



New access path
Hothfield Triangle 2022

Hothfield Village Hall

For your reference, we include below the key information about your Hall for whenever it might be useful for your needs or for mentioning to any friends or acquaintances should they share with you a need for a space in and around Ashford.

The Hothfield Village Hall Committee.

Available for parties, receptions, dancing, indoor games, etc.

Spacious hall (18x10.7m) plus kitchen, dining area & stage.
20 tables & 100 chairs supplied
Fully equipped kitchen
Large dedicated car park
Free WiFi

Rates:

Residents of Hothfield	£12.00 per hour
Others	£15.00 per hour
All Day Hire	
Residents	£175.00/day (£175.00 deposit)
Others	£250.00/day (£250.00 deposit)



Saint Margaret's Church



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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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



CHARING WITH LITTLE CHART, CHARING HEATH, EGERTON, HOTHFIELD, PLUCKLEY AND WESTWELL

Services in August

Sunday 7 1100 The Eucharist

Sunday 14 1030: Benefice Communion in Westwell,
to meet Bishop John from Tanzania

Sunday 21 No service in Hothfield

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

Sunday 24: 1100: **COME AND PRAISE**



Come one, come all, come everybody! Our new, up-to-date, half-hour, ridiculously informal Service fits all ages and sizes.

Led by a team of (very) ordinary people, this is the best introduction to Church.

Besides, there's coffee and cakes afterwards



With August comes the summer holidays and regular weekly meetings stop until September. This year there is still a lot going on. The Kent International Jamboree at the County Ground is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to meet scouts from all over the world. There will be non stop activities and fun.

We can't wait to hear back from our two young people who are travelling to South Africa to spend time on a reservation working with the rangers on animal conservation and anti-poaching strategies. Our Gang Show raised over £1000 some of which was used to support them. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to the show or came to support us.

Terry, Group Scout Leader 07748818660



Messy church is resting in August ready to jump into action in September. The team has run some amazing sessions culminating in the obstacle course and games in July. We are however not as young as we were and would love to welcome into our team anyone who can sit on the ground, and get up again without help!

If you could spare some time to help on the first Sunday of the month we'd love to hear from you. Even better if you want to join the planning team to devise fun and challenging activities for children from 0 to 10. We meet on the Thursday before the Messy session at 2pm in the cub hut.

3 Hothfield Parish Council

Brock back for busy summer



Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) leaders would like to thank residents, businesses, drivers and hauliers for their patience as Operation Brock is set to return to the M20 ahead of the summer getaway.

The KRF's Strategic Planning Lead Simon Jones is also urging people to plan their cross-Channel journeys, including booking ahead, to help keep Kent moving and open for business this summer.

With a busy July and August predicted on Dover ferries and Eurotunnel, the contraflow at the heart of the Brock traffic management scheme will be reinstated overnight on Sunday 10 July.

The altered road layout between Junctions 8 and 9 reduces the impact of disruption by directing lorries heading for mainland Europe onto the motorway's coast-bound carriageway, where they can be queued if necessary, while all other traffic can continue on its journey in both directions.

The installation of Brock means lorries heading to the Continent are legally required to follow the signed HGV routes to the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel.

National Highways' works to relocate the barrier that creates the contraflow permanently to the central reservation will again be suspended until Brock is lifted once the threat of major disruption has eased.

Europe's first justice support dog wins award for work with Kent Police

Oliver, a six-year-old black Labrador, who has been assisting Kent Police by comforting victims and witnesses following traumatic experiences has been awarded with a medal.

Detective Constable Rachel Freeman who has been working with Oliver in Kent was delighted to see him presented with a PDSA Order of Merit at an awards ceremony in London for his outstanding contribution to society.

The event took place on Thursday 14 July 2022 where Oliver was joined by Rachel and one of his handlers, Doctor Elizabeth Spruin, who is a psychologist and has been working with him since he was flown to the UK from America in 2018 and her colleague Doctor Katarina Mozova.

