

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 10

October 2020

A message from Kent Wildlife Trust

Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands but please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife.

Please keep dogs close to you at all times, do not let your dog run and play off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse. Breeding and feeding birds are seriously impacted by this disturbance, causing them to abandon nests or preventing them from collecting the food they need.

Make sure anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter, dog mess and place all dog bags in the bins.

Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots of wildlife in the county, with your help we can keep it that way.

For more information visit our website www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Ian Rickards



Buzzard
Photo:
Val Butcher

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| Friday | 0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | |
| Saturday | 0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800 | PO morning only |

GARDEN COMMUNITY Have your say!

Over the next 5-10 years Ashford Borough Council will be developing a Garden Community with 143 ha of open space, which will sit along side large areas of housing development to the South of Ashford.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION](https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-development/major-developments/south-of-ashford-garden-community/) go to

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-development/major-developments/south-of-ashford-garden-community/>

The Borough Council are interested in knowing your opinion on how these areas are developed. Options could include football fields, play areas and areas for wildlife. These open spaces will cover 143 ha, that's nearly twice the size of Hothfield Heathlands, so there could be some real wins for wildlife !

If you have the time, there is a survey that you can fill in here <https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/consult.ti/ourgardenvillage/consultationHome>

Do not underestimate the impact that your opinion can have at this stage. Please make the time to give your views to Ashford Borough Council, it really can make a difference.

Flossy's Fussy Bakes



If you would like to follow us on social media or have a look at our past bakes, you can find us on the following:

[Facebook – Flossy's Fussy Bakes](#)



SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



For weddings, baptisms, etc. Contact the Parish Office calehillpcc@gmail.com 07395 910317

No services for the moment, due to building work in the church. For details of services in other local churches, go to www.calehill-westwell.uk



Update on the Friends of St. Margaret's Cake & Craft Supplies Sale

We all woke up to a beautiful morning on Saturday 12th September and at 8 am, the stalls started to get set up by all our willing helpers. Such a beautiful setting in the paddock opposite the Church.

We had a steady flow of visitors who came to buy our delicious cakes, home produced produce, craft supplies and bric-a-brac, all in aid of the new kitchen fund for the church.

We had superb feedback from lots of people on our venue and the fact it was set against the old wall of the Walled Garden and gave a beautiful view of the church and of course plenty of parking.

This was so successful that hopefully, next spring we shall have more 'outside' events, so watch this space!!

The Friends of St Margaret's Hothfield would like to thank everyone for coming to the sale on Saturday 12 September. We had a very successful morning and everyone seemed to be delighted to be out in a safe environment.

We could not have put together this event without all the help of those who baked cakes, made jam, donated items, gave their time to help run a stall or helped set up and take down.



A huge thank you to some very special people who might not have attended but donated money to help us on our way to finishing the servery and flushing the toilet. As soon as Covid 19 allows we will plan a grand unveiling for everyone to come and see.



THE ANGEL FESTIVAL

Has been postponed to next year, due to Covid restrictions.

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



CHARING WITH LITTLE CHART, CHARING HEATH, EGERTON, HOTHFIELD, PLUCKLEY AND WESTWELL

HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks, printed and published by Richard Sutcliffe, financed by Hothfield Parish Council and distributed free to every house in the village by dedicated volunteers. Email: hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk

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

The deadline for the November 2020 issue is 20 October.

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.

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HOTHFIELD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

We would like to remind you that we are a charity that primarily supports the education of young people within the Parish of Hothfield.

We will consider making financial contributions towards such items as secondary school logoed uniform, school bus passes, sports-related training, job skill related training, music lessons, school trips, further education and personal development.

If you think that we may be able to help, please e-mail hothfieldeducation@gmail.com Alternatively, you could leave a letter at the Village PO/Shop.

The Foundation meets 3 or 4 times a year, and the dates are regularly advertised in Hothfield News.

We would ask that applications are received at least three weeks before a meeting.

Our next meeting will be on
27 October 2020



Our period of uncertainty continues. We now have approval from County Headquarters to start limited face to face meetings again. This is very exciting. We are so pleased to return to proper scouting.

Three of our leaders are off to university this month. We wish Saskia, Mark and Eleanor the very best of luck and hope to see them when they are back home. For various reasons our leadership team is getting depleted so we urgently need new volunteers to help. The commitment in time is not great and any training needed is provided free. It would be such a shame if we have to limit our scouting now that we can get back to doing it properly. If you think you can help and want to join the fun please get in touch.

