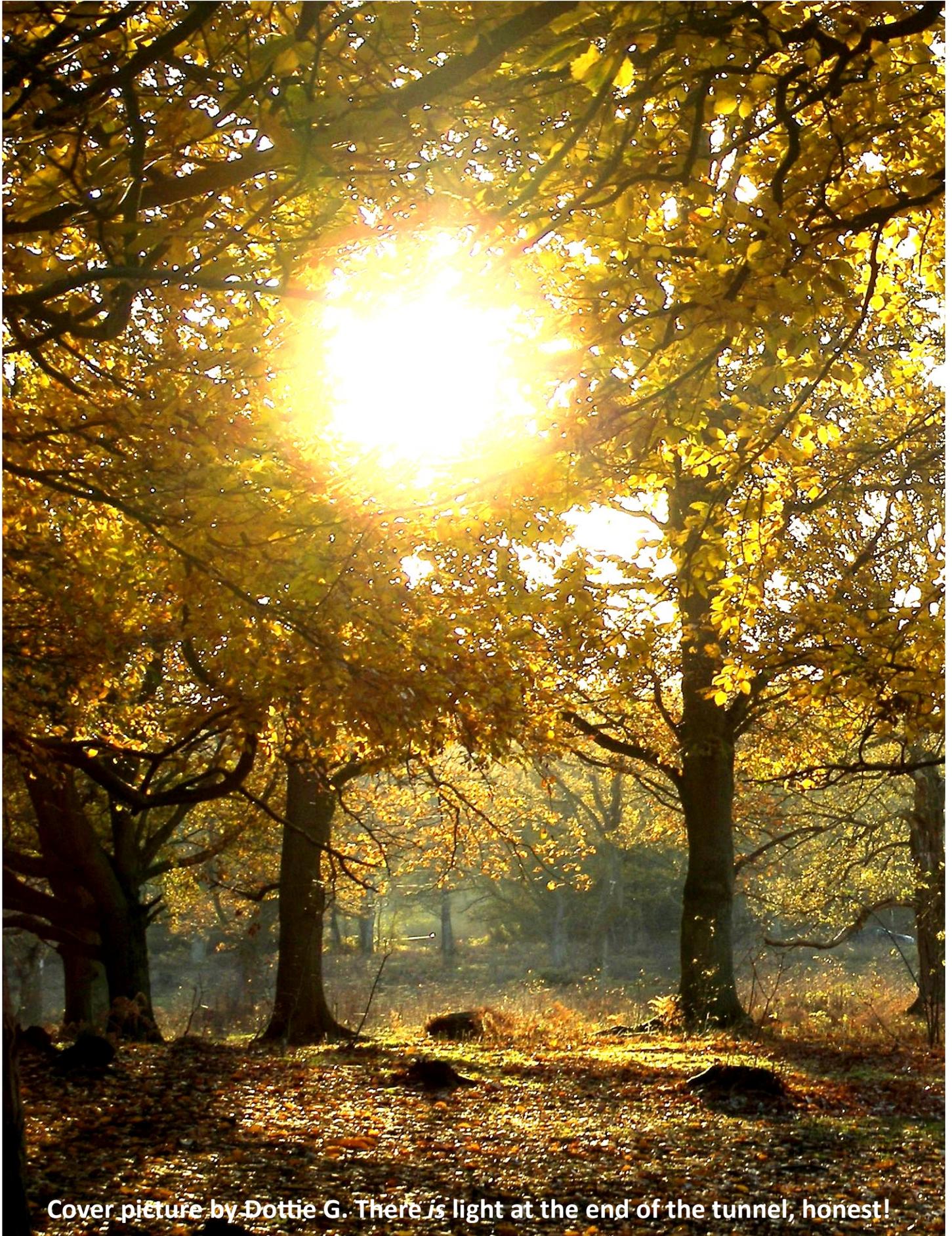


HOTFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 11 NUMBER 11 November 2020



Cover picture by Dottie G. There is light at the end of the tunnel, honest!

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



For weddings, baptisms, etc. Contact the Parish Office calehillpcc@gmail.com 07395 910317

SAINT MARGARET'S RE-OPENS

We will be resuming our usual pattern of services from **1 November (All Saints' Day)**.

Social distancing and all precautions will be observed. For the moment, we are allowed to play the organ, but not sing. Put on your prettiest mask and come and join us!

