

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 9 September 2020

Dog incidents



Over the last few months I have received reports of dog incidents that have occurred around the village, particularly on and around the Hothfield Common.

It is not necessary for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times. However, dogs must be kept on a lead in designated areas, and on land where livestock is present.

If you are the person in charge of a dog, then you are responsible for controlling the dog's behaviour in public, whether you are the owner of the dog or walking it on someone else's behalf.

It is against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control in a public or private place. A dog is considered dangerously out of control if it injures someone or makes someone worried that it might injure them.

A farmer is legally allowed to kill your dog if it's worrying their livestock.

Police deal with:

- Dangerous dogs (Dangerous Dogs Act 1991).
- Dogs dangerously out of control in a public or private place.
- Dog attacks on a person, in cases where a dog has attacked the person directly and the skin has been broken. (Where a person is bitten accidentally whilst trying to separate dogs the Council Dog Warden would take action).

Reports of illegal breeds (American Pit Bull Terrier, Tosa, Dogo Argentino, and Fila Brasileiro).

Ashford Borough Council deal with:

- Stray dogs.
- Lost dogs.
- Dog fouling.
- Dog on dog attacks are a civil matter. However, in certain circumstances the council will intervene to ensure the offending dog owner is reminded of their responsibility and make sure the dog is not out of control.

Ashford Borough Council can be contacted at <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/environmental-concerns/dogs/>

A message from Kent Wildlife Trust

Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, along with the location of livestock. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Cristina Juan at cristina.juan@kentwildlife.org.uk. or 01622 662012.

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Wednesday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Thursday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Friday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Saturday	0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	PO morning only



SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



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

No services in August, due to building work in the church (see page 7).
For details of services in other local churches, go to
www.calehill-westwell.uk

The Friends of St Margaret's Church Hothfield

are holding a Cake and Craft Supplies sale on 12 September
10 am to noon in the paddock
opposite the church.



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HOTHFIELD NEWS

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Available on line at <http://www.hothfield.org.uk/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/newsletter/>

The deadline for the October 2020 issue is 20 September.

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.

Is Delivery still best?

We asked this question in the June issue of Hothfield News, inviting you to email the Editor if you would prefer to have your village paper online rather than through your letterbox. The results of this poll are as follows:

Prefer delivery	5
Prefer online	4
Prefer delivery, but will accept online	5

This poll is now closed.
The Parish Council will decide what to do in due course.

HOTHFIELD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

We would like to remind you that we are a charity that primarily supports the education of young people within the Parish of Hothfield.

We will consider making financial contributions towards such items as secondary school logoed uniform, school bus passes, sports-related training, job skill related training, music lessons, school trips, further education and personal development.

If you think that we may be able to help, please e-mail hothfieldeducation@gmail.com Alternatively, you could leave a letter at the Village PO/Shop.

The Foundation meets 3 or 4 times a year, and the dates are regularly advertised in Hothfield News.

We would ask that applications are received at least three weeks before a meeting.

Our next meeting will be on
27 October 2020

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



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We are still facing worrying uncertainty about when we can return to proper face to face scouting and all the fun and excitement that this brings. We hope that as schools get back to some sort of normality we may not be too far behind. Our risk assessments are all complete and we are desperately hoping that the incidence of Covid 19 falls and allows us to return safely. Our young people are still engaging with scouting as much as possible and working towards badges at home. We already have hundreds of badges ready to present when we can. Seven of our cub scouts entered the Charing Gardeners Virtual Summer Show. First place was awarded to Thomas . Well done! All the others received a certificate of merit.

We are still hoping to expand our leadership team. The beaver section especially needs some help. When we return we hope to hit the ground running and not be hampered by lack of leaders. If you think you can help please contact me or any of the beaver leaders.

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660

As the wonderful ling fades, another violet-blue haze flowers on. Devil's-bit scabious, *Succisa pratensis*, is an indicator plant that we search for carefully in botanical surveys on the heathland. Since it usually flowers after we finish, we seek ground-hugging lance shaped hairy leaves, and lightly branched flower stems rising to 100 cm. Flowering from August to October it provides valuable nectar and pollen for hoverflies, butterflies and moths. It enjoys damp slightly acidic conditions, where grazing leaves short grass and useful longer tussocks. The hemispherical flower heads comprising up to 50 florets held on slender stems resemble nodding pincushions, with a dainty triple ruff of pointed sepals behind. Each tight bud, like a tiny boxing glove, has a protruding pointed bract. As it opens pinky-purple anthers unfurl from within the floret tube to extend with the stigma beyond the petals and attract pollinators. Some plants only produce female flowers without the anthers. In the upper bog it grows with cross leaved heath and

ling, or with marsh St John's wort and contrasts beautifully with the russet seed spikes of bog asphodel. The scabious seeds fall easily from the calyx pad in early autumn.

