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FUN QUIZ NIGHT
AND
HEARTY SUPPER

CHOICES INCLUDE VEGETARIAN



Saturday 25th March
Hothfield Village Hall
TN26 1EQ
7pm for 7.30pm All welcome!

Tickets £6, under 12s £3
From Hothfield Post Office
To help us plan catering, kindly buy tickets by 21st March

 **Teams of up to 8 people**
Bring your own drinks and glasses

 **Prizes & Raffle**

For more details or to reserve tickets
call **07510 944 055**
email **hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com**

Proceeds to Hothfield Village Hall and Hothfield History Society
Visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm Wednesday 15 March at the Bluebells Centre

King's Coronation village event will be held at the Village Hall on 8 May.

Hothfield Parish Council Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on 13 May 10.30am.

Flower & Craft Show at the Village Hall 5 August 2023.

Nine Oaks Vineyard – an update

March 2023



NINE OAKS

HOTHFIELD · KENT



We've taken a few months break from our newsletter updates but that does not mean that work has stopped!

After our successful harvest the vines lay dormant for a few weeks until pruning began in the new year.

Pruning is hugely important for the vines as with any plant, and will have a huge impact on the shape of the vines and success of this year's crop.



Next will be pulling out the unwanted growth before we tie down the canes ready for the next round of fruit.

We have been thrilled with the responses to our advert for staff and have excitedly welcomed several members of the local community who have enjoyed getting stuck into the pruning. We are still looking to take on more people though so do get in touch at info@nine-oaks.com if you would like to get involved.

Away from the vineyard we have been finalising preparations for the release of our first wines from this year's harvest – a pinot noir rosé and a chardonnay which will be released in the spring. We visited our winemaker to taste the final product and we are excited to share it soon!



Lastly we have been working with Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) to dig some scrapes and a small pond on an unused part of the land next to the vineyard to create a miniature wetlands feature, in order to encourage and support local flora and fauna.

Helen Matheson-Pollock
Co-Founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard

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

Have Your Say on Home to School Transport

Kent County Council are inviting comments on a draft Home to School Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16. This policy



Public Consultation

Home to School and Post 16 Transport for Mainstream and SEND Pupils

Consultation closes 21 March 2023



brings together information on how procedures work making it clearer for parents and carers when securing transport for their children.

They are also seeking views on their Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

The Statement for 2024-25, which includes support for 19+ learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan proposes a number of changes and they want parents and students to be able to consider these and tell them their views.

Find out more from the consultation webpage www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy.

Replacement Bus Service

Until Friday 17 Feb, there was a bus service in the morning to Hythe Road and a subsidiary minibus service. This has been replaced from Feb 20 so that the 123 and minibus services have ceased and a new bus service for school has started: the **10E** which stops at the **10X** bus stop on the junction of School Road and Cades Road. Those with passes for the minibus service have been given bus passes. If you have any query, please contact Stagecoach.

Hothfield Village Show

The first (hopefully annual!) Hothfield Village Show will take place on 5 August 2023 at Hothfield Village Hall.

Categories will cover local produce; baking, flowers, photography and crafts as well as categories specifically for children. The list of categories and entry requirements will be published in a future Newsletter. If you have any special skills or requests for categories, or you would like to be involved in organising the event, please do get in touch!

Contact: hjmathesonpollock@gmail.com

Hothfield Educational

Foundation

The next two meetings of the Foundation will be on May 8th and August 8th. The Trustees would appreciate any applications arriving just prior to these dates.

The secretary's details are; email hothfieldeducation@gmail.com or mobile 07973119462

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 on 01233 634191 for more details.

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk or

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

www.targetshootingsschool.co.uk/ashford

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Fridays @ 18.30

Contact: John 07492862974

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN MARCH

Dogs on Leads

We have made the difficult decision to ask owners to keep dogs on leads across all the open areas of Hothfield Heathlands (grassland, heather, scrub). With national declines in our wildlife and increased numbers of visitors, we need to ensure there is still space for our wildlife to survive alongside us.

