

JOIN US FOR A

*Magical Evening*

**CAROL SINGING**

*Spread the joy of the season*  
WITH THE POWER OF SONG!

**THURSDAY DECEMBER  
12TH / 6 PM**

HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Mince pies and mulled wine available. Bring along a Christmas decoration for the tree.

Bring your family and friends to join our community sing-along of cherished Christmas carols.



## Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 12 Dec Hothfield Village Hall

Barn Dance with Attitude — Sat 7th Dec Hothfield Village Hall—see page 3

Christmastime 6.45pm to 9pm 9th Dec Godinton House—see page 7

The reserve changes every year as trees and scrub grow and areas are cleared. With leaf-fall some of these changes are easier to see. Mimicking the effects of its previous existence as a common with regular browsing and cutting, the volunteers and machinery move across the reserve in an ever-evolving pattern. November 12th saw the completion of tree felling on one of the Extension compartments, the water meadows lying between the main reserve and Coldham Woods. This was a big task running over several days from October. Brash was burned on site and logs shared out for firewood. In this autumn's mild wet conditions some trees responded by immediately sprouting at just above soil level. The felled trees are all pioneer natives, willow, birch, alder (also in the birch family), fast-growing, tolerant of nutrient-poor soils, important themselves as sources of food and shelter to a wide range of wildlife, but in the wrong place here. With scrub and trees cleared, sheets of water were revealed or quickly re-formed, returning the area to the desired habitat, water meadow open to the sun.

These trees aren't a new problem, as my articles have regularly reflected. A report in 1951 noted that 'Invasion of the bogs by birch and willow has been a serious problem since grazing ceased about 1940, but attempts are now being made to prevent further encroachment.' Quite. Another potential thug is the member of the buttercup family that brings my focus on this family to a close, traveller's joy, *Clematis vitalba*, whose wispy ethereal seedheads fringe the reserve, catching low winter light or glistening with moisture through the deepest winter months. Wispy in appearance but not in habit, this is a tough scrambler which is capable of swamping its support, as it maximises its exposure to sun for photosynthesis. Adventitious roots develop at the nodes of any branches touching the ground. Wish some of the fancier clematis were as generous. Native in the south of England, it has spread north, not quite reaching the north of Scotland and has appeared in Northern Ireland where it is listed as an invasive species. It provides nectar and pollen for insects, the seeds are food for birds and small mammals, larvae eat the leaves, the feathery achenes are good for lining nests.



As the year ends, hats off to the amazing volunteers, led by Reserve Warden Will Glasson, with their hardy camaraderie, great range of knowledge and expertise, from identifying wildlife to chainsaw techniques and maintenance, building leaky dams, reviving damp bonfires and surviving sudden downpours, litter picking and live-stock care. New faces were welcomed and there is always room for more. KWT looks after volunteers across the county very well. The Ashford team is now covering sites towards Woodchurch where, following a task day, volunteer Les Kennedy commented 'That was a

hard day by any standards but immensely satisfying'.

Shorter days but wider horizons glimpsed through leafless trees, the reserve is a good place to savour the winter, including on Christmas Day. As ever, KWT ask you to wear appropriate shoes/boots so you can stick to the paths, embrace the mud and puddles, (no, not like that..) and avoid damaging fragile path verges which are valuable habitats in themselves. Thank you to all the careful walkers. In Ian Rickards' words, 'Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots for wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way. and continue to provide safe habitats for the uncommon plants and birds we care about. Thank you for your support this year.' My thanks to Ian, and Katy in KWT Comms for producing the beautiful, illustrated book of my articles. Oh, and don't forget the great range of Christmas presents on the KWT website.

Happy Winter wanderings everyone. 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](http://www.hothfield.org.uk)  
PLEASE NOTE: The email address for the Parish Council is [parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk)

## Office Cleaner Required

Approx 2 hours per week during office hours @ £20 per hour  
Contact Brian - Oakover Nurseries Ltd  
01233 713016



## 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](mailto:ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk)

## Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via  
[www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk)

### Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School  
[www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford](http://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.

## Barn Dance with Attitude

Saturday December 7th: Hothfield Village Hall TN26 1EQ – only 5 minutes from M20 J9.  
Great live music! The caller teaches everything. No experience or partner needed.

7:30pm: Ceilidh Skillz Workshop  
8:00pm – 11:00pm: Dance with music from Swing the Bridge

£10 in advance; £12 on the door.

