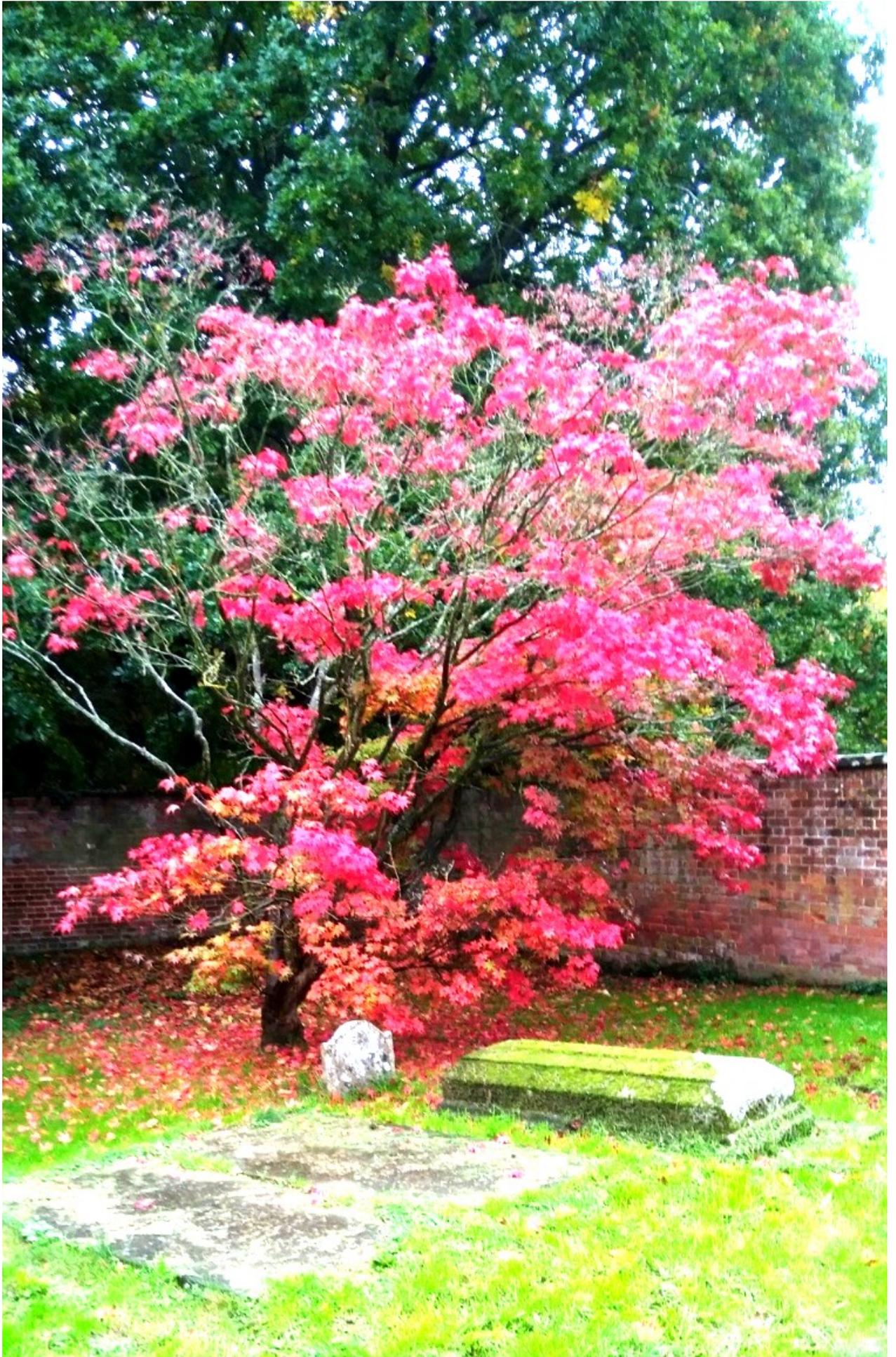


SEVENTH HOTHFIELD



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 November

Sunday 5 1100 The Eucharist

Sunday 13 1100 Remembrance

Sunday 16 No service in Hothfield

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

Sunday 23: 1100: no service in Hothfield



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 fsmhothfield@gmail.com



Hothfield Parish Council

Unfortunately there was a low turn out for our Village Meeting, where we decided on our focus for where to spend the solar money.

HPC will now examine in further detail the costs and feasibility of Speed Restrictions in the village, CCTV in selected locations and tidying up some of the verges.

