

Hothfield Residents' Meeting

Saturday 8 October 2022

10.30am in Hothfield Village Hall



Cast your minds back to November 2021. Before balmy summer evenings and hose pipe bans We met on a Saturday in the village hall to ask our residents for their recommendations on how we should spend the solar fund money in the village, and asked for your thoughts and suggestions. We took these away to create a short list, and where possible to gain an idea of costs and timeframes.

Now fast forward to the present date, and the Parish Council are now in a position to update you further, now armed with costings and more details of what the projects entail. We would like to invite you back to discuss our findings and create a workable timeframe that will see the projects come to fruition.

- As a reminder, the short listed suggestions included:
- Outdoor Gym Area
- Speed restriction measures through the village
- Path to connect East & West Hothfield
- Flower Planters
- CCTV

The projects on this list vary in size, in price and ultimately in commitment from local residents to get involved. As you know, our parish council is made up of a very small number of volunteers who, alone, would not be able to commit to the upkeep that some of the above projects would need. So we would like to ask you to give some thought to assisting us by asking if you have any detailed knowledge on the projects above, and would be willing to set up a working group that could meet a couple of times to help out. It would be most appreciated. So, if you're a gym enthusiast or personal trainer and can cast some light on what equipment would suit us, or alternatively if your garden skills can help us identify what flowers and plants would work well in planters and how we would water them regularly, I would love to hear from you; so please send me an email at Parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk or make yourself known to me, Marie, at the meeting.

Finally, Hothfield Parish Council hope that those of you who attended the Queen's Jubilee afternoon tea at the village hall had a wonderful time. The cost for that event was not taken out of the Solar Money, and the Parish Council funded it in full by other means. We hope that everyone now has a Jubilee mug in pride of place in their kitchen, but if for whatever reason you didn't get one, or would like another one, we do still have some available,



Sculpture at Godinton House
© Val Butcher

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 September

Sunday 4 1100 The Eucharist

Sunday 11 1100 Matins

Sunday 18 No service in Hothfield

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

Sunday 25: 1100: **COME AND PRAISE: PET SERVICE**

Come one, come all, come everybody! Our new, up-to-date, half-hour, ridiculously informal Service on the fourth Sunday of each month 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.

And on **SEPTEMBER 25** it's our

PET SERVICE

Bring your cat, dog, horse, tortoise, bunny or tiger for a blessing.
Service will be held in the churchyard, unless it rains,
when we'll bless them in the church.

Writers' Workshop

St Margaret's Church in Hothfield dates back to the 13th century and is usually a place of worship, celebration and commemoration. Today, it became a classroom where I and about 13 others learnt from a top magazine editor about how to write memoir, non-fiction narrative and columns, plus how to write and grow a newsletter.

Farah gave her time and experience and supported her local church by donating all of the proceeds to the Friends of St Margaret's. On arrival we were greeted by Karen, its chair, who, with others, generously fed us delicious homemade food all day. And the church was decorated with flowers, some of which were from Farrah's Garden.

Farah is local to the church and I asked her why she held it here. She's not religious, but said she'd been asked to be on the committee but wasn't able to commit the time, so said 'how can I help instead?'

It was the total opposite of a corporate, sponsored, commercial event and instead was done in a way that was full of love. I met a fascinating group of women, all with stories to tell, and I can't wait to read their writing.

Thank you so much to Farrah, Karen and her team for having us. It was glorious.

Lucy Handley



Hothfield Parish Council

Big Green Week

You may be aware that The Great Big Green Week commences 24 September and runs through to 2 October.

Your event, or Local Green Week, will celebrate how your community is taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too. To get involved, register; and for more information:

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/> For the organisers' guide please see the link <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Organisers-guide.pdf>

If you do need funding for your event, apply for our funding scheme. For further resources including promotional materials, how to get others involved and local media coverage go to: <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/resources/>

Litter Pickers: Thank You!