We do lots of fun, easy dances so that you will be able to join in everything. You don't need a partner; everyone dances with everyone and we make sure that no-one is left sitting out. Lots of our dancers come by themselves; we are a very sociable group so you will feel part of the crowd straight away.

Bring your own drinks and refreshments. We would love to see you on the dance-floor. Why not give it a try?

Lots more details at <http://www.contrafusion.co.uk> and <http://contrafusion.co.uk/KentCeilidhs.html>.  
Videos at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLITfII5O9aV0DNCtcgAQdCDctI2rn6OZg>

Contact John Sweeney for more information and tickets: [john@modernjive.com](mailto:john@modernjive.com) 01233 625 362



## From Dover to Scotland – the Tufton estate

In the October newsletter I mentioned that the successive Earls of Thanet (later to be given the title 'Lord Hothfield') owned most of the land and properties in all the surrounding villages, and many parcels of land across the Ashford area, and by marriages had become the Titled owners of many castles and estates in Westmoreland, and Rainham (Medway) and various villages near there too.

Local auctions in the 1920s show that Lord Hothfield was selling off fields south of Ashford off Chart Road and Brookfield Road, and beyond. At that time Ashford was a small market town and these areas were pasture, orchards, streams and wetland. Now they're covered by houses.

Another look at the research by the Reverend Russell reveal many other interesting parts of the vast Tufton estate. Firstly I should explain that there were lots of Tufton men called John, and some of the Johns were Knighted and so there are several Sir John Tuftons across history.

John Tufton (1520 to 1567) was the Earl at that time, originated from Northiam and owned the manor of Hothfield, along with other parishes, but eventually owned various properties in London. John married Mary the daughter of Sir John Baker who owned Sissinghurst. Mary's sister Cecily married into the Sackville family which is associated with Sissinghurst today and appears in later Tufton family names. Four generations later and another John Tufton married into Cecily's Sackville descendants.

His son was Sir John (1544 to 1624), and was granted Dengemarsh by the King. Russell's list of lands owned by Sir John also include: Sapcote in Leicestershire, land in Woodchurch and Tenterden, Sandhurst, a farm in Headcorn, Ullcombe and East Sutton and "land in many parishes in Romney Marsh and West Sussex", the manor of Playden near Rye, and many more; and more land in Hothfield. ... And that's just one of the Tuftons.

Sir John had 14 children, although not all survived to adulthood. His eldest son, Sir Nicholas Tufton, inherited the estate but John's second surviving son (Sir Humphrey) also bought land of his own including around Maidstone, Faversham and Sittingbourne, as well as leasing other tracts of lands. Sir Nicholas owned the manor of Warehorne, and one half of Bodiam Castle, and was able to buy the other half, although he soon sold it. Nicholas contested in Court that his ownership of Dengemarsh also included all the wrecks (and royalties from them) and the beach, but this was contested by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports who felt that the wrecks belonged to him, and the beach belonged to the town of Lydd. Sadly Russell doesn't report what the result of the Court hearing was.

Another of Sir John's sons, Richard, built Tufton Street in London, whilst the other children are also recorded with their own wealth, including the daughters.

Dengemarsh made the news again around 1634. By then it was owned by Nicholas' son (yes, called John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Thanet). A lighthouse had been erected, seemingly without Sir John's knowledge, and a good rent was being paid to Tufton's tenant (and not to Sir John himself).

So, between the various John Tuftons, and their sons and children and marriages to other land-owners, the Tufton estate was at one time the fifth most valuable in England. Legend says that it was possible to walk from Dover to Scotland on their land – whilst not physically true the legend nevertheless reflects the wide spread of the property once owned by the family, and in publishing this article I'm perpetuating the myth.

Whilst the first Sir John had supported the King (James I) it was notably Sir Nicholas that did good deeds and was rewarded with the title "Earl of the Isle of Thanet" and could be referred to as Lord Thanet, as well as 'Baron Tufton', and at that time was bestowed local lands in our neighbouring villages such as Westwell, as well as more of Hothfield itself.

Sir Nicholas became heavily involved with the Civil War between King Charles I and Parliament, siding with the King of course. More of that in a later newsletter.

Extensive detail on the Tuftons, their lands and stories, is contained in the research carried out by the Reverend Harry Russell up to 1902. However I cannot yet find any connection between the Tuftons and Thanet – one place where they didn't seem to have land, so why the title 'Earl Thanet'? A transcription of his work is available in Word for Windows or .pdf format. Please see our website at: [hothfieldmemories.org.uk](http://hothfieldmemories.org.uk) or e-mail me at: [hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com](mailto:hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com)

Best wishes to everyone for the festive season.

