



DESPERATE FOR VOLUNTEERS

... But don't worry, it's not for anything particularly strenuous!

Recently, two of our distributors had to stop delivering Hothfield News to their particular streets, and another, who isn't as young as she used to be, would dearly like to stop as well.

The two streets first mentioned are being covered by Paul Fothergill, who really has enough on his hands managing the Village Hall, and can't do the job forever. Just to add an extra complication to the position, your Editor (who isn't as young as *he* used to be, either) celebrated Christmas with a heart attack.

He can still do the editing bit, and the printing, as these are tasks he can do from his office chair; but there are other tasks that his family have now firmly forbidden.

So, Hothfield News needs volunteers for the following tasks:

- ♦ Delivery to Park Drive (21 copies, about 15 minutes once a month)
- ♦ Delivery to Coach Drive (31 copies, about 30 minutes once a month)
- ♦ Delivery to Beech Drive (53 copies, about 45 minutes once a month)
- ♦ Delivery to Bethersden Road (12 copies, about 30 minutes once a month)
- ♦ Taking all 400 copies, in a number of parcels, to the distributors by car (35 minutes once a month)
- ♦ Stapling 400 copies (about 1½ hours once a month)
- ♦ Folding 400 copies (about 1¼ hours once a month)
- ♦ Making up 14 parcels (about 1 hour once a month)

It can be seen from the above that Hothfield News is in mortal peril and needs the village to rally round and help it. If you value this publication at all, please think about volunteering. All you have to do is ring 01233 421149.

Please!

Pretty please!

HGB

AND A VERY BIG THANKYOU TO ALL OUR DISTRIBUTORS!



CEILIDH & BARN DANCE - Saturday 12 January

Live music from "The Tonic"

7:30pm to 8:00pm: Polka Workshop

8:00pm to 11:00pm: Dance

A traditional-sounding band, playing to lift the spirits with toe-tapping tunes for dancing and listening. Great music, great calling, great dances: what more do you want?

No partner or experience needed. Bring your friends or come alone.

Tickets in advance: £10 from www.contrafusion.co.uk/Saturday.html

Tickets on the door (if not sold out): £12.

Bring your own drinks and refreshments. Water provided.

Hothfield Village Hall TN26 1EQ – only 5 minutes from M20 J9 - only five minutes from M20 J9 with a large well-lit car park. Maps at <http://contrafusion.co.uk/Saturday.html>





SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Rector: Rev. Canon Sheila Cox 01233 712598 Churchwardens Hedley Grenfell-Banks 01233 421149, Malcolm Wood 01233 623090



Services at Saint Margaret's



2

Sunday 6 January Epiphany

11.00 The Eucharist

A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 13 Epiphany 2

11.00 Matins

Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, with hymns

Sunday 20 Epiphany 3

11.00 The Eucharist

A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 27 Epiphany 4

H4; an informal service for all the family



Our Christmas Tree and Craft Fair was beautiful. The church looked magnificent, our lovely church was filled with trees decorated by local people, businesses, clubs and charities. There was a feeling of great 'camaraderie' between everyone who helped put on the event. We had something for all ages and the food was just incredible. All home made. Thank you to everyone who made cakes, heaved the trees into the church, those who sponsored and decorated the trees, our stall holders, the 'friends of St Margaret's' who work tirelessly to raise money for our church and the 'friends' of the friends. A very big thankyou.

Lesley Miles

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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

Email hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk telephone 421149

Available on line at http://www.hothfield.org.uk/news_letter.html

The deadline for the February 2019 issue is 20 January. 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.

HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

I would like to report on the recent Ashford Borough Council (ABC) Joint Transportation Board meeting held in September. The pilot clamping scheme on the A20 between Charing and the Drivers roundabout that was introduced on 30 October 2017 has resulted in an improvement in overnight and over-weekend conditions along the A20 and has been transformative for residents and for road users. A recent planning application has been granted, subject to a Section 106 Agreement which would increase the capacity of the current lorry park, and it is also hoped that the "Bellamy Gurner" A2070 Orbital Park upgrade scheme which would provide a signalised junction on an "all movements" basis will come forward sooner rather than later. The scheme is to be reviewed with a view to assessing the possibility of carrying it on after the pilot period ends. Hothfield Parish Councillors (HPC) agreed that concerns that the scheme would simply move the problem to another area in the Ashford Borough have not come to fruition. HPC will continue to support and encourage this scheme.

In West Street recently I met the Project Manager from Southern Water regarding the sewer network repairs. He explained that the contractors have been faced with various issues as they were having to dig under listed buildings and this has held up the work considerably. He apologised for the inconvenience caused to the village and would be carrying out a mail drop along School Road, West Street and The Street, explaining the work to be done and that it will take 9 weeks to complete.

