



Hothfield News

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY
VOLUME 10 NUMBER 4 APRIL 2019

Your Parish Councillors

Although nine seats on the Parish Council were available for election, only six candidates came forward. Hothfield Parish Council therefore will now be composed of the following members (in alphabetical order):

Graham Cox
Paul Fothergill
Ian Lloyd
Sue Parker
Penny Sutcliffe
Robin Vernon

This means that there are still three vacancies. But it doesn't mean that we must make do with six Councillors until the next local elections. There is a procedure by which new members can be co-opted – or, if more than three people put themselves forward, a by-election can be held.

So it's not too late You, too, can be a Parish

Why become a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting, you may think that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty hall. If, however, you live in a community where something 'big' has happened, you'll know that when people in the community need support and guidance, it is the parish council that is turned to.

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support – a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. **What decisions do Parish Councils make?**

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It's true to say that, on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions.

In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

How much time does it take up?

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda. Some councils have committees to deal with specific subjects, such as environmental issues. In addition, councillors are required to attend other meeting representing the council; for example, acting as a representative on an outside body, or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

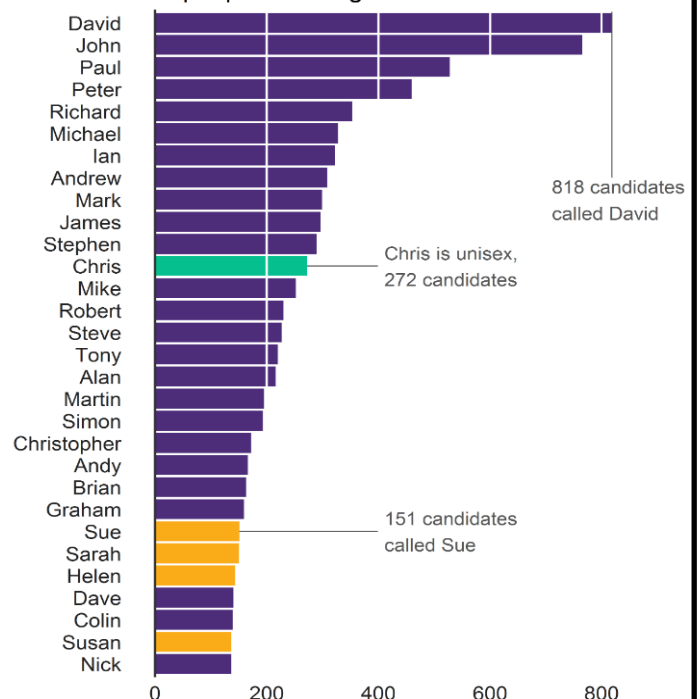


Voters around England (though not in Hothfield) will be heading to polling stations this month to vote in local elections. And chances are many will be faced with a ballot paper mainly containing the names of white men of a certain age. Does it matter, and why are women, younger people and those from minority ethnic backgrounds less likely to stand for election?

The average councillor in England is 59, white and probably called David or John.

Analysis by the BBC ahead of the council elections in May shows there are almost 1,000 candidates named either David or Dave. This compares with 151 called Sue, the most popular female name.

First names of people standing in local elections 2019



Source: Democracy Club

So, if you're not called Dave – or even if you are – and you like living in this lovely village, why not become a Parish Councillor? Give Ian Lloyd a call on 07905 422 862 .

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Rector: Rev. Canon Sheila Cox 01233 712598

Churchwardens Hedley Grenfell-Banks 01233 421149, Malcolm Wood 01233 623090



2

Services at Saint Margaret's

Sunday 5 May Easter 3 11.00 The Eucharist
A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 12 Easter 4 11.00 Matins
Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, with hymns

Sunday 19 Easter 5
No service in Hothfield

Sunday 26 Easter 6 11.00 H4
an informal service for all the family

Special Service in the G7 Benefice

Thursday 30 May Ascension Day
10.30 Benefice Eucharist in St. Peter and St. Paul, Charing



Such a lovely Wedding!

