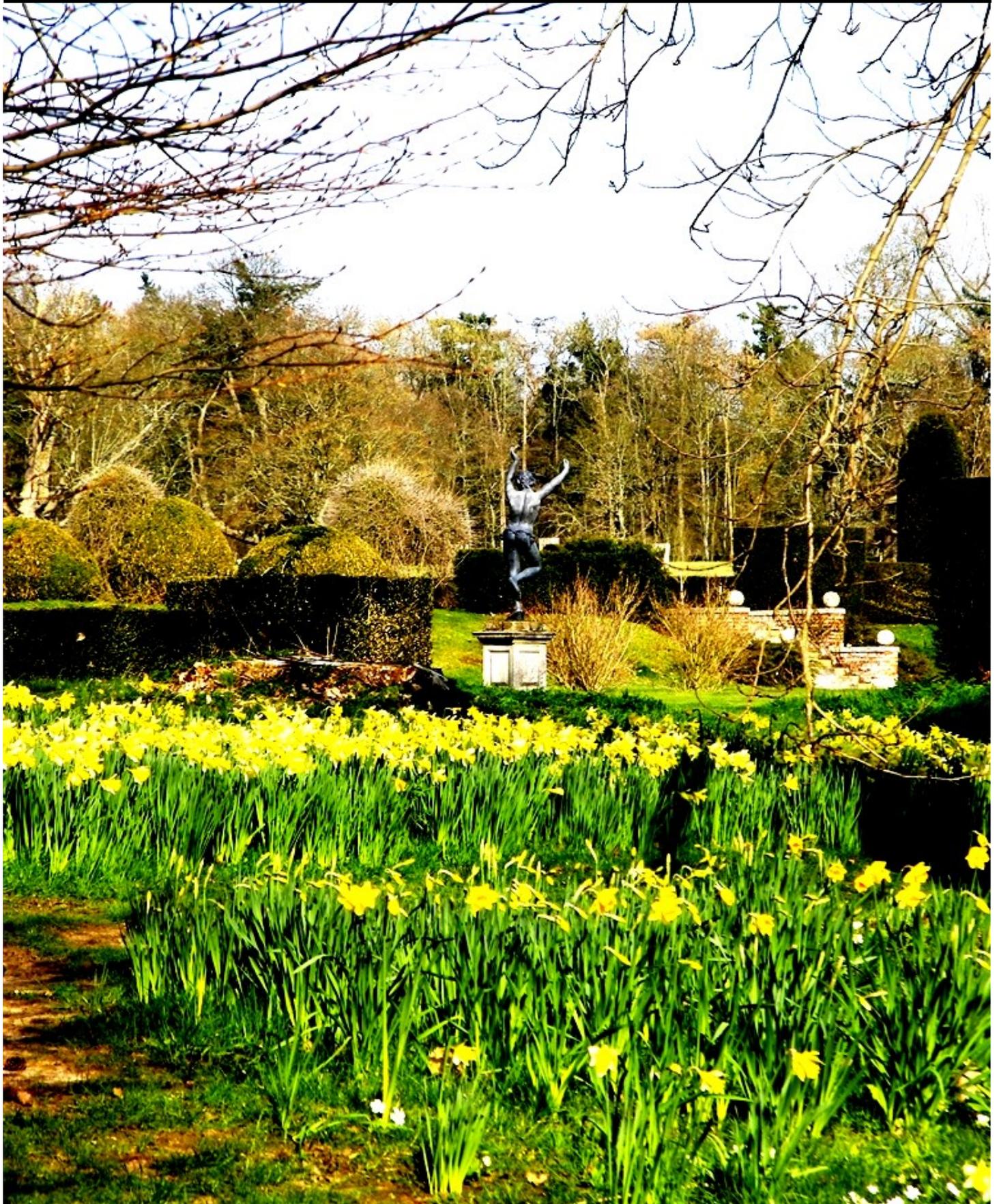


HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3 March 2022

This edition only online at www.hothfield.org.uk;
smartphone version at <https://hed128.wixsite.com/Hothfieldnews>



