

HOTHFIELD NEWS



Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 12th June Hothfield Village Hall

Arts Society Egerton: Music of St Pauls 2pm 11th June (see page 8)

Friends of William Harvey Quiz Night 7.30pm 13th June (see page 6)

Friends of St Margarets Church: An Evening of Music 7pm 21st June (see page 7)

Pluckley Summer Fete 11am 21st June (see page 6)

Lesley Berry posted a page on the History Society website to let us know that there is a book about the Mary Datchelor School in London, part of which was evacuated in September 1939 to Hothfield. This was a large school established in 1857 which had sites across different parts of London before it closed in 1981, and Lesley was a pupil in the 1960s. The junior part of the school, at that time based at Camberwell, used one room in Hothfield's school and then later used the Women's Institute Hall on The Street, as well as various buildings in Ashford and other nearby villages. In the book the headteacher of the time, Dame Dorothy Brock, mentions "a 250 year old farmhouse in Hothfield where they had a house mother and two helpers". Dame Dorothy writes of having the "kindest of welcomes" and, "We were fortunate indeed in the glorious sunshine of those first weeks in September when we were out all day long. I have many pictures of those days in my mind, especially one of a picnic tea-party at Hothfield, under the pines just outside the village school, looking out over one of the loveliest views in Kent."

Hothfield's school Log Books include a number of references to the Datchelor girls, and also to numerous other evacuees moved to the area:

2 September 1939: "War being declared and evacuation taking place, the school premises are open for the reception of children. [this would normally still be school holidays as the summer holiday was later in those days] "In the mornings only the premises are used for about 20 minutes for the assembly of the Mary Datchelor girls who are at present assembled here." 9 October: (more evacuees have arrived) "No. on roll is now - native children 64, evacuees 18, Datchelor 28. Difficulty is being experienced getting milk as the supplier cannot get enough bottles."

16 October: "Number on roll 82 exclusive of Datchelor children who are educated in our own building but under their own teachers." 20 November: "Two Datchelor teachers are helping with St 2+3"

21 June 1940: "The Mary Datchelor School is being re-evacuated on Sunday to Wales. Materials borrowed from us have been replaced."

The Headteacher wrote to the Kentish Express while on the train to Wales to thank everyone in the area for fostering her children and those evacuated from other London schools, and lists many people including a Mr Meach. Mr Meech (correct spelling) was in Mitchell Farm at the time and his wife received a letter from Queen Elizabeth (Queen Mother) thanking her for her unselfish sacrifice opening her door to strangers and assisting the War effort. A copy of that letter is in our own book "Hothfield in the 20th Century".

Lesley posted these Log Book entries onto a group site for former Datchelor pupils, a number of whom have responded. One of the girls who was evacuated (Frances) had told her daughter (Josephine) the story and said that she had stayed with a young family named Wooliston at Hothfield. Frances later asked that young mother to be Josephine's Godmother thereby cementing a lifetime connection.

More of this story is on our website: www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration - 10th May

Thank you to everyone who came to the 80th Anniversary celebration of the end of the Second World War, held at the church last month. The History Society provided a display of the pictures and information that we have about World War II in Hothfield – including personal stories from soldiers and residents of that time.

A date for your diary – Saturday 27th September

In another joint event with the Friends of St.Margaret's Church there will be a small history exhibition in the church. The exhibition will focus on the church and its graveyard; the Hothfield Manor estate where the church stands, and the Tufton family who were the Lords and Ladies of the Manor.

The army occupied the site during both World Wars, as well as much of the village, and the church was damaged by a Doodlebug, so the exhibition will also include some of those aspects including the Spitfire that crashed in the parkland of the estate.



The church belltower will also be opened for those fit and able to climb the narrow stairs for a rare glimpse of the bells and the inside of the spire (minimum age 12years old).

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

HPC Meeting Summary May

1. Cllr Lloyd was elected for another year as Chair.
2. HPC are pursuing action against the driver who damaged one of the village grit bins.
3. Overgrown hedges blocking pathways discussion.
4. Newsletter content discussion.
5. Village Hall lease arrangements discussion.
6. Defibrillator install request discussed.

