

# HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY  
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3  
March 2021

## JOB OPPORTUNITY REWARDING BUT UNPAID

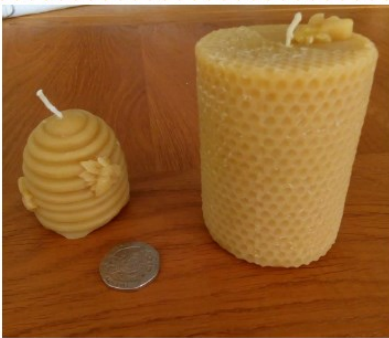
Wanted: Editor for Hothfield News  
This is my twelfth year editing your village magazine, and it's about time I took on an apprentice, because a) I shall be 80 this year and b) I don't actually live in Hothfield any more (much though I still love it!).  
The job divides neatly into three parts: 1) assembling the material (articles, adverts, pictures etc.) 2) Assembling the mag on the computer; 3) printing and distribution. For the first

11 years, I did all of these, but recently the wonderful Richard Sutcliffe has taken over printing and distribution. In fact, each of the three elements could be taken on by different people.

The most immediate need is for an Editor: for somebody in the village to collect news and to get people to write articles. This is, of course, especially difficult during the current lockdown, but the end is in sight and it would be nice to be prepared for it.

The second job – let's call it Production Editor – requires computer skills, including knowledge of desktop publishing. I work with Microsoft Publisher, but there are many other suitable programs. Pushing articles and photos around until they all fit neatly into eight pages is, in fact, quite fun. It takes about six hours a month.  
All right, it's voluntary work, unpaid and often thankless, but someone has to do it, and the feeling that a good job has been done is a reward in itself. If you think you might like to give it a go, email me on [hedley@grenfell-banks.com](mailto:hedley@grenfell-banks.com). Please!

HGB



### Lovely Hothfield Beeswax Candles

Pure beeswax, handmade  
From Hothfield beehives  
All natural, smokeless burn  
Makes an ideal gift for Easter  
Pillar candle with honeycomb detailing  
(7cm tall, 5cm wide) £6  
Skep (an old fashioned beehive)  
(4.5cm tall, 4cm wide) £3  
Delivered free to your door in Hothfield  
☎ Sheila: 01233 624 105  
✉ [hothfieldhoney@outlook.com](mailto:hothfieldhoney@outlook.com)



## SK8SIDE

are still running a Youth Club for young people between the ages of 8 and 19 on a Tuesday evening over at the MUGA. As we are in lockdown, they have regular Zoom drop ins, and a WhatsApp group that young people can join by sending a DM to their Facebook page or Instagram page. If you want to keep updated with what is going on please follow them on both pages.

[www.sk8side.co.uk](http://www.sk8side.co.uk)

[facebook.com/sk8sideic](https://facebook.com/sk8sideic)

[instagram.com/sk8side](https://instagram.com/sk8side)



# AUNT JEMIMA'S HOME-SCHOOLED

Even though we didn't realize it at the time, most of the 50+ generation was HOME SCHOOLED. For instance:

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. 'If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.'
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. 'You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet.'
3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL. 'If you don't behave, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!'
4. My father taught me LOGIC. 'Because I said so, that's why.'
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. 'If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shop with me.'
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. 'Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.'
7. My father taught me IRONY. 'Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about.'
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. 'Shut your mouth and eat your supper.'
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. 'Just look at that dirt on the back of your neck!'
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. 'You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.'
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER. 'This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.'
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY. 'If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!'
13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. 'I brought you into this world, and I can take you out...'
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION. 'Stop acting like your father!'
15. My mother taught me about ENVY. 'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do.'
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. 'Just wait till I get you home.'
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. 'You're going to get it from your father when you get home!'
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. 'If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to get stuck that way.'
19. My mother taught me ESP. 'Put your sweater on; do you think I don't know when you're cold?'
20. My father taught me HUMOUR. 'When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.'
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. 'If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.'
22. My mother taught me GENETICS. 'You're just like your father.'
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS. 'Shut that door behind you. Were you born in a barn?'
24. My mother taught me WISDOM. 'When you get to my age, you'll understand.'
25. My father taught me about JUSTICE. 'One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you.'

The above should only read by over-50s, because the younger generation will never believe we really were told exactly these things by our parents.



**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**

## RENEW Gardening Services

Joseph Ellis

Phone number: 07753174115

Email: [renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com](mailto:renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com)

£13 per hour

Free no obligation quotes



7 **THE ARTS SOCIETY  
EGERTON**



Our Society has a membership of over 180 and covers a wide area across the Weald and North Downs. Although we have been unable to meet in The Millennium Hall, members have continued to enjoy lectures via Zoom from the comfort and warmth of their own homes.

