

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 13 NUMBER 4 April 2022

This edition only online at www.hothfield.org.uk;
smartphone version at <https://hed128.wixsite.com/Hothfieldnews>

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party

3 June at 1pm in the Village Hall



A Royal High Tea will be held at the Village Hall, with wonderful finger sandwiches, scones and cakes. We will also be providing a fantastic memento to keep; everyone will receive a Platinum Jubilee Mug!

This celebration of the Queen's 70-year reign is being organised by the Village Hall with help from Hothfield Parish Council. Volunteers will be very welcome on the day to help. In order to confirm numbers, so we can prepare the Royal High Tea boxes, we will be asking that everyone book their place with a small payment. Further details to follow.

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 3 1100 Eucharist

Sunday 10 1100: **Palm Sunday** Eucharist

Sunday 17 1100: **EASTER DAY** Family Eucharist

Sunday 24: 1100: Family Worship

For Holy Week services in our other churches,

see www.calehill-westwell.uk

If you would like to donate a lily to commemorate a loved one at Easter, please call Jane on 840310.



Ellie collects flowers for Mum on Mothering Sunday



3 **Hothfield Parish Council**

I am delighted to announce that Martyn Pollock has joined the Parish Council. You may know Martyn in the Village through his vineyard, Nine Oaks. I would also like to express our warm welcome to Martyn. We do still have a vacancy ready for another willing resident.

Unfortunately, there has been a number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported around the village recently, which is very concerning. We encourage all residents to report such incidents to the Police, and of course ask that parents make sure they know where and what their children are doing. We understand the Police are actively tracking a particular group of children who appear to be responsible for vandalism at the Village Hall. We at the Parish Council are working closely with all authorities, including Ashford Borough Council, to ensure the strongest action is taken.

As a potential possibility to help, we would be interested in supporting a youth activity in the Village. We are fortunate to have the excellent Village Hall and the MUGA. Those interested in organising some kind of child/youth activity can contact the Parish Council.

parish.clerk@hothfield.org.uk

Ian Lloyd

JUMBLE SALE



**Hothfield Village Hall
9 April 2022 1pm until 4pm
Any donation welcome
In aid of the Village Hall and
Great Ormond Street Hospital
07974 763688**



This is always a wonderful time of year for scouting. The lighter evenings mean that we can hold our meetings outside. There is so much more we can do outside.

We will be selling programmes at Charing races on Easter Saturday. Do look out for our refreshments tent for the best value tea, cakes and snacks. We look forward to serving you

St George's Day is very important to scouts all over the world. St George is the patron saint of scouting and we use this day to renew our promises

Terry,
0774 8818660

Group Scout Leader
1st Charing Scout Group

Tutt Hill Farm Cottage
Westwell
Ashford Kent
TN26 1AH



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

what a wonderful weald help us keep it that way



wkps
weald of kent protection society

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.

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

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN APRIL



The February storms sadly brought down some veteran trees in our area, but thankfully not the diseased ash trees on Hothfield Heathland, as these had already been felled. Kent Wildlife Trust's recent survey of all reserves had identified 17,000 diseased ash trees around the county, with 318 on this reserve. It is expected that 200,000 ash trees on Kent Wildlife Trust reserves will gradually succumb, as we are only at the start of this epidemic. KWT policy is to remove trees where they are a danger to people but leave them if they can fall and decay safely. The result is most obvious along Station Road from the A20 into the village, with young trees threatening to topple across the road now felled and logs neatly stacked. The majority of this timber will be removed and used for wood products or to produce energy.

Ash dieback (*chalara* or *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) was first identified in the UK in the South East in 2012, imported on infected stock from the continent (banned from 2012) and probably from spores carried on the

wind. It is an Asian fungus. Its native hosts, Manchurian and Chinese ash, are adapted to tolerate it. European ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, did not evolve with the fungus, so has no resistance. It is expected to kill off 80% of ash trees in the UK, at a cost of billions to manage and untold cost in loss of carbon sequestering and loss of biodiversity. The fungus overwinters on leaf litter, particularly ash leaf stems. The millions of spores, released from small white fruiting bodies in the late summer, can be blown tens of miles before landing and sticking onto leaves. They penetrate the tissue to grow inside the tree, eventually blocking the phloem, the water transport vessels, causing the tree to die.

Regarding the Hothfield reserve, Ian Rickards explained: 'As the trees begin to decay, they become more susceptible to other diseases and fungi. Many of the trees will be finished off with honey fungus, which destroys the root systems, causing the trees to fall with little warning. Dead ash trees are very brittle, with the branches shattering when disturbed.

