

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1 January 2022



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Saint Margaret's Church



2

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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

Services in January

- Sunday 2 No service in Hothfield: for services in our sister churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk
- Sunday 9 1100: Matins
- Sunday 16 No service in Hothfield
- Saturday 23 1100: Family Worship



On Saturday 27 November, for the first time in history, we had the amazing

Ashford Rock Choir

perform in our magnificent church.

The weather wasn't that good, but the Choir came at 5.00 to practice, the doors opened at 6.45 and the pews were filled.

All I can say on behalf of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church is that the Rock Choir 'did us proud'. They sang beautifully and were complemented by the amazing acoustics of our church, so it was a pleasure to behold. Lots of people actually said they wanted to dance in the aisles!

We had a 30-minute interval with drinks and home-made canapés made by our amazing team of the 'Friends of St. Margaret's Church.' Nothing remained. Empty plates!

Well, we hope to have the Ashford Rock Choir back next year and yes, we will look forward to dancing in the aisles next time.

Lesley Miles

3 Hothfield Parish Council

The village has lots of houses dressed beautifully for Christmas, and it was a pleasure seeing how much effort has gone into spirit of the season. With all the concerning news across the country it is lovely to see that festive cheer in Hothfield.

As you know, we decided to hold our first 'Best Dressed House' competition this year, and the standard was high.

After a lot of deliberation we have the following winners;

1st Prize (Reindeer Cake)
Mr & Mrs Wagstall of West Street

2nd Prize (Chocolate Brownies)
Mr & Mrs Ballantin of Plantation Close

3rd Prize *Mince Pies)
Mr & Mrs Hogg of Beech Drive

All the prizes were baked by Flossy's Fussy Bakes, an excellent local business.

Let's all look forward to a better New Year.

Ian Lloyd
Chair, 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



All our sections had a fantastic term. Our young people were challenged, learned new skills and facts and had a huge amount of fun. In December we made decorations and made the hall look very festive. Sadly, the upsurge in numbers of Covid cases meant that beavers and cubs had to cancel their Christmas parties.

At the moment we are unsure what will happen in the new year. All sections are keen to get back together, and our fabulous leadership teams are planning programmes that will keep them on their toes and guarantee lots of fun.

Happy New Year to everyone from
1st Charing beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers

Terry

NOTICES

Hothfield Parish Council would like to draw your attention to the following:

1) Common Way car park

Planning application 21/02120 (<https://planning.ashford.gov.uk/Planning/details.aspx?systemkey=120390&pageindex=0>) This has implications, for the residents of Common Way who use the car park.

2) The Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre

would like to help local volunteers collect observations on flora and fauna through the year in locations around the village.

Such a record may be very useful in future planning applications according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England Kent Office in Charing.

Those interested in being wildlife recording volunteers can volunteer to graham.cox@hothfield.org.uk

3) New Facebook site

There is now a public Facebook site, 'Hothfield Village' for the village (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/256975373008002>), which will be used by the parish council to update residents with very time-sensitive information or requests, and for residents to post and discuss local issues or items of interest; effectively alongside Nextdoor when Nextdoor posts are limited to Hothfield residents.

The public FB group site will replace the private FB site 'Hothfield' (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/420316465529797>), the contents and members of which will be transferred by 1/1/22 to the new group site, once contributors of content agree to the transfer.

Contributions for the new group site will be checked to keep out advertisers and content entirely unrelated to the village. Local people are encouraged to put their name forward to be admins.

4) Speed Survey

Results of the recent Speed Survey can be found at: <http://www.hothfield.org.uk/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/hothfield-projects/>

Thank you.

Cllr. Graham Cox
645520

what a wonderful weald

help us keep it that way



wkps
weald of kent protection society

The aim of our dedicated team of volunteers is to protect our unique Wealden towns, villages and countryside from the effects of damaging and unsuitable development, preserving its charm and character for future generations to enjoy. We welcome active members to help us with a range of activities, from scrutinising planning applications to organising events. If, like us, you care about the Weald, please get in touch and get involved.

find out more: www.wkps.org.uk
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN JANUARY

Tolls and Sequoias

Looking over the folds of greensand ridges from the A20 or the slopes of the North Downs, the ridge that flanks the valley bogs of Hothfield Heathland is easy to identify by the conical tips of the evergreen giant redwoods that pierce the general tree canopy. In winter these *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, or Wellingtonias, are even more apparent from afar, rising above the groups (tolls) of bare oaks, sweet chestnuts and beeches near Cades Road. Once in the wood, standing at their base, it is difficult to guess their height, but their great girth is obvious and a winter tree hug requires a family or group of friends. Close up to the deeply furrowed bark, you can imagine the sap flowing through the thin cambium layer just below that protective bark, nutrients flowing down from the foliage, gallons of water flowing up to be released through transpiration, a constant process. You can imagine the decades these trees have grown through, and remember their cousins destroyed this summer by fire in Western USA.