Oliver has been specially trained to support vulnerable victims and witnesses of crime and has been part of a project between Kent Police and Canterbury Christ Church University to see if he can make a difference, the first scheme of its kind in the UK.

DC Rachel Freeman said: 'I first became involved with Oliver at our police college where I trained officers in how to interview vulnerable victims.'

'As a specialist safeguarding officer, I was aware of how dogs like Oliver were supporting victims in America and Canada and was really struck by how helpful this could be and really hoped one day we would have dogs like him in the UK.'

'It then became a reality and I started working with Doctor Spruin and Doctor Mozova, to enable Oliver to support vulnerable victims in Kent whilst they talk to officers during police interviews.'

The PDSA Order of Merit is given to animals in recognition of exceptional acts of devotion to their owners or society and represents outstanding examples of the special bond that exists between animals and humans.

DC Freeman added: 'Oliver is so calm and often just sits next to someone or by their feet to provide a little reassurance. Children respond well to him and often reach out for cuddles. He is also able to sense feelings and reacts kindly when someone is upset. I witnessed him put his paw on a young girl's back to reassure her that he was still there with her whilst she navigated her well through some difficult questions.'

'A police station can be a scary place for those most vulnerable in our society and having a dog like Oliver is just one way we can help smooth the process for them.'

'I am so proud he has received this award and I hope it raises the profile of the project and encourages other forces across the country to follow suit.'

PDSA Vet Nurse, Nina Downing, said: 'PDSA is honoured to celebrate Oliver's pioneering and vital role, assisting those most in need of support. We have been incredibly moved by his life-changing actions. Oliver is thoroughly deserving recipient of the PDSA Order of Merit.'

PSE 59727 Andrew Judd

Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, East Kent Police Division

Micro Resurfacing

We have now confirmed the date for Bethersden Road, Hothfield Microsurfacing works to be 23 August 2022. Works are scheduled to last up to three days.

Bus services

Kent County Council has decided to stop the 123 service. This will be a blow to adults and school children alike. Fortunately, those in the village can easily get to the 10X bus stop. However, there will be a problem in the early morning as the service is only single-decker and full-up already. The parish council is fully aware of the problem and is examining ways to lobby for an improvement in that situation; alongside our local Kent councillor.

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

Hothfield Village Hall

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 4:30pm

Target Shooting School

<https://www.targetshooting.school.co.uk/ashford>

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492862974

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 6:30pm

Rock Fit

Contact Lisa Dicker 07518009905

Fridays @ 6:30pm

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492862974

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN AUGUST

Good news for visitors to the Heathlands is that this month Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) hopes to have the construction of the accessible all-weather path through the Triangle completed. This new trail should improve accessibility for all users as it will have a surface suitable for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. The Triangle is entered from the Cades Road car park and is the (yes, triangular-shaped) plot of land lying between Cades Road, the A20 and Station Road. This area and the ridge above the main reserve had Nissen huts during WWII and after, for Canadian troops and then for families resettled from London, until Hothfield Common was purchased by Ashford Rural District Council in 1956 and new houses built in Hothfield village.

The Triangle has been managed over the last fifteen years to create woodland pasture. The presence of large mature oaks and sweet chestnut indicates that this area was once more open with large clearings between trees. Without management, which replaces the grazing and harvesting that once took place here, scrub and bracken start to dominate and open habitat is lost. Seedling sycamore and sweet chestnut, which are poor for wildlife, have been removed, to encourage more useful trees to develop into large mature specimens, creating a good habitat for tree-nesting birds.

