

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

March Draw

At the time of going to press,
the March draw had not yet taken place.

Cost to enter: only £1 per draw,
£12 per year or £6 for six months.

Collect a form from HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE
Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

Hothfield News

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY
VOLUME 10 NUMBER 4 APRIL 2019

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!



Photo: Val Butcher

Fun Quiz Night and Hearty Supper, Saturday 6 April, Hothfield Village Hall

Buy your tickets now for our fun quiz night and hearty supper on 6 April – all ages are welcome! The supper will comprise a choice of home-made tasty dishes with something for everyone, including a vegetarian option. Tickets cost just £6 per person (£3 for under-twelves) and are available from Hoth-



field Post Office. Teams of six people (eight at a cosy squeeze) – or come along and join in with others. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Prizes for the winning team and great raffle prizes including a fabulous Easter hamper, wonderful Sunday lunches at The Swan

at Little Chart and at The Black Horse at Pluckley, a voucher for a treatment at The Granary Spa at Great Chart, bottles of wine and more.

So don't delay – get your tickets today! To help us plan catering, please try to buy tickets by Wednesday 3 April if possible. If you would like to reserve tickets or have an

enquiry, please call 01233 625942, leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Alternatively, visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk Proceeds will be shared equally between your Village Hall and Hothfield History Society.

Chris Rogers,
Hothfield History Society

JOB VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen in the parish of Hothfield for a Clerk to work for 5 hours a week. The position is home-based and duties include:

- Producing and publishing minutes and agendas for meetings of the Parish Council.
- Providing Councillors with advice and information regarding legislation and procedures which affect the Council.
- Overseeing the work of one other Parish Council employee.
- Updating the Parish Council noticeboard
- Completing the payroll, updating the accounts and completing a bank reconciliation on a monthly basis
- Helping with the preparation of the annual budget and completing the annual accounts and return
- General administrative tasks including handling correspondence, emails and telephone calls

The ideal candidate should hold a qualification in local government administration or be prepared to undertake training, have experience in working in an office and have a working knowledge of Microsoft office programmes including Outlook, Word and Excel, some knowledge of payroll and accounting and experience in arranging meetings and taking minutes and be comfortable dealing with members of the public. For further details contact The Chairman, Ian Lloyd – email ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk

Salary will be in accordance with the national scale and commensurate with experience. Closing date 12 April 2019.

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Rector: Rev. Canon Sheila Cox 01233 712598

Churchwardens Hedley Grenfell-Banks 01233 421149, Malcolm Wood 01233 623090



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Services at Saint Margaret's

Sunday 7 April Lent 5 (Passiontide begins): 11.00 The Eucharist
A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 14 Palm Sunday: 11.00 Matins
Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, with hymns

Sunday 21 Easter Day: 11.00 The Eucharist
A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 28 Easter 2 11.00 H4
an informal service for all the family
Followed at 12.00 by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Special Holy Week Services in the G7 Benefice

Thursday 19 April (Maundy Thursday)
Seder Meal in Charing Heath Memorial Hall

Friday 19 (Good Friday)
Services at 0930 (Charing Heath), 10.00 (Pluckley and Westwell)

A LILY FOR EASTER

Contact Jane on 840310 if you who would like to donate a lily
to St Margaret's Church for Easter
in memory of a loved one, relation or friend.

Bishop condemns seemingly harmless amusement

The Bishop of Donegal, Rt. Revd Conor O'Rhioda, preached a sermon recently saying that April Fool's Day was a form of organized lying practiced by unbelievers, and that Christians therefore should not participate in the tradition. He made his comments in response to a query from a local Catholic newspaper.

Bishop O'Rhioda acknowledged that many younger Christians were very fond of the custom, but said, 'It is prohibited because lying is prohibited at all times and under all conditions.' He noted only three exceptions to this rule: when lying brings reconciliation between people, when it occurs during times of war, or when a husband or wife must protect the honour of the spouse. Also, of course, in newspaper articles where the writer is merely having you on.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited, printed and published by Hedley Grenfell-Banks, financed by Hothfield Parish Council and distributed free to every house in the village by dedicated volunteers. Email hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk telephone 421149

Available on line at http://www.hothfield.org.uk/news_letter.html

The deadline for the May 2019 issue is 20 April. 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.

3 Hothfield Parish Council

We finally have the results of the traffic survey carried out on the A20 Maidstone Road near to the junction with Chapel Road.

The average speed of traffic during the survey period has been recorded in the region of 50mph, which can give us some confidence in promoting a speed limit reduction on the A20 through Hothfield to 50mph.

We are now waiting for the views of Kent Police on the proposal for the speed limit reduction.

