

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 5
May 2021

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.**



ENTRY FORM

Name

.....

Address

.....

Tel. No.

.....

Category

.....

Please return this entry form to Hothfield Post Office by Friday 18 June.

For any further information or queries, please contact Peter Howard 01233 623568 or Penny Sutcliffe 01233 634191.

SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH



2

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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

SAINT MARGARET'S NEW KITCHEN

While we have all been coping with lockdown our beautiful church has undergone a transformation. After many years of fund-raising by the Friends of Saint Margaret's, we finally have a new kitchen and new toilet facilities.

With the easing of lockdown, the Friends are preparing a season of events starting with a

SPRING FAIR

in the paddock opposite the church
on Saturday 22 May

Please come and see us, the church café will be open serving tea, coffee and cakes.

Another date for your diary: Saturday 26 June

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

in the church – more details to follow.

Karen Brock, Chair of the Friends of Saint Margaret's

fsmhothfield@gmail.com



St Margaret's Church
Hothfield

Saturday May 22nd

SPRING FAIR

10am - Noon

Plants, Books, Bric-a-Brac,
Greetings Cards, Cakes, Jams
and much more

In the paddock opposite the
church in Church Lane TN26 1EL

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/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/newsletter/>

The deadline for the June 2021 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.

Hothfield Parish Council

At our Residents' Village Hall meeting back in February last year, one of the major concerns that emerged was speeding through the village. In order to establish the best solution and the options to take, the first thing we need to arrange is a Speed Survey. To this end we ask all locals to confirm exact locations in the village where speeding is a concern. If you can, please confirm these to parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

I am sure many people have noticed the irresponsible littering which is becoming an eyesore and ruining our lovely village. HPC supports our litter-picking group by donating directly to the Hospice in lieu of wages; their hard work is fantastic, but we should all help by taking our litter home or using the many bins around the village.

Sharon Butler is organising a Hothfield Walking Festival (see back page) to showcase the wonderful countryside surrounding the village with walking tours. Sharon needs volunteers, and asks locals to contact her as soon as possible, as we are looking arrange this event later this Summer. Sharon can be contacted on tax@wheatbutler.com

Hope you can all enjoy this sunny weather and keep safe.

Ian Lloyd, Chair HPC

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

Dear Editor,

Please to all in Hothfield, I am writing to you from my post as a former nurse. I find it my current interest to keep myself up to date about the current situation with covid -19. I had to medically retire at 29 with CFS but I am hoping to go back. I am urging you to please take the opportunity to take the tests and have the vaccine the government are offering. Together we will beat this dreadful thing. Thank you. GC

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

March Draw Results

1st prize £22.50 no. 153

2nd prize £13.50 no. 185

3rd prize £9.00 no. 146

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

Collect a form from
HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE
Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

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 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.



wkps

weald of kent protection society

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



BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

We're back! It's so good to be meeting face to face again. All of our sections are meeting at the hut. Numbers are reduced at the moment to maintain social distancing. We are hoping to increase back to normal before too long. The light evenings and warmer weather mean that we can spend most if not all of the meetings outdoors.

We are still keen to hear from anyone who would like to join our leadership team.

Terry Lister, Group Scout Leader 07748818660

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Opening Times

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|
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| 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 |

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN MAY ⁴

Volunteers were delighted to be back working in covid-safe ways, repairing fences and popping birch saplings from late March.

It was a quiet start for the butterfly count volunteer; counts only take place if the temperature is above 13C and sunny, or above 17C and overcast, meaning much of April was just too cold. On 31 March four peacocks and one each of brimstone and small tortoiseshell were sighted. These will all have overwintered as adults. We hope for many more butterflies and moths in May. Gardeners can help by planting butterfly-friendly plants and giving space to some wild plants such as the biennial garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), the food plant of the orange tip. No dragonflies have been seen yet at the time of writing.

Only a few sundew plants have uncurled from their hibernaculae in the upper bog but more will be visible in

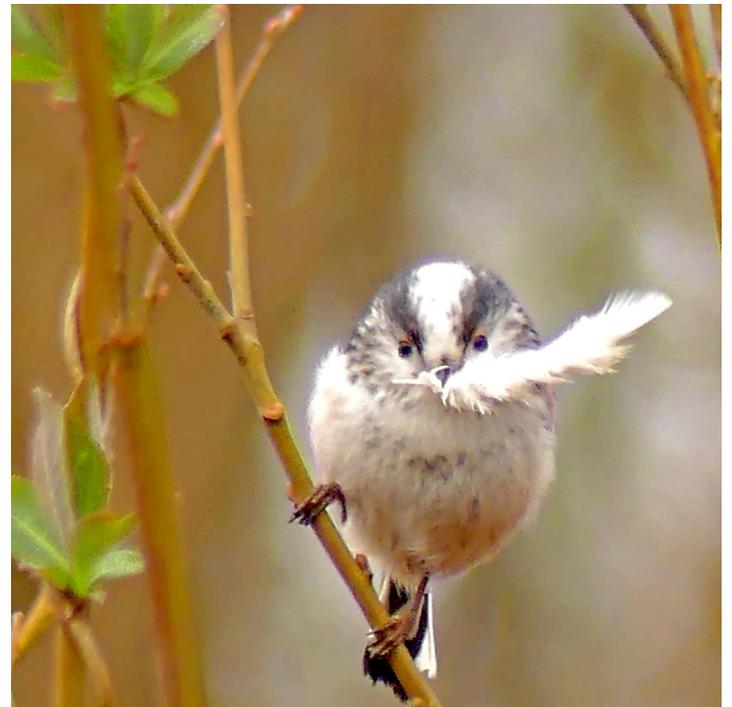
May, as the water warms and more insect food becomes available. Cold night temperatures have kept the water very cold, so the spotted heath orchid in the upper bog and southern marsh in the lower bog may be slow to appear, along with ragged robin and marsh violet (*Viola paulustris*) in the lower bog. Locally common white sweet violets (*Viola odorata*) flowered in April in dappled shade alongside the purple version of this species, with primroses, celandine and some early bluebells. On sunny days in April grass snakes, slow worms and lizards were observed.