As it was so popular last year, we will be running another Christmas Best Dressed House competition on Friday 16 December, with mince pies and carols around the village Christmas tree outside Bluebells. We plan to run a Craft/Flower show next spring/summer 2023; keep an eye out for the confirmed date.

The King's Coronation has been announced for 6 May 2023 and we will be running a Coronation Party on or near the day. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee party was a huge success, so we will be arranging something along similar lines.

The Parish Council is very keen to run these events, and welcomes other suggestions, but we need your help! Volunteers are desperately needed to help with these events, and we also currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council. Without a Parish Council, local residents will have little say or influence over where we spend the solar money – and, of course, over planning.

Ian Lloyd, Chair HPC

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

Hothfield Educational Foundation

A reminder that the Trustees of the Foundation have two further meetings arranged for which they would appreciate applications beforehand.

These will be on 5 November 2022 and 7 February 2023. Please contact the Secretary on hothfieldeducation@gmail.com or 07973119462

BOOKING CLERK VACANCY

Hothfield Village Hall

Job description:

Not a Monday to Friday job, but as and when the enquiries and issues arise.

Following up on bookings, booking forms and payments. Showing the hall to hirers. Dealing with issues like hirers not conforming to contract.

You need to own a computer and be internet and website literate, as everything, from bookings to invoices and calendars is online. The website also needs updating as necessary.

Salary: £100 per month, plus 5% of monthly income.

Interested? Email hothfieldhall@outlook.com to apply.



Sheila's Homemade Jam: Damson *with* Damson Gin

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

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Delivered free to Hothfield

 Sheila: 01233 624 105

 hothfieldhoney@outlook.com



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

Fridays @ 6:30pm

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492862974

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN NOVEMBER

The weather has been more wayward than ever this year, the drought placing so much stress on trees and shrubs that many started dropping leaves in August, described by one volunteer as a false autumn. Then there was an early frost on the heathland on 29 September, browning any heather flowers that the fierce sun hadn't already burned. But the autumn colour has been glorious. The leaves of the huge hazel near Chapel Lane first showed a thin rim of pale yellow, which widened inwards to turn entire leaves buttery. Colours will gently fade as November slips into early winter and new vistas open up as the leaves fall, hopefully with more water to reflect the sky and add another dimension to this complex haven.

Dragonflies were still flying in September and common lizards, *Zootica vivipara*, were basking at least until mid-October, thus enabling them to stay active. *Zootica* (pronounced 'zo-otica') is Greek for live birth; vivipara means the same in Latin, because this species doesn't lay eggs, but gives birth to live young, usually around July. It is terrestrial and carnivorous, eating spiders, flies and larvae, and is in turn the food of foxes, birds of prey and larger birds such as crows. By November they will probably be hibernating under rocks and logs until the temperature rises next spring. This lizard is widespread but declining, threatened by loss of habitat, and is protected in the UK by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Despite the drought, it seems to have been a good year for acorns and sweet chestnuts here, providing food for birds and mammals and seedlings that might make it to mature trees. After a poor crop last year, this year's acorns provided a shiny sliding carpet under trees. Some of the acorns have had eggs laid inside them by the knopper oak gall wasp, *Andricus quercuscalicis*. The egg-laying causes the acorn to distort and eventually fall to the ground, continuing to protect the grubs inside, which pupate over winter and then emerge in the spring, a generation of female wasps only. Already fertile, they will seek out the male catkins of the Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) on which to lay eggs which produce small conical galls and eventually both male and female wasps, which then start the cycle again, laying eggs on embryonic acorns. This life cycle developed in countries where Turkey oaks are native, and the gall wasp only arrived in this country in the 1970s. It does impede considerably the production of healthy acorns in some years, but is not a threat to individual trees or the oak population.

The late summer rain produced a wonderful array of fungi in October; the brilliant red and white fly agarics were very obvious, but the complete range of fungus shapes and shades are to be found right across the reserve. Some mushrooms/toadstools, like the shaggy ink cap, appear seemingly overnight and melt away in just a few days, while the various bracket fungi

can dry out and persist for far longer. They might be called 'primitive' plants, but fungi are all fine-tuned to the conditions of their habitats and each occupies a particular niche in their food chain. With no chlorophyll to make food through photosynthesis, it's the permanent and large underground network of mycelia "roots" that make food – energy – by breaking down living or dead organic matter, a process of decay that is integral to regeneration. Yellow brain fungus is parasitic on the mycelium of other fungi. The oyster mushroom stuns nematode worms lurking in the host wood with a powerful toxin, then absorbs the worm's juices. Please leave all the fungi for others to enjoy. The 'others' include organisms that depend on the fungi for food or habitat. Ian reports that the Oyster fungus beetle is severely threatened, primarily due to its food source (oyster fungi) being over-collected. That will affect whatever feeds on the oyster fungi beetles higher up the food chain; everything is interlinked.