The Parish Elections are to be held on Thursday 2 May 2019, and provide residents with the opportunity to have their say on those candidates that represent your views on the Parish Council.

This year we will be bidding a sad farewell to one of our longest serving parish councillors, Peter Howard, who is retiring.

Peter has served local residents for the last 19 years through the Parish Council and various other village activities, and I would like to thank Peter publicly for his fantastic service to Hothfield; he will indeed be sorely missed.

We need residents to step up and volunteer to become the new generation of Parish Councillors. Nominations for this year's election have to be received at Ashford Borough Council before Wednesday 3 April 2019.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Ian Lloyd
Chairman
Hothfield Parish Council

Who's Missing?



Is It You?

You may be just the person your community needs to -

- Represent the views of local people
- Bring fresh ideas about local services
- Help keep this community a good place in which to live

Elections for your local Council will be held in May 2019. Find out what Town & Parish Councillors can do and how to stand for election from your local council or from the Kent Association of Local Councils.

Contact your local council.

Name: Ian Lloyd
Tel: 07905 422 862
Email: ian@publicstar.co.uk
Website: <http://www.hothfield.org.uk/council.htm>

Kent Association of Local Councils

www.kentalc.gov.uk



Serving Parish & Town Councils in Kent

Worrying Signs

Signs of drug use around the village

If anyone is worried about peer pressure or parents are worried about their children, they can find help, advice and information at www.talktofrank.com; call 03001236600 or Text 82111



As days get longer and younger children stay out later they need the skills and knowledge to keep safe. We all worry about the younger children, as they do hang out with the older ones in summer. We have had evidence of drug use (as above), and sometimes a spoon has been found, and melted things where the users have burned whatever they can find, along with balloons (used with Nitrous Oxide) among the empty cans and broken bottles. At the same time, one feels sorry for the older kids, as there's not much for them to do and the buses stop so early.



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 now parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Hothfield Manor centre

JUMBLE SALE

Hothfield Village Hall

Saturday 13th April 2019
14.00 – 15.30

We hope you will support us and help us raise funds for our clients to have extra activities and trips

APRIL ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS

Spring was in the air as soon as the first brimstone butterflies were seen on the margins of woodland and thickets in February, with a red kite, one of the kings of the food chain, patrolling high above. The pale yellow brimstone was probably the first owner of the name butterfly. A powerful flyer, it can be seen almost all year and hibernates among ivy leaves from November to February. Through March and April brimstones are the main pollinators of primroses as they hunt for early nectar.

Something else is permanently in the air, and features in the management plan for the reserve. To maximise conditions for the fragile specialist plants adapted to survive in nutrient-poor soil and bogs, more invasive species are judiciously (and vigorously) removed, smothered, grazed or bashed. These include not only birch producing millions of seeds, New Zealand pond weed introduced possibly by some well-meaning member of the public, and bracken with mile-a-minute rhizomes, but also nettles, brambles, cleavers (goosegrass) and the grass Yorkshire Fog, which all thrive on an invisible threat.

These species easily absorb the excess nitrogen caused by emissions from transport, power stations, farming and industry, which is still being deposited from the air and in rain, despite the drop in pollution levels due to tighter controls. Nitrogen increases the vigour of these species, which outgrow and swamp the rarer plants that can only survive in nutrient-poor soils, the vigorous species are all important in their own right, in the right place, providing shelter and food for insects and animals, part of the food chain crowned by birds of prey such as the red kites. Warden Ian Rickards says: 'We need to be careful that these plants don't dominate in

areas where we may lose important species. Quite often it is the grasses that really benefit from this additional nutrient load, species like Yorkshire Fog will quickly dominate a landscape and are very hard to control as grazing and cutting will often only encourage them.'

The 2017 report *We need to talk about nitrogen* by sister charity Plantlife concluded that the continuing destructive impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on plants and ecosystems is one of the greatest challenges facing conservation: 90 per cent of all nitrogen-sensitive habitats in England and Wales, such as Hothfield Heathlands, receive higher levels of nitrogen deposition than they can tolerate, with the consequent decline in nitrogen-sensitive plants. Conservation and health organisations continue to lobby for coordinated national and international strategies to reduce pollution that also kills thousands of people. Locally they work to protect reserves from potential new sources of nitrogen pollution. Everyone can help by reducing car journeys and the use of artificial fertilisers in gardens.

Hothfield Heathlands is open to everyone; trails are signposted and shown on entrance maps, along with the location of livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and animals, and away from the heather and undergrowth to avoid disturbing wildlife. Please clean dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment. For email alerts on location of livestock, contact Ian: ianrickards@kentwildlife.org.uk or 01622 662012.

