

HOOTHFIELD NEWS



Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 12th Nov Hothfield Village Hall

Arts Society Egerton 2.30pm 11th Nov Egerton (see page 8)

Christmas Carol Singing 6pm 10th Dec Bluebells Childrens Centre

Christmas Best Dressed House Competition 19th Dec

NOVEMBER ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLAND



With the first frost on the reserve in early October insect activity dropped, although humming bird hawkmoths, which have had a great year, were still active mid-month and the devils bit scabious, *Succisa pratensis*, was still providing a feast of nectar and pollen. Insect monitoring devices, Sea Land and Air Malaise (SLAM) traps, spotted hung from trees by many summer walkers, and checked monthly by Will Glasson for species presence and relative abundance plus an overall idea of biomass over time, were taken down in September. Birds and bats calls are also monitored using PAM (Passive Acoustic Monitoring recorders).



The pigs had returned this summer and quickly found their water trough ideal for cooling off in. Pigs' skin burns easily and they require areas of permanent mud to coat their skin. The summer's prolonged drought meant their wallows dried up for the first time in memory, and they went to rootle on a shadier reserve. Pigs dig up and eat bracken roots, as unlike other ungulates they can neutralise bracken toxins and carcinogens in their gut, thus help prevent it out-competing other plants as it's very vigorous on Hothfield's sandy soil. It spreads by rhizomes and releases chemicals inhibiting other plants so carpets a large area with no opposition, except from pigs and volunteer bracken bashers whose work helps weaken the plant. It is still a useful provider of food and shade to plants and wildlife.

A herd of Dexter cattle, a short-haired black breed with little horns, have replaced the Highland cattle, unlikely stars of Tik-Tok, and joined the Herdwicks and ponies, each with different grazing habits, which helps maintain the mosaic of habitats.

The fungi appeared gradually this autumn rather than in a rush. One of the most toxic, the death cap, emerged in September along with fly agaric, followed by, among others, tawny grisette, sulphur tuft, common inkcap and 'a glorious hen of the woods' which volunteer Anne Rowe had not seen before at Hothfield: 'it's fairly uncommon so good to see'. Last month Plantlife and partners launched the first Global Strategy for Fungi, to understand, protect and restore fungi, 'the hidden architects of life on Earth, nourishing our plants, storing carbon in our soils and supporting the ecosystems we all depend on.' Please enjoy the fungi and take as many pictures as you like, but do not pick and leave them for others to enjoy and wildlife to eat.



November, a month of quiet magic, falling leaves, gleaming mosses, lichens and fungus, birds more visible through bare branches, wider vistas and perhaps the first migrants.

Margery Thomas, Volunteer

[A reminder from Ashford Area Warden Will Glasson that free-roaming livestock are present across the reserve so please keep dogs under close control or on lead particularly around our animals. Thank you for caring for this wonderful but fragile reserve.](#)

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

Muga

A reminder to Residents that the Muga is NOT to be used for riding electric bikes or scooters.

Newsletter

I have edited this Newsletter since June 2023 and due to business commitments can no longer spare the time to continue this work. Therefore we are looking for a volunteer to take over the editorship. Should a replacement not be found then unfortunately the Newsletter will close. Please contact the editor or HPC parish clerk.
Ian Lloyd

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via
www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30
Target shooting school
www.targetshottingschool.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

The Stocks in Hothfield



The Reverend Harry Russell extensively researched the history of Hothfield up to 1902. By chance I came across a reference to the stocks in our village – Russell said that they were south of a pond that was on the south side of the King's Head. I haven't definitely identified a pond south of the pub but it seems that the stocks were on The Street somewhere opposite the junction with Park Drive.

The stocks were used as a form of punishment where the offender was sat behind the frame and their ankles clamped – usually between two planks of wood with holes for their ankles, or sometimes a metal frame with rings to hold their ankles. This was public shaming, and the offender could have rotten eggs and food thrown at them while trapped. This was seen as a good way to deter others from committing similar crimes. No doubt the victims in Hothfield were abused by customers coming out of the pub. Some places had a pillory which was a similar device but the offender would be standing with their head and wrists clamped. Stocks often had enough fittings for two offenders to be restrained side by side.

In 1351 all villages were allowed by Law to use stocks, and at that time they were intended to punish labourers who demanded too much payment for their work. There was a shortage of workers after the Black Death in 1348 and so workers thought that this was their chance to demand greater payment. The Crown decided to stamp that out by publicly humiliating anyone seeking greater payment. In 1405 a 'Statute of Labourers' updated the previous law and decreed that every town and village must have stocks "in which to punish vagabonds, layabouts and drunkards". Any place not having stocks would be fined, and a village without stocks would be downgraded to a hamlet and lose its right to hold a market or fair!