Margery Thomas



To improve the reserve for wildlife and visitors, there will be lots of habitat management work going on over the next few months. This work will involve heavy machinery, so please take care and follow any safety signage. For more information, please see the October Hothfield News or visit <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/hothfield-heathlands/precious-peatlands>

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 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 for wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way.

Ian Rickards, Area Manager, Kent Wildlife Trust



Fly Agaric fungus
© Val Butcher



Lizard on the Warren © Ian Rickards



Sgt. Black honoured

At the end of September, Hothfield resident Melody Foreman gave a fascinating talk about the story of the excavation of wartime plane crashes, including the Hurricane that fell at Hothfield in 1940. Melody not only talked about the excavations and Terry Parsons who sympathetically searched for the planes, but highlighted that each crashed plane represented a personal story of the pilots, aircrews and their families. Many of the pilots and airmen survived their crashes, but those who didn't were usually young men who left behind families after fighting for this country.

Sgt. Herbert Black joined the RAF at the age of 23 and was shot down by German fighters three years later, just before the Battle of Britain ended. Sgt. Black and his fellow pilots had seen action over France, and on the day he was shot down they had been fighting German Messerschmitts over Deal. His plane caught fire, and he struggled to eject from the burning aircraft. Even as he parachuted down, the Germans were still shooting at him. His wife came to see him in Ashford hospital, where he died ten days later. His last words were to tell his wife that his fellow pilots had 'followed him down' – they tried to protect him as he parachuted to the ground and to check where he landed. His plane hit a huge pine tree in the grounds of Hothfield Manor, the stump of which remains as a memorial to him.

I'm very grateful to Melody for a detailed and thought-provoking presentation, and I was pleased to see a large audience of almost 40 people. Thank you also to Rev. Marsh for use of the church, which historically had been damaged by a Doodlebug.

Sgt Black was born in Ibstock Leicestershire where he also attended school. He was buried at Ibstock church where he had been married only five months before. On 13 October this year Leicestershire County Council honoured him with a green plaque. Part of his hurricane, excavated from Hothfield, is housed at his former school, where there is also a plaque commemorating his heroic and brave sacrifice.

Lest we forget

11 November represents remembrance day for all servicemen, women and animals who have defended our freedoms, and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism. Hothfield churchyard hosts the War Graves of former Hothfield resident Private Albert Brissenden, who was injured in the first World War and died in the UK in 1919, and Private Stan Cresswell who was killed while stationed at Hothfield in WWII. Inside Hothfield church is a memorial to seven other Hothfield residents who fell in the First World War, which also lists all those who served.

By contrast, four Hothfield men were lost in WWII. Archibald Croucher died as part of an anti-aircraft unit in England and is in a private grave in Hothfield churchyard. Richmond Meech died after a bombing raid over Germany when most of his Wellington's crew were killed. Richmond is buried in Germany with some of his fellow crewmen, and has a road named after him in Kennington. Felix Reed's frigate was sunk by a German U-boat off the coast of Scotland, where he was subsequently buried. Cyril Bridger's destroyer sank and his body was lost with most of the crew, so he is commemorated at the Naval memorial at Chatham.

Melody's various books are available from all good bookshops and on line. Please visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk to read stories from past residents, and to add your own story, or to add a comment to our website. Copies of the History Society's publications can be purchased by e-mailing: hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com

Chris Rogers

**HOTHFIELD
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STORES**

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Friday	0900 To 1300	1400 To 1800			Post Office closes 1730
Saturday	0900 To 1300	1400 To 1800			Post Office closes 1230



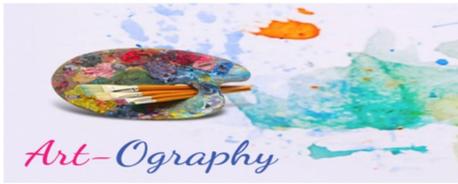
What a hectic month we've had. Our Beavers have been climbing at the Stour Centre. They were awesome! We were also delighted to present another Chief Scout's bronze award, the highest award a beaver can achieve. The same evening we invested a new leader.

Cubs are very grateful to the Kent Fire Service for sending the Charing fire engine to our meeting. It was great fun and they also helped us to get our fire safety badges. They also helped us to check the building fire alarm. Apologies to our neighbours. We also had a super evening at Charing Church. Huge thanks to Rev Sandra for such an interesting time. It was rounded off by our explorer young leaders demonstrating the vamping horn, after which our explorer unit, the Charing Vampers, are named.

