

Hothfield News

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2

January 2020



There is a privacy about winter which no other season gives you. Only in winter can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savour belonging to yourself.

Ruth Stout

Winter is a time of promise because there is so little to do, or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.

Stanley Crawford

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



2

Contact: for weddings, baptisms, etc. Rev. Jack Bateson , 01233 756674

Services at Saint Margaret's

Sunday 2 February The Presentation of Christ un the Temple 11.00
The Eucharist; Holy Communion in modern English

Sunday 9 Third Sunday before Lent 10.45
Matins: Traditional Morning Prayer

Sunday 15 Advent 3: No service in Hothfield

Sunday 23 Next before Lent 16.00
H4: Informal service for all the family

Wednesday 26 Ash Wednesday
Special Services in Charing Heath (10.30) and Pluckley (19.30)

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



CHARING WITH LITTLE CHART, CHARING HEATH, EGERTON, HOTHFIELD, PLUCKLEY AND WESTWELL

For services in the other Calehill and Westwell churches, see <https://www.calehill-westwell.uk/pew-news-1>

Westwell St Mary Feb 1st Musical Joy at 4 to 5 pm .

Overcome the grey of winter with favourite songs, drinks and nibbles. Free but donations welcome.

Messy Church Sunday Feb 9th Westwell Parish hall 3.30 pm to 5 pm

Theme:- Jesus meets his disciples <https://www.calehill-westwell.uk/pew-news-1>

Crafts, Games, Songs and food with a bible theme. For all children with an accompanying adult.

Wanted

People who enjoy working with children and would welcome a chance to be involved in an informal church based session once a month with a preparation session for an hour in the previous week.

Messy runs on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3.30 to 5pm in Westwell parish hall. Each month there is a bible based theme for all the activities. All children come with an adult.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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

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

The deadline for the March 2020 issue is 20 February.

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.

Hothfield Parish Council

Meeting to discuss ideas for Solar Farm Money

Saturday 22 Feb at 2pm in Hothfield Village Hall

Since asking residents for their thoughts on spending our Solar Farm money, we have received several suggestions by e-mail. We would like the opportunity to discuss these, and any other ideas people have, at the above meeting.

Tea & Coffee will be provided.

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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.

wkps

weald of kent protection society

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

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

December winners

1st prize	£22.25	no. 116
2nd prize	£13.35	no. 149
3rd prize	£8.90	no. 49

January winners

1st prize	£22.25	no. 126
2nd prize	£13.35	no. 159
3rd prize	£8.90	no. 179

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

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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

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

Village Hall



Regular Activities

Mondays	Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am. 1830-2100 tai chi and yoga
Tuesdays	1900-2100 Hothfield short mat Bowls Club
Wednesdays	Dog Training 5.30-9pm
Thursdays	10:30-1230 play-days parent and toddler group
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, then at hourly rate. (£25.00 deposit required).



Snipe © K Duvall



tailed tits, creating intricate nests of lichen in gorse and brambles, although they may not have brood until late

April. Tawny owls will be looking for large holes in trees and nuthatches will adapt old woodpecker holes with mud to make the hole just the right size to keep out larger intruders.

The Heathland is open for everyone to enjoy. Trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, as is 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 livestock, and away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment.

Our next Sunday task day is on 9 February (2nd Sunday of each month from October to March). Our Tuesday volunteer group will be out every other week all through the year. For email alerts on the location of the livestock or volunteer opportunities contact Ian Rickards on ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk.

Margery Thomas

The sun felt stronger almost immediately after Christmas, in the mild if wet weather. Honeysuckle leaves were sprouting before New Year's Day to get as much light as possible before the tree canopy develops. Now bluebell leaf tips are piercing the leaf litter, birdsong is strong and territorial and mating behaviour starting. The gorse is in bloom, hazel catkins have already shed their pollen, ivy berries are mostly eaten, early insects are out foraging. On a warm day the small tortoiseshell butterfly might emerge from hibernation in its adult state, and the green caterpillars of meadow browns will munch on grass, fattening for the next moult. The vibration of your footsteps will make it drop to the ground out of danger until you pass and it crawls up to its feeding station again. Many other moths will remain in camouflaged chrysalis state until the spring. There is the glint of water everywhere. Delights for all ages and levels of energy.

Like the honeysuckle, the native lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) has

evolved a strategy for living beneath heavy summer foliage. It will flower this month, catching the sun through bare branches and on sunny banks where more vigorous perennials are not yet in full growth. To up its chances of pollination in cold temperatures with few flying insects, it produces many flowers over a long period before summer dormancy as bulbils. The sturdy enamelled petals are held in a parabola to reflect the sun inwards, raising the temperature in the bowl of the flower. The added rewards for hungry queen bumblebees and other early fliers are the nectar sac at the base of each petal and the pollen. In case the weather is awful and little seed it set, every bulbil (fig-shaped = ficus) at the base of the plant can grow into a new plant and some subspecies grow tiny bulbils in the axils of leaves.

