

Jazz, Christmas Songs, Carols & Canapés

Jack is returning to Godinton House & he is bringing his talented wife Marina, and Stephen on piano.

Monday 15th December 2025 6.45pm to 9.00pm

At The Great Hall, Godinton House, TN23 3BP



Beautiful music in magnificent festive surroundings of the 14th century Great Hall at Godinton House. With a wide range of delicious homemade canapés and drinks included in the price.

Tickets £25 each

(Limited number available).



Friends of St Margaret's Church, Hothfield

Please text or phone Sharon /Nick on 07968 054898

Charity Number 1198602

Last few tickets left!

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 11th Dec Hothfield Village Hall

Arts Society Egerton Art of Celebrating 10th Dec 2.30pm Egerton (see page 5)

Arts Society Egerton Painted Hall Greenwich 14th Jan 2.30pm Egerton (see page 5)

Jazz, Christmas Songs, Carols & Canapes 6.45pm 15th Dec Godinton House

Best Christmas Dressed House Competition 19th Dec

Remembrance

In November we recognise those who have given their lives in numerous conflicts, fighting for good. Many men from Hothfield died during the two World Wars some of whom have no known grave, and many more were injured. Hothfield's churchyard contains two soldiers and we mark their graves with small crosses with poppies to remember them particularly at this time. It is disappointing that this year one of those small crosses was removed from the last resting place of Private Stanley Cresswell who died while based here and had no family to claim his body.



Postcard and Photo Album from the Manor – an update

In October I reported that we had been loaned an album of photos and postcards that had been rescued from Hothfield Place (the old manor) before it was demolished. Many of the postcards had been sent to maids Rose Tyrrell or Agnes Kerr 'care of Lady Hothfield' at Hothfield Place, and one of them had been sent to a Percy Luckhurst care of Lord Hothfield. We have found Agnes on several census in the early 1900s as staff of the 'Hothfields'. Percy was a senior stablehand looking after the Lord and Lady's horses.

Just before our history exhibition at the end of September I had been contacted by a lady, Vicky, who is researching the Luckhurst family who lived at Rippers Cross, Hothfield. She is related to the family by marriage and is the step-great-niece of Percy Luckhurst. She came to the exhibition with a family photograph album, and I showed her the original postcard that had been sent to Percy in 1913 – she was pleased to hold it in her hand knowing that her great-uncle had held it over 100 years before, and to be sitting in the same church where he probably had been expected to worship when working with the Lord and Lady at Hothfield.



Vicky showed me the family pictures in her album which included two men in fireman's uniforms – but these were Canadian firemen. Vicky knew that one of her relatives, George, had gone to Canada for a while and worked as a fireman there after serving in the First World War where he was injured. The exact same photograph was also in the album that had come from Hothfield Place! George Luckhurst had clearly sent the photo from Canada to his brother Percy when he was working at Hothfield. It seems that the two different albums from two different places had at least one common thread, united briefly during the exhibition.

Vicky is researching her family and will update us in due course. There seem to have been many Luckhursts at Hothfield but it looks like they were not all related. Agnes Kerr had married a Percy Luckhurst at Hothfield – but not the same Percy Luckhurst. Confused? Me too! It seems that Agnes worked at the manor with one Percy Luckhurst while being married to another Percy Luckhurst. Percy was the last of Vicky's Luckhurst family to live in Hothfield, whilst George and his wife Myrtle are buried in the graveyard with three other relatives.

Vicky kindly donated two photographs of the children at Hothfield School in 1905, and she will be providing scanned copies of pictures from her family album so that we may also have them in the village archive. The school

photo of the Infants includes a teacher Miss Edith Luckhurst, who is also mentioned in the school log books around that time. But is she one of Vicky's relatives? There were at least two Edith Luckhursts at around the same time, as well as two Percys.

History Society publications

We now have available a new batch of the paperback book of "Hothfield in the 20th Century" with pictures, stories and maps of the village's life during the 1900s. This was published in 1999 by the History Society and it complements extensive research by the Reverend Harry Russell who wrote the history of Hothfield and many of its notable families from as far back as he could up to 1902. We have electronic versions (Word for Windows and .pdf) of both publications. The Rev. Russell's work extends over 400 pages of text (sadly no maps or photographs). The 20th Century book is available for £10 in paperback (comb-bound) or £5 on USB or CD; Harry Russell's work is available for £10 on USB or CD. Please enquire via: hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com or our website: hothfieldmemories.org.uk

Hothfield Parish Council

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

Could You Help Us Find a Home for a Village Defibrillator?

