

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 12 NUMBER 12 December 2021



2021 Best Decorated House Competition

CALLING ON THE RESIDENTS OF HOTHFIELD TO HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS MAGICAL FOR OUR SMALLEST RESIDENTS, THE 2021 HOTHFIELD DECORATED HOME COMPETITION

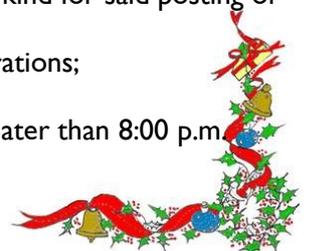
With last year's lockdowns making it a dreary Christmas Hothfield Parish Council would like to add some Christmas sparkle to the village this year. You can apply yourself or someone can nominate you.

The aim is to just have fun decorating your house, it can be lights, decorated windows, bunting, living nativity, Narnia; it doesn't matter just be as creative as you like! There will be a prize for the best-decorated house

[Application Form Can be found on the Hothfield Parish Council Website](#)

RULES

1. Participation is open to all residents within the boundaries of Hothfield Village
2. Entry is free; no cost or fees apply.
3. Officers and Councillors of Hothfield Parish Council are not eligible to participate.
4. Entry Applications must be received no later than 5pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021
5. Contest is for exterior decorations only, including window decorations that are visible from the exterior.
Judging will be done from outside the residence only.
6. Judging will be based on "kerb appeal" as viewed from the road only. Therefore, only those decorations located on the road side of the property will be judged (corner gardens will be judged from both roads).
Judges will not enter the property to view back or side gardens.
7. Participants agree to have one or more photos of their decorated home exterior posted on the Hothfield Parish Council website and Hothfield News. Participant agrees there will be no compensation of any kind for said posting or publication.
8. Judging will consider: [a] Unique design and creative use of lights and decorations;
[b] Storyline or theme; [c] Overall presentation.
9. Judging will take place by members of the parish council. judging will be completed no later than 8:00 p.m. on Friday 17 December.
10. Winners will be announced on Monday 20 December at 6pm.
11. Be creative, be festive, have fun!



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 December

Sunday 5 at 1100: The Eucharist

Sunday 12 at 1100: Matins

Sunday 19 at 1500: Carols, Crib and Christingle

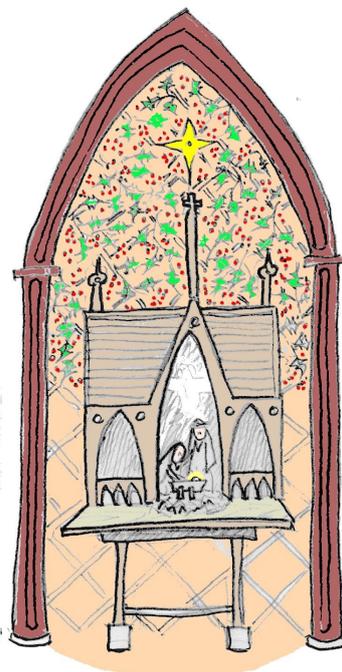
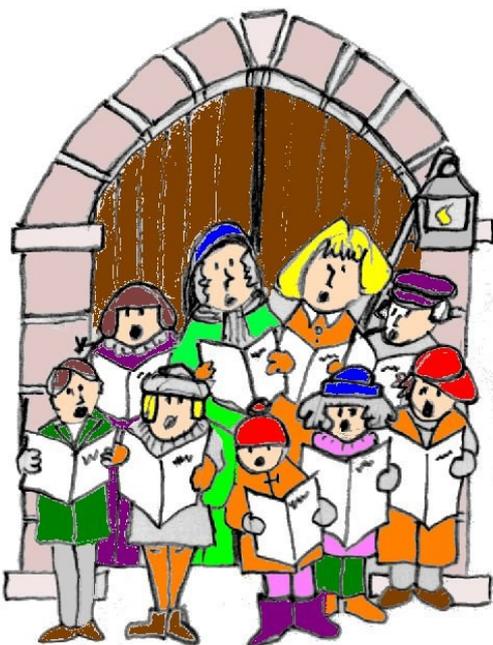
Saturday 25 at 1030 Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Sunday 26 at 1000: Benefice Communion in CHARING

Don't miss our unique Hothfield Service

CAROLS, CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 19 December at 3pm



3 Hothfield Parish Council

It was wonderful to see so many residents at our Village Meeting on Saturday 13 November at the Village Hall to discuss the solar farm spending ideas.

