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FUN QUIZ NIGHT
AND
HEARTY SUPPER

CHOICES INCLUDE VEGETARIAN



Saturday 25th March
Hothfield Village Hall
TN26 1EQ
7pm for 7.30pm All welcome!
Tickets £6, under 12s £3
From Hothfield Post Office
To help us plan catering, kindly buy tickets by 21st March



Teams of up to 8 people
Bring your own drinks and glasses



For more details or to reserve tickets
call **07510 944 055**
email **hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com**

Proceeds to Hothfield Village Hall and Hothfield History Society
Visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm Wednesday 8th February at the Bluebells Centre

King's Coronation village event will be held at the Village Hall on 8 May.

Hothfield Parish Council Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on 13 May 10.30am.

Flower & Craft Show at the Village Hall 5 August 2023.

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 February

Sunday 5 1100 Common Worship Eucharist

Sunday 12 1100 BCP Matins with hymns

Sunday 19 No service in Hothfield

Sunday 26 1100 Informal Morning Worship

For services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk



Festival of Angels

The Friends of St Margaret's held a fantastic Festival of Angels weekend recently. The church was packed with Angels made by individuals, schools, and businesses.

The church buzzed with so many visitors all enjoying the diversity of angels and trying to decide their favourite.

The Friends would like to thank everyone who helped whether it be setting up, making Angels helping run the café or a stall.

A special mention must go to Gretta Jarvis who made the most beautiful wire angel that stands 18" high on a solid oak base and decided to give it to the Friends to be auctioned to raise more money for the fabric of the church.

If you would like to place a bid, please email Karen at fsmhothfield@gmail.com



Hothfield Parish Council

Malcolm Cook RIP

Our long serving councillor Malcolm Cook sadly passed away over Christmas aged 79. Malcolm lived in the Village with his wife Joyce since the 1970's and will be fondly remembered by those who knew him. When I joined the Parish Council a few years ago, Malcolm was very kind and helpful in showing me the ropes with his vast experience. He volunteered for so many activities and leaves us all the better for his contribution to the village. It was always very clear that Malcolm was a real family man and very proud of his children Michelle and Terry and his grandchildren Marley & Charlie. Malcolm's funeral will be held on the 10 Feb at Charing Crematorium. All of us on HPC will miss Malcolm deeply.

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



**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



POT HOLES REPORTING

KCC Highways and Transportation

Pot holes can be logged at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

We aim to fix:

- Danger faults within 2 hours • Safety Hazards within 7 days
- Routine faults such as potholes, streetlights and soft landscape issues within 28 days (unless we believe it to be more serious in which case it may be done sooner)
- Traffic Signals within 4 hours if they are urgent or within 7 days if less urgent
- Routine drainage cleansing within 28 days, but up to 90 days for complex issues
- All other faults will be scheduled to our planned maintenance

If you telephoned us to report this issue, please consider using our online fault reporting tool next time. It's been designed with the following in mind:

- It's the quickest and easiest way to tell Highways about issues
- See existing faults (raised by customers and highways staff) and highways assets such as streetlights & trees.
- You are able to give us specifics about how bad a fault is and exactly where it is without having to get someone on the other end of a phone to understand it first
- You can upload photos to help us to prioritise repairs
- It saves the council £5 on every enquiry logged online as that's what it costs KCC to manage a phone call and faults go directly to the relevant Highways team rather than having to be triaged first
- The reporting tool can be easily accessed from all kinds of devices (its optimized for smartphones and tablets) and can use local KCC libraries or gateways if you don't have internet access at home
- It frees up our Contact Point staff to handle emergency and complex enquiries

Watch our new video which guides customers through the reporting tool. Find it at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Hothfield Educational

Foundation

A reminder that the Trustees of the Foundation have a further meeting arranged for which they would appreciate applications beforehand.

This will be on 7 February 2023. Please contact the Secretary on hothfieldeducation@gmail.com or 07973119462

THE THANET CHARITIES

Before his death last year, Martin Crompton very kindly donated to The Thanet Charities a wheelchair that he had recently purchased but never used.

If you would like to borrow a wheelchair or know of a resident in Hothfield who would benefit from borrowing the chair, please call the Chair, John Coles, on 01233 625580.

