

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 6
June 2021



Delphinium week at
Godinton – see back page



GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

JOIN THE GARDENING GROUP
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!

TUESDAYS 9AM-12PM
POP ALONG & SAY HELLO
OR EMAIL US AT
GARDENING.CHARING@NHS.NET

THIS IS A CHARING SURGERY PATIENT
PARTICIPATION GROUP INITIATIVE

HOTHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL GARDENERS' COMPETITION

Saturday 3 July

Just a quick reminder that you have until Friday 18 June to get
your entry forms to Hothfield Post Office
Any queries, please contact Peter Howard 01233 623568 or
Penny Sutcliffe 01233 634191

TRADITIONAL MOLE CATCHING



(NO POISONS USED)

KATHLEEN PENTLEY

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kpentley@holeymoleykent.co.uk

AUNT JEMIMA'S OUT IN THE GARDEN

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place but intends to stay.

My husband's a water sign. I'm an earth sign. Together we make mud.

I have no plants in my house. They won't live for me. Some of them don't even wait to die, they commit suicide.

Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of sweat.

Your first job is to prepare the soil. The best tool for this is your neighbour's motorized garden tiller. If your neighbour does not own a garden tiller, suggest that he buy one.

A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of.

Growth takes time. Be patient. And while you're waiting, pull up a weed.

Dandelions can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill them that does not involve nuclear weapons.

There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbour's.

I always thought a yard was three feet, then I started mowing the lawn.

The philosopher who said 'work well done never needs repeating' never weeded a garden.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

A woman asks her neighbour, "can I borrow your lawnmower?"

Her neighbour says, "No, he's not home yet."



DELPHINIUM WEEK 12th June
20th June, 13:00 – 18:00

JAZZ IN THE SUMMER GARDEN
16th June, 19:00 – 21:00

NGS GARDEN OPEN DAY - JUNE
18th June, 13:00 – 17:00

TIPS AND ADVICE ON GROWING
DELPHINIUMS

19th June, 11:00 – 12:30

DELPHINIUM WEEK - SUPPORTING
THE PILGRIMS HOSPICES

20th June, 13:00 – 18:00

GARDENS

Open Tuesday to Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Tuesday 30th March 2021 to Sunday 31st October **1pm–6pm** (last booked entry **5pm**). Book your tickets online.

HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 4th June 2021 to Saturday 2nd October. Tours at 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm. Book your tickets online.

TEAROOM

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Friday 21st May 2021 to Sunday 3rd October. (For our House & Garden visitors only) No reservations taken.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON



Enjoy the arts presented by world class lecturers from the comfort of your own home.

Our next lecture is available on ZOOM

SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SHOW BUSINESS

Presented by Giles Ramsay

9th JUNE at 2.30 pm

Poet, playwright and theatre entrepreneur, William Shakespeare became one of the wealthiest celebrities of the Elizabethan age. He also wrote some of the most brilliant plays the world has ever known. Giles examines how theatre moved into the modern era. *Giles Ramsay is an independent theatre director and producer who specializes in creating new work with artists in developing countries.*

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. There is a small charge of £4 per lecture.

Further information about each lecture is available on our website theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Our Society has a membership of over 180 and covers a wide area across the Weald and North Downs. Although currently unable to meet in The Millennium Hall, Egerton our members have continued to enjoy lectures via Zoom.



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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 07395 910317

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

Date for your Diary

RIDE AND STRIDE

11 September. Plan ahead!



We're back in business! Lots of people enjoyed the Spring Fair on 22 May, and the new kitchen got its first real workout. Cream Tea next – see Page 3.



Another date for your diary:

Saturday 26 June

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

Thursday 17 June at 7.00pm Licensing of Reverend Sandra Marsh In Charing church



Come and greet our new Rector!

