

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 7 July 2020

Look out for the Hothfield '23!



An exciting new development is happening in Hothfield. The parklands near Saint Margaret's church are becoming a vineyard. Two acres of land have been ploughed and treated, then planted with 4200 chardonnay and 500 pinot noir vines. Over the next several years a further six acres will be cultivated and planted.

Nine Oaks Vineyard (as the property will become known) is run by Helen and Martyn, daughter and son-in-law of landowners Lynne and Peter Graham-Matheson of The Old Rectory. Helen is thrilled to have returned to the village where she grew up, to start this business during a really exciting time for English wine.

It takes three years for grapevines to produce fruit suitable for wine, so we look forward to 2023 when the village will be able to join us in tasting Hothfield wine.

Is Delivery still best?

We asked this question in the June issue of Hothfield News, inviting you to email the Editor if you would prefer to have your village paper online rather than through your letterbox.

We have had three replies; one with a definite preference for online delivery, one who favours it during lockdown, and one who prefers the paper edition but would accept the alternative if he had to. If you are an online fan, this is your last chance to email

hothfieldnewsletter@tiscali.co.uk

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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



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

Services at Saint Margaret's have been suspended for the duration of the Coronavirus epidemic. However, churches will be allowed to open from 4 July. This does not mean that every church will have a service every Sunday. Details of where to find a service in the benefice, along with readings, prayers and a short sermon, will appear each Sunday on the Parish website, <https://www.calehill-westwell.uk/>

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 August 2020 issue is 20 July.

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

Our next Parish Council (virtual) meeting is Wednesday 1st July 7pm. If any residents wish to contribute to the July meeting during the public interval then 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 continue 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.
- Do not leave home if anyone in your household has symptoms.

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

Kent County Council has asked we circulate the following article:

Every year throughout the spring and summer KCC Highways & Transportation receive numerous complaints regarding trees, hedges and other vegetation, which overhang the highway from private property. This matter can pose a number of problems for people trying to use the footways, especially if they are trying to pass with buggies, wheelchairs and scooters. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary which would greatly benefit all Highway users. This will help us all keep the highway safe and prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation.

So that you are aware of our requirements, please refer to the text below.

If the boundary of your property borders the footway, then please be aware that:

- The full width of the footway/pavement must be available for use by pedestrians.
- As well, there must be a minimum height clearance over the footway/pavement of 2.1 metres/7 feet for any vegetation.

If the boundary of your property borders the carriageway, then please be aware that:

- If you have vegetation that overhangs into the road, there must be a minimum height clearance of 5 metres/16 feet to accommodate buses and HGVs that may use the road.
- If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres/1.5 feet behind the edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage.

Also, we would ask that you pay special attention to your trees, hedges and vegetation if your property is on or near a junction, and/or inside the bend of the road, to maintain maximum visibility for road users.

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

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



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JULY ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS

So many people have enjoyed getting back to the delights of a walk on the Heathlands, and may have seen the new residents, the longhorn cattle. Sadly the botanical survey scheduled for June and July, the fifth and final in the series to set a data baseline, has had to be postponed. But the flowers are there for all to see, from the simple golden tormentil that spangles the ground all summer to the elaborate flower structure of [the two orchid species that are the stars of May and June](#).

The pale pink or white spires of the Heath spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, are scattered over the open areas of the slope west of the upper bog and on the bog margins. It likes the same acidic habitat as the cross-leaved heath, *Erica tetralix*, and bog asphodel, *Narthecium ossifragum*, also now in flower. *Dactylorhiza* is from the Greek *daktylos*, finger, and *rhiza*, root, describing the divided tubers. *Maculata* means spotted, although the lightly scented flowers, resembling a dense cluster of frilly skirts, often have dark reddish dashes as well as dots. This is a plant of the western Britain and Ireland, now very uncommon in the Southeast. In Europe it ranges from Iceland to Russia to Italy, where some experts regard it as a variation of the Common spotted orchid. It is pollinated by bees, flies and other insects, but provides no nectar in return. Seedlings may take two years to appear above ground and another

three years to flower.

