



**Afternoon
Cream Tea**

**St Margaret's Church
Hothfield
TN26 1EL**

Visit the belfry
(for the fit and able over 12 years young)

**Saturday 27th June
2pm to 4.30pm**

Cream teas, homemade cakes and refreshments

Well behaved dogs welcome! 

Friends of St Margaret's Church
Hothfield
Charity no. 1198602

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 11th June Hothfield Village Hall

Arts Society Egerton 2.30pm 10th June (see page 5)

History Society Talk 7pm 25th June Hothfield Village Hall (see page 4)

Friends of St Margaret's Church - Summer Cream Tea St Margarets Church Sat 27th
June 2pm - 4.30pm

Village Litter Pick 9.30am Sat 11th July—Meet at Village Hall

Kent Police Hothfield Common Drop-In 12noon 4th Aug (see page 3)

Cuckoos, nightingales, broad bodied chaser dragonflies, demoiselles, bog hoverfly, poplar beetle, scorpion fly, lackey moth caterpillar, basking lizard, speckled wood, orange tip, small heath and small copper butterflies – just some of the May sightings on the reserve, all to the background of frantic parents feeding fledgling birds, in a chilly wind.

The volunteers have welcomed new recruits and continued tree pulling and fencing work. They may look like the start of an alien invasion but the big white bags hanging from trees are being used to monitor insect life across the reserve. In mid-May Area Warden Will Glasson led an evening session sighting bats newts and other amphibians using detecting equipment.

From May through the summer one of the daintiest plants flowers on the damper areas around the bogs catches the eye, occasional glints of deep blue heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*. The flowers can be white or pinkish white, are only 6 mm long in small spikes on low growing or trailing slender stems up to 25cm tall. The unusual flowers are worth a close look, a white or pale tube, finely lobed at the end and with a lip, flanked by two leaf-shaped petal-like sepals which enclose the tube when in bud like two tiny blue leaves pressed flat together, which open wide like two wings revealing the nectar-bearing tube to pollinating bees. The larger flowers of the tropical and subtropical shrubs in the family, sold sometimes as greenhouse plants, show this unusual structure very clearly. Each flower produces just two seeds, which have an elaiosome, a nutritive oil body to attract ants to help disperse the seed. It is found across the British Isles and is an axiophyte of heaths, growing in poor acid soil in old grazed grasslands and intolerant of chalky soil.



By contrast, its diminutive cousin, *Polygala amarella* only grows in short chalk or limestone turf or bare soil, is far less common and has what the indomitable Margaret Bradshaw described as ‘a remarkably disjunct distribution’, found in Craven in Yorkshire, Teesdale in County Durham, Orton in Cumbria and on the North Downs in Kent. In 2013 when it was on the brink of extinction in Kent, Kent Wildlife Trust launched a species recovery project with partners The Species Recovery Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and local volunteers. During the project, the Kent milkwort has been identified as a subspecies, Kentish milkwort, *Polygala amarella subsp. Austriaca*, the rarest milkwort and in even greater need of conservation. Plants from seed collected locally and cultivated by Kew were planted at sites in 2021, the colony at Queendown Warren increasing from 17 plants in 2021 to 1,245 self-sown plants this year. With greater understanding of the conditions the plant needs and the ability to collect more seed for introduction to new sites, what a success.

Back down from the Downs to Hothfield. I think this is my one hundredth article written for Hothfield and Westwell Parish mags. I will always be grateful to Ian Rickards, then Area Warden, for suggesting I take on writing the articles he wrote at the invitation of the parish councils to keep residents informed about this amazing site on their doorstep. My first article was in March 2016. Ian still had to write several that year as I went travelling for three months! By 2017 the articles were being published as blogs on the KWT website. As an amateur botanist and long-time member of KWT it has been a huge pleasure to collaborate with Ian and Area Warden Will Glasson and get to know the amazing volunteers. I’ve learned so much about everything else that inhabits this reserve and about the management of this very special and fragile place we are so lucky to have nearby.