Volunteer task days in April are happening on the 9th and 23rd, all welcome.

Margery Thomas



what a wonderful weald help us keep it that way



wkps

weald of kent protection society

The aim of our dedicated team of volunteers is to protect our unique Wealden towns, villages and countryside from the effects of damaging and unsuitable development, preserving its charm and character for future generations to enjoy. We welcome active members to help us with a range of activities, from scrutinising planning applications to organising events. If, like us, you care about the Weald, please get in touch and get involved.

find out more: www.wkps.org.uk
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

This is our six-year-old cat, Tia. She is a tortoiseshell and is quite overweight according to the vet and so is on a diet. She sometimes goes missing for a couple of days and comes back with no interest in food. She doesn't wear a collar as she hates them, and this may mislead people into thinking she has no home. Many kind people may give her some food and she is very good at



playing the 'I am so starving please feed me' act. This could lead to her developing some medical problems in the future. If you see her, please don't feed her, feel free to give her a fuss but be careful as she is very moody! Thanks for your consideration.

the Smiths

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Hothfield Honey: Ethical and Sustainable



Bee Welfare at Hothfield Apiary

Honey bees provide an essential pollination service vital for many crops. Without beekeepers maintaining colonies, honey bees would cease to exist in this country. Keeping my bees happy and well is my top priority.

Providing good accommodation is important. I make my own hives, and each year they are cleaned and repainted to ensure they provide protection from the weather and from attacks by predators. I regularly monitor the hives for parasites and diseases, and use only natural remedies.

I take honey from the hives in spring and summer following periods of abundance. This allows time for the bees to rebuild their supplies before the winter. To further ensure they have sufficient stores, I check the weight of the hives in the autumn and provide additional feeding if



they are becoming light. All of my beehives have come through the winter, as they did last year. This compares with a national average of around 30% winter losses, so my bees are reasonably contented. The bees have been out enjoying the recent warm weather, and are already bringing back pollen to raise new foragers for the summer.

My six beehives in Hothfield are close to Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve. The main honey flow is later in the season, when many wild flowers, particularly heathland heather, bramble and clover are in flower. My honey goes

straight from the hive to the jar. It is filtered, but not finely, so it retains pollen.

Many of my customers buy local honey to help control allergies such as hay fever. It's not heat treated, and nothing is added.

If you would like to find out how good Hothfield raw honey tastes, it's available in large (1 lb) jars for £5 and small (1/2 lb) jars for £3.50 including free delivery to your door. Please telephone Sheila on 01233 624105 or email hothfieldhoney@outlook.com

Paul Harris, Beekeeper



1st Charing Scout Group

Spring is such an important time for us. The winter doesn't stop us getting about. Ten of our senior cub scouts took part in a night hike. They had to navigate using maps and compasses and cope with rain and low cloud on the Downs. Not a single mistake!

We are now planning more outdoors activities. April sees us taking part in the Spring litter pick, selling programmes and teas at Charing Races and our St George's Day Parade.

Terry Lister

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk
0774 8818660
01233 712981

FUN QUIZ NIGHT AND HEARTY SUPPER

CHOICES INCLUDE VEGETARIAN



Saturday 6th April
Hothfield Village Hall
7pm for 7.30pm All welcome!

Tickets £6, under 12s £3
From Hothfield Post Office



To help us plan catering please try to buy tickets by 3rd April

Teams of 6 people (8 at a squeeze)
Bring your own drinks and glasses
Call (01233) 625 942 to reserve

Proceeds to Hothfield Village Hall and Hothfield History Society
Visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Village Hall



Regular Activities

Mondays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
Tuesdays West Coast Swing Dancing 8. to 10.30pm.
Wednesdays Hothfield Play-Days
a soft play session for children under 5 and their parents
Dog Training 5.30-9pm
Thursdays
Fridays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
Saturday Rugby Tots 9-11.45am.

To book the Village Hall for your Parties, Get-togethers, etc., please ring Paul on 07719 227542, or email hothfieldhall@outlook.com Or visit www.hothfieldhall.online

Prices: Village £10 per hour, Outside Village £12.50/hour

All Day Hire – Village £175.00 (£175.00 deposit required).