The Southern marsh orchid, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, grows in the lower bog where conditions are slightly less acid. Here it can grow to 50cm, a sturdy plant with the bright purplish-pink boldly marked flowers crowded in a spike on the top fifth of the stem. Like many orchids it can vary in colour intensity and flower markings and shape. It hybridizes easily with the spotted orchids, leading to even more variations. It occurs south of the Ribble/Humber and from Northern France to Norway and was only recognised as a separate species in 1914, hence *praetermissa*, meaning overlooked. It is pollinated by insects and butterflies. Both species survive in poor soil thanks to a highly specialised parasitic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi which supply nutrients but receive nothing from the orchid. Both produce large quantities of dust-like seed which is scattered on the wind and able to float on water. The fungi are essential to feed the minute seed as it germinates and develops underground.

These orchids are locally common, dwindling as habitats are enriched by fertiliser, car emissions etc or lost to development. Several orchid species occur in the Hothfield/Westwell area, often in unexpected places including former industrial sites and the verges of busy roads. Leaving wild areas in gardens and clearing overgrown scrub without increasing soil nutrient levels



can encourage seed to germinate or dormant plants to emerge, along with other treasures such as cowslips. The orchids close to Down House in Cudham Valley led Charles Darwin to exhaustively investigate 'the many beautiful contrivances' of complex orchid flowers to enable cross-pollination to increase the gene pool and thereby ensure the adaptability and flexibility necessary for the survival of each species.

Everyone is welcome to visit Hothfield Heathlands. Most catches have been removed from gates so that you can open without using your hands, but they still need to be kept closed to protect the livestock on site. 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. Fire is now a big risk, please

help ensure no fires are ever lit on site. 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 Hothfield History Society

Hothfield Schools – 1720 to 2006

Three hundred years ago records show that the Earl or Thanet, Thomas Tufton, and in 1726 Sackville Tufton, both gave £20 each year and a house with two gardens for a schoolmistress to teach 24 poor children of the parish of Hothfield. This house was on the eastern side of Hothfield Common (as it was then). Ann Pearson was school mistress for 62 years and died aged 85, but the running remained in the family with daughter-in-law Sara Pearson taking over in 1786, and Mary Pearson (granddaughter of Ann) taking over as school mistress in 1809.

Over a hundred years after the first school, in 1834 Henry Tufton built a new a school house on West Street which still stands today, and by 1845 the annual rent-charge given by the Earl was £60, which provided for a schoolmaster and schoolmistress, and the education of a larger number of children. By 1874 another school building was built, also on West Street opposite the junction with The Street, which is the building we know today used for the Children's Centre and other local services. That building was provided by Sir Henry Tufton (who by then was Lord rather than Earl) and it was designed to provide for 170 children, and he paid the school's expenses. In 1900 there were 140 to 150 children in that small school, but no more than 50 to 60 came from Hothfield Parish. The school had its own garden growing fruit and vegetables, which was part of the curriculum.

The Reverend Russell, when researching the history of Hothfield in 1902, recorded that the original 1834 school building on West Street was still a home for the school master but the other rooms had been converted to cottages, as they are now, in 1874 as the children were being taught in the new building.

The latest school was attended by the daughters of H E Bates, author of 'The Darling Buds of May', who lived at Little Chart. Some residents of Hothfield remember past headteachers with fond memories, including Miss Bottle (1944 to 1956) and Mr Pepper (1968 to 1989). The village's history website (www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk) includes a number of stories and memoirs of past residents who recall their former teachers and headteachers. The History Society's publication "Hothfield in the 20th Century" includes a number of past school photographs.

The last school eventually closed in 2006 as part of Kent County Councils' review of schools across the county. Numerous schools closed, and some residents of Hothfield campaigned for this one to stay open. The "Save Our School" (SOS) campaign was backed by the Kentish Express Newspaper, and the former MP Michael Howard condemned KCC's county-wide school closures and our own MP supported the campaign to keep the school open.