Chris Rogers, Hothfield History Society



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## THE GRANARY SPA

Holistic & Beauty

Many of us have a busy work schedule and home life.

It definitely can be a challenge finding the time for self care. After work, I always have a hot bath. This is my nightly ritual, and it works really well for me. The heat eases my tight shoulders and I feel instantly relaxed. From this week we will be open later on Wednesday and Thursdays until 7pm. If you are looking to de-stress after work or would like an evening spa experience, our new evening hours will suit you!

### Self care Ideas:

- Scheduling time for yourself
- Meditation
- Do something fun of different.
- Countryside walk
- Bath
- Give yourself a facial
- Hair mask
- Spa treatment

This week try to gift yourself some YOU time!

Love, Georgia x

### Charing Scout Group

We've had a fabulous November! The highlight is always the Remembrance Day parade and service. Preparation started early with our explorers making a display of the names of the fallen. This was lining the path to Church and looked amazing. Well done Martin and the team. I was so proud of our group. I can't remember such a large turnout, with brilliant weather so we lined the path all the way to the car park. Every seat in Church was taken, with standing at the back. The service was moving and enjoyable and I'll never think of jelly babies the same again. Some years ago I attended a funeral at Charing Church. There was an old man sitting alone so I sat with him. We chatted for a while, then he started giggling. He pointed to the chandelier and said that many years ago he was a boy scout in Charing and was chosen to carry the flag for the Remembrance Service. He was so proud..... but then he hit the chandelier with the flagpole! He said his friends never let him forget it. I mention this because it happened again this year. Another member of a very exclusive club!

November is also the time for the district night hike. Last year we hosted it and won. This year our team was first home again. Well done night hikers! We are now working up to Christmas, with our Christmas parties finishing the term. Merry Christmas everyone!

**Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660**

## SHIFT HAPPENS

### DRIVING TUITION

Paul 07703 685143

www.shifthappensdrivingtuition.co.uk

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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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 ANNALUBANSKAWILK@OUTLOOK.COM  
 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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## FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD PRESENT

There are still a few tickets left for our Christmassy event at Godinton House on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The Great Hall at the House will be fully decorated with a large tree and beautiful lights. Our singer, Jack Naismith, a semi-professional talented singer, will be belting out some classic hits



as well as some well-known Christmas songs & carols. During the break the Friends of St Margaret's Church Hothfield will be serving a wide variety of homemade canapés and a selection of drinks. So come and join us to get into the Festive Spirit.

*A Christmastime Crooner Canapés & Carols*

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 6.45pm to 9.00pm

At The Great Hall Godinton House TN23 3BP

Tickets £25 each (Limited number available). Please text or phone Sharon /Nick on 07968 054898 or tickets are available from Bina or Jay in the Hothfield village shop.

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ORDER NOW AT [WWW.NINE-OAKS.CO.UK](http://WWW.NINE-OAKS.CO.UK)

Christmas

And we would like to offer local residents a discount on Nine Oaks wine for your special festive occasions.

Use code HOTHFIELD10 for 10% off orders of three or more bottles.

Valid until 31 December 2024





# Saint Margaret's Church

For weddings, baptisms, etc. contact the Parish Office [calehillpcc@gmail.com](mailto:calehillpcc@gmail.com) 07395 910317

Rector: Rev. Sandra Marsh The Vicarage Pett Lane Charing Kent TN27 0DL Phone: 01233 713996 email: [revsandramarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:revsandramarsh@btinternet.com)

## Services in December

Sunday 1st 11.00am The Eucharist

Sunday 15th 4pm Carol & Crib Service

Wednesday 25th 10.30am The Eucharist

Sunday 29th 10.30am Benefice Songs of Praise

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm: The Inventors of Christmas.** Everyone knows the ingredients of a traditional Christmas: gathering around the Christmas tree, pulling crackers, eating Christmas pudding and mince pies. But where did they start? This lecture looks at the characters and personalities of the people who began those traditions or introduced them to this

country.

Lecturer **Alan Read** is a gallery guide at Tate Britain and regularly lectures at both London Tates. He also works as a London Blue Badge Guide.

Drinks and festive nibbles after the lecture!

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](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) or 01233 756377.

See also our website [www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)

Images provided by lecturer



## HOTHFIELD NEWS

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