



Hothfield Residents' Meeting Saturday 8 October 2022

We look forward to meeting residents on Saturday 8 October at 10.30am in the Village Hall to discuss and agree what projects to spend the solar money on.

The short list is as follows;

- Outdoor Gym Area
- Speed Restrictions in the village
- Path to connect East & West Hothfield
- Flower Planters
- CCTV

We still have some Hothfield Platinum Jubilee Mugs available, and residents can collect these at the Village Meeting.



It's Harvest time at Nine Oaks Vineyard, next to the church – and you can help! See Page 5



Calling any Local Painters or Handy Man/Person

The MUGA on Hothfield Green is in need of a re-paint. Anyone who would be interested in quoting for the job which would include prepping and repainting both the Muga and the children's shelter, please contact the Parish Clerk at Parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk or call 07595 310815.

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 October

Sunday 2 1100 The Eucharist

Sunday 9 1100 Harvest

Followed by a Ploughman's Lunch in church; see Page 3

Sunday 16 No service in Hothfield

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

Sunday 23: 1100: **COME AND PRAISE**



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



3 Hothfield Parish Council

We mark the very sad passing of our Queen on 8 September 2022, and I am sure everyone can acknowledge what a wonderful servant she has been to our country; she certainly did her duty right to the end.

While I didn't have the privilege of meeting our Queen personally, I have spoken with several who did meet her, all of whom are quick to comment on an incredible warm human being, friendly, smiling and with a devotion to our country. RIP Queen Elizabeth II. Our deep condolences go to the Royal Family in this difficult time. God Save the King!

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



Local engagement meeting

Your local officer will be holding a meeting in

the following locations on **Tuesday 11 October 2022:**

Charing - Fire Station, School Road 9am – 10am

Hothfield - Near Play area off School Road 10.15am – 11.15am

Egerton - Village Hall Car Park, Off Road Hill Road 11.45am - 12.45pm

Come and speak to your local officer about your concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour

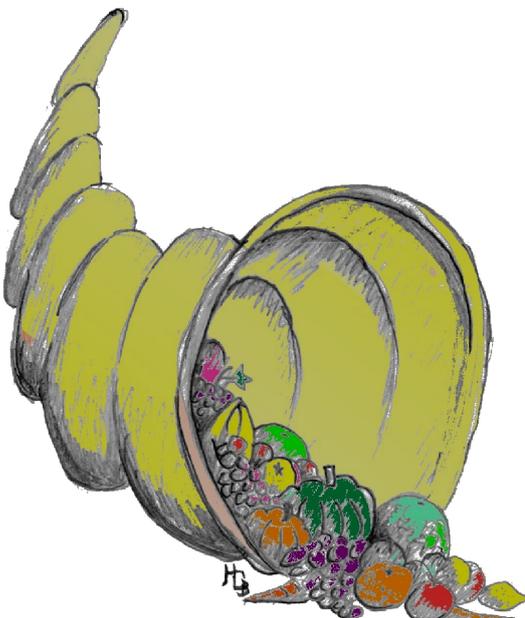
One of our CSU Officers, **PC Pringle**, will be on hand to discuss any issues with you.

For news, safety advice and information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk

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 I am Harvest Service on 9 October **All welcome.** Suggested donation of £5.00. Telephone 01233 623568 if you have any questions.

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 OCTOBER



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Lots of work planned for the next few months.

Scrub Removal

With our Precious Peatland project, we will be carrying out lots of scrub removal from across the reserve. The most vigorous scrub species are birch and alder; adapted to grow very quickly from seed, they are the pioneer species that would pave the way for the site becoming a woodland.

Woodland is a very important habitat, and Kent Wildlife Trust manages thousands of acres of woodland across Kent. However, quality heathland and bog, the main habitats at Hothfield, are not found anywhere else in Kent. Losing this area to woodland would wipe out hundreds of species that would not survive under a canopy of trees.

The trees also have a further detrimental effect on the bogs, sucking up thousands of gallons of water, drying out the peatland. Once the bogs lose their moisture the peat dries up and the carbon stored for hundreds of years gets released back into the atmosphere.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the Area Manager on ian.rickards@kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

There will be large excavators carrying out this work, so please keep a safe distance and follow the instructions on any signage.



Path Improvements

Hopefully some of you are already enjoying our new Triangle Trail:

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/hothfield-heathlands/triangle-trail>

We will also be carrying out path improvements on the rest of the reserve, using sand to raise some of the muddier paths and making them easier to navigate over the winter. We will also be having a new boardwalk installed, but depending on ground conditions, that may wait until next year – watch this space.

Fencing works

We will be replacing some of the more dilapidated fences, making sure our cattle, ponies and sheep are safe and secure.

Volunteer Work

At the same time, our wonderful volunteers will be carrying on with the winter work across the reserve. Tree-popping birch from the heathland, repairing fences, building up dead hedges, fixing paths, looking after the livestock and all the other work that this tireless gang carry out.