Saint Margaret's Church



2

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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

Services in March

Sunday 6 1100 Eucharist

Sunday 13 1100: Matins

Sunday 20 No service in Hothfield: for services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk

Saturday 27 1100: Family Worship for **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Lent Courses

Day	Start Date	Course	Venue	Leader
Monday 2pm	Monday 28 th February	Life on the Breadline	The Vicarage	Revd Sandra
Monday 7pm	Monday 28 th February	Life on the Breadline	ZOOM	Revd Sandra
Monday 10.30 – 12noon	Monday 28 th February	reflection on the events of Holy Week as far as the Garden of Gethsemane		Revd Philip Cox
Wednesday 7.30 – 9.00	Wednesday 8 th March	Live Lent: Embracing Justice	ZOOM	Kevin Moon
Sunday 11.00-12.00	Sunday 27 th February	Live Lent: Embracing Justice	Cornerstone	Various

Please contact the leader to book your place and obtain further details

Revd Sandra revsandramarsh@btinternet.com

Tel 01233 713996

Revd Philip Cox postmaster@potager40.plus.com

Kevin Moon kevinmoon810@yahoo.com

01233 713894

3 Hothfield Parish Council

We are planning an event in the village to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June at the Village Hall 1pm, further details to follow. Volunteers would be much appreciated.

Now for some very sad news. As a lot of villagers will be aware, Richard Sutcliffe passed away recently. Richard was a wonderful gentleman and a great asset to Hothfield, in recent years Richard arranged for the printing and distribution of Hothfield News. He will be very sadly missed and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to pass on our deepest condolences to Penny, Jo & Tim.

Take care.

Ian Lloyd, Chair HPC

Planning.

The deadline for 22/00132, 3-4 The Street, has been extended to beyond the next meeting of HPC on March 2nd; at which meeting the application will be discussed.

An appeal has been submitted against the refusal of 20/01644, land behind the Old Nursery behind Thanet Terrace. HPC will be making a submission to support its stance.'



This Spring it really feels that we are getting back to normal scouting. It feels good! All our sections are meeting every week and following a programme that is based on empowering the young people to develop whilst having fun. There are some special events that we are particularly looking forward to:

This year two of our explorer scouts are joining a party going to a game reserve in South Africa. They will be working on conservation and environmental projects- a life changing opportunity. We need to raise money to help pay for their trip. This month we are holding a quiz evening with all profits going to this project. Please look out for details and support them by bringing a team or donating a raffle prize.

We are planning our St George's Day parade and service next month. Because of Covid this hasn't happened for the last two years.

All sections are planning special events for the warmer weather. It wouldn't be scouting if there wasn't camping. More details later

The big news this month is that we are planning the 2022 1st Charing Gang Show. Our scouts and explorers are leading on this and will be planning and running the event on the weekend of 24-26th June. Look out for more details later.

Terry,
Group Scout Leader 07748818660

JUMBLE SALE



Hothfield Village Hall
9 April 2022 1pm until 4pm
Any donation welcome
In aid of the Village Hall and
Great Ormond Street Hospital
07974 763688

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

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 unsustainable 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
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN MARCH

The pace of life, that was quietly ticking over through the winter, is picking up on the Heathlands. With longer days and stronger sun, solitary bees and other early insects are foraging, overwintering butterflies emerge on warm days, caterpillars munch quietly in the grass and leaf litter or on twigs. There's a twitter and flutter of birds in mating plumage. Migrant birds start to fly off (because it's too far to walk, according to an old cracker joke I found recently. Sorry).

One of the earliest flowers is dogs mercury in the wooded areas, with small tassels of tiny green flowers quickly hidden by the developing leaves. Wood anemones will be flowering. I have a photo of them with a sprinkling of snow on 17 March 2018. A few violet flowers will be tucked under leaves. By the end of the month shining yellow celandine will open on sunny days. Bare trees cast complex shadows as buds fatten, and the subtle colours of moss and lichen glow. Fungi are still very visible, while

glossy arum leaves and bramble and nettles sprout early to get ahead of the crowd. Gorse flowers seem to go on and on.