The first purpose-built school in Hothfield – a view that hasn't changed much since 1874

Flossy's Fussy Bakes



Hi!

My name is Natasha, I'm 23 and I live in Hothfield. I've recently started up my own baking business, after lots of preparation, practice and people telling me I need to start selling, I have finally made the exciting leap!

My business is called **Flossy's Fussy Bakes**. The name comes from, 'Flossy' as that's what my dad calls me and 'Fussy' because as you may or may not have experienced, people with allergies and intolerances are quite often referred to as being 'fussy' when needing to have specific requirements with what they eat. For example, I can't have dairy, so some bakes have to be altered to cater for this.

My idea for a catering business, which is inclusive to everyone, no matter how 'fussy' came from when I was organising my dad's and my own birthday parties. I had to explain to the lady that was baking our cakes on what we required and what alternative products she could use to ensure the cakes were dairy free.

As a business Flossy's covers all styles of cakes as well as savoury such as sausage rolls... Delicious even if I do say so myself.

But the key is that whether you have an allergy or not, our bakes will always taste great and you wouldn't know a difference or feel you are missing out.

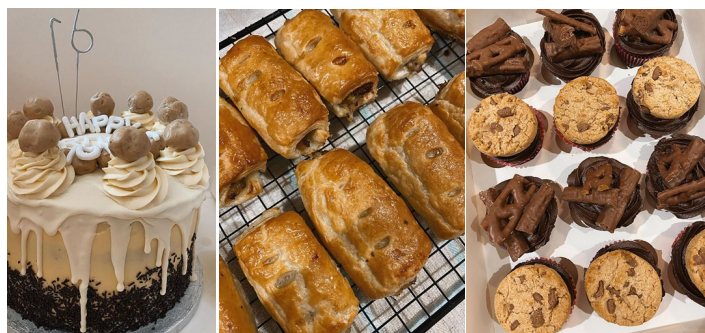
I have a range of brownies, blondies, cookies and sausage rolls that can be ordered daily for delivery or collection the following day (latest).

If you are after a celebration cake, cupcakes, brownies, cookies or pastries. Flossy's will have you covered.

Hope to hear from you soon on what yummy bakes you require!

Kind Regards

Natasha Lloyd (Flossy)



If you would like to follow us on social media or have a look at our past bakes, you can find us on the following:

Facebook – Flossy's Fussy Bakes

Instagram – @flossysfussybakes

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secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543



The lockdown has been a difficult time for scouting nationally and that has certainly been so for us. We have lost our annual camps as well as our regular meetings. We have also had to cancel several fundraising events including the 2020 colour run. Nevertheless our leaders are resilient and we are doing our best to keep going and be prepared for when we can meet face to face again:

Beavers have had regular Zoom meetings and are working towards several badges.

Cubs are also getting together on Zoom. They have been set homework to help them complete badges.

Scouts are being set challenges every week.

As a group we all attended a Zoom meeting for St George's Day. We all worked towards the Mayhem badge. For this they had to 'camp' out, either inside or outside sometime during May and help prepare their own food. They are now working on a more challenging badge, 'The Great Indoors'. I'll let you know how they get on.

Well done to all the leaders who are making this happen, all the parents for their support and especially to all the young people.

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660

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Henry VIII Visits Charing

Henry VIII visited Charing 500 years ago on May 23rd 1520 on his way to the Field of Cloth of Gold, 8 miles south of Calais in English-held territory, to meet Francis I for two weeks of feasting, jousting and good fellowship which took place between the 9th and 24th of June. His route took him from his palace at Greenwich, via Otford and Maidstone, to Charing where he stayed overnight at the Archbishop's Palace. He brought with him an entourage of some 5000. Henry himself stayed in the Palace, his knights in other lodgings in the Palace grounds, in the High Street and elsewhere in Charing; the rest pitched their tents, of which there were some 2800, in local fields.