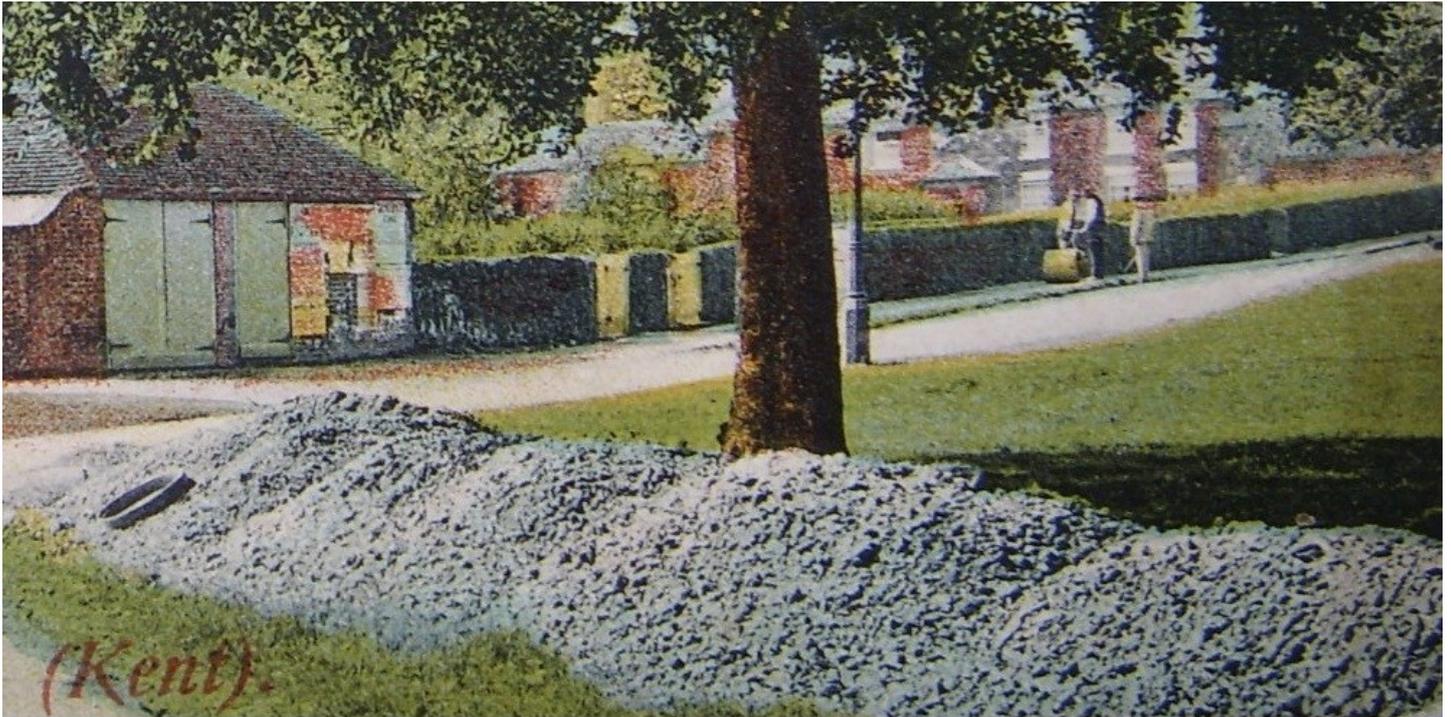
Across Hothfield Heathlands, volunteers have been wading through the bogs

removing scrub missed by the heavy machinery in the lower bog, definitely wellie work. The machine work and subsequent volunteer activity should see the spread of southern marsh orchids and dragonflies across the site. Snipe, permanent UK residents, were one of the first species to benefit from the disturbed mud, joined perhaps by migrant snipe from northern Europe. Blackbirds, one of the earliest birds to nest, may start building in shrubs and dense trees. Other early nesters are the long-



Marsh Orchid, Hothfield Bog © Ian Rickards

Hothfield History Society



Happy New Year from Hothfield History Society.

As roadworks seem finally to be finishing in the village I couldn't resist sharing a view from the early 1900s where the path along The Street appears to be being laid by two men with a large garden roller. This scene is cropped from a postcard of the Thanet Arms pub. Piles of stone can be seen in the foreground and two men are just visible with a roller on the path. Life seemed oh so simple then!