We now have a short list of suggestions as follows;

1. Outdoor Gym Area.
2. Speed restrictions through the Village.
3. Path to connect East & West Hothfield.
4. History Society website & cabinet.
5. Village Christmas Tree.
6. Flower planters.
7. CCTV.
8. Queen's Jubilee Celebration.
9. Village green fence.

The short list will be examined in detail for costs and all other considerations. Some or none of these may ultimately proceed, and before any final decision is made we will be consulting with everyone. We suggest that another Village Meeting in the spring would be a good idea for final decisions.

We also had the opportunity to discuss on site the possibility of a fence on the Village Green to stop vehicle damage. Of course, the views of the locals directly affected will be taken into account, and the meeting allowed HPC to see various suggested options. It is important to note that any decision taken will be in full consultation with residents.

On an unfortunate note, as previously reported, HPC have been made aware of anti-social behaviour in the village. We have been in close consultation with the Village Warden and the Police. This is a very unfortunate situation, and Villagers can rest assured we will be pursuing this matter fully.

Anyone who is the victim of, or witness to anti social behaviour or any other crime is strongly encouraged to contact the Police.

Lastly, in the spirit of the season, HPC will be running a 'Best Dressed House' competition with prizes leading up to Christmas. Good luck, everyone!

I wish you all a wonderful and peaceful Christmas, and hope you can spend it with all those you love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Ian Lloyd
Chair, HPC*



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 unsuitable 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

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

Dear All,

As the local PCSO for the Upper Weald Wards in ASHFORD

- Pluckley
- Charing
- Charing Heath
- Hothfield
- Little Chart

I will now be using my community voice to share information in regard to the area you live or work in through community voice. To receive my messages, please sign up to My Community Voice, which is free to use by going on line to [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#), and if that link doesn't work please go to www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk, where you can sign up to receive alerts. Please share My Community Voice with other people who live in your area, and get them to sign up so they can also receive the messages and information I send out.

My Community Voice

My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts we send you, share information and tell us about the issues affecting you.

We are committed to engaging with communities to increase trust and confidence and to help protect people from harm. Police, partners and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as keeping updated on what is happening in your local area.

Kind Regards

PCSO Joe Bishop

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY September Draw Results

1st prize £3.50 no. 116
2nd prize £2.10 no. 206
3rd prize £1.40 no. 122

This will be the last draw for the foreseeable future: no doubt the lottery will return in a new form after a year or two!

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS CHANGES WITH TIME ⁴

This is a story common across most of our nature reserves. Every week the stalwart volunteers come out on task, slog away all day cutting bracken, pulling birch trees, chopping back vegetation. Although it is certainly easy to see what they have achieved at the end of each day, it is hard to demonstrate the long term benefit when that birch will regrow and that bracken seems to spring back to life.

Over the years we have collected pictures to monitor changes across the reserve; some of these pictures go back a long time. I feel these two pictures particularly tell a story. The first one was taken in 1992, at a time when we had just taken on our first full-time warden for Hothfield Heathlands. The site at the time was thick with bracken and a young birch forest in the making. The bracken and birch were so dominant, almost nothing else was growing, with many of the heathland species on the brink of extinction.

Fast forward to the same view in August 2021. The volunteers are still tackling bracken and pulling birch, but



every year the site gets better and better. The heather is spreading rapidly across the reserve, heath-spotted orchids and southern marsh orchid pop up in huge numbers, the bees and wasps riddle the ground with their burrowing, while dragonflies pick the unwary out of the sky.

It can sometimes feel as if we are running at a standstill, but each of our volunteers has an essential impact on our

reserves and the wildlife that lives there.

Footnote: some of you may remember the previous warden and his red tractor. The tractor was still running in 2019, and was sold on as a working machine for a tidy sum.



Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands, but please remember that this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife.

Please keep dogs close to you at all times; do not let your dog run and play off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse. Make sure that anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter and dog mess, and place all dog bags in the bins.

Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots of wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way.

For more information, visit our website www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

*Ian Rickards,
Area Manager,
Kent Wildlife Trust*

Hothfield History Society

Hothfield's best artefact?

Earlier this year I was asked what were the History Society's top six objects or documents. While we have lots of copies of photographs, postcards and copies of some documents kindly sent in or e-mailed by residents past and present, we don't have many real original documents or objects in the village archive. We do have a collection of trophies from the former angling club, and some darts trophies won by the late John Nicholls, and also a few items from the majorettes given to us by Diane Bowker (nee Nicholls), for which we are grateful. We were also given an oak peg that was once in the stables at Hothfield Place for holding a saddle.