The early catkins of the hazel that light up February with their green-yellow have been replaced by the catkins of the willow, or goat willow, *Salix caprea* (caprea from the Latin for goat). It also flowers before the leaves appear, but unlike the hazel, this willow has male and female catkins (flowers) on different plants, as does the holly. The small oval male catkins covered in grey silky hairs resemble a cat's paw, hence 'pussy willow'. They clasp the twig tightly until several hundred stamens expand from the catkin, each tipped with a yellow anther bearing pollen. This is scattered by the wind but also collected by bumble bees. Female catkins are larger and green, with many short stigmas protruding to catch the pollen. Once fertilised these ripen into minute seeds embedded in white fluffy hair which are then dispersed by the wind. This cot-

ton wool makes a very visible carpet around the trees later in spring. The seed needs bare ground in order to germinate.

Sallow is native here and across Europe and Asia as far as Mongolia, tolerating very harsh conditions. It is a pioneer plant, growing on bare soil and stopping other plants growing under it through chemicals in its fallen leaves. Trees or bushes often occur singly or in small groups, easily hybridising with other species. Sallow has wide roundish leaves with a point at the end bent to one side. The underside of the leaf is downy. It is browsed by mammals and an important food for butterflies, moths and other insects. There are several along the lower side of the boardwalk across the main bog. Willow bark was once the sole source of salicylic acid, the basis of aspirin, its discovery derived from the belief that endemic illnesses had a remedy close by; rheumatism is associated with living in damp places, which is where willow occurs.

Margery Thomas

It's a joy to walk on Hothfield Heathlands, and everyone is welcome to visit.

Please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife. You can help our work by staying on the main established paths and wearing footwear suitable for coping with the muddy sections. Keep dogs close at all times; do not let your dog run off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse where they will disturb wildlife.

Make sure anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter and dog mess, and place all dog bags in the bins. Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots of wildlife in the county, with your help we can keep it that way.

The first phase of the removal of dangerous roadside ash trees will have been completed by the time this is published. Nothing will be wasted, with some of the felled trees left for fungi and wood boring insects, whilst the rest will be used for fuel or timber. <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/ash-dieback>

Ian Rickards,
Area Manager

Blackthorn blossom © IR



Willow catkin © IR



5 Nine Oaks Vineyard and Hothfield Public Rights of Way



NINE OAKS

HOTHFIELD · KENT

As Nine Oaks Vineyard enters its third season, we wanted to issue a reminder regarding the use of the land and particularly the use of the public rights of way (PROWs) by members of the public.

Two PROWs exist on the piece of land now known as Nine Oaks Vineyard.

PROW I67 runs from the gate on The Street towards St Margaret's Church.

PROW I66 begins at the gate and transects both vineyard plots, by means of a pedestrian gate. A second pedestrian gate marks the boundary of Nine Oaks Vineyard and the adjoining livestock fields. PROW I66 is also the route of the Greensand Way.

We are aware that on some maps, including older editions of the Ordnance Survey and even the Kent County Council (KCC) website at low resolutions, the route of the Greensand Way follows an alternative route (marked 'path') down the side of the vineyard. This is not a public right of way. KCC are aware of these issues, and are in the process of correcting them. We are working closely with KCC to update the PROW signage around the vineyard. We have also begun an application to re-route