We always welcome new volunteers – you can find out more here:

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/node/2889>

The volunteers are out every Tuesday and Thursday, and also the first Sunday of every month. The next Sunday session will be 9 October; if you would like to get involved, please register through our website.

All best, Ian Rickards



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



The future King in Hothfield

Only a few months ago we were celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of our long-reigning Queen with a party in the Village Hall and various events at home and in the streets. Sadly, last month we witnessed the pomp and ceremony of her lying-in-state and funeral.

Did you know that the King visited Hothfield in the summer of 1993? Of course, then he was Prince Charles and he was visiting the Heathland nature reserve with the Warden at that time. The Prince showed a keen interest in the good work that was under way to conserve and improve nature. Park Drive resident Ray Knight also presented the Prince with a sprig of pink geranium that the Prince popped into his buttonhole and wore for the rest of the visit.

More Vietnamese refugees have made contact

You might recall from previous Newsletters that we were contacted by Syd Doyle who helped to look after Vietnamese refugees in and around Hothfield in late 1979, and late last year one of the refugees made contact who thought that she could identify herself from one of the newspaper photos of that time.

Recently another refugee, Tommy, sent an email: *"I think I'm one of the children who stayed in Hothfield with my family, but I don't have many photos of the place and just bits of childhood memories. Do you have any photos of the hospital building and surrounding area from that period? This should help confirm if I actually did stay there, as I do recall the building was next to a lake and a field with horses. Also, were you one of the team members who helped at the centre or know of anyone who was?"*

I sent Tommy some images of the former Hothfield Hospital and also let him know that I wasn't a helper but I let him have the email addresses of a few that had contacted me (with their permission). He then provided more recollections of his time in our village: *"I just about recognise the first one with the round water fountain as I remember there was a round pond somewhere near the main building, but my family did not stay in the main building. There was another shared single storey building which was more modest and not quite as grand where we and a few other families were housed, which was located at the far side just beside the large lake. I think they called our building Lakeside. I recall it take a good few minutes to walk from our building to the main building via a small path. Between the path on one side is a large field where they kept horses and on the other side is a dense woodland. I love the morning stroll along the path (which was filled with beautiful countryside wildlife), to the main building where we catch the school bus to take us to Hothfield School I think. My first school ever and it was such a wonderful experience even though I knew no English at the time. I think our building has been long demolished.*

I have very fond memory of my short stay at Hothfield. It was one of the happiest childhood period of my life and I remain forever grateful to the team who have supported us during that time. They made huge effort to include us in the community as I have fun memories of the various events I've attended. I'm currently living in London with my wife and children. Actually I'm now intrigue and thinking of making a visit to Hothfield. After all these years and from looking at google earth, the whole place looks like it has been redeveloped and looks nothing like my childhood memory which is a shame. Anyhow it would be nice to be there and see it in person."

I'm grateful to Tommy for sharing his story, and I hope that he has been making contact with other refugees and some of the English helpers that supported them at Hothfield. 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.

Chris Rogers

Nine Oaks Vineyard October 2022

This month in the vineyard is all about harvest! We have been monitoring the sugar levels in the grapes, and we are ready to go. Just in case, we have been busily attempting to protect the grapes from pesky visiting birds with nets and kites.

We will be conducting our first harvest day on Sunday 25 September, with more due to take place most likely on Sunday 2 and Sunday 9 October. We would still love to hear from volunteers, so do email us on info@nine-oaks.co.uk if you'd like to join in.

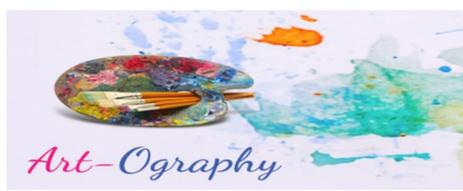
We are anticipating harvesting around 4 tonnes of grapes, both chardonnay and pinot noir, which will go to make a traditional-method sparkling wine, a still chardonnay and a pinot noir rosé – the latter two hopefully being available from Spring 2023.

As always, we are very grateful to the members of the community who have supported us on our vineyard journey so far, and look forward to sharing the excitement of harvest with you.

Helen Matheson-Pollock
Nine Oaks Vineyard

Photographs are of our 2021 chardonnay harvest.





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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www.national-engravers.co.uk



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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)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

Sarah-Jayne's Mobile Hairdresser Providing friendly Service Affordable prices without leaving your home Contact Sarah-Jayne 07545 460270 Established over 30 Years

RENEW Gardening Services

Joseph Ellis Phone number: 07753174115 Email: renewgardening@service@gmail.com £15 per hour Free no obligation quotes



HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council. Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

The deadline for the November 2022 issue is 20 October.

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.

Before Windrush: the presence of black people in Britain

Since Roman times people of African origin and descent have lived in Britain. This is a rich and developing story of human resilience and protest by black men and women, adults and children, who lived in Britain, including Kent, as workers, students, political activists, writers, Christian clergy and evangelists, through the years before 'Windrush'.



