

HOTHFIELD NEWS



Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 9th Oct Hothfield Village Hall

Harvest Lunch Hothfield St Margarets Church 12noon 5th Oct (see page 7)

Table Top Sale Hothfield Village Hall 10am 15th Nov (see page 6)

Jazz, Christmas Songs, Carols & Canapes 6.45pm 15th Dec Godinton House (see page 6)

Postcard and Photo Album from a Maid to Lady Hothfield



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In 1954 the manor at Hothfield was demolished, and there were a few items still left in the big house. The furniture and the best of the contents had long been sold or taken away by the Tufton family before they sold the estate. Whilst most of the remaining contents were dumped or burned, a few items were rescued by former staff, residents and those who were still working the land.

Colin Manktelow's family have been in the village for generations. Around 1960 his father was a farm worker and was given a photograph album, mainly containing postcards, that had been found in the big house, and they have looked after it ever since. Colin very kindly loaned the album to us for the exhibition in the church on 27th September. The postcards date between 1904 and 1928 and so are one hundred years old, plus there's some family photos but only a few are labelled so we don't know who they are.

Many of the postcards had been sent to a Miss Rose Tyrrell or to an Agnes Kerr 'care of Lady Hothfield' at Hothfield Place, or were posted to Appleby Castle which is the main seat of Lord Hothfield. Some postcards were addressed to the Hothfields' London House at Chesterfield Gardens. This suggests that Agnes and Rose were probably maids or staff to Lady Hothfield and moved from place to place with the Lord, Lady and their family. The Kerr family are also well known nearby at Chilmington Green. The postcards came from cousins and family of Rose or Agnes from all sorts of places. Photos in the album show well-dressed people on the beach at Hastings, and also pictures of what I believe were the staff outside the front of the Manor. I'm grateful to Colin for allowing us to see this album and share it with everyone who came to the exhibition. Some of the photos will be posted on the Hothfield Memories website.

Part of Lord Hothfield's staff, possibly around the 1920s



The New Manor

When Sir Reginald Rootes demolished the former Hothfield Place he built himself a new 'manor' in 1961, together with buildings for his staff. That new manor has most recently been used for the care and rehabilitation of people with spinal or brain injuries including many that have had a stroke or an accident for example. Hothfield Neurological Rehabilitation Centre is undergoing an extensive refurbishment and modernisation, inside and out, with new robotic equipment to help their clients regain mobility and eventually return home.

The Rehabilitation Centre approached the History Society for a few pictures of old Hothfield to help redecorate their walls and bedrooms, and we were delighted to provide some old postcards of different views including the previous manor as well as the village and church. The Centre has printed these at a very large size and they now adorn the main corridor, and have become talking points. More images will be installed in the bedrooms along with colourful wildlife pictures from Val Butcher as the work progresses to upgrade this facility.

In due course Hothfield Neurological Rehabilitation Centre will update us all through this Newsletter on what has been going on and the care that they provide.

Images of the previous Manor now decorate the corridor at the Neurological Rehabilitation Centre



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

Could You Help Us Find a Home for a Village Defibrillator?

The Parish Council is very keen to install a defibrillator in the village. These devices are proven to save lives and are an invaluable resource in an emergency, but at present, we don't have one.

The challenge we face is that defibrillators must be housed in a secure, heated cabinet, which requires an electric supply. So far, we have been unable to find a suitable, accessible location in the village where one could be installed.

We are therefore reaching out to residents: would you be willing to have a defibrillator cabinet installed on an outside wall of your property? The Parish Council would meet the costs associated with installation, including the provision of an electrical supply.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance at Parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk. The Council would be very happy to discuss the details further with you.

Having a defibrillator in the village could make all the difference in an emergency and with your help, we hope to make this important project a reality.

Bikeability Courses — Cycle Proficiency

Hothfield Parish Council is exploring whether parents in the community would like to access a free Bikeability course for their children. These are currently offered in local schools but not until year 6 and some pupils haven't had the opportunity to take part.

This would be something that would be funded by the Parish council if there was sufficient interest.

If you are interested please get in touch with;

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Video Door Cameras

Following recent discussions with Kent Police, Hothfield Parish council are exploring purchasing a number of door video cameras for residents who do not currently have one and who feel that having one would enhance their sense of safety and wellbeing.

If you are interested in being considered for a video door bell you would need to have a smartphone and WIFI as a minimum.

