

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2 February 2022

Action on speeding through the village

A sub-committee of Hothfield Parish Council met the KCC Highways lead officer for highway improvements in villages as follow-up on the results of the speed survey and KCC investigation of the dangerous Greensand Way crossing of The Street. Installation of a kerb line for the latter is recommended. For the noticeable speeding of 85% of the traffic in some locations, the officer is recommending a village gate on one or more entrances to the village, coupled with spruced-up signage, setting up a speed watch group and investing in a mobile speed indicator that would be moved between three spots identified as being the most suitable. This is on the Agenda of the HPC meeting at 7pm on 2 February at the old school. The Parish Council will have to pay for all these measures.



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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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

Services in February

Sunday 6 1100 Eucharist

Sunday 13 1100: Matins

Sunday 20 No service in Hothfield: for services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk

Saturday 27 1100: Family Worship

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline



If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – Call us on 0808 801 0688

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

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	Post Office closes 1730
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

Scam

The victim is called by a fraudster purporting to be a Police Officer, usually a Detective stating that a clone of the victims bank card has been found in the property of a prisoner in Police Custody. Attempts are then made by the fraudster to obtain the necessary details to defraud the victim using their bank card . The Fraudsters even ask the victim to call 999 to verify their identity.

This is not the way that the Police conduct their investigations so if you receive such a call or a similar type of call just hang up and **NEVER** reveal any personal details.

Please Remember:

The Police will **NEVER**.....

- Contact you to ask for your PIN or bank details
 - Ask you to transfer money out of your account for ANY reason
 - Ask you to withdraw cash to hand over to them for safe - keeping
 - Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs or bank cards
- If a crime is in progress, call 999.

Please share with family and friends, as this may be happening to them too.

Please report any such calls to Action Fraud.



January has been a difficult month for scouting. We have had to work hard to ensure safety for our young people and leaders whilst at the same time allowing the magic of scouting to continue.

Beavers have continued the fun and encouraged everyone to continue working towards badges. We are delighted that two beavers have gained their Chief Scout bronze award. Well done both of you!

Cubs have found themselves in a difficult position with new arrivals from beavers and others who have been on the waiting list for a long time. Because the numbers are so large we have divided them into two and are meeting on alternate weeks. This hasn't stopped them having fun. This week we did a complex exercise of creative writing and acting to make a series of mini pantomimes. We hope to get everyone back together soon.

I went to the scout meeting this week. There was lots of giggling, thinking, excitement and good ideas. I wonder what they are planning..... Watch this space! We are delighted that another scout has gained the Chief Scout gold award. This is a major achievement. Congratulations! Explorers are growing and having fun.

More news soon.

Terry, Group Scout Leader 07748818660

Wildlife Volunteers

The Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre which 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 the address of Cllr Graham Cox,
graham.cox@hothfield.org.uk

Message from our PCSO

We have been receiving an increasing number of calls regarding livestock attacks in some rural areas.

Protecting livestock – know the law

'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

If you are on agricultural land and a dog you own or are in charge of attacks or chases livestock in a way that may cause injury, suffering or loss, you could be prosecuted, fined and ordered to pay compensation.

Under the Animals Act 1971, a person acting to protect livestock may be able to kill or injure a dog, without incurring any criminal or civil liability, if he or she believes it is worrying livestock.

Please keep your dog on a lead.

If you see a dog worrying livestock, please call the police on 999.

Message Sent By
Katherine Richards
(Police, PCSO, Ashford Community Safety Unit)



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

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 FEBRUARY

Whatever the weather brings now, signs of Spring are here. Tips of bluebell leaves, the (not wild but welcome) snowdrops at the Cades Road gate, tender honeysuckle leaves, alder and hazel catkins – the huge chandelier of a hazel in the north-west corner near Chapel Lane, atop an old wall presumably a remnant of a WWII construction. The heather still appears dry and lifeless; adapted to exposed clifftops and mountainsides, rooted in very damp or wet ground, tender young growth only appears in late spring. However, lesser celandine is flowering, and there's the ever-present gold and scent of the gorse. There's also a fantastic array of fungi to find, and the varied colours and patterns of tree bark. Reflections on water are everywhere – will this really all dry up this summer? Early insects and butterflies are foraging, caterpillars munching.