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For full minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council, please either see the noticeboard outside the village shop or visit www.hothfield.org.uk

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PLEASE NOTE:

The email address for the Parish Council is parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk



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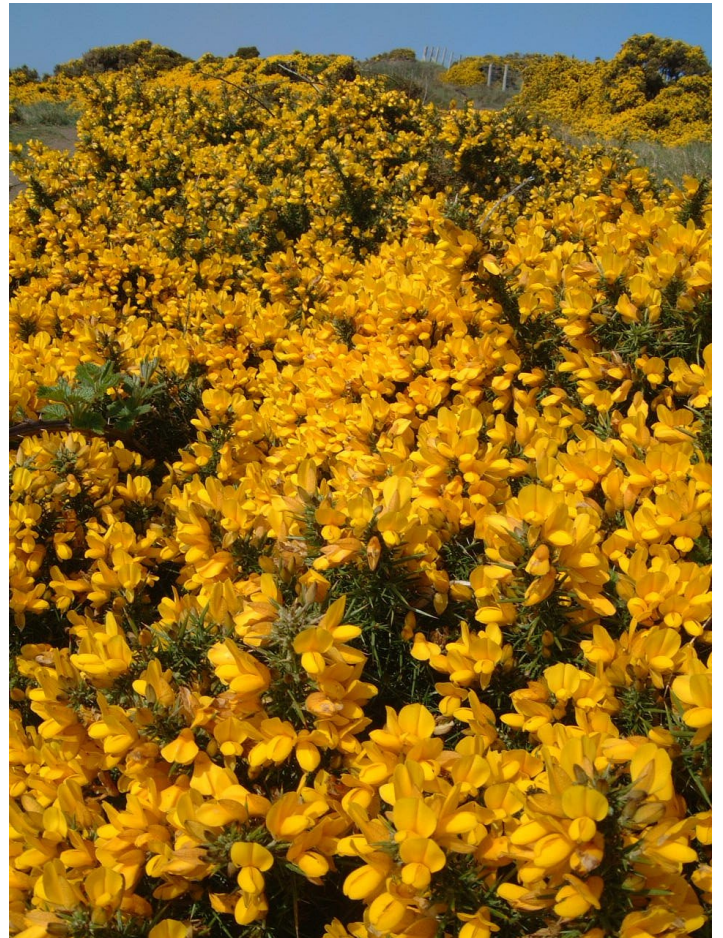
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OCTOBER ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS 4



As the last flowers of tormentil and scabious give way to gorse (right) and the rich colours of autumn, the crop of fungi that started to appear in September becomes increasingly varied and colourful in October. The sun-worshipping common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* that was still basking on warm soil and causeways last month will be heading for hibernation soon as, unable to heat their own bodies, they hide in a state of torpor under fallen logs or large stones until spring.

The gorse now in bloom is *Ulex europaeus*, common gorse. The dense intensely spiky shrub provides essential perches and nesting cover for birds and year-long shelter for animals and insects. The coconut-scented flowers that open in any mild spell through winter into spring are an important source of nectar and pollen for insects. We are lucky to also have colonies of *Ulex minor*, dwarf gorse or furze, on the heathland. It grows in smaller mounds, is slightly less spiky and flowers in summer when common gorse is in seed. Both species scatter their seed widely by dehiscence – in hot sun areas of the black woody pea-pods expand in different ways causing the two sides to twist as they split open with an audible pop and throw the seeds some distance. Not the gun-crack of castor-oil seed cases exploding but a popping gorse bush is quite something to hear. Western gorse, *Ulex galii*, the third species that occurs in Britain, doesn't grow in this region. The thorns on all these species



are modified leaves, enabling the plants to survive in arid or wind-swept conditions and photosynthesize all year.

Fungi might be called 'primitive' plants but are all fine-tuned to the conditions of their habitats and all occupy a particular niche in their food chain. With no chlorophyll to make food through photosynthesis, it's the permanent and large underground network of mycelia that make food - energy - by breaking down living or dead organic matter. This is a vital part of the natural process of decay and regeneration. Do take away photos and memories, but

please leave all the fungi for others to enjoy and for the organisms exclusively dependent on fungi for food and habitat. For example, Ian Rickards reports that the Oyster fungi beetle is severely threatened, primarily due to its food source (oyster fungi) being over collected. That affects whatever feeds on the oyster fungi beetle higher up the food chain, and so on. Everything is interlinked. Leaving them alone also avoids the dilemma of which are edible and which poisonous. Instead, have fun trying a grow-your-own kit.

