



Nine Oaks Vineyard presents MacHamLear  
24 & 25 June - See page 2

Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm Wednesday 14 June at the Bluebells Centre

Nine Oaks Theatre 24 & 25 June presents 'MacHamLear'

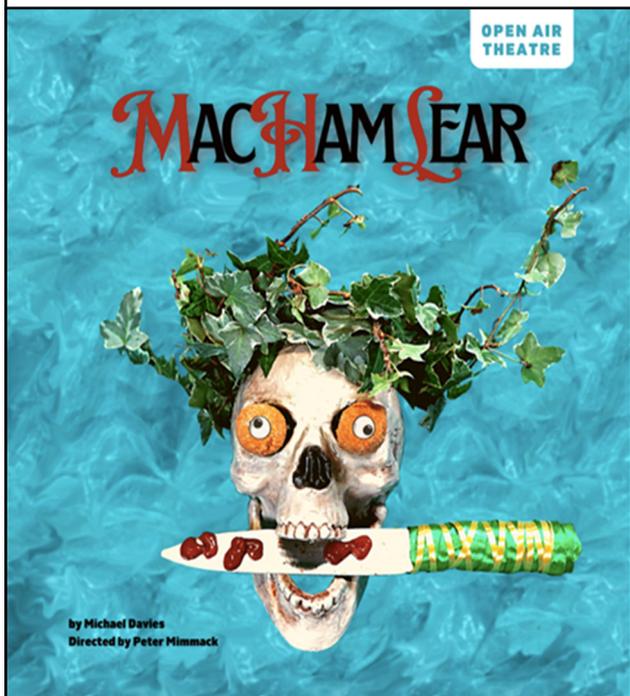
Flower & Craft Show at the Village Hall 5 August 2023 (see page 7)

Nine Oaks Theatre 20 August presents 'Peter Rabbit' & 'A Midsummer Nights Dream'

## Nine Oaks Vineyard – June Update

2

June brings us to one of the most exciting chapters of the vineyard yet – our first public event! On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, Heartbreak Productions are bringing a brand new comedy to Nine Oaks. Here's a little bit more about what to expect:



Calling all Shakespeare lovers! You are invited to take part in a unique experiment that will answer the question keeping literary scholars up at night... which play is the best the Bard has to offer? Help us to decide by being part of an exciting, new theatre competition *Will of the People*. In Round One, we'll be pitting *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *King Lear* against each other, as some of the finest actors (that we can afford!) make their case for why their tragedy should be performed that evening, to win a place in the next round of the competition.

Heartbreak Productions invites you to come and cast your vote at the Battle of the Bard. Performed in the open-air, *MacHamLear* is a farcical piece of new writing from award-winning playwright Michael Davies that shamelessly exploits the genius of England's most celebrated writer. Grab your copy of the *Complete Works*, a chair/blanket, weather appropriate gear, and a few nibbles, and prepare to be tickled pink as the three iconic plays are performed with passion, pep, and punch.

Tickets are selling well but there is always room for a few more! We will have a fully stocked bar including our own rosé and chardonnay by the glass so do join us among the vines. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on and something to eat. Fingers crossed for the weather! Book tickets through Heartbreak's box office,

[www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/tickets](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/tickets)



In other news, the vines are thoroughly awake now and thriving despite the late and unbelievable hail storms we've suffered! The cropping potential looks good across both plots so we are currently hoping for a solid yield of chardonnay, pinot noir, pinot meunier and bacchus grapes. We recently planted a further 100 vines as replacements for those that haven't grown properly, or filling in some gaps.



Our still chardonnay from the 2022 harvest will arrive in shops (starting with our very own village post office) in early June – we can't wait to hear what you think!

We have also said goodbye to the longhorn cattle, who have returned to the Heathlands. They have done a fantastic job grazing and trampling the ground next to the vineyard and we look forward to seeing the increase in wildlife their efforts should bring. We will miss seeing the cattle every day, but did you notice? They will always appear on the label on our Hothfield wines.

Helen Matheson-Pollock Co-founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard

# 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](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)

## Your Parish Council



We had a fantastic Coronation Party with a great turn out. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the incredible cakes baked by Flossy Fussy Bakes, a nice cuppa and everyone also received a Coronation Medal to keep.

Children loved the bouncy castle with lots in fancy royal dress. We had three winners of the Best Dressed Queen competition. The raffle was very popular with a range of great prizes, star prize a bottle of Nine Oaks new rosé. The raffle proceeds were donated to Kent Wildlife our local charity.



