family. No doubt the Tuftons and the Derings were good neighbours who socialised in the same grand circles – but was there a connection between the two families?

Local historian and author Kaye Sowden has been researching the history of Little Chart and other local villages during Medieval times: what she calls 'pre-historic' – but this isn't about dinosaurs. She's particularly well-versed on the story of Edward Dering. She will be giving a free talk on Thursday 25th June in our Village Hall from 7pm when everyone is welcome. There will be light refreshments. Kaye is the leading light in Pluckley and Little Chart's heritage group and is giving the talk for free; it would be great if visitors to the talk would like to make a small donation towards Kaye's history group.

I look forward to hearing what Kaye has unearthed about the earlier history of Hothfield and our neighbouring villages, and I hope to see you there.

Stained Glass Windows Lost from Hothfield Church

When a Doodlebug hit a tree in Church Lane in 1944 it destroyed nearly all of the stained glass windows on the north side of the church, as well as parts of the roof and some of the pews, plus a few other windows. Sadly we haven't yet found any photographs of the lost windows; the Kent Photo Archive provides one glimpse of one of the windows before the Doodlebug hit.

Several of the stained glass windows still in place at Hothfield were made by a company called 'Kempe'. The quality of their work surpassed other stained glass window makers and Kempe used different techniques. Today there is an enthusiastic following of Kempe's windows and other work. The colours of the Kempe windows are still vivid over one hundred years later, and the detail of the images are also worth seeing.

Most of Kempe's windows were marked by a small wheat-sheaf emblem (later with a black tower in front of it). Whilst the founder died in 1907 his company continued until 1934.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

Wednesday 13th May: THE ART OF THE CARTOONIST presented by **Harry Venning**, cartoonist for several UK publications and UK Strip Cartoonist of the Year for 'Clare in the Community' which he adapted into a Radio 4 sitcom

2.30 pm (doors open from 2.00) at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. 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



Image provided by lecturer

Celebration Cakes for all occasions
including Weddings

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

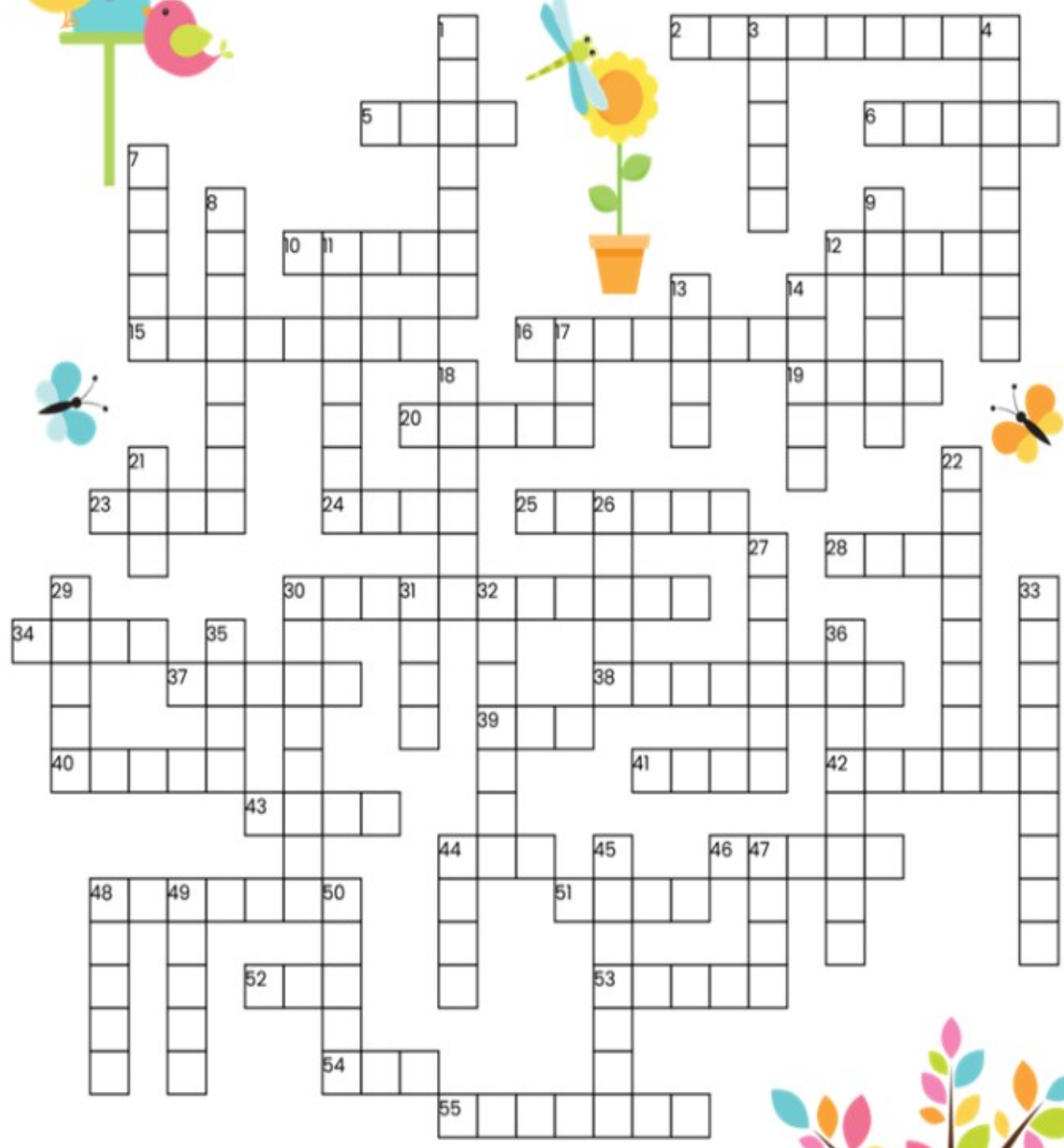
You can find me on: Instagram -
[@flossysfussybakes](https://www.instagram.com/flossysfussybakes)