Margery Thomas



Common Lizard (Ian Rickards)



5 Hothfield History Society

Talk postponed again

Sadly our talk about the dig for a Hurricane once flown by Pilot Sgt Herbert Black, and other wartime aircraft, has had to be postponed again due to the current restrictions, for which I apologise. Let's hope that we can have social gatherings in the village hall sometime in the new year. In the meantime I would recommend purchasing a copy of Melody's book 'The Wreck Hunter: Battle of Britain and the Blitz'.

Sale of Lord Hothfield's Estate in the 1920s

Almost 100 years ago the Lord Hothfield of the time was selling off various properties and land in the area. His vast estate extended across not only most of Hothfield, but also neighbouring parishes including Great Chart, Westwell and areas to the south of Ashford town centre. We have seen catalogues of the properties for sale which included farms, fields and individual properties. The History Society was given a copy of the 1929 catalogue, and we have seen copies of the 1923 and 1925 sales,

some of which have prices written in by attendees at the auctions.

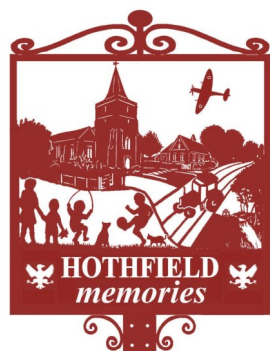
The 1923 auction was mainly of land to the south of the town where South Ashford and Singleton are now, including sites close to the railways such as where Matalan is now – in the 1920s this was all fields and Ashford was a small town. The 1925 auction was similarly for rural fields including the Etchden Estate.

The auction in 1929 is of more interest to Hothfield village as it included

numerous houses and premises owned by the estate and rented out to tenants. These included 'Hothfield Stores', a shop on the main A20, and the nearby Woolpack, as well as Ripple Court Farm and cottages in Westwell. Britton Farm and Sandpit cottages on Ram Lane were also sold by the Lord in the 1929 auction.

The Woolpack Inn was described in the catalogue as "Important Fully Licensed Premises" let to a Charles Norton, and came with a farm holding of nearly 25.5 acres in total. Britton Farm was described as a 'Picturesque old house' and had farm buildings and nearly 31 acres.

Chris Rogers



View of The Woolpack around 1900



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Now I know, I know the Meaning of it All

I remember when my first daughter left home. She had gone to train as a nurse in an extremely famous hospital, and I couldn't have been prouder of her. But in a rash moment this morning I set myself to tidy her room.

Perhaps mothers understand the internal economy of a girl's bedroom. As a father I spent the morning in a state of constant amazement. Male untidiness is notorious; women never stop talking about it. All men (except sailors, interior designers and the terminally fussy) work on the same system. What is put down remains where it is until not a single empty surface survives, at which point a day is spent tidying up. Thus Sherlock Holmes was able to date his correspondence by the thickness of the dust it had gathered. The method is pleasant and rhythmic, only ever interrupted by the complaints of some woman or other, who always wants to tidy up for the wrong reasons — because it's Spring, for example, or Mother's coming to stay, or it 'looks untidy'. Men, of course, who don't look, never mind.

But a girl's room is like those ancient mounds in the desert, where the destruction of a city is followed by the building of another on the rubble of the old: or like the town I lived in one year in the mountains of France, where all the streets moved upwards a few inches at every snowfall. It is an old joke that in every girl's room there is a pile of clothing with yesterday's most fashionable item at the top and a nappy at the bottom: but it is a joke perilously near the truth. Girls, like ancient Sumerians, do not tidy up when all surfaces are covered: they trample the rubble flat and begin to rebuild. I was tidying up in late January. Close to the top of the pile I found the wrapping from the presents in her ladyship's Christmas stocking; I trust, this last Christmas. I found, indeed, the stocking itself. There was no nappy, but a pair of knickers and a pair of tights nestled companionably beneath the elementary Chemistry notes she discarded two years ago. Papers, I was interested to notice, were filed entirely by the Holmes method, though in the depths of a cupboard I found two very handsome filing boxes, both in pristine condition, with their divisions unlabelled and their spaces unfilled. I removed thirty-seven books lent by parents at various times. Several had been written off and replaced over the passing years.