Cattle are part of that management scheme, as they eat mature nettles, fresh brambles and young sycamore. They don't, however, eat bracken, although they do trample both young and old growth. Bracken, one of the most widely distributed species on earth, is an important element in heathland, providing shade to woodland plants such as the bluebells and pink campion seen here in spring, and cover for wildlife, but needs controlling to

maintain a balance. It grows from a network of interlinked rhizomes, so one plant can cover a very wide area. It also releases chemicals into the soil which inhibit other plants. It is difficult to eliminate but can be weakened by removing or damaging its green growth. In the past, the bracken was collected for animal bedding and thatching, but these days we rely on volunteers with scythes, leaving the cut fronds to shrivel up in the sunshine. Even old bracken smothers other growth as it decomposes slowly into acidic biomass. Pigs and wild boar eat bracken, as they are able to neutralise the toxins and carcinogens in their gut.

Ian Rickards reports that KWT will also be improving paths on the main reserve. To prevent introducing new material and damaging the sensitive geology, they will use sand from the reserve to raise paths that normally get wet in the winter. This has an additional benefit, as the areas where sand is collected will become important habitats in their own right. Bare ground will soon grow over with heathland plants, and the exposed soil is great for burrowing bees, wasps and other insects.

The heather or ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) started into flower at the end of June, and unless the hot weather has abated after writing this, its August glory will be short; so don't miss it! Heather needs nutrient-poor soil and grows slowly, which is why protecting it here at all stages is so important. In every season, as it progresses from fresh green pioneering seedlings through maturity to the eventual collapse of gaunt woody plants, heather is essential to a range of wildlife that has adapted to it. It provides shelter all year for basking reptiles and birds, hopefully for nesting tree pipits one day, thousands of seeds for feeding birds, foliage food for caterpillars and grazing sheep, nectar and pollen for insects and butterflies and moths, which in turn are food for patrolling dragonflies and birds.

In July, on the Extension fields, volunteer Rob Insall recorded 120 banded demoiselles and a dozen common blue damselflies, 400 meadow brown butterflies, with gatekeepers and skippers now increasing. A lesser stag beetle has been spotted, and the resident buzzards have fledged a chick. The browsers currently comprise 6 Konik ponies, 8 Highland cows, and 27 Herdwick sheep.

Margery Thomas

Wilding Hothfield Heathlands:

In the continuing process of making this wonderful space as wild as possible, we are allowing the cattle and ponies free rein across most of the site. Initially, gates will be left open, but if all goes well redundant fences can be removed.

The livestock will transport plants and seeds across the reserve (in their hooves, coats and bellies), at the same time allowing the animals choice over where they drink, what they eat and where they rest.

Bear in mind that you can encounter our animals at any point on your visit, please make sure your dogs are under control at all times.

This work is part of our developing plans for *Precious Peatlands at Hothfield Heathlands*, as covered in the May edition and our website, and would appreciate your input.

Please contact me at
ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk

Ian Rickards, Area Manager



Bracken cutting 1992



Bracken same area 2021





Talk by local publisher: The Wreck Hunter

In 2020 I announced that a new book had been published by Pen & Sword – 'The Wreck Hunter: Battle of Britain and the Blitz', and it includes a chapter about Hothfield and the dig for a Hurricane once flown by Pilot Sgt Herbert Black. This aircraft went down on 29 October 1940 after a fight with German Messerschmitt Bf109s. It crashed in the fields behind the Village Hall, which at that time was in the grounds of Hothfield Manor.

The book has been written by local author Melody Foreman, who will be giving a talk about the book and the Hothfield wreck. Melody is a Hothfield resident and spent some of her childhood in the village while her dad ran one of the village's shops. She is also a historian and author of social history during the war years. Her talk will be a social history of those days of aerial conflict, and Melody will have a few artefacts to bring along as well as slides.

In 2014 Melody gave a detailed talk on the Air Transport Auxiliary, which was a civilian organisation comprised of amateur pilots who performed a vital role in delivering planes from factories to front line squadrons and shuttling planes back for repairs. Melody shared fascinating stories of the women pilots of the

ATA including those from Kent, which was the subject of a previous book, and we look forward to hearing soon about her new publication.