Services in June:

Sunday 6 at 1100: The Eucharist

Sunday 13 at 1100: Matins

Sunday 27 at 1100: Family Worship



HOTHFIELD NEWS

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Available on line at <http://www.hothfield.org.uk/community/hothfield-parish-council-17945/newsletter/>

The deadline for the July 2021 issue is 20 June.

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

200 years ago: Hothfield's Economy in the early 19th Century

Founding member of the History Society, Bob Rivers, researched the emigration of some Hothfield Families, and looked into the reasons why so many left the area during the 1700s and 1800s. In his research he wrote:

The 19th century began with the rural communities throughout Britain being in a dire state of deprivation, largely due to the rising cost of wheat from which to make bread as a consequence of a series of wars with France that began in 1792 and lasted until Napoleon was defeated in 1815. Wages of agricultural labourers and incomes of small farmers were not rising at the same rate, if at all, so over many years the rural population became poorer and many sank into poverty. Hothfield was not insulated from this national trend. During the period 1800–1815 many owners of small properties had to sell their cottages and land, and barley and oat meal were used instead of wheat flour. During the period 1800–1821 the number of parishioners in Hothfield owning small farms and cottages fell from 34 to 13. Many Hothfield residents were poor and had to be supported by parish charity. The increase of poverty in Hothfield is indicated by extracts from the Overseers' Accounts and other records relating to Hothfield economy:

- 1800. Digging 12 loads of peat for the poor.
- 1801. Potatoes and meat delivered to the poor.
- 1802. Crouch House hired for the poor
- 1804. Coal for the poor house.
- 1809. Digging peat for the



- poor and the poor house.
- 1810. House at Rippers Cross used as third poor house.
- 1812. Very few parishioners were not receiving relief, often as a consequence of the war.
- 1815. Peace with France, but distress continued for many years. The sharp fall in prices of wheat, barley and oats made many tenant farms uneconomic and farms were handed back to the owners.
- 1825. Digging of peat ceased.
- 1824 to 1831. During this period the cost of flour rose from 14 shillings and 2 pence for 10 gallons to 3 shillings for 1 gallon, when some men were earning as little as 9 shillings per week.
- 1835. The price of 1 gallon of flour had reduced to 1 shilling and 4½ pence.

The wars with France affected Hothfield in a number of ways. In 1803 the French had assembled an army at a camp at Boulogne for the invasion of England. To counter this threat a series of beacons were constructed throughout Kent to be ignited in the

event of an invasion to spread the news that the invasion had occurred. The beacons nearest to Hothfield were at Westwell and Pluckley. Press gangs forcing men into the Royal Navy were operating along the coast but there is no record of them reaching Hothfield. It is, however, recorded that sons of some people being supported by parish charity were taken into the navy. Many Hothfield men were in a local militia formed to support regular army units in the event of the invasion. The invasion was abandoned by the French after British victory at Trafalgar. The human consequences of the war were apparent to Hothfield residents during the war and afterwards. The widows and children of soldiers and sailors killed in battles were often left homeless and destitute and could only wander around the country, from parish to parish, finding sleeping accommodation and food as best they could. They were often given passes by the government to show that they were

not vagrants, and which authorised Overseers to give them assistance from the parish poor fund before they left Hothfield to continue their nomadic existence. These and similar reasons drove Hothfield residents to seek new lives in Australia or the Americas, from where descendants occasionally contact us in search of family records. Emigrants to Australia and America exchanged their humdrum lives in their rural homes for the opportunity to make significant contributions to the creation and development of settlements in their new countries. Many rose to prominent positions of influence in those communities. Some went on to own farmland and prosper financially to a greater extent than would have been possible Hothfield.

Chris Rogers



HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN JUNE 4

We all hope the weather warms up and brings on a fine June flush of flowers, butterflies, moths and insects. In May the first two large red damselflies and two small heaths of the year were sighted, along with orange tips, brimstones, small whites, red admirals and one painted lady on an early May transect. Twenty-five species of bird were spotted, including two singing nightingales and lots of blackcaps, whitethroats and yellowhammers, plus one willow warbler near the main noticeboard. Thanks to volunteers Rob Insall and Val Butcher for these updates.

