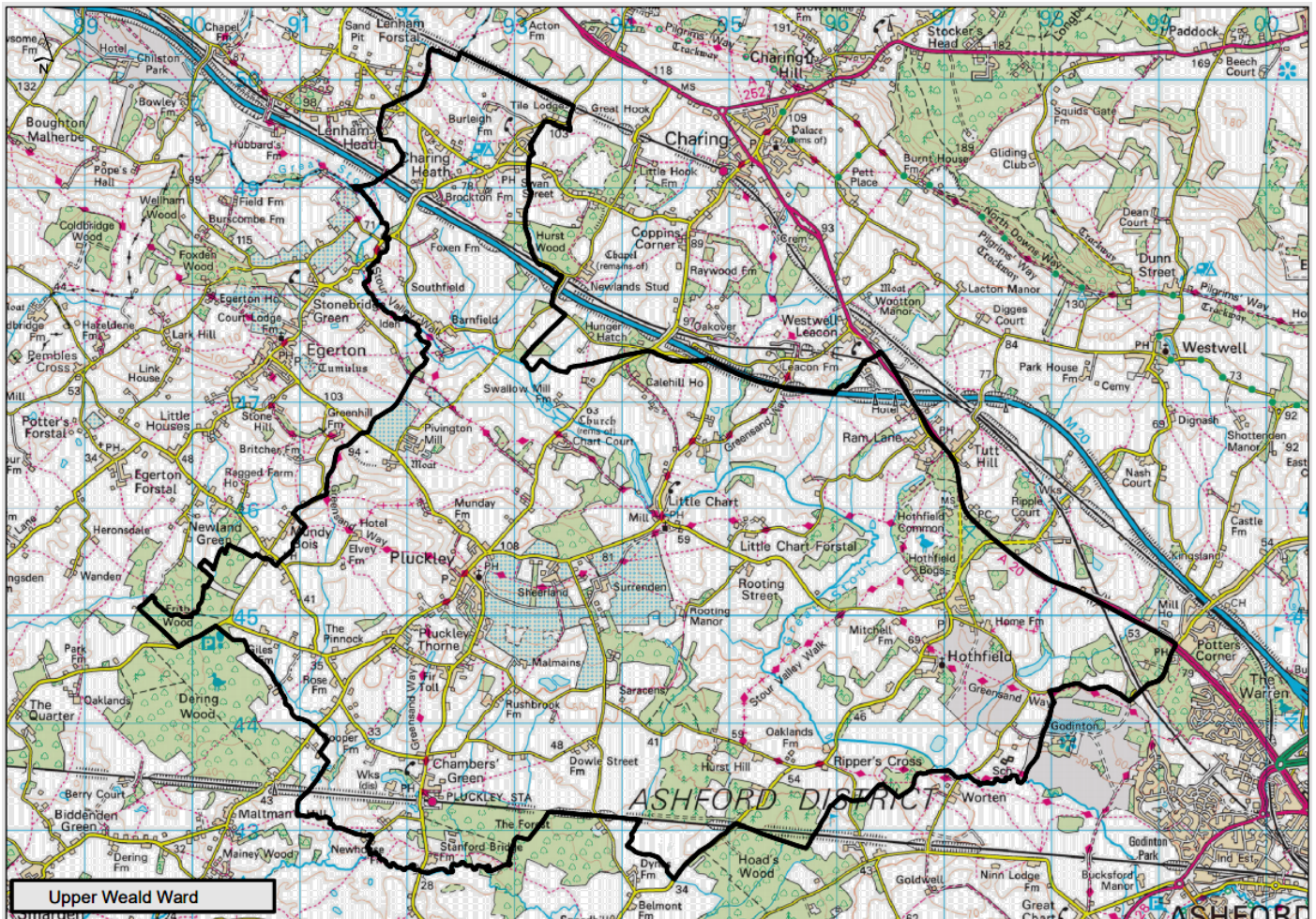




Hothfield News

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY
VOLUME 10 NUMBER 3 MARCH 2019

Suddenly we're in a new ward



Well, it's not all that sudden, really. Electoral boundaries in Ashford Borough have been under review for some time. But the new Ward boundaries have now been finalised, and for the Local Government elections in May of this year we shall be voting for a Councillor for Upper Weald. Instead of Downs West.