Our lecturers are leading experts, many of national and international renown.

Our next lecture is available on Zoom:

**10 March at 2.30 pm Chris Alexander on 'The Silk Road: A Journey of Wool, Cotton and Silk'.**

*Chris was born in Turkey and spent his childhood there and in war-torn Beirut. After university Chris moved to Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan, establishing a UNESCO workshop reviving fifteenth-century carpet designs and embroideries, and becoming the largest non-government employer in town. After a year in the UK writing 'A Carpet Ride to Khiva', he moved to the Pamirs in Tajikistan, training yak herders to comb their yaks for their cashmere-like down, spending three years there. Next came two years in Kyrgyzstan living in the world's largest natural walnut forest, establishing a wood-carving workshop and leading tours to Central Asia.*

Future dates for your diaries:

On 13 April at 2.30 pm **Denise Heywood on 'Stamford Raffles – Art Collector and Discoverer of Singapore'.**

On 12 May at 2.20 pm **Helen Ritchie on 'Making Visions: The Jewellery of Artist Charles Rickett'.**

On 9 June at 2.30 pm **Giles Ramsay on 'Shakespeare and the Birth of Modern Show Business'.**

More information about each lecture is available on our website [theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)

If you would like to become a member, or if you would like to watch one or any of the above lectures as a guest, please contact Christine Willis, Membership Secretary, on 01233 756377 email: [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) so that log-on details can be forwarded to you. There is a small charge of £4 per lecture.

# 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



## 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 unsustainable 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.

**wkps**  
weald of kent protection society

find out more: [www.wkps.org.uk](http://www.wkps.org.uk)  
[secretary@wkps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wkps.org.uk) 07919 871543

# FLYBY

## PHOTOGRAPHY

*Drone Photography & Filming Services*

- Business Promotions
- Property Marketing
- Event Coverage
- Roof Inspections



[www.flybyphotography.co.uk](http://www.flybyphotography.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/flybykent](https://facebook.com/flybykent)

# SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



For weddings, baptisms, etc. Contact the Parish Office [calehillpcc@gmail.com](mailto:calehillpcc@gmail.com) 07395 910317

## THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

With very great pleasure it is announced that

### Rev. Sandra Marsh

has been appointed to become the next Rector of the Benefice of Calehill and Westwell, and will take up this office in the spring.



There are no services at Saint Margaret's during lockdown.

For details of online services, see our website [www.calehill-westwell.uk](http://www.calehill-westwell.uk)

### Happy Mothering Sunday!

14 March



Snowdrops © Val Butcher

For Mother's Day (Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March) I have four delicious boxes to choose from, flavours can be added to suit you. To order please call Natasha on 07769228842 or email [flossyfussybakes@gmail.com](mailto:flossyfussybakes@gmail.com)  
Thank You!

<b>Option 1 £35:</b> 2 Cupcakes 2 Cake pops 4 Biscuits 20cl Prosecco Filled with marshmallows, popcorn and chocolate pretzels	<b>Option 2 £60:</b> 6 Cupcakes 6 Cake pops 8 Biscuits 20cl Prosecco Filled with marshmallows, popcorn and chocolate pretzels	<b>Option 3 £36:</b> 4 Scones 2 Sausage Rolls 4 Mini Jams 2 Clotted cream 20cl Prosecco Filled with marshmallows, popcorn and chocolate
<b>Option 4 £32:</b> 2 Lemon Drizzle slices 2 Chocolate brownie slices 2 Chocolate chip biscuits 2 Shortbread slices Chocolate covered strawberries 20cl Prosecco Filled with marshmallows, popcorn and chocolate pretzels		

## 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](mailto:hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk)

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

The deadline for the April 2021 issue is 20 March.

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.

5 of the wild service tree. It was the research carried out on redwings in the late 1990s that first proved that birds detect fruit using ultraviolet vision, which enables them to see UV light reflected by waxy coatings. With the thaw and the arrival of March we look forward to the first celandines, primroses, brimstones and other early butterflies, and early bees. Remember, insects and small mammals will still be hibernating as gardens are prepared for spring and hedges need to be left now to the nesting birds. Planting a rowan tree will provide food for redwings and other birds as well as nectar and pollen for insects.