## 1st Charing Scout Group

What a month we've had! It is so good to see our young people outside enjoying real scouting. The coronation celebration was great fun. The whole group got together to make crowns, ice crown biscuits, take part in an obstacle course and a tug of war competition. It was great to see the older ones helping and supporting the younger ones. Then there was the campfire. I'm sure the whole village heard us sing God Save the King.

Scouts had a very successful camp despite muddy ground and some rain. The tents came back wet so there was a juggling act to hang them up to dry in the hall but only when others weren't using the building. Annual district cub camp is always over the late spring bank holiday, so we are getting ready for that as I write this. Hope the weather is good. Beavers are looking forward to their sleepover at the end of the month.

The scouts litter pick was very successful. We were very pleased at how clean the alder beds were, but we found plenty of litter elsewhere!

We are so proud of our leaders and young people who gained their Queen's Scout award and Duke of Edinburgh awards. There was a presentation evening in Ashford and a presentation at Buckingham Palace. These will be the last Queen's Scouts for quite a time. We are looking forward to our next King's Scouts.

**Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660**

## Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer

PSE 59727 Andrew Judd

Police Station, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1BT

Tel: 01233 896151 - please leave a message and I will return your call.

## The Plight of the Bumblebee

Talk by Nikki Gammans & Aydan Khan  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust



Monday 5th June, 7.30pm

St Stephen's Church Hall  
Hales Drive, Canterbury, CT2 7AB

Talk combined with Friends of Kingsmead Field AGM

## 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 Village Hall

Bookings via  
[www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hothfieldvillagehall.co.uk)

### Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

[www.targetshootingschool.co.uk/ashford](http://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 @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Fridays @ 18.30

Contact: John 07492 862974

# HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN JUNE

May was a busy month on the reserve, volunteers repairing gates and electric fences, 'popping' trees - stumps have to be fully removed with the aid of a tool called a 'popper' - and using the popped trees to build dead hedges from cut brushwood woven around stakes. David Rayner reports that the 2023 bracken bashing season began with a comprehensive masterclass from Ian Rickards on scythe handling, sharpening and maintenance.

- There was a report of a displaying Nightjar competing with the songs of Nightingales very late at night.
- Late April had seen the first chilly night out for the hardy moth recording volunteers, but only 13 moths found not even any bats to keep them amused. .
- May brought Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Bogbean in the pond, lizards, slow worms, the first orchids, hail, rain !



In May the team said goodbye to Aaron Hart a great contributor to the team, who is going to work for London Wildlife Trust. Meanwhile our new Area Warden, Will Glasson (see left) is enjoying settling in. Will is 23 and from Maidstone, always interested in the natural world, he used to bird-watch on Oare Marshes with his Grandpa. He studied zoology at Sussex University, basing his dissertation on amphibian communities on a field trip to Ecuador. He helped found and was co-president of the University Wildlife and Conservation Society. Graduating mid-Covid in 2020 meant finding work was a challenge, but he secured a residential internship with the RSPB at Farnham and Hazeley Heath, followed by work as site ranger for the Wyre Council based in Blackpool. He says "I am really enjoying the work I am doing at KWT particularly on Hothfield Heathlands. I already feel

like a member of the team. I can't wait to see what other opportunities this job will offer me!"

Last November a Dartford Warbler was sighted on the reserve and to everyone's delight has stayed, enjoying the gorse for perches from which to sing and in which to forage safely for insects and caterpillars. Most warblers migrate but this is a UK resident, so there is hope that they might nest and breed here. By June the first brood, hatched in late April, will have left the nest and a second brood is always likely, possibly even a third. The nest is built close to the ground, protected by gorse or rangy mature heather, so it is vulnerable to disturbance all summer. It's a secretive bird, with muted colouring of dark brown/slate grey, a touch of rust on the wings, vinous chestnut (John Gooders) underparts, a red eye ring and head feathers often puffed out, adding a touch of punk. The flicking long tail is characteristic and you might spot a small flying shape bobbing between gorse bushes into which it quickly disappears.



