

# HOTWFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY  
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4  
April 2021



# AUNT JEMIMA'S UNBELIEVABLE FACTS

1. All the electricity powering the internet weighs the same as an apricot.
2. A hippo's jaw opens wide enough to fit a sports car inside.
3. It would take 19 minutes to fall from the North Pole to Earth's core.
4. Every 4 minutes and 13 seconds, enough wool is produced around the world to make a jumper big enough for the Statue of Liberty.
6. Six generations back, you have 64 great-great-great-grandparents.
7. In a group of 23 people, there's more than a 50 percent chance that two of them share a birthday. With a group of 57 people, there's a 99.01 percent probability, and for 70 people the probability is 99.92 percent.
8. In 1990, Malaysian strong man Ramasamy Letchemanah used his hair to pull a Boeing 737 aircraft in Kuala Lumpur 17m (56ft), setting a new world record. His daughter also pulled a truck with her hair in 2002.
9. The packaging problems of round fruit can be solved by making them square. In Korea, some apples are grown in plastic moulds so they take on a square shape.
10. It's estimated that the typical pencil has enough graphite to draw a line 56 km (35 miles) long.
11. The most forceful rollercoaster in the world is "Tower of Terror" at Gold Reef City in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the bottom of the ride's drop, people experience a G-force of 6.3g, twice the G-force of a space shuttle launch.
12. Calculations suggest that 136 billion sheets of A4 paper would be needed to print out the whole of the world wide web. If the printouts were piled up, the stack would be taller than Earth.

All these taken from "It Can't be True 2" <https://www.dk.com/uk/book/9780241239001-it-cant-be-true-2/>

## Hothfield Post Office

The very heart and centre of our village  
There's always a welcome and a friendly face at

## Hothfield Post Office Stores

### 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

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## what a wonderful weald help us keep it that way



wkps  
weald of kent protection society

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.

find out more: [www.wkps.org.uk](http://www.wkps.org.uk)  
[secretary@wkps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wkps.org.uk) 07919 871543

**COMING SOON!**

# Hothfield Youth Club!

**Every Tuesday!**  
**8 – 19 yr olds**

**@ the MUGA in  
Hothfield Village**

**6pm – 8pm**

Send us a DM on Facebook or Instagram to be added to the WhatsApp group, where we can keep you updated...

Games, sports, art, and more!

Currently running online Film Nights, Games and free support and advice during Lockdown.

Hope to be back down at the MUGA when lockdown restrictions have eased.



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**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



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

## THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

With very great pleasure it is announced that

## Rev. Sandra Marsh

has been appointed to become the next Rector of the Benefice of Calehill and Westwell, and will take up this office in the spring.

There are no services at Saint Margaret's during lockdown, but we are hoping that this will change very soon. For details, and for online services, see our website [www.calehill-westwell.uk](http://www.calehill-westwell.uk)



### Lovely Hothfield Beeswax Candles

Pure beeswax, handmade  
From Hothfield beehives  
All natural, smokeless burn  
Makes an ideal gift for Easter

Pillar candle with honeycomb detailing  
(7cm tall, 5cm wide) £6  
Skep (an old fashioned beehive)  
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Delivered free to your door in Hothfield

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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 May 2021 issue is 20 April.

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.

# 5 Hothfield History Society

**Photo album found in  
Australia  
– Easter 100years ago**

Betty Shelley in Brisbane, Australia e-mailed Ian Rickards, the Warden, of Kent Wildlife Trust, explaining that she had bought a photo album that showed various scenes around the world, but included a few taken at Easter 1924 at Hothfield Common (as it then was).

Betty wrote:

*"I discovered a beautiful old photo album in a charity shop in Brisbane, Australia. As well as photos of the family in local places in Kent and London, it shows a family taking a journey by car to Italy and France to visit relatives in San Remo. I think some people in this extended family may have lived in Kent. I am a family historian and have been trying to find out who these people are by searching the Ancestry website. After all, they are somebody's ancestors.*

*There are no surnames in the album, but lots of first names. One that I have been able to trace with some success is a child Nina "22 months old on Good Friday 1924". I found a birth record for a Nina Dillistone, born on 8 July 1922 in Kent. Her parents were Harry Dillistone and Vida Bampfylde Bradford. Both were born in Kent. They were living in Thanet at the time of their marriage, and Nina was born there. This Nina Dillistone (married name Saffery) migrated to Australia in 1952 with her two children, Graeme and Vida. This could explain how the album travelled to Australia. I do not have any real proof that this is the Nina in the album, but I thought someone might recognise a name or a face"*