Margery Thomas

I continue to enjoy and learn from Margery’s monthly article and am forever grateful for her wonderful writing skills and endless enthusiasm. A huge thank-you from myself, Kent Wildlife Trust and the rest of the readership: Ian Rickards



Kent Wildlife Trust FREE

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS
TN26 1HD
Tuesday Mornings
2nd June - 25th August

Are you over 50?
Want to stay stronger for longer?

During this free programme learn how to Nordic Walk safely and confidently, meet new people and take part in habitat management activities.

To join the Wilder Nordic Walking 12 week programme scan the QR code, visit our website or contact us on the details below

Visit: kwtg.uk/wellbeing
Phone: 01622 662012
Email: wilderwellbeing@kentwildlife.org.uk

FOREVER ACTIVE KENT   

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

Video Door Cameras

Following a wonderful response we will be Delivering Ring Doorbells soon for those residents who have registered.

Village Hall Closure

The Village Hall will be closed from 3rd Aug & reopen on the 24th Aug.

Defibrillator

A Defibrillator will be installed by the Post Office on the 27th May.

Dear Hothfield Litter Pickers

Open Letter of Thanks

The Members of Hothfield Parish Council would like to openly thank you for your efforts over the past year in helping to keep the roads and lanes in and around the village tidy. Your continued dedication and community spirit are greatly appreciated by both the Parish Council and the residents of Hothfield.

We would also like to pass on our special thanks to Rose Howard, who we understand undertook this work as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award and went above and beyond in her litter-picking efforts throughout the village. We wish her every success with her DofE Award and commend her for her hard work and commitment to the community.

In recognition of these efforts, the Parish Council has budgeted and made a donation of £600 to Pilgrims Hospices for the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27 in lieu of financial recompense to yourselves.

With best wishes **Hothfield Parish Council**

Charing Scouts Group

The beaver coffee morning was a huge success. I'm so proud of the way they managed serving hot drinks with a smile. Remember, they are only 6 to 8 years old. They raised £248 for the Air Ambulance. Well done beavers! There was a wonderful quote from one customer- "They are so polite..... not like us old fogeys".

Cubs have started their first aid training. It's wonderful to see how quickly they learn how to get help and how to manage potentially serious problems. Once the weather settles we're looking forward to getting them under canvas on camp. This year we're celebrating 110 years of cubs so it will be a birthday party camp.

Scouts seem to have spent most of May camping. I don't know how our leaders cope with it, especially as we had an accident to deal with. All our leaders are trained first aiders, so everything went completely smoothly.

Explorers had fun on the Hunter's Hike. I'm not quite sure what they got up to but a great time was had by all. Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660

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

Thursdays @ 10.30am

Dance Visions Zumba

Contact: bookwhen.com/dancevisions

Fridays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

**Hothfield Common
Drop-In - Come and talk
about your priority issues! : Tue 04 Aug
12:00**



**Kent
Police**

Dear Hothfield,

I will be holding a surgery at Hothfield Heathland Nature Reserve. Meet us in the Car Park at between 12:00 - 13:00 on 04/08/26.

This is your opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and to find out what I am doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome and please share this message on to anyone that you would feel would benefit from attendance.

When and Where?

Tue 04 Aug 2026 12:00 - 13:00

**Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve,
Ashford TN26 1HD**

Free talk – Early History of Hothfield – Thursday 25th June, 7pm



Local author and enthusiastic historian Dr Kaye Sowden will present an illustrated talk on the early history and development of Hothfield and the surrounding area. She will explain how the former Common became an area for early settlement and the influence of the Wealden landscape on the community's development. Her presentation will address Prehistoric, Roman, and Medieval archaeological discoveries, as well as relevant documents that provide context for the village's growth and connection with neighbouring villages. It is based on a similar, highly regarded talk previously delivered by Kaye in Little Chart.

Everyone interested in learning more about the area is welcome to come along to Hothfield Village Hall, Park Drive, for 7pm. Entry is free but donations to the Pluckley and Little Chart history group would be welcomed. Light refreshments will be available.

... and the Belltower will be open on Saturday 27th June from 2pm

The Friends of St.Margaret's Church are having an afternoon Cream Tea in the church, at the same time visitors can climb the steep narrow stairs to the belfry. Anyone over the age of 12, if you're fit and able, can go to see the bells and the inside of the steeple. I'm grateful to Rev. Sandra; Martin the Belltower Captain, and The Friends for allowing this rare opportunity.