We are very lucky to have a dedicated group of litter pickers in the Village helping to keep the roads and lanes in and around our village tidy. It is very much appreciated by the members of the Parish Council and the residents of Hothfield.

The Parish Council has budgeted £250 from the 2022/2023 precept, which they have now sent as a donation to the Pilgrims Hospice in lieu of your wages.

For full minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council, please either see the noticeboard outside the village shop, or visit www.hothfield.org.uk

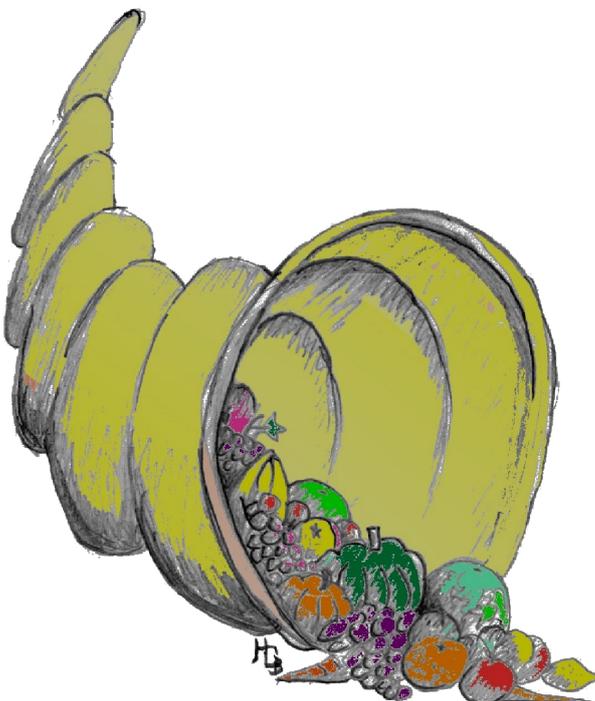
PLEASE NOTE: The email address for the Parish Council is parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Saint Margaret's Harvest Lunch

Come for a Ploughman's Lunch in the church

to follow the
11am Harvest
Service on
9 October
All welcome.
Suggested do-
nation of £5.00.

Telephone
01233 623568
if you have any
questions.



Bus Services Update

Kent County Council has decided to halt the withdrawal of subsidised bus service not passing their cut, including the 123 service.

The parish council had sent a request to the Manager of the Maidstone Depot to switch the school time journeys of the 10X to double-decker to take children from the 123's route, as the 10X is already standing room only. But this is now made unnecessary, and only relevant again if KCC decides later to reinstate the withdrawal of the 123.

Road Closures

Hothfield Parish Council is aware of very excessively extensive road closure signage this summer in terms of confusion caused, forced diversion when unnecessary for the vast majority or even all drivers, loss of time, fuel and generation of extra CO2 and pollution when unnecessary. The worst case seems to be the current one (as of 20 August) with road closure signs from the A20 on all junctions despite the works being on the Little Chart to Charing Road and the works being finished. This issue will be discussed at the 7 September HPC meeting.

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 SEPTEMBER

There are plenty of cool wooded areas and shaded paths through the corridors of high gorse and bracken in which to escape the heat should it continue into September. Now that the animals are free to roam, be aware that they may have found the shady patches before you. Sadly, there are patches of ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) where the entire plant above ground had been burned crisp and brown by the fierce sun among the usual August purple spread. Very young ling plants seem to be more resilient, perhaps because they are rooted in slightly damper soil and protected by surrounding plants. By mid-August, the yellow tormentil, which usually flowers non-stop from late spring to autumn, seemed to be saving energy with fewer flowers visible; but the colony of dwarf furze (*Ulex minor*) near the fenced-off bird sanctuary, was in full flower, clearly thriving in the heat, the East of England being its northernmost territory in Europe. The colony is slowly spreading, young plants almost swamped by ling, and the mature bushes, mostly under a metre tall, all intertwined with ling over a fringe of tormentil. The whole plant is on a smaller scale than European gorse, even the spines are slightly softer, making it more palatable to the grazers. It's still pretty prickly though, so, like European gorse and brambles, offers excellent cover for small creatures and perches for birds. The seed has evolved to germinate most readily after fire.