As these boundaries have now been finalised, there's nothing any of us can do to change them. The only as-

pects of the changes still available for comment is the location of the polling station, and as that is still Hothfield Village Hall, it's unlikely any of us will be demanding changes.

The map above shows that in future we in Hothfield will no longer be voting alongside Westwell and Challock. Instead, we are partnered with Little Chart, Pluckley and Charing Heath. Coincidentally, this keeps us well in line with the new Church

Parish arrangements. The seven ecclesiastical parishes of the G7 Benefice will (if plans go ahead) in future function as a single Parish. This, it must be emphasised, is simply a matter of organisation within the Church of England, and will make no practical difference to the people of Hothfield.

Interestingly, the new Ward boundaries include Little Chart and, within Little Chart, Calehill House, which is named after an old-

er subdivision of Kent called the Hundred of Calehill; and the new Church parish is to be called the Parish of Calehill with Westwell (For administrative purposes, Westwell will be separate).

However, while the new Ward boundary will make a real difference to Hothfield, the new Church parish won't. We will still have a Parish Church, and it will still be Saint Margaret's, Hothfield.

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Rector: Rev. Canon Sheila Cox 01233 712598

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



Services at Saint Margaret's

Sunday 3 March **Sunday before Lent:** 11.00 The Eucharist
A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 10 **Lent 1:** 11.00 Matins
Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, with hymns

Sunday 17 **Lent 2:** 11.00 The Eucharist
A Service of Holy Communion in modern English, with hymns

Sunday 24 **Lent 3**
H4; an informal service for all the family

Sunday 31 Lent 4: Mothering Sunday

This year, Mothering Sunday falls on a Fifth Sunday in the month.

We will therefore celebrate the occasion at a Benefice Service to be held at 10.30am in Westwell Church. We extend a warm welcome to all families who have had their children baptised in any of the benefice churches in recent years. Please come and share in the fellowship and celebration.



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 April 2019 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.

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Shock News

Hothfield Poo Fairy dies from overwork

Furious Hothfield resident claims 'it's tantamount to murder!', expecting a poor little fairy to pick up the amount of poo around the village, it's shocking'

Of course back in the real world most dog owners know the Poo Fairy never existed, so they pick up their own dog's poo; but, every now and again, and unfortunately far too often, we have to remind some residents of their responsibility to do the same.

No-one wants their child walking poo through their house, car or shop.

No-one wants a child to fall or an adult to slip on poo.

No-one wants to have to watch every step they make when they walk round the village. You have to take a torch after dark, not to see where you're going but to make sure you don't tread in anything. And, let's face it, after dark meant four o'clock until very recently, it's now just after five.

A particular offender at the moment is a big dog who currently has two big piles on the green at the top of Tufton and Beech and the alleyway from Plantation and yet another on the green where The Street meets School Road. There are plenty of other poos around the village.

We live in a lovely village, with lovely friendly people, please do your bit to keep it clean and pick up after your dog.

VGH

Any Clues?

Hothfield Village Hall was broken into on 4 February, some time between 8pm on 3 Feb and early morning on the 4th.

The maintenance sheds were forced open and several items of gardening equipment were stolen including a mower, strimmer and some hand tools. Damage was caused to the shed lock. The culprit/s also attempted to break into the building via the rear fire exit, causing minor damage to the door frame, but were unsuccessful in gaining entry.

If anyone saw or knows anything we'd appreciate their letting Kent police know..

Paul Fothergill
Village Hall Manager



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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find out more: www.wkps.org.uk
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

Advance Notice:: Hothfield Manor centre

JUMBLE SALE

Hothfield Village Hall

Saturday 13th April 2019 14.00 – 15.30

We hope you will support us and help us raise funds for our clients to have extra activities and trips

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

February Draw

1st prize	£25.25	no. 171
2nd prize	£15.15	no. 107
3rd prize	£10.10	no. 187

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

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,

MARCH ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS



Water, the stuff of life and part of the magic of the Heathlands. There wasn't much water around in summer 2018, even the little tributary of the Great Stour became a trickle. Reserve Warden Ian Rickards reports that last summer was the first time he remembers there not being ANY standing water in the main bog – usually these pools are full of rare dragonflies, fighting over breeding territory; last summer they were empty. The result of the dry weather last summer and over December and January is empty pools this February, which is not normal and will have an impact on the wildlife as it emerges in the spring. Longer-term impacts are that the big sandy Tolls (hills) are not filling with water, and therefore not able to provide the constant supply of water that would keep the bogs wet through the summer.

