

HOTHFIELD NEWS



Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 10th July Hothfield Village Hall



Marion Blackman kindly sent some photos from the early 1960s when she was a trainee nurse at Hothfield Hospital. Her complete message is now on the village history website, part of which says:

I arrived at Hothfield Hospital just after my 18th birthday to commence my nurse training in 1960. There were 6 of us in our Pupil Training School. We were met at the hospital front entrance (porters lodge) by the assistant Matron and taken to the Nurses accommodation above a slight slope round the right side of the Hospital building. We were given keys to our rooms and told the rules and regulations. It didn't matter what age we were we had to have permission to be out after 10pm. We had a home sister to keep an eye on us. One of the trainees was a widow in her 40's but she still had to have a signed pass to stay out after 10pm.

The Hospital was built in a square with a courtyard in the middle. There was a large dining room and we had to sign in and out at mealtimes to make sure we were eating, and it was checked every day and there had to be a good explanation if we had missed a meal. I believe the Nursing school was above the main entrance but not absolutely sure now as I have worked in several hospitals during my 50 year career and can get a bit confused. On the left side of the main building was a long wooden building called Lakeside and it was where the Male Nurses lived. Immediately opposite divided by a lake was a similar building for the female staff. Each home had a row of bedrooms, a large sitting room and a kitchenette, and a shared bathroom. We had a TV but it wasn't used that much as we seemed to make our own entertainment.

I think my wage was £7 10s a month but we didn't have to pay for our meals or accommodation so that was quite a lot then. Also there was hospital transport and it was like a taxi service. The transport was driven by porter Jack Strover's son. We just had to put our names down in a book in the porters lodge with our destination and the transport would run us into the village or Ashford or Charing. etc and bring us back. We used it regularly for market days or trips to Gizzi coffee bar or the Pictures if we had a late pass.

The porters lodge in the main building faced up the lane (Chapel Road) so the porters could see everyone coming and going. The Porters were from the village - Fred Buss and Jack Strover. Half way up the lane was the Sister Tutor's house (Miss Taylor) who was a tall formidable lady always in grey and nothing missed her attention. At the top of the lane was the Woolpack where we would congregate on Saturday and Sunday evenings officially but when we could get away with it we would meet up there during the week. We would visit Kempton manor just up the road which was a popular dance venue for youngsters all around the area.

Most of the Male Nurses were from abroad: Mauritius, Malaysia, Kenya and Holland. We all got on very well. Peter (from Holland) was friendly with a young Dutch couple who lived in Hothfield called Nela and Toni Addy.

When Michael arrived in England from Mauritius after a 3 month voyage to reach here he saw lamp posts over the main road and thought they were to heat the road.

I hope some of this is interesting for you. Over the 4 years we made many memories ; there is so much more. Marion's photos are on the website and I'm hoping to receive more pictures and stories from her and the other past nurses that she is still in contact with.

History Exhibition – Saturday 27th September

There will be a small history exhibition at St.Margaret's Church to support The Friends who will be providing refreshments. The exhibition won't cover the whole village history but will look at the church's history and its graveyard; the Hothfield Manor estate and the Lords and Ladies who lived there. Some of the notable characters in the churchyard will be highlighted including the two War Graves as well as past workers from the Hothfield estate.

Entry to the exhibition will be free, and visitors will be able to see the six bells in the tower (only for those 12years and older, and physically able to climb the winding narrow stairs). Looking above the bells the structure of the steeple itself is a marvel with huge beams reaching to the top – how did the builders get them up there before the days of cranes? And whose names are scratched into the beams?



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 June

- 1) Jeremy Eustace our new KCC member attended to introduce himself & answer questions.
- 2) Clair Bell our Borough Councillor reported on developments concerning Hothfield.
- 3) Finance Report.
- 4) CCTV options discussed. It was agreed to discontinue further works and examine the possibility of HPC providing a grant to locals to purchase Ring Doorbells.
- 5) Discussion and agreement to publish HPC villager funding strategy.
- 6) Coronation Orchard discussion.
- 7) HPC Website hosting discussion and agreement to obtain competitive quotations.