Rob Insall, who monitors the extensions for butterflies and dragonflies, reported in mid-August that migrant hawk dragonflies have arrived, and a few common darters, but it's been a poor year for them and all of the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) so far, except the banded damselflies. Butterflies picked up after a slow start, with plenty of whites, meadow browns, gatekeepers and even some wall browns and white admirals - both firsts in his five years of surveys. Brimstones have had a good long season and the first clouded yellow appeared.

Terry Dunk and David Rayner run regular moth-trapping sessions overnight on the main reserve. The moths are released after being identified and counted. Two sessions in July recorded

FIRE ALERT

Please be aware of any fire risks on the reserve. BBQs are entirely banned at all times. The site is tinder dry, but the cattle and ponies do a great job preventing the build-up of dead and dry material, which can often be the tinder needed to create dangerous wildfires.

It is becoming apparent that in the next few years the levels of water in the natural ponds will not be sufficient to keep our livestock fully watered. To prepare for this, we are going to be installing a piped water system so the animals will have troughs during these dry periods. This is the first time we have had to consider this in 30 years of management. Many of the open ponds have already dried up this year, which has massively decreased the opportunities for species like dragonflies to lay eggs.

Bear in mind that you can now encounter our animals at any point on your visit; please make sure your dogs are under control at all times and remove litter and dog mess and place all dog bags in the bins. Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots for wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way.

We are still developing our 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



Jersey Tiger moth



a total of 639 moths of 126 species, indicating the variety of moths in and around the main reserve. After the 10 August session, Terry reported: 'Unfortunately, after a bumper July, it just had to be followed by a deflated August. We had more than we bargained for after switching on the lights, as we were inundated with a plague of flying ants and other winged little beasts. Our traps were alive with everything but moths in just a few minutes! Along with increased bat activity not helping our cause, we ended up with a total of 74 moths of 39 species. A night to forget, and thankful I only had a few insect bites for my troubles.' Deciphering the scientific names would take an entire article, but the common names are a delight in themselves: among those trapped were nutmeg, straw dot, tawny-barred angle, tree-lichen beauty, birch marble (looks like bird poo), common plume, mother-of-pearl, dusky and canary-shouldered thorn, and the spectacular Jersey Tiger, a day-flying moth with black and creamy-white striped forewings and bold orange underwings.

The heathland will continue to be monitored to understand how species and the various eco-systems have benefited or suffered from the drought, and the impact of the free-ranging grazers. Gardening on sand, I try to get all new plants planted before Christmas to allow roots to get established to sustain the plants through their first year, as we are usually dry by April.

Margery Thomas

Mother-of-Pearl moth



5 Hothfield History Society



Free Talk: The Wreck Hunter Battle of Britain Heroes Lost and Found

On 29 October 1940 Sgt Herbert Black was shot down by the Luftwaffe over the skies of Hothfield, and while he managed to bail out from his burning aircraft, he died of his injuries ten days later. Today, more than eighty years since the Battle of Britain, a unique memorial to Hurricane pilot Herbert remains in a field in this village. The story of Herbert's last flight, and that of many other RAF and Luftwaffe aircrew, will be discussed during author Melody Foreman's talk about her book *The Wreck Hunter: Battle of Britain Heroes Lost and Found*. Artefacts from Herbert's Hurricane will also be on show.