The moment of Henry's arrival in the Market Place in Charing was reimagined in the 1960s by a local artist, David Embry, who, at the time, was lodging at the very top of a house at 45 High Street. From his room he had a good view of the Market Place down to the church and the Archbishop's Palace. Climbing out of the top window one day, he sat precariously on the roof, feet wedged in the gutter, and drew the scene illustrated here; the subsequent watercolour won first prize (£100) in an exhibition, Historic Events in Kent, in 1965.

By 1520 the people of Charing were well used to hosting the monarch as both Henry and his father had visited on several occasions. Henry brought cooks and kitchen staff with him and there would have been Charing Palace staff in attendance, too. Much of the food eaten that day was procured locally; they



ate poultry – hens, duck and other birds – and, probably, fish from the coast or from the Archbishop's ponds, situated either on what is now Clewards Meadow or the lake in the grounds of the Moat House. Henry and the knights drank wine, the rest beer from the Archbishop's buttery and local hostelries, one of which might have been in the High Street on the site of what is now Elizabethan Court, formerly The Swan. Henry's total bill for his overnight stay in Charing amounted to the equivalent of £29,500.

Henry revisited the Archbishop's Palace later on in his reign, finally 'persuading' Archbishop Cranmer to give it to him in 1545. The Palace subsequently remained royal property through the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, until the royal connection was finally severed in 1635 by Charles I, who sold it to

Sir Robert Honeywood of Pett Place for a working farm, as it has continued to be until this day.

The 2020 Charing Village Summer Fête was to have had a Tudor theme but, because of Covid-19, has had to be cancelled. It is, however, hoped that a celebration of Henry VIII's historic visit to the village will be held at some future date.

Celia Jennings from the Charing & District Local History Society has produced a superb booklet about the Field of Cloth of Gold, starting with Henry's journey through Kent to Calais from his palace at Greenwich via Otford, Maidstone, Charing, Canterbury and Dover. It is fully illustrated in colour, 28 pages in length and costs £5 plus £1.64 postage.

It is available from:
enquiries@charinghistory.co.uk
 or direct from
 Celia Jennings: Landline: 01233 712480 Mobile: 07860 483292



Garden Opening from Tuesday 30th June

We are delighted to be able to offer pre-booked tickets for the garden from Tuesday 30 June. The garden will open Tuesday to Sunday from 1pm to 6pm (last booked entry 5pm). Please complete the on-line form on our website <https://godintonhouse.co.uk/> with your preferred date and time; you will then be sent confirmation of your visit with guidelines and a map showing a one-way route in and out of the garden.

The house and tearoom remain closed, but we hope to be able to offer takeaway refreshments soon. In the meantime, please bring a picnic to enjoy in the grass areas next to the car park. We look forward to welcoming you back to Godinton!

AUNT JEMIMA'S FAVOURITE SUMMER QUOTES

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."- Sam Keen

"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it." – Russell Baker

"A man says a lot of things in summer he doesn't mean in winter." — Patricia Briggs

"Summer bachelors like summer breezes are never as cool as they pretend to be." — Nora Ephron

"Some of the best memories are made in flip flops." — Kellie Elmore

"I have a total irreverence for anything connected with society except that which makes the roads safer, the beer stronger, the food cheaper and the old men and old women warmer in the winter and happier in the summer."– Brendan Behan

"Let a man walk ten miles steadily on a hot summer's day along a dusty English road, and he will soon discover why beer was invented."– G. K. Chesterton

"Working is bad enough in the winter, but in the summer it can become completely intolerable. Stuck in airless offices, every fibre of our being seems to cry out for freedom. We're reminded of being stuck in double maths while the birds sing outside."– Tom Hodgkinson

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken." – James Dent

"It's a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do." – Walter Winchell

"Why is summer mist romantic and autumn mist just sad?" – Dodie Smith

"Summer holiday: where you drink triple, see double and act single." – Unknown

"A lot of parents pack up their troubles and send them off to summer camp." – Raymond Duncan

"Do what we can, summer will have its flies." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

I'm sorry for the things I said when it was winter.



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