*I like the best clothes and suits that they wore for their days out! This Easter we may be allowed to have very small gatherings or picnics in the countryside. Whatever you do this Easter, please enjoy it and stay safe.*



## Website upgrade

... and finally, just a quick reminder that our website is being updated to suit more modern devices as well as security and accessibility. The on-line catalogue that lists some of the items that we have in the village's archive will be taken off-line, but for the time being the main website is still functioning for everyone to see and send messages or add comments at: [www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk](http://www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk)



# HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN APRIL

The seasons and the covid regulations are changing. Area Manager Ian Rickards reports: 'COVID safe volunteering should be returning in April. We've missed several months of help from our wonderful volunteers, and this has been during the key time of year when we would get most of our conservation management work done. Fortunately, our livestock checking team has been able to keep working – not sure what we would have done without them.' Volunteers are keen to get back; they miss the work, the sense of achievement and camaraderie, even the cold tea sitting on a muddy tree stump!

Meanwhile the birds are increasingly active. Alder cones remain on the tree until after the new spring catkins release their pollen, and two acrobatic finches, the redpoll and siskin been sighted hanging upside-down as their slender beaks probe the small alder cones. They are easiest to spot now

among bare branches, The lesser redpoll, just bigger than a blue tit, is named after the red forehead visible in both sexes. The male also has pink on the breast and face during breeding. They are resident in the UK but less common in the southeast so perhaps these were winter visitors. They like very small seeds and Niger seed in bird feeders has attracted them into gardens recently. Numbers have declined so they are on the Red List.

The siskin is another agile seed eater, inhabiting mixed woodland but also attracted to garden feeders. The black wings have a conspicuous yellow bar and the forked black tail is edged with yellow. Siskins are lively and sociable and resident in the UK although some may be overwintering here from Europe.

Some chiffchaffs have started overwintering in the UK thanks to the warmer climate, but many arrive here from Africa in early spring



and have been heard singing 'chiffchaff chiffchaff' from tree tops on the reserve since mid-February.

This small olive-brown member of the warbler family weighs less than a £1 coin. It feeds on insects picked from trees or snapped up in flight as it flits through trees and shrubs flicking its tail. Chiffchaffs are building nests now, ready for the first of two broods. The domed nest is on or near the ground, hidden in undergrowth. All ground-nesting birds are seriously impacted when disturbed by dogs running and playing freely off the paths. This may cause them to abandon nests or prevent them from collecting food for themselves and their brood.

Many birds need insects to feed their young; later on insect- and seed-eaters find their food among long grass, so planning now to leave a patch of lawn to grow long will benefit bird and insect species.

**Margery Thomas**

Please shut the pedestrian gates that you use. Paths on the reserve may no longer have the consistency of treacle (a volunteer's description) but wearing the right footwear make it possible to walk straight through, enjoying any mud or puddles, rather than round. This avoids widening the paths unnecessarily and trampling the fragile plants, including the seedling heathers and tiny ephemerals that grow on the close-cropped species-rich edge habitats. 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.

**Ian Rickards,**  
Area Manager



# Hothfield Parish Council

# Gardeners' Competition

Saturday 3 July 2021

We are pleased to announce that, subject to no further changes to Covid Regulations, the Competition will take place this year. The gardeners from Godinton House have kindly agreed to judge again, and we will be inviting residents of Hothfield Parish to enter their gardens in the following categories;

**Best Large Garden,**

**Best Small Garden,**

**Best Kitchen Garden,**

**Best Young Gardener,**

**Best Border Design,**

and

**Best Container Garden.**

Application Forms will be included with May's edition.



## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

### March Draw Results

1st prize £22.25 no. 151

2nd prize £13.35 no. 61

3rd prize £8.90 no. 45

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

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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)



April brings lots of hope and expectation! We are due to start face to face meetings and can't wait to get together again. Our risk assessments are done, the hut is ready and the young people are raring to go.

We have had some super Zoom meetings over the last few weeks. Our leaders have been innovative and produced fascinating programmes. Our young people have done their bit too. They have managed to gain some special badges that are only available during the lockdown. We hope that these will never be available again and will become collectors' items.

We are still keen to increase our leadership team. If you want to be part of the adventure please let me know

Many thanks

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/>

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