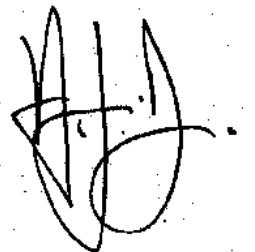
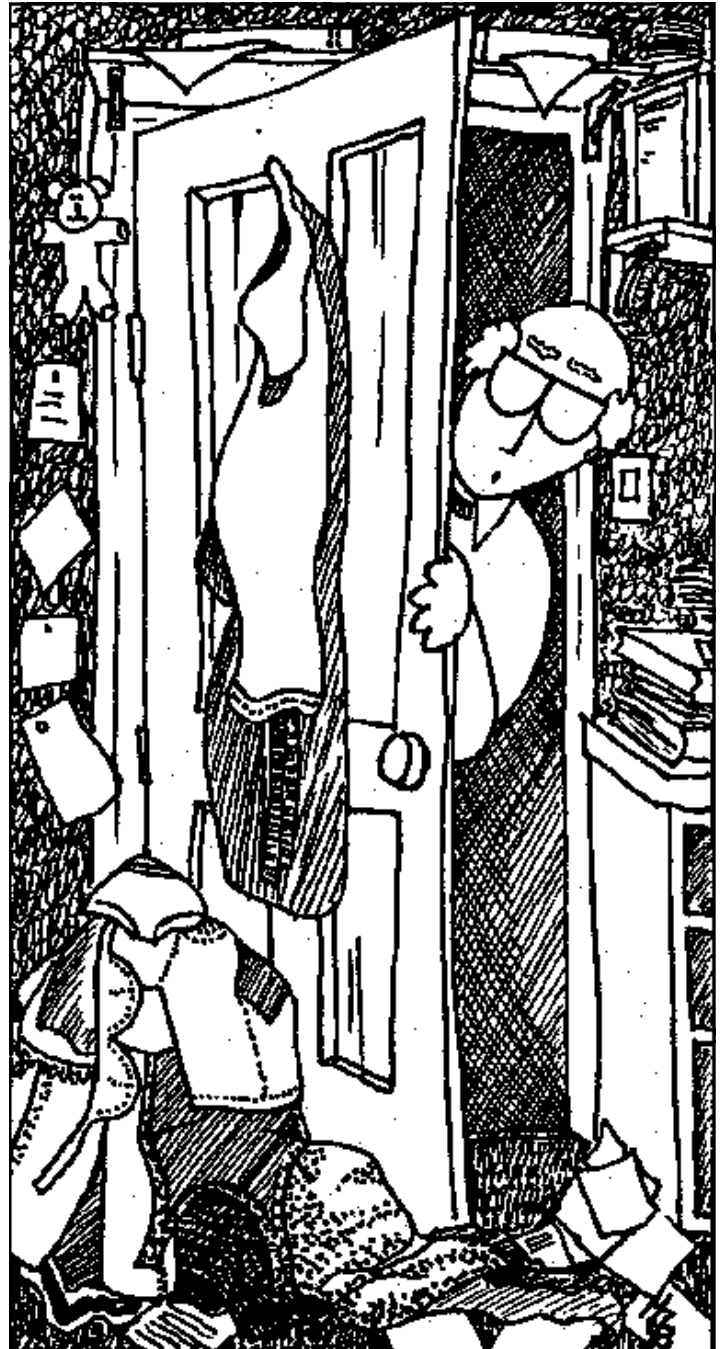
And the mystery of the coat-hanger is solved at last. The world can now be told. One had always wondered where all the hangers go: you put two in a wardrobe in the hope that they will breed, and they elope together. This was known, but the whereabouts of the hangers' Gretna Green was not — until today. All the spare coat-hangers in the world were in my daughter's wardrobe. She would deny it, of course, she will claim she never knew. "Hangers? No, Father, not I. Pray, should you find any, let me have one." Lies, all lies. She had been harbouring fugitive coat-hangers. I found fifty-three. Heaven knows how many escaped through a secret door at my approach.

I have consulted other fathers, of all ages: all had observed the same system in use by their daughters. Yet all mothers deny ever having used it themselves. All wives, they tell you with hands on hearts, were scrupulously tidy as girls. Yet consider. Those very women who nag a man half to death if his space is untidy, allow their daughters to get away with the ancient-city methods I have described. They insist only that the growing girl hide the state of her room by forbidding visitors to enter it.

And now I understand. Oh, the wasted years that lie behind me! Alas, had I only known! Those coy maidens of my youth, why were they coy? Why was I never invited to the delights of their intimate chambers? Could I only have guessed, how different might my youth have been! They didn't let me into their bedrooms because their bedrooms weren't fit to be seen.

