



At the Annual meeting
residents complained
about litter in the village.



Hothfield Parish Council have organised

HOTHFIELD

Community

LITTER PICK



SATURDAY
11TH JULY 2026

9.30AM

AT HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL



 **EQUIPMENT PROVIDED**
♥ **ALL WELCOME** ♥

*Please come along and help
keep your village tidy.* ♥

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 16th July Hothfield Village Hall

Village Litter Pick 9.30am Sat 11th July—Meet at Village Hall

Kent Police Hothfield Common Drop-In 12noon 4th Aug (see page 3)

On a quiet evening in late May, Area Warden Will Glasson led a group of enthusiasts to look for some of the less-seen residents of the reserve. Will reports: 'The theme of the evening was bats and amphibians. The UK has 7 species of native amphibian (5 being found on Hothfield) and 18 resident bat species. This event provided an opportunity for people to see a selection of these animals. We set off around dusk on a short loop walk incorporating a number of the pools and ponds on site which are a magnet for both species groups. It wasn't long before our set-frequency detectors started to click, telling us that one of our more numerous species was about – the pipistrelle bat. Using our echo-meters we were able to view the translated sonogram which can also be used to identify the species across all frequencies, revealing several other bats species foraging across the reserve.



Using our torches we were also able to have a look into the ponds, watching for aquatic life including amphibians basking in the shallow water edge soaking up the last bits of warmth from the day. Frogs, toads, palmate and smooth newts were seen darting into the depths as the light hit them. As the evening neared its end and we headed back towards the car park one of our nocturnal scrub nesters started up their unmistakable tune – one of our male nightingales trying to attract a mate. In total eleven people attending, even coming from as far afield as Cambridge to see what this amazing reserve has to offer.'

The offer includes two orchids uncommon in Kent and flowering now. Kent is rich in orchids so why just two here? Ian Rickards reminded me that we do have records for common spotted, pyramidal and bee, and continued: 'The soil chemistry plays a big part, with most of the Kent orchids associated with chalky, alkaline soils. The acid soils of Hothfield are fairly unique hence the more unusual orchids. Having said that, Southern Marsh can be found on many good quality wet grassland sites.'

Pale pink spires of the heath spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* are easily seen in and around the main bogs boardwalk, on the left as you walk down from the Cade Road car park. Alex Lockton records that, being more restricted to bogs and acid grassland it is considered an axiophyte of these habitats. Sarah Raven describes the flowers as 'blackcurrant ice cream doing a can-can, chunky, frilly,' with lobed lower petals covered in darker pink/purple squiggles. On the slopes it grows tallest in the shelter of young bracken, in a flowery mead of tormentil,

white clover, honeysuckle, grasses and sedges, heath bedstraw and milkwort, and speedwell, with rosettes of devils' bit scabious leaves and young ragwort, soft seedling birch and oak, alive with crickets and backed by banks of young ling. The twittering young birds and the rustling aspens in the bird sanctuary add to the magic. In the bog it grows on hummocks and the sphagnum moss, not in the water, its companions bog asphodel, bog cotton, water buttercup, lousewort, tormentil always, ragged robin, cross-leaved heath, bog pimpernel round-leaved sundew and marsh thistle. An airy floral display that belies the tenacity of plants adapted to difficult conditions. More magic as a pair of male and female broad bodied chaser dragonflies dance over a bog pool.

The tall purple spikes of Southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* are less visible to walkers but Alex Lockton records it as 'abundant in the lush growth of bog 4 though rare in other bogs; it is typical of marshy grassland and fens. A few plants of the hybrid of these two orchids also occurs in the bog closest to Lakeside, but it can be difficult to find amongst the swarm of rather variable Southern Marsh orchids.' Neither species produces nectar but both are pollinated by insects including bees, attracted by patterns visible to their ultraviolet vision as well as the patterns humans perceive.

Margery Thomas



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

Video Door Cameras

Following a wonderful response we will be Delivering Ring Doorbells soon for those residents who have registered.

Village Hall Closure

The Village Hall will be closed from 3rd Aug & reopen on the 24th Aug.

Charing Scouts Group

June has been a fabulous month for scouting. We weren't always lucky with the weather but getting outside and seeing young people develop new skills and confidence is priceless.

Beavers have walked miles this month, rounded off by a visit to Samphire Hoe. It was also nice to receive a surprise visit from our District Lead to present Julia, our beaver leader, with her ten year service badge.