Traffic management will be in place during this time.

ABC have contacted HPC to undertake the Village Con-

finer exercise. This is the proposed definition of the built confines of Hothfield Village as submitted by ABC. Proposals for residential development adjoining or close to the existing built up confines of Hothfield will be considered by the Planning Department. Proposals outside the existing built-up confines of Hothfield may not be considered. All applications are subject to ABC's planning policy HOU5. Officers at ABC would like comments from the Parish Council by 11th February. We have published a copy of the Draft Map on the Village Notice Board and would request villagers submit to your comments to the Parish Council by 4 February for discussion at the next HPC meeting on 6 February. If you have any questions please contact the parish clerk.

May I wish everyone a wonderful and successful 2019?

Ian Lloyd, Chairman, 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 now parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

December Draw

1st prize £25.25 no. 201

2nd prize £15.15 no. 15

3rd prize £10.10 no. 179

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

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Village Hall



Regular Activities

- Mondays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
- Tuesdays West Coast Swing Dancing 8. to 10.30pm.
- Wednesdays Hothfield Play-Days
a soft play session for children under 5 and their parents
Dog Training 5.30-9pm
- Thursdays Squad 26 Youth Club 6.30 to 8.30pm.
- Fridays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
- Saturday Rugby Tots 9-11.45am.

To book the Village Hall for your Parties, Get-togethers, etc.,

please ring Paul on 07719 227542, or email hothfieldhall@outlook.com

Or visit www.hothfieldhall.online

Prices: Village £10 per hour, Outside Village £12.50/hour

All Day Hire – Village £175.00 (£175.00 deposit required).

All Day Hire – Outside Village £250.00 (£250.00 deposit)

Children's Birthday £35.00 first 4 hours, then at hourly rate. (£25.00 deposit required).

JANUARY ON HOTFIELD HEATHLANDS ⁴

Springy green turf, bronze bracken, gorse in bloom, tracery of trees, subtle winter woodland colour, fungi to find, birds to observe, rough coats of the grazing animals, leaves to swish through; all the delights of a brisk walk on the Heathland in deep winter. You might catch a fiery sunset through bare branches or glimpse the barn owl hunting at dusk.

The lizards that Ian Rickards saw so frequently on the boardwalks during the summer drought are now hibernating along with the snakes and much else. Ian says reptile sightings were down last year as they were out and about on the reserve, rather than huddling under the monitoring tiles.

The drought ended in October when the parched heathland soaked up enough rain to finally produce in late October the surface water that is such a feature of the reserve. Now in deep win-

ter with all leaves fallen, the panoramic views on the Heathland have widened and the magical element of water in the landscape is all the more visible. Water now trickles through the bogs, the stream is running, there's mud and puddles again. Deep pools in the lower bog are revealed thanks to the hard work of the volunteers. Trees that robbed the wetland and bog plants of water and sunlight have been cleared. We will watch new growth this year with great interest to see what specialist plants reappear as the sun hits soil previously shaded and the new mini ponds and holes, which will soon be used by amphibians and other aquatic animals. For now, glinting moving water adds life to a quiet landscape, reflecting the sky in all its moods and hosting migrant water birds.

Year-long, many people, staff and volunteers from quite a distance care for

different aspects of the reserve under Ian's guidance: surveying all the wildlife, checking, moving, rescuing cattle, clearing weed trees, bashing bracken, repairing paths and barriers, removing human and dog litter, speaking up for the Reserve at Local Plan hearings and responding to planning applications. Everyone can help. To join the volunteers to help maintain the reserve or check the cattle contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or at

ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk.

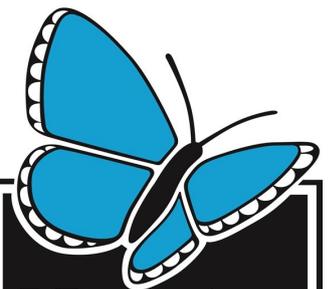
Although much surplus wood has been cleared from the heathland, it is still in a wild state, not tidied up, much life lies hidden in log piles, fallen leaves, dry grass and deep in bushes. It's easy to leave similar patches on a smaller scale in gardens, where next year's insects and small animals can hibernate securely to emerge in spring, part of the food chain essential to us all. The KWT

website has tips has from The Wild About Gardens Scheme on encouraging more wildlife into gardens, the garden awards and how to contact volunteer advisers, along with information on talks, courses and guided walks for 2019.

Hothfield Heathlands is open to everyone. Please keep dogs in check especially around children and animals, and clean up. Various trails are signposted and indicated on the maps at entrances, which also give the location of the livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cade Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards as above.

Wassail.

