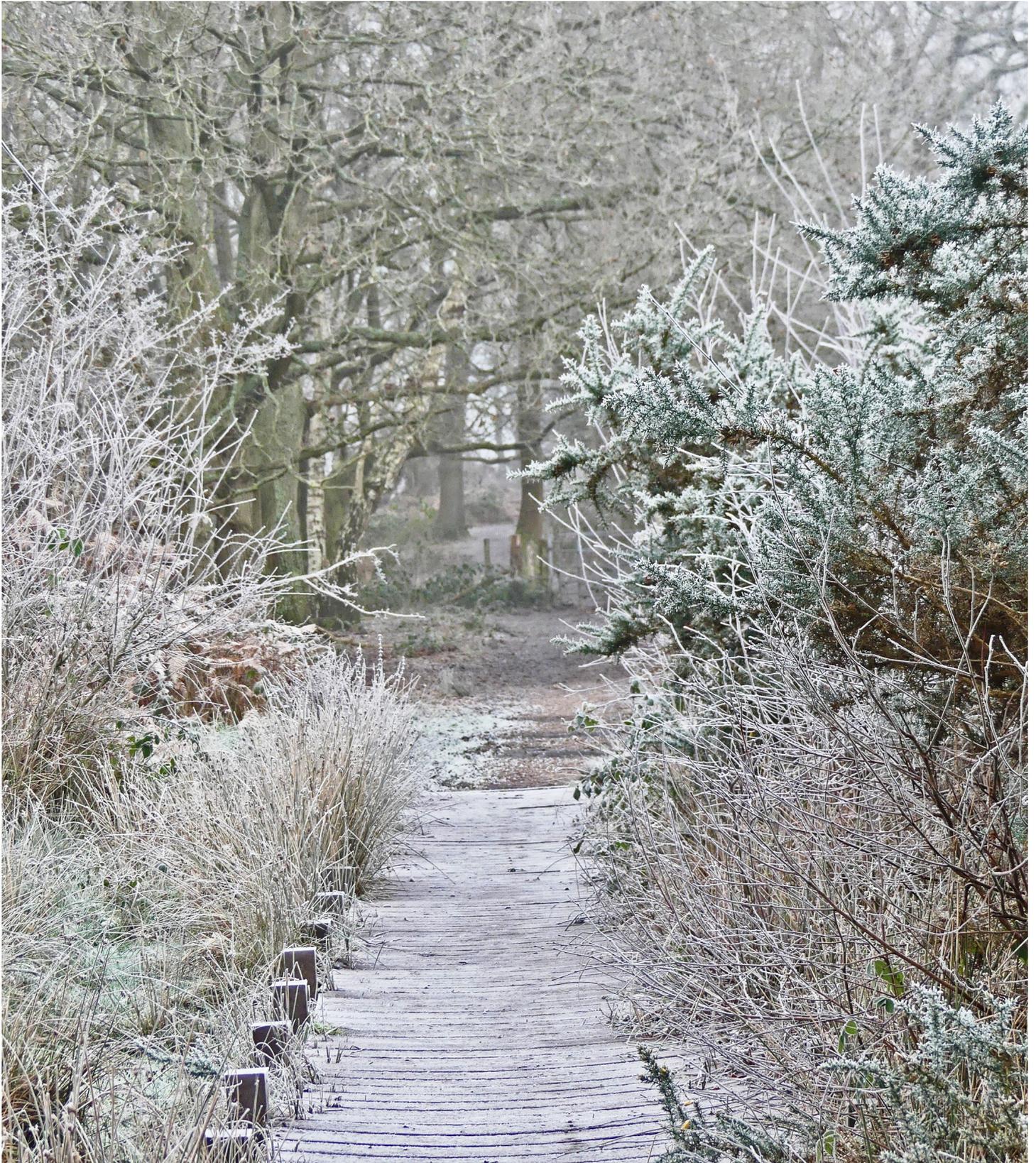


HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COM-
MUNITY VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2

February 2021

Photo: Val Butcher



AUNT JEMIMA'S REMINISCING

I wonder if, deep in the heart of Northern France, they still play *Boule au cadran*?

It's a long time since we spent a remarkably memorable summer in Bruay-en Artois, where they could get pretty serious about what must be, against all comers, cricket in Yorkshire not excepted, the slowest game in the world.