Cubs started off with a disappointment when camp had to be postponed. Fortunately we've managed to reschedule so it will go ahead this month. This year is the 110th birthday of cub scouts. We've challenged the pack to complete 110 activities throughout the year. It's brilliant to see how enthusiastic some of them are.

Scouts had a fabulous encounter with a fire engine. Kent fire and rescue are always happy to spend time with us. I'm not sure whether the young people realised how much important information they were learning while they were having fun.

Many of our explorers have just finished big exams at school. It's great to see the smiles return. They are working with the alderbeds team and learning about conservation and woodland management. This has been made easier by a donation from the Charing fete to buy tools. We are still fundraising to get Perla to Poland for the World Scout Jamboree. We ran the barbecue at the Charing fete and raised over £500. The attendance was amazing, so we sold out much earlier than expected.

Now come camps and summer holidays.

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

Thursdays @ 10.30am

Dance Visions Zumba

Contact: bookwhen.com/dancevisions

Fridays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Hothfield Common Drop-In - Come and talk about your priority

issues! : Tue 04 Aug 12:00

Dear Hothfield,

I will be holding a surgery at Hothfield Heathland Nature Reserve. Meet us in the Car Park at between 12:00 - 13:00 on 04/08/26.

This is your opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and to find out what I am doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome and please share this message on to anyone that you would feel would benefit from attendance.

When and Where?

Tue 04 Aug 2026 12:00 - 13:00

**Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve,
Ashford TN26 1HD**



**Kent
Police**

While many people enjoy warmer summer weather, hot weather can cause some people to become unwell through overheating (becoming uncomfortably hot), dehydration, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

- 1) If you are going to do a physical activity (for example exercise or walking the dog), plan to do these during times of the day when it is cooler such as the early morning or the evening.
- 2) Keep your home cool by closing windows and curtains in rooms that face the sun.
- 3) Drink plenty of fluids and limit your alcohol intake.
- 4) Check on family, friends and neighbours who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell, and if you are at higher risk, ask them to do the same for you.
- 5) Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke and what to do if you or someone else has them.
- 6) Try to avoid direct sunlight, especially between 11am and 3pm when UV levels are highest.
- 7) If you are going out during this time, cover up with suitable clothing, wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, seek shade and apply sunscreen liberally and re-apply frequently.

About hot weather and health

Hot weather can increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, lung problems and other diseases. Older people, babies and young children are more likely to be unwell from hot weather because their bodies are less able to regulate temperature. People with underlying medical conditions can also be vulnerable to the effects of hot weather.

Many of the harms linked to heat exposure are preventable if a few simple actions are taken. During the summer, UKHSA will work with the Met Office to issue alerts alongside the weather forecast if the weather is so hot that it has the potential to affect people's health, and will help you to take steps to protect yourself and others.

People at higher risk of becoming unwell in hot weather

People who are at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell include:

- 1) Older people aged 65 years and over (note change from previous guidance of 75 years of age and above).
- 2) Babies and young children aged 5 years and under.
- 3) People with underlying health conditions particularly heart problems, breathing problems, dementia, diabetes, kidney disease, Parkinson's disease, or mobility problems.
- 4) Pregnant women.
- 5) People on certain medications.
- 6) People with serious mental health problems.
- 7) People who are already ill and dehydrated (for example from diarrhoea and vomiting).
- 8) People who experience alcohol or drug dependence.
- 9) People who are physically active and spend a lot of time outside such as runners, cyclists and walkers.
- 10) People who work in jobs that require manual labour or extensive time outside.
- 11) People experiencing homelessness, including rough sleepers and those who are unable to make adaptations to their living accommodation such as sofa surfers or living in hostels.
- 12) People who live alone and may be unable to care for themselves.

You should continue taking all of your prescribed medicines unless advised not to by a medical professional. If you have any health concerns, please call NHS 111. Some medications need to be stored below 25°C or in the fridge, following the storage instructions on the packaging. Check in with anyone you think might be at risk and see if they need help.

Community Car Scheme



Do you need help getting to your medical and other essential appointments?

Call us today on 01233 665535 or
email: transport@ashfordvc.org.uk

Volunteer *Centre*
Ashford

www.ashfordvc.org.uk

Celebration Cakes for all occasions
including Weddings

Special bakes include personalised
cupcakes, Brownies, Blondies,
chunky cookies and personalised
biscuits

You can find me on: Instagram -
[@flossysfussybakes](https://www.instagram.com/flossysfussybakes)

Facebook - Flossy's Fussy Bakes
Whatsapp/text - 07769 228842



**HOTHFIELD POST
OFFICE**

**New Opening
Hours**

**0700—1900
7days**

Katie Lam MP's Weald of Kent Awards 2026



One of my favourite things to do in the summer is to visit many of our fantastic local vineyards here in the Weald.