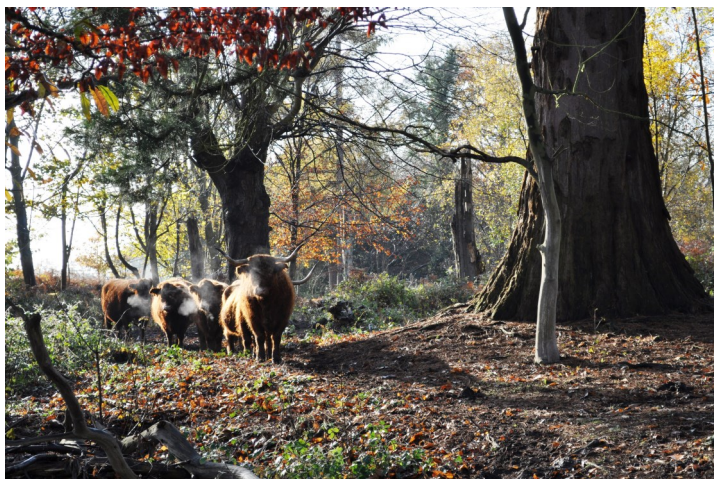
The redwoods may not be native, but they are personalities of the reserve. They were only introduced to the UK in 1853, and these specimens were almost certainly planted by the Tufon family. Other introductions, planted by folk who lived or camped out on the common during and after WWII, include fruit trees, daffodils and the snowdrops close to the Cades Road car park entrance. Meanwhile one of the winter glories of the heathland, the common gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, continues in full bloom. Gorse grows in the warm moist climate of oceanic western Europe. Carl Linnaeus, the Swe-

dish botanist whose binomial (two-word) system of classifying plants is used universally, and who proposed *Ulex europaeus* as the name for common gorse, is said to have gone down on his knees when he saw a gorse bush in bloom on his first visit to Britain, so novel and impressive was the sight.

As we enter 2022, everyone involved with the reserve is hoping for a year of uninterrupted steady work. Cristina Juan, Kent Wildlife Trusts Area Warden, thanked the volunteers at Christmas 'for your ongoing incredible and heart-warming support. The last couple of years have been rather odd to say the least, but you guys have just been relentless in your efforts to make Ashford a better place for wildlife.' Last month, Ian's photos from 1992 and 2021 emphasised just how long-term the work is. Back in 1975 one conclusion of the Kent Field Club symposium on Hothfield Heathlands was that "constant vigilance is required, with much quiet work by a lot of people."

To those quiet workers and to all who quietly enjoy this special place,
'Happy New Year!'

Margery Thomas



Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands but please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife. Birds and other wildlife will be foraging to survive throughout the winter. Please keep dogs close at all times, do not let your dog run off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse.

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.

