

# Hothfield News

October 2009

*The Monthly Newsletter by and for the Hothfield Community*

## THANK YOU, PETER! – Hothfield Parish Council

Peter Patten, past long serving Chairman of our Parish Council, has resigned after 25 years of unstinting service. We are all very sad to see him go as he has been the brains and inspiration behind so many initiatives within the village over the years. We will miss his enthusiasm for all things and all people in Hothfield, but especially his commitment to our younger residents. Peter's vision, hard work and commitment are the reasons we have the Children's Play Area and the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). He has served on the Hothfield Youth Sub Committee and is often seen at Breakfast Club at the Children's Centre.



More recently Peter has been actively engaged in the Village Appraisal process and has been instrumental in drawing up the Village Plan.

These are but a few obvious successes that he has helped the village achieve and for which he will be long remembered. Less obviously, Peter has acted behind the scenes with borough and county council ward members to ensure that Hothfield and its needs remain on the public agenda. Known throughout the village as a careful listener, he maintains an even handed approach in his assessment of situations and ideas. Peter is always present at village functions, slicing bread and cheese for ploughman's suppers, donating prizes for raffles, pouring out wine and even feeding the meter in the village hall to keep us warm and happy at our social events!



What will we do on the Parish Council without you, Peter? We shall all miss your counsel, your sense of humour, your dedication and your long memory of things past. Enjoy your free time doing things you want to do but please don't disappear because Hothfield needs you still!

## KENT WILDLIFE TRUST - Ian Rickards, Ashford Area Warden

As the autumn draws in, the time has come for the hard work to start again on the nature reserve. The Kent Wildlife Trust will be running practical tasks all through the winter, starting with **11 October at 10.00am**. We meet at the Cade Road car park (under the height barrier). The day will be spent cutting up birch and willow scrub, and then turning them into habitat piles (for insects and reptiles to live in) or burning them on our bonfires. There is no need for any previous experience, just bring along energy, enthusiasm, tea and sandwiches.



We work regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, and most Tuesdays too. If you would like further information, contact the Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012 or visit our website on [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

# HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – Judith Batt (Clerk)



I have received the following from the Clerk to the Parish Council:

***‘The members of Hothfield Parish Council have asked for the following to be included in the next edition of the Newsletter. The newsletter is a great success and improving all the time, great credit to the Editor. That said it is not, in our opinion, the prerogative of the Editor to criticise in an untimely and unnecessary way, the Post Office, especially as it forms an essential part of the fabric of the village. A formal apology would be welcomed.’***

Just to clarify, in the September Newsletter I said the following.....

*‘..... But why should it be so hard to such simple, basic community information? I had asked the Post Office to let me have information for the Newsletter but no response. And as for the Merry and Bright Club....at last I know! But while we are on a roll, who can update everyone on what is happening with the Old School building (the school building proper, not the newer bit which is now the Children’s Centre)? And according to the Hothfield Website, we still have a boot fair every month, the Women’s Institute and Cubs, and modern sequence dancing. Is that so? – Editor’.*

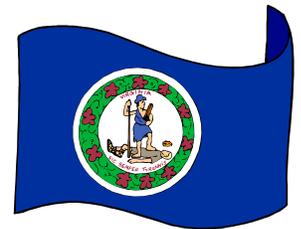


I am sorry if anyone has taken offence at my statement of fact in relation to the Post Office. As I have said many times, the biggest challenge facing me as Editor is in getting people to give me information to publish and share. As a relative newcomer to Hothfield I **still** don’t know half of what is available in my local community and I suspect other local people also don’t know. And that is the issue I am trying to address. For the record, I agree absolutely that the Post Office is an essential part of our local community and I do what I can to support it (and this Newsletter is nearly always posted there!). But we need to know when it is open!

Over the past two years I have referred to the difficulty in getting contributions from our County Councillor, our Borough Councillor, various parts of Ashford Borough Council, the Police, other local statutory and voluntary groups and, local businesses and that **still** remains the situation!

## HOTHFIELD NEWS GOES TRANSATLANTIC! - Editor

I was delighted to receive an email from Mary Jane Cox Chris, who lives in Richmond, Virginia USA who had picked up the Hothfield Newsletter on the internet. Jane is descended from a number of Hothfield residents - beginning before 1600 - mainly the Bourne family. Matthew Bourne, died in 1600, was rector in Brooke and Hinxhill - some of his family lived in Hothfield until Jane’s ancestor went to America in 1846/7.