Services for November 2020

Sunday 1 November (All Saints)

11.00 Eucharist

Sunday 8 November (Remembrance Sunday)

10.45 Service of Remembrance

Sunday 15 November

No service in Hothfield. For services in other churches nearby, see www.calehill-westwell.uk

Sunday 22 November (Christ the King)

11.00 Family Worship

Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday)

10.30 Benefice Communion in PLUCKLEY



THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

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/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/newsletter/>

The deadline for the December 2020 issue is 20 November.

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.

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3rd prize £8.70 no. 47

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Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

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



At time of writing we are slowly getting back to some proper meetings with our young people. Beavers, cubs and scouts have all held face to face meetings. One of the main tasks was to present all the badges that have been earned over the lockdown. We have awarded two Chief Scout bronze awards to beavers and two Chief Scout silver awards to cubs. Our District Commissioner came along to help with the presentations. Many of our young people and many of our leaders have chosen not to come back yet. This is completely understandable and we hope to see them back soon, when life is more settled. We are restricted in numbers and are working hard to ensure sensible distancing so they don't feel like normal meetings yet.

November is a time when we always look forward to joining with the rest of our community at the remembrance service. The parade through the village and our part in the service are real high spots for us. We don't know yet how we will mark the day this year but we will ensure that scouting never forgets.

Our leaders are doing a wonderful job keeping things going. We are still short of help. If you think you could help out please contact me

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660

MUSHROOMS ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS 4

Rich autumn colour holds strong on the Heathland as winter draws nearer, perfect for a stroll in midday sun or a bracing walk wrapped up against the elements.

In October yellow tormentil and cross-leaved heath were still flowering and the gorse had embarked on its new flowering season. In Autumn one instinctively looks for mushrooms and toadstools, Hothfield Heathlands hosts a wide range of some of

the 10,000 or more British species of fungi right through the year. A flush of substantial fungi appeared in late July responding to the rain after the early summer drought, flourishing on through August. On a balmy 15 October with temperatures nudging 20C a stroll through varied habitats in a small portion of the reserve revealed twenty-six different species in just two hours. These included



Bracket Fungus
(© Anne Rowe)



Common Ink Cap Fungus
(© Anne Rowe)

tiny black and white fingers on a fallen log, fresh and fossilised bracket fungi on live trunks, stumps and fallen branches, various dainty parasols emerging from cow pats and horse dung, through heather or just in grass, dots of orange slime on decaying birch boles, row of tiny dots of something else running along bark fissures of a struggling willow, various bun types in grass and leaf litter, and puff balls nestled in open grass. Some were in perfect condition, others already collapsing or liquefying, their role as fruiting bodies accomplished. One magnificent bracket had incorporated a bramble stem firmly in its flesh.

They might be called 'primitive' plants but fungi are all fine-tuned to the conditions of their habitats and all occupy a particular niche in their food chain. With no chlorophyll to make food

through photosynthesis, it's the permanent and large underground network of mycelia that make food - energy - by breaking down living or dead organic matter. Yellow brain fungi is parasitic on the mycelium of other fungi. The oyster mushroom stuns nematode worms lurking in the host wood, using a powerful toxin before absorbing the worm's juices. Some fungi survive being frozen solid, some only appear in spring or summer. This is a vital part of the natural process of decay and regeneration, not welcome of course when it involves honey fungus or dry rot fungus damaging valued plants or essential structures.

Do take away photos and memories, but please leave all the fungi for others to enjoy. The 'others' include

Note from the warden: We do not allow collecting of mushrooms on the Hothfield Heathlands nature reserve, this is to protect the fungi and the species that rely on them and to allow all visitors to enjoy them in their natural surroundings.



Porcelain Fungus
(© Anne Rowe)

organisms that depend on the fungi for food or habitat. Ian reports that the Oyster fungi beetle is severely threatened, primarily due to its food source (oyster fungi) being over collected. That will affect whatever feeds on the oyster fungi beetle higher up the food chain, and so on. Everything is interlinked. Leaving them alone also avoids the dilemma of which are edible and which are poisonous. There are plenty

of grow-your-own kits available now, using coffee grounds, soaked straw, fresh logs and even telephone directories (before they become endangered themselves) as the base for the spawn.

There is a great guide to our fungi on the Kent Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/fungi>

Margery Thomas

A message from Kent Wildlife Trust

Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands but please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife.

Please keep dogs close to you at all times, do not let your dog run and play off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse. Breeding and feeding birds are seriously impacted by this disturbance, causing them to abandon nests or preventing them from collecting the food they need.

Make sure anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter, dog mess and place all dog bags in the bins.

Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots of wildlife in the county, with your help we can keep it that way.