Dogs off leads are one of the biggest causes of wildlife disturbance. Ground nesting birds are particularly at risk, with 66% of these species in decline in the UK. Keeping dogs on short leads will benefit other wildlife that can be harmed or disturbed by enthusiastic canines – from snakes to mammals to amphibians. It also prevents problems with dogs chasing grazing livestock. Dogs can remain off lead (under control) through mature wooded areas, around the perimeter of the reserve. Birds nesting in wooded areas are less sensitive to dog disturbance.



The decline in wildlife across our country is reaching catastrophic levels, with your help we can make a difference to wildlife on our doorstep. Thank-you to everyone for helping us to protect and support our wildlife. For more information: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/reserves-team/dogs-our-reserves>

KWT LOGO

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN MARCH

Some birds start nesting surprisingly early in Spring. It's possible to spot birds foraging for material or flying with a beak full anywhere on the reserve just now. The nesting boxes for barn owls on the Extension were cleaned out earlier this year ready for this year's broods, the 30cm high pile of pellets and owl droppings giving some indication of how well used the box has been. Tawny owls will have their first clutch of eggs by the end of March, deep in a hole in a tree or occasionally in the old nest of a crow. Raising nestlings early in spring before plants grow tall and lush makes it easier for the owls to hunt the small rodents that the birds depend on. Rooks meanwhile were building their shaggy nests in February, sometimes stealing material from other nests in the rookery. The lining has to be soft to protect and insulate fragile eggs and nestlings, and rooks have been seen pulling hair off the back of the highland cattle. There's competition lower down the trees, as Nuthatches might take over a woodpecker's nest in a tree trunk, closing up the opening with mud so that it can only be used by nuthatches. They will produce their first of hopefully two broods in April.

Another early nester on the reserve is the blackbird, which, weather permitting, will raise two or even three broods in the same nest, starting in early March. The female may take two weeks to construct the nest, low down and out of sight. She collects grass, small twigs, straw and other plant material and lines it with mud then fine grass. Long-tailed tits started building in February and might take three weeks to complete their beautiful barrel-shaped nests. Moss and wool are camouflaged on the outside with myriad flakes of lichen held together with silk from spider egg cocoons and lined with feather down. They probably won't lay eggs until April.

The significance of the low scrub and heathland habitats on Hothfield Heathlands for a large number of British nesting birds is huge, as over half of British breeding birds nest on or near the ground and rely on precisely the habitats provided by this reserve to protect first eggs, and then flightless ever-hungry nestlings. This spring and summer we hope willow warblers, yellowhammers, chiffchaffs, tree pipit, linnets and who knows, perhaps even the Dartford warbler or nightjar will nest safely and successfully here.



The early broods don't always need insects, worms or caterpillars. Linnets eat seed all year and feed their young with seed. They rely on early flowering plants such as dandelion, dock, groundsel, chickweed and shepherd's purse, which first provide nectar and pollen for forging early insects, then seed in May for hungry young birds. Something to bear in mind when weeding the garden, to leave some plants and some wild corners for wildlife, as shelter, nesting material or food, and avoid trimming hedges now until early Autumn.

Spring on the reserve brings the flutter and song of birds, the buzz of insects, the glimmer of early flowers and the glint of running water. Enjoy!

Margery Thomas



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BASED IN HOTHFIELD, ASHFORD

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www.gracespawsomepooches.com
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Positivity

How can we deal with life's irritations?

Last week there was a sudden water leak in our local area and we were without water for an entire evening. With no warning beforehand to prepare, even the kettle was bone dry! After a hard days work, feeling tired, I will admit it was very annoying.

Thankfully, I was very fortunate that my partner had prepared a bath for me, so it was ready for when I returned from after work. And so it got me thinking... could I control this situation? No...

I just had to be patient and wait for the problem to be fixed. I may have not been able to have a cup of tea, but I could enjoy a lovely soak.

There is no point stressing about situations that are out of your control. Whatever the annoyance, make a joke about it.

Smiling and laughter can help to defuse anger and annoyance.

Stressful situations can have a negative impact on our bodies, creating tension in our neck and shoulders, headaches or even tummy ache. Apparently it is impossible to experience two emotions at once, so it is better to laugh then cry!