The Parish Council is very keen to install a defibrillator in the village. These devices are proven to save lives and are an invaluable resource in an emergency, but at present, we don't have one.

The challenge we face is that defibrillators must be housed in a secure, heated cabinet, which requires an electric supply. So far, we have been unable to find a suitable, accessible location in the village where one could be installed.

We are therefore reaching out to residents: would you be willing to have a defibrillator cabinet installed on an outside wall of your property? The Parish Council would meet the costs associated with installation, including the provision of an electrical supply.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance at Parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk. The Council would be very happy to discuss the details further with you.

Having a defibrillator in the village could make all the difference in an emergency and with your help, we hope to make this important project a reality.

Video Door Cameras

Following recent discussions with Kent Police, Hothfield Parish Council are exploring purchasing a number of door video cameras for residents who do not currently have one and who feel that having one would enhance their sense of safety and wellbeing.

If you are interested in being considered for a video door bell you would need to have a smartphone and WIFI as a minimum.

Please could you register your interest with

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

An Open Letter to Residents – Keeping Our Footpaths Clear

Hothfield Parish Council has recently been in discussion with KCC Highways about the condition of footways in the village. A number of our pavements are currently obstructed by overhanging vegetation from private properties. In some places, this is reducing the width of the footway to the extent that pedestrians are forced to step into the road.

For the safety and comfort of all residents especially children, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, and those with limited mobility—it is important that our footways remain clear and accessible.

As a general rule, there should always be a **minimum of 1 metre of unobstructed footway** available for pedestrians. We therefore kindly ask all residents to check the boundaries of their properties and ensure that hedges, trees, or plants are cut back so they do not encroach onto pavements or footways.

Your cooperation will help us keep Hothfield safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for your support.

Hothfield Village Hall

Bookings via
www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 10.30am

Dance Visions Zumba

Contact: bookwhen.com/dancevisions

Fridays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Hothfield Village Hall (KCHFT Health Visiting Team)

Tuesday Drop-in Session Weekly 9.30am to 12.30pm

These breastfeeding drop-in sessions are supportive, social, and welcome all pregnant and breastfeeding women and their families, including partners. Trained Breastfeeding Champions from the local Health Visiting Teams will be able to provide information and help if you have a breastfeeding concern. Get more information and support for parenting under-fives at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/kent-baby

In the darkest weeks of the year the mosses and lichens on the reserve stand out well in low winter light, ranging from dark velvet in the woods to almost neon feathery green in the bogs.

The 1951 SSSI citation for Hothfield Heathlands includes twelve un-named Sphagnum moss species. It's the sphagnum mosses that modify the environment and create the bogs, the most important and one of the largest components of this habitat, so rare in Kent. In his 2021 Flora of Hothfield Heathland botanist Alex Lockton reports that fourteen species of sphagnum moss have been recorded here, although at least one has been lost. His detailed assessment concludes that *bog habitat has been well protected by the management*. For 'management' here read volunteers as well, so a Christmas shout-out to them all.



Sphagnum mosses on the surface absorb and filter over twenty times their weight in water, and slow its flow through the bogs. The wet peat below, half-rotted sphagnum in anaerobic conditions, is a huge carbon store. The plants are non-vascular so have no lignin or real roots to support tall growth. They are usually one cell thick, their complex feathery leaves 'about as big as a fingernail clipping' (Hope Jahren: Lab Girl) to maximise water capture and absorption into cells that balloon with moisture or shrink in drought, the small photosynthetic cells in between manufacturing food. With limited nutrients sucked up through the rhizoids and absorbed from rain, fog or snow, the mosses grow only a few centimetres a year, expel hydrogen molecules into the water, increasing the acidity thereby reducing the possibility of competition from larger or faster-growing plants.

