

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 12 NUMBER 10 October 2021

Autumn has always been my favourite season, the time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.

- Lauren Destefano



Comma Butterfly
© Val Butcher

Saint Margaret's Church



2

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 October

Sunday 3 at 1100: The Eucharist
Sunday 10 at 1100: Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 24 at 1100: Family Worship
Sunday 31 at 1030:
Benefice Communion in PLUCKLEY



The Harvest Thanksgiving Service

will take place at 11am at St Margaret's Church, Hothfield on 10 October 2021,
followed by a Ploughman's Lunch.

All Welcome.

Suggested donation of £5.00 towards church funds.

Walking Festival 18 September: Crossing the Pigs Brook

© G.Cox



3 Hothfield Parish Council

We will be holding a Village Meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday 13 November at 11am to discuss further the suggestions for spending the Solar Funding. Last year residents provided a long list of possible projects, and we have spent the last year investigating the viability and costs, and we can update everyone on our findings and hopefully confirm where residents want the money spent.

One of the biggest concerns in the village is speeding, so we have arranged for a Speed Survey to be completed on various roads around the village. We hope we can report the findings at the Village Meeting on 13 November.

Following reports of cars driving onto the Village Green, and the subsequent damage, we have discussed the installation of a fence to stop this, while still providing pedestrian and vehicular access for The Street residents. We understand residents may have questions and concerns regarding this and would encourage you to attend our next HPC meeting on 6 October at 7pm at Bluebells.

Regrettably, it has come to our attention that a resident has been subject to continued harassment by some children and teenagers within the village. This is a very sad development, particularly as we like to pride ourselves on the friendly nature of the village. I ask for all parents to be vigilant and remind their children that this behaviour is completely unacceptable and could lead to further action from the Police. We encourage all residents to report anti-social behaviour to the Police.

Particularly following the last year's struggle, can we all just be kind to each other?

Ian Lloyd

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

Litter (and thank you)

One Hothfield villager has reported that she was feeling really despondent late in September when she was walking her dog around the village. At the bench on the green by the village store was so much litter. Sweet wrappers & empty jelly/fruit tube things. So much, everywhere. As she was picking it up three teenage boys approached on their way home from the tennis court and started helping. So to the lads (and their parents, by extension), thank you. Carry on being great!

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!

New Branch Director for Ashford & Tenterden Samaritans.

A fair wind is coming to Ashford and Tenterden Samaritans on 30 September in the shape of new Branch Director, OONAGH WILLIAMS.

Asked what she would be bringing to the position, Oonagh replied, 'A breath of fresh air!'

A Samaritan for 20 years, Oonagh first joined the Tunbridge Wells Samaritans in 2001. In the same year, she moved with husband Shane to Ashford – his home town – and has been a volunteer at Ashford & Tenterden Samaritans in Queen Street ever since. 'There will always be a call for Samaritans', says Oonagh, 'now more than ever; people want to feel valued, listened to ... to have a voice.'

'The fact that Samaritans are there 24/7 is amazing. The Ashford & Tenterden branch has remained open all through Covid with volunteers coming in to the branch to take calls and being there for those who needed them.'

What Samaritans do – helping to change and save lives – is not recognised enough, and I want to get the Ashford community, schools and businesses more aware, involved and proud of the fact that our town has a Samaritans' branch.'



what a wonderful weald

help us keep it that way



The aim of our dedicated team of volunteers is to protect our unique Wealden towns, villages and countryside from the effects of damaging and unsustainable development, preserving its charm and character for future generations to enjoy. We welcome active members to help us with a range of activities, from scrutinising planning applications to organising events. If, like us, you care about the Weald, please get in touch and get involved.

wkps

weald of kent protection society

find out more: www.wkps.org.uk
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

September Draw Results

1st prize	£22.75	no. 170
2nd prize	£13.65	no. 197
3rd prize	£9.10	no. 204

Cost to enter: only £1 per draw, £12 per year or £6 for six months.

