

HAPPY EASTER



Dates for your Diary

Hothfield Parish Council next meeting 7pm Wednesday 12 April at the Bluebells Centre

King's Coronation village event at the Village Hall on 8 May.

Hothfield Parish Council Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall on 13 May 10.30am.

Nine Oaks Theatre 24 & 25 June presents 'MacHamLear'

Flower & Craft Show at the Village Hall 5 August 2023.

Nine Oaks Theatre 20 August presents 'Peter Rabbit'

Nine Oaks Vineyard – an update

April 2023

A busy month in the vineyard! We have finally completed pruning both plots of vines and with the warmer weather coming we look forward to the bud burst and the proper beginning of the new season. This year we will be looking to take a crop from all parts of the vineyard. We will hope to harvest our bacchus and pinot meunier vines along with the rest of the pinot noir for the first time, alongside the chardonnay and pinot noir vines we have previously cropped.



Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) completed their excavations on the lower field, digging a pond and several scrapes to produce a wetlands area similar to the Hothfield Heathlands. Due to the inclement weather the pond is filling up nicely. We hope soon to have some grazing animals on site to continue the evolution of the ecosystem. We will also shortly be welcome a team from KWT to conduct a baseline site survey of the amphibian population so we can chart the impact of their work.



We are pleased to announce a series of live theatre events that will take place in the vineyard over the summer months. We are delighted that two well-known outdoor theatre companies are bringing their productions to Nine Oaks. Heartbreak productions will be presenting 'MacHamLear' in June (the box office will open shortly at <https://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/>) and Quantum Theatre will be performing A Midsummer Night's Dream and Peter Rabbit in August (box office <https://www.quantumtheatre.co.uk/>).



Finally, and with huge excitement, we are thrilled to announce that from April, Nine Oaks wine will be available to purchase. Initially our rosé will be exclusively available at Hothfield Village Stores. We are so proud of the finished product and have waited a very long time to share it with our community. As always, thank you for all your support!

Helen Matheson-Pollock

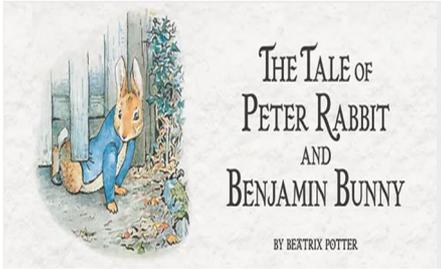
Co-founder, Nine Oaks Vineyard

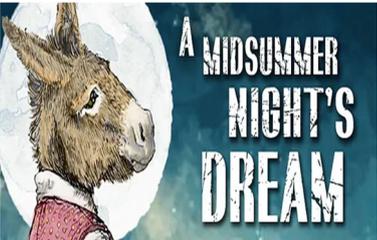
The theatre is coming to Nine Oaks! We are very excited to announce a programme of live theatre events to be held at Nine Oaks Vineyard, Hothfield this summer.

On 24th and 25th June, Heartbreak Productions will be performing *MacHamLear*, 'a farcical piece of new writing from award-winning playwright Michael Davies that shamelessly exploits the genius of England's most celebrated writer.'

On 20th August, Quantum Theatre are bringing the timeless Beatrix Potter, 'Peter Rabbit' to life for a family-friendly matinée, 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) and Quantum's (www.quantumtheatre.co.uk) own box offices; more details to follow.





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

Your Parish Council NEEDS YOU!

There are four vacancies on HPC and currently we are operating with a bare minimum. Without further volunteers there is a real possibility HPC cannot function and will no longer exist. This will mean residents will no longer have their views represented locally over how money is spent on local projects and lose the powerful voice for or against planning in Hothfield.

Time commitment to HPC is minimal with only one evening meeting per month. If you want your say on what happens in Hothfield then join us!

