

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 12 December 2019

Happy Christmas!



SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



2

Contact: for weddings, baptisms, etc. Rev. Jack Bateson , 01233 756674

Services at Saint Margaret's

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday 11.00
The Eucharist; Holy Communion in modern English

Sunday 8 Advent 2 10.45
Matins: Traditional Morning Prayer

Sunday 15 Advent 3: No service in Hothfield

Sunday 22 Advent 4 16.00
Carols, Crib and Christingle Service

Wednesday 25 Christmas Day
10.00 Family Eucharist

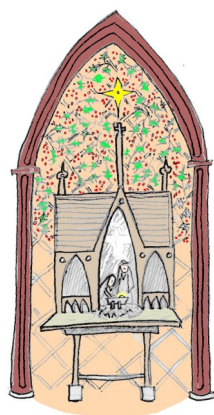
THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

CAROLS, CRIB AND CHRISTINGLES

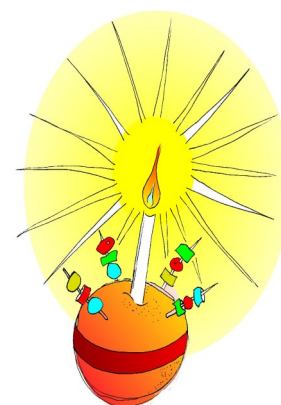
SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 4PM
Our annual Christmas celebration
Don't miss it!



And then

Christmas Day service

10am on the 25th



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/news_letter.html

The deadline for the January 2020 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.

JUST A REMINDER

that the Multi Purpose Games Area (next to the Children's Centre) can be used during the evenings as well as throughout the day. The lighting is accessed at the green box next to the zebra crossing on School Rd, by pressing the button on the side.

The lights will stay on for about 45 minutes, after which the button should be re-pressed if a further period of lighting is required.

Penny Sutcliffe
Hothfield Parish Council

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wkps

weald of kent protection society

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

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

November winners

First prize £23.25 no. 154

Second prize £13.95 no. 16

Third prize £9.30 no. 167

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

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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

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

Village Hall



Regular Activities

Mondays Toddler Sense 9.00 to 12.00am.

1830-2100 tai chi and yoga

Tuesdays 1900-2100 Hothfield short mat Bowls Club

Wednesdays Dog Training 5.30-9pm

Thursdays 10:30-1230 play-days

parent and toddler group

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,

then at hourly rate. (£25.00 deposit required).

DECEMBER ON HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS ⁴



Fly Agaric (Ian Rickards)

This autumn has been a fungus festival, recorded in glorious technicolour on the Hothfield Heathlands Facebook page by regular visitors Val Butcher and Anne Rowe. Autumn rain no doubt encouraged this colourful effervescence and writing in mid-November it's good to see water running in the bogs and feel the spring and/or squelch return to dusty paths. Hopefully open stretches of water in the bird sanctuary will attract some migrant birds this winter.

Congratulations to Anne who in November spotted the overlapping clusters of the inedible crimped gill fungus (*Plicaturopsis crispa*), which is rare.

She has now logged it with i-record.org.uk, which enables the sighting to be verified and recorded on national and county databases, adding to our knowledge and helping guide conservation plans. The names of fungi found on the heathland reflect a wide range of shapes and hues: sulphur tuft, jelly rot, silverleaf, yellow staghorn, turkey tail, purple jelly disc, amethyst deceiver, waxcap, white brain, clouded funnel, death

cap, rosy bonnet, porcelain fungus, yellow brain and clouded funnel are just a few.

The poisonous scarlet fly agaric with white warts (the remains of the protective sheath of the emerging fruiting body) and stems has been very evident this autumn. It has a symbiotic relationship with birch and pine trees; below ground, it has a huge network (mycelium) of tiny filaments (hyphae) some of which coat the roots of their partner trees, increasing the root surface and supplying the tree with nutrients from the soil that the tree itself

may not be able to absorb directly, and in exchange the fungus hyphae receive nutrients (sugars) produced by the tree. Highly toxic for humans, the fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) is food for red squirrels, slugs and fungus gnats. All fungi are essential to their ecosystems. While our hardy volunteers work year-round above ground, fungi work unseen below ground, providing food and shelter for wildlife and recovering nutrients from dead or decaying organic matter and making it available for other living organisms. Garden

ecosystems will benefit this winter from left seed heads and untidy corners in gardens, with logs and leaves for fungus to get to work on and wildlife to hide among.