The sphagnums on the reserve form complex communities with other plants, including other mosses such as *Aulacomnium palustre*, the combinations of bog-moss species varying as weather cycles and ground conditions change. Summarising Lockton, there are still sphagnum species in the drier bog 1 nearest Hothfield village. Bog no 2 with the plastic wood causeway has hummocks of *Sphagnum papillosum* (papillose bog-moss), often with *S. capillifolium* (red bog-moss) and

lawns of *Sphagnum fallax* (flat-topped bog-moss). The latter is also abundant in bogs 3 and 4, mostly forming lawns in wet parts of the bog and is perhaps the most important plant for the formation of the mire, because it acidifies the water and creates the substrate on which the more specialised bog plants can grow. It is known in only a few sites in East Kent. *Sphagnum squarrosum* (spiky bog-moss) and *Sphagnum palustre* (blunt-leaved bog-moss) prefer the slightly richer water on the edges of bog 4. Red bog moss often shows red and is also found in bog 3; both its sub-species *capillifolium* and *rubellum* occur in bog 2, the former makes very dense hummocks whereas the latter is more spreading. *Sphagnum subnitens* (lustrous b-m) is frequent in bogs 2 & 4, where it is the first species to form hummocks rising out of the *S. fallax* lawn. In the more acid parts of bog 2 it is replaced by *papillosum* and *capillifolium*. *Sphagnum auriculatum* (Cow-horn b-m) prefers the more acidic water in the centre of bog 3. The microscopic life teeming within the bog-moss hummocks and swards is another article. If you're wondering, clubmosses are an entirely separate family; like mosses they propagate by spores but are vascular. A few species grew here in the past but are no longer present.

Your presence on the reserve is of course welcome all year round. If it's armchair weather, check out Kent Wildlife Trust's large online selection of presents for all ages <https://kentwildlife.shop/>. Or consider giving your time and try volunteering next year <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteering>. To all who care for and about this little patch of amazing mossy engineers of, in Lockton's words, extraordinary conservation status, from Ian Rickards, Area Manager and Will Glasson, Area Warden our warm thanks and best wishes.

Margery Thomas

THE ART OF CELEBRATING: CAROLS, CONSUMING AND SHOPPING DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 1820 - 1930



WEDNESDAY 10th December at 2.30 pm (doors open from 2.00)

at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

Mark Connelly: *Professor of Modern British History at the University of Kent until 2024*

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

THE PAINTED HALL AT GREENWICH presented by **Nick Salmond**. *Nick is a Blue Badge Guide who has worked for the BBC for over 30 years*



WEDNESDAY 14th January at 2.30 pm (doors open from 2.00)

at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

**HOTHFIELD POST
OFFICE
New Opening
Hours
0700—1900
7days**

Educational Grants

Uniform



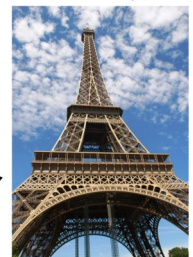
Travel



Scouts Subs



School trips



Dance



University

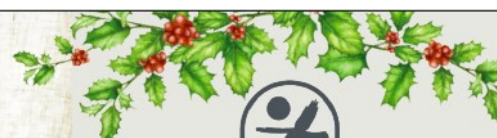


Sporting Activities



If you live in Hothfield and think that Hothfield Educational Foundation could help with your children's education, or know of someone else who could benefit, please do contact us via HothfieldEducation@gmail.com

Order six or more bottles this Christmas for the chance to win a tour & tasting voucher for two people. Free delivery on any six bottles.



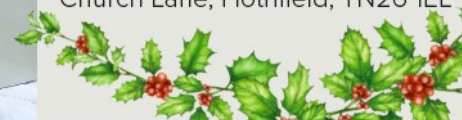
Celebrate this Christmas with award winning still and sparkling wines from Nine Oaks Vineyard

Christmas deliveries week commencing 17th December



www.nine-oaks.co.uk

Church Lane, Hothfield, TN26 1EL



Nine Oaks Vineyard – Sheep Grazing

We wanted to let walkers know that over the coming months we'll be **grazing sheep in the vineyard** as part of **regenerative farming practices**.

Using sheep helps us to naturally manage the grass and weeds between the vines, reduce the need for tractors and therefore increase soil health through less compaction, and encourage greater biodiversity across the vineyard.

This is something we have been aiming to do for many years, and now that this year we have finally completed the upgrade to our perimeter fence we are now in a position to do so.

The flock will most likely be made up of pregnant Romney Ewes. We ask that dog walkers take particular care as the new residents settle in.

During the Winter months when the vines are in dormancy there is a low risk of sheep causing damage to the vines. However, as the vines wake up in the Spring we will move the Ewes on to new pastures before lambing.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at **info@nine-oaks.co.uk**.



