



HOHFIELD CRAFT & FLOWER SHOW

11th August 11am - 3pm
Hothfield Village Hall

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 11 July Hothfield Village Hall

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck — Nine Oaks Vineyard Sat 3pm 27 July

Great Expectations — Nine Oaks Vineyard 7pm 27 July

Craft & Flower Show 11 August 11am

Henry V — Nine Oaks Vineyard 7pm 15 August



A few months ago I mentioned that we had kindly been given old Village Newsletters from 1977 to 1983, and those provided a detailed insight of the vibrant village community that held lots of events including dances, theatre, flower shows and carnivals. I've been looking through a few more and it looks like the winter of 1977/78 was very harsh with lots of freezing weather and snow.

The January 1978 edition reported the sad passing of Sir Reginald Rootes. Sir Reginald was one of the founders of the British 'Rootes Group' motor company who bought up many of the small British makers around the 1950's and 1960's. Sir Reginald and his wife Nancy bought the Hothfield Place estate from Lord Hothfield soon after WWII, and demolished the old Manor in 1954. In 1961 he built himself a new big house which is now the Brain Injury Centre off Bethersden Road, plus two houses and two bungalows for his staff. After his death his widow eventually moved into a converted barn on West Street. Lady Rootes was an active supporter of activities and clubs in the village, providing generous gifts including Easter Eggs and holding a strawberry tea. The country estate was sold to a developer around 1984 who then sold off the various buildings separately.

In 1978 the village got its 30mph speed limit; the bus operator would not run the no.10 in both directions until there were improvements on the A20; and the Borough Council was considering insulating the 'old peoples' bungalows, and more street lights. The school children were allotted into four 'houses' for competitions and achievements: Speedwell (blue), Sundew (red), Orchid (green) and Chanterelle (yellow), and it looks like their team pride and rivalry continued after school. There's a few former pupils still in the village today, and the History Society has copies of the former school log books.

The Newsletters in the late 1970s were compiled by a group of six residents who met once a week to discuss content to "offer a well balanced and comprehensive coverage of village activities". In one edition they declared Hothfield the most 'go-ahead' village in the area.

Election Fever in 1979

Had enough of Elections? Pity the residents of Hothfield in 1979 when they had elections for the Government and for the Borough Council on 3rd May, followed by the Parish Council on 24th May and a vote on joining Europe. The rest, as they say, is history.

Village History website update

While I wait for the final payment to be received from the last one of the various generous sponsors of the website upgrade I can tell you that the new site has been designed and is looking good. The layout is simpler so that it can be more easily read on any device and it needs to comply with certain formats so that blind people, or those with difficulty reading, can use a screen reader to read it out loud. The old website is still live so there shouldn't be a long gap between the old one going offline and the new one being launched. The new software will be slightly easier for you to create your own page or to leave comments

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

HPC June Agenda Highlights

- 1) CCTV decision: HPC agreed to proceed with CCTV survey and report.
- 2) Speed Restrictions: HPC agreed to place order for the first speed restrictions through the village.
- 3) A new sign has been ordered for the Muga.
- 4) Ashford Plan 2041: Formation of new committee to voice local concerns and a focal point for Hothfield & Westwell villagers.
- 5) Hothfield Newsletter: A new distributor is needed to delivery to Beech Drive. Additional newsletters to be left at the Post Office for Beech Drive in short term.
- 6) Village Hall AGM Report.

Charing Scouts

The wet start to summer hasn't dampened our spirits. All sections have been busy getting outside whenever possible. Beavers had a fabulous evening building dens; photos on Facebook. They are looking forward to their sleepover. Good luck leaders!

Cubs had their first attempt at lashing staves together. They constructed a cube which we managed to imprison them all inside. We also had the great weigh in for our potato growing competition. Huge thanks to the Charing Gardeners for their help and adjudication. I was very happy with my 416 grams until I saw Milla's 1.2kg! I wonder what they use for compost.... Cub camp is coming up soon. It should be great fun.

Scouts have had an incredible activity day doing archery, axe throwing, shooting and much more. June ends with a pioneering project trying to keep them out of the toxic lake. Don't worry, we have lots of first aiders available. Next comes scout camp. We really are having the best time.

Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via
www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Fridays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Ashford Borough Council Waste and recycling collection service update

We are now almost two months into the new waste and recycling service, and while we did anticipate some issues due to the scale of the changes, it is fair to say, that in some areas, the levels of service are not quite where we expected them to be at this point. At the beginning of this week we met with senior representatives from SUEZ to discuss progress on the contract, and highlight some of the operational issues that our residents are experiencing. There are a number of changes being made, which we hope will bring an improvement to the situation over the coming weeks. Our contractor has made some changes in service vehicles and to routes and rounds which has taken longer to bed in than we anticipated. These changes have meant that our "missed bin" reporting system has been unavailable for some time. Behind the scenes we have been able to track service roll overs (to following days) and track missed bins but we are very aware of the frustrations caused from not being able to complete missed bin reports by our residents. This has been rectified and the system will now allow residents to report all missed bins, online. The online look up is available once again now some changes have been made. We understand members are receiving questions and complaints from residents, and so we have set out some of the key information you may wish to use in your responses to them. Key lines/responses • We want to reassure our residents that we are working hard with SUEZ to fix the ongoing issues with the new waste and recycling service which are leading to delays and missed bins. • We are sorry for any inconvenience this is causing and thank everyone for their patience during this time. • Due to the high levels of calls and messages we are receiving we are unfortunately unable to respond to all residents individually. • To save you time having to call, or waiting on a response, please report missed bins on our website – www.ashford.gov.uk/report-a-missed-bin • You can check your collection days on our look up tool on our website – www.ashford.gov.uk/bin-collection-calendar • As normal, collections will continue on the bank holiday so please present your bin on your collection day by 6am. • For more information, including FAQs on the new contract and why it changed, is available on our website - [The new waste and recycling contract which commenced March 2024 \(ashford.gov.uk\)](http://www.ashford.gov.uk)

Dragonflies



Following one of the wettest winters and springs on record, has had at least one benefit. The ponds and pools across Hothfield Heathlands are full of water!!

Ponds and pools are important to many animal species, but I always associate them with our spectacular dragonflies.

With their bright colours and impressive wingspans, dragonflies are an integral part of a heathland. Dragonflies were around long before the dinosaurs, with some prehistoric dragonflies having wingspans of 70cm !!! The insects we have on the reserve are somewhat smaller than that, the largest reaching a more modest 10cm.

Dragonflies have four obvious wings, which they hold wide open when sitting at rest. There is a group of dragonflies called the damselflies, which are much more delicate, and these fold their wings behind them when they land. Of course there are always contradictions to this rule, with the Willow Emerald damselfly sitting with its wings at a jaunty 45 degrees.

When in flight they are among the fastest and manoeuvrable of all insects, a big dragonfly can whizz around at 36km/h, and because each wing is controlled independently, they can stop in mid air, move sideways or even backwards. They use this manoeuvrability to catch insect prey in mid air. Many of the large dragonflies will carry on flying while they eat their meal – ready to catch the next mouthful.

Dragonflies spend a lot of time around water, because they lay their eggs in or near water, which then hatch to produce stumpy, wingless larvae. These larvae spend up to three years under water feeding on other aquatic insects, tadpoles

and even small fish. When they are ready to emerge, they climb out of the water onto stems of vegetation and a fully grown adult will squeeze out of the larvae's abandoned skin.

Dragonflies seem to like Heaths and bogs, in fact, about a third of all British dragonflies live exclusively on Heathlands. The soil and water are very acidic, which means that there are not many fish to eat the young dragonflies – the pools also tend to stay warmer, which speeds up growth.

Over 17 species of dragonfly are known to hunt or breed on the reserve, and include the Banded Demoiselle with its metallic blue body and big blue/black band on its wings, the Keeled Skimmer, found nowhere else in Kent and the Emperor, which as the name suggests is one of Britain's biggest !! This year our surveyor Rob Insall has



found a colony of the Beautiful Demoiselle, a species similar to the Banded Demoiselle, but with solid black wings.

For more information about dragonflies, the work of the Kent Wildlife Trust, and how you could get involved – please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Ian Rickards — Ashford Area Warden



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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.



THE GRANARY SPA

Holistic & Beauty

RELAX AND ENJOY THE SENSE OF SUMMER

Joyous July

This 55 minute ritual includes:

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- Application of radiant glow 2 in 1 chocolate mask scrub
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If you book Monday – Wednesday, choose a complimentary 10 minute relaxing Hand or Foot massage to enhance your spa experience.

****Offer runs from 1st-31st July 2024 – Available Monday – Saturday****

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—  —
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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

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This Month in the Vineyard

We have some exciting events coming up in the vineyard in July and August.