Our top tips:

- Feeling irritated or annoyed-Take a few deep breaths
- Try to find a blessing/ humour in your situation
- Exercise, even a walk to get the endorphins flowing

Remember, things will improve and get better in time.

HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE STORES

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|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |

Sheila's Homemade Jam: Damson with Damson Gin

Delicious and ever-so-fruity jam made with lovely Hothfield damsons and homemade damson gin.

Large (13oz/370g) £3.50

Makes an ideal gift

Made in small batches

Deliciously fruity

Delivered free to Hothfield

☎ Sheila: 01233 624 105

✉ hothfieldhoney@outlook.com




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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



Tel 07769 228842

Flossyfussybakes@gmail.com

Instagram: Flossyfussybakes

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk



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Established over 30 Years



RENEW Gardening Services

Joseph Ellis

Phone number: 07753174115

Email: renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com

£15 per hour

Free no obligation quotes



HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council.

Email: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk

Deadline for March 2023 issue is 20 February.

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.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? What would you eat with chips? Our Fun Quiz Night on 25 March will include a round based on TV's Family Fortunes. You already know the answers but can you decide one of the top four answers given by the public? Plus the General Knowledge round will be based on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'.

The quiz will be at Hothfield Village Hall and will raise funds for the Hall and the History Society. Tickets are for sale at Hothfield Post Office and cost £6 per adult (£3 for under 12s) which includes a hot homemade meal (including a vegetarian option). Teams of up to eight people. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. The Quiz starts at 7.30pm so please arrive for 7pm. There are prizes for the winning team, and for the team that comes last, and there will be a raffle with great prizes. Please get your tickets by 21st March so that we know how many people to cater for. We look forward to seeing you all there.

For more information please e-mail: hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com or call 07510 944 055 to reserve tickets.



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Prizes & Raffle

Proceeds to Hothfield Village Hall and Hothfield History Society
Visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

What was happening in 1923?

100 years ago the Maidstone and District no.10 bus plied the route between Maidstone and Ashford, calling at Hothfield four times per weekday in each direction (three services on Sundays but only two services on Wednesdays).

That September Lord Hothfield was having one of the first auctions of parts of his local estate, including selling accommodation, buildings and land totalling 263 acres around Ashford, including Westwell and Bethersden. Many of the plots for sale were around Watercress Farm and Beaver Farm to the south of Ashford which was at that time a small market town. A few roads of terraced houses had been built off Beaver Road but there was almost nothing else south of the railway in 1923. Beaver Lane was a narrow track and Lord Hothfield owned nearly everything in the area. The area is now Beaver Green but was being sold as hop gardens, pasture and orchards, most with tenant farmers. There were woodlands for timber and it's recorded that the Postmaster General paid one shilling per telegraph pole on the land. The sales catalogue promotes the land as good for fruit culture, dairy farming and market gardening close to the town with its cattle market, with rights for hunting, shooting and fishing.

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 14.30. Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 8 March at 14.30 THE BLUE HOUR: PAINTING THE NORTH. Danish and Swedish landscape paintings feature the Blue Hour, that half hour or so just after sunset and before sunrise, when the landscape is suffused with a bluish light, highly atmospheric and iconic of the North

Our lecturer, **Karin Fernald**, is a researcher best known for her entertaining lectures

Visitors are always very welcome at £5, refunded if you join. 6 months membership costs £24. 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

Night,
Roros
Church,
Harald
Sohlberg
(1869-
1935)
1903



Saint Margaret's Church

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 February

Sunday 4 1100 Common Worship Eucharist

Sunday 11 1100 BCP Matins with hymns

Sunday 18 No service in Hothfield

Sunday 25 1100 Informal Morning Worship

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

WILDLIFE WORD SEARCH

- black bear
- bobcat
- chipmunk
- cougar
- coyote
- deer
- eagle
- elk
- fairy shrimp
- falcon
- fox
- gnatcatcher
- gopher
- hawk
- hummingbird
- jackrabbit
- kingsnake
- owl
- raccoon
- rattlesnake
- ringtail
- skunk
- squirrel
- swallow
- tree frog
- vulture
- woodpecker
- woodrat



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