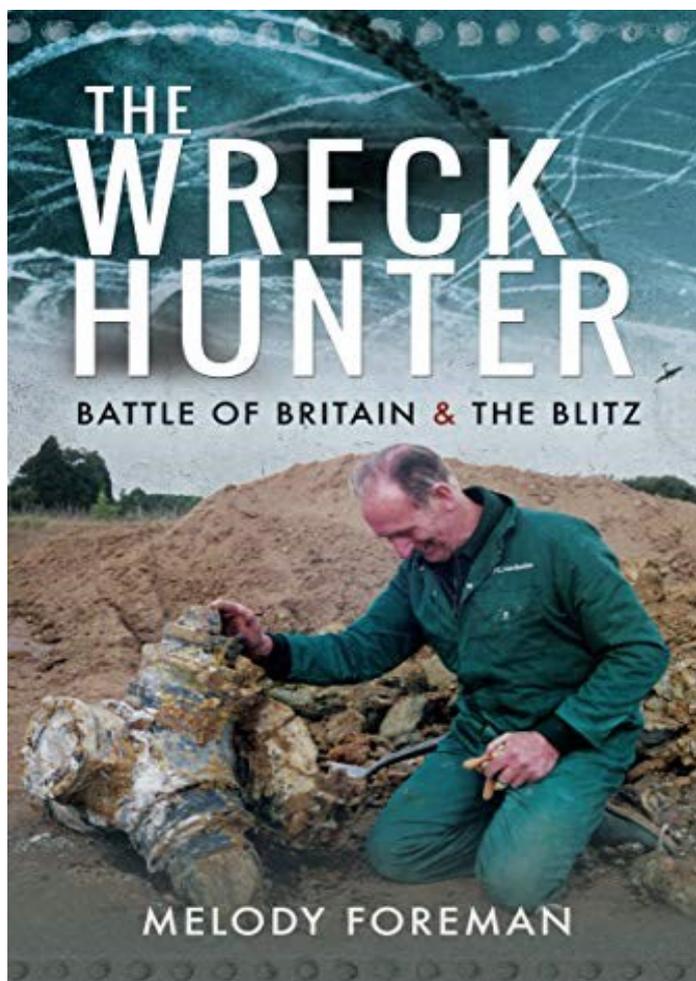
Stories of those families left behind will also be explored, including that of two Belgian sisters who lived for sixty years before learning how their father had died a hero during conflict in the skies over east Kent in 1940.

The presentation includes illustrations of Churchill's famous 'Few', plus details of the work of pioneering community archaeologist Terry Parsons, who has been excavating RAF and Luftwaffe aircraft since 1962, including the Hothfield Hurricane.

This will be a fascinating and evocative talk, revealing an important insight into the compelling association between archaeology, the power of memory, and the largest aerial conflict the world has ever known.

Melody's talk about the Hurricane and other excavations included in her book will start at 6:30pm on Friday 30 September in St.Margaret's Church, Church Lane, Hothfield. Everyone will be welcome to come along, and admission and parking will be free. Copies of her book will be on sale at the event.

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.



ASHFORD, WYE & DISTRICT BRANCH

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL
PEOPLE WHO ARE RETIRED/SEMI-RETIRED

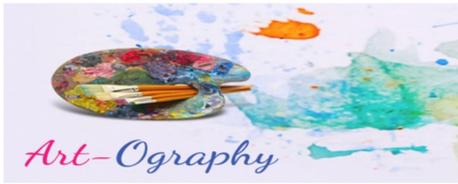
**“COME, SEE WHAT
WE DO!”**

The u3a gives you the opportunity to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun. We have almost 40 different interest groups to choose from - the choice is yours.

WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

at the
REPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Repton Avenue, Ashford, TN23 3RX

OPEN FROM 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
FREE ENTRY, ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS
Website: u3asites.org.uk/ashford-wye



Art-Ography

Beautiful original portraits professionally painted by local artist Lyndsay Matthews BA (Hons) at prices that won't break the bank Call Lyndsay on 07517 911606 www.art-ography.co.uk

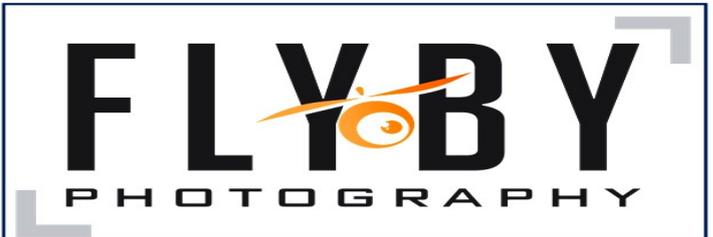


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Free no obligation quotes

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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

Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

The deadline for the October 2022 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.