Contact: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk

Summary of Current Council Business & Projects

Your Parish Council are currently working on several projects to benefit the village as residents have requested: 1) Speed Restrictions in the Village 2) CCTV 3) Village Greenery 4) Path connecting East & West Hothfield 5) HM King Charles Coronation 6) Relocation of A20 bus stop.

Planning

If you are preparing a planning application come and talk to us first. We can advise and make suggestions before you start the formal process.

Ian Lloyd Chair HPC

Hothfield Litter Pickers – Volunteers Needed!

You may be aware that a small number of local residents go out and pick up the litter that's been strewn about our roads, paths and fields in our village. We hope you agree that it helps to make the village a nicer place. We also do this because our Parish Council has kindly agreed to donate funds to the Pilgrim's Hospice in lieu of our 'wages' – so everyone wins. This generous donation brings great benefit to the Pilgrim's Hospice which enables it to provide care and support free of charge to people with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers.

We are extremely appreciative of all your positive comments and it's very kind of people to stop us in the street and thank us for what we do. Some local residents have told us that seeing us do this has given them an incentive to pick up litter in front of their own properties. Of course we would all like to see more litter being picked up but sadly the amount of time we litter pickers can spend doing this is limited. We each do what we can when it's convenient for us and in the time that we have available. Over the years our volunteer numbers have both risen and fallen as people move away or, for various reasons, can no longer undertake this task.

We are seeking more volunteers – your help is vital! If you would like to help us cover a larger area of the village, please contact us to agree which section of road or area you might be prepared to try and keep litter-free whenever it's convenient for you to do so. To do the job you will receive a litter picker grabber, a high-visibility tabard, some gloves and a supply of black sacks.

If you're interested in helping us please get in touch with Sheila Flynn on (01233) 624 105.

[The Hothfield Litter Pickers](#)

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.

Hothfield Village Show

will take place on 5 August 2023 at Hothfield Village Hall.

Categories will cover local produce; baking, flowers, photography and crafts as well as categories specifically for children. The list of categories and entry requirements will be published in a future Newsletter.

If you have requests for categories, or you would like to be involved in organising the event, please do get in touch! For further information contact: hjmathesonpollock@gmail.com

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

Regular weekly events

Mondays @ 16:30

Target Shooting School

www.targetshootingsschool.co.uk/ashford

Tuesdays @ 19:00

Bowls Club

Contact: John 07492 862974

Wednesdays @ 17.30

Koba Dog Training

Contact: [justine@kobadogtraining.co.uk](mailto:jus-tine@kobadogtraining.co.uk)

Thursdays @ 18.30

Bowls Club

Fridays @ 18.30

Contact: John 07492 862974

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN APRIL

April is a changeover month on the reserve, with winged winter visitors leaving and summer migrants arriving. Tree pipits, *Anthus trivialis*, start arriving in the UK from sub-Saharan Africa in March. Locally common in the south, their preferred habitats are now mostly in the Northwest and Scotland due to changes in land use. A dramatic decline in numbers since the 1970s, which may also be caused by problems on their migration routes and in their wintering grounds, has placed them on the Red List of birds breeding in this country.



The tree pipits name is somewhat misleading, as its nest is hidden on the ground under a tussock, bracken or other low growing plants. The female builds a strong cup of dry grasses on a base of moss, lining the nest with softer material including hair. The smooth inner cup shape is formed by the bird turning round and round inside the nest, tweaking at strands as she turns.. There might be a second brood, so nests are vulnerable to disturbance throughout summer. Cuckoos may mistake their nest for that of their favourite host, the meadow pipit and lay their eggs in it.

This reserve provides the habitat tree pipits need for breeding - scattered trees and heathland and rough grass. They hunt for food in trees and walking on the ground, tail bobbing like a wagtail, feeding on insects, caterpillars, snails and spiders in summer, adding seeds and berries to their autumn diet before flying south. Breeding may start in April, depending on the weather. The tree pipit is in the wagtail family and is a passerine, a perching bird. *Anthus* is the Latin name for a small bird of grasslands, *trivialis* means "common" or "ordinary" from the Latin *trivium* for a public street. Their song, best heard before nesting, is an elaborate series of buzzing trills, descending scales which they sing from treetops and in full flight, using their strong wings to spiral or parachute back down into the tree. The song and their stronger feather markings and more upright stance help distinguish them from the meadow pipit (or pipit).