A Christmas Message from Katie Lam, MP for the Weald of Kent

It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by, and that Christmas is nearly upon us. Over the past year, I've been out and about across the Weald, visiting schools and small businesses, hosting events with my clubs, and helping people who've got in touch with me. There's such a special feeling around the Weald at this time of year, and I love seeing our towns and villages lit up with Christmas trees and festive decorations.



One of my favourite parts of Christmas is joining the carol concerts across the Weald – and, if I'm honest, eating far too many mince pies while doing so! Last year's Light Up the Weald tractor parade was a real highlight for me, and this Christmas, I'm hoping to catch up with our local Royal Mail delivery team in Tenterden to see how on earth they manage to get everything out on time. It's a heroic feat!

But I also know that winter can be a difficult time for many. Cold homes, poor road conditions, and worries about crime all add pressure when families should be able to relax and celebrate together. That's why this month I've written to every household in the Weald of Kent to share the results of my transport survey, and to ask for your views on crime and policing.

Many people have told me they feel less safe than they used to – whether that's on our roads, in our towns, or at home. Please do take a few minutes to fill in the survey when it arrives, online or by post; your answers will help me raise the right questions in Parliament and work with Kent Police to make our communities safer.

As well as all of this, I've been running events through my Farmers, Growers, and Producers Club, Business Club, and I've unveiled my new Young People's Politics Club! You don't have to come from any particular political party - it's simply a chance for young people to learn more about politics, how decisions are made, and how they can get more involved.

To celebrate the launch, I'm running an essay competition, so if you know anyone aged 16 to 22 who might be interested, please do encourage them to sign up and enter! All my clubs are free to join, and I'd love to see you at an event - you can sign up at this link: <https://www.katieforkent.com/clubs>

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And as always, if you ever need any help, would like me to visit your business, or just have a question, you can always write to me at Katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk.

Charing Scouts

This month has been even more hectic than usual, if that's possible. November is always hectic, beginning with bonfire night. This year we decided to have a whole group bonfire celebration. This was an organisational nightmare of course as we were determined not to cause traffic chaos in Pett Lane. We staggered arrival and departure times, encouraged people to walk, car share and park elsewhere. We also had a brilliant team of car park marshals who made sure it all went smoothly. Another team ran the kitchen producing hundreds of hotdogs and drinks and distributing them. Then there were the bonfire team and the fireworks team and the explorer young leaders who helped young people cook s'mores over barbecues. Well done to all the leaders for a fantastic effort. That just left the young people and families. They built guys, ate hotdogs and s'mores, enjoyed the fireworks and sang around the fire. Overall a fantastic success.

Remembrance Sunday is one of the highlights of the year. We had a fantastic turnout for the parade and Church service. It was great to see such a huge support from the village. Huge thanks to Rev Sandra and the team at St Peter and St Paul. I am so proud of everyone who attended.

In amongst this we invested two new beaver leaders. Welcome! Now we start thinking about Christmas....

Terry Group Scout Leader 07748818660

Saint Margaret's Church

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

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

Services in Dec

Sunday 7th 11.00am The Eucharist

Sunday 21st 16.00pm Carols

For services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk

GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

JOIN THE GARDENING GROUP AT CHARING SURGERY TO GET FRESH AIR, EXERCISE, MEET OTHER PEOPLE, HAVE FUN & ENJOY BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

OPEN TO ALL PATIENTS AGE 16+ GREEN FINGERS NOT ESSENTIAL!

COME AND JOIN US! TUESDAYS 9AM-12PM POP ALONG & SAY HELLO!

THIS IS A CHARING SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP INITIATIVE

Celebration Cakes for all occasions including Weddings

Special bakes include personalised cupcakes, Brownies, Blondies, chunky cookies and personalised biscuits



You can find me on: Instagram - @flossysfussybakes

Facebook - Flossy's Fussy Bakes
Whatsapp/text - 07769 228842

Sheila's Homemade Damson Jam with Damson Gin

Delicious and ever-so-fruity preserve made with this year's lovely Hothfield damsons and homemade damson gin.



Large (13oz/370g) £3.50

Made in small batches

Makes an ideal gift

Delivered free to Hothfield

Sheila: 01233 624 105 sheila.flynn@hotmail.co.uk

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Paul 07703 685143

www.shifthappensdrivingtuition.co.uk

Art Group

There is a small group that meets twice a month on Monday afternoons in Westwell Village Hall.

We enjoy painting, drawing etc, together with a cup of tea and a chat.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Penny Sutcliffe on 01233 634191 for more details.

HOTHFIELD NEWS

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