Annual Parish Meeting Sat 17th May Summary

1. Well attended meeting with great speakers from the History Society, Litter Pickers Volunteer Group, Hothfield Education Foundation, Kent Wildlife, Ashford Police, Andrew Howard and Katie Lam MP.
2. Residents raised questions and concerns regarding the following:
 - a) Zebra crossing needing maintenance.
 - b) Speed limit at the bus stop.
 - c) Parking in Thanet Terrace.
 - d) Speeding through the Village.
 - e) Bin Refuge in Chapel Road.
 - f) Lakeside development.
 - g) Replacement 30mph signs in Coach Drive.
 - h) CCTV.
 - i) Defibrillator.
3. Cllr Hook announced the Solar Funding Spending Strategy and how residents can apply.
4. Katie Lam MP has launched the Weald of Kent Awards and spoke about her current focus, provided an update on Hoads Wood and answered questions from residents.

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: Remembering VE Day 80 Years On

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The church was festooned with bunting inside and out for Hothfield's celebration of the 80 year anniversary of VE Day.

The Friends of St Margaret's provided a wonderful array of home-made cakes and savouries, which visitors were able to enjoy in the gloriously sunlit church against the backdrop of 1940s music.

There was much interest in the History Society's detailed display of Hothfield during WWII including aerial photos of the Army Nissen Hut camp and wartime artefacts.

Thank you to all those who organised our village event, decorated the church and baked delectable



goodies - and thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the celebrations.



Progress to date

We have now completed Phase 1 and are well underway in Phase 2 of the Hoad's Wood waste removal project:

Phase 1 - Waste Sampling

Phase 2 - Site Compound Construction. The Site Compound is due for completion by 9 May 2025.

By completing these phases we have secured permits, licences and key activities for the following:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) assent to conduct sampling works – Issued by Natural England
- Ordinary Watercourse Consent to culvert the ditch between Bethersden Road and the site compound – Issued by Kent County Council (KCC) Flood team
- Temporary Traffic Road Notice/Order to close Bethersden Road for the duration of the works – Issued by KCC Highways
- Great Crested Newt (GCN) District Level Licence to complete the works in an area with GCN activity – Issued by Natural England
- Detailed tree surveys followed by pruning and works have removed all trees that were at risk of falling and causing a health and safety risk

All surveys of protected species in Hoad's Wood waste removal area have taken place and mitigations put in place to ensure the disruption to species and habitats is minimised

Next Actions

Earlier this week we have had SSSI assent granted by Natural England to move in to phases 3 and 4 of the project. We will also be applying to the Court to renew our Restriction Order for a further 6 months as it is due to expire in May 2025.

Phase 3 – Access track preparation and site fencing:

Works started on 30 April 2025 and will consist of properly preparing the access track from Bethersden Road to the main waste mass. We will be placing a stone regulating layer and temporary trackway to ensure the equipment and waste carrying vehicles needed to remove the waste can safely access and egress the site. The access route will follow the existing track route. The other key activity will include the erection of stock fencing that will encircle the waste mass and access track to prevent wildlife and pedestrians from inadvertently accessing the site and putting themselves at risk. The fence will be 1.2 metres high and consist of stock fencing on chestnut posts in line with Natural England's requirements. These works are due to be completed by mid-May 2025.

Phase 4 – Main waste mass removal:

1) Some preparatory works will need to occur before the waste is removed and these will include the installation of a de-odouriser system running along the fence route and infrastructure on the waste mass to ensure the waste is removed without causing any additional damage to the Wood.

2) This phase of works will remove waste from the centre of the waste mass extending to 1m from the trees encircling the waste perimeter and the finishing level will be approximately 300 millimetres above the forest floor.

3) Our current project plan is forecasting waste being removed from early June 2025 and will be done so using an excavator and a bulldozer and then loaded into 8-wheeled tipper lorries.

4) The exact duration of this phase is dependent on the waste composition. If the waste follows the sampling already completed this is forecast to continue this year completing before Christmas 2025 but we will have a more definitive timeline as the project progresses.

Phase 5:

The final phase of the project will deal with the waste built up around the trees and the waste directly on the forest floor. These activities are far more complex in nature and require a greater understanding of the damage done to the trees around the waste mass edge and the amount of contamination in the forest floor. A workshop in mid-May 2025 will go through these activities in greater detail to understand the constraints and to plan how to carry out these works ensuring minimum damage and giving the wood the best chance of recovery.

The Environment Agency has only been directed by the Secretary of State to remove the illegally deposited waste from the site. Natural England will lead engagement with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders on what steps they will take to ensure this doesn't happen again and more information should be available in the coming months.

