

# HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY  
VOLUME 11 NUMBER 12  
**December 2020**

## A Christmas Message from Hothfield Parish Council



This year has proved difficult for everyone with so much uncertainty and worry. We are in another national lockdown, with the challenges this presents for mental health, income and wellbeing. At this time it is more important than ever to remember our blessings and think about lending a hand to those less fortunate than ourselves.

It is still very important that we maintain our focus on fighting this infection and saving lives by continuing the Government's advice to Stay At Home:

Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).

If you have to go out, stay a minimum of 2 metres (6 ft.) away from other people at all times.

Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

You must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble.

Looking to the future, we have many reasons for optimism including the availability of a vaccine – hopefully soon. We could also consider trying new activities in the New Year, and we are very fortunate indeed to have an excellent facility for social, entertainment and exercise in the Village Hall. I was recently invited

(by Zoom) to the Village Hall Committee Meeting and was excited by the enthusiasm to expand the activities available to the village. A questionnaire will be circulated in the New Year asking for suggestions for events or activities you would like to see at the Village Hall. Indeed, if you have any events coming up next year, then the Village Hall is an excellent option, it even has a bar licence!

We are fortunate to have a number of excellent people who volunteer their time to run the Village Hall and of course my fellow councillors on the Parish Council. Currently

there are vacancies on both the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council, and I would ask that any resident interested in the comings and goings within the Village, able to volunteer a couple of hours a month contact

either myself:  
[ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk](mailto:ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk)  
or Paul Fothergill for the Village Hall:  
[paul.fothers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.fothers@yahoo.co.uk)

Finally, I wish you all the compliments of the season and hope you have the opportunity to spend time over Christmas with those you love.

*Ian Lloyd*  
Chairman HPC

## Thanking our local NHS frontline

Local business owner Mikki Southwick has been making wedding gowns for more than three decades.

However, as with many small businesses, and most in the wedding industry, orders were abruptly cancelled in early March, with very little prospect of enquiries at all for the rest of 2020.

Finding herself with time to spare, Mikki bought ten metres of fabric to make scrubs sets to donate to the staff at William Harvey hospital.

A plea to friends on social media bought in over £300, and the end result is 25 sets of unisex scrubs for our hard-working doctors and nurses.

Mikki has had lovely messages of thanks from the donations team at William Harvey, which has made it all the more worthwhile.



**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**

# SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



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

No services at Saint Margaret's during lockdown, though churches may yet re-open in early December. For details of online services, and for updates nearer Christmas, see our website [www.calehill-westwell.uk](http://www.calehill-westwell.uk)

## In the steps of Anne Boleyn

Hedley's wonderful drawing of the courtyard at Hever Castle brought back memories. Hever Castle has been a special place for my younger daughter, Helen, and me, and we have made many visits – though sadly not this year. There is something magical about walking where Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and others have walked. If you've never been, it's a lovely day out, but you may want to try and avoid school holidays when it gets very busy.

One of the real treasures at Hever is a Book of Hours\* which belonged to Anne Boleyn. Helen is an historian, specialising in the Tudor period, and her PhD looked at the life of a little-known Tudor woman, Elisabeth Parr, whom she discovered through a comment written inside the book. Little-known but still important, Elisabeth was born into the Cobham family, of Cooling Castle and Cobham Hall. She was a lady-in-waiting at the courts of Henry VIII and Edward VI, and close friend and confidante of Elizabeth I. Elisabeth married William Parr, brother of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife. William spent time in the Tower of London and divorced his wife so he could marry Elisabeth – the first divorce in England.

As part of her research, Helen asked for permission to examine the book, which was granted. I was chauffeur and research assistant. We were allowed into Hever on a day when the castle was closed to the public, through a back door. Helen photographed the pages of the book so that she could study the images at leisure: my role was to hold the pages of the book flat, very carefully for the photographs. For me, used to seeing important artefacts in glass cases in museums, the feeling – and responsibility – of holding something belonging to Anne Boleyn was indescribable. Helen went on to catalogue the Books of Hours as a thank-you, and the work she produced is still in use at Hever.

*Lynne Graham-Matheson*

\*A book of hours is a Christian devotional popular in early modern times. Each manuscript book of hours is unique, but they all contain a similar collection of texts, prayers and psalms for Christian devotion. They are often beautifully illuminated.



