

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 6 June 2020

Two Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

My name is Jack and my brother is Henry. I am 8 and my brother is 5.

Today, we have been picking up rubbish whilst we were on a walk. As we were walking we found lots of plastic gloves, lots of cans and plastic bottles. We picked up crisp packets and lots of food wrappers as well as a saucepan, 3 pairs of pants and some socks.

Henry and I think that by sending a picture of what we did will encourage people to do the same and help our Earth.

We think that people should take their litter home and put it in the bin.

Thank you

Jack and Henry Leggat, Hothfield



Is Delivery still best?

While most of our distributors are still willing to do the rounds of Hothfield, delivering a copy of Hothfield News to every address, it has been suggested that many people would prefer to receive their copy online. What do you think?

If you would prefer an online copy, please email the Editor on

hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk



Dear Editor,

I wondered if it might be an idea to include a communal "Thank You" in the village newsletter to Jay for running the post office and shop so well during these difficult times.

With Bina keeping away from the front line, Jay seems to have been working alone, running backwards and forwards between the post office and shop counters and keeping the shelves so well stocked too. It can't be an easy task maintaining social distancing to keep himself and customers as safe as possible.

Those using the shop are thankful that this vital local service has kept going in these testing times.

So a big thank you to Jay and Bina!

Hothfield Post Office

The very heart and centre of our village

There's always a welcome and a friendly face at

Hothfield Post Office Stores

Opening Times

Sunday	0900 – 1200	Post Office closed
Monday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Tuesday	0700 – 1300	
Wednesday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Thursday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Friday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Saturday	0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	PO morning only

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



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

Services at Saint Margaret's are suspended for the duration of the Coronavirus epidemic. Readings, prayers and a short sermon will appear each Sunday on the Parish website,

<https://www.calehill-westwell.uk/>

Where you can also find links to on-line services

Save this date for
St Margaret's Church
Hothfield's Angel Festival
November 28th & 29th 2020



We would be delighted if you would create an angel to decorate our church

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 July 2020 issue is 20 June.

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.

HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

We completed our first virtual Parish Meeting this month, which passed off successfully eventually, although the meeting coincided with broadband going up/down all over the village! Hopefully next month's meeting, which may also need to be conducted virtually, will be less problematic. If any residents wish to contribute to the June meeting during the public interval, please contact the Parish Clerk parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk with your name, address and email and we will do our best to provide a virtual secure connection.

The government's Coronavirus COVID19 rules have been updated as follows:

- Stay at home as much as possible.
- Work from home if you can.
- Limit contact with other people.
- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly.

Detailed advice and guidance on the current crisis is available on www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please note that the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is currently CLOSED due to the Coronavirus crisis.

The Parish Council website www.hothfield.org.uk has recently been relaunched and now offers a easier to navigate format for all village activities. A huge thanks to our excellent webmaster Clive Stanley for all his hard work and continuous support to your Parish Council.

Enjoy the lovely weather and stay safe.

Ian Lloyd
Chairman Hothfield Parish Council

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 two meetings will be on
4 August and 27 October 2020



Hothfield Honey

Ethical and sustainable

Delicious raw local honey

From Hothfield bee hives

Nothing added, not pasteurised

Large (1lb/454g) £5

Small (8oz/227g) £3.50

Delivered free to your doorstep in Hothfield as part of our daily exercise, whilst observing social distancing

☎ **Sheila: 01233 624 105**

✉ **hothfieldhoney@outlook.com**

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

May Draw Results

1st prize	£21-75	no. 2
2nd prize	£13-05	no. 40
3rd prize	£8-70	no. 197

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

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



Regrettably, due to the current coronavirus crisis and following Government advice, the House will not open for the rest of the season this year. The house tearoom will close until the end of May at the earliest, and the gardens will close from 5pm Wednesday 18 March 2020 until further notice.

JUNE ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS ⁴

At the beginning of May a posting by Val Butcher on Hothfield Heathlands flora and fauna Facebook page caused great joy. It was a remarkable set of videos and photos of a tree pipit singing while perched at the top of a tree. This welcome rare migrant had arrived from Saharan Africa. The tree pipit is on the UK conservation Red List as a species needing urgent action, and is protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Heathland with an occasional oak or birches to perch and sing in, bushes, low scrub and open space, is the tree pipit's ideal habitat. The sexes look alike, and the male in far-carrying song climbs steeply into the air for a short time then parachutes down, floating to ground or tree with wings raised above its head. Birds are breeding now, in ground-level nests of dried grass and hair on a base of moss tucked into grass or heather tussocks, and may have two broods before flying south in August. They forage for insects, and sometimes seed, among the ground vegetation. The biggest threat to these birds is disturbance from dogs; please keep dogs under control at all times to

protect these and other vulnerable ground-nesters. All young birds rely entirely on insects for moisture and protein, so please avoid using insecticides in gardens and wherever possible give space to the wild flowers and longer grass that insects need.