Jane told me that several cousins in England and she have done extensive research on many families in that area - with the help from records (visitations, The College of Arms, Oxford, church records, etc), she has traced the Bourne family back to Somerset. With Jane’s permission, I have passed her details on to the History Society - I am sure they would be very interested in contacting Jane.

# ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS – Sue Patten

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

## Church Services in October

Sunday 4 October           The Eucharist 9.30am.  
Sunday 11 October        The Eucharist 11am.  
Sunday 18 October        Re:refresh All-Age Service 11am. Village Hall. Coffee after the service.  
Sunday 25 October        Holy Communion 9.30am.



## Other Services

Sunday 4 Oct at 6pm       'Songs of Praise' led by Maidstone Salvation Army  
in Pluckley Church  
Sunday 11 Oct at 6pm      G7 Evensong in Pluckley Church

Coffee Morning Tuesday 6 October 10.30 to 11.30 in the Village Hall. Come along and enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and meeting new people.

## FRIEND'S OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH – Anna Rawlins

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.** Due to popular demand the Friend's of St Margaret's Church are holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Tree Festival on 4, 5 and 6 December 2009. The festival 2 years ago received great praise from everyone who saw it and the Church looked magical with over 30 trees decorated and lit.

So put the date on your calendar and watch for November's issue of the 'Hothfield News' where there will be further details of all that's happening over the 3 days of this magical and spectacular Christmas Festival, which both adults and children will enjoy. If you would like to sponsor a tree, please contact Anna on 620382.



## HOTHFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY – Chris Rogers

### Highways

Did you know that the main Maidstone to Ashford road did not originally follow the route that it does now? Some evidence is very clear that the wide A20 that we see now was narrower and on a more winding route. Some of the old road can still be seen in front of the Yellow Fisherman chip shop, and beyond the Esso Garage where the old road meandered at Tutt Hill and Ram Lane. From what we can make out from old maps and aerial photographs much of this appears to have been realigned around the 1930s.



But what is more dramatic is that the road did not exist at all between Cades Road and Yonseas Farm (just beyond the old mill that is now the base for 'Move It'). The main road traffic all had to follow a route down Cades Road, across into what we now know as Coach Drive and along Waterfall Lane. Just beyond Home Farm there is a narrow track that crossed the fields towards the Mill and another fork through Yonseas Farm, where the road then continued past the Hare and Hounds towards Ashford. The Reverend Russell describes this route in more detail in his research carried out around 1900. He says that the new route was opened in 1797, and the old lanes from Yonseas closed in 1864 (although the old routes were still navigable).

This meant that Coach Drive was one of the main roads through Hothfield, and it was the site of the first school. A number of cottages lined the road, particularly on the north side (nearest Home Farm) where there are just two houses now.

### Public Transport

The History Society has been kindly provided with copies of bus timetables from 1916 to 1930, along with extensive research by a local public transport enthusiast.



The timetables show that in the early days independent private companies ran local bus services. In 1919 the Ashford to London Service stopped in Hothfield Village eight times per day in the week and four times on a Sunday in each direction. In 1926 there were four services each day to Ashford, Pluckley, Smarden and Tenterden. At the same time the new Maidstone and District bus company was moving in on the local providers, and regulations meant that small bus companies were struggling to survive; however M&D's service from Ashford via Charing and Lenham did not actually call in to Hothfield and villagers had to walk up to the main road to catch their buses near the Common.



By 1928 the service stopping at Hothfield Post Office, the Swan at Little Chart and making its way to Maidstone via Pluckley, Smarden, and Headcorn was under the control of Maidstone and District and had been suspended! However, timetables two years later show a service between The Wheel at Westwell and Ashford centre stopping at Hothfield train station. A return fare was 7d.