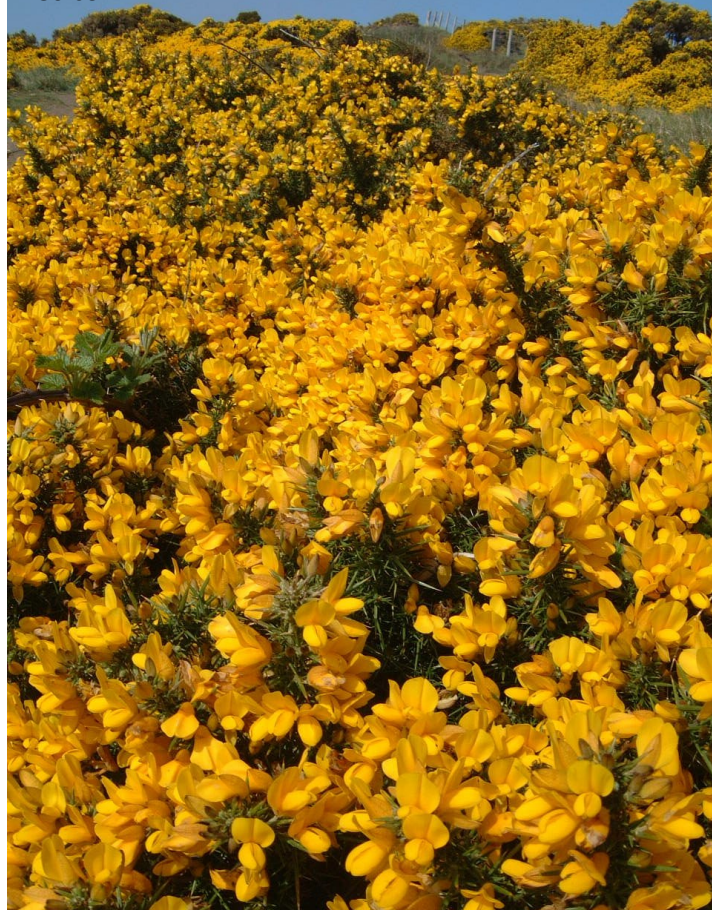
For more information visit our website

www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Ian Rickards,

Area Manager, Kent Wildlife Trust

Gorse



Hothfield History Society



Do you remember the Vietnamese children? Please get in touch

In November 1979 a number of refugees arrived in the area from Vietnam. These were nicknamed 'boat people' at the time. The local paper wrote a short article and showed some of the refugee children at Hothfield school. It seems that they were housed temporarily in the hospital (part of which is now the Lakeside retirement complex). A former volunteer, Syd Doyle, wrote to us in 2019 about his memories of the refugees, and I published his e-mail on the website.

Now one of those refugees has contacted the History Society. Mrs. Hoang thinks that she may be in the photos that were in the newspaper. She is keen to thank the volunteers who looked after her and the other children, and to contact any other refugees or children from Hothfield school at that time.

Mrs Hoang told us: "It was October time when we arrived in England in 1979. My family, Vietnamese refugees, stayed there when we came to England. I was only about 4 or 5 years old then. I can remember playing in the wild meadows and woodlands nearby with the other refugee children. We had one room per family, there were many rooms, and the building must have housed about 10 families altogether. We all shared a bathroom and living room. I think the building was all on one level. My mother still has photos of us in the living room. I recollect we were all fascinated by the boxy TV,

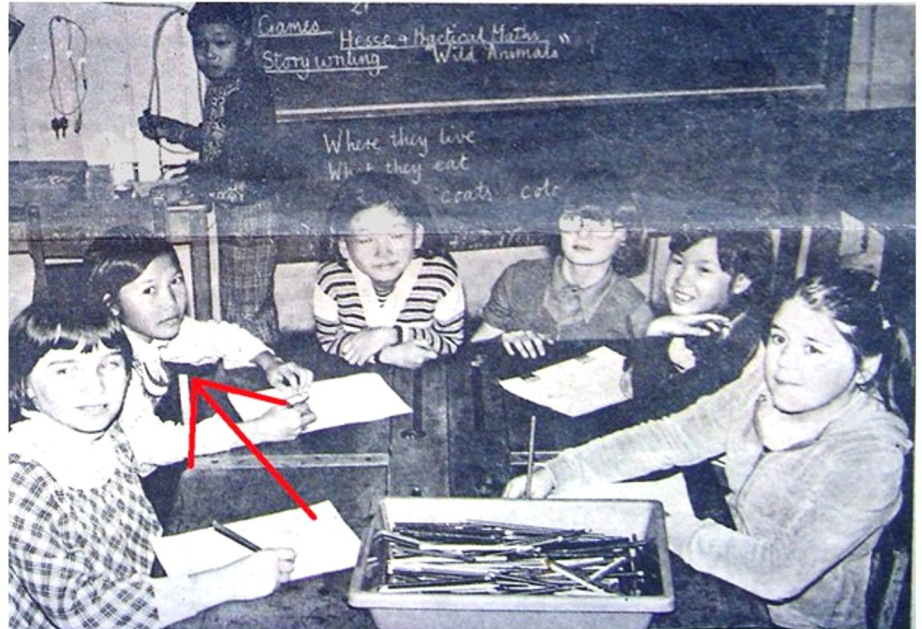
How are the children at Hothfield Primary doing?

No -- this is not a dissertation to impress politicians, sociologists, pedagogues, psychologists, clergy or anyone else.

We had a look at the integration of Vietnamese youngsters who arrived recently at the former Hothfield Hospital.

Headmaster Pepper very kindly let us in.

The camera takes over -- the verbiage ends right here.



Published courtesy of the KM Group newspapers

which had an aerial. The adults loved watching cowboy films.

My mother said the volunteers were from the village church, and took the adults to the supermarkets to show them how to purchase food; we were donated clothing and toys.

We were then re-housed to Faversham, and my parents then moved to London in the mid 1980s. We lost touch with the other refugees that stayed at Hothfield. It would be won-

derful to meet up with any of the volunteers who helped my family then and personally thank them for their kindness."

If you remember the refugees, or if you were one of the volunteers who helped them, then Mrs Hoang would love to get in touch. Please e-mail me at: hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com and I will pass your details to Mrs Hoang.