Some birds manage two broods in a season. In mid-May I watched a young tree creeper being fed by a parent, the fledgling clinging to the trunk of an oak tree, always facing upwards, the parent flying in with a beak full of insects extracted from crevices in tree bark with its slender curved beak. Both parents will feed the chick for up to 16 days before turning to producing a second brood. Treecreepers can't climb downwards, so learn to fly down to the base of trees and work their way back up foraging for food.

Another welcome return in May was the frilly white flowers 'dasht over slightly with a wash of light carnation' (John Gerard) of the bogbean, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, in the bog near Chapel Lane. The flowers, looking, Sarah Raven says, like frayed nylon string, will

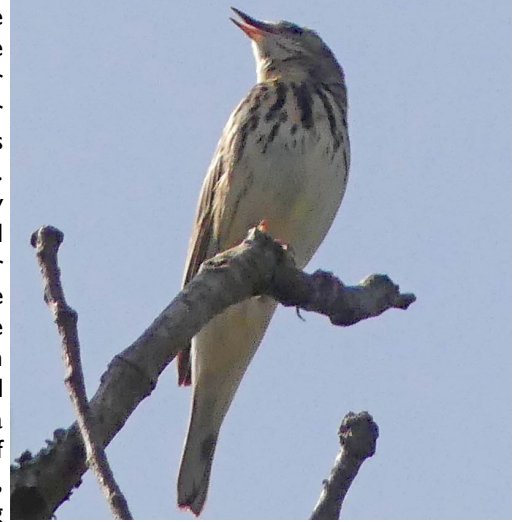
continue through June. The fringed inside of the petals probably prevents insects too small to be effective pollinators from reaching the nectar. The elliptic leaflets, in threes, resemble those of broad beans. Bogbean's floating mats provide egg laying, perching and roosting sites for adult dragonfly and

damselfly, whose nymphs then climb up the stems from the water ready for their metamorphosis into adults. Native in sunny bog, marsh and shallow water around the north of the northern hemisphere, and tolerant of a wide range of water chemistry, it is becoming

rare in Kent as more land is drained. In many cultures flour from the roots was a starvation food; it was used as cure for scurvy and other ailments; the bitter leaves flavoured beer and schnapps, and were rolled with coltsfoot leaves into cigarettes. Two types of flower are produced, with either a short stigma and long stamens or long stigma and short stamens, which, as Charles Darwin discovered through thousands of experiments, promotes cross-fertilisation and optimum production of viable seed, promoting the survival of the species.

There is now so much to look for on the Heathland. On 10 May Neil Burt recorded "green and greater spotted woodpeckers, chiffchaffs, blackcaps, 7 garden warblers (4 singing), 2 cuckoos (male & female both calling), common buzzard, sparrow hawk with prey, male bullfinch, a hobby heading north, a singing male nightingale with brief flight views, plus lots of linnets and yellowhammers." To that list Area Manager Ian Rickards adds whitethroat, nuthatch, green tiger beetles, orange tip butterfly and broad-bodied chaser (dragonfly). In June look and listen also for the lizards, myriad insects, more

Tree Pipit (Photo: Val Butcher)



Bog Bean
(Photo:
Ian Rickards)

butterflies and moths and the wonderful southern marsh and heath spotted orchids. And, as the volunteers, anxious to get back to work, well know, the bloomin' bracken and birch are growing well!

Ian confirms that visitors are still welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands as part of their daily exercise. We have taken most catches off gates so that you can open without using your hands. Remember that there is still livestock on site, so all gates still need to be left closed. Trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, as is 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 away from the scrub, heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife.

Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment, and take your general litter home. Be tick aware for dogs and humans throughout the summer; guidance is available from publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2014/03/24/tips-and-tricks-to-stay-safe-from-ticks/

Enjoy and take care.