For more information visit our website

www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Ian Rickards



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TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



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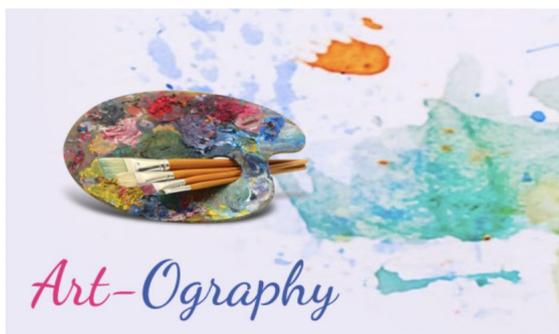
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Available **free** or **donations welcome** via a JustGiving page (in support of animal charities).

Just email here for the recording
yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

Yvonne Fernando
NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach

T : 01233 878474 M: 07968 785714
www.yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

I am a NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach and work with clients, mainly one to one, face to face, online, telephone or do walking sessions to help people look at their thought process and make positive change. I've not been able to run any of my workshops this year and was keen to do something supportive all round. So I've produced a professional recording of one of the meditations from my 8 week Relaxation Mindfulness Meditation programme that I normally run at Charing Surgery. The meditation is simple and powerful and most people have found easy to use. I am making this available on a free or donations welcome

Silence has a life of its own

Meditation can help you reset and recharge. To support you during these times, Yvonne has created a meditation recording for you to try.

Available **free** or **donations welcome** via a JustGiving page (in support of animal charities).

Just email here for the recording
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basis (via a JustGiving page set up in support of animal charities). My intention is to offer something useful and accessible to anyone/everyone that supports the individual but is also in support of a much bigger picture too.

Here's the link to the JustGiving:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lululittlebearandmausdream?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20200615_114718



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AUNT JEMIMA'S CORNY AUTUMN RIDDLES

Why did the tree worry in autumn? He didn't be-leaf in himself.
Why was the robot couple's anniversary in the fall? They were autumn mated.
What did the leaf say to autumn? I'm falling for you!
What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin Pi.
Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize? Because he was out-standing in his field.
Why did the lions move at the end of summer? Because the pride goeth before the fall.
Why are trees so carefree and easy going? Because every autumn, they can let loose.
Did you hear about the tree who left the forest in November? He was absent without leaves.
What did one autumn leaf say to another? I'm falling for you.
How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch
How does an elephant get out of a tree? Sits on a leaf and waits till autumn.
Why was Humpty Dumpty happy in November? Because Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
What do you call a large colourful pile of autumn debris? The Great Barrier Leaf.
Why do birds fly south in Autumn? Because it's too far to walk.
What do you call a man who really likes autumn? A fall guy.
What kind of vest should you wear in autumn? A har-vest.
What is the cutest season? Awwtumnn.

What's New with You?

Dear Readers,

You may not have noticed this (though I bet you have), but as the Covid pandemic has dragged on, your Hothfield News has been getting thinner and thinner on actual news. Yet there must surely be lots of things going on in the village under the surface, so to speak. So, tell me; how are you all coping? What are young people doing when they can only meet in sixes? Who's looking after the old people? I'm one myself, so I really have an interest. Is the Common (sorry, Heathlands) busier than ever with all that exercise and dog-walking? And so on.

I have at least one correspondent who gives me advice on how Hothfield News should be. 'More about children!' she insists, 'More FOR children! Real news, not just History and Nature study. And get rid of that silly Aunt Jemima, she's rubbish'. Well, as it happens, I agree with her on almost everything except Aunt Jemima, for whom I have a soft spot. I strongly suspect that a lot of you read the back page first, which is why I'm putting this appeal on the back page.

Write to me! Editors are supposed to get letters. Tell me what you like about the village and what you don't like. Recommend places to go. Become, somebody, please, our Youth Correspondent and come up with things that will interest your own generation. Tell me how you're coping with current restrictions, and offer any clever tips about what's helping you cope. Show me examples of anything creative you've been doing since last March. Personally, I've been doing a series of really complicated pen drawings, like the one of the courtyard at Hever Castle (right). All you crafters must have been equally busy; show off!

Another thing a local paper is supposed to have is a Births, Marriages and deaths column (Hatch, Match and Despatch, we call it). Life goes on, and there must be news along those lines. Bung in your news. Brag a little!

There are so many ways in which you could be helping make this a better paper, instead of just saying 'There's nothing in it again!' and chucking it in the bin –though I hope, for all our sakes, that you remember to use the recycling bin. HGB