Hothfield Craft and Flower Show

Martyn and Helen are unfortunately not in a position to run the Hothfield Craft and Flower Show this year and therefore if there is someone in the village who is interested in running the event, please send a message to the email address below. We have all the materials in place including a provisional date, and we would gladly assist with the format of the event.

hjmathesonpollock@gmail.com

Charing Scouts

What a fabulous day we had for our open day and AGM! The weather forecast suggested heavy rain but we went ahead anyway. We were blessed with fine weather except for the time we were all inside for the AGM. I'm so proud of the way our young people organized their stalls with efficiency and enthusiasm and, of course, our leaders who worked tirelessly to make it all run smoothly. We raised over £750 for the Pluckley Hedgehog Sanctuary which is a charity our scouts have supported for some time. Summer means camping. There is something very special about supporting our youngest members on their first camp. Often it's their first time away from parents. They quickly become old hands, talking fondly of getting soaked doing the washing up.

Terry

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 bogs are one of only a handful of wet heaths in the South east of England. They support a great variety of dragonflies. One of the reason dragonflies like the bogs at Hothfield, is that the acid water makes it hard for fish to live. Fish will predate on dragonfly nymphs, so living in a fish free habitat greatly increases their chances of survival

Dragonflies live most their lives at the bottom of pools and ponds (some species will spend 5 years living as larvae), they hunt for insects, tadpoles and other dragonflies too.

When the larvae have grown large enough, they climb up vegetation and begin to grow their fantastic wings. The body of the larvae splits, and the adult dragonfly emerges from within.

The dragonfly pumps fluid through its wings to enlarge them, and usually within 1-3 hours the newly emerged dragonfly is ready to fly. Adult dragonflies are no less voracious than the larvae, and catch flying insects such as mosquitoes and midges, although the bigger dragonflies can take butterflies or other dragonflies too.

There are a great number of dragonfly species to see at Hothfield.

Broadbodied chasers are one of the first to be seen, emerging in April, and staying close to pools and ponds around the reserve. As the name suggests the males have broad blue bodies, whilst the females are yellow.



Banded demoiselles are usually associated with fast flowing water, so you will see them on river banks. They can be very numerous, and you could expect to see 100's together on bank side vegetation. Unlike the traditional dragonfly, demoiselles' and damselflies sit with their wings running along their bodies, and the banded demoiselle is particularly striking due to a large black circle in each wing.



Emperor dragonflies are the largest of Hothfields dragonflies. With a wingspan up to 15cm they can be quite a site as they patrol through the skies. They very rarely settle, which makes it very difficult to get a good look, however their blue body and green head make them easy to identify.

Keeled skimmer is the rarest dragonfly that breeds in the acid bogs. The best place to see them is from the boardwalk across the main bog. The pale blue males hang around the shallow peaty pools, waiting for a female to arrive.



The best way to find dragonflies is to look for still water bodies, especially those that are free of shade and even better if they are sheltered from the wind. You will need a sunny, warm day too – dragonflies need a lot of energy to get around, and on cool days will spend their time warming up on vegetation.

The current warm weather will suit the adult dragonflies, as they are able to spend more time hunting and searching for mates. However, the larvae will suffer if their pools dry up. Kent Wildlife Trust work hard to keep the bogs permanently wet, blocking ditches and removing trees to prevent them sucking out the water. In the past we have been able to guarantee the bogs remain moist through the summer, but extreme drought, caused by climate change is continuing to make nature reserves a challenging place to live.

BREAKING NEWS:

Thanks to Val Butcher, we were excited to have a report of a tree pipit singing on the reserve in June. Tree pipits display from isolated trees, but build nests on the ground, at the base of heather and grass tussocks.

With the support of visitors keeping their dogs on leads, we hope that this wonderful bird will have the opportunity to attract a mate and raise chicks.

Ian Rickards

Area Manager Kent Wildlife Trust



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



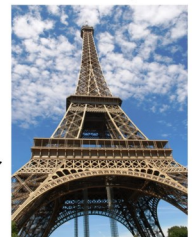
Travel



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 role of the solar funding in Hothfield Parish is to enrich and benefit the lives of the residents of the village. The Parish Council is audited annually as to how the money is spent. Hothfield Parish Council proposes that all funding aligns with the following Themes.