Chris Rogers

Sheila's Homemade Jam: Damson *with* Damson Gin

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HOTHFIELD NEWS

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Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

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

The deadline for the February 2022 issue is 20 January.

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.

7 Hothfield Honey: made by bees, bottled by Paul

By Paul Harris, Hothfield Beekeeper

I had high hopes for my bees going into 2021: all my beehives came through last winter, so things were initially looking good. However, last year was in fact another difficult one for bees, and the honey yield in my beehives was around 20% of what I would normally expect.

Late frosts and cold dull weather meant that the spring crop was non-existent. Summer continued to be often overcast, cool and breezy, which was not ideal for foraging bees. However, as my bees are close to Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve, they benefitted from the late-flowering heather and sweet chestnut.

Other beekeepers also reported that last year was the worst year for beekeeping in living memory, so local honey became in short supply

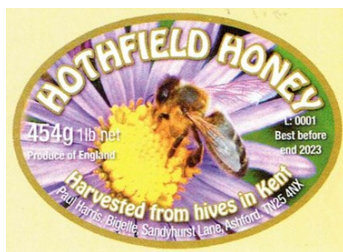
The British Beekeepers Association represents 25,000 hobbyist beekeepers, working to raise standards in beekeeping. Sustainable beekeepers like me make sure to leave adequate honey in the beehive for the survival of the colony and to allow time for the bees to rebuild their supplies before the winter. To further ensure they have sufficient stores, I also 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 always my top priority.

he BBKA recommends that beekeepers set minimum, fair prices and to ensure that we do not inadvertently undercut one another. Unfortunately, last year's significantly reduced honey yield and increased costs meant that I had to increase my honey prices. We informed as many of my customers

My honey goes straight from hive to jar. It is filtered, but not finely, so it retains pollens. It's not heat treated and nothing is added. Whether you swear by local honey to help ward off hay fever, coughs or colds, or just fancy some delicious natural sweetness on your toast or on your 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 hothfieldhoney@outlook.com Large (1lb) jars now cost £8 and small (1/2lb) jars cost £5.

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.



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For pre orders, please call 07973 410973
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Cash and Card payments welcome**

AUNT JEMIMA'S LOOKING FORWARD

Before I agree to 2022, I need to see some terms and conditions.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

Good parties create a temporary youthfulness – Mason Cooley

Happy New Year! It is midnight already, and you are getting old – just go to sleep!

I never worry about being driven to drink; I just worry about being driven home. – W. C. Fields

Let us celebrate this New Year's Eve in honour of the time we successfully wasted this year.

If you want an interesting party, combine cocktails and a fresh box of crayons for everyone. – Robert Fulghum

It's time to make old mistakes in different ways. Hurray! Happy New Year!

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one. – Brad Paisley

Deep breaths are very helpful at shallow parties. – Barbara Walters

9pm is the new midnight.

New Year is a time to start afresh, to start things all over again, but you realize things are too complicated and you can't start.

I'm going to order a pizza five minutes before the new year and when they arrive I'll say, 'I ordered this a year ago!'

It's officially New Year's Eve. You only have a couple of hours to do all the things you will resolve not to do in the new year.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. – Joey Adams

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Good resolutions are simply cheques that men draw on a bank where they have no account. – Oscar Wilde

I would lose weight for my New Year's resolution, but I hate losing.

He who breaks a resolution is a weakling; He who makes one is a fool. –F.M. Knowles

I'm so excited for the new year. Unfortunately, I don't have any resolutions to make since I'm already perfect.

Last year's resolution was to lose 20 pounds by Christmas. Only 30 pounds to go.

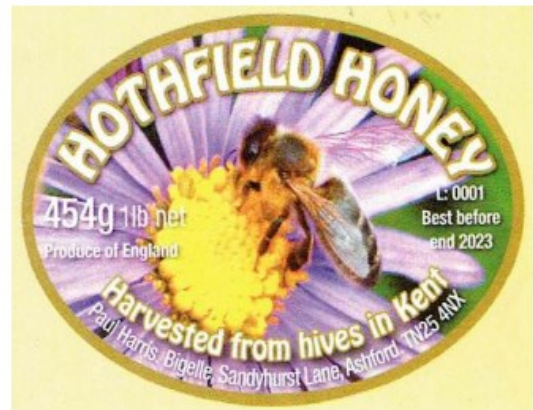
My New Year's resolution is to tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.

My new year resolution? Buy more shoes, drink more wine, and don't worry about the gym. I can do this.

I usually make resolutions when I'm drunk. That way, I never remember them.

HOHFIELD 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
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