Robin and Laura were married in Saint Margaret's
on Thursday 11 April.
We wish them every happiness.



HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited, printed and published by Hedley Grenfell-Banks, financed by Hothfield Parish Council and distributed free to every house in the village by dedicated volunteers. Email: hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk telephone 421149

Available on line at http://www.hothfield.org.uk/news_letter.html

The deadline for the June 2019 issue is 20 May.

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.

3 Hothfield Parish Council

Firstly I wish the very best to our long serving Parish Clerk Judith Batt is retiring in May. Judith has served the Parish Council professionally and with great distinction. She has provided tremendous help and advice to myself and my predecessors. Judith will be sorely missed and will be very difficult to replace and on behalf of HPC we hope Judith enjoys a long and rewarding retirement.

I would like to report on the recent Ashford Borough Council (ABC) Joint Transportation Board meeting held in March. The Deputy Head of Community Safety & Wellbeing said that the end of the 18-month trial period was approaching and that the pilot had been very successful. Discussions were now taking place with the DfT with a view to obtaining consent to make the order permanent.

This is great news as the pilot has certainly proved a great success in reducing the lorry parking on the A20 and the disruption and anti-social behaviour it creates.

Southern Water continue in the repair of the collapsed sewer in the village and HPC have requested further information and a solution.

I am personally delighted that new councillors to HPC have stepped up recently and look forward to formally welcoming them to the council. We do still however need help with the Village Hall, with numbers helping out down to a few dedicated volunteers on the committee. My family and I recently attended the Fun Quiz Night at the Hall and it was great fun and a tremendous success with over 120 people enjoying the evening. Sad to report that my family team were quite useless, finishing second last!

We have decided to postpone this year's June Hothfield Fun Day to Easter next year, date to be confirmed. Unfortunately we have not had enough volunteers and hope to recruit more this year to help organise or on the day assist with this fantastic day.

For the second year running, my daughter Natasha Lloyd is organising a Charity Cup Cake Day at our house, Britton House Stud in Ram Lane on Sat 29th Jun from 11am to 4pm in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Last year raised nearly £800 so come and enjoy wonderful tasty cupcakes and even sit down for a cup of tea. All welcome.

Wishing you all a wonderful and relaxing Easter.

Ian Lloyd
Chairman, 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 now parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

March prize winners:

- 1st prize £25.25 No. 143
- 2nd prize £15.15 No. 196
- 3rd prize £10.10 No. 70

April prize winners:

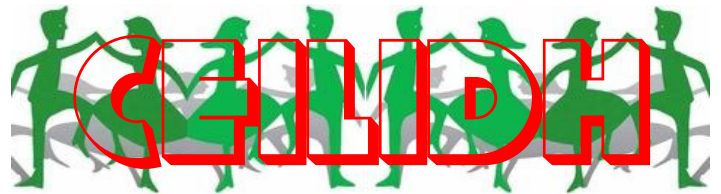
- 1st prize £25.25 No. 50
- 2nd prize £15.15 No. 58
- 3rd prize £10.10 No. 41

Cost to enter: only £1 per draw,
£12 per year or £6 for six months.

Collect a form from HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE
Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

Ceilidh

Barn Dance – Live Music
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Village Hall



Regular Activities

- Mondays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
- Tuesdays West Coast Swing Dancing 8. to 10.30pm.
- Wednesdays Hothfield Play-Days
a soft play session for children under 5 and their parents
Dog Training 5.30-9pm
- Thursdays
- Fridays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.
- Saturday Rugby Tots 9-11.45am.

To book the Village Hall for your Parties, Get-togethers, etc., please ring Paul on 07719 227542, or email hothfieldhall@outlook.com Or visit www.hothfieldhall.online

Prices: Village £10 per hour, Outside Village £12.50/hour

All Day Hire – Village £175.00 (£175.00 deposit required).