HOOTHFIELD 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

PLUCKLEY SUMMER FETE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Friends of Pluckley Rec along with Pluckley School PTFA invite you to their Summer Fete

>> **11-3PM Saturday 21st June 2025** >>

• **FREE ENTRY** •

<p>MUSIC FESTIVAL 11AM - 11PM</p> <p>Musical Artists Include: Drum & Ink, Invicta Jazz Orchestra, The Upsetters, Ashford College, Tony Adams, DJ Skeema, The Rags, Geoff Stokes, Megan Wardroper, Sam Baldock, Ashford Folk Band, Rebecca Stroud, DJ Acidikz, Pluckley School as well as <i>Vocal & Instrumental Open Mic Opportunities</i></p> <p>Organ Recital, PreOrder Tickets (£10) TEXT TO ORDER 07587578289 Printed Programmes Available (£2)</p>	<p>FETE & STALLS 11AM - 3PM</p> <p>Delicious Homemade Cakes Ice Creams and Sweets Tombolas Raffle Bric A Brac Bouncy Castle Jewellery and Gifts Pluckley Raptors FC Pilates Class (11.15AM) Pluckley Garden Society Thorne Hedgehog Rescue and many more local businesses...</p>
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BAR & BBQ AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Proceeds go to Pluckley School PTFA Charity No. 1043385 as well as Friends of Pluckley Rec's NEW Playground and St Nicholas Pluckley Church

Friends of the William Harvey Hospital

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 13TH JUNE

7PM FOR 7.30 START

- St Mary's Church - Willesborough TN24 0YR
- Tables of 6, £7 per head
- Book with Friends Shop:
- 01233 633 331 ext 723 8269
- Complimentary drink on arrival
- BYO nibbles and drinks
- Raffle on the night
- Winning table: 6 bottles of wine!
- Support your local hospital charity

PTFA RAFFLE TICKETS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES ON SALE NOW
AT PLUCKLEY SHOP, PLUCKLEY BUTCHERS, PLUCKLEY FARM SHOP & THE BLACK HORSE!

Educational Grants

Uniform

Travel

Scouts Subs

School trips

Dance

University

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

The Friends of St Margaret's Church present

An Evening of Music with the Ashford Concert Band

St Margarets Church, Hothfield, TN26 1EL

Saturday 21st June @ 7pm

To purchase tickets please either follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ESOF>
or scan the QR code



Alternatively reserve tickets by contacting:

Sharon/Nick on 07968 054898

or Penny on 01233 634191



A Message from Katie Lam MP

Spring is one of my favourite times of year, and there's nowhere better to enjoy this time of year than here in the Weald. It's the season of Lady's Smock, Cow parsley, and butterflies. We're really fortunate that the Garden of England has so much to offer by way of flora and fauna: the wildflowers are in full bloom and our beautiful home is teeming with insect and animal life.

As your Member of Parliament, it's my job to represent you and help solve the problems that you face on a daily basis. The most enjoyable part of my job, however, is championing our truly beautiful patch and promoting what makes it such a fantastic place to live.

That's why I'm excited to announce my brand-new Weald of Kent Awards, recognising the very best of our wonderful corner of Kent.

This summer, I hope you'll join me in celebrating the unsung local heroes who help our communities thrive. I want to shine a light on the Weald's favourite places to eat and drink, the very best Kentish produce, and the individuals, businesses and volunteer groups that go above and beyond to bring people together.

Can you think of someone in your area who deserves to be recognised? If so, I'd love to hear from you!

I'm inviting everyone in the Weald to nominate a winner from one or more of the following six categories:

1. The Weald of Kent Pub, Restaurant or Café 2025
2. The Weald of Kent Local Business 2025
3. The Taste of the Weald of Kent 2025
4. The Weald of Kent Local Hero 2025
5. The Weald of Kent Young Local Hero 2025
6. The Weald of Kent Heart of the Community 2025

If you know a worthy winner from your corner of the Weald, please do nominate them. Once the shortlist is decided, the finalists will be voted for by you, the people who know the Weald better than anyone else. I'll then announce the winner in August, and present them with a fabulous Weald of Kent Award.

Nominations will open on my website on Monday 2nd June 2025 at www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards, and will be advertised across my social media pages over the summer.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk, or speak to me on 01580 388344.

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 1st 11.00am The Eucharist

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

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Wednesday 11th June:

RESURGAM – the Music of St Paul's Cathedral (an Egerton Music Festival event)



***Patrick Craig** is a Vicar Choral at St Paul's Cathedral. For 20 years he combined this with an international singing career performing in over 1000 concerts with the world-renowned early music consort, The Tallis Singers*

N.B. our short AGM will take place at 2.00 before this lecture begins

Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwil-lis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer



HOTHFIELD NEWS

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