*Margery Thomas*

**If you see any of the pedestrian gates open, please close them. Paths on the reserve get very muddy through the winter. It's best to wear the right footwear and walk straight through, enjoying the mud and the puddles, rather than round. This avoids widening the paths unnecessarily and trampling the fragile plants, including the seedling heathers and tiny ephemerals that grow on the close-cropped species-rich edge habitats.**

## Important message

from Ian Rickards, Area Manager, Kent Wildlife Trust  
Please do not feed the livestock on the reserve.

Over the last few months more and more people have been feeding the ponies, either picking up grass from the ground or bringing extra food on site for them. This creates several issues

- They can react badly to any food they are not used to. This could cause painful and dangerous reactions, some of which can be fatal.

- The animals learn to beg and become dangerous to visitors (biting, pushing and kicking). Even picking up grass and offering it to them will encourage dangerous behaviour.

People love to see the ponies, but if the hand feeding continues, we will have to remove them from the reserve.

These ponies are checked every day and their wellbeing is our priority, if we determine they are hungry, suitable food will be provided for them.

## A Brief History of Charing

The archaeological history of settlement goes back to the Bronze Age, followed by the Iron Age, and there is extensive evidence of Roman activity.

The most famous and earliest transport route is the prehistoric track way now known as the Pilgrim's Way. Other routes followed including Roman roads, medieval roads, the turnpike from Maidstone to Ashford and, more recently, the railway, A20, M20 and HS1.

Charing was given to the Church of Canterbury by Egbert II (King of Kent 765-780). The archbishops established a manor house here (a day's journey from Canterbury), and a market grew up outside the manor gates. The settlement was largely in place by the 13th century.

The presence of the Archbishop's Palace distinguishes Charing from surrounding settlements, and it was visited by Edward I (1297 and 1299), Henry VII (eight times between 1498 and 1508), and Henry VIII (twice in 1511, then 1513, 1520 on his way to the 'Field of Cloth of Gold' and three times between 1541 and 1544). The estate was given to Henry VIII in 1545, but was sold into private ownership in 1629.

By the 13th century there was a marketplace in front of the manor, and the name still survives, but now as 'Market Place'. The High Street is still lined with well-built timber houses dating to the 15th and 16th centuries, and the church was rebuilt at various periods. The tower was finished in 1545.

In the 18th century, some elegant houses were built, and small alehouses gave way to large coaching inns, which only declined in importance with the coming of the railway in 1884.

Since the end of WW2 major developments have taken place, with the resultant increase in population.

In 1664 there were 170 households in the parish, 300 by the end of the 18th century, and 1180 by 1999.

In 1377 the population was approximately 300, 851 in 1811, 2284 in 2001, and will grow to an Estimated 4000 by 2030.

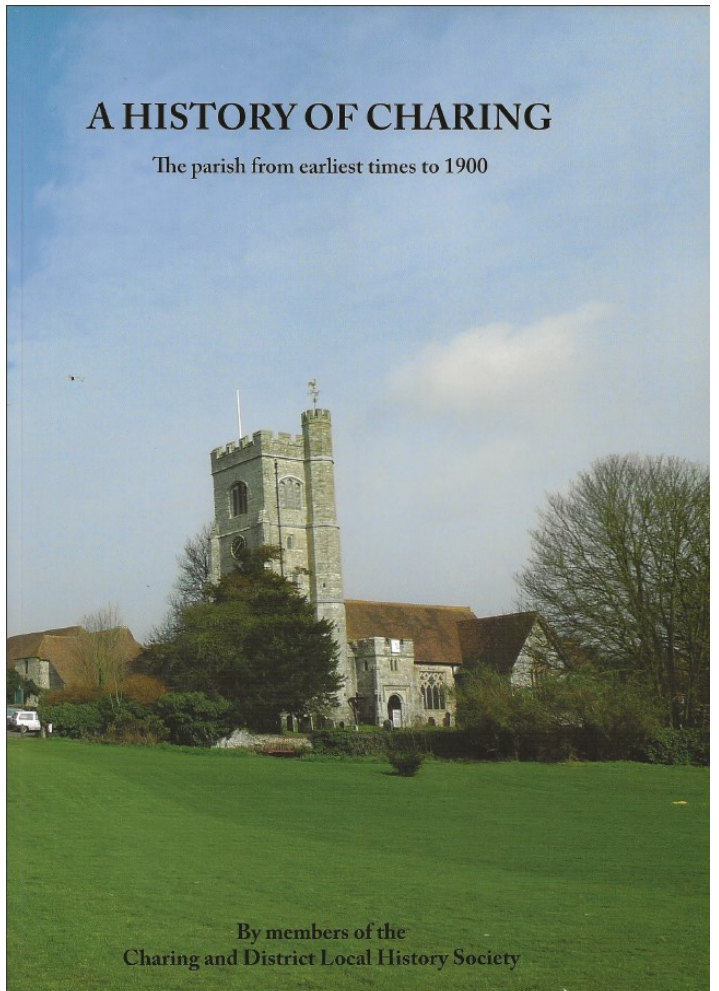
Let us hope that growth beyond 2030 can be achieved sensibly.