This makes it very dangerous for chainsaw operators. To prevent serious harm to operators we are having to use large machinery with protective cabs. Our priority is to remove trees that may fall onto roads or busy paths. Where it is safe to do so, we will leave ash trees to live out their lives and become incredibly valuable deadwood habitats.'

Trees left to decay naturally return nutrients to the ground and provide deadwood habitat and food for mammals, birds, invertebrates, fungi, mosses and lichens and millions of microscopic creatures, helping to increase the biodiversity of the area.

Ash is of one of our most common native trees. Its single-winged seeds germinate readily and quickly develop a tap-root. Ash wood is light, flexible but tough, used for tools, handles for sports equipment, furniture – and the frames of Morgan cars. But losing millions will change landscapes and break connections between hedges, lone trees and woods.

Margery Thomas

It's a joy to walk on Hothfield Heathlands, and everyone is welcome to visit. Please remember this is first and foremost a haven for wildlife. You can help our work by staying on the main established paths and wearing footwear suitable for coping with the muddy sections. Keep dogs close at all times; do not let your dog run off the paths and through the areas of heather and gorse where they will disturb wildlife.

Make sure anything you bring with you leaves the reserve with you. Remove litter, dog mess, and place all dog bags in the bins. Hothfield Heathlands is one of the best spots of wildlife in the county; with your help we can keep it that way.

Dealing with ash dieback across the KWT reserves will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Any support will be very welcome.

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/ash-dieback>

*Ian Rickards,
Area Manager*



Trees affected by Ash die-back





THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Enjoy Arts and Culture presented by world class lecturers

FROM ERROL FLYNN TO BOTTLES OF GIN

Lecturer: ANNALIE TALENT

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022 at 2.30 pm

at EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL,
ELM CLOSE, EGERTON TN27 9DS

This lecture will uncover the fascinating stories behind some literary portraits of the Romantic and Victorian period. We'll look at various ways in which writers have been depicted in art, and how these likenesses have been received; both during the authors' lifetimes, and posthumously.

We will also explore the afterlives of literary portraits and their use in popular culture – from banknotes and fridge magnets, to tins of shortbread and bottles of gin.

How do writers' portraits contribute to literary fame and celebrity? Do these images affect our perception of their lives and work? And to what extent may portraits of writers be said to be fictions themselves?

Annalie Talent has worked as an educator at museums and literary houses across the UK, including the Wordsworth Trust, Wordsworth House, Jane Austen's House in Hampshire, and the Ashmolean Museum. She has won two Sandford Awards for excellence in heritage education, and has worked with the British Library, the Bodleian Library and Chawton House Library. Annalie uses her knowledge and personal experience of literary houses - and their collections - to offer a unique perspective on writers and their works.

Visitors are very welcome at £5 (reimbursed if you become a member)

Please contact Christine Willis via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377 for further details or visit our website at <https://theartsocietyegerton.org.uk>



Livestock Worrying

Do you walk your dog in a rural location?...

Spring is upon us, ewe's may be pregnant / had their lambs and may become territorial. It is an offence for a dog to worry livestock on agricultural land, under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses or poultry (including fowls, turkeys, geese and ducks).

Dogs who are ordinarily calm and focussed can become distracted and behave differently when in a rural environment where their sense of smell and chase instinct are easily stimulated.

Plan ahead before walking in the countryside. Take treats with you to keep your dog focused and serve as a distraction if they become interested in livestock.

Keep your dog under control at all times

Don't pass between and separate adult sheep or cows from their young. They may act aggressively to protect their lambs or calves.

Keep Britain Tidy #BIGBAGCHALLENGE to help 'Spring Clean' Britain.

Ashford Borough Council, with full support from Hothfield Parish Council, are taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy #BIGBAGCHALLENGE campaign to help 'Spring Clean' Britain, encouraging people to pledge to do their bit to clean up the litter across our borough. The campaign runs from 25 March to 10 April 2022. The Great British Spring Clean, now in its seventh year, brings together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep. This year's mass campaign calls for us to pledge to pick a bag of litter from nearby streets, beauty spots and parks in order to protect our communities and precious wildlife habitats.

The key messages will focus on:

- Take care of the environment as it takes care of you.
- Just one bag of litter will help fight the problem.
- Litter harms wildlife.
- The power of the collective by calling on everyone in the area to harness the power of environmental action by taking part.