Margery Thomas

5 Update from Charing Surgery and Pharmacy

Thank you to all our patients who have been so supportive of the surgery and pharmacy over the past few weeks. Our primary focus has been patient and staff safety, to stay open and accessible for our patients and to ensure any patient that needs to be seen by either a GP or a nurse will be seen. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our patients and now have a wonderful array of scrubs which have been made by patients with material donated by patients as well as being given masks, gloves and aprons and some very welcome chocolates and cakes!

Surgery

The surgery's front doors remain closed as we need to be able to manage the flow of patients in and out of the surgery. Although the main doors are closed, the surgery is very much open, and so if you are unwell, eg. chest pain / found a breast lump / other significant illnesses, you should still call us and ask us for help. We are continuing to operate the telephone triage system with a call back from a GP. If a GP feels it would be helpful they may also suggest setting up a video call or they may ask you to come in to the surgery.

Our nursing team are still continuing to see patients for urgent blood tests, ECG's etc., and we have processes to ensure childhood immunisation and other essential care continues. It is critical that if children are due vaccinations they are brought to the surgery to ensure they are protected from other illnesses. Any adult who has not had their MMR or is due the pneumococcal vaccination should contact the surgery to arrange this.

If you are seen at the surgery your clinician may need to wear gloves, gown and mask, so do not be alarmed. Patients coming into the surgery for a pre-booked appointment will be brought in through the fire exit door near the pharmacy entrance and will be screened to assess if you have a cough or a temperature and given a mask and face visor to wear. There is a national shortage of face masks and we are not being supplied with face masks by the NHS and having to source our own at extremely high costs, so please wear your own face mask or face covering if possible. If you are given a mask at the door, please keep it in case you have to come back again in the future and can then

reuse the mask.

In order to be able to book telephone consultations over the phone, request prescriptions and look at test results, please register for Patient Access. You can call reception to arrange this and we can take ID via Facetime/video call. Patients can also now book online consultations with a GP using e-Consults. This is available from the practice website: www.charingpractice.co.uk

Please ensure the surgery has your mobile number so that we can keep you updated, as we will continue texting patients with the latest information.

PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE SURGERY OR PHARMACY IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS:

- High temperature – 37.8 or above
- A dry persistent cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

For assistance with Covid-19 symptoms, please access NHS 111 online at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> or call 111.

If you get symptoms, self-isolate for 7 days from when your symptoms start. If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started.

Your GP cannot test for Covid 19. To see if you qualify for testing and to arrange it, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Please use this link to obtain a self isolation certificate: <https://111.nhs.uk/ISOLATION-NOTE/>

Pharmacy

The pharmacy is now open all day (Monday 9am to 6pm, Tuesday – Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm). Access is through the main pharmacy doors, and we ask that patients observe the 2m rule and we do not have more the 2 patients in the pharmacy at any time.

If you have a cough or fever, please do not come to the pharmacy but ask a friend, family member or volunteer to collect your prescription. If you have a cough and/or fever and have to come to the pharmacy to collect the prescription yourself, please stay in your car and call 07572 100921. A member of the pharmacy team will bring your prescription to your car. This service should only be used by patients who have cold or fever symptoms and cannot get another person to collect their prescription, and must not be used for any other reason.



Charing Scouts

We are following government recommendations and so all face to face scouting has stopped. Cub camp and many other events have been cancelled. We are still in contact with our young people and making suggestions for how they can spend their time and work on badges. Scouting is an incredibly important part of the growth and development of young people and we can't wait to get back to doing it properly

Terry Lister, Group Scout Leader, 07748818660

Photo: Val Butcher (Who else?)



Learn Italian in Kent

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

Whether you are interested in simply learning the basics for a holiday in Italy, need help in preparing for GCSE or AS/A2 exams, would like to improve and update your current knowledge for use in the Italian work market, or simply have a passion for Italian language and culture, individually tailored courses can be created focussing on your own specific learning needs. Tuition is offered by PGCE and CLTA qualified, native speaker tutor, with over 15 years' experience teaching Italian to adults of all backgrounds.

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

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk



• LABELS • AWARDS • SIGNS • TROPHIES



01233 840999

www.national-engravers.co.uk

More Than Paws

Professional, Experienced, Reliable Animal Carer

Professional Pet Services:

Dog Walking

Pet Pop-in's

Home Sitting

Livestock Husbandry

ALL ANIMALS CATERED AND CARED FOR

07753 194 801

more-than-paws@hotmail.com

www.more-than-paws.co.uk

Previously named Lara's Pet Services

Hairdressing student

Offers simple cuts, foils, colours etc. in your own home.

Call Shannon on

01233613821.