In spring males sing a slightly scratchy, rambling warble from the top of a gorse bush or in a bouncing song flight, and it has a harsh call note. My bird book of 1995 gives 200-300 pairs, recovering from the disastrous freezing winter of 1962-3, when they crashed to ten pairs. (That winter I saw a Pigeon frozen in flight lying on the snow on the Somerset Polden Hills, soft colours sad against the stark snow.) There are now 3000 pairs of the Dartford Warbler and while warmer winters will have helped numbers increase, being so small and relying mainly on insects and their larvae, they are still vulnerable in prolonged low temperatures or heavy snow cover when even their winter supplement of spiders and berries disappear. It was named after Dartford in 1773, as the first description of it by the Welsh naturalist, Thomas Pennant as a breeding bird was based on two specimens obtained from Bexley Heath, where it hasn't been since early last century. We hope it succeeds here.

Margery Thomas

**A message from Ian Rickards, Area Manager:** The cattle and ponies are back on the main reserve and we also have the sheep back on the fields out towards the river. The livestock are essential to help us manage the reserve. They will munch on the scrub, prevent fast growing species from smothering the smaller species. They'll create bare ground and hoof prints to help new plants set seed and germinate, even their dung is important for dung beetles and many other insects. Birds are able to recognise the difference between predators and herbivores, so these guys don't disturb nesting birds in the same way that dogs would. You will often see birds following the livestock catching displaced insects and even picking hair from their backs for nesting material. **TICKS:** Be tick aware for dogs and humans throughout the summer; guidance is available from [publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2014/03/24/tips-and-tricks-to-stay-safe-from-ticks/](https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2014/03/24/tips-and-tricks-to-stay-safe-from-ticks/)



IMDT TRAINED  
FULLY INSURED  
BASED IN HOTHFIELD, ASHFORD

GRACE'S PAWSOME POOCHES

DOG WALKING  
GROUP OR SOLO

1-2-1 DOG TRAINING

RECALL AND LOOSE LEAD  
TRAINING WALKS

WELFARE POP-INS

DOG BEHAVIOURIST

PUPPY CLASSES

1-2-1 PUPPY TRAINING



www.gracespawsomepooches.com  
07507703287 gracespawsomepooches@icloud.com




# THE GRANARY SPA

Holistic & Beauty

## Can you beat hay fever?

Whilst I love that spring is finally here, I dread the itchy eyes and sniffles that arrive at the same time. But I am not alone, 21 million people in the UK are said to suffer with hay fever! Symptoms are usually worse between March and September, when there is a high pollen count. There are some natural things we can do to help beat some of the effects of hay fever. I prefer the natural route as allergy tablets make me very drowsy. Take a pre-bedtime shower. This removes pollen from our hair and skin that otherwise would be tucked up with us for eight hours. Vaseline. A little vaseline rubbed around each nostril helps to stop allergens entering our bodies. Pollen can stick to clothes, so change your outfit when you go indoors, change bedding and PJS regularly too. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes. Eat foods rich in quercetin such as green vegetables, berries and apples as these help to suppress histamine production. Chamomile tea has antihistamine and anti-inflammatory qualities. Avoid alcohol, unfortunately it is packed with histamines (say no to the pims!). Sadly for some of us on the highest pollen count days, it may be we have to stay indoors or plan a trip to the beach where the sea breeze blows the pollen inland. What a relief!

# 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



# We're hiring!

We're looking for **Nurses, Healthcare Assistants and more at Hothfield**

At Hothfield Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Neurological Centre we look after adults with a brain injury or other neurological condition. We're committed to helping every person we support feel safe, happy, empowered enabling them to live the best life possible.

We're looking for **Healthcare Assistants, Nurses, A Service Manager, Housekeepers, Kitchen Assistants and Cooks** to join our passionate team and help those with complex needs live their best life. We provide personal career pathways and training that enables you to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise.

**Thinking of a career change?**

We offer full training for our Healthcare Assistants and Domestic Roles such as Catering Assistants and Housekeepers so, no experience? No problem!

**What we offer:**

- Full time and Part Time roles
- Professional development & career progression
- Active Rewards retail discount scheme
- Enhanced sick pay
- Enhanced maternity pay
- Refer a Friend bonus

Please get in touch to register your interest in working with us by contacting the team on:

**01233 643272**

Bethersden Road, Hothfield, Kent, TN26 1AZ

careers@activecaregroup.co.uk

activecaregroup.co.uk/careers





## Sheila's Homemade Jam: Damson with Damson Gin

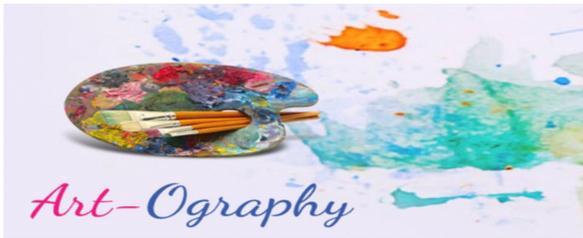
Delicious and ever-so-fruity jam made with lovely Hothfield damsons and homemade damson gin.