As we wait for the orchids to appear, the colony of low-growing lousewort scattered across most of the open wet ground is worth a close inspection. Dense short spikes of hooded pink flowers like miniature snapdragons but with crinkle-edge sepals rise above tiny ferny leaves, in damp acid soil at the edge of the bog. Lousewort flowers here from May to August along with tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and tiny blue and white heath milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*). The lower flower petals form a landing platform for bees and moths seeking nectar and pollen. The sepals seal up later into a capsule to contain the seeds. The plant is green, tinged purple at times, so can photosynthesise, but is also partially parasitic, growing few roots and penetrating the roots of nearby grasses with white suckers to extract minerals and water.

The common name comes from the old belief that animals feeding on the plant would acquire lice. It is more likely that anything feeding in the

poor habitats where lousewort thrive was in poor lice-ridden condition anyway. *Pedicularis* is from the Latin *pediculus* for louse, *sylvatica* means of the woods. In Britain the plants occur in the open but may be found in woods in Europe, as the French common name *pédiculaire des bois* indicates.

It is common in the west and north of Great Britain, less so in the South-east where much of its preferred habitat of damp rough ground has been altered for other uses. Like many of the plants on this heathland, it cannot compete with more vigorous species.

There are over three hundred lousewort species, only this and marsh lousewort grow in the British Isles. There are eight species listed for the American Northwest Pacific coast. Older plant books will place them in the figwort (*Scrofulaceae*) family along with foxglove and speedwells, but they and other hemi-parasitic plants, common cow wheat, red bartsia, yellow rattle and eyebright, have been moved to the broomrape family, (*Orobanchaceae*, from Greek *orobos*, a type of vetch, and *anche*, to strangle). Red bartsia is present on other Kent Wildlife Trust reserves including Ham Fen. Yellow rattle is very useful to gardeners developing wild lawns as it parasitises and weakens the grasses, and has been used most successfully in the wild garden at Godinton House. It germinates best when sown onto thinly vegetated or bare soil and then trodden in.

Margery Thomas



Lousewort © Ian Rickards



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



Dormouse Box Builders wanted

One of our Trust woods, Spong Wood, has been monitored for dormice longer than any other woodland in Kent.

Dormouse monitoring is carried out by installing dormouse nest boxes in trees (think of a bird box with the hole in the back against the tree). Licenced surveyors check these boxes during the summer, looking for dormice nests and dormice themselves.

Most of the 50 boxes at Spong wood are on their last legs and we would like to replace them.

If you think you would enjoy building some boxes and have the space and tools for cutting thin planks down to size and putting the boxes together, we would supply the material (plywood sheets or planks).

To give you some idea of what it will involve, instructions for building can be found here.

Please contact Ian on Ian.Rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk if you think you would like to help.



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, HOTHFIELD TN26 1EL

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

£6.50 Per Person

SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2021
2-4.30 PM

CAKES AND STRAWBERRIES
FOR SALE



Our return towards normality continues. We are able to meet at the hut but the fine weather and light evenings allow us to spend the time outdoors. After such a long time without being able to teach practical skills it's so rewarding to help our young people to follow maps, use a compass and enjoy the countryside. If you see us out and about give us a wave!

We are also starting to think again about starting our explorer unit so that scouts who are aged 14 can continue their scouting in Charing. This means we are looking for more leaders in any of our sections, from beavers who start at age 6 to explorers who continue up to 18.

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660

For full minutes of meetings of Hothfield Parish Council, please either see the notice-board 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

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

March Draw Results

1st prize	£22.75	no. 208
2nd prize	£13.65	no. 43
3rd prize	£9.10	no. 143

Cost to enter: only £1 per draw,
£12 per year or £6 for six months.
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find out more: www.wkps.org.uk
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543

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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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