

# HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 13 NUMBER 4 April 2022

This edition available online at [www.hothfield.org.uk](http://www.hothfield.org.uk);  
smartphone version at <https://hed128.wixsite.com/Hothfieldnews>

JOIN US AT THE VILLAGE HALL FOR A

## ROYAL TEA PARTY

Thursday  
2nd June  
1:00pm



A Royal High Tea will be held at the Village Hall with wonderful finger sandwiches, scones and cakes.

We will also be providing a fantastic memento to keep; everyone will receive a Platinum Jubilee Mug!

This celebration of the Queen's 70-year reign is being organised by the Village Hall with help from Hothfield Parish Council.

Volunteers will be very welcome on the day to help.

In order to confirm numbers so we can prepare the Royal High Tea boxes we will be asking that everyone book their place with a small payment.

A ticket is available in Hothfield post office.

Tickets £1 from Hothfield Post Office

(Children attending event to be accompanied)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU



# 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

Rector: Rev. Sandra Marsh The Vicarage Pett Lane Charing Kent TN27 0DL Phone: 01233 713996 email: [revsandramarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:revsandramarsh@btinternet.com)

## THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

### Services in May

Sunday 1 1030 Calehill Parish Service  
In PLUCKLEY, followed by Annual Parochial church Meeting

Sunday 8 1100: BCP Matins

Sunday 15 No service in Hothfield

For services in our other churches, see [www.calehill-westwell.uk](http://www.calehill-westwell.uk)

Sunday 22: 1100: Family Worship

Thursday 26 ASCENSION DAY Eucharist in CHARING HEATH

Sunday 29 Benefice Communion in LITTLE CHART

## CHURCH TIMES

No. 8301 22 APRIL 2022

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

£3.10



The Archbishop of Canterbury spent a lot of time with us recently. He visited the Brain Injury Centre in Hothfield, attended Messy Church in Charing Scout hut, answered questions at the George pub in Egerton, and finally washed people's feet in the maundy Thursday service in Charing.



**'the nature of God'**  
Welby's Easter sermon sparks row with PM  
pages 4, 5-6, 14, 15



**NEWS**  
Ukraine latest  
Churches warn of new phase in the fighting  
pages 10-11



**FEATURES**  
'They all just pop up'  
Robin Dunbar on how religion evolved  
pages 19-20



**REVIEWS**  
dissolution revisited  
the listing of the monasteries  
page 23

### 3 HOTHFIELD in 1798

Hothfield is the next parish northward from Great Chart, and is so called from the *bothe*, or heath within it. The greatest part of this parish lies within the hundred of Chart and Longbridge, and the remainder in that of Calehill. It is in the division of East Kent.

THE PARISH of Hothfield lies a little more than two miles from Ashford north-westward, the high road from which towards Lenham and Maidstone goes through it over Hothfield heath. It contains about 1250 acres, and fifty houses, the rents of it are about 1300l. per annum. It is not a pleasant, nor is it accounted a healthy situation, owing probably to the many low and watery lands in and about it. The river Stour, which rises at Lenham, runs along the southern side of the parish, which is watered likewise by several small streams, which rise about Charing and Westwell, from under the chalk hills, and join the Stour here. The heath, which contains near one half of the parish, consists mostly of a deep sand, and has much peat on it, which is continually dug by the poor for firing. On the east and west sides of the heath, the latter being called West-street, are two hamlets of houses, which form the scattered village of Hothfield. The Place-house stands on a hill, at a small distance from the corner of the heath southward, with some small plantations of trees about it, forming a principal object to the country round it. It is a square mansion, built of Portland stone, by the late earl of Thanet, on the site of the antient mansion, close to the church; it has a good prospect round it. The adjoining grass grounds are extensive, and well laid out for the view over them; the water, which rises at no great distance from the house, becomes very soon a tolerable sized stream, and running on in sight of it, joins the Stour a little above Worting mill; these grass lands are fertile and good fattening land, like those mentioned before, near Godington, in Great Chart. The parsonage house, which is a neat dwelling of white stucco, stands at the southern corner of the heath, at the foot of the hill, adjoining the Place grounds, near West-street. Between the heath and Potter's corner, towards Ashford, the soil begins to approach much of the quarry stone. Though the land in the parish is naturally poor, it is rendered productive by the chalk and lime procured from the down hills. The inhabitants have an unlimited right of commoning with those of the adjoining parish of Westwell, to upwards of five hundred acres of common, which affords them the means of keeping a cow and their poultry, which, with the liberty of digging peat, draws a number of certificated poor to reside here. There is not one dissenter in the parish. Jack Cade, the noted rebel, in Henry the VI.th's reign, though generally supposed to be taken by Alexander Iden, esq. the sheriff, in a field belonging to Ripple manor, in the adjoining parish of Westwell, was discovered, as some say, in a field in this parish, still named from him, Jack Cade's field, now laid open with the rest of the grounds adjoining to Hothfield place.