All messaging for the campaign will be distributed across our social media channels and shared with parish councils so they can involve their local communities. Please share the messages with your residents to raise awareness of the Keep Britain Tidy #BIGBAGCHALLENGE and pledge to get involved at www.keepbritaintidy.org/gbspringclean If you want to organise a litter pick or loan our equipment visit www.ashford.gov.uk/community-litter-pick. Please remember that we need five working days to register your litter pick. Whether it's pledging to pick just one bag, or more, we can all carry out small acts of kindness - for Ashford and for ourselves.



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



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RENEW Gardening Services

Joseph Ellis
 Phone number: 07753174115
 Email: renewgardeningsservice@gmail.com
 £13 per hour
 Free no obligation quotes



HOTHFIELD NEWS

is edited by Hedley Grenfell-Banks and financed by Hothfield Parish Council.

Email: hedley@grenfell-banks.com

The deadline for the May 2022 issue is 20 April.

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.



GARDENS

Open Tuesday to Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays from Tuesday 1st March 2022 to Sunday 30th October **1pm–6pm** (last booked entry **5pm**). [Book your tickets online.](#)

HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. Tours at 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm and 4pm. [Book your tickets online.](#)

TEAROOM

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 1st April 2022 to Saturday 1st October. (For our Garden, House & Garden visitors only) No reservations taken.



WILDLIFE GARDENING

23rd April 2022, 9:30 – 13:00

Small changes in the garden can make it a more welcoming place for wildlife no matter what space you have. Join Head Gardener, Josh Taylor, to learn how to make your own garden a wildlife haven without compromising on your floral displays. Booking essential, £40.00 including coffee. [Book your ticket here.](#)



PLANT FAIR

24th April 2022, 11:00 – 16:30

Local specialist nurseries sell a great range of popular and unusual plants. Tearoom open. Please note the house will not be open for guided tours. Purchase your garden admission ticket [here.](#)



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

ALUNT JEMIMA'S EASTER BUNNY STORIES

Fluffy, the orphan bunny, and Cedric, the orphan snake, lived in the forest; they were, by coincidence, both blind from birth. One morning, bright and early, Fluffy was hopping through the forest when he tripped over Cedric, who was basking in the sunlit undergrowth. 'Crikey,' exclaimed Fluffy the bunny, 'I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to squash you. I've been blind since birth, so I can't see where I'm going. In fact, since I'm also an orphan, I don't even know what creature I am.'

'That's OK, mate,' commented Cedric the snake. 'Actually my story is much the same. I, too, have been blind since birth and also never knew my mother Maybe I could slither all over you and work out what you are so at least you'll know that.'

'What a marvellous idea,' replied Fluffy the bunny.

So Cedric slithered all over Fluffy and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur, you have really long ears, your nose twitches and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say you must be a rabbit.'

'Oh, thank you, thank you,' cried Fluffy. 'Perhaps I could be allowed to feel you all over with my paw and help you in the same way that you've helped me.'

So Fluffy the bunny felt Cedric the snake all over and summarised, 'Well, you're smooth and slippery, you have a forked tongue and no backbone. I'd say you must be someone in senior management.'

A man was driving along the highway when he saw the Easter bunny (which, being American, is actually a hare) hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved, but unfortunately the Easter bunny jumped in front of the car. A woman driving down the road stopped her car and asked the man what was wrong. 'I feel terrible', he explained, 'I accidentally hit the Easter bunny and killed it. Children will be so disappointed. What should I do?'

The woman told the man not to worry. She went to her car boot and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the dead, limp rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can on it. Miraculously, the Easter bunny came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. Fifty yards away, the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved and hopped down the road. Fifty yards further on, he turned again, waved and hopped another fifty yards, turned and waved again.

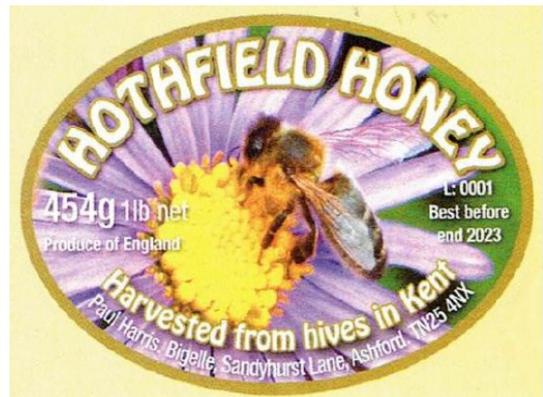
The man was astonished. He turned to the woman and asked, 'What is in your spray can? What did you spray on the bunny?'

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label.

It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

HOATHFIELD 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



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☎ **Sheila: 01233 624 105**

✉ **hothfieldhoney@outlook.com**