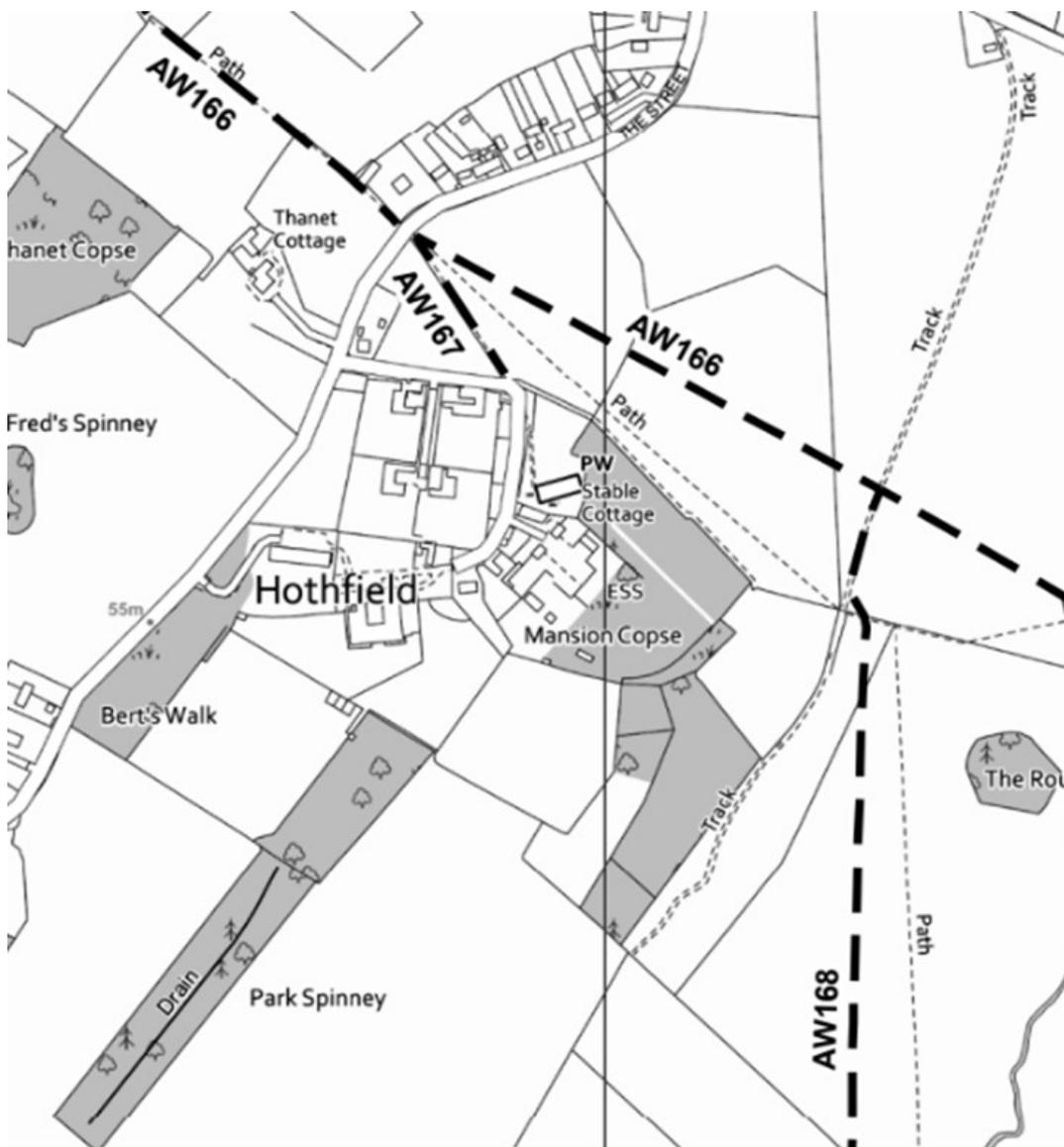
PROW I66 to the alternative route; however, we would like to remind walkers that currently there is no access or public right of way through the five bar gate between the vineyard and the adjoining livestock fields. The gate is closed to maintain separation between the two properties, and for the protection of both the sheep and the vines.

We accept that several routes have been used around the vineyard for many years, and at this time we are content for people to use either the PROW through the vineyard, the path along the wood or that between the Church and the gate between vineyard plots. We do ask, however, that people only use one of the three PROW KCC managed gates to enter or exit the vineyard plot.

If there are any questions relating to the above, please do contact us at info@nine-oaks.co.uk.

