

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 16 NUMBER 12 DEC 2025

This edition is available at www.hothfield.org.uk



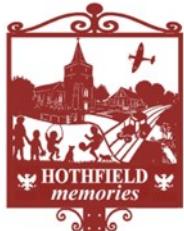
Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm 8th Jan

Hothfield Village Hall

Arts Society Egerton Painted Hall Greenwich 14th Jan 2.30pm

Egerton (see page 5)

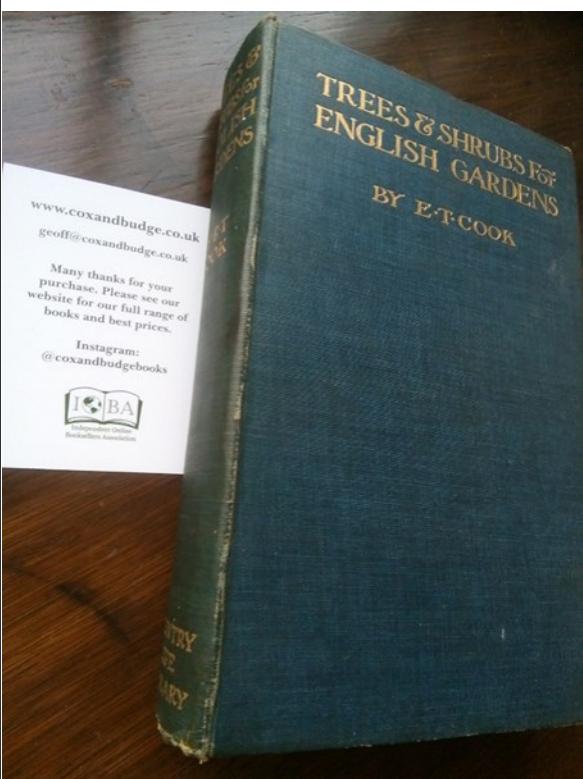


It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of John Coles, a long-standing and well-known resident of this village since his childhood. John had come to the village in the 1940s where his father ran the estate's farm for Lord Hothfield. Then known as 'Park Farm' the land extended past the front of the manor and beyond. John's dad was able to buy the farm from Lord Hothfield, and bred ducks, among other things. They even supplied ducks to Saudi Arabia and made a couple of visits out there to check the future home of the birds, and their Saudi customers visited Hothfield.

Over the decades John and his father have employed hundreds of local people, and often the stories told by residents and past residents include working for or knowing John. I'm privileged to have been one of the many people to have spent time with John, his wife and daughters, and to have learned a lot about the history of the village from him. John was a founding member of Hothfield History Society and latterly its Treasurer. John is being sorely missed and we're very grateful for his kindness, generosity and support for the village and its activities over many decades.

John's funeral will take place at Charing Crematorium on Friday 23rd January at 12:30, and afterwards at the village hall.

Another On-line Find! William Craik's present from Lady Hothfield



Another item of Hothfield History has been purchased via that on-line auction site, thanks to a generous discount from the bookshop. The book of "Trees and Shrubs for English Gardens" has been inscribed to William Craik from Lady Hothfield for Christmas 1903. The book was published in 1902 and so was a fairly new release. It has lots of black and white photographs, but William's copy doesn't seem to have been well read as there are no notes or highlights or damage apart from ageing.

William Craik came from Scotland (as did some other Hothfield staff including Agnes Kerr) and was head gardener on the Hothfield Place estate. He lived in the large 'Garden House' at the entrance to Church Lane, the 1891 and 1901 censuses show that his sister was living with him.

He died aged 89 in 1939 and is buried in Hothfield churchyard with his wife Lilah (the 1911 census calls her Elizah).

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

Video Door Cameras

Following a wonderful response we will be ordering Ring Doorbells for those residents who have registered and will confirm a collection date in our next Newsletter.



Hothfield Parish
Council wish all
residents a wonderful
Christmas and Happy
New Year.

Thank you for all your
support throughout
2025.

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: jus-tine@kobadogtraining.co.uk

Thursdays @ 10.30am

Dance Visions Zumba
Contact: bookwhen.com/dancevisions

Fridays @ 18.30

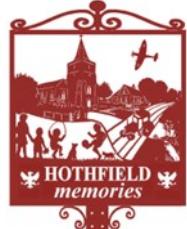
Bowls Club
Contact: John 07492 862974

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

The school logs books show that William visited Hothfield school and was teaching the boys practical skills. Typically the girls learned housework like needlework, whilst the boys learned academic subjects like maths and science, but the log books show that some boys struggled with academic subjects and so practical outdoor skills were also taught such as double digging and pruning fruit trees.



William Craik
from
Lady Hothfield
Xmas 1903

when it came to Mr Craik he recorded his visits and bestowed great praise: "I have been indebted to Mr Craik on several previous occasions for hints and advice in cultivating the school garden and he always shows the kindest spirit in addressing boys anxious to learn the subject of gardening."

Our own publication 'Hothfield in the 20th Century' also records praise for Mr Craik: "In the summer of 1919 Lady Ierne Tufton, Lord Hothfield's daughter-in-law, held a function for non-commissioned officers and men from Hothfield and Westwell who had served in the Great War. About one hundred people came including wives and W.I. members.

There was tea at the Mansion 'nothing was wanting', then there was a tour of the gardens by the head gardener Mr. Craik who, despite the handicap of war, maintained a high standard."

The book was sold by Cox and Budge, an on-line bookshop that specialises in signed books. Geoff Cox kindly provided a very significant discount so that we could add this book to the village archive.

He had bought the book as part of a job lot from Wye College. Was it donated to the college by William's widow? Was the book part of the college's library? – there's no evidence of a library reference or that it had a check-out card, and it doesn't seem to have been thumbed.

Chris Rogers

Friends of St Margarets Church Hothfield

We are a small group of Hothfield residents who currently arrange events throughout the year in order to raise money to support our beautiful old church.

Amongst the items we have paid for in recent years are the kitchen area at the back of the church, and the toilet. We were also able to contribute towards the cost of the new heating system in the church during the past year.

We are looking to enlarge our committee, and would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining us. If you need any further information about the Friends, please do call me on 01233 634191

Penny Sutcliffe

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.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk

HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE

New Opening Hours

0700—1900
7 days

Educational Grants

Uniform



Travel



Dance



Scouts Subs



School trips



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



Hothfield Best Christmas Dressed House 2025



Winner

12 Common Way

Hothfield Best Christmas Dressed House 2025



Runners Up

No.1 The Street



No.5 Sackville

8 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 Jan
Sunday 4th 11.00am The Eucharist

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](https://www.instagram.com/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

SHIFT HAPPENS

DRIVING TUITION

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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