## HOTHFIELD HOUSING - David Beckley, Community Warden

Barry Moss, the Ashford Borough Council Housing Officer for Hothfield, will be available to discuss any housing issues or perceived problems you may have concerning the Hothfield area. This is a free service available to all local residents, so please take this opportunity to come along and get an answer to any housing issues that you feel you have. Please do not be negative and say "Whats the point" as this has been set up by your Parish Council Chairperson, your Community Warden and Mr Moss so any Housing/Borough Council problems can be brought to the meeting. The timings are 9 October 2009, at the Bluebells Children's Centre at 3pm to 5pm. Please take this opportunity!!



## HALLOWEEN NIGHT – David Beckley, Community Warden

Fun activities for the adults and children attending this year's Halloween Night are now well underway. The timings will be the same as last year with the fun starting at 6pm and running through until 9pm. The booking of the Village Hall and a Disco has already been confirmed. Activities planned for the day/evening are fun games, fancy dress competition with prizes, drinks, food and a few surprises.



Can I take this opportunity to stress that this function is for children within the age group of 0-10 years **only**. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Further information regarding booking places etc will be made available nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you on the day, Saturday 31 October 2009.

# HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL - John Collins



We hope that everyone that came to the Harvest Supper enjoyed the evening and the entertainment. As always we thank the huge number of volunteers who put together this great annual event hosted by The Friends of St Margaret's Church and the Village Hall Committee.

## STOP PRESS! World Cinema comes to Hothfield

We are proud to announce that the Village Hall will be the venue for a brand new cinema facility showing a range of films from around the world. Our programme intends to include a variety of comedy, drama and films to suit all types. Our first film will be **BOMBON: el perro** - An unemployed mechanic (Juan Villegas) adopts a large white dog called Bombon. Luckily for him, the dog turns out to be a prize purebred who might earn him some money. Man and dog set out on a wonderful road trip through Patagonia, where they make a great team. A lovely film, with a great sense of humour. (Certificate 15, in Spanish with English subtitles). Membership £5 for the first year or £3 on the door.



## October events:



- 17 October – **Race Night**, starts 7pm. We play you videos of horse races (and sometimes other events like Trotting races and Pig Racing!) – you pick a horse to win and you could receive a large cash prize. Tickets £5 per person available from the Post Office or turn up on the night. Ploughman's Supper included, bring your own drinks and nibbles. Great Raffle prizes too.
- 25 October 6:30pm – **World Cinema** starts in Hothfield. 15+, no alcohol. Annual Membership £5; £3 on the night and pay £2 on your next visit.
- **Children's Halloween** activities, 31 October – lots of exciting things for children, including a Fancy Dress competition. 50p per child. Speak to Dave Beckley or at the Children's Centre for more information.
- Saturday 14 November – **Fun Quiz and ploughman's**, starts 7pm. Tickets £5 per head, all ages welcome. Bring nibbles and your own drink. There will be rounds on Disney films, General Knowledge and on your own village, amongst other fun and annoying questions. Don't worry if think you can't answer many questions – there will be a Booby Prize too for the losers. More great Raffle prizes. Proceeds go to the Friends of St Margaret's and your Village Hall.



- Saturday 5 December – **Christmas Fayre**, seasonal crafts and winter jumble. Contact Margaret Collins if you want to have your own stall selling seasonal gifts, cards or handicrafts. Tea, cakes and seasonal refreshments will be available.
- Sunday 13 December: **Hot Sunday lunch and seasonal Sing-Along** with the **Hothfield Singers**. Starts 12:30. More information and tickets nearer the time – but put this in your diary now.

## Hall Refurbishment

As well as our planned refurbishment of the toilets in the Hall, we can now also announce that the entire inside of the Hall will be completely repainted starting soon! The brickwork of the main hall, and the adjacent seating/meeting area, is starting to look dated and dirty. We are pleased to tell you that the walls and window frames are going to be completely painted to modernise your hall and make it more pleasant for parties and functions.



## Have you Got Talent?

The Village Hall Committee is planning a number of other fun events for children and adults alike. There will be more fun things to get involved in in the new year including a 'Hothfield's Got Talent' contest. Can you juggle? Fancy yourself as a stand-up comedian, singer, dancer or performer? Can you recite poetry or perform magic tricks? We're looking for everyone of all ages to come and show us what you can do. Start rehearsing now and watch the Newsletter for more detail on when the show will be, and what prizes could be won.

## 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 .....

.....every person has three names: the name he inherits, the name his parents give him, and the name he makes for himself!