Birds are busy; residents and visitors, including redwings, have eaten most of the winter berries now, leaving remnant rose hips, rich in vitamins but full of barbed

pith. Bird song is stronger, including perhaps the hoarse, almost mechanical croak of egrets. The little and great white egrets in the flooded bird sanctuary are the most visible winter visitors here. The great white egret, *Ardea alba* (*ardea* = heron, *alba* = white), is almost the size of a heron. An occasional visitor to Hothfield, it has yellowish upper legs, black lower legs and feet and a yellow dagger-like bill (black when breeding), used to spear fish, amphibians and insects. They were a rare visitor to wetlands in Britain, but many now winter here. The first pair bred on Shapwick Heath on the Somerset Levels in 2012, and last year a pair bred in Norfolk.

The little egret, *Egretta garzetta*, is in a different genus of the heron family, white with distinctive yellow feet on black legs, and slender black beak. In the breeding season long white plumes develop on the head and neck. *Egretta* is from Provençal French *Aigrette*, "egret", a diminutive of *Aigrion*; *garzetta* is the Italian for this bird. A sociable bird, it feeds in shal-

low water on small fish, amphibians and crustaceans, disturbing them with its feet or waiting for prey disturbed by other birds, and also hunts small reptiles, mammals and birds on land, among grazing animals.

Little egrets became extinct in Great Britain from overhunting and climate change centuries ago. The coronation feast of Henry VI in 1429 featured egrets; 1,000 were on the menu at the banquet for the enthronement of the Archbishop of York in 1465. The feathers of both species of egret were always popular for decorating hats, part of a flourishing plume trade which in the 19th century drove the birds almost to extinction in various locations, a factor in the establishment in 1889 of the RSPB. Conservation measures across Europe in the 1950s resulted in expanding numbers, and the first breeding records in England were on Brownsea Island in 1996 and in Scotland in 2020 in Dumfries and Galloway. This century, populations in France, the Netherlands, Ireland and Britain are doing well.

Margery Thomas

Ash Die-back

You may have noticed the orange dots on trees around the reserve, especially next to Station Road and the A20. These are all trees that have been affected by the Ash Die-back disease. This fungal-born disease was first identified in Poland in 1990, and has since spread across the whole of Europe – I have yet to see an ash tree in Kent that hasn't been affected.

The death rate in this disease is very high, creating dangerous brittle trees in a short period of time. The trees we have marked with orange dots are the ones we are going to remove to prevent them becoming a risk to the public. You can see more information about this work on our website <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/ash-dieback>

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



Left: Little Egret, Hothfield 2022 © Anne Rowe
Above: Trees affected by Ash Die-back



Hothfield History Society



Hothfield Manor in the 1800s

There are many similar views of the former Hothfield Place (the manor at Hothfield), but this one from George Sainsbury's collection is a little different as it's quite early. I don't know the date when this photo was taken, but by 1900 the building had been extended to the left and right as you look at the picture. It was built around 1780.

This face is the north-east side, and was where the formal front lawn, with a variety of ornamental plants, was. The Georgians and Victorians were not keen on sunbaths, and so they tended to be outdoors in the shade, and they kept covered up. The southern side of this house was plain by comparison, and the land on that side was farmland and grazed by cows. On close inspection there are a few well-dressed gentlemen and ladies on the main steps of the manor and in one of the windows to the left of the main doors. The ladies have very wide skirts, and both ladies and gentlemen all have hats.

According to plans of the house, there were on the ground floor: a butler's flat and bath, a vast kitchen area, servants hall, lifts and five WCs. On the

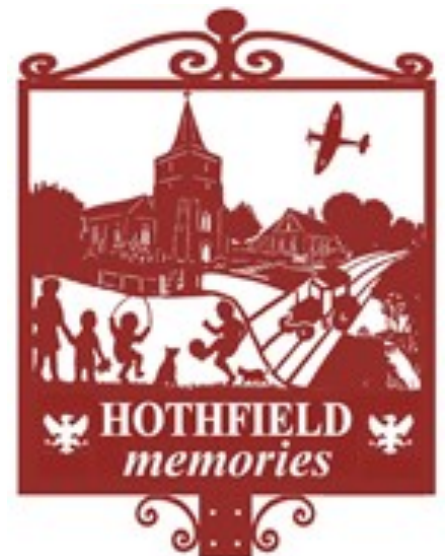
first floor were a balcony, the billiards room, study, a bedroom, bathroom and the dining room, spacious hall and vestibule, drawing room and library. On the second floor were six bedrooms and four dressing rooms and numerous staff bedrooms. There were also domestic offices, steward's rooms and cellars.