And from July 2019,

Men's hair and beard trims



FLYBY

PHOTOGRAPHY

Drone Photography & Filming Services



www.flybyphotography.co.uk

facebook.com/flybykent

Hothfield Honey

The recent good weather has allowed the bee colonies to build up, and one of them has produced queen cells in preparation for swarming. I was able to give one of these queen cells to a queenless colony, and hopefully they will accept it, raise a new queen and thereby survive.

I was recently called to take a swarm which was high in a tree on the Green at Boughton Aluph. This is now settling into a hive at Hothfield, so the Hothfield bees are now up to full strength.

Bramble is just starting to

flower, which is very early, and this is a major source of nectar locally. There are crops of field beans in flower now, and these should be a good source of nectar; however, the bees do not appear to be working on this yet. Maybe they have other sources of nectar. Bees also love clover, and later on in the season they will move onto the heather which flowers on the nearby Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve.

I would like to thank all of my lovely customers in Hothfield and the

surrounding villages. I know that some of you love my honey just for the flavour, while others love the fact that it's locally produced and completely natural. I thought it would be nice to share just some of the lovely comments that have been passed back to me which are very much appreciated:

'The taste and texture is far nicer than supermarket honey.'

'It's not pasteurised or processed.'

'I love the honey – glad I found you.'

'It's nice to support something that's locally produced.'

'The flavour reminds me of my childhood.'

'I have it on my bowl of cereal every morning.'

'I eat it straight out of the jar.'
'It's helping with my hay fever.'

If you would like to order my golden Hothfield Honey, please call Sheila on 01233 624105 or email hothfieldhoney@outlook.com Large (11b) jars cost £5 and small (1/2lb) jars cost £3.50.

Delivery is usually the same day and by Shanks's pony, observing social distancing of course. It will be left on your doorstep or another safe place at a time that suits you. Payment by cash is welcome.

Thanks again for your continuing support during these difficult times.

**Paul Harris, Hothfield
Beekeeper**



Sarah-Jayne's
Mobile Hairdresser
Providing friendly Service
Affordable prices without
leaving your home
Contact Sarah-Jayne 07545 460270
Established over 30 Years
Enhanced SBS City & Guilds



Country Funerals
Our Lady Funeral Director
will assist and guide you in saying goodbye to
your loved one with compassion and dignity
For a Caring 24 Hour Service
Contact Leah Hutchinson
Tel 01233 712222 or 07708407229
Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford,
Kent, TN25 4LE

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

AUNT JEMIMA'S LONGING FOR A HOLIDAY

... or was till she heard these complaints (courtesy of Thomas Cook)

- "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time - this should be banned."
- "On my holiday to India , I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry"
- "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."
- "The beach was too sandy. Also, we found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white."
- "Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."
- "We bought Ray-Ban sunglasses for five Euros from a street trader, only to find out they were fake."
- "No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."
- "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
- "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica, it only took the Americans three hours."
- "I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller"
- "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation'. We're trainee hairdressers - will we be OK staying there?"
- "There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish. The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners now live abroad."
- "We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."
- "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
- "I was bitten by a mosquito, no-one said they could bite."
- "My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. "



LONGACRES
GARDEN CENTRE
BYBROOK BARN

**GREAT
QUALITY
& VALUE**

Our experienced team of qualified florists pride themselves on providing exceptional service whatever your budget or occasion.

- Weddings
- Funerals
- Special Occasions
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Corporate & Events

Longacres has a well stocked fresh flower shop with every colour and bloom imaginable. We also offer an interesting range of sundries, craft materials, glass vases and containers.



10% OFF* LONGACRES
FLORISTRY
PROMO

LONGACRES BYBROOK BARN

Get 10% off*
cut flowers,
bouquets and
crafts in store



**VOUCHER VALID IN-STORE
AT LONGACRES BYBROOK
BARN ONLY**

***Excludes Wedding, Funeral,
Contracts & Events Flowers**

- Voucher may only be used once • No photocopies
- One voucher per person
 - One voucher per transaction



Code: LA.PM.18

**VALID UNTIL
30TH JUNE 2019**

LONGACRES GARDEN CENTRE
Bybrook Barn, Cemetery Lane,
Ashford, Kent, TN24 9JZ

T. 01233 631 959
E. bybrook@longacres.co.uk
W. longacres.co.uk

LONGACRES GARDEN CENTRE
Bybrook Barn, Cemetery Lane,
Ashford, Kent, TN24 9JZ