Collect a form from
HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE
Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN OCTOBER ⁴

As the heathland glows with autumn colour, seasonal departures and hibernations proceed imperceptibly while the volunteers continue to care for the heathland in many different ways.

The whitethroat, *Sylvia communis* (right) arrived here in April to breed, and after adding autumn berries and soft fruit to its summer diet of insects it is now heading for the eastern Mediterranean, and thence to Ethiopia and Sudan south of the Sahara. A warbler the size of a great tit, it has a long flicking tail as it darts through bushes. The male has a more obvious white throat. It favours open country, singing its scratchy song in flight or perched atop the thorny low scrub of bramble and gorse on the heath which provides protection for the cup-shaped nests. Numbers are recovering after a 90% crash in 1968 due to a drought in the western Sahel.

The willow emerald damselfly (below, right) is another migrant, originally from the Mediterranean and now present on the heathland. It didn't appear until August and will be visible possibly through to November. Rob



Whitethroat
© Val Butcher 2017

Dear visitors, remember birds and other wildlife will be stocking up on winter supplies eating berries and insects in the undergrowth. Preventing your dogs from running through the vegetation gives all these animals a much greater chance of surviving the winter.

Ian Rickards,
Area Manager

Insall reports seeing more of these metallic green beauties than ever in his Hothfield transects which continued to the end of September. This damselfly was first noted in the UK in 2007, in East Anglia, and more recently in Kent and Sussex, as a result of climate warming. Unlike most damselflies, the willow emerald holds its wings spread at an

angle at rest rather than parallel with its body. It is a skilled hunter of a wide range of insects around the freshwater and ponds on the reserve and haunts the nearby willow and alder trees, perching in the sun. Damselflies are mating, with the male clasped to the neck of the female and the female's body bent round to meet the male's reproductive organs. Most damselflies and dragonflies lay eggs under water but the female willow emerald makes incisions in the soft bark of willows or alders in which it lays its eggs. These overwinter protected by a horseshoe-shaped scar, to emerge in the spring as larvae.

Meanwhile, the heathland provides ideal hibernation conditions for five of our native butterflies, although this is a little studied subject. The comma (see front cov-

er) mimics dead leaves such as honeysuckle, but few have ever been found in hibernation. The brimstone (below, left) chooses brambles or ivy in sheltered sunny spots, to emerge in early spring when temperatures reach 13°C. Peacocks find hollow trees, log piles or old rabbit holes. They and small tortoiseshells and red admirals also like dark damp cold buildings and tunnels. They all risk being eaten by birds or spiders, or dried out in heated buildings. All five species hibernate without mating, and will mate in spring producing the first brood. A garden rich in insects, with even a pond in a bucket, and plenty of old wood and dark untidy corners will help support the life cycles of all these and many other species.

Margery Thomas



Brimstone



Willow Emerald
damselfly mating
© Rob Insall

Hothfield History Society

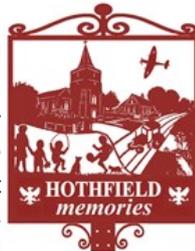
Photos of Hothfield

George Sainsbury and his dad (also George) ran the village shop which moved over the years to different locations. As the Council was building the new houses a Post Office and stores was also built opposite the pub, where we know it now as run by Jay and Bina.

Sadly, George passed away a few years ago, and his widow, Ann, has very generously donated his album of photographs of Hothfield to the History Society. George had kindly, and proudly, showed his pictures to the History Society and at our exhibition in 2008. I'm grateful to Ann for this lovely resource, and I'll publish a few of his photos and post-cards in the Newsletter over the coming months.