### 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*

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## 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 January 2021 issue is 20 December.

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 Post Office

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Sunday	0900 – 1200	Post Office closed
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Saturday	0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	PO morning only



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## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

### October Draw Results

1st prize	£21.75	no. 41
2nd prize	£13.05	no. 122
3rd prize	£8.70	no. 15

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 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)



### Scouting in Lockdown 2

All of our sections managed to get in some face to face meetings before having to revert to Zoom meetings again. We are keeping our spirits up and looking forward to more normal times soon.

We are taking part in a national scouting initiative to help support those scout groups that are struggling financially due to Covid. There are many which are unlikely to continue without support. We are encouraging our young people to go on a walk or hike and get sponsorship of £5 each. Anyone who would like to join in can donate on the link below. We receive 20% of all money raised.

<https://scouts.enthuse.com/pf/debbie-grant-2ffb3>

**Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660**



# DECEMBER ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS 4

It's harvest and hibernation time, some systems shutting down while embryonic life in the form of seeds fall and scatter, insect pupae drop to the ground to overwinter, and the many species of fungus on the heathland continue their spectacular show.

On the open heathland the ling has produced millions of tiny seeds, and as the weekday and Sunday volunteers clear more birch and bracken, it's pleasing to see where heather has germinated, young ground-hugging plants that should thrive for over twenty years. This year's birch seed has now been blown everywhere, capable of germinating on the thinnest of soils into a carpet of fuzzy seedlings. In the upper bog, the bog asphodel seedheads will stand like orange candles though the winter. The sundew leaves have curled up into a round hibernaculum to survive winter nestled into the sphagnum moss. The seeds need a cold winter – stratification – to promote germination.

Berries are usually red or black to show up well and attract birds who eat the flesh and normally expel the seeds in their droppings, often a long way from the original plant (including at the base of walls and fences on which the birds perch). Berries provide easy food for ground feeders when the ground is frozen. Glistening honeysuckle berries have already been eaten by the fruit-eating birds, who may well strip the haws from the hawthorns by Christmas, each berry requiring a tug and a twist before being swallowed whole. Rosehips are enjoyed by the larger birds – thrushes, blackbirds and redwings. The 'robin's pincushions' on the dog roses are more evident now, the tangle of distorted growth providing winter shelter and food for the tiny

gall wasps within. Insects have recovered from getting drunk and falling off ivy flowers, now the berries will swell and darken to provide a feast after Christmas.

Walking among the trees it's impossible to miss the crunch of acorns, beechmast, sweet chestnut and hazelnuts underfoot. Such seeds rely on mammals as well as birds or wind for dispersal. Mice and squirrels had the sweet hazel kernels weeks ago. Many seeds, including beech, need winter cold to trigger germination. Jays, the principal disperser of acorns, will bury them in random spots where, if forgotten, oaks will germinate in spring. In recent years many of the acorns have been distorted by the knopper gall wasp, while the oak marble gall wasp builds the round brown galls – two of the myriad insects that live in the aerial oak city. Both types of gall are now empty, the new generation having sought out turkey oaks on which to lay the next generation of eggs.

**Margery Thomas**

## A message from Kent Wildlife Trust

Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands but please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife.

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. Breeding and feeding birds are seriously impacted by this disturbance, causing them to abandon nests or preventing them from collecting the food they need. 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.



Berries and Bramble in frost – Val Butcher



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## 5 Hothfield History Society

### Christmas at Hothfield Manor

The past Lords and Ladies of Hothfield had vast estates across the country, and owned a range of country homes as well as a big house in London where they spent a lot of their time. However, Lady Alice Tufton kept an autograph book for visitors to sign when visiting her family and when they hosted parties. Her autograph book shows that almost the entire family and a few friends were at Hothfield Manor for Christmas 1898, when they had a party and a concert.

Few of the family were here the following Christmas, but there do seem to have been plenty of visitors at Christmas and New Year's Eve to see in the turn of the century. The autograph book also contains photos, including this one of friends Georgie, Vera and Evelyn Gordon standing on the front steps of the manor, although they don't seem to be entering into the festive spirit.



By contrast the Merry and Bright Club look to have been in great spirits outside the former Thanet Arms, but when was this? I'm guessing the 1970s.



Whatever we're allowed to do this Christmas, and whether we're allowed to party with friends remains to be seen, but Hothfield History Society wishes everyone a restful, pleasant and safe time.