Also out of sight for centuries on the Heathland was a Bronze-age arrowhead, discovered this summer. Who was hunting what over what sort of terrain and where was the arrow made? The find was made by Lucy Holden.

The days are short now but sunsets on the heathland are spectacular, and KWT staffer and photographer Lucy Carden's tip is to head out an hour before and linger until an hour after sunset for the best shots, and smartphones capture excellent photos. You may also catch sight of a magical murmuration of starlings as they head to their roosts in the trees at dusk.

Our next Sunday task day will be 8th December, starting at 10am in the reserve car park. Potatoes and tea on the fire!

For more info contact Ian on ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk

Happy Winter wanderings to all our readers.

Margery Thomas



Crimped Gill *Plicaturopsis*
(Anne Rowe), Hothfield 2019

Hothfield History Society

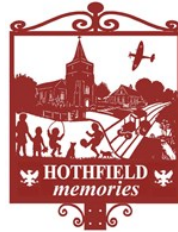
80 years ago – London children evacuated to Hothfield

World War II was declared in September 1939 but was 'expected to be over by Christmas'. The war started quietly with little evidence on British soil that anything was happening. Bombs were initially expected to be focussed by the enemy on London and other large towns and cities, and so children and mothers were moved out from the capital to towns and villages in the neighbouring counties. Up to 850,000 school-age children, and over 500,000 mothers with children under five were packed off to the countryside. The Minister for Health at the time said that it was "an exodus bigger than that of Moses".

In Bethnal Green a group of Norland Nurses were packed off together with their young charges to Hothfield Manor. Norland Nurses in those days cared for children and provided education at the same time. Brenda Ashford was a young Norland Nurse training to be a professional carer and has since written her story, called "A spoonful of sugar". Eighty years ago Brenda and

her fellow Nurses were evacuated along with their large group of children to stay at Hothfield Manor most of which had been given over for their use by the Lord and Lady at that time.

Brenda's book dedicates a whole chapter to her time at Hothfield in the winter of 1939/40 from setting off to Ashford on the train through to when they left the house as sol-



diers moved in (by which time it was clear that Kent wasn't a safe place to stay either). Her book provides a detailed, amusing and sometimes moving description of her stay at the grand house, with the nurses initially finding the old manor scary in the dark. She describes the interior and the fun that the children had playing in the grounds of the manor, collecting eggs and seeing cows milked. Her London charges hadn't seen pheasants before, nor had they had close contact with farm animals and the open countryside unless they had been hopping with their parents. She wrote

"Imagine never having seen a pig, sheep or cow in your life then suddenly being exposed to all of them, aged five, not to mention the sight of the enormous house. Where once horse-drawn carriages would have slowed and aristocratic ladies and gentlemen graciously alighted, now little East End evacuees chased each other in a riot of noise."

"The Bethnal Greenies were in what was once the billiard room. The library was turned over to a communal day nursery for meals, play and lectures. Our kitchen was an old stillroom. Along the walls ancient paintings of past generations of Hothfield's resident family gazed down on us. How shocked they would have been to see the Bethnal Greenies tearing around the grounds."

Brenda described parts of the house including the ground floor washroom where three enamel baths were sunk into the floor surrounded by vast flagstone tiles. The book also includes a page of photographs from their time in our village.

I'm grateful to Ann Sainsbury for lending me the book and for the publisher (Hodder and Stoughton) and author for allowing me to copy excerpts from the book and reproduce parts of it here.

Ideas for Christmas

If you don't buy a copy of Brenda's book then you could consider a copy of the History Society's publication "Hothfield in 20th 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 20th Century book is 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 or visit www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk where other publications are listed with Hothfield connections.