The plant *caryophyllata montana*, or water avens, which is a very uncommon one, grows in a wood near Barber's hill, in this parish

[The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 7. Originally published by W Bristow, Canterbury, 1798.](#)



The longer, warmer evenings mean that we can get outside. Everything feels more exciting, and it feels good to see our young people running around and having fun. Plans are going well for the Gang Show. Our scouts are leading on this, but all sections will be featuring. It promises to be a great adventure, and we hope lots of people get to enjoy it with us.

We were very disappointed that Charing Races were cancelled. A huge thank you to everyone who promised to bake for us or help. Profits were going to our two explorer scouts who are going to South Africa on an environmental expedition. We'll have to come up with alternative ways to help them



We have discovered a problem at the scout hut. There is a water leak under the building. It can't be repaired, so we have to bypass it. We could have done without this!

Terry,  
0774 8818660

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)

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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# HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN MAY

## Precious Peatlands at Hothfield Heathlands

We have successfully applied for funds, to carry out conservation management and access improvement works across Hothfield Heathlands. The main aim of the 'Precious Peatlands' project will be the restoration of peat bog, which is important for its ability to act as a carbon store, and provides essential habitat for a wide range of wildlife species that depend upon it.

The Precious Peatland project has been funded by an anonymous donor, with additional generous support from Ashford Borough Council and the Rural Payments Agency.

- Over the next two years we intend to carry out work that will:
- Improve access on key paths and routes throughout the reserve.
- We will be improving the condition of key paths around Hothfield Heathlands. This includes raising heights of paths, especially those prone to water-logging and erosion.
- In addition to the 'Precious

Peatlands' project, we are delivering access works paid for by Ashford Borough Council. This work will be completed by October 2022, and involves the creation of an all-weather accessible path through The Triangle and further improvement to pedestrian routes within the main reserve.

- Restore and improve areas of nationally important peat bog and heathland.
- The nationally scarce bog and heathland habitats at Hothfield are constantly threatened by vigorous scrub growth. This scrub shades out species like heath-spotted orchids, sundew and bog asphodel, and removes thousands of gallons of water, drying up the bogs.
- We will be removing scrub, mostly with our fantastic volunteer team, but also with support from larger machinery to help us with the tougher areas.
- We will also install water control features, such as bunds and dams, to prevent bog habitat from drying out.
- Realign fencing across the site. (see map opposite)

In line with our vision for a Wilder Kent we will be mov-

ing towards a Wilding approach at Hothfield Heathlands. Our cattle and ponies are a familiar feature of the reserve, and our intention is to reposition the fencing to allow them more freedom to behave naturally. By removing fencing, we allow the livestock to choose where and when they graze, wallowing in mud when hot and eating the juiciest leaves. There are many benefits to Wildling, another being the ability of cattle to transport seeds across the site, encouraging the spread of nationally rare plants. We will also be installing new fencing, creating areas where wildlife can exist free from human disturbance.

The renewal and repositioning of 2km of fencing will support this, improving the efficiency of our conservation grazing at the reserve.

## Wider Landscape and Connectivity

Work will improve the condition of the existing 5.5 hectares of acid bog and peat fen, and provide the opportunity for expansion of wetland areas across the reserve

up to 10 hectares.