QUANTUM THEATRE & FREDERICK WARNE & CO
PROUDLY PRESENT

THE TALE OF JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK

BY BEATRIX POTTER
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY
MICHAEL WHITMORE

WWW.PETERRABBIT.COM

Nine Oaks Vineyard
Church Lane, Hothfield, Kent TN26 1EL
Saturday 27th July - 3pm
Booking: www.nine-oaks.co.uk

Adults £18
Concession £15
Child £12 (4-18)
Family £57.50 (2+2)

On the **27th of July (1500 – 1700)** we will be welcoming back **Quantum Theatre** for their second season at Nine Oaks. This year they will be performing a charming new adaptation of **Beatrix Potter's classic, *The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck***. Witty, delightful and fun for all the family!

Later that day **Quantum Theatre** will also perform an evening showing (**1900 – 2100**) of **Charles Dickens's classic *Great Expectations***. Quantum Theatre has brought it bang up to date in this gripping and original new adaptation.

On the **15th August** we welcome renowned production company **Changeling Theatre** to present Shakespeare's epic masterpiece, ***Henry V* (1900 – 2130)** "***We few, we happy few, we band of brothers***"

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S PERFORMED IN THE OPEN AIR

HENRY V

THE CHANGELING THEATRE SUMMER TOUR 2024

A young superstar King has ascended the English throne. When his advisors tell him the French throne is rightfully his too, Henry falls for their persuasion. An insult from the Dauphin – heir to the French throne – is enough to trigger Henry, who gathers a mighty fleet and invades France. After defeating the French at Harfleur and Agincourt, the young King makes the old King of France swear to hand the throne to him on his death, making him King of both countries. To seal the deal he marries the old King's daughter, Princess Katherine. Based on the events of the Hundred Years' War, Henry V is much more than a historical documentary. It is a play about the merits of war, set against the moral and personal cost of conflict. "***Once more unto the breach dear friends...***"

In the vineyard, early July is a very busy time. Flowering takes place in the first few weeks of July which is the process by which the vines self-pollinate and the tiny caps open to reveal each individual grape in miniature. We are praying for warm, dry and still weather over this period to ensure we get a good fruit set. It has been a challenging year weather wise so far so we will see how successful this is!

Hothfield Craft and Flower Show

On Sunday 11th August we will be holding a Craft and Flower Show at the Hothfield Village Hall. A full category list will be released in the August village newsletter, but entries are encouraged from all; fruits, vegetables, flowers, baking, dairy, homebrew, crafts, painting, drawing, photography, woodwork and many more. There will also be extensive children's categories with standard competition baking and colouring in also to be published in the August newsletter.

Entry is free so please come on down to view the best produce and craft that Hothfield has to offer and enjoy some tea coffee and cakes. Entries can be dropped off from 10am and the event will run 11am – 3pm.

QUANTUM theatre

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Adapted by Michael Whitmore by Charles Dickens

Nine Oaks Vineyard
Church Lane, Hothfield, Kent TN26 1EL
Saturday 27th July - 7pm
Adults £18 | Concession £15 | Child £12 (4-18) | Family £57.50 (2+2)
Booking: www.nine-oaks.co.uk

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

Services in July

Sunday 7th 11.00am The Eucharist

Sunday 21st 11.00am Festival Eucharist

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



Summer Word Search



SUMMER	G	A	R	D	E	N	Y	S	M	B	M	T	O	L	S
SUNSHINE	N	I	A	R	M	E	L	E	S	E	E	R	W	O	U
SWIM	U	C	I	N	C	I	P	E	A	S	I	A	M	S	N
BOAT	L	M	L	I	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	R	P	S
CAMP	P	O	P	S	I	C	L	E	Q	L	D	E	K	I	H
HIKE	U	I	P	E	C	A	M	P	I	O	O	L	F	C	I
GARDEN	Y	T	N	S	R	E	T	L	M	D	N	T	R	E	N
PLAY	P	W	N	S	O	E	P	A	T	G	N	E	D	X	E
BEACH	A	U	G	R	I	A	D	Y	B	O	A	Y	A	T	E
JULY	R	L	J	U	L	Y	G	R	S	A	S	O	U	P	A
AUGUST	K	E	F	G	L	C	E	A	T	H	I	R	G	A	S
PARK	B	A	L	Y	P	A	E	N	O	C	R	E	U	R	D
PICNIC	S	H	O	R	T	S	O	O	H	A	E	H	S	H	R
POPSICLE	U	Y	P	E	M	N	O	S	A	E	S	S	T	D	E
ICE CREAM	C	H	E	T	A	M	C	L	Y	B	G	M	R	E	S
SHORTS	X	L	A	O	V	Z	R	C	O	J	B	R	I	N	S
DRESS	F	O	S	E	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I	O	W	L
TRAVEL	B	L	O	S	S	U	M	M	E	R	W	B	M	O	S
VACATION															
SEASON															

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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