



FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD PRESENT
A Christmastime Crooner & Canapes
Monday 9th Dec 2024 6.45pm to 9.00pm
The Great Hall Godinton House
Tickets £25 each
Homemade canapes and selection of drinks
included
(Limited Tickets Available)

Join us for a festive evening to get you in the mood for Christmas

Jack Naismith, a young, talented, classically trained singer, with a love for Opera, Jazz and hits made popular by Sinatra & Dean Martin will be singing a number of iconic songs as well as Christmas Classics & Carols

Please contact Sharon or Nick on 07968 054898 for tickets or available from Hothfield Post Office

Charity Number 1198602

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 14 Nov Hothfield Village Hall

Christmastime 6.45pm to 9pm 9th Dec Godinton House

Hothfield Army Camp 80years ago



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During WWII our village was a base for various military Companies involved in defending our frontline county, or being trained and mustered for action in France. We know the names of some of the battalions and companies that moved through the area, but we don't have a full picture of who was here and what they were doing. The Royal Engineers were based here and at Ripton Manor building defences around the coast and repairing railways, for example; others were being trained to drive tanks across the variety of terrains on the Common. Soldiers were based in Nissen huts and tents on the Common and surrounding areas; officers and senior ranks commandeered the large farm houses along with Hothfield Manor itself with further tents and training areas in its grounds. Evidence of their occupation still remains on what is now the Heathlands nature reserve.

I've also come across a letter from local author Geoffrey Cooper written to the History Society in 2006 where he explains that there was a "Overseas Contingent" of the National Fire Service briefly based at the Hothfield camp. He explains that the military had their own armed fire service but this would be used at combat zones. But the country needed to be prepared for a possible invasion and a 'scorched earth' policy by the invading troops which would overwhelm our own conventional fire service. Thus volunteers were sought to increase the numbers of fire-fighters in 1944. Apparently five columns of 500 men and 140 vehicles were formed, trained and an 'elite' ethos was cultured. Two Companies of this "Overseas Contingent" was based at Hothfield from 11th September 1944 until mid October when these Companies were moved to Margate. Most of them were disbanded in November 1944 when it had been decided that the Army Fire Service was able to cope in Europe although some of the Overseas Contingent were sent to mainland Europe to support the American army's advance into Germany in January 1945.

While in Hothfield, which was a central location with good access to most of Kent by road and rail, this additional Fire Service were quickly deployed to the sites of V1 and V2 rocket attacks and were intended to provide cover at railheads and places where supplies were stored. Mr Cooper reports that the personnel were also engaged in repairing houses, sheeting roofs and felting windows particularly in Dover and Folkestone as a result of shelling from France; and they also helped local farmers with agricultural work.

On leaving Hothfield one member of the Overseas Contingent wrote: *"I am very sorry indeed to be leaving Hothfield. I have been happier here than at any other place we have been in. I love the country life, the sun, green trees, dead leaves and rain."*

A transcript of Mr Cooper's letter is on the website.

Royal Connections number 2

Last month I reported that our current Queen Camilla was a descendant of the Tufton family who were the land-owners and Lords of Hothfield. I forgot to mention that our current King Charles visited Hothfield Heathlands in 1993 when he was still Prince of Wales.

But there have been other connections with royalty and Hothfield. The Tuftons held positions in the Courts of a number of Monarchs, and in 1573 Queen Elizabeth toured Kent visiting a number of important houses such as Sissinghurst where she was entertained and accommodated overnight. She stayed with the Tuftons here at Hothfield from 19th to 21st August when she moved on to her own manor of Westenhanger. John Tufton presented Queen Elizabeth with three bowls with covers of silver gilt surmounted by the royal arms. Tradition also says that some of the Queen's attendants stayed at The Haven in Westwell.

Chris Rogers, Hothfield History Society

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

Coronation Orchard

Hothfield PC request for fruit trees under this programme has been accepted, at least 18 and maybe many more if ABC provides more trees than the interested villages need.