Another incomer has become a resident on the margins of the reserve at the junction of Cade Road and the A20 and further down the A20 towards Ashford. Alexanders, *Smyrniolus olusatrum* is one of the plants that starts early in the photosynthesis race powered by its underground engine, the tap root, as it's a biennial. Glossy bright green hairless leaves, pale underneath, and ridged hollow central stems are already pushing up to a flowering umbel of yellow green hedge-parsley-type flowers on a sturdy plant four feet high. A Mediterranean plant in the carrot and parsnip family, Alexanders was probably deliberately introduced by the Romans as a food plant (root, seeds, young central stems, umbel in bud as per broccoli), and the whole plant is pungent. *Smyrniolus* is from the Greek myrrh, referring to the pungent smell, *olusatrum* is from Latin, *olus* for herb, and *ater*, black referring to the black seeds. The English name doesn't refer to Alexander but developed from *olus-ater* to *alisander*. Its nectar- and pollen-rich flowers are appreciated by many species of insect.



Alexanders is established on coastal areas and inland where former religious communities would have cultivated it before the introduction of celery. How did it arrive on this corner? Perhaps seed was blown along the road or carried on tyres or footwear. It is a vigorous self-sower and can swamp native plants to the detriment of native diversity. On some of our coastal reserves, this plant has drowned out native species over huge areas. Other plants introduced to the reserve in previous times include snowdrops and daffodils and New Zealand pigmy weed, *Crasula hemsii*, the latter still being controlled by heavy black plastic in the most northerly bog. Garden waste dumped on a verge or wild area will risks introducing a too-vigorous plant to that area, and will add nutrients that are not welcomed by the native species already living there. Even if not intended for garden compost, a pile of garden waste in a corner of a garden provides a warm breeding space for harmless grass-snakes and slow worms and safe haven for many other animals and bugs.

Margery Thomas

Message from the Warden: Ground nesting birds: Thank-you to everyone who has been supporting the wildlife at Hothfield Heathlands by keeping their dogs on a lead across all the open areas. We appreciate the changes that people have had to make and hope that we will see some real benefits to our wildlife over the next few months.



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STEP INTO SPRING THIS APRIL

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— — — — —
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55 Minute Spa Experience
£69pp or £128 for two

If you book Tuesday-Thursday add any additional 20 minute treatment of choice to your booking for just £20

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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

STEP INTO SPRING THIS APRIL

Amazing April

55 Minute Spa Experience
£69 per person or £128 for two

This 55 minute ritual includes:

- ❖ Cleansing back treatment with mini muscle recover back massage
- ❖ Uplift and restore facial
- ❖ Soothing neck and shoulder massage
- ❖ Refreshing foot exfoliation
- ❖ Muscle easing foot and lower leg massage

If you book Tuesday-Thursday add any additional 20 minute treatment of choice to your booking for just £20

Choose from:

- ❖ Invigorating foot treatment
- ❖ Soothing foot & lower leg massage
- ❖ Nourishing back treatment
- ❖ Body brush exfoliation with oils

** Offer runs from 1st-30th April 2023 - Available Monday- Saturday **

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

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

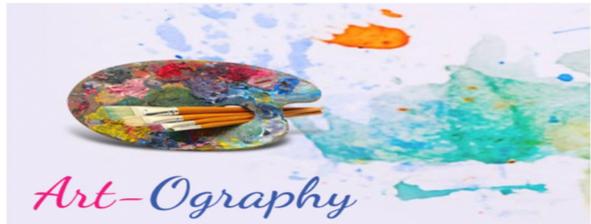
Large (13oz/370g) £3.50
Makes an ideal gift
Made in small batches
Deliciously fruity

Delivered free to Hothfield



📞 Sheila: 01233 624 105
✉ hothfieldhoney@outlook.com

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HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Ian Lloyd and financed and published by Hothfield Parish Council.
Email: ian.lloyd@hothfield.org.uk
Deadline for March 2023 issue is 20 February.