The only remaining stained glass on the north side of the church

At ground level there's plenty to see inside the church including the ornate and colourful marble tomb of the Tufton family and the few stained glass windows that survived World War II.

The tomb was previously in a crypt and contained several coffins of a former Lord and his family. The crypt often flooded and so the coffins were moved to Rainham Church, and the empty tomb lifted into the church where we can all admire its detailed decoration. The Cream Tea is open from 2pm to 4:30pm and the church is free to enter. Apart from the belfry the church is accessible and there is parking outside.

The BBC recently published a brief article about the coffins at Rainham, several of which have coronets and regal decoration denoting the status of the Tufton family, and other nobles who are now in the undercroft at Rainham.



Photo courtesy of Rainham Church

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

We meet at 2.30 at the Millennium Hall, Elm Close, Egerton TN27 9SR

Wednesday 10th June at 2.30 pm:
LA SERENISSIMA – THE MUSIC OF VENICE presented by **Patrick Craig** a *Vicar Choral at St Paul's Cathedral.*

For 20 years he combined this with an international career singing over a thousand concerts with the world-renowned early music consort The Tallis Scholars

<https://auroranovachoir.com/director>

Please note that a short AGM will begin at 2.00 pm.

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join.



For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer

Celebration Cakes for all occasions
including Weddings

Special bakes include personalised
cupcakes, Brownies, Blondies,
chunky cookies and personalised
biscuits

You can find me on: Instagram -
[@flossysfussybakes](https://www.instagram.com/flossysfussybakes)

Facebook - Flossy's Fussy Bakes
Whatsapp/text - 07769 228842



**HOTHFIELD POST
OFFICE
New Opening
Hours
0700—1900
7days**

Parish councils are the first tier of local government in England. We are an elected representative body of the local community and are democratically and financially accountable to the local community. We aim to give the local community a more powerful voice and are striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason we are a vital part of any community. We will always respond to your concerns. If we cannot solve the problem ourselves, we will either contact or direct you to someone who can.

We are providing a list contacts which you can use to report an issue to the authority which has the duty, power and resources to address it. For example, if you see a fly tipping, the shortest and most effective way to address it is to report it to the authority shown on our list. If you report it to us, we shall report it to the same authority using the same website link. When we can become

really helpful is when the responsible authority fails to respond in a reasonable time or its response is inadequate. Then, we shall intervene on your and community behalf.

We would strongly advise that the issues arising between neighbours are best resolved without us getting involved. If necessary, we can act as a go between but we do not have any arbitration powers or duties. Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community, such as planning matters, crime prevention, helping local groups, managing open spaces, and campaigning for and in some areas delivering better services and facilities.

We have the legal right to be informed about planning applications - we are consulted on this but all decisions are ultimately made by Ashford Borough Council. Parish electors vote for Local Council members every four years and are entitled to go to the Annual Meeting and say what they think. Council meetings are also open to the public to observe (but not participate in) and there is usually an opportunity for informal discussion when the meeting is adjourned. Parish Councils are public bodies and subject to the Freedom of Information Act and GDPR laws.

Parish Councils are the least bureaucratic kind of local authority. We get no general government grant so we have every incentive to keep our expenditure low and get value for money.

Useful Contacts

Planning—see Ashford BC Web Site Planning

Pot Holes / Street Lighting / Drainage & Flooding [Report or track a problem on the road or pavement - Kent County Council](#)

If the problem may cause an accident, call KCC on [03000 41 81 81](tel:03000418181) between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday or on [03000 41 91 91](tel:03000419191) at all other times.

If you have a problem with:

a bus shelter, fly-tipping, litter, parking or street cleaning, [contact your Ashford Borough Council](#). For motorways or major A roads, [contact National Highways](#). For public right of way, public bridleway, restricted byway, or byway open to all traffic [report it to NH Public Rights of Way Team](#).

If you want to improve a junction, change speed limits or request new signs, lines or traffic calming contact KCC.