My reply to the survey listed: silver christening cup once owned by a member of the Tufton family who was brother to a previous Lord Hothfield; a set of five watercolours of scenes of Hothfield (and nearby) from 1914-17; past account books and ledgers from Hothfield Place (the former country seat of Lord Hothfield); a catalogue with map from one of the auctions of Lord Hothfield's estates in the 1920s; a Bible given to a Gaunt family member by the school in 1852; and a desk jotter from the office of the Estate Manager who was based in the basement of Hothfield Place.

The question was posed as part of a project across Ashford to find 'hidden treasures' that are not in museums or on public display. The project is being carried out by Jasper Bouverie who was quite interested in the old accounts and the interesting items listed in the Manor's expenses, including 'playing cards for the ladies' and 'stockings for the footman'; 'shoes and a hatt' 'for my Lord'; there was also 'a bottle of Hungry Water' (as far as I can tell 'Hungary Water' was an early perfume). He was most interested in the accounts from 1706 to 1712, which are held in the county's central History and Library Centre in Maidstone. So he chose one that we don't have! There are many documents, maps and Deeds relating to Hothfield in the central Kent archive, so Jasper went there

to read more. The current Lord's family also still have many interesting documents and items.

Those accounts related to when the first Manor at Hothfield was occupied by Thomas the Sixth Earl of Thanet (the title 'Lord' didn't come until the late 1800s). Thomas had three sons, all of whom sadly died as infants, but several surviving daughters. At the bottom of one page, in January 1712, the 'surgion' was paid for the 'bleeding of my lady'. The Earl's wife was Catherine Cavendish daughter of the Duke of Newcastle. Two of their daughters were also bled in February 1712. The letting of blood was considered to be a way of relieving ailments. Whether this helped is not known, but Lady Cavendish died of smallpox in April that year, but the daughters lived to old age.

During his time as the 'Lord of the Manor' Thomas was generous to Hothfield. The research by Reverend Russel records that the Sixth Earl donated a silver platen and flagon (now held securely at Canterbury Cathedral), an altar piece, a pulpit and some new pews; but he also established and endowed the first school in Hothfield, which was located on Coach Drive where at that time there were also houses.

The items uncovered by Jasper's survey of "Ashford's Hidden Treasures" can be seen in short interviews with local history societies on Ashford Borough Council's website at:

www.ashford.gov.uk/your-community/history-and-heritage/museums-and-heritage-centres/ashford-s-hidden-treasures/ and on Facebook.

Sheila's Homemade Jam:

Damson *with* Damson Gin

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Best wishes
for a
Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year
from
Hothfield
History
Society



Hothfield Beeswax Candles

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From Hothfield beehives

All natural, smokeless burn

Makes an ideal Christmas gift 

Pillar (3"/7cm tall) £6

Beehive (2"/5cm tall) £3

Delivered free to Hothfield

 Sheila: 01233 624 105

 hothfieldhoney@outlook.com



Learn Italian in Kent

The site for private Italian tuition in the mid-Kent area.

Whether you are interested in simply learning the basics for a holiday in Italy, need help in preparing for GCSE or AS/A2 exams, would like to improve and update your current knowledge for use in the Italian work market, or simply have a passion for Italian language and culture, individually tailored courses can be created focussing on your own specific learning needs. Tuition is offered by PGCE and CLTA qualified, native speaker tutor, with over 15 years' experience teaching Italian to adults of all backgrounds.

For more information on courses, areas covered and tuition fees, please go to www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(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 January 2022 issue is 20 December.

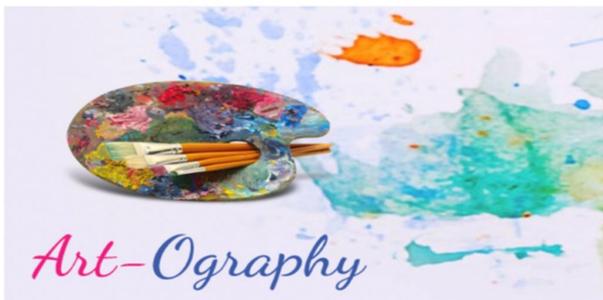
Letters and articles for publication are always welcome. Advertising is free to businesses working in, or for, the Parish of Hothfield. Email the Editor for information on advertising prices for outside companies.