AUNT JEMIMA'S NEW FAVOURITE STORY

The Hunchback of Notre Dame's replacement

After Quasimodo's death, Bishop Thomas of the cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell-ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he would conduct the interviews personally, and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process.

After observing while several applicants demonstrated their skills, he decided to call it a day.

Just then a lone, armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell-ringer's job.

Bishop Thomas was incredulous. 'You have no arms.'

'No matter,' said the man, 'observe!' He then began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon. The bishop listened in astonishment, convinced that he had finally found a suitable replacement for Quasimodo.

Suddenly, while rushing forward to strike a bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the street below.

The stunned bishop immediately rushed down the stairways. When he reached the street, a crowd had gathered around the fallen figure, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moments before.

As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, 'Bishop, who was this man?'

'I don't know his name,' the bishop replied sadly, 'but his face rings a bell.'



SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

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.

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.

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



The Kent International Jamboree was as much fun as we expected. There was so much to do and so many people to meet that our young people hardly stopped. One of the bonuses for us was that they sold off the marquees that had only been used for the event. We have been looking for a new one for some time, as our old canvas one leaks. It feels like the end of an era. We will miss that tent. We are waiting to hear how our two representatives got on in South Africa. I'm sure they had an amazing time.

We now turn to our autumn term, welcoming new members and planning interesting and challenging programmes for our young people. We are delighted to hear that our GSL has been awarded an Ashford Borough Council Platinum Community Award for services to scouting, Covid immunisation and Saint Mary Westwell.

Terry, Group Scout Leader

Kent Ceilidhs

Barn Dance with Attitude



DON'T PANIC!

Aunt Jemima is on Page 7 **this** month

Saturday September 17th

7:30pm to 11:00pm Hothfield Village Hall
Park Drive, Hothfield, Ashford TN26 1EQ
Only 5 minutes from M20 J9



Exercise your mind, your body and your smile.

No experience or partner required!
The Caller teaches everything.

Barn Dance
Band: Bowstring
Caller: John Sweeney

Bring your own drinks & refreshments.

Further Dates:
December 3

£10 in advance; £12 on the door (if not sold out)
Tickets from contrafusion.co.uk 01233 625 362 john@modernjive.com
Bring your own drinks & refreshments.

Find us on Facebook: fb.com/KentCeilidhs
Like it! Follow it! Share it!

Nine Oaks Vineyard – an update

September 2022

This past month has been another very busy one in the vineyard, as harvest draws ever closer. Martyn has been out at all hours weeding, spraying, mowing and leaf thinning the vines – both the pinot noir and chardonnay we will be harvesting this Autumn, and the newer vines we are raising for next year.

The weather has been so fantastic that we are getting really excited about the possibility of still Nine Oaks wines next year. To that end we had a local graphic designer visit the vineyard and we have begun working on our very first labels!

Given the warm weather we have had so far this Summer, it is likely that the harvest will take place in late September/early October. Thank you to those who have already made contact and we are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining us for a fantastic day of harvesting please email us on info@nine-oaks.com or contact us via Facebook or Instagram @nineoaksvineyard.

Helen Matheson-Pollock
Co-founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard



The Friends of St Margaret's are holding a Festival of Angels in Hothfield Church on 3 and 4 December 2022

Please help us make the church shine brightly.

Children and Adults make an angel to display in the church any size, made of absolutely anything – wood, wool, rubbish etc

Recycle, Upcycle, Downcycle – use your imagination – anything goes.

Contact Lesley for more details on 07857 204282

Or email Karen at fmhothfield@gmail.com