THEME/ {PRIORITY}	Examples of what might be covered under these themes
HOTHFIELD ROAD CONDITION AND SAFETY	Pedestrian crossings, potholes, signage, speed reduction, CCTV
HOTHFIELD VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND APPEARANCE	Litter bins, benches, public spaces, parking, Nature reserve, Dog Mess, Responsible pet ownership, fly tipping, bin collection, noise. housing
HOTHFIELD WELLBEING	Village Hall, Children's play area, facilities for children and young people, neighborhood cohesion, community involvement, prevent isolation, inclusion, safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, community health. Promote physical fitness and wellbeing of all ages.
HOTHFIELD SAFETY	Crime, feelings of safety in Hothfield, anti-social behaviour
HERITAGE AND CULTURAL	Support historical Hothfield record keeping and engagement within the community. Support to various community groups and faiths. Work closely with HEF.
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT	Support to infrastructure development that provides demonstrable benefit to the residents of Hothfield e.g. East to West Hothfield path, new fencing on the green etc

Priority will be given to projects that:

Benefit the Wider Community: The initiative must have broad, tangible benefits for a wide section of the parish population. It should aim to address a clear community need.

Sustainability and Longevity: Projects that can be maintained long-term with minimal future costs to the Parish Council, or those with sustainable funding sources.

Community Involvement: Projects where residents are actively involved in planning, execution, or ongoing maintenance. This encourages a sense of ownership and long-term success.

Environmental Impact: Preference will be given to projects that improve the village's environmental footprint or contribute to the sustainability goals of the parish.

Innovation and Creativity: New ideas or creative approaches to village improvement or preservation of heritage will be considered favourably.

Ineligible Costs: The following costs will not be considered for funding:

Private or Profit-Making Ventures: Projects primarily for individual profit or those not benefiting the wider community.

Ongoing Operational Costs: Ongoing running costs such as salaries or regular maintenance (unless linked to the project's success and sustainability).

Personal or Domestic Projects: Funding for individual homes or private property, unless it serves a wider community function (e.g., community-owned facilities)

Application requirements: Proposals for Funding should be made either verbally or in writing to Hothfield Parish Council and ensure that they outline how the funding criteria will be met, paying attention to the following:

Project Scope — Value For Money — Timescale — Priority Alignment — Proposed Benefit — Success Measurement

Decision making, due consideration and transparency.

Hothfield Parish Council, as a public body is responsible and accountable for managing public money transparently and to ensure that there is always value for money. Proposals must be received within **two working weeks** of each Parish Council meeting to ensure that due care and consideration is given to the decision.

Rationale for all decisions will be minuted. Decisions will be voted upon by the Parish Council. In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

Following the proposal the Parish council may decide to:

Fully fund the project

Offer match funding (%) of project costs

Refuse funding

Ultimate decisions on funding rest with Hothfield Parish Council.

Post project reporting requirements

Post project it is essential that we have communication of the project or purchase being made. This can take the following form:

Report. A detailed report submitted to the Parish Council and published on the village website.

Article. An article explaining the work that has been carried out and the overall community benefit.

Presentation. A verbal presentation to the council on the work that has been carried out and the overall benefit to the community. **Recorded in HPC minutes.**

At least one of the above methods must be employed when funding has been released.

Any Measurements of success must be included which could include value for money, impact and data. (Please see below)

Post project feedback will determine whether future funding will be allocated.

Measurement of success

On completion of the work/project the council and recipient will complete a short survey to ascertain the effectiveness of the funding as related to the six village priorities above. Each priority will be graded 1 to 5.

- ☐ **5:** The project exceeded the requirements of the priority.
- ☐ **4:** The project fully met the requirements of the priority.
- ☐ **3:** The project met the requirements of the priority
- ☐ **2:** The project Partially met the requirements of the priority
- ☐ **1:** The project did not meet the requirements of the priority

In addition to this it is encouraged that additional measures of success are included. These will be specific to each project e.g. reduced average vehicle speed on a specific bend for a traffic project or reduced rates of crime for a CCTV project etc.

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 July

Sunday 6th 11.00am The Eucharist

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

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

We are taking a summer break until 10th September when Dr John Stevens will present 'Architecture of Mughal India: Palaces, Mosques, Gardens and Mausoleum' at Egerton Millennium Hall at 2.30 pm.



Membership is £45 for 10 lectures. Visitors are always very welcome at £8 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

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



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DRIVING TUITION

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DVSA approved driving instructor & Pass Plus

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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

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