Scouts are promising not to test the fire alarm again with their Ready Steady Cook evening. The weekend survival camp was very successful.

Explorers helped out again at the Charing harvest festival, and then joined the rest of the group sleeping out in cardboard boxes. It was good to have all sections together for this, even one brave beaver. We were raising funds and awareness for Porchlight, the charity for homeless people.

Terry, Group Scout Leader 07748818660



Art-Ography

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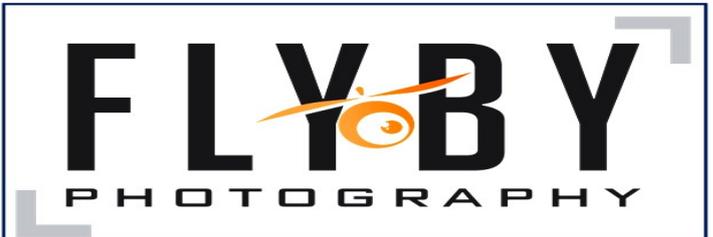


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HOTHFIELD NEWS
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Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com
The deadline for the December 2022 issue is 20 November.
Letters and articles for publication are always welcome. Advertising is free to businesses working in, or for, the Parish of Hothfield. Email the Editor for information on advertising prices for outside companies.

Nine Oaks Vineyard, November 2022

This month in the vineyard was all about the harvest – it finally happened! Having put in countless hours across the year, the hard work finally came to fruition in a bumper crop.

We started harvesting bright and early on Sunday 25th September. We were truly lucky with the weather and were delighted to see our bright eyed volunteers ready and raring to go! It was wonderful to have so many people come along, including those who helped last year from near and far, plus volunteers from further afield as well as across Hothfield itself. After a safety brief, explanation of the day and a demonstration from Martyn the pickers were off! Armed with buckets and snips they worked in pairs, two pairs to a row starting either end and meeting in the middle. In c. 4 hours we harvested 1.5 tonnes Chardonnay grapes which will become a blanc de blanc – single variety sparkling white wine. It was an exhilarating day in the glorious Autumn sunshine and we couldn't have been happier! Part one, done.

Looking to the rest of the vineyard, however, things got a little bit more complicated. Having debated for weeks over whether to harvest on both Sunday 2nd and Sunday 9th October, or one or the other, we weighed up the variable forecast, the ripeness of the grapes and the risk of crop loss due to the ever present local starlings and decided to go for the earlier date. We spent pretty much 12 hour days circling the vineyard for the next week patrolling and scaring off the birds. Thanks to all those keeping a look out and apologies for anyone disturbed by the shouting and car horn!

It paid off though as we reached the Saturday not having lost any grapes to the birds. We were beginning to see a slight bit of deterioration in the grapes due to the rain they were experiencing. We watched the constantly changing forecast for the Sunday's weather with alarm as more and more rain was predicted and having worried about the dynamics and logistics of harvesting several tonnes of grapes by hand in the rain we made a snap decision to harvest our four rows of pinot noir that afternoon.

Within half an hour we had some wonderful volunteers on site and ready to go. In the gathering gloom we harvested an incredible 1.2 tonnes of pinot noir in just over 2 hours!! A huge relief. We'll see the pinot noir again soonest – we're expecting pinot noir rosé to be the very first Nine Oaks wine to be released, in April 2023.

Sunday dawned gloomy and wet, but our tireless team came out again. The coffee breaks were plentiful and the spirits high as we completed the third part of the harvest. The biggest yet, we harvested a whopping 3.5 tonnes of chardonnay for a still chardonnay, expected in June 2023.