Speaker: David Killingray

When: 13th October 2022

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: 7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

Pluckley Heritage Centre presents

A visual talk

Villages through Time

By Kaye Sowden

**Saturday 8th of
October 2022**

Pluckley Village Hall

Talk at 1:30pm

Doors open at 1pm

Refreshments available

Donations to the Heritage
Centre welcomed.



KAYE SOWDEN

WEALD VILLAGES

Charing, Westwell, Hothfield, Little Chart,
Pluckley, Smarden

THROUGH TIME



This talk is based on a book that explores the history of several of the villages in the area including Pluckley. It will give an overview of some of the history of these lovely villages, illustrated by 100 year old postcards and photos. Do join us to explore some local history and please spread the word. This is a repeat of a previous talk and was due to take place in March 2022

Contact pluckleyheritagecentre@yahoo.com
or call 07753802814 if you have questions.



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



Term has started as hectic as we expected. We held our AGM which was very well attended. I suspect that this was largely because we were treated to a presentation by the two explorers on their trip to South Africa. They had an amazing time enjoying the reserve but also working with the anti-poaching services.

Obviously, a very worthwhile trip.

At the beginning of October we are helping to raise money and awareness for the homeless charity Porchlight. We are spending the night sleeping out in cardboard boxes. Keep fingers crossed that it's not too cold or wet.

Terry
Group Scout Leader
07748818660

AUNT JEMIMA'S SHAGGY DOG STORIES

The curator of the Madrid Zoo read in the zoological trade journals that there were only 34 Whooping Cranes left in all the world. He was instantly determined that his Zoo must have at least one. By some means or other a Whooping Crane was located and dispatched via air freight. Upon hearing the good news, the curator sent his Special Assistant In Charge of Endangered Species to the Madrid Airport to retrieve the Whooping Crane. Alas, when the bird arrived at the airport, it refused to leave the plane.

No amount of coaxing with food would cause the Crane to leave the plane. And so, the broken-hearted Special Assistant returned empty-handed to the Madrid Zoo and reported to the curator, "Cranes in Spain stay mainly on the plane."

A tall, weather-worn cowboy walked into a saloon and ordered a beer. The regulars observed the drifter through half-closed eyelids. No one spoke, but they all noticed that the stranger's hat was made of brown wrapping paper. Less obvious was the fact that his shirt and waistcoat were also made of paper, as were his chaps, pants and even his boots. Even the saddle, blanket and bridle on his horse were made entirely of paper. The sheriff walked in and of course arrested him immediately – for rustling.

An umpire returned home after a long day in the sun to find that his young boy wanted to play with him. As the tired umpire was sitting in his favourite easy chair, the lad kept trying to crawl onto his lap. The umpire snapped and yelled at the boy, who ran away crying. This proves the old adage: The Son Never Sits on the Brutish Umpire.

Mother Lion and Father Lion had gone off hunting, and had told their two children not to wander away. However, a couple of small gnus wandered by, and the baby lions could not resist the temptation to try out their own hunting skills. They ran out, chased after the gnus, killed them and started eating them.

Just as the baby lions were reaching the end of their meal, the parents appeared in the distance. One of the baby lions turned to the other, and said: "That is the end of the gnus. Here again are the head lions."

Pilgrims Hospice Thankyou letter for donation from HPC
in lieu of the Litter Pickers' wages



Mrs Marie Norris
Fairview Lodge
Bowl Road
Charing
ASHFORD
TN27 0NH

Our reference: 55724
17 August 2022

Dear Mrs Norris,

On behalf of the Pilgrims Hospices I would like to thank the Hothfield Parish Council all very much for your kind and thoughtful donation of £250.00 which we were delighted to receive from the wonderful work undertaken by volunteer litter pickers in the parish.

Your continued support, especially during this difficult time, is so valuable and we are so grateful that people like you are part of our community and support our work. We simply couldn't provide our expert, end of life care without you.

It is very important to us that our patients and their families are supported to live well in both mind and body for as long as possible. As I am sure you can imagine, the past few years have been unexpectedly difficult for us. But I want to reassure you that our vital work **has not stopped**. We continue to provide our compassionate care and support at our three hospices and in the community, with a few key changes to ensure our patients, their families and our staff are all remaining safe.

As always, we are only able to provide expert care and support, empowering people with terminal illnesses to live well in mind and body, thanks to the generosity of our family of supporters, which you are an important part of. Your generosity is ensuring Pilgrims remains here for our patients and their families even throughout these difficult times.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Pilgrims Hospices. Together, we make a difference.

Warmest wishes

Rachael Edmed
Community Fundraiser
Tel: 01233 504 111
Email: rachael.edmed@pilgrimshospices.org



Opening Times

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.

Prices

HOUSE & GARDENS

Adults **£14.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**,
except on some event days

GARDENS ONLY

Adults **£7.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**,
except on some event days