All Day Hire – Outside Village £250.00 (£250.00 deposit)

Children's Birthday £35.00 first 4 hours,

MAY ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS



On the heathland the golden gorse is still in bloom, buzzing with insects on a warm day, attracted to the tropical coconut scent. Slow-worms bask in warm hidden corners. Fresh green tips are sprouting on the black-green of the heather. The tiny sundew is now visible in the upper bog. In the woods the April filigree of foliage is thickening. The woodland floor is awash with bluebells in places, thickly carpeted with sycamore seedlings elsewhere, most of which will be grazed off.

Bird song is changing as nesting continues and broods are nurtured. The blackbird was one of the earliest nesters, well before the migrants that arrived in April. The latter include warblers and hopefully the cuckoo. May is the best month to hear nightingales. Rough scrub on the heathland provides the safe environment for their nests, which they build on or near the ground out of sight of raptors and hopefully safe from wandering animals. However, they are easily disturbed. Male nightingales arrive from sub-Saharan Africa in April and sing through May and early June to defend their territory and to attract the females who arrive a week later. In July and August they and their juveniles

will fly south.

Slightly bigger than a robin, the plain brown and buff nightingales (from Old English *galan*, to sing) are secretive and difficult to see, but can be heard in daytime as well as at night. The song is amazing, but less melodious than poets imply – more a complex and ever-changing long series of riffs, whistles, gurgles and trills. The louder the surrounding noise, the louder they sing. You can find the recording on the RSPB website to know what to listen out for.

The UK is at the northern limit of the nightingales' range. As warm-climate birds, they need days of high temperatures in summer, so it was expected that they would spread further north, taking advantage of the long days for feeding before migrating. However since the 1960's numbers have plummeted by 90%. Once very common, they are now mostly limited to south east England and are on the UK red list for conservation. Lodge Hill in Medway, with 85 pairs, has 1% of the UK population. By contrast they are thriving on mainland Europe, including the more unkempt parts of urban parks, which shows that there is not enough wild space suitable for nightingales in our country.

Nightingales are insect eat-

ers, as are many young birds as they develop. Insects on the heathland were out and about from very early in the year – dog's mercury flowers rely on tiny midges to pollinate them in March – and we hope for a good year for butterflies and moths as reports from volunteer surveys start to come in.

New human visitors in April included a family working through a book of walks in Kent, delighted to discover the heathland and planning to return to see the orchids in June.

Hothfield Heathlands is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on

entrance maps, along with the location of livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment.

For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield Heathlands, contact Ian Rickards at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk or 01622 662012.

Margery Thomas



what a wonderful weald
help us keep it that way



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.

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Hothfield History Society

April Fun Quiz Night and Hearty Supper – A Great Success

By 7.30pm on an April evening, the village hall was filled with quiz teams and the hubbub of around 150 people. People came from as far afield as Sittingbourne, Folkestone, Romney Marsh, Hythe and Ashford as well as from Hothfield. The evening was great fun and thanks to everyone who came along and joined in.

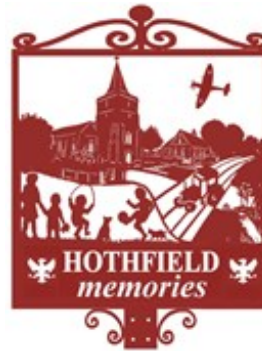
A big thankyou goes to all the volunteers whose efforts ensured that we had a great night out. We are grateful to Derek from Whitstable for organising the quiz with a range of questions to suit all levels, and the imaginative family fortunes round was a big hit.

Thanks also to Susie who cooked a magnificent feast comprising five hearty meals, and to her lovely assistants Eunice, Celia and Pat who helped out and spent most of the evening on their feet. As well as helping out in the kitchen, Pat also busily promoted the raffle throughout the evening. We are grateful to all those who generously donated fabulous raffle prizes: Nick and Kerry at Sellindge Sports & Social Club for donating a bottle of whisky; The Swan at Little Chart and The Black Horse at Pluckley for donating vouchers for Sunday lunch for two; The Granary Spa for donating a gift voucher for a pampering treatment;

Pat and John Coles for the lovely Easter hamper and to everyone who donated numerous desirable goodies. Thank you also to Jay and Bina who kindly sold the tickets in advance at Hothfield Post Office.