Hobbies, snipe and bullfinches are among the April bird sightings. Listen out for nightingales and cuckoos in May. Back in March, rooks were seen pulling hair off the back of the highland cattle for nest material, while smaller birds were collecting spiders' webs. May is full nesting season across the whole



Bullfinch Hothfield 2021

© Val Butcher



Long-tailed Tit collecting nesting material

© Val Butcher



Round-leaved sundew, Hothfield Bogs © Ian Rickards

reserve. While rooks nest high in mature trees, over half of Britain's breeding species, including the stonechat, robin, blackbird, skylark, tree pipit and chiff-chaff, nest on or very near the ground, in the heather, long grass, on open ground and low in the scrub. These are the habitats for small mammals too, all part of an essential food chain. Birds which already face so many threats will abandon nests and nestlings if disturbed, thereby putting at risk the next generation of that species.

Margery Thomas

Please shut the pedestrian gates that you use. Please keep dogs close to you at all times; let's give our ground-nesting birds a chance.

Do not let your dog run and play off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse.

Ian Rickards, Area Manager



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON
MAKING VISIONS: the JEWELLERY of
ARTIST CHARLES RICKETT

Presented by Helen Ritchie

12th May at 2.30 pm

An in-depth look at the unique jewellery created by flamboyant artist Charles Ricketts at the turn of the twentieth century. His intricate and richly-enamelled neo-Renaissance pieces were designed as gifts for his many friends including May Morris and the fascinating couple known as Michael Field

Helen Ritchie is Curator of Modern Applied Arts at The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge.

If you would like to watch the above lecture as a guest please contact Christine Willis, Membership Secretary, on 01233 756377 email: cmwillis75@gmail.com A link to enable you to log in will be forwarded to you.



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TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

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01622 891062 07789304502

kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

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Free no obligation quotes



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.



SK8SIDE

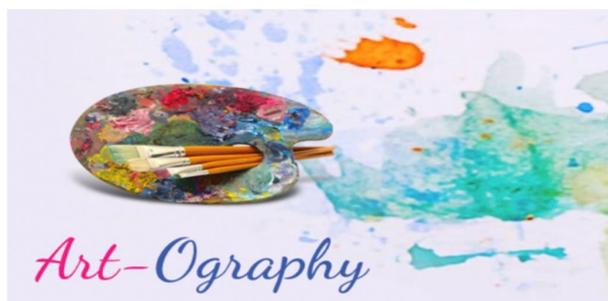
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**Our Fish and Chip Van (The Mermaids Plaice) will be coming to Hothfield Village Hall car park every Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm. For pre orders, please call 07973 410973 before 1pm Wednesday
Cash and Card payments welcome**

AUNT JEMIMA'S FULL OF THE JOYS

- In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours. *Mark Twain*
- The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. *Henry Van Dyke*
- Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' *Robin Williams*
- Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. *Doug Larson*
- The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. *Bernard Williams*
- In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. *Margaret Atwood*
- Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day. *Wilton E. Hall*
- Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring. *Lilly Pulitzer*
- Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems. *Rainer Maria Rilke*
- Spring is when life's alive in everything. *Christina Rossetti*
- When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest. *Ernest Hemingway*
- A life without love is like a year without spring. *Octavian Paler*
- 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*
- The first day of spring was once the time for taking young virgins into the fields, there to set an example in fertility for nature to follow. Now we just set the clocks an hour ahead and change the oil in the crankcase. *E. B. White*
- No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. *Hal Borland*
- 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 the hearts to behold the miraculous change. *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*
- Spring is the only revolutionary whose revolution has succeeded. *Marianne van Hirtum*
- If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring. *Victor Hugo*
- I suppose the best kind of spring morning is the best weather God has to offer. *Dodie Smith*
- The first real day of spring is like the first time a boy holds your hand. *Richelle E Goodrich*
- The first real day of spring is like the first time a baby holds your hand. *Editor*



FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ARE ORGANISING THE INAUGURAL HOTHFIELD WALKING FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 10.00 TO 4.00. THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF GUIDED WALKS OF VARIOUS LENGTHS THROUGH OUR BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE ALL STARTING & FINISHING AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, WHERE A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE FOODS & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF STALLS. IF YOU LOVE HOTHFIELD AS MUCH AS WE DO AND ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Assisting with the walks. We need walk leaders as well as help with organising on the day.
- Helping to enhance Hothfield. We are planning on having a couple of volunteer days to beautify Hothfield.
- Fabulous Fayre. Please let us have any baked or other homemade foods for us to sell.
- Local produce, plants, crafts. If you are likely to have surplus crops such as tomatoes, apples etc, plants or homemade crafts on the day & would like to donate your produce then please let us know.

We will be organising a meeting within the next couple of months to discuss the above and would welcome any suggestions that you have. In the meantime, please keep the date free and contact Sharon on 01233 638505 wheatbutler@btinternet.com or fsmhothfield@gmail.com if you have any questions.