#

Hothfield Village Hall

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

<https://www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford>

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Fridays @ 18.30

Contact: John 07492862974

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN FEBRUARY



The great grey shrike *Lanius excubitor*, that caused great excitement when it appeared on the reserve in early November, has stayed in the Hothfield area, with regular sightings around the village and reserve up to time of writing. Everyone is delighted, as less than 200 birds stop off and overwinter in the UK on their migration from Europe and Scandinavia. At this time the birds are solitary and very territorial, needing quite a large area for hunting sufficient food. Might it come back next winter?

Sadly, its cousin, the red backed shrike *Lanius collurio*, is now virtually extinct as a UK breeding bird, among a shocking sixty-seven UK birds on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. One in four UK breeding birds is at risk, including herring gull, house sparrow, starling and song thrush, familiar birds that we can't take for granted. Since 2009 three birds, serin, wryneck and Temminck's stint, have been declared extinct as UK breeders. Overall, it is estimated that 40 to 50 million birds have disappeared from UK skies over recent decades. Bird watchers and Kent Wildlife Trust volunteers are well-aware of this factor in the wider picture of the UK, in the bottom 10% globally of nature-depleted countries, with on average about 50% of its biodiversity left.

The great grey shrike will fly off to its summer breeding grounds across the Channel or North Sea, but the other pleasing autumn visitor of 2022, the Dartford warbler, is still around and this one is probably a UK resident. Its range is western and southern Europe. We hope it will breed here but it needs freedom from disturbance, particularly dogs, and the right habitat in which to build its flimsy nest low down to the ground. Listen for its scratchy song from the top of a gorse bush. Thomas Pennant, the Welsh naturalist who first described this species, in 1776, used two birds found on Bexley Heath by the ornithologist John Latham, naming it after Dartford. The Dartford Warbler has yet to return to the Dartford area.

Happily, the amazing Ashford Green Team of outdoor volunteers is thriving, but we were all very sad to learn of the death in 2022 of a loyal colleague, Andrew R Runnalls, a computer scientist and academic in the field of data fusion. He was a keen botanist so as well as general volunteering he worked on the botanical surveys on Hothfield that were cut short by Covid in 2020. Andrew lived in Faversham and travelled to Hothfield as it reminded him of heathland near his childhood home.

In December 2022 KWT and local volunteers said fond farewells to Cristina Juan, Co-Ordinator for the Ashford area reserves, who had worked for KWT for more than six years, starting at Sandwich Bay. Everyone will miss her energy, cheerfulness and organisational skills. Cristina and partner are taking time out so 'we can have some adventures, learn new skills, and discover new corners of this planet'.

In 2022 Cristina recommended Rob Insall, a Green Team member who lives off Sandyhurst Lane, for the Marsh Charitable Trust (no link to Romney Marsh) Wilder Kent Volunteer Awards. Rob was one of seven out of thirteen nominations to receive the award. He promptly donated his cash gift to the team to buy more equipment. Cristina wrote: 'He changes from role to role when needed, as outdoor task volunteer, livestock checker, and surveyor for various species.....often at short notice.... empowering the team to go further with projects, allowing staff to focus on other important jobs'. Another Ashford volunteer, Charing resident Dennis Fryer won the award in 2020 and no one was surprised when he donated a chainsaw to the team. Congratulations Rob, and to Dennis, as you missed a mention here in 2020, and as ever, huge thanks to everyone, out in all weathers.

Margery Thomas

Thank-you to everybody for your patience and understanding as contractor work continues on site. Please don't be put off visiting. There's an additional 100m stretch of boardwalk and many of the paths around the reserve are staying dry after extensive work in the autumn. Suitable footwear is still essential at this time of year; if there is mud on the path, please walk through it and not round it, to protect the fragile path verges. The accessible Triangle Trail (enter from the reserve car park) has an excellent quality surface that is usable by buggies and wheelchairs, no matter how bad the weather.

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. Make sure anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter, dog mess and place all dog bags in the bins as all these items have a detrimental effect on the wildlife. Hothfield Heathlands is first and foremost a haven for wildlife and one of the best spots for wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way.

To find out ways you can support our work, please visit our website <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/>



5 Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Kent <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/kent> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Kent (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk

How can we stay connected?

I think it is safe to say that we have all experienced a feeling of isolation in the past couple of years. I often think back to those challenging times and think, how did we get through it?

We had to find new and different ways to stay connected.

It is important we still make a conscious effort to stay connected. Human beings are social creatures and we need it.

Personally I am so thankful for FaceTime. With my brothers family living in America, it meant we could still stay in contact even though we were over four thousand miles away.