A comprehensive history can be found in CDLHS' publication 'A History of Charing' (£12 + p&p), and is available from [chairman@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:chairman@charinghistory.co.uk)

*Keith Oram (Chair - CDLHS)*

### A HISTORY OF CHARING

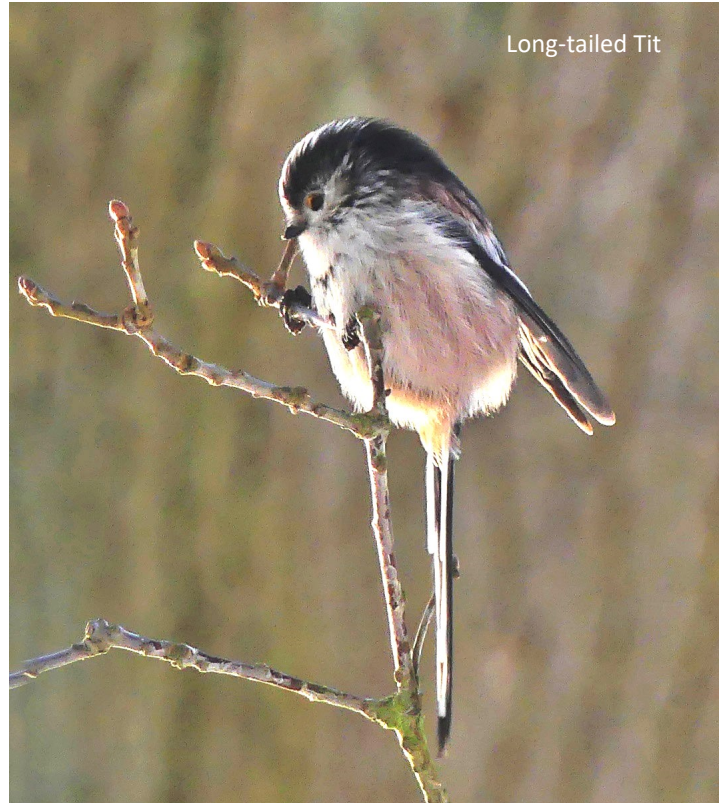
The parish from earliest times to 1900



# MARCH ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS

Early February gave us a hint of spring, but so much rain that the Konik ponies and Highland cattle were brought back from the sodden extension fields to the main reserve. Then came hard frosts and snow. Golden gorse flowers looked stunning on snowy branches, holly berries still gleamed, ivy berries were eaten, and all the bogs, puddles and pools, including the recently cleared lower pools, were frozen for over a week. Willow and birch twigs glowed gold and purple respectively against the white as rising sap deepened the hues. Bracket and jelly fungi on trees, including the wobbling yellow brain fungus, appeared in sharp relief. Buzzards and kestrels hunted overhead, foxes and rabbits left tracks in the snow, rodents scurried through tunnels of bracken and snow. The ponies and cattle proved their winter hardiness, the ponies preferring to scrape at the snow with their hooves to uncover grass for grazing rather than eat the hay provided by the Kent Wildlife Trust. Pied and grey wagtails, year-round residents, followed them to pick up the insects disturbed

by the ponies' hooves. Two birds that rarely appear in gardens were seen on the reserve in February. The goldcrest, even smaller than the wren, is hard to spot; well camouflaged despite pale underparts and a gold flash on the crown of the head, they are constantly on the move hunting for insects in trees. They are resident here all year, with some migrants joining them in winter. They rarely appear in gardens except in very severe weather. Numbers plummeted after the hard winters of the 1960s, but have recovered well. Redwings would have left their Scandinavian and Russian breeding grounds in September and October, flying at night, keeping in contact with a soft 'tseep-tseep'. Some fly on further south; those that overwinter here feed on fruit and mountain ash, yew, holly and hawthorn berries through the autumn. In snow, like their cousins the thrush and blackbird, they flick over leaf litter in woodland looking for snails, worms and spiders. They have a speckled breast like