This lovely perennial is in the teazel family, *Dipsacaceae*. It needs poor soil to flower well, so in a garden does best in a meadow in impoverished soil, where it can drop seed before an autumn cut. There are named varieties, and another scabious, *Knautia macedonica*, tolerates border conditions better, but still prefers no cossetting.

All the names are from the Latin: Scabious from *scabere*, to scratch, (hence scabs) as it was used for treating scabies and bubonic plague sores. *Succisa* means cut off below, describing the truncated rootstock; John Parkinson in his *Theatrum Botanicum* of 1640, wrote that the Devil was jealous of the plant's healing power so bit the end off its root. *Pratensis* means of the meadows.

Devil's-bit scabious is the foodplant of the endangered marsh fritillary butterfly, *Eurodryas aurinia*, now limited to the west of the UK due to major habitat loss. Recent winged sightings here include:



© Vaughn Matthews 'Devil's-bit scabious, *Succisa Pratensis*'

southern and migrant hawkers (dragonflies) speckled wood, gatekeeper, comma, holly blue, common blue, meadow brown, brimstone, clouded yellow, brown argus and small copper butterflies and parasitic ruby tailed wasps, a favourite of staffer Lucy Carden.

To everyone's delight, livestock checkers, solo survey and the green team

volunteers are back, working within KWT guidelines and enabling KWT staff to return to other tasks. Soon after restarting, volunteer Les Kennedy said "Sometimes we freeze in the cold and others we bake in the sun. Sometimes we get soaked or snowed on but then we see the end result and it makes everything worthwhile."

Margery Thomas

Summer in the Hothfield Apiary

The warm early summer weather has favoured the build up of the colonies of Hothfield bees. My most recent inspection revealed lots of sealed brood from which worker bees will emerge in time for the peak honey flow. The maximum hive population peaks in late July with up to 60,000 bees in a hive and these will be collecting nectar from all kinds of trees and wild flowers within a three-mile radius, especially brambles and clover. I hope this year that they will make honey from heather on Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve which didn't happen last year possibly because it was too dry. I take honey from the hives in spring and summer following periods of abundance. This allows time for the bees to rebuild their supplies before the winter.

There has been no significant honey from oilseed rape which is a blessing. This sets like concrete in the combs and has to be extracted quickly before it becomes a problem. This year it has been unnecessary to extract honey after the rape flowering season and I will wait until late summer before I take the crop avoiding the palaver of the spring extraction.

Varroa is a parasitic mite which can destroy honey bee colonies, and previously I treated my hives with an organic thyme based material in the autumn to reduce mite numbers. I raise my own queens from my best colonies and plan to continue to monitor mite numbers with the intention of further developing natural resistance.

Honey bees provide an essential pollination service vital for many crops. Without bee keepers maintaining colonies, honey bees would cease to exist in this country. Keeping my bees happy and well is my top priority.

Our honey goes straight from the hive to the jar. It is filtered, but not finely, so it retains pollens. It is not heat treated and nothing is added. Many of my customers buy local raw honey to help control allergies such as hay fever.

If you would like to order my golden Hothfield Honey, please call Sheila on (01233) 624105 or email hothfield-honey@outlook.com Large (1lb) jars cost £5 and small (1/2lb) jars cost £3.50.

Delivery is usually the same day and by Shanks's pony, and can be left on your doorstep or another safe place if desired. Payment by cash is still welcome.



5 Hothfield History Society

Free Talk: The Wreck Hunter: Spitfire crash in Hothfield

A new book was published early this year 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 crashed-landed on 29 October 1940 in a field after a fight with German Messerschmitt Bf109s.

You might recall that the author, Melody Foreman, was going to give a talk in April which was sadly postponed. We are now hoping to hear her presentation on Friday 9th October, almost 80 years after the crash. Her book is about the pioneering aviation archaeologist Terry Parsons who over sixty years has dug more than 900 RAF and Luftwaffe wrecks throughout Kent and Sussex.

The talk is free to attend and of course social distancing will apply in the Village Hall. 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. The talk will start at 7:30pm, and doors will be open from 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Lead tokens as currency



The fields around Hothfield don't only give up aircraft wrecks (there were a few planes that crashed in the parish during WWII) but also coins and other items. Occasionally lead tokens turn up, usually about the size of a current 10p coin, and these often have letters or patterns stamped into them.