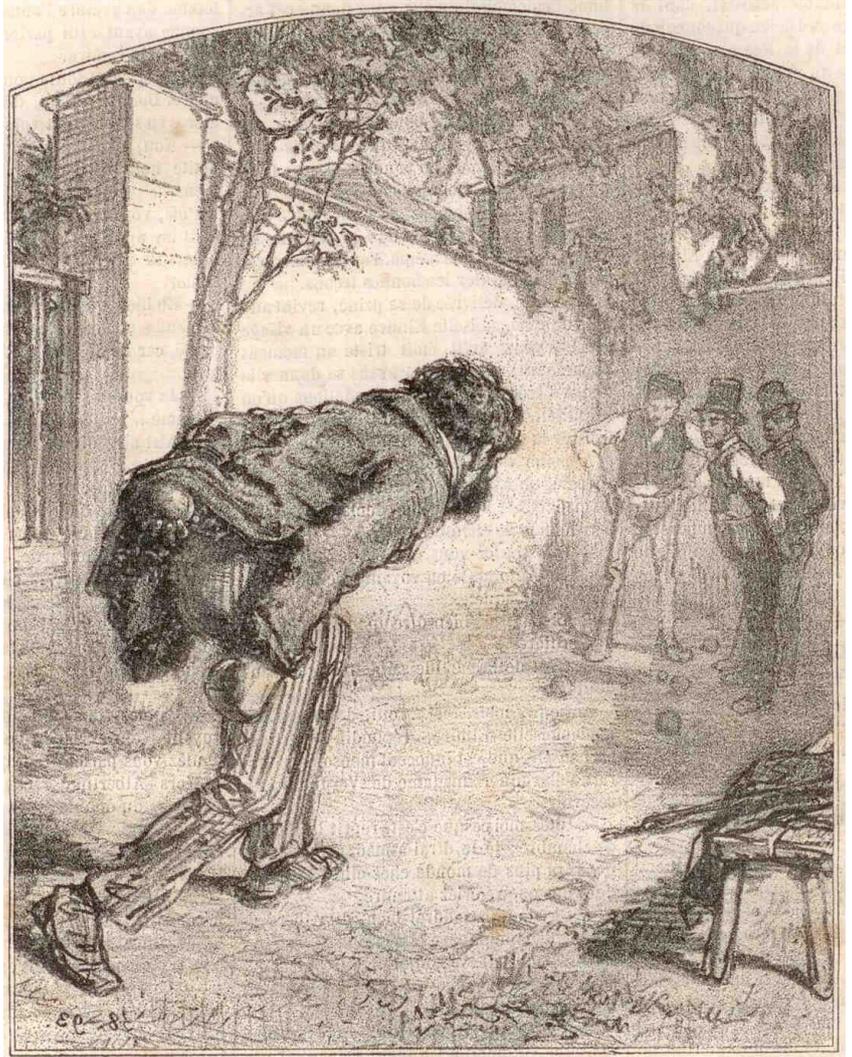
It's all very simple and very civilised. Early in the morning, the Committee arrives at the Boulodrome. The groundsman marks out the target – *le cadran* – at one end, while the scorers set out their chairs and table and the sheets of cardboard they can stand on to avoid marking the playing surface. And, of course, the umpires' chairs. The rest, at the other end, get down to the serious business of setting up the card tables and opening the bar.

At about eleven o'clock the players start to arrive. Each one drops his franc – I suppose now he drops a Euro – in the kitty and rolls his five large white boules the fifteen metres or so to the target. One in the centre scores five, in the next ring four and so on. During the course of the day, a man can have several tries in between glasses and games of *manille*.

At the end of the day the bouliste with the highest score goes off with half the kitty.

The rest pays for the upkeep of the boulodrome and the occasional new sheet of cardboard. A full day's entertainment for a minimal outlay, with the chance of a big win thrown in.

If you can stand the pace, that is.



Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice) will be coming to Hothfield Village Hall car park every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm. For pre orders, please call 07973 410973 before 1pm Wednesday Cash and Card payments welcome

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7 Are you fed up with doing the same old walks?

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With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Kent (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Children's Book Share

Do you have any books (aimed at children ages 4 – 8 years old) that you no longer use?

Would you like access to more reading and story books especially at a time when schools and libraries are closed?

A book share group to give children access to as many varied books as possible.

*Donate the books your child(ren) have read.

*In exchange chose different book(s) from the selection of other donated books.

*No money required.

*It will of course be a complete contactless service and books donated will be placed into quarantine before being available for exchange again.

Contact Nicola on 07846001892 or see Facebook page www.facebook.com/Childrens-book-share-107602171271925/



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2

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No services at Saint Margaret's during lockdown. For details of online services, see our website www.calehill-westwell.uk

Support for your mind and body

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
yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

Yvonne Fernando
NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach

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HOTHFIELD NEWS

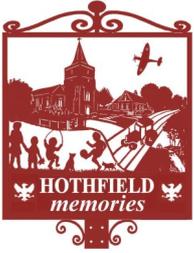
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Available on line at <http://www.hothfield.org.uk/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/newsletter/>

The deadline for the March 2021 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 History Society



Many postcards of past views of Hothfield appear on the internet, with lots of picturesque views of the waterfall and the common. Of more interest are historic views of the village and the few buildings that existed before the wars. A couple of images of The Street have appeared on a well-known on-line auction site, and I've just bought this one for a few pounds from a seller in The Netherlands.