The bogs have formed over thousands of years because the valley bottoms on the reserve are clay, causing springs to emerge where the upper sandy layer of soil meets the watertight clay, and impeding quick drainage of that water. The bog on the slope below Cade Road where the water trickles very gently downhill is more acid than the lower bogs. The water surface can look oily; this isn't due to run-off from an oil spill, or even from fabled military tanks, it's due to high levels of iron deposits in the sandy soil, which reacts with water to produce the film.

The wetland near to Chapel Road and Lakeside Village is very different; fed by a different water supply (underground reservoirs on the chalk downs), it becomes a habitat for amphibians that can't tolerate the conditions in the more acid bogs. This area, dominated by grasses, sedges and flowers such as ragged robin and water mint, is categorised as fen. The pools near Chapel Lane still

have sheets of heavy plastic in places to smother out the highly invasive *Crassula helmsii*, New Zealand pigmy weed, which in the New forest has done millions of pounds' worth of damage.

Twelve species of sphagnum moss occur here; identification often requires dissection under a microscope. The plants soak up more than eight times their own weight, thanks to the large water-holding dead cells that lie alongside the tiny living cells containing the chlorophyll for making food from water, sunlight and carbon dioxide. The large dead cells are what makes the moss a sponge, retaining water long after the surrounding soil has dried out, and they are also structural, enabling the moss to spring back into shape when trodden on by animals. The underside of the mossy layer only partially decays without oxygen in the water, while the growing moss continues piling up on top of itself each year, absorbing water and lifting the water level. Imperceptibly, the compacted layers of decayed moss increase by perhaps a millimetre a year and acid bog is formed. Peat is one of the most efficient stores of carbon dioxide; around the globe it holds more carbon than all the rainforests combined. The peat at Hothfield is only 1 – 1.5 m deep, while bogs in wetter areas such as Ireland are 10 - 15m deep. Peat in a compost bag could have destroyed 100 years of peat formation.

These ponds, bog and fen attract a complex community of interdependent plants, insects, animals and birds; they are legally protected because more than 90% of the bogs in England have been damaged or destroyed, and these are the only such bogs in Kent. Water is one of the best elements to provide for wildlife, in any size of garden, and can quickly become a valuable complex habitat. If combined with a bit of bog garden they

Photo: Ian Rickards



attract more wildlife than each habitat on its own.

Hothfield Heathlands is open to everyone. Please keep dogs in check especially around children and animals, and clean up, including in the Triangle compartment. 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. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards on 01622 662012 ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk.

The next volunteer task days will be held on Sunday 8 March from 10:00am and Tuesday 12 March from 9:00am. All welcome; contact Ian for more information.

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5 Hothfield History Society

History Exhibition: 7 & 8 September

Hothfield History Society, in partnership with the Friends of St. Margaret's Church, will be holding another exhibition of Hothfield's History. The event will be held over two days at Hothfield's church, arguably our biggest, if not oldest, historic artefact! There will be displays of past Hothfield and a few artefacts to see. Keep the weekend of 7 and 8 September free in your diary to come along.

Fun Quiz Night and Hearty Supper Saturday 6 April, Hothfield Village Hall

Come along to our fun quiz night and hearty supper on 6 April. The supper will comprise a choice of homemade tasty dishes with something for everyone, including a vegetarian option. Tickets cost

£6 per person (£3 for under-twelves) and are available from Hothfield Post Office. Teams of six people (eight at a cosy squeeze) or come along and join in with others. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. There will also be a raffle with some great prizes including fabulous hampers, wonderful Sunday lunch at The Swan at Little Chart and at The Black Horse at Pluckley, bottles of wine and more.

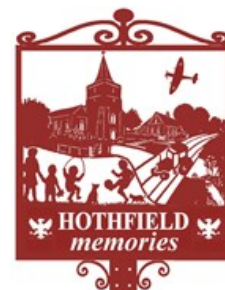
To help us plan catering, please try to buy tickets by Wednesday 3 April. If you would like to reserve tickets or have an enquiry, please call 01233 625942, leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. Alternatively, visit www.hothfieldmemories.com Proceeds shared between Hothfield Village Hall and Hothfield History Society.

Hothfield Angling Club

John and Clare Nicholls' daughter Diane has donated a number of items to the History Society from the village's past. As well as a collection of John's trophies for fishing, darts and short-mat bowls, she has given us a box of the Hothfield and District's Angling Club trophies.