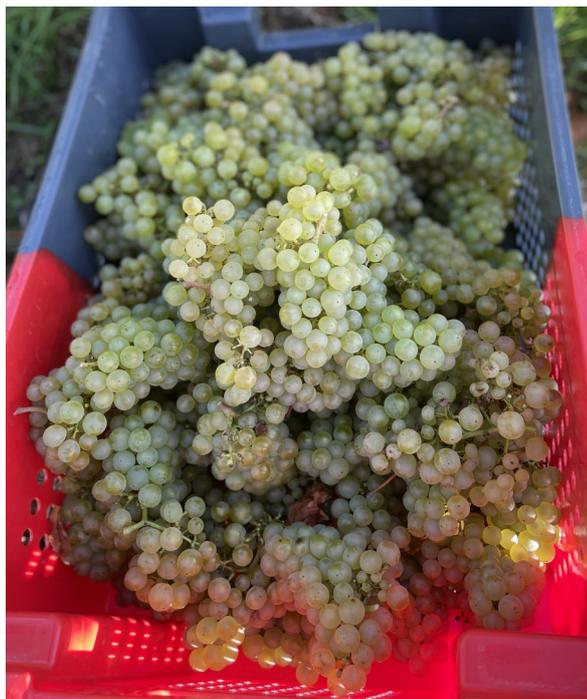
We could not be more grateful for the community support we have for the vineyard, most especially those who volunteered to harvest across the three sessions. We could not do any of it without your support, mental and physical, and you have our gratitude and sincere thanks for all your hard work. We were pleased so many of our volunteers were able to join us for our (now!) annual harvest supper. It was a lovely evening full of wine and lively conversation, and a token of our appreciation. As ever some who volunteered were not able to make it to the harvests this year because of the changes of dates etc – thankfully there is always another harvest, and we hope to see you next year!

All the grapes are now at Defined Wines winery in Bridge, where the three separate batches of grapes have been pressed and begun their fermentations. The sparkling chardonnay will undergo an initial fermentation in the tank before being bottled and then continuing to ferment and rest on the lees. The two still wines only ferment once, spending longer in the tank before being bottled and coming back to us in the Spring/Summer.

Work in the vineyard doesn't end even though the grapes are gone and we will continue to use this forum to keep everyone up to date on what is happening and what you can expect to see as you walk the PROWs.

It just remains to say thank you again – and we look forward to sharing a glass of Nine Oaks wine with the Hothfield community come Spring 2023.

Helen Matheson-Pollock, Co-founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard



AUNT JEMIMA'S QUOTES ABOUT MEN

"If you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman." – Margaret Thatcher

"Behind every great man there is a surprised woman." – Maryon Pearson

"Probably the only place a man can feel really secure is a maximum security prison, except for the imminent threat of release." – Germaine Greer

"One cannot be always laughing at a man without now and then stumbling on something witty." – Jane Austen

"If you talk about yourself, he'll think you're boring. If you talk about others, he'll think you're a gossip.

If you talk about him, he'll think you're a brilliant conversationalist." – Linda Sunshine

"Men are those creatures with two legs and eight hands." – Jayne Mansfield

"Men are beasts, and even beasts don't behave as they do." – Brigitte Bardot

"Whenever I date a guy, I think, is this the man I want my children to spend their weekends with?" – Rita Rudner

"No nice men are good at getting taxis." – Katharine Whitehorn

"I never married because I have three pets at home that answer the same purpose as a husband: I have a dog that growls every morning; A parrot that swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night." – Marie Corelli

"Marrying a man is like buying something you've been admiring for a long time in a shop window.

You may love it when you get home, but it doesn't always go with everything else in the house." – Jean Kerr

"Before marriage a man will lay awake all night thinking about something you said;

after marriage, he'll fall asleep before you finish saying it." – Helen Rowland

"The more I see of men, the more I like dogs." – Madame de Stael

"Can you imagine a world without men? No crime and lots of happy, fat women." – Marion Smith

"Beware of the man who praises women's liberation. He's about to quit his job." – Erica Jong

"A man in love is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished." – Zsa Zsa Gabor

Well being Notes from the Granary Spa

Can our elders inspire us?

I have always felt an immense feeling of love and admiration for my family. My Mum and Dad inspire me daily, always there to offer support, whether it is about my career or how to remove a stain from my favourite dress.

My older brother has always pushed and encouraged me to do things out of my comfort zone. This has made me a braver, more progressive person, so I will always be grateful to him.

Maybe we should listen to our elders; not because they are always right, but because they have more experience in being wrong. As they say, we learn from our mistakes.

Knowledge, experience, and guidance are all qualities that our elders possess. A few wise words, a pat on the back, or indeed sometimes it can be just a look, may help us deal with life's ups and downs.

We all face criticism at some point in our lives, it's important to truly listen, analyse it and decide if it is constructive criticism, and then make plans to act. Constructive criticism can help us to be better people, destructive criticism can be harmful, so it is important to seek advice from people whose opinions we trust and truly value.

Love and laughter are great medicines; be kind to yourself, remember to stop and smell the flowers sometimes. Elders may not always be wiser (especially where technology is concerned, Mum!) but they may help you make fewer mistakes, or indeed be there with a dustpan and brush to help you clear up the mess!

Love, Georgia



Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice) will be coming to Bluebells car park every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm. For pre orders, please call 07973 410973 before 1pm Wednesday Cash and Card payments welcome