### Ideas for Christmas

It's never too late to purchase a copy of the History Society's publication "Hothfield in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" or the extensive research by Reverend Russell on the parish of Hothfield up to 1902, which are both now available on CD and USB memory sticks as Word/pdf documents. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century book is also available in paperback for £10, or CD/flash drive for £5; Reverend Russell's works are only available electronically for £10 (CD or memory stick).

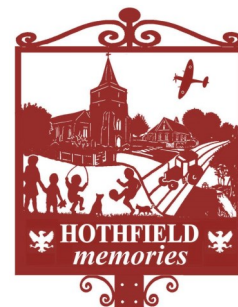
For more information please e-mail:

[hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com](mailto:hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com)

or visit

[www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk](http://www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk)

where other publications are listed with Hothfield connections.



Chris Rogers

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For more information on courses, areas covered and tuition fees, please go to [www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk](http://www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk)

## Christmas at Flossy's Fussy Bakes!

This Christmas we have special bakes that will be perfect as a gift, surprise for the children or to simply spread Christmas cheer throughout your house hold. We are offering:

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, chocolate cake. This is a small sponge with chocolate buttercream and chocolate ganache. Finished with antlers, red nose and eyelashes. £25

Christmas Eve selection box. A Christmas themed box filled with x6 cookies decorated with a Christmas theme, candy cane and small chocolate assortment. £12

Christmas Hampers! Our Christmas hampers can be filled with any variety of your choice. All items are homemade and packaged uniquely all within a wicker basket and wrapper with a red bow on top. The baskets can be filled with a minimum of 5 items (example: x6 cupcakes counts as 1 item). The hampers start at £35. Alcohol is extra.

Each Christmas item can cater to allergies, so please do not let this hinder your celebrations! To order please call Natasha on 07769228842 or email [flossyfussybakes@gmail.com](mailto:flossyfussybakes@gmail.com)

Merry Christmas!



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☎ Sheila: 01233 624 105

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## Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex Christmas Appeal.

We appreciate that Christmas might not be the same this year, with restrictions limiting our chances of parties and drinks with colleagues and friends, so why not spread the festive cheer with some KSS ideas:



**Brew with the (Christmas)**

**Crew – Join us virtually at 6:30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. Register for your invite below.**

**Why not give your virtual Christmas get together a KSS twist and download our fun party pack.**

**Or simply donate to our Christmas appeal to help our life-saving work.**

For more information on our festive activities:

Call: 01634 471 944

E-Mail: [community@aakss.org.uk](mailto:community@aakss.org.uk)

Visit: [www.aakss.org.uk/christmas-with-kss/](http://www.aakss.org.uk/christmas-with-kss/)

## Support for your mind and body

Meditation can help you reset and recharge. To support you during these times, Yvonne has created a meditation recording for you to try.

Available **free or donations welcome** via a JustGiving page (in support of animal charities).

Just email here for the recording [yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk)

**Yvonne Fernando**  
NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach

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

## 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)  
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# AUNT JEMIMA'S CHRISTMAS QUOTES

- ☒ I was Christmas shopping and ran into a guy on the street. I noticed his watch and said that it runs slow. He said, 'So does the guy I stole it from.' — David Letterman
- ☒ Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip. — Gary Allan
- ☒ I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. — Maya Angelou
- ☒ The worst gift is fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the world, and people send it to each other. — Johnny Carson
- ☒ It's always consoling to know that today's Christmas gifts are tomorrow's boot sales.— Milton Berle
- ☒ Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family.— Charles M. Schulz
- ☒ Christmas to a child is the first terrible proof that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive. — Stephen Fry
- ☒ Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. — Victor Borge
- ☒ The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live. — George Carlin
- ☒ I haven't taken my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin. — Winston Spear
- ☒ It's Christmas Eve! It's the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be. — Bill Murray
- ☒ In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!' — Dave Barry
- ☒ My husband's idea of getting the Christmas spirit is to become Scrooge. — Melanie White
- ☒ Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas. — Kin Hubbard40.
- ☒ Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money. — Unknown
- ☒ There are a lot of things money can't buy. Not one of them is on my son's list. — Milton Berle
- ☒ It's that's special time of year when your whole family gathers together in one place to look at their phones. — Jimmy Kimmel

© Ian Rickards



A Very Happy Christmas to All our Readers!