In enhancing the wetland and bog habitat at Hothfield, the project will boost biodiversity and support the myriad of wildlife species, from insects to breeding birds, that can be found across Hothfield's 86 hectares. Kent Wildlife Trust also manage Ashford Warren and Heath Countryside Corridor sites (within two and five miles, respectively of Hothfield Heathlands), which also feature acid grassland, helping to maintain these fragmented sites as havens for wildlife in the busy southeast.

## What do you think?

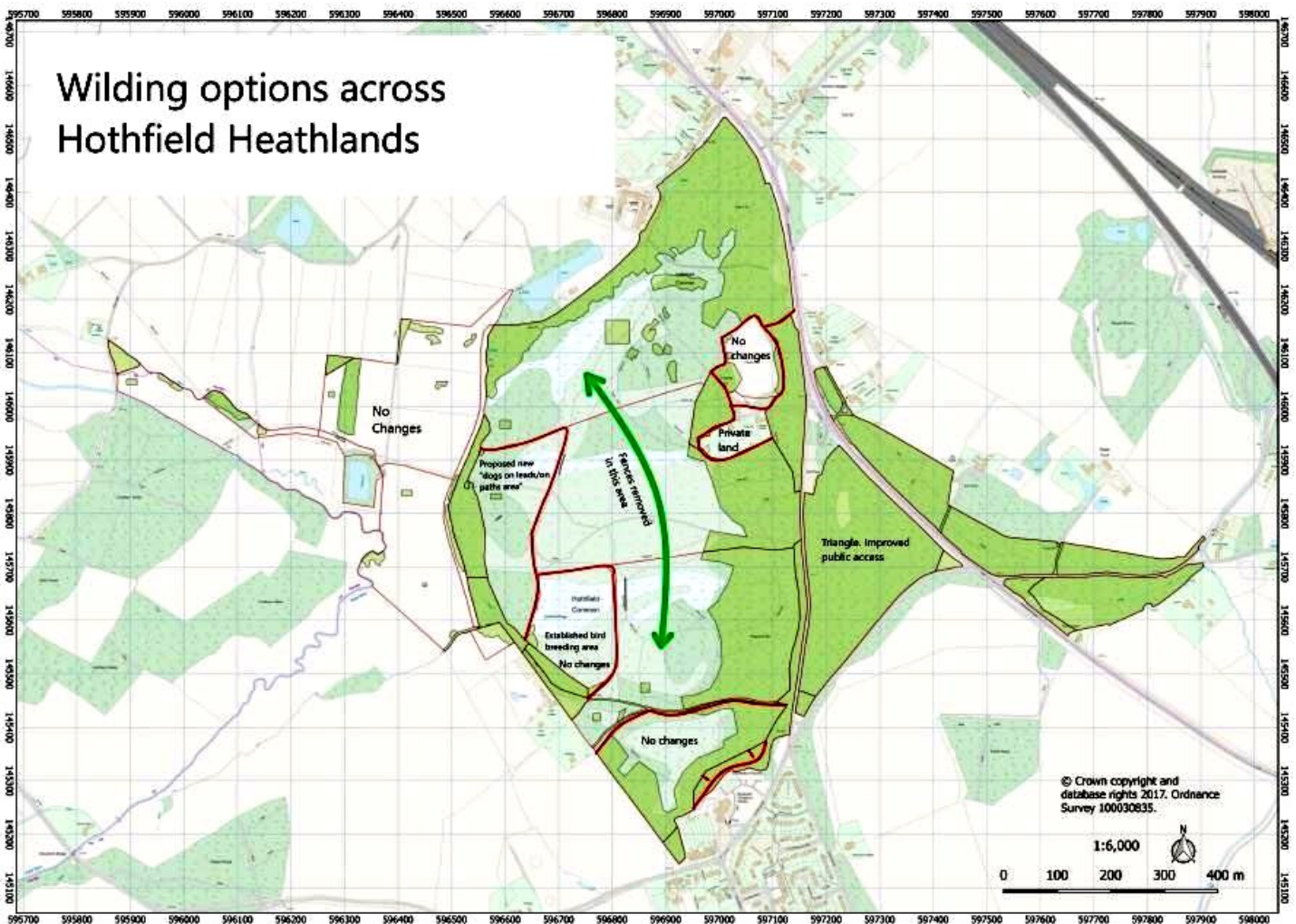
We are still developing our plans and would appreciate your input. Please contact [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk)