Margery Thomas



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New Year's Resolutions by Fido

- I will not bark each time I see or hear a dog on TV.
- I will not steal underwear belonging to my mistress and then dance all over the back yard with it.
- I will not chew red crayons or pens, because my master will think that I am bleeding to death.
- I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.
- I must shake the rainwater out of my coat BEFORE I enter the house.

Fun Quiz Night



&



Hearty Supper

Saturday 6th April

at Hothfield Village Hall

All welcome!

More details to follow



Proceeds to Hothfield Village Hall and
Hothfield History Society



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Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford,
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Hothfield Post Office

The very heart and centre of our village
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Opening Times

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday | 0900 – 1200 | Post Office closed |
| Monday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Tuesday | 0700 – 1300 | |
| Wednesday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Thursday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Friday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Saturday | 0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | PO morning only |

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Doorstep Criminal Impersonating A Police Officer

We've received reports of a male doorstep criminal who is impersonating a Police Officer in the Herne Bay area.

How It Works

The resident was shown a fake ID.
The criminal claimed to be following up on a company that completed work for the resident 6 years ago.
He stated that the company did not pay any VAT and the resident was now liable.
The resident was told if they didn't pay, they would have to go to court.

What To Do

Call Kent Police on 101 to check the identity of the cold caller.
Do not open the door until this has been confirmed.
If an officer is genuine they will happily wait.
If they are not who they say they are it will alert the police to the doorstep criminal.
Warn vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours living in the area.

If you feel afraid or threatened by a doorstep caller, phone 999.

Please report any suspicious doorstep callers to us.

For advice and to report issues to KCC Trading Standards contact
Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06
Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

If you think that someone scammed you, you should call the Police's National Fraud and Cybercrime Reporting Centre on **0300 123 2040**. Or, if you're in immediate danger, call **999**.
HMRC also has a fraud hotline. The number is **0800 788 887**, and it's open from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week, all year round.

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

HMRC Scam

We have seen a large increase in reports of scam phone calls from people claiming to be HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

How it works:

The scammer claims there is an overdue tax bill or the resident has been overpaid tax credits.
They say the resident must pay up immediately or they will be taken to court where they could face 5 years in prison or someone will come to their address and collect goods to that value.

In some calls the scammer claimed to be a police officer and said there is a warrant for their arrest!

How they are asking for payment:

By bank transfer and to send a photo via WhatsApp to prove the transfer has been done or
Buying iTunes or Amazon vouchers and sending a photo of the voucher codes via WhatsApp

One victim could only pay cash and was given directions on where to leave the money!

These calls are not being made by HMRC!

What to do:

Hang up and don't return their calls.
NEVER disclose any personal information such as bank details or date of birth, no matter who the person claims to be.
Contact HMRC if you're worried about a call you've received

If you have already given money to the scammers, contact Kent Police by calling **101**
Hang up and don't return their calls.
NEVER disclose any personal information such as bank details or date of birth, no matter who the person claims to be.

If you think that someone scammed you, you should call the Police's National Fraud and Cybercrime Reporting Centre on **0300 123 2040**. Or, if you're in immediate danger, call **999**.
HMRC also has a fraud hotline.
The number is **0800 788 887**, and it's open from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week, all year round.



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Yes = no
 No = yes
 Maybe = No.
 We need = I want.
 I'm sorry = You'll be sorry.
 We need to talk = I need to complain.
 Sure, go ahead = I don't want you to.
 Do what you want = You'll pay for this later.
 I'm not upset = Of course I'm upset, you moron!
 Are you listening to me? = Too late, you're dead.
 You have to learn to communicate = Just agree with me.
 Be romantic, turn out the lights = I have flabby thighs.
 You're so ... manly = You need a shave and you sweat a lot.
 Do you love me? = I'm going to ask for something expensive.
 It's your decision = The correct decision should be obvious by now.
 You're certainly attentive tonight = Is sex all you ever think about?
 I'll be ready in a minute = Kick off your shoes and find a good game or TV programme.
 How much do you love me? = I did something today that you're really not going to like.

Lecture Tour

On New Year's Eve, Roger was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. 'What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?' asked the officer. 'I'm on my way to a lecture,' answered Roger. 'And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?' enquired the constable sarcastically. 'My wife'.

A New Year's Wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck, the landlord was almost crushed to death.

1st Charing Scout Group

 Terry Lister, Group Scout Leader,
 1st Charing Scout Group

Last month was busy for our young people. Cubs and beavers went to the district advent service which was great fun. We decorated a Christmas tree for the Hothfield Church festival of trees. We had a fantastic turnout at Sainsbury's when we helped shoppers to pack their bags. We had so many people there that we also formed a choir to sing Christmas carols. A very successful fundraising day. We are now looking forward to good weather so we can all get outdoors again.

January sees the official opening of our new headquarters. We are so pleased to have completed the project and now have a base to be proud of.

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