Lead tokens were used as payment instead of coins from the late 1400s when the smallest available denomination (the penny) wasn't actually small enough. Purchases of basic groceries and food could cost much less than 1p in those days, and so it was common to cut up pennies into halves or quarters. The Farthing was worth one quarter of a penny and could represent quite a large portion of a farm labourer's weekly pay! Alternatively local communities would create their own tokens that had recognised values less than a penny. The tokens were usually stamped by the blacksmith and had distinctive patterns or initials to verify where they had come from.

These lead tokens are most popularly found in Kent especially Romney Marsh, but also in many eastern and southern counties. They seem to have a close connection with hop farms, as well as rural communities in general. John Coles has kindly showed me one from his collection which bears the letters "WB" and a date of 1779. Around that time in Hothfield most of the farms were owned or tenanted by the Wood family and the Bourne family. This token probably came from the Bourne family as one of several men named William Bourne was alive at that time. Another token has been found with "SB" which is probably related to Stephen Bourne of a similar period.

Chris Rogers



*Hothfield
History Society*

Invites you to attend our next free public talk on:

***The Wreck Hunter:
Battle of Britain and The Blitz***

**Friday 9th October at 7.30pm
Hothfield Village Hall**

Melody Foreman is an author of social history during the war years. Her new book includes a chapter about Hothfield and the dig for a Hurricane that crashed in 1940 on Home Farm. The tree that the Hurricane hit can still be seen today. Melody's new book is about the pioneering aviation archaeologist Terry Parsons who has dug more than 900 RAF and Luftwaffe wrecks in Kent and Sussex. Melody's illustrated talk will be about her new book and the Hothfield wreck and will include some artefacts.

Please come along to find out more and to ask questions.

All welcome. Free admission.

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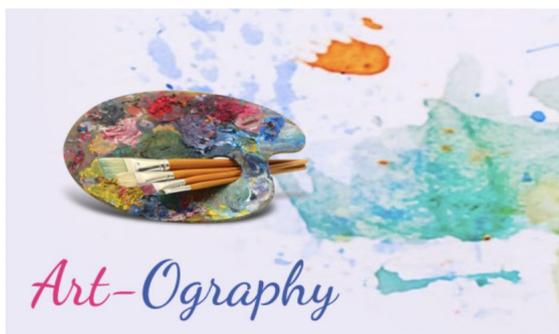
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Dear Neighbour,

You may or may not know that there are extensive works in progress at our Village Church. For many in the Village and beyond, it is something that you probably won't bother with, or even want to visit. Please do just take the time to carry on reading.

Here in our midst is one of the most beautiful and historically interesting buildings in the area. Even if you are not interested in religion do at least give a thought to the history, the structure, the architecture, the materials and the location. For many Hothfield residents it is a place steeped in memories for themselves and their families, many now living in other parts of the world.

The Cemetery provides a picture of those who have lived or been associated with Hothfield and this too is a place of historic interest.

A small group of local people help to look after this historic treasure; we are known as The Friends of St. Margaret's.

We organise various events during the year to raise funds to maintain the structure and the interior of the Church. At present work is going on to provide enhanced toilet facilities and a modern "Stow-Away" kitchen area, both very much needed.

The current Covid 19 situation which impacts us all, has sadly meant the cancellation of some of the events we intended to hold this year. Despite this we are actively giving thought to future events and to what we can do to provide funds to meet the cost of the current works.

If anyone out there has any brainstorming ideas as to how or what we could do (given the current situation), please let us know. Better still, tell us if you feel you would like to be involved with this interesting yet not too demanding work, with a very friendly and dedicated team. We would welcome your getting in touch by phone or by email and have a chat. There are absolutely no obligations whatsoever.

If you wish to offer a donation for our ongoing works, it would be warmly appreciated and most welcome.

With many thanks for your time; we look forward to hearing from you.

Email fsmhothfield@gmail.com or ring 01233 626901

Karen Brock Friends of St Margaret's Hothfield Chair
Tony Woolley Friends of St. Margaret's Hothfield. Treasurer.



AUNT JEMIMA HAS A STORY TO TELL

In the year 2020, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England, and said:

"Once again the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing long with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying,

"You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for forty days and forty nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord", begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed planning permission. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I've violated the planning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Appeal Board for a decision. Then the Department of Transport demanded a commitment to pay the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark 's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

"Getting the wood was another problem. All the local trees have protection orders. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save endangered animals, but no go. When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

"Then the Environment Protection Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew. Immigration is checking the status of most of the people who want to work. The trade unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience. Also, they are not allowed to get withing two metres of each other. To make matters worse, the government seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least ten years for me to finish this ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it."



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