Please could you register your interest with

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

An Open Letter to Residents – Keeping Our Footpaths Clear

Hothfield Parish Council has recently been in discussion with KCC Highways about the condition of footways in the village. A number of our pavements are currently obstructed by overhanging vegetation from private properties. In some places, this is reducing the width of the footway to the extent that pedestrians are forced to step into the road.

For the safety and comfort of all residents especially children, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, and those with limited mobility—it is important that our footways remain clear and accessible.

As a general rule, there should always be a **minimum of 1 metre of unobstructed footway** available for pedestrians. We therefore kindly ask all residents to check the boundaries of their properties and ensure that hedges, trees, or plants are cut back so they do not encroach onto pavements or footways.

Your cooperation will help us keep Hothfield safe and accessible for everyone.
Thank you for your support.

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 Village Hall (KCHFT Health Visiting Team)

Tuesday Drop-in Session Weekly 9.30am to 12.30pm

These breastfeeding drop-in sessions are supportive, social, and welcome all pregnant and breastfeeding women and their families, including partners. Trained Breastfeeding Champions from the local Health Visiting Teams will be able to provide information and help if you have a breastfeeding concern. Get more information and support for parenting under-fives at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/kent-baby

Hothfield Heathlands Report: A Big Thank-you !!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank-you to the volunteers and supporters that help look after our wonderful Hothfield Heathlands nature reserve. During the summer, we have been busy improving paths, installing seating, setting up new way marked routes, and controlling some of the plants that have a nasty habit of smothering out all the things we actually want.



A lot of time was spent clearing up rubbish, either from fly-tipping or from people who seem unable to reach a litter bin. However a special thank-you goes to the select group of regular visitors and residents who (unasked) spend their spare time picking up rubbish around the reserve, which is one of the reasons the site looks so wonderful.

There is a whole team that keep an eye on the livestock - they ensure our animals are safe, and where they are supposed to be. Without these dedicated people, we couldn't have grazing, and without grazing Hothfield Heathlands would quickly lose its dragonflies, orchids and heathers.

All of this work carries on all year round. So if you would like to get involved, either ring the Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012 or visit our website www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Hothfield Heathlands Survey

We are carrying out a survey to find out how users of Hothfield Heathlands feel about their nature reserve. The data will be helpful when we formulate future management plans, especially when it comes to access and interpretation. We are walking around the reserve with clipboards, but if you miss us, there is also an online version.

To find it, go to www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk click on Reserves section, then on Ashford and then on Hothfield Heathlands. Reading through the text, you will find a "click here" link which will take you to the online survey form.

The data is collected in confidence, all we get back is the raw information, so feel free to be as honest as possible (this is your chance to have a say).

Many thanks — Ian Rickards, Ashford Area Warden



The Kent Downs National Landscape Team are updating the Kent Downs Management Plan. This important plan sets out how they will care for, manage, and enhance the Kent Downs for the years ahead.

Whether you live in the Kent Downs, visit for walks or views, pass through on your way to work, or simply care about its future, they want to hear from you.

The survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete and asks about:

- the features you think make the Kent Downs most special and what you value the most
- what matters most to you when it comes to caring for the Kent Downs
- how they can make the Kent Downs even more enjoyable for everyone
- Kent Downs online communication channels, and if you follow or engage with them, how you feel about the content.

Your thoughts really will make a difference and will help them to shape the new Kent Downs Management Plan ahead of a public consultation in Spring 2026.

Visit <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/shaping-the-kent-downs-together> before 2 November, to find out more and complete the survey.

KCC's Engagement and Consultation team consultation@kent.gov.uk

KCC Active Travel team is proud to launch the **KCC Active Travel Business Grants 2025**, the pilot of an innovative funding initiative designed to supercharge sustainable commuting across Kent. This grant programme empowers Kent businesses to champion active travel by investing in infrastructure and supporting measures that encourage walking, wheeling, and cycling for both staff and customers. The window to apply for funding is now open until the 24 October 2025.

Why it matters: As the demand for greener, healthier travel options continues to grow, Kent's business community is uniquely positioned to lead the charge. The grants will prioritise companies that actively support and promote active travel for staff and customers, plus are located adjacent to new and improved walking and cycling routes.

Who should apply: The business must qualify as a

- small business
- or a not-for-profit organization
- or an NHS community facility such as a doctor's surgery (not hospital sites).