We would like to thank local walkers and visitors to the vineyard for their continued support and respect for the vines and our project. We look forward to sharing our wine with you for many years to come.

Helen and Martyn, Nine Oaks Vineyard





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

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HOTHFIELD NEWS

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

Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

The deadline for the April 2022 issue is 20 March.

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.



WORKSHOP: ALL ABOUT ROSES

5 March 2022, 9:30 – 13:00

Get more from your roses. A practical workshop looking at choosing, planting, maintaining and pruning roses to give you the best display, including a hands-on session giving you the confidence to go home and tackle your own plants. Booking essential, £40.00 including coffee.



WORKSHOP: THE ART OF PRUNING

12 March 2022, 9:30 – 13:00

Learn some of the basic rules to understand how to care for and train your plants for the best display. A morning of advice and demonstrations focusing on shrubs and climbers throughout the garden. Booking essential, £40.00 including coffee.



EVENT: NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY

13 March 2022, 13:00 – 17:00

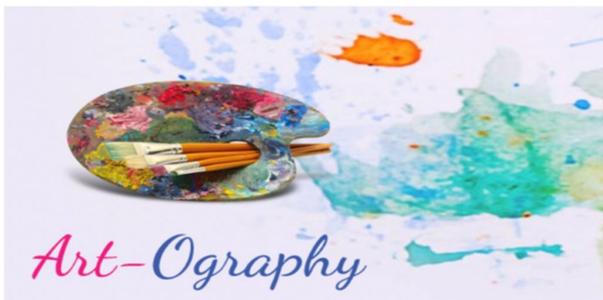
Your garden admission ticket will support the work of this worthy charity. The tearoom is open, but please note the house is not open for guided tours. Garden Season Tickets and Historic House Membership cards are not valid on charity days.



EVENT: MOTHER'S DAY

27 March 2022, 13:00 – 17:00

Enjoy a stroll around the garden taking in the amazing display of spring flowers, followed by a delicious homemade tea in the Tearoom. Please note the house will not be open for guided tours.



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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**

AUNT JEMIMA'S SERIOUS ABOUT SPRING

According to a myth, you can balance an egg on its tip on a flat surface, only on the first day of Spring.

'A little Madness in the Spring Is wholesome even for the King.' – Emily Dickinson

'Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring.' - Lilly Pulitzer

'In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.' – Margaret Atwood

'Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant.' – Native American Indian Proverb (Kiowa)

'Spring is the only revolutionary whose revolution has succeeded.' – Marianne Van Hirtum

'If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change.' – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

'Spring is the time of the year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.' – Charles Dickens

'A life without love is like a year without spring.' – Octavian Paller

'Spring makes the world a happy place;

You see a smile on every face.

Flowers come out and birds arrive,

Oh, ain't it grand to be alive?' – Anonymous

'The only thing that could spoil a day was people. People were always the limiters of happiness except for the very few that were as good as spring itself.' – Ernest Hemingway

'An optimist is the human personification of spring.' – Susan J. Bissonette

'It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want – oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!' – Mark Twain

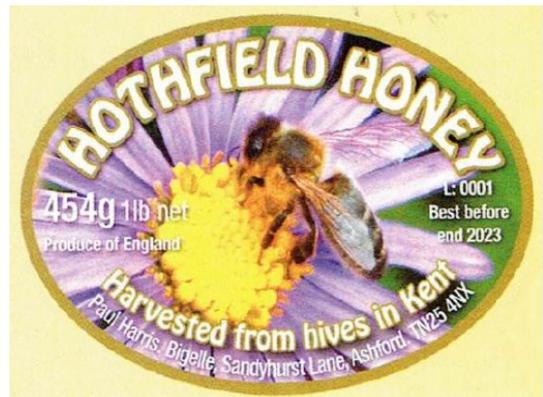
'Spring beckons! All things to the call respond; the trees are leaving and cashiers abscond.' – Ambrose Bierce

'Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's party!' – Robin Williams

'Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.' – W. Earl Hall

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



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