Long-tailed Tit

the thrush, and ginger-red flanks and under-wings which are very obvious in flight. They hunt in loose flocks, often with other birds, and roost in loose flocks in dense thickets, plunging in directly from a height. They will return to breeding grounds in March and April. Migrants in Scotland return to Iceland and the Faroes; as only a few

remain to breed in northern Scotland and climate change may put these at risk, they are on the UK Conservation Red List. Sightings are always welcome as they don't regularly visit the same place each winter, which also makes it difficult to estimate winter populations. Their migratory patterns have been linked to the dispersal



Redwings in flight © Val Butcher

# Hothfield Parish Council

Since the Village Hall meeting with residents in February last year to discuss the Solar Funding and what we should spend the money on, we have discussed the suggestions and investigated the possibilities over the last year during our normal Parish meetings. We want to arrange a date to discuss the detailed options again with residents, hopefully soon depending on the Covid lockdown conditions. We will keep residents updated.

Ashford Borough Council's housing services team is proposing to build four new one-bedroom bungalows on the Plantation Close garage site, and would like your feedback about its plans to develop the site.

The link to the online consultation is below. A presentation on YouTube is also available below.

<https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/consult.ti/plantationclose/consultationHome>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4zCLy6lzXY>

ABC will be writing to all residents in Common Way and Plantation Close, so look out for this and please reply before the close of the consultation on 9 April.

We all look forward to getting back to normal very soon. Be safe!

*Ian Lloyd, Chairman HPC*



## Hothfield Honey

**Ethical and sustainable beekeeping**

**Delicious raw local honey**

**From Hothfield beehives**

**Nothing added, not pasteurised**

Large (1lb/454g) £6

Small (8oz/227g) £4

*Delivered free to your door in Hothfield*

☎ **Sheila: 01233 624 105**

✉ **hothfieldhoney@outlook.com**

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

### February Draw Results

1st prize £22.25 no. 14

2nd prize £13.35 no. 185

3rd prize £8.90 no. 139

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

Collect a form from  
**HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE**

## BOB FLETCHER

Bob died on 12 January after a short illness. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for some years, but bore it with great fortitude. He was taken into the William Harvey on Christmas Day and although he seemed to be improving, he sadly acquired Covid, as so many have done while in hospital. Pauline was able to get him transferred to the much more peaceful West View in Tenterden, where they looked after him wonderfully and he passed away peacefully in his sleep on 12 January. His funeral, attended by immediate family and a small number of invited friends, was held on 5 February at Charing Crematorium.

Bob was a shining example of the many people who have dedicated themselves to voluntary work in the village, most recently with the litter-pickers, and he will be sorely missed.

For full minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council, please either see the noticeboard outside the village shop or visit [www.hothfield.org.uk](http://www.hothfield.org.uk)

PLEASE NOTE:  
The email address for the Parish Council is [parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk)



We have continued to have weekly meetings on Zoom during the lockdown. Over the half-term we held a virtual group camp. There was nothing virtual about the wet, windblown tents for our most resolute young people. Some even spent the whole week camping in the garden. Most built dens indoors and slept there (that's where the 'virtual' bit comes in). They had camp challenges to complete, and we all got together on the Saturday evening for a virtual campfire. The young people decided that they would look for sponsors for the camp. We are raising money for two very worthwhile causes: The East Kent Hospitals and *Young Minds*, which helps and supports young people with psychological problems. At the moment we don't know how much we have raised, but have a look at our donation page:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/>

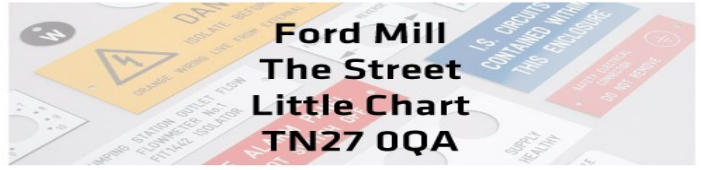
CharingScoutGroupVirtualCamp

If you can afford it, a small donation would help support these splendid causes

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660



• LABELS • AWARDS • SIGNS • TROPHIES



01233 840999

www.national-engravers.co.uk



### 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](http://www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk)

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

## 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

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



## Art-Ography

Beautiful original portraits professionally painted by local artist Lyndsay Matthews BA (Hons) at prices that won't break the bank Call Lyndsay on 07979 460221 [www.art-ography.co.uk](http://www.art-ography.co.uk)



Visit our cosy studio in the Kent countryside for creative professional portraits, headshots, family groups, etc. [www.chilmington-studios.com](http://www.chilmington-studios.com) Tel. 07979 437354