This highly successful evening resulted in a profit of nearly £800 which has been shared equally between the Village Hall Committee and the History Society.

Chris Rogers



1st Charing Scout Group

April and May are very busy times for us. The whole group is involved with selling race cards and cakes at the Easter Saturday Races and the St George's Day parade. This is very important as it is when all members including young people and leaders renew their promise.

Scouts had their cycle camp (rather than than me). Beavers and cubs visited the big cats in Smarden. Beavers had their first sleepover in the new headquarters. Cubs are looking forward to annual camp at the end of May.

Terry Lister

gsl_charingscoutgroup@



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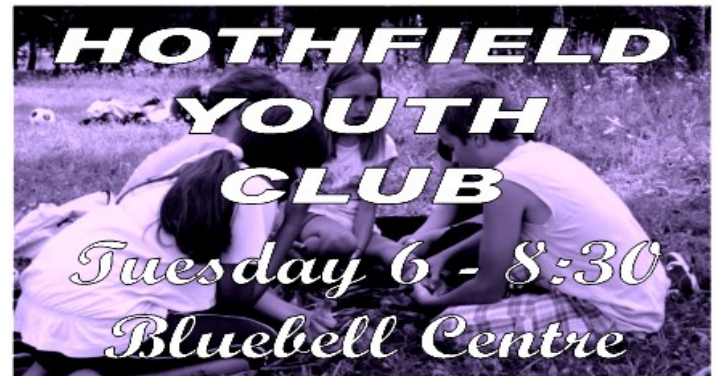
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Wednesday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Thursday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Friday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Saturday	0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	PO morning only



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Garden Only	£5	Free, except on some event days
House and Gardens	£10	Free, except on some event days

Opening Times	Dates	Days	Times
Garden	1st March – 1st Nov, every year	Daily	1pm – 6pm
House	5th Apr 2019 – 6th Oct 2019	Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays	1pm – 5pm Last Tour 4pm
Tearoom (for House & Garden visitors only)	5th Apr 2019 – 6th Oct 2019	Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays	1pm – 5.30pm (Last Orders 5pm)

NGS GARDEN OPEN DAY

19th May 13:00 – 17:00

PLANT FAIR

12th May 11:00 – 16:30

TOPIARY WORKSHOP

18th May 9:30 – 12:30

BUSHCRAFT, WATER HARVESTING

18th May 9:30 – 12:30

CREATING BEAUTIFUL BORDERS

22nd May 9:30 – 13:30

WATERCOLOUR, ACRYLIC & OILS PAINTING COURSE

15th May 10:00 – 14:30

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE GARDEN

10th May 10:00 – 15:00

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE GARDEN

17th May 10:00 – 15:00

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE GARDEN

24th May 10:00 – 15:00

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(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

Ecology Groups



With spring upon us it's time to give details of this year's ecology groups survey programme. There are lots of opportunities to get involved across our range of monitoring projects, so if you haven't joined us then why not make 2019 the year to do so?

Habitat condition surveys

The majority of what we do is habitat condition surveying. The condition of our reserves is fundamental to their ability to support wildlife – get the habitat right and you are much of the way there in terms of species conservation. Whether it is woodland, grassland, sand dune or fen, there are a selection of key plants and habitat features we look for, and anyone can help us with this regardless of experience. We make it easy with picture 'cheat sheets' and it's a great way to start learning plant identification.

As well as habitat surveys there are opportunities to get involved in survey for **water voles**, counting some of Kent's rare **orchids**, monitoring **butterflies and moths**, learning to identify and survey **bees** with the making a buzz for the coast project or getting involved with the new **Nature's Sure Connected** project.