Kent Police – **PC Hobday (Hothfield)** aaron.hobday@kent.police.uk

Emergency 999

Call 999 in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life
 - someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
 - a road traffic collision where life is at risk, or the road is blocked
- a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft

If you accidentally dial 999, please stay on the line and tell the operator you're safe and that no crime has occurred.

Katie Lam MP's Weald of Kent Awards 2026



One of the things I love most about being the MP for the Weald of Kent is that it genuinely is one of the most special places in the country. Our farms, village shops, pubs and cafés, growers and producers are some of the best in Britain, and I'll always do whatever I can to support them.



That's why I'm so pleased to open the nominations for the Weald of Kent Awards 2026, my annual celebration of the very best of our corner of Kent.

There are five categories: Local Hero of the Year, Independent Shop of the Year, Local Business of the Year, Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year, and Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year.

The awards recognise everyone from individuals and community groups who go above and beyond, to the businesses, pubs, cafés and producers that make the Weald such a special place to live.

Across the Weald, there are so many people and groups who work quietly and tirelessly to hold our villages and parishes together. Alongside them are brilliant businesses that work around the clock and which stand out as some of the best in Britain, even when the pressures on them have never been greater.

Last year, we received more than 100 nominations and over 1,000 of you cast your votes. I'd love to beat that this year. There's so much to be proud of in the Weald, and I'd love for more of the people who make the Weald what it is to get the recognition that they deserve.

So, if there's a local business that's gone the extra mile, a farm that grows particularly delicious fruit, or a community hero that deserves recognition, please do nominate them. You can do so at www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards and nominations close on 13th July at 5pm with voting to begin shortly after.

Let's use this as a chance to celebrate everything that makes the Weald so special, and the people and businesses who help keep it that way.

Educational Grants

Uniform



Dance

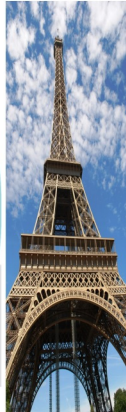


Travel



School trips

University



Scouts Subs



Sporting Activities



If you live in Hothfield and think that Hothfield Educational Foundation could help with your children's education, or know of someone else who could benefit, please do contact us via HothfieldEducation@gmail.com

PLUCKLEY
SUMMER FETE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026
A DAY OF MUSIC, FOOD & FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

MUSIC 12PM - 10PM	FETE & STALLS 12PM - 4PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASHFORD CONCERT BAND FRIENDS OF REASON THE RAGS SKEEMA TONY ADAMS BELL RINGING ORGAN MUSIC + HAVE A GO OPEN MIC + MORE! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAKES, ICE CREAMS & SWEETS TOMBOLAS JEWELLERY + GIFTS CHILDREN'S AUTHORS PLUCKLEY RAPTORS FC AXE THROWING AND MANY MORE LOCAL BUSINESSES...

SUPPORT LOCAL * ENJOY * LIVE MUSIC * EAT WELL * HAVE FUN!

FOOD & DRINK * FAMILY FUN!

★ ORGANISED BY THE PLUCKLEY COMMUNITY ★

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 June

Sunday 7th 11.00am The Eucharist

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



♥ YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOME ♥

A friendly space for people living with dementia or memory loss, together with their family and carers.



WHEN: Tuesday 9th June (and every second Tuesday of the month)



TIME: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



WHERE: 1st Charing Scout Headquarters
Pett Lane, Charing, TN27 0DW



COST: FREE to attend



PARKING: Free parking available on-site



QUESTIONS?

Contact us at calehilldf@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook

Calehill Dementia Friends

Follow our page for updates on local events and support.



GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

JOIN THE GARDENING GROUP AT CHARING SURGERY TO GET FRESH AIR, EXERCISE, MEET OTHER PEOPLE, HAVE FUN & ENJOY BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

OPEN TO ALL PATIENTS AGE 16+ GREEN FINGERS NOT ESSENTIAL!

COME AND JOIN US! TUESDAYS 9AM-12PM POP ALONG & SAY HELLO!

SHIFT HAPPENS

DRIVING TUITION

Paul 07703 685143

www.shifthappensdrivingtuition.co.uk

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.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council. Email: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk
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