Her latest book is about the pioneering aviation archaeologist Terry Parsons, who over sixty years has dug more than nine hundred RAF and Luftwaffe wrecks throughout Kent and Sussex. The Hurricane crashed on Home Farm and the current owner of the field, John Coles, allowed Terry to check out the site of Sgt Black's Hurricane at the tree that the Hurricane hit, which the author would argue is probably the most famous landmark of the Battle of Britain.

Melody's talk about the Hurricane and other excavations included in her book will be on the evening of Friday 30 September in Saint Margaret's Church, Hothfield. Everyone will be welcome to come, and admission and parking will be free.

The church is not far from the site of the crash, and it was itself damaged by a Doodlebug that exploded on the corner of Church Lane, and lost almost all of the windows on the north side of the church. The blast also wrecked several of the pews inside the church as well as ripping tiles from the roof.

Please visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk to read stories from past residents including Melody, and to add your own story, or to add a comment to our website.

Chris Rogers



GARDENS

Open Tuesday to Sunday & Bank Holiday
Mondays from Tuesday 1st March 2022 to Sunday 30th October 1pm–6pm (last booked entry 5pm). [Book your tickets online.](#)

HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. Tours at 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm and 4pm. [Book your tickets online.](#)

TEAROOM

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. (For our Garden, House & Garden visitors only)
No reservations taken.



OPEN AIR THEATRE – THE PANTALOONS

EVENT

16th July 2022, 18:30 – 21:00

War of The Worlds. The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons invade the stage in this funny yet faithful new adaptation as they use musical instruments, puppetry and, um, enthusiasm to recreate deadly heat-rays, giant fighting-machines, squidgy tentacled Martians and interplanetary warfare on an epic scale. The chances of success? A million to one... Performed in the delightful Walled Garden, picnics from 5.30 pm, performance from 6:30 pm. Purchase your tickets directly from the [Pantaloons website](#). PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT WITH NO AVAILABLE TICKETS ON THE NIGHT.



SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

EVENT

23rd July 2022 – 14th August 2022, 13.00 – 18:00

Godinton's annual exhibition of contemporary work. This long-established summer sculpture show is now a popular fixture in many diaries. For three weeks a selection of new work is shown adding an exciting element to the 12 acres of beautiful and varied gardens. Homemade refreshments are available. Purchase your [admission ticket](#) here.



OPEN AIR THEATRE – THE RUDE MECHANICALS

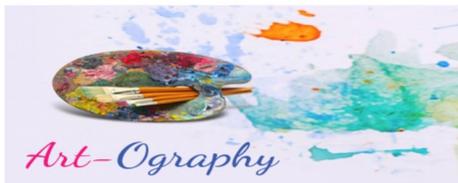
EVENT

30th July 2022, 19:00 – 21:30

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company will perform Gods and Dogs on the Croquet Lawn. The annual visit by this exciting theatre company bringing you an hilarious and provocative new story of love, marriage and a celebrity game show, 'Marriage Maker!' Set in social media driven 2084 when being different is a crime. Remember to bring your chairs, rugs and picnics! Picnics from 6.30 pm, purchase your tickets directly from [The Rude Mechanicals](#).



Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice) will be coming to Bluebells car park every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm. For pre orders, please call 07973 410973 before 1pm Wednesday Cash and Card payments welcome



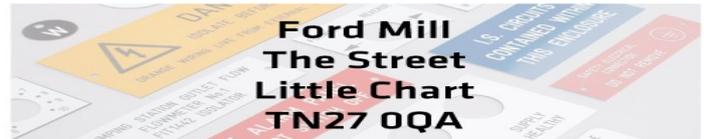
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HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks and financed by Hothfield Parish Council.

Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

The deadline for the September 2022 issue is 20 August.

Letters and articles for publication are always welcome. Advertising is free to businesses working in, or for, the Parish of Hothfield. Email the Editor for information on advertising prices for outside companies.