The business must have a site in Kent (not Medway) and employ at least 2 staff members.

We are looking for organisations who are committed to reshaping their travel culture by supporting staff and customers to travel more sustainably, plus identifying what facilities are needed to encourage active travel. This could include installing high quality cycle parking facilities, supplying lockers and showers for staff, pool bikes and electric hook-ups for e-bike charging or innovative facilities to support staff and customers in walking, wheeling, or cycling to access the business.

This initiative marks a pivotal step in Kent's journey toward a sustainable future. It is a chance to spotlight companies and local organisations making bold moves to rethink transport, reduce congestion, improve health, and improve local air quality for their staff and customers. From boutique retail hubs to major industrial parks, this grant program is transforming how Kent moves—one commute at a time. **Details about the scheme and a link to register an application is available here:** [Active Travel Business Grants - Kent County Council](#)

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!**

THIS IS A CHARING SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP INITIATIVE

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

Educational Grants

Uniform



Dance



Scouts Subs



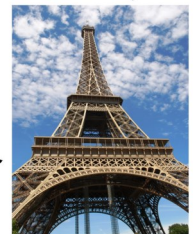
University



Travel



School trips



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

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD ARE HOSTING A

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Free Entry, with delicious homemade cakes, savouries & refreshments available to buy

HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

15 NOVEMBER 2025 10.00 TO 12.30

£10 per table, Telephone Sharon on 07968054898 to reserve a table

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD

Jack is returning to Godinton House & he is bringing his talented wife Marina, and Stephen on piano.



***Jazz, Christmas Songs,
Carols, & Canapés***

**Monday 15th December
2025 6.45pm to 9.00pm**

**At The Great Hall, Godinton
House, TN23 3BP**

Tickets £25 each (Limited number available).

Help Keep an Older Person Safer in 2025

Did you know? While cold calling itself is allowed, traders must respect "No Cold Callers" notices - it's actually against the law if they don't! As a dedicated home care provider since 1980, we've made it our mission to help protect older and disabled people in our community. We're proud to have distributed over 250,000 of these protective stickers since 2019.



Do you know of someone who would like to receive one of these? If so, simply email us at info@ablecommunitycare.com. Rest assured, we keep privacy in mind - we don't store any personal information or share it with others. If you have a Newsletter, Magazine or FB page and would like to mention this offer, we are happy for you to do so.

With warm wishes from Able Community Care your live-in care specialists, based in Norfolk, but supporting families across the UK since 1980.

www.ablecommunitycare.com

HARVEST LUNCH

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, HOTHFIELD FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE ON OCTOBER 5TH 2025 AT 12 MIDDAY

ALL WELCOME

SUGGESTED DONATION OF £5 PER PERSON

Ploughman's Lunch and dessert with glass of wine or soft drink followed by coffee or tea

Donations go towards upkeep of the Church.

Contact: Pamela 01233 623568

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 Oct

Sunday 5th 11.00am The Eucharist

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

Charing Scouts

The start of a new term is always fun with lots of new young people and even some new leaders joining the fun. Before the clocks go back we are still spending as much time as possible outside. Term started with great excitement for our cub scouts when Kent Traffic Police arrived to talk about what they do. I'm sure most of Charing heard the sirens! Who knew that their speed gun can record how fast a nine year old can run across a field?

After having a brilliant time at the Kent International Jamboree our scouts and explorers are spending a weekend at the Jamboree on the Internet. They will be linking up with scouts from all over the world on computers. I wonder how many countries they'll tick off this year.

We are crossing fingers and hoping for news from the County awards day. **Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660**

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

Facebook - Flossy's Fussy Bakes

Whatsapp/text - 07769228842



Sheila's Homemade Damson Jam with Damson Gin

Delicious and ever-so-fruity preserve made with this year's lovely Hothfield damsons and home-made damson gin.

Large (13oz/370g) £3.50

Made in small batches

Makes an ideal gift

Delivered free to Hothfield

Sheila: 01233 624 105

sheila.flynn@hotmail.co.uk



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
Letters and articles for publication are always welcome, deadline for inclusion is 20th Monthly. Advertising is free to businesses working in, or for, the Parish of Hothfield. Email the Editor for information on advertising prices for outside companies. Editor reserves the right to adjust all articles for space as required.