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.

In Remembrance of Ada Hilden Beaney

Wife, Mother, Granny, Great Granny & Granny in law

6 June 1934 -1 April 2022

Hothfield is the perfect place for families.

In June 1960 the Hilden family moved to Hothfield for a permanent home. Hodger and Ada Hilden brought up 8 children in the village. All the children went to the old school as well as a few grandchildren.

Ada loved living in Hothfield. Loved hearing and seeing the children play at school and on the common. As well as bringing up her own children, the Hilden home was an open house for many other children who also grew up here. She was known as Aunt Ada or Mrs Hilden.

Many of the Hilden family still live i the village. Now onto the 4th generation. A few have moved away but still call Hothfield Home.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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



We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:



Wednesday 12th April at 2.30 p.m.

SILENT WITNESS: a Journey through the Art of Holy Week. This mini 'visual pilgrimage' takes a reflective look at a selection of Eastern Orthodox icons and Italian art works from the 6th to the 14th centuries, in relation to the most important days of Holy Week and the theme of Witness

Our lecturer, **Helen McIldowie-Jones** combines many years' experience as an educator and professional artist to explain Late Medieval Italian Art and Eastern Orthodox iconography from from a different perspective.

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. 6 months membership costs £24. 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

Save the date September 30 2023



The Friends of St Margaret's will be holding a Scarecrow Day in September and as part of that event we would like to have a grow your own sunflower competition – see how tall it will grow? Prize for the tallest. Open to all, the young and the young at heart!

Collect your free seeds with instructions from Bina & Jay in the village shop.

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

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

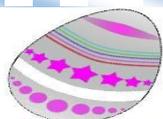
Services in April

Sunday 2 1100 The Eucharist

Tuesday 4 17.30 Compline Service

Sunday 9 1100 Family Eucharist Easter Sunday Service

For services in our other churches, see www.calehill-westwell.uk



Easter Word Search



A	S	L	I	C	D	E	S	P	R	I	N	G	T	F	D
E	N	E	P	H	V	L	T	J	Z	Y	O	X	K	L	O
D	U	A	T	O	A	B	L	S	P	T	G	I	Q	O	P
F	B	S	E	C	H	O	N	E	K	C	I	H	C	W	A
B	D	T	A	O	E	Z	K	M	H	A	K	C	B	E	L
O	E	E	E	L	S	H	X	K	J	S	T	O	V	R	D
G	S	R	T	A	S	D	J	C	E	B	G	B	Y	S	X
N	S	E	A	T	H	D	A	I	I	Q	D	G	E	N	K
I	O	G	R	E	E	O	F	H	T	Z	O	B	E	S	O
L	R	G	B	V	C	F	A	C	R	O	S	S	L	A	S
K	C	Q	E	A	O	J	E	S	U	S	Y	N	N	U	B
C	T	I	L	B	A	S	K	E	T	H	E	K	U	I	M
U	O	L	E	T	M	A	B	O	S	I	A	T	P	Q	A
D	H	O	C	X	E	T	N	U	H	G	G	E	Z	D	L

- ❖ CHICK
- ❖ LAMB
- ❖ EASTER EGG
- ❖ EGG HUNT
- ❖ SPRING
- ❖ EGG SHELL
- ❖ DUCKLING
- ❖ BASKET

- ❖ FLOWERS
- ❖ CHOCOLATE
- ❖ CROSS
- ❖ HOT CROSSED BUNS
- ❖ CELEBRATE
- ❖ CHICKEN
- ❖ BUNNY
- ❖ JESUS