What do I need to know?

Surveys are run by different members of staff and volunteers on different reserves and in different parts of the county. You **MUST** contact the relevant person using the email address listed to let them know you intend to come to a session to make sure that:

- You know the meeting place and time for the survey
 - You can be contacted in the event that the survey is cancelled due to bad weather or staff illness.
- Typically surveys are from 10am until 4pm (sometimes we may finish earlier), though this may vary slightly - check with the survey leader.

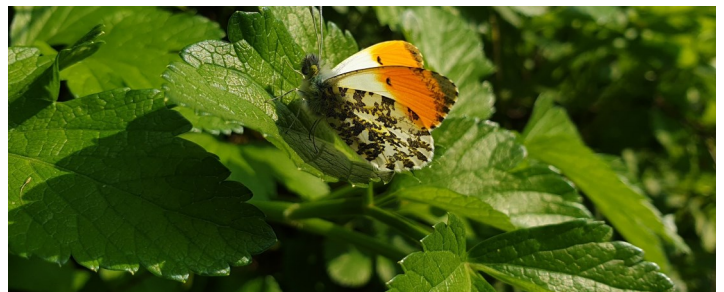
Usually volunteers attend for the whole day, but you are welcome to come for a half day.

For any questions related to Ecology Groups, contact:

Lucy Carden | Assistant Conservation Officer
 General Enquiries: 01622 662012 | Mobile: 07740 182877
 E-mail: Lucy.Carden@kentwildlife.org.uk
 Website: kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

For any questions related to other volunteering opportunities

Keeley Atkinson | Volunteer Co-Ordinator
 General Enquiries: 01622 662012 Direct dial: 01622 357847
 E-mail: Keeley.Atkinson@kentwildlife.org.uk
 Website: kentwildlifetrust.org.uk



AUNT JEMIMA'S GIRLRIDDLES (ALSO KNOWN AS COMUMDRUMS)

- Q What must a woman do when a man is running around in circles? A: Reload and carry on shooting.
 Q: Why can't men get mad cow disease? A: Because it only attacks the brain
 Q: What do you call an intelligent, good-looking, sensitive man? A: A rumour.
 Q: What was the first man on the moon? A: A good start.
- Q: The man says: "I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world" A: The woman says: "I'll really miss you"
 Q: What takes longer to make, a snowman or a snowwoman?
 A: A snowman, because you have to hollow out the head first.
- Q: What is the difference between a Yeti and an intelligent man? A: People claim to have seen a Yeti.
 Q: Why are married women heavier than single women?
 A: Single women come home, see what's in the fridge and go to bed; married women come home, see what's in the bed and go to the fridge.
- Q: What's the fastest way to a man's heart? A: Through his chest with a sharp knife.
 Q: How can you tell if a man is happy? A: Who cares?
 Q: Why is it hard for women to find sensitive, caring and good looking men?
 A: Because those men already have boyfriends.
- Q: When would you want a man's company? A: When he owns it.
 Q: How many men does it take to wallpaper a bathroom? A: Three, if you slice them very thinly.
 Q: What are a woman's four favourite animals?
 A: A mink in her wardrobe, a Jaguar in the garage, a tiger in the bedroom and an ass to pay for it all.
- Q: How do you get a man to do sit-ups? A: Put the remote control between his toes.
 Q: What do men and women have in common? A: They both distrust men.
 Q: What do you instantly know about a well-dressed man? A: His wife is good at picking clothes.
 Q: What is the difference between a man and childbirth?
 A: One can be terribly painful and sometimes almost unbearable, while the other is just having a baby.
- Q: When's the only time you can change a man? A: When he's a baby.
 Q: How do you tell when a man is lying? A: His lips move.
 Q: How many men does it take to replace the toilet roll? A: Don't know, it's never happened.
 Q: How do you bring a sparkle to a man's eyes? A: Shine a torch in his ear.



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