Chris Rogers

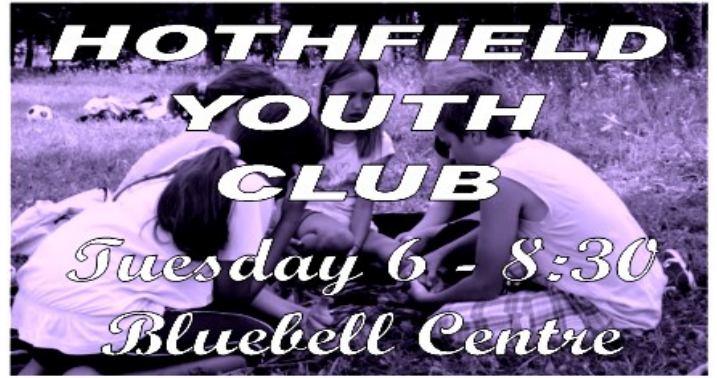


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For more information on courses, areas covered and tuition fees, please go to www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk



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Bluebell Centre

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7 Hothfield Honey - the 2019 season

By Paul Harris, Beekeeper

Honey bees provide an essential pollination service vital for many crops. Without bee keepers maintaining colonies, honey bees would cease to exist in this country. My six bee hives in Hothfield are close to Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve, and keeping my bees happy and healthy is my top priority.

This year started well. The first inspection in March revealed that all the colonies had survived the winter, one was slightly weak but the other five hives in the Hothfield Apiary were strong. The second inspection a week later confirmed that the weak hive was queenless and so it was united with another hive. This was achieved by placing the box containing the bees on top of another box of bees, separated by a sheet of newspaper. The bees slowly breakthrough the paper and the delayed contact avoids the two colonies fighting.

All was well and the numbers of bees in each of the hives increased. The spring build up is essential for a good honey crop and was fuelled mostly by wild flowers especially dandelion. This year there was much less oilseed rape nectar collected which was a blessing as it tends to set hard in the combs.

May is the peak swarming season and, by splitting the largest colonies, I was able to control swarming and raise new queens. So far so good, but then the drought started to take effect. The bee population peaks through the summer and the bees can be expected to fill combs with honey, but not this year. At Hothfield the main honey flow is mostly from bramble flowers but this year it was reduced. I had been expecting to see an intake of nectar from heather which flowered profusely on the

Heathland thanks to the management efforts of the Kent Wildlife Trust volunteers. Bees were seen to be busily foraging on the heather but very little of the nectar was converted to honey. I suspect the dry conditions meant that the heather's nectar supply dried up.

I only take honey from the hives in spring and summer following periods of abundance as this allows time for the bees to rebuild their supplies before the winter. At the end of this season there was a yield of good quality honey derived from a wide range of local flowers, although the quantity was lower than last year. To further ensure the bees have sufficient stores for the winter months, I also check the weight of the hives in the autumn and provide additional feeding if they were becoming light. The bees are now tucked up for the winter and with ground water levels being replenished I am hopeful for a better season next year.

My honey goes straight from the hive to the jar. It is filtered, but not finely, so it retains pollens. It's not heat treated, and nothing is added. If you would like to find out how good Hothfield raw honey tastes, it's available for sale in large (1lb) jars for £5 and small (½ lb) jars for £3.50 including free delivery to your door. Please telephone Sheila on 01233 624105. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my Hothfield customers for your much valued support and kind feedback during 2019, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



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AUNT JEMIMA'S CHRISTMAS STORY

Santa Claus was exhausted. He'd been working hard all year making toys, and now he was at the peak of his preparations for the Big Night. He'd spent the last fifteen hours supervising the elves and fairies, and he was thoroughly fed up with the lot of them. Having checked that everything was ready, he left the workshop and settled himself into an arm-chair with a big cup of tea in his hands and his feet on a footstool. Time for a few hours' rest before setting off on his travels. Woe betide, he thought, anybody who dares to interrupt my snooze.

At this point, the door flew open and the littlest Fairy rushed into the room.

'Ooh, Thanta!' she lisped, 'I have a pwoblem. All the packing is done, all the pwesents are weady, but there is one Chwistmas Twee left over. Just one! Where would you like me to put it?'

And that's why, when you see a Christmas tree, there's this fairy

Photo: Val Butcher



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30TH JUNE 2019**

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