Young, I imagined neat little bowers, all pink and warm, with a soft sweet bed exhaling the perfume of my dreams. The refusal of this paradise was the tragedy of my youth, and now in my age I know the reason. Their bedrooms were tips of sedimentary rubbish, they were sties walled with discarded clothing, they were quarries of ancient papers; and their mothers, to preserve their virtue, had permitted their daughters all, on condition that no strangers be admitted.

What a relief. I always thought it was my pimples, my bad breath, my unfortunate armpits. I must remember to thank my daughter. Thirty years too late, she had restored my self-esteem.



AUNT JEMIMA'S DICTIONARY FOR WOMEN

Argument n. A discussion that occurs when you're right, and continues until he realizes it.

Airhead n. An act you put on when pulled over for speeding.

Barbecue n. You bought the groceries, washed the lettuce, chopped the tomatoes, diced the onions, marinated the meat and cleaned everything up—for the dinner "he made for his friends."

Blonde jokes n. Jokes short enough for men to understand.

Cantaloupe n. Gotta get married in a church.

Clothes dryer n. An appliance designed to eat socks.

Diet cola n. A drink you buy at a convenience store to go with a half-pound bag of M&Ms.

Diamond n. Something you think should be on your finger but he can only see in a pack of cards.

Eternity n. The last two minutes of a football game.

Exercise v. Walking up and down the Outlets, occasionally resting to make a purchase.

Shopping list n. What you spend half an hour writing, then forget to take with you to the shop.

Hairdresser n. A magician who creates a hair style you can never duplicate.

DIY store n. Similar to a black hole: once he goes in, he isn't coming out any time soon.

Housework n. Work around the house including moping and washing dishes.

Childbirth n. You go through 36 hours of contractions. He holds your hand and says, "focus...breathe...push...."

Lipstick n. On your lips, a colour to enhance your beauty. On his collar, a sign from some other beauty.

Park v./n. Before children, a verb meaning, "to go somewhere and cuddle." After children, a noun meaning "a place with a swing and slide".

Patience n. The most important ingredient for courtship, marriage and children. See also "tranquilizers."

Waterproof mascara n. Mascara that comes off if you cry, shower, or swim, but not when you try to remove it.

Valentine's Day n. A day when you dream of a candlelit dinner, diamonds and romance, but consider yourself lucky to get a card.

Hothfield Honey: made by bees, bottled by Paul

This year has been a difficult one for my bees. After a slow start the number of bees built up rapidly so that the hives were full of bees by mid-June, with up to 50,000 bees per hive. This should have meant a strong foraging force for the peak summer nectar flow. However, observations during July and August suggested that there was little foraging activity with the bees staying in the hives. By mid-August when I took the harvest there was little addition to the honey stored. My honey crop has suffered badly due to the extended period of hot, dry weather which has resulted in nectar drying up, and less honey being made by the bees. This year's honey yield in my six beehives at Hothfield is around 40% of what I would normally expect.

The British Beekeepers Association represents 25,000 hobbyist beekeepers, working to raise standards in beekeeping. Sustainable beekeepers like myself make sure to leave adequate honey in the beehive for the survival of the colony and to allow time for the bees to rebuild their supplies before the winter. To further ensure they have sufficient stores, I check the weight of the hives in the autumn and provide additional feeding if they are becoming light. Keeping my bees happy and well is my top priority.

The British Beekeepers Association also recommends that beekeepers set minimum, fair prices to ensure that we do not inadvertently undercut one another. Although my honey is available elsewhere, I have not increased my prices for six years. Unfortunately, the significantly reduced honey yield and the BBKA guidance means that regrettably I will be increasing my honey prices from this month. We have tried to inform as many of my customers as possible in advance and I do hope that you will choose to continue to enjoy my local raw honey during these difficult times.

My honey goes straight from the hive to the jar. It is filtered, but not finely, so it retains pollens. It is not heat treated and

nothing is added. Many of my customers say that it helps with hay fever and allergies. Whether you swear by local honey to help ward off coughs or colds, or just fancy some delicious natural sweetness on your toast or breakfast cereal, my Hothfield honey is completely untreated and unpasteurised.

If you would like to order my golden Hothfield Honey, please call Sheila on (01233) 624105 or email hothfield-honey@outlook.com

Large (1lb) jars now cost £6 and small (1/2lb) jars cost £4. Delivery is the same day where possible and can be left on your doorstep or another safe place if desired. Payment by cash is still welcome.

Honey bees provide an essential pollination service vital for many crops. Without bee keepers maintaining colonies, honey bees would cease to exist in this country.

Paul Harris, Hothfield Beekeeper