The trees for us will arrive in January so we have that time to ready a volunteer team to plant them and carry out the seasonal duties involved at various time in the year ; eg pruning, harvesting and, especially in the early years, watering in dry spells. The trees will be a mixture of apples, pears and cherries.

Please volunteer if you can help with the work or advise.

The locations for the orchards are:

- 1) Next to the Muga and interspersed between the pieces of playground equipment, with a view to interesting youngsters.
- 2) Around the village hall (separately applied for by the hall committee).
- 3) In reserve, a single tree strip from Orchard 1 to the old school car park.
- 4) Also in reserve, the entrance to the Common on West St.

CCTV Cameras

This scheme has been in preparation for some time and the basics have been researched and agreed; a mixture of 360 degree turning and fixed cameras; feeding back to ABC's 24/7 service via the village's fibre network. Villagers have approved using some Solar money to fund it.

The firm who arranged for the cameras in Charing have quoted and Councillors will be deciding on their proposals for Hothfield at the next HPC meeting. The cost of the scheme is high and the HPC will be undertaking an assessment of whether shrinking its scope would be worthwhile.

Residents can feedback on the scheme with any questions they have.

The proposed location of the cameras is as follows.

- 1) At the junction of the road to Pluckley and the Street. Rotating camera.
- 2) At the junction between Park Drive and The Street. Rotating camera.
- 3) Opposite the village hall. Fixed camera looking at the hall.
- 4) At the junction of The Street and Tufton Road, looking down the latter.

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

Hothfield Parish Council

We need Volunteers to deliver this Newsletter to Coach Drive and Beech Drive. Please contact the editor. At present a few extra newsletters will be left in the Post Office.

NEWSLETTER AMENDMENT

An amendment has been issued to the October 2024 Newsletter

Article: This Month in the Vineyard Oct 24: Para 5 Line 2 : Delete "public consultation" Insert public meeting .As requested at HPC meeting 10 October 2024

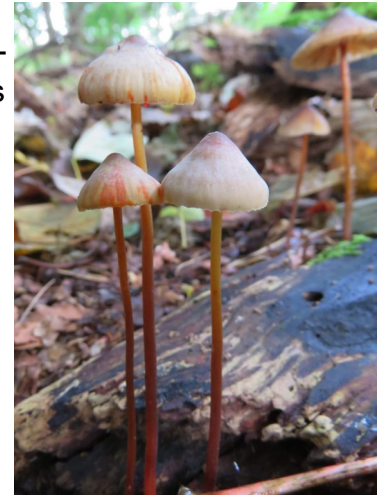
The weather that contributed to a poor year for insects and butterflies has helped produce a flourish of fungi from late summer on, a show that will run right through the winter across the varied habitats of the reserve. The visible structure, the fruitbody, comes in many shapes - umbrella, cup, tiny finger, blob or bracket – and in red, pink, orange, yellow and green through to purple and inky black as well as the usual subtle colours.



There are over 1,500 species of mushroom in the UK; Hothfield Heathlands has a good number plus some eagle-eyed volunteers and regular photographers. They had two good finds in October. Anne Rowe spotted saffrondrop bonnet, *Mycena crocata* commenting “First time I’ve come across this at Hothfield. It exudes a bright orange sap and smells slightly of bleach.” Val Butcher noticed crown tip candelabra coral, *Arctomyces pyxidatus*, which had been spotted by Anne in 2021, and was found again last month in at least one other location on the reserve. Not reliably recorded in this country at all since 1886, so considered extinct, it was found in Suffolk in 2012 after more than a century, and has now been recorded here in 2021, 2023 in Addington and here this year. This coral fungus, creamy to yellow or white to pale pink, is 2-10 cm high, and browns with age. It grows many small upright branches on top of each other, like a candelabra. The tip of each branch has a central depression surrounded by several pointed tips, resembling a tiny crown. It is found on rotted usually mossy hardwood, sometime softwood.

Some fungi simply dissolve, slimy and smelly, after spore production, others become fossilised, like bracket fungus on trees. What always remains is the underground extensive network of mycelium. Anyone who has dealt with honey fungus in their garden and pulled out ropes of rhizomorphs, strands of mycelium, will know just how far and how strong strands of mycelium can grow.