## Would you like to get involved?

We need your help to deliver this work. We have lots of opportunities for volunteers to get involved. If you would like to know more visit our volunteering page: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities>



Heath Spotted Orchid,  
Hothfield  
© Ian Rickards



A visit to Hothfield Heathlands is a visit to one of the last remaining heathlands in Kent. After walking through a narrow canopy of broadleaved trees, you break through to reveal the wide-open landscape of Hothfield Heathlands. The spring will bring with it the fresh green growth of heather, gorse and a myriad of tiny plants.

The coconut-scented gorse bushes provide the perfect perch for many bird species, Yellowhammers, White-throat and Willow Warblers all sing boldly from these prickly bushes. Make sure you keep an eye on the floor too, the finger-sized holes of the minotaur beetle are scattered liberally across the bare ground, while the metallic Green Tiger Beetle will be buzzing vigorously around your feet.

A series of waymarked paths allows you to explore most of this unique site, with boardwalks allowing access to some of the wettest parts of the reserve. These wet bogs are home to a wonderful collection of rare plants, many of whom are found only at Hothfield. Carnivorous Round Leaved Sundew, cotton grass, bog asphodel and heath spotted orchids are amongst the most dramatic.

The reserve is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust on behalf of Ashford Borough Council.





### 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)

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## HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks and financed by Hothfield Parish Council.

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The deadline for the June 2022 issue is 20 May.

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.



#### GARDENS

Open Tuesday to Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Tuesday 1st March 2022 to Sunday 30th October **1pm–6pm** (last booked entry **5pm**). [Book your tickets online.](#)

#### HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. Tours at 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm and 4pm. [Book your tickets online.](#)

#### TEAROOM

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. (For our Garden, House & Garden visitors only) No reservations taken.



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY  
15 May 2022, 13:00 – 17:00

Your garden admission ticket will support the work of this worthy charity. Tearoom is open, but please note the house is not open for guided tours. Garden Season Tickets and Historic House Membership cards are not valid on charity days.

TOPIARY  
21 May 2022, 9:30 – 13:00

A morning of topiary training, pruning, and plant manipulation. You will learn about which plants to use, how to get creative and advice on maintenance. Booking is essential, £40.00 including coffee.



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**Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice)  
will be coming to Hothfield Bluebells car park  
every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm.  
For pre orders, please call 07973 410973  
before 1pm Wednesday  
Cash and Card payments welcome**

# ALUNT JEMIMA'S HELPFUL QUOTES

A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists. – Don Marquis

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt. – Abraham Lincoln

An alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do. – Dylan Thomas

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits. – Albert Einstein

I don't believe in astrology; I'm a Sagittarius and we're sceptical. – Arthur C. Clarke

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it. – Bob Hope

I always arrive late at the office, but I make up for it by leaving early. – Charles Lamb

If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito. – Dalai Lama

All the things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal or fattening. – Alexander Woollcott

Marriage is the only war in which you sleep with the enemy. – François de La Rochefoucauld

People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do. – Isaac Asimov

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. – Mark Twain

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. – Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Everything is funny, as long as it's happening to somebody else. – Will Rogers

He knows nothing; he thinks he knows everything – that clearly points to a political career. – George Bernard Shaw

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting the bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian. – Dennis Wholey

Have you ever noticed that anybody driving faster than you is a maniac, and anyone going slower than you is a moron?  
– George Carlin

# HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE STORES

Sunday	0900 To	1200				Post Office closed
Monday	0900 To	1300	1400 To	1800		Post Office closes 1730
Tuesday	0900 To	1300				
Wednesday	0900 To	1300	1400 To	1800		Post Office closes 1730
Thursday	0900 To	1300	1400 To	1800		Post Office closes 1730
Friday	0900 To	1300	1400 To	1800		Post Office closes 1730
Saturday	0900 To	1300	1400 To	1800		Post Office closes 1230