Kent has a long history of growing vines, stretching back centuries, but in recent years our corner of the county has become home to some of the finest vineyards and wineries in the country. From family-run producers to internationally recognised names, they're helping put the Weald on the map while supporting local jobs, tourism, and our rural economy.



But just like many of our farms, pubs and independent shops, our vineyards are being squeezed by red tape, high taxes and rising production costs. All of this pushes up prices, making it harder for our producers to compete and harder for people to support them.

I recently went to a friend's wedding in France. Driving around Provence the following day, I popped in to a little vineyard with a tasting room – not unlike one of our own small family producers here (though of course, none could truly compare with those we have here at home!).

I bought a nice bottle of white for €18, roughly what you might spend on, say, a bottle of Biddenden Ortega (£15.95, about €18.50). But these two vineyards are not competing on even playing fields.

Because whilst the French wine producer and the Kentish one are both paying sales tax (VAT in the UK) of 20%, in England, our vineyards are also paying another 18% – nearly £3 on a £16 bottle – in alcohol duty. The equivalent tax in France? Just three euro cents, €0.03. That means the Kentish producer is paying nearly twice as much tax per bottle as the French, and that means the vineyard needs to charge its customers almost a third more per bottle to make the same amount of money.

And that's before business rates, corporation tax, national insurance or packaging duty, and before you factor in the huge subsidies the French government pays to their winemakers!

Over the last few months, I've written to every vineyard across the Weald and taken their concerns directly to HM Treasury. The new duty system is far too complicated, and it's often smaller vineyards that are hit hardest. The Government must do more to help English wine producers grow and succeed. It can't be right that English vineyards face higher costs and tighter margins, imposed upon them by the Government, than many of their French competitors.

But the future of English wine remains incredibly bright. The quality of British sparkling wine is now recognised around the world, and many local producers are telling me that this season's grapes are looking particularly promising.

So, if you're looking for something to do this summer, why not spend an afternoon exploring one of our local vineyards? Enjoy the countryside, learn about the winemaking process, and perhaps treat yourself to a bottle of British wine and support local.

On a related note, nominations are now open for my Weald of Kent Awards 2026. If there's a local hero, independent shop, business, farmer, grower, producer (including of wine!), pub, café or restaurant that deserves recognition, I'd love to hear from you. You can find out more and submit a nomination here: www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards

Educational Grants

Uniform



Scouts Subs



Dance



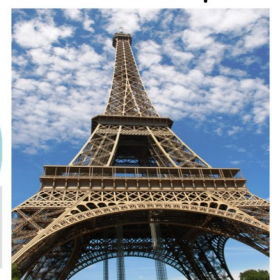
Sporting Activities



Travel



School trips



University



If you live in Hothfield and think that Hothfield Educational Foundation could help with your children's education, or know of someone else who could benefit, please do contact us via HothfieldEducation@gmail.com

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 June

Sunday 5th 11.00am The Eucharist

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



Calehill
Dementia Friends



Memory Café
Meet ♥ Share ♥ Support

♥ YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOME ♥

A friendly space for people living with dementia or memory loss, together with their family and carers.

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee, a relaxed chat and gentle, dementia-friendly and reminiscence activities in a warm and welcoming environment.

WHEN: Tuesday 9th June (and every second Tuesday of the month)

TIME: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WHERE: 1st Charing Scout Headquarters
Pett Lane, Charing, TN27 0DW

COST: FREE to attend

PARKING: Free parking available on-site

This café is run in partnership with



Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford

No booking or formal diagnosis is needed —
just drop in!

QUESTIONS? | Contact us at calehilldf@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook
Calehill Dementia Friends
Follow our page for updates on local events and support.

GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

JOIN THE GARDENING GROUP AT CHARING SURGERY TO GET FRESH AIR, EXERCISE, MEET OTHER PEOPLE, HAVE FUN & ENJOY BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

OPEN TO ALL PATIENTS AGE 16+ GREEN FINGERS NOT ESSENTIAL!

COME AND JOIN US! TUESDAYS 9AM-12PM POP ALONG & SAY HELLO!

SHIFT HAPPENS

DRIVING TUITION

Paul 07703 685143

www.shifthappensdrivingtuition.co.uk

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 NEWS

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