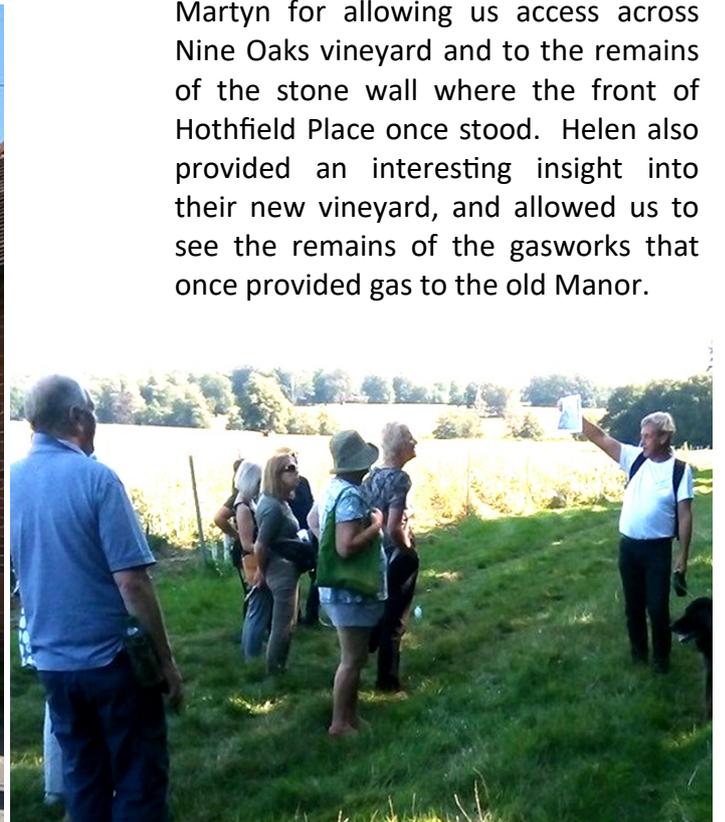


This photo shows the inside of the stores in the 1950s, in an era before supermarkets had been heard of. In those days, shoppers could not browse the shelves and pick their own shopping, but instead asked the shopkeeper for the things they wanted, and the shopkeeper would go and get their purchases from the shelves. In this picture two scales can be seen for weighing fresh produce, sweets, flour and other loose items.



History Walk in September

I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves on the Hothfield History walks conducted by myself and Andy Spicer, as well as a variety of other walks, last month. It was a lovely sunny day and our thanks are due to Helen and Martyn for allowing us access across Nine Oaks vineyard and to the remains of the stone wall where the front of Hothfield Place once stood. Helen also provided an interesting insight into their new vineyard, and allowed us to see the remains of the gasworks that once provided gas to the old Manor.





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(NO POISONS USED)

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HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks, printed and published by Richard Sutcliffe, financed by Hothfield Parish Council and distributed free to every house in the village by dedicated volunteers.

Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

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

The deadline for the November 2021 issue is 20 October.

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.



GARDENS

Open Tuesday to Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Tuesday 30 March 2021 to Sunday 31 October 1pm to 6pm (last booked entry 5pm). Book your tickets online.

HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 4 June 2021 to Saturday 2 October. Tours at 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm. Book your tickets online.

TEAROOM

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Friday 21st May 2021 to Sunday 3rd October. (For our House & Garden visitors only) No reservations taken.

HOUSE & GARDENS

Adults **£12.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**, except on some event days

GARDENS ONLY

Adults **£7.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**, except on some event days

GARDEN HISTORY – THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE GARDEN

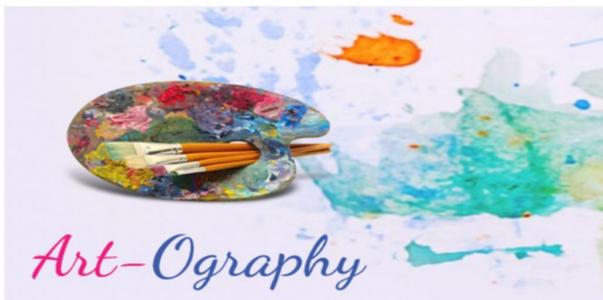
7th October 2021 – 28th October 2021, 10:00 – 15:00

Thursdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October 10-3pm. This 4 day course will trace the development of the English Landscape Garden from the late 17th to the late 18th century. As well as studying the gardens and the people who created them, we shall also consider the wider cultural, literary, political and artistic context in which the landscape garden flourished. Tutor, Sally Ann Wardroper BA(Hons), MA, Cert. Ed. £150 or £37.50 per day, incl. morning refreshments and garden entry. Please contact wardroper7@gmail.com or 07873726005.