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



**HOTHFIELD POST
OFFICE
New Opening
Hours
0700—1900
7days**

Spring Crossword



ACROSS

- 2. Plant cultivation
- 5. Optimism
- 6. Syrup flavor
- 10. Verdant



© Puzzle Cheer

DOWN

- 1. Young tree
- 3. Red breasted bird
- 4. Rain boots
- 7. Vocalize with song



Katie Lam MP

In January, after thousands of people across the Weald were left without running water for days, I wrote to every home asking people to share their thoughts on South East Water. The response was overwhelming.



More than half of you said you've been without running water three or more times over the last decade. Eighty-five per cent of people rate the service as poor or appalling, and over ninety per cent feel the chief executive shouldn't remain in post.

Thousands of replies described experiences that completely contradict what South East Water has been saying. Again and again, people told me they couldn't get through on the phone, didn't receive promised callbacks, and were left without clear information about what was happening. What was most worrying was the total failure to support those who were most vulnerable. People on the priority services register, including families with newborn children and those with serious health conditions, reported receiving no water deliveries and, in many cases, no communication at all. I've passed all these findings on to the regulators now investigating South East Water, and I'll keep pushing for proper accountability, a change of CEO, and a service we can actually rely on.

Now to a different survey – my crime questionnaire, in which almost everyone said they would like to see a much more active police presence. Kent Police have implemented a new neighbourhood policing model that allocates a dedicated Beat Officer to every ward. It's their job to build up a picture of the area, understand where and when crime happens, and disrupt crime and antisocial behaviour based on the information they gather and what you tell them. They won't necessarily be the first on the scene when there's a crime, because another officer might be able to get to you faster, but they will gather intelligence, hold surgeries, and can come and meet people who live locally at parish meetings or at dedicated events.

The local ward officer for Hothfield is: **Aaron Hobday**. If you want to tell them about anything you're seeing or worried about in your area, or you'd like to invite them to an event, you can do so by via the Kent Police website. Visit the 'Contact Us' section, select 'Contact an officer directly', and complete the form. You'll just need your own contact info and your ward officer's name (there are other questions, but ignore them, they're optional).

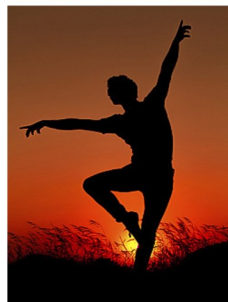
If you're just passing on information, they may not respond, but if you're asking them a question, they'll get back to you within 72 hours. Remember, though, if you need to report a crime, call 999 if it's happening now, or otherwise 101. And if you're having trouble getting in touch with the Police, you can always reach out to me, and I'd be happy to help!

Educational Grants

Uniform



Dance



Travel



Scouts Subs



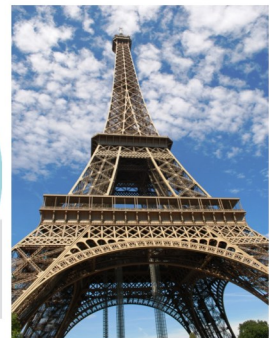
Sporting Activities



University



School trips



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

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 May

Sunday 3rd 11.00am The Eucharist

Sunday 10th 11.00am BCP Matins with Hymns

Sunday 24th 11.00am Informal Morning Worship

For services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk

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

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

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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

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council. Email: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk
Letters and articles for publication are always welcome, deadline for inclusion is 20th Monthly. Advertising is free to businesses working in, or for, the Parish of Hothfield. Email the Editor for information on advertising prices for outside companies. Editor reserves the right to adjust all articles for space as required.