New book published: The Wreck Hunter

A new book has recently been published by Pen & Sword - 'The Wreck Hunter: Battle of Britain and the Blitz' and it includes a chapter about Hothfield and the dig for a Hurricane once flown by Pilot Sgt Herbert Black. This aircraft went down on 29 October 1940 after a fight with German Messerschmitt Bf109s.

The book is about the pioneering aviation archaeologist Terry Parsons who over sixty years has dug more than 900 RAF and Luftwaffe wrecks throughout Kent and Sussex. The Hurricane crashed on

Home Farm and the owner of the field, John Coles, allowed him to check out the site of Sgt Black's Hurricane and there is a tree that the Hurricane hit which the author would argue is probably the most famous landmark of the Battle of Britain!

The book has been written by local author Melody Foreman who will be giving a talk about the book and the Hothfield wreck. Melody is a Hothfield resident and spent some of her childhood in the village while her dad ran one of the village's shops. She is also a historian and author of

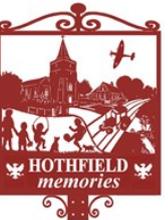
social history during the war years. Her talk will be a social history of those days of aerial conflict and Melody will have a few artefacts to bring along as well as slides.

In 2014 Melody gave a detailed talk on the Air Transport Auxiliary which was a civilian organisation comprised of amateur pilots who performed a vital role in delivering planes from factories to front line squadrons and shuttling planes back for repairs. Melody shared fascinating stories of the women pilots of the ATA including those from Kent, which was

the subject of a previous book, and we look forward to hearing soon about her new publication.

The talk will be in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd April at 7:30pm. Everyone will be welcome to come along and admission will be free.

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



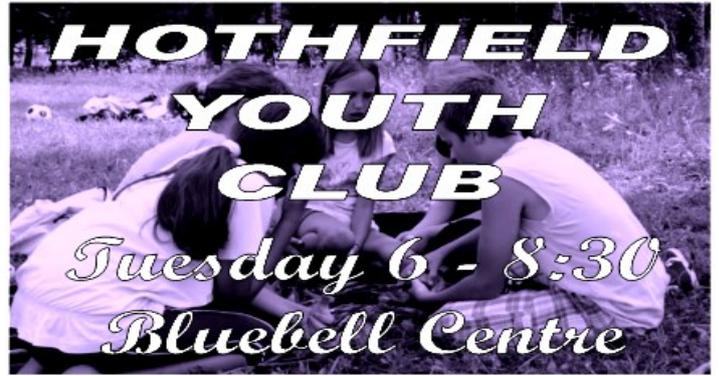


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For more information on courses, areas covered and tuition fees, please go to www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk



HOTHFIELD YOUTH CLUB

Tuesday 6 - 8:30
Bluebell Centre

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AUNT JEMIMA'S VALENTINES

I can't wait for Valentine's Day because I get to make cupcakes for a special someone and that special someone is me.

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

If it's not Valentine's day and you see a man in a flower shop, you can start a conversation with "What did you do?"

Buy supermarket flowers on Valentine's Day: show someone you care slightly more than not at all.

The best part of being married on Valentine's Day is having all your expectations fulfilled. Because you have no expectations.

I require three things in a man. He must be handsome, ruthless and stupid.

Two TV aerials met fell in love and got married. Their wedding ceremony wasn't fancy. The reception, however, was excellent.

Your Valentine card shows you care enough to send the very best, even though you're too lazy to put it in your own words.

Marry a man your own age; as your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.

You are never alone on Valentine's Day if you're near a lake and have bread.

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your heart or burn down your house, you can never tell.

"I love you." "Is that you or the wine talking?" "It's me talking to the wine."

I can't be your valentine for medical reasons. You make me sick.

This Valentine's Day I expect to be inundated. Sorry... I meant in, undated.

My husband said, "Not too much this year. Just some chocolates and a few little surprises will be fine." Kinder Eggs it is then.

Yet again, this Valentine's Day I'll be all alone, watching a film on TV and eating a takeaway. I really can't see a downside.

My son just booked a table for himself and his girlfriend on Valentine's Day. I hope she knows how to play snooker.

I gave blood today. It may not be the best Valentine's Day present but at least it came from the heart.

If you're sad about being alone on Valentine's Day, just remember; no-one loves you on any other day either.

Valentine's Day is a day when a lot of people are reminded just what a bad shot Cupid was.

Can't wait for Valentine's Day. I'm going to run into restaurants shouting "I knew I'd find you here! You swine!", then run out.

I don't need a valentine card, I need £8 million and a fast metabolism.

"Actually, violets are violet," I said, ripping up his poem.



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**VALID UNTIL
30TH JUNE 2019**

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