Large (13oz/370g) £3.50  
Makes an ideal gift  
Made in small batches  
Deliciously fruity

Delivered free to Hothfield

Sheila: 01233 624 105  
hothfieldhoney@outlook.com





*Beautiful original portraits  
professionally painted by local artist  
Lyndsay Matthews BA (Hons)  
at prices that won't break the bank  
Call Lyndsay on 07517 911606  
[www.art-ography.co.uk](http://www.art-ography.co.uk)*



Tel 07769 228842

[Flossyfussybakes@gmail.com](mailto:Flossyfussybakes@gmail.com)  
Instagram: Flossyfussybakes

**NATIONAL ENGRAVERS**  
More than just engravers

• LABELS • AWARDS • SIGNS • TROPHIES



01233 840999

[www.national-engravers.co.uk](http://www.national-engravers.co.uk)

## 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](http://www.learnitalianinkent.co.uk)

**Sarah-Jayne's**  
Mobile Hairdresser  
Providing friendly Service  
Affordable prices without  
leaving your home  
Contact Sarah-Jayne 07545 460270  
Established over 30 Years

Enhanced  
DBS  
City & Guilds

## RENEW Gardening Services

Joseph Ellis

Phone number: 07753174115

Email: [renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com](mailto:renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com)

£15 per hour

Free no obligation quotes



### HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council.

Email: [ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk](mailto:ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk)

Letters and articles for publication are always welcome, deadline for inclusion is 20th Monthly. 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 Craft and Flower Show 5 Aug 2023

Growers, bakers, candlestick makers - join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August at Hothfield Village Hall for the first annual Hothfield Craft and Flower Show! Free competition entry for a wide range of categories covering everything and anything (not quite) that is grown, made or produced in Hothfield. A full list of categories is detailed below, but if you have something that you would like to enter that we haven't covered then do drop us a line. Children are welcome to enter all categories, but there are some specifically for children too.

12 – 4 PM in the Village Hall, come throughout the day to view the best produce. £1 entry on the day, light refreshments available. Please register your interest in a specific category not detailed below with Helen at [hjmathesonpollock@gmail.com](mailto:hjmathesonpollock@gmail.com).

### Category A: Flowers

- 1) 3 Annuals, stemmed in a vase
- 2) 3 Perennials, stemmed in a vase
- 3) 3 Pansy heads 4) 1 Rose
- 5) A perfect but lonely flower in a vase
- 6) 3 Gladioli 7) 3 Dahlias, any type
- 8) 6 Sweet peas 9) Pot Plant (Max. pot 8")
- 10) Tallest sunflower (photograph with measurement will suffice!)

**Category B: Vegetables** - Collection of 6 different types of veg on a tray, only one of each 11) 3 White potatoes 12) 3 coloured potatoes 13) 3 beetroots, globe or round 14) 3 carrots, any variety 15) 3 parsnips 16) 1 cucumber 17) 2 courgette 18) 1 squash 19) 6 Runner beans 20) 6 Dwarf beans 21) 3 onions from set, dressed 22) 5 shallots 23) 3 garlic bulbs 24) 3 peppers, sweet or chilli 25) 2 sweetcorn 26) 3 leeks 27) Vegetable Marrow 28) 1 Lettuce with root 29) 4 Tomatoes 30) 6 Plums 31) 4 Cooking apples 32) 4 Dessert apples 33) 6 soft fruit, e.g. raspberries, blackberries, etc. 34) Spray of culinary herbs in container (min. of 3, max. of 6 varieties) 35) **The biggest specimen** 36) **The best oddity!**

### Category C: Preserves & Cooking

- 37) 3 Eggs (1 cracked into a saucer)
- 38) Marmalade 39) Jam or Jelly
- 40) Lemon Curd 41) Chutney
- 42) 4 Scones - plain, fruit or cheese
- 43) Fruit Cake (any recipe)
- 44) Loaf of Bread – specify variety
- 45) Apple pie 46) 3 Biscuits and recipe
- 47) A Victoria Sandwich cake – *recipe provided in the July newsletter*.
- 48) Chocolate cake 49) Shortbread
- 50) A novelty/celebration decorated cake