HOTHFIELD 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

FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN RURAL CRIME

- Protect machinery, plant and tools:
 - Keep valuable items out of view and store them safely when not in use.
 - Security-mark machinery, plant and tools to make it easier for the police to identify and return them to you if they are recovered.
 - Consider fitting alarms and immobilisers to items of machinery or plant.
 - Keep track of where equipment is and who is using it.
 - Make sure hired plant is returned promptly and check the identity of the person you pass it to at handover.
- Ensure your staff members understand the importance of securing plant and machinery after use and remaining vigilant at work.
- Secure your vehicles - Cars, tractors and quad bikes are tempting to thieves:
- Always remove keys from the ignition and keep them somewhere secure.
 - Avoid leaving vehicles in fields – secure them to a ground anchor, a wall, or inside a secure caged area if possible.
 - Security-mark vehicles, photograph any distinguishing marks and keep a record of serial, chassis and model numbers to help identify them as yours.
 - Consider fitting a tracking device to your vehicle to aid its recovery if stolen.



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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'S CHRISTMAS WISDOM

Bernard Manning said that the three phrases that best sum up Christmas are *Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men* and *Batteries not included*.

Santa has to be a man. No woman would wear the same outfit year after year.

Christmas is just like another day at the office. You end up doing all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

Christmas is weird. At what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree in your living room eating sweets out of your socks?

Mum, can I please have a kitten for Christmas? No. You'll have turkey like the rest of us.

The most popular Christmas wine is 'I don't like Brussels sprouts'.

My husband's idea of getting the Christmas spirit is to become Scrooge.

I haven't taken my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin.

My mother-in-law has come round to our house at Christmas seven years running. This year we're having a change. We're going to let her in.

The three most terrifying words that the government allows to be printed on any product: 'Some assembly required.'

Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas.

Let me see if I've got this Santa business straight. You say he wears a beard, has no discernible source of income and flies to cities all over the world under cover of darkness? You sure this guy isn't laundering illegal drug money?

Christmas is when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay. Deficit is when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay.

I bought my brother some gift wrap for Christmas. I took it to the gift wrap department and told them to wrap it, but in a different print so he would know when to stop unwrapping.

There's nothing sadder in this world than to wake up on Christmas morning and not be a child.

I left Santa gluten-free cookies and organic soy milk and he put a solar panel in my stocking.

Sending Christmas cards is a good way to let your friends and family know that you think they're worth the price of a stamp.

If you want to hear "Merry Christmas", why not visit a church instead of a shop?

Please ensure bins are presented prior to 6am

Christmas 2021 waste and recycling collections

During the festive period your refuse and recycling collection days may be altered. Check out the 2021/2022 calendar below for any changes!

You will be pleased to know that during the festive period, recycling and refuse collections will not need to change this year due to Christmas falling on a weekend. Here's everything you need to know about this year's Christmas collection schedule.

Bulky / large item waste collections will be suspended from Monday 27 December 2021 to Monday 10 January 2022.

Garden waste collections will also be suspended for the two week festive period and resume as usual on Monday 10 January 2022.

Weekly Monday clinical collections will be as normal on Monday 21 December and Monday 28 December 2021 and also on Monday 3 January 2022.

Week	Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Recycling	Mon 20 Dec	No Change
	Tue 21 Dec	No Change
	Wed 22 Dec	No Change
	Thurs 23 Dec	No Change
	Fri 24 Dec	No Change
Refuse	Mon 27 Dec	No Change
	Tue 28 Dec	No Change
	Wed 29 Dec	No Change
	Thurs 30 Dec	No Change
	Fri 31 Dec	No Change
Recycling	Mon 3 Jan	No Change
	Tue 4 Jan	No Change
	Wed 5 Jan	No Change
	Thurs 6 Jan	No Change
	Fri 7 Jan	No Change

Tree Recycling

This special fundraising campaign is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In that time, more than £125,000 has been raised for local hospice care. The campaign offers real Christmas tree collections from homes across the Ashford borough.

Ashford residents can register their real Christmas tree for collection. Pilgrims volunteer elves will collect the tree from your home and take it for recycling. In 2020 a record breaking 1,350 real Christmas trees were collected by the charity, raising more than £21,000 for vital end-of-life care.

Ashford Borough Council is proud to support our local hospice and we're hoping even more people will register and donate to have their tree collected and recycled. Register your real tree for collection by midnight on 6 January 2022 by visiting www.pilgrimshospices.org/treerecycling

Pilgrims Hospices team of volunteer elves will safely collect your tree to be recycled from Saturday 15 – Tuesday 18 January 2022.



Missed bin collections can continue to be reported via the usual Report It channel:
www.ashford.gov.uk/wastecollections/reportmissedbin/

You can also follow the Council on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AshfordBoroughCouncil) (@AshfordBoroughCouncil) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/AshfordCouncil) (@AshfordCouncil) for regular information updates over the Christmas period.

A
Very
Happy
Christmas
To all
Our Readers