Area Manager Ian Rickards spoke recently to the BBC about the re-discovery of rare species such as these, and how some of the sites where these species exist are being threatened with development or illegal dumping. Macrofungi, mushrooms, are recognised as having an essential role in the natural process of decay and regeneration, providing habitats and food for other species, while microfungi, mould, mildew, yeast and lichen, assist in the production, flavouring, and preservation of food and medicine, such as bread, soya products, cheese, wine and beer.



At Cop16, which opened in late October, the UK and Chile will have proposed to the UN convention on biological diversity that fungi should be placed alongside animals and plants as a separate realm for environmental protection. Biologist Merlin Sheldrake explains that “Fungi are largely invisible ecosystem engineers that underwrite the regenerative capacity of the living world. With many key roles in regulating the climate and sustaining global biodiversity.... It is vital that we make progress on this challenge, both to combat the destruction of fungal communities, which accelerates both climate change and biodiversity loss, and to make it easier to work with fungi to help respond to the many pressing crises we face.” The proposers say there is a growing body of evidence that fungi play a crucial role in remediating soil, sequestering a third of carbon from fossil fuel emissions, and breaking down plastics and polluting chemicals. Without fungi, most plants are unable to live outside water and therefore life on earth as we know it would not exist.

At the local level, Ian would like to draw your attention to KWT’s Save Our Woodlands appeal; details of which can be found at <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals/save-our-woodlands>



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THE GRANARY SPA

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I recently completed my Mental Health First Aider course, which is an incredible opportunity for my team, my clients and myself.

Mental health at work is very important to us at The Granary Spa and I look forward to all the help and support I can give!

Here is a 5 step guide to wellbeing to support yourself and others around you:

1. Connect - talking to someone new, if you feel comfortable
2. Get Active - get back to nature, go for a walk or cycle
3. Take Notice - catch up with a friend or family member
4. Learn - read a book, sign up for a class or start a new hobby
5. Give - do a good deed for someone else

Love, Cerys x

Charing Scout Group

Our term is in full swing with all sections having loads of fun. Beavers had a really exciting visit to Ashford museum. They were enthralled! They then organised and ran a MacMillan coffee morning. They were brilliant! We are so grateful to everyone who helped to prepare, serve and clear up. Over £250 was raised for this fantastic cause. Well done everyone.

Cubs have spent two weeks working on their communicator badge. This was all organised by Ellen, one of our young leaders. We then spent an evening making rope! I have to admit that some of the rope might struggle to pass British Standards, but it was great fun.

Our senior scouts went on a camp even though we are well in to autumn. They arrived back exhausted but exhilarated. There is lots of talk about the Kent International Jamboree next year. This is a must do for everyone. So much to do and so many people to meet.

We are so proud of our explorers who served and cleared up at the Charing Harvest Supper. We love to be part of what is happening in the community. They then camped out in cardboard boxes to help raise money for Porchlight, which is one of the charities we support. Well done!

Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660

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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.



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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t 07521000697

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

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REQUEST FOR FROM A LOCAL DOCTOR

I am due to commence a job as a doctor at the Hothfield Brain Injury Unit working Fridays from 18th October 2024. As I shall be commuting by train from London, I am exploring options to travel from Ashford station to the Unit.

Having come across your newsletter, I wondered whether there might be someone within the Parish who is able to offer a lift, with payment to them or donation to the Parish.

I should be at Ashford train station at 8.20am and leaving the Unit at around 5.15pm.

Any suggestions or advice would be warmly welcomed.

With many thanks & warmest regards

Alifa

Please contact the editor: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.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 November

Sunday 3rd 11.00am The Eucharist

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

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 2.30 p.m. (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 13th November at 2.30 pm: Chinese Imperial Court Costume Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911) – a journey through the Imperial wardrobe.

Lecturer David Rosier, who lived in East Asia for over 30 years and is a recognised expert on all aspects of Imperial Court life, art and culture, will bring a display from his vast collection of costume and dress accessories



Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership is £40. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our web-site



www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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