**Category D: Alcohol** 51) Homemade Beer 52) Homemade Wine 53) Country Spirit (Sloe Gin, Damson Vodka etc)

**Category E: Handicrafts & Art** 54) Artwork, painting or drawing – portrait 55) Artwork, painting or drawing – Landscape 56) An item of needlework 57) Any handicraft item

**Category F: Flower Arrangement** 58) Best Buttonhole 59) A jug of Flowers

### Category G: Crafts—Age 10 & Under (state age on entry)

- 60) Favourite fictional character (model, painting or collage)
- 61) An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables and/or pasta
- 62) A drawing or painting created at home or school
- 63) Any kind of handiwork created at home or school 64) A Lego (or similar)

### Category H: Crafts—Age 11 plus

- 65) Favourite fictional character (model, painting or collage)
- 66) A drawing or painting on a subject of your choice
- 67) Any collage or sculpture made from recycled things
- 68) Any kind of handiwork created at home or school
- 69) Create a poster for your favourite band or singer

**Category I: Cookery—Age 10 & under** 70) Chocolate brownies – *recipe in the July newsletter* 71) Decorated biscuits – 2 digestives per entry

**Category J: Cookery—Age 11 & over** 72) 3 decorated cup cakes 73) A cake of your choice 74) 3 biscuits (sweet or savoury)

### Category K: Photography - Adults

- 75) Landscape/Seascape 76) Funniest – including caption 77) Buildings/Monuments 78) Gardens 79) Special occasions
- 80) Hothfield Village Life 81) A sporting event 82) Trees 83) Portrait; human or animal

### Children

- 84) Family Photo 85) My Holiday 86) Funniest Photo 87) Pets 88) Hobby or pastime

# Saint Margaret's Church

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

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

## Services in June

Sunday 4th 1100am The Eucharist

Sunday 11th 1100am BCP Matins

Sunday 25th 1100am Family Service

For services in our other churches, see [www.calehill-westwell.uk](http://www.calehill-westwell.uk)

## THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

*The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts*



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 p.m. In the second half of the nineteenth-century an extraordinary group of purpose-built studio-houses were built on the edge of London's Holland Park. At their centre was the house built by Frederic Leighton from the mid-1860s. With its vast studio and exotic Arab Hall it provided an inspiration to other artists who commissioned houses of their own. Combining domestic accommodation with studio space and space in which to entertain, these houses provide fascinating insights into the wealth, status and taste of successful artists of the period. The lecture explores the houses of the Holland Park Circle to determine why these artists invested so much in the creation of their

homes and the uses they then put them to.

*Our lecturer, Daniel Robbins, is Senior Curator, Museums, with the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, responsible for 2 of London's most significant house museums, Leighton House and 18 Stafford Terrace.*

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) or 01233 756377. This lecture will be preceded at 2.00 p.m. by the A.G.M. for members of the Arts Society Egerton.

See also our website [www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)



## Heathland Hounds Free Dog Training Session 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 9:30 start.

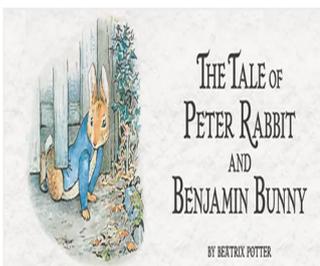
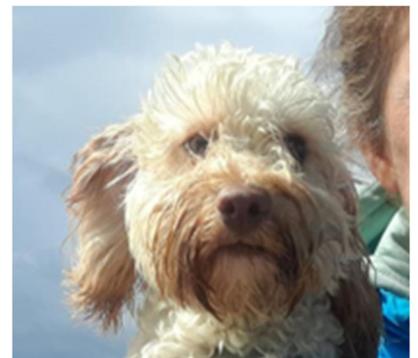
Since requesting that dogs are kept on leads at Hothfield Heathlands, we're already noticing increases to wildlife numbers. We also appreciate that this has required a big change to people's behaviour. To try and make life easier, we have asked [Kent Animal Training Services](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk) to run some training sessions on the reserve, you'll learn techniques to make walking on leads more enjoyable for both dog and owner as well as other useful skills when walking your dog in the countryside.



There are limited spaces, so to book a place follow this link

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2023-06-06-heathland-hounds-training-session>

or scan this QR code.



On 20<sup>th</sup> August, Quantum Theatre are bringing the timeless Beatrix Potter, 'Peter Rabbit' to life for a family-friendly matinee, followed by the open-air theatre favourite, Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream in the evening.

Tickets will shortly be on sale from Heartbreak ([www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk))