The image shows a horse and wagon passing the

pub. Hothfield's answer to the Haywain. Was it called the Thanet Arms or the Kings Head at the time? I might be able to read the detail from the original when it arrives. The photographer was at the end of Park Drive, on the corner opposite the pub. There are no paths and no tarmac.

Sadly the postmark on the reverse is not readable so I don't know when it was first posted.

Chris Rogers



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KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

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The brightest greens on the reserve through winter are provided by the mosses, not just in the upper bog, where the SSSI citation mentions 12 species of sphagnum moss, but the many other species, in long and cropped grass, on bare soil and stones, and on tree trunks and stumps, anywhere with poor drainage and low fertility. Those on vertical surfaces avoid being swamped by fallen leaves. Accurate identification requires a strong magnifying lens and a good guide to the 800 UK species.

Feathery or velvety, a clump of moss contains many individual little plants, which have stems, tiny leaves, virtually no roots and no veins to carry water or food around the plant (i.e. non-vascular). With no lignin to create a rigid structure they can't grow very tall. They photosynthesise and obtain water either by slow diffusion up the plant from the soil, or absorption of rain and mist by the surface of the whole plant, like blotting paper. So damp habitats are essential, from Antarctica to deserts. One of the early plants to develop on earth, they survive in many more habitats than do vascular plants. There are no flowers; the tiny capsules on slender stems, visible right now on some species, contain the spores created by the union of male sperm scattered by raindrops and a female egg.

Mosses are engineers. Not being reliant on nutrient take-up from the soil, they are early colonisers of bare ground. As they absorb and hold water, they form damp micro habitats, providing shelter to invertebrates both visible and microscopic, and moisture for nearby plants and pioneering plant colonies slowly develop. As well as forming peat that sequesters so much carbon,

mosses in bogs and on slopes hold water that otherwise might rush downhill resulting in erosion and flooding.

In mid-January as water actually trickled through the top bog and lay glinting on all flat ground, Ian commented "We've had some impressive flooding, especially on the extension fields. Areas like this are so important for storing flood water and preventing problems to housing and farmland." The reserve's capacity to hold water was increased in January by a big yellow digger rooting through bracken, brambles and birch trees and enriched topsoil, piling the debris into banks and leaving new pools and areas of exposed bare soil open to germination by new plants. This restoration of bog habitat will encourage the more fragile plant and insect species adapted to this habitat to flourish. The digger is a speeded-up version of the action of the wild animals – Ian was thinking boar, I was thinking bison – that would have roamed here, toppling trees, trampling, rooting and scraping the ground. We look forward to seeing what appears this spring and summer.

Unfortunately, the Kent Wildlife Trust bison will be restricted to our Blean Woodland reserve near Canterbury <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderblean>

.Paths on the reserve get very muddy through the winter. It's best to wear the right footwear and walk straight through, enjoying the mud and the puddles, rather than round. This avoids widening the paths unnecessarily and trampling the fragile plants, including the seedling heathers and tiny ephemerals that grow on the close-cropped species-rich edge habitats.

Margery Thomas



Important message

from Ian Rickards, Area Manager, Kent Wildlife Trust

Please do not feed the livestock on the reserve.

Over the last few months more and more people have been feeding the ponies, either picking up grass from the ground or bringing extra food on site for them. This creates several issues

- **They can react badly to any food they are not used to. This could cause painful and dangerous reactions, some of which can be fatal.**
- **The animals learn to beg and become dangerous to visitors (biting, pushing and kicking). Even picking up grass and offering it to them will encourage dangerous behaviour.**

People love to see the ponies, but if the hand feeding continues, we will have to remove them from the reserve.

These ponies are checked every day and their wellbeing is our priority, if we determine they are hungry, suitable food will be provided for them.

If you would like to know more about our conservation grazing please visit www.kentwildlife.org.uk or 01622 662012



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VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY January Draw Results

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2nd prize	£13.35	no. 2
3rd prize	£8.90	no. 162

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Photo: Val Butcher



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



Our new term has started with meetings still on Zoom. We are trying our hardest to keep scouting going locally. It is particularly difficult when schooling is largely on line and we are all desperate to get outside again.

This February half term we are going on camp! It will be a virtual camp with everyone at home. The older ones will camp in their back gardens and most of the younger ones will build camp dens inside. We will all get together for a Zoom campfire. We are collecting money for a local young people's charity so if you are approached asking for sponsorship for the camp that is the reason.

We are raising money for the East Kent Hospitals and Young Minds. Young Minds is the UK's leading campaigning charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

It is very pleasing to see several of our members helping out with the immunisation clinics, from traffic control to vaccinators. Well done, everyone.

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660



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