HALF TERM FAMILY TIME

26th October 2021 – 29th October 2021, 10:00 – 12:00

Family workshops will run each morning Tuesday to Friday, 10 am until 12 noon. Places will be limited and booking will be essential, familiar faces will run a range of fun, hands-on workshops. The morning sessions will replace our historic Autumn Week, though you will still be able to enjoy a trail around the glorious autumn garden in the afternoons. The workshop sessions will be charged at £15.00 this admission ticket is for one child and one adult. Normal garden entry will apply for the garden and trail in the afternoon, booking is essential via our website. Individual workshops will be listed later in the year.



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

AUNT JEMIMA LOVES ONE-LINERS

'I regret rubbing ketchup in my eyes, but that's Heinz sight.' Nick Helm

'The safest thing for the British public is to be stopped from going to pubs, football matches and places like Spain. This has only become more true now that corona virus has hit.' Pierre Novellie

'I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar, where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts.' Ivo Graham

'I'm so formal I've never been involved in any argy bargy, or if we're going to be formal: Argentina bargentina.' Glenn Moore

'Life Hack: When too tired to do all the things on your To Do list, try a To Don't list. Simply write all the things you're not going to do and then... don't do them. Huge sense of achievement with none of the effort.' Eleanor Tiernan

'A new eco opera, Rainforest Ocean Blue, is a disaster. The tenor in particular is dreadful. An aria, 'The Sighs Of Whales' is being destroyed every night.' Simon Evans

'Some people think being working class is negative but I think there's loads of benefits. I've claimed them all.' Kelly Convey

'People say having kids is the best thing in the world, but you only ever hear that from the victims.' Abbie Murphy

'In his job my dad's never lost a case. That makes him Gatwick's top baggage handler.' Glenn Moore

'My doctor said to refer to my nervous breakdown as an episode. To be honest, it was more like a season finale.' Joe Jacobs

'British people are like coconuts. Hard on the outside but sweet once you crack us.

Also often found full of alcohol and holding an umbrella.' Milo McCabe

'I've learnt that saying 'Oh, this old thing?' isn't an appropriate way to introduce an elderly relative.' Glenn Moore

'I've been learning German for 20 years. It's zwanzig Jahren.' The Horne Section

'I'm pleased to be getting a beer belly. I've always wanted a father figure.' Cam Spence

'I bet there's never any workers' strikes at a stress ball factory.' Ian Smith

'I tell my friends I'm here for them 24/7 because it sounds better than saying I'm only here for them on 24 July.' Andy Field

'A cowboy asked me if I could help him round up 18 cows. I said, 'Yes, of course. That's 20 cows.'" Jake Lambert

'The Brownies are very woke these days. They have a 'smashing the patriarchy' badge. If you win it, your dad has to sew it onto your uniform.' Lucy Porter

'I'm 20 stone, so being stalked by me is like heart disease. If you really want to avoid it, just start jogging.' Matt Price

'I was dumped by a girl who said I was too obsessed with The Apprentice. I remember she told me it was over and I said, 'Thank you for the opportunity.'" Rhys James

'I was told to watch someone's laptop while they went to the bathroom; it was stolen, but I saw the whole thing.' Andy Field
'How do you tell the difference between a bugler and a burglar? One of them has a bugle. And the other one is really upset that his bugle's been stolen.' John-Luke Roberts

'The triple jump world record is only a hop, skip and a jump away.' Andy Field

'People need to stop telling me I can't sit on the fence. Or maybe they don't, I don't mind, really.' Just These Please

'Kids take ages to grow. The average Brit doesn't move out for 26.3 years. Do you know how long it takes the average harp seal to move out? Twelve days. Most Brits haven't even learned to drink by then.' Robyn Perkins

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