Nine Oaks Vineyard – an update

Things are getting really busy here at Nine Oaks vineyard, Hothfield. Since the vines awoke from dormancy in March we've been out and about on both plots pruning, weeding, mowing and spraying by hand and using our new (to us) tractor to get to the lush and lovely canopy you see today when you walk or drive through the village. The canopy shows that the vines have been very busy too. In Spring they produced buds which burst and on the top plot at least have formed bunches which will grow into our long-awaited grapes.

Nine Oaks comprises two plots of grapevines. The first (top) plot was planted in May 2020 and has a mix of Chardonnay and Pinot noir grapes. The second, lower-lying plot has more Pinot noir along with Pinot Meunier and Bacchus vines. Across the two plots we have around 15000 vines.

Throughout the month of August we will be busily maintaining the vineyard as we gear up to our first major harvest of Chardonnay and Pinot noir. If you see us out and about, do come and say hello! As the weather has been very good so far this season we are hopeful of making our first still wines, which would be released next summer. We are expecting the harvest to take place in late September or early October and we are looking for volunteers. We had great fun last year for our first little harvest; this time will be much bigger and better. If you are interested in volunteering to harvest, please email us on info@nine-oaks.com or contact us on Facebook or Instagram.

Helen Matheson-Pollock, Co-founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard

Pictures (Left to right)

- 1 – Bud burst
- 2 – The beginnings of a bunch.
- 3 - Progress
- 4 – Nine Oaks and St Margaret's Church
- 5 – A mighty oak
- 6 – A Summer evening view



AUNT JEMIMA'S MORE SUMMER QUOTES

Sunshine and happiness go together like fish and chips — Catherine Pulsifer

Summer conditions of warmer temperatures, long daylight hours and pools of water. — Edward Paul Ortleb

Summer is a season of bounty, but more than any other fruit, it's watermelon that marks the season of those hazy, lazy days of rest and relaxation, of slurping and dribbling watermelon juice down my chin. — Yvonne Martinez Ward

"In the summer, the choice is ours. Generally, no homework or term papers are due in the summer." — Neill Seltzer

Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. — Jenny Han

July is a blind date with summer. — Hal Borland

August brings into sharp focus and a furious boil everything I've been listening to in the late spring and summer. — Henry Rollins

August is that last flicker of fun and heat before everything fades and dies. The final moments of fun before the freeze.

— Rasmenia Massoud

"If June was the beginning of a hopeful summer, and July the juice middle, August was suddenly feeling like the bitter end.

— Sarah Dessen

Summer is like the ultimate one-night stand...hot as hell, totally thrilling, and gone before you know it."

B.E.A.C.H.: Best Escape Anyone Can Have

"always make sure to get your daily dose of Vitamin Sea.

The most obnoxious thing in the world is to listen to others drone on about how much they love the heat.

Summer: Hair gets lighter. Skin gets darker. Water gets warmer. Drinks get colder. Music gets louder. Nights get longer.

Life gets better

That endless summer, take me there.

Gone to the beach. Be back never.

Girls just wanna have sun

Little Chart Cricket Club

On Saturday August 13th we are holding our President's day and Club Day from 1pm. There will be a single-wicket competition for cricketers with excellent prizes. If you haven't played for a while or might be interested in playing we will also be offering the chance to bat or bowl on the most beautiful cricket ground. All are welcome. Tea is provided. Please contact terry Lister 07748818660 if you want more details

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

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6:30pm - 7:30pm
FROM 16TH JUNE Hothfield village hall | Park Drive
 Hothfield | Ashford | TN26 1EG

£5.00 a session // First session is free!
 New to class? Be sure to arrive 10-15 mins early to fill out your PAR-Q Form
 (Digital forms are also available)

Email: rockfitwithlisa@gmail.com

f **🔍** **RockFit with Lisa**