There's a range of wooden shields, cups and other trophies for the 'heaviest one day's catch', 'heaviest roach' and the 'breakwater trophy' amongst many others.

The club's account book and minute book were also in the archive. It looks as if the club was very small but well financed with lots of trophies and tankards for numerous winners each year.



The Angling Club seems to have been formed in 1973 and was wound up in 1993 when its final balance of £55.93 was donated to the Lifeboat Institution. There don't seem to have been many members but they organised lots of dances and presentation nights in the village hall, with live bands and discos. In 1982 the Minutes recorded: "a member who was seen fishing in the close season could rejoin the Club with a severe warning as to his future conduct", but the records don't tell us who that was!

Chris Rogers, Hothfield History Society

**FUN QUIZ NIGHT
AND
HEARTY SUPPER**

CHOICES INCLUDE VEGETARIAN



**Saturday 6th April
Hothfield Village Hall
7pm for 7.30pm All welcome!**

Tickets £6, under 12s £3 
From Hothfield Post Office
To help us plan catering please try to buy tickets by 3rd April

**Teams of 6 people (8 at a squeeze)
Bring your own drinks and glasses
Call (01233) 625 942 to reserve**

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



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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

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As the evenings become lighter the sight of snowdrops are a welcome sign that spring is on the way. Daffodils promise to create a wonderful meadow of yellow and the bird song around the garden is amazing. The wildlife is enjoying the sunshine and the bees are busy going about their working day. We are delighted to welcome the public back to the garden from Friday 1st March.

Our programme of events will have something for everyone from our traditional family weeks in spring and autumn, the ever popular plant fair will have specialist plants from local nurseries, open air theatre will see the return of The Pantaloons and The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company, sculpture in the garden will no doubt be enjoyed by many later in the season. Along the way we will support a variety of charities raising much needed funds for the Kent community.

Leave the world behind and enjoy the beautiful gardens throughout the season.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS IN MARCH

GS GARDEN OPEN DAY 24th March 13:00 – 17:00

MOTHER'S DAY 31st March 13:00 – 17:00

SWEET PEAS 30th March 9:30 – 12:00

THE ART OF PRUNING 23rd March 9:30 – 14.30

LAWN CARE 9th March 9:30 – 12:00

Creating Beautiful Borders 6th March 9:30 – 13:30

Creating Beautiful Borders 20th March 9:30 – 13:30

Watercolour, Acrylic and Oils Painting Course 27th March

A B C Hothfield Educational Foundation C B A

On occasion we have had requests for grants that we have not been able to meet because of time pressures, which disappoints both the Foundation and the applicant. To try to prevent this happening again, we would ask that any requests are submitted at least 3 weeks before the next meeting date to allow our team to process the request.

Of course, we realise that this may not always be possible and will do our best to respond, but we do ask for your understanding if time constraints make it impossible to process the application. We will of course consider a funding request for something that occurred between meetings.

Dates of the Foundation's Meetings
 • 22 May 2019 • 12 August 2019
 • 13 November 2019



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AUNT JEMIMA'S WORDS OF WISDOM FROM CHILDREN

- Never trust a dog to mind your food... Patrick aged 10
When your dad is mad and asks you do I look stupid, don't answer him.... Michael aged 14
Never tell your mum her diet's not working... Michael aged 14
Never pee on an electric fence.... Robert aged 13
Don't pull dad's finger when he asks you to... Emily aged 12
When mum is mad at dad, don't let her brush your hair... Taylia aged 13
Never allow your 3 year old brother in the same room as your homework.... Chloe aged 14
Don't sneeze in front of mum whilst eating crackers... Mitchell aged 10
Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.... Jordan aged 9
Never hold a vacuum cleaner and a cat at the same time.... Kylie aged 8
You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk... Tom aged 7
If you want a kitten, start out asking for a pony.... Kelly aged 15
Felt markers are not good lipstick.... Naomi aged 8
Don't pick on your big sister when she's holding a stick.... Joel aged 10
When you get a bad report from school, show it to mum when she's on the phone..... James aged 14
Never try to baptise a cat.... Eileen aged 8
Don't make dad jump when he's working underneath the car bonnet.... Harry aged 9
Don't eat yellow snow.... Amy aged 6
If a light box is actually heavy, there must be something heavy inside it.... Shannon aged 7



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