Connecting with people whether it is family, friends or acquaintances, has great benefits for us as human beings. Apparently studies have shown we can experience an increase in happiness, better health and a longer life. My dad loves a chit chat with strangers on his dog walks!

Ways to stay connected this winter

Reach out to old friends and start a conversation

Video chat- FaceTime/skype/whatsapp video call

If you do not have someone close to keep in touch with, there are plenty of charities that offer friendly regular chats.

Pick up the telephone and call someone-grandchildren, family members, old friends?

Walk to your local park and say hello to someone!

Try a new exercise class

Start a new hobby

Love From Georgia

Sheila's Homemade Jam: Damson with Damson Gin



Delicious and ever-so-fruity jam made with lovely Hothfield damsons and homemade damson gin.

Large (13oz/370g) £3.50

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✉ hothfieldhoney@outlook.com



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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
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



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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

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council.

Email: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk

Deadline for March 2023 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.

Ad hoc Vineyard/Farm Labour Wanted

A vineyard/farm labour position covering all aspects of the 12-month viticultural cycle. The ideal candidate will enjoy physical/manual work, be able to work in all weathers at all times of year, and be adaptable and dependable. Applicants must have a solid base level of physical fitness and a willingness to learn. Prior experience an advantage, but not essential.

Please note this is a paid position, however, work will be requirements based and therefore there will be no guarantee of hours/days.

Interested applicants please contact info@nine-oaks.co.uk



ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Stagecoach South East joins £2 fare cap scheme

Stagecoach South East Managing Director Joel Mitchell has contacted us to confirm that his company is participating in the Department for Transport's £2 fare scheme which has just been announced.

Stagecoach bus users in the South East are set to benefit from three months of bus fares of no more than £2 for a single journey as part of the Department for Transport's new fares initiative. All of Stagecoach's local bus services across Kent and East Sussex will offer a maximum fare of just £2 for any single journey between 1 January and 31 March 2023.

Joel Mitchell said Stagecoach South East already offers some of the lowest ticket prices in the UK, but they hope that this new fare scheme will complement its existing range and help to attract new customers to get out of their cars and try the bus over the winter months. The Government promotion also reflects the current pressure on the costs of running bus services, which have increased by more than 40% since 2019. The scheme means all adult and child single tickets on eligible routes will be capped at £2, with any single tickets previously cheaper than this remaining the same price. This nationwide scheme in England is running in addition to other local fare initiatives already in place which we are delivering in partnership with county councils.

For more details visit <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/2-pound-fare>

Experience Ashford and Tenterden release new tourism video

Experience Ashford and Tenterden team are starting the year on a high with the release of their new tourism video. The video takes a 'dusk to dawn' approach, demonstrating the vast opportunities and attractions we have within the borough that can be enjoyed at all times and in all weathers. With so many businesses featured, we hope that it will encourage even more people to plan days out, short breaks and holidays.

Some of the businesses featured include: Kent & East Sussex Railway, The Rare Breeds Centre, The Ashford Designer Outlet, Curious Brewery, Hole Park To inspire those visiting the area, a number of activities are also featured including: Country crafts at The Cowshed Worksop in St Michael's, Growing local produce with the Rebel Farmer at Brook, Vineyard tours at Gusbourne, Pasta making workshops at Unita 4 (in Elwick Place), Model trains at AIMREC's new visitor centre in Bethersden, Live music at the Coachworks. The video will be displayed on a permanent loop at the Designer Outlet in the Guest Services area. It will also feature on the Experience Ashford and Tenterden website (which our Ashford Borough Council site feeds to), on social media and will be widely shared with our tourism businesses and partners.

As part of the social media campaign the tourism team will also be promoting five short videos that have been produced to showcase the themes of Family Fun, History and Hidden Gems, Rural Charm, Food and Drink, and Gardens and Vineyards.

You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/by7Fvrjy8ME>

The video was funded from a McArthurGlen Section 106 contribution and produced by local Ashford-based company, Modus Film.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE COMPETITION

We had some stunning houses in the village with the brightest decorations seen for some years. It was great fun judging which were the best dressed houses for 2022 and we all agreed that everyone had made such an incredible effort.

1st Prize



2nd Prize



3rd Prize



WINTER WORD SEARCH FIND THE WORDS!



A Y G X D V Q O S O O L H R R S C A R F
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Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice) will be coming to Hothfield Village Hall car park every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm. For pre orders, please call 07973 410973 before 1pm Wednesday Cash and Card payments welcome