All Day Hire – Outside Village £250.00 (£250.00 deposit)

Children's Birthday £35.00 first 4 hours,



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Opening Times

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday | 0900 – 1200 | Post Office closed |
| Monday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Tuesday | 0700 – 1300 | |
| Wednesday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Thursday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Friday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Saturday | 0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | PO morning only |

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Godinton House & Gardens



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| 2019 Prices | Adult | Children (under 16) |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Garden Only | £5 | Free, except on some event days |
| House and Gardens | £10 | Free, except on some event days |

| Opening Times | Dates | Days | Times |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Garden | 1st March – 1st Nov, every year | Daily | 1pm – 6pm |
| House | 5th Apr 2019 – 6th Oct 2019 | Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays | 1pm – 5pm Last Tour 4pm |
| Tearoom (for House & Garden visitors only) | 5th Apr 2019 – 6th Oct 2019 | Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays | 1pm – 5.30pm (Last Orders 5pm) |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| SPRING WEEK | 8 – 12 April | 13:00 – 16:00 |
| Creating Beautiful Borders | 24 April | 9:30 – 13:30 |
| CLAY SCULPTURE | 30 April | 10:30 – 16:00 |
| Introduction to Bushcraft | 6 April | 9:30 – 12:30 |
| Introduction to Bushcraft | 20 April | 9:30 – 12:30 |

Country Funerals

Our Lady Funeral Director will assist and guide you in saying goodbye to your loved one with compassion and dignity.

For a Caring 24 Hour Service

Contact Leah Hutchinson

Tel 01233 712222 or 07708407229

Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4LE

Charing Gardeners' Society

Everyone welcome at all our events.

Annual membership just £3.

Sat 6 April Spring Show

Our first show of the year.

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing.

Exhibits staged from 9am to 11.15am. Schedule available on our website. Open to the public at 2pm. Entrance is free. Please come along and see a wonderful display of Spring flowers, vegetables, plants, floral art, cookery and handicrafts and enjoy some delicious refreshments. Raffle, plant sales. Everyone welcome to enter or visit.

Wed 17 April Talk

7.30pm, Church Barn, Charing,

“Small Meadows for Gardeners”.

Maureen Rainey from Kent Wildlife Trust. Everyone seems to want a wildflower meadow, but in a small garden making one can prove difficult. But don't give up, there are lots of things you can do in even the smallest space to replicate a meadow type habitat and still have an attractive garden which will give you lots of pleasure.

Entrance £2 and £3 for non-members and includes refreshments. Everyone welcome, especially new members.

Raffle, Plant Sales.

Wed 15 May

Floral Art Demonstration

and workshop with committee members.

7.30pm, Church Barn, Charing

An informal evening to demonstrate how to put together eye-catching displays of floral art as described in our show schedules. Four committee members will lead the evening and encourage members to have a go themselves. Come along and give it a try... Gentlemen included!

Entrance £2 and £3 for non-members and includes refreshments. Everyone welcome, especially new members.

Raffle, Plant Sales.

Please visit our website www.charinggardeners.org.uk or on Facebook.

Any questions or queries please contact Heather Button 01233 635777

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kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

ALUNT JEMIMA'S PREGNANCY Q & A

Q: Should I have a baby after 35? A: No. 35 children is enough.

Q: I'm two months pregnant now. When will my baby move?

A: With any luck, right after he finally gets a job.

Q: What is the most common pregnancy craving?

A: For men to be the ones who get pregnant.

Q: What is the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex? A: Childbirth.

Q: The more pregnant I get, the more often strangers smile at me. Why?

A: Because you're fatter than they are.

Q: My wife is five months pregnant and so moody that sometimes she's borderline irrational.

A: So what's your question?

Q: My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labour, but pressure. Is she right?

A: Yes, in the same way that a howling gale might be called a bit of a draught.

Q: When is the best time to get an epidural? A: Right after you find out you're pregnant.

Q: Is there any reason I have to be in the delivery room while my wife is in labour?

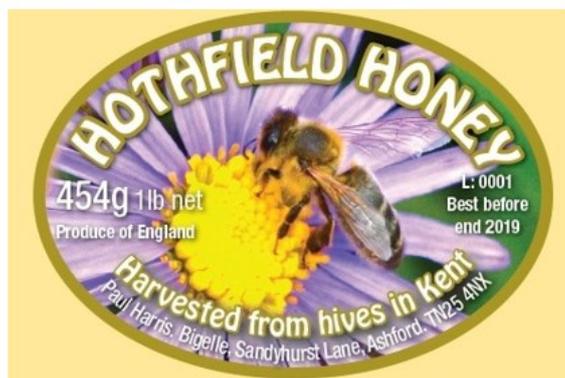
A: Not unless the word "alimony" means anything to you.

Q: Is there anything I should avoid while recovering from childbirth? A: Yes. Pregnancy.

Q: Do I have to have a baby shower? A: Not if you change the baby's diaper very quickly.

Q: Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again?

A: When the kids are in college.



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