The left-hand end of the manor, as we're looking at it, also had a large front door with columns where carriages and important visitors arrived. It was later extended with a two-storey annexe with a glass roof that was used to grow orange trees and exotic plants indoors. A porch was later added as a further extension, to shelter arriving visitors. Tradesmen and deliveries came to the rear of the manor, out of sight, via Church Lane.

The successive Barons (later to be Lords) and their families tended to live in London, and they had other country estates around Britain. Hothfield Place was used from time to time, and for Christmas and other entertaining. During World War II the building was used briefly to house Norland Nurses and

their young children evacuated from London, until the army commandeered all the large houses around the area. By the end of the war the Grade 2 Listed building was becoming tatty inside, and it was eventually demolished in 1954.

More photos of the manor can be seen on the village's history website: www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk and in the publication "Hothfield in the 20th Century".





Learn Italian in Kent

The site for private Italian tuition in the mid-Kent area.

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For more information on courses, areas covered and tuition fees, please go to www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk



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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 March 2022 issue is 20 February.

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.



© Val Butcher

Water

by Philip Larkin

If I were called in
To construct
a religion
I should make use of
water.

Going to church
Would entail a
fording
To dry, different
clothes;

My liturgy would
employ
Images of sousing,
A furious devout
drench,

And I should raise
in the east
A glass of water
Where any-angled
light
Would congregate
endlessly.



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AUNT JEMIMA'S VALENTINE THOUGHTS

Honesty is the key to a relationship. If you can fake that, you're in.

I love you no matter what you do, but do you have to do so much of it?

Marry a man your own age; as your beauty fades, so will his eyesight

I love being married. It's so great to find one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork.

If love is the answer, could you please rephrase the question?

Without Valentine's Day, February would be ... well, January.

Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet service to see who they really are.

Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your heart or burn down your house, you can never tell.

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

Love is a lot like a backache: it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there.

A girl can wait for the right man, but in the meantime she can have a wonderful time with all the wrong ones.

My friends tell me I have an intimacy problem. But they don't really know me.

I married for love, but the obvious side benefit of having someone around to find my glasses cannot be ignored.

Love thy neighbour — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier.

If you text 'I love you' to a persona and the person writes back an emoji — no matter what that emoji, they don't love you back.

Marriage is a lot like the army. Everyone complains, but you'd be surprised at the large number who re-enlist.

Love can change a person the way a parent can change a baby — awkwardly, and often with a great deal of mess.

You can't put a price tag on love. But if you could, I'd wait for the sales.

Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?

Marriage is a wonderful invention. Then again, so is a bicycle kit.

A man's main job is to protect his woman from her desire to get a fringe every other month.

The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing — and then marry him.

I've only ever said 'I love you' to two men, Sean Connery and a guy in a dark club whom I mistook for Sean Connery.

I didn't fall for you, you tripped me!

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

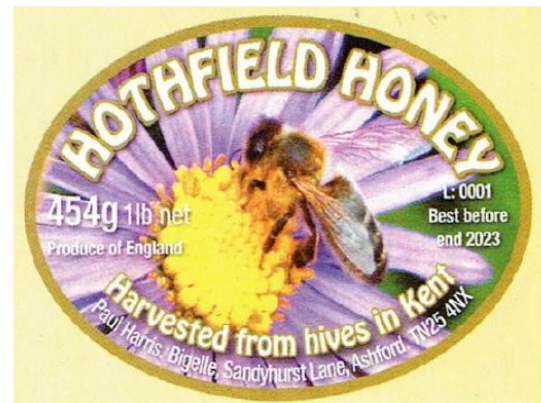
Enjoy Arts and Culture presented by world class lecturers
CASTLES: the unquenched thirst of WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST
Presented by Mark Meredith

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022 At 2.30 p.m.

N.B. this lecture is booked to be held at
THE MILLENNIUM HALL, ELM CLOSE, EGERTON TN27 9DS
However it may be delivered via Zoom if Covid continues to pose
a risk to meetings

Visitors are very welcome, but anyone who is not a member of
the Arts Society Egerton should check whether the meeting will
be at the Hall or via Zoom.

Please contact Christine Willis via cmwillis75@gmail.com or
01233 756377 by 2nd February if you wish to attend. Payment for
visitors is £5 for Hall and £4 for Zoom.



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