Public shaming became more popular with time and by the 18th Century there was a list of over 200 applicable crimes. The last use of the stocks is recorded in the UK in 1872, but sadly we don't know when Hothfield's stocks fell into disuse. However, it seems that the 1405 Act has not been repealed (although any requirements to have a pillory no longer applies) and so the use of stocks is, technically, still legal.

Russell included some extracts from the Churchwardens and Overseers Accounts (there were no parish councils in those days); in 1727 three shillings were paid for expenses when a vagrant was put in the stocks, and in 1745 the price had increased to ten shillings and six pence for setting up the stocks.

The Rev. Russell's handwritten research is stored in the central Kent archive in Maidstone but we have a transcript in a series of Word for Windows documents that are searchable on names, places and key words. In 1999 the History Society published its own book on Hothfield's history during the 20th Century, with photos and residents' recollections. More information about our publications can be found on the website: www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk or e-mail me on: hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com. Rev. Russell's work is only available electronically on USB stick, or similar, but the 20th Century book is available in paperback or electronically.

Charing Scouts

The glorious start to autumn meant that we initially spent much of our evenings outdoors. It felt like continuing summer. The weather got its own back though... The microlight flying weekend reminded us not to take it for granted. The strong winds prevented flying and the rain meant coming home with wet tents (again). We're so glad the Monday morning art group is so understanding!

Beavers and cubs both had a visit from Rosie the guide dog and learned such a lot about living with disabilities. Cubs then had a group photo which was made into a Christmas card with all profits going to guide dogs.

This month we also had 'restart a heart day' so cubs and scouts learned about dealing with someone who collapses. We're lucky to have several mannequins so everyone practiced chest compressions and the older ones also did full CPR. Do you know where the nearest defibrillator to your home can be found?

Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660

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.

13oz/370g £3.50

Smaller sizes also available

Made in small batches

Makes an ideal gift

Delivered free to Hothfield

Phone Sheila:

01233 624 105

Email: sheila.flynn@hotmail.co.uk



Happy 80th Birthday John Collins!



Special bakes, made to order.

Bake options include:

Brownies

Blondies

Cupcakes

Themed cookies (birthdays, baby shower, parties)

Celebration Cakes

Wedding Cakes

Facebook: Flossys Fussy bakes

Instagram: @flossysfussybakes

Whatsapp/text: 07769 228842



HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE

Opening Hours

07:00 - 19:00

7 days

Ashford Volunteer Centre

Always room for another!



Volunteer Drivers Needed

To find out more please call: 01233 665535 or email: transport@ashfordvc.org.uk

Support the Ashford Car Scheme

Our car scheme depends on grants and generous donations. Every contribution helps us support people in Ashford who feel lonely or isolated.

Your donation keeps this vital service running and makes a real difference in our community.

We're truly grateful for your support - past, present, and future.

Thank you.

How can you give a donation?

You can donate now by phoning with your card details, sending a cheque or via online banking:

Account name:
Ashford Volunteer Centre

Account number:
00008281

Sort Code:
40-52-40

Ashford Volunteer Centre Community Car Scheme



Do you need help getting to your medical and other essential appointments?

www.ashfordvc.org.uk

Call: 01233 665535

Email: transport@ashfordvc.org.uk

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THE GRANARY SPA

==== Holistic & Beauty =====

**NOVEMBER
WELLNESS EXPERIENCE**

**TWO HOURS AT THE GRANARY SPA
FOR JUST £69**



An evening dedicated to relaxation, wellbeing and self-care.

YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

‘Makeup Made Simple’ Workshop with Makeup Artist Amy Charlotte
Express Spa Treatment
Wellbeing workshop to create your own Aromatherapy Facial Oil
Homemade Refreshments and Nutritious Nibbles
Granary Spa Goodie Bag

Tuesday 3rd November
5:00pm - 7:15pm

Limited to just 15 guests
Book online or speak to Reception

Saint Margaret's Church

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

Rector: Rev. Sandra Marsh, The Vicarage, Pett Lane, Charing, Kent TN27 0DL 01233 713996 email: revsandramarsh@btinternet.com

Services In Nov

Sunday 1st 11.00am

Sunday 8th 10:45am Service of Remembrance

Sunday 30th 10.30am Benefice Service

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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



We meet at 2.30 at the Millennium Hall, Elm Close, Egerton TN27 9SR

Wednesday 11th November: HOT STUFF! THE BIRTH OF STUDIO GLASS presented by Mark Hill. Mark is perhaps best known as a miscellaneous expert on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow. He is also an auctioneer and Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and a Freeman of the City of London.



Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (cash; 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

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!

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 01233 634191

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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