

HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY VOLUME 12 NUMBER 9 September 2021

Hi, I'm Diane

I have been the Community Warden for Charing, Challock and Hothfield since May this year. I have had the pleasure of meeting many residents so far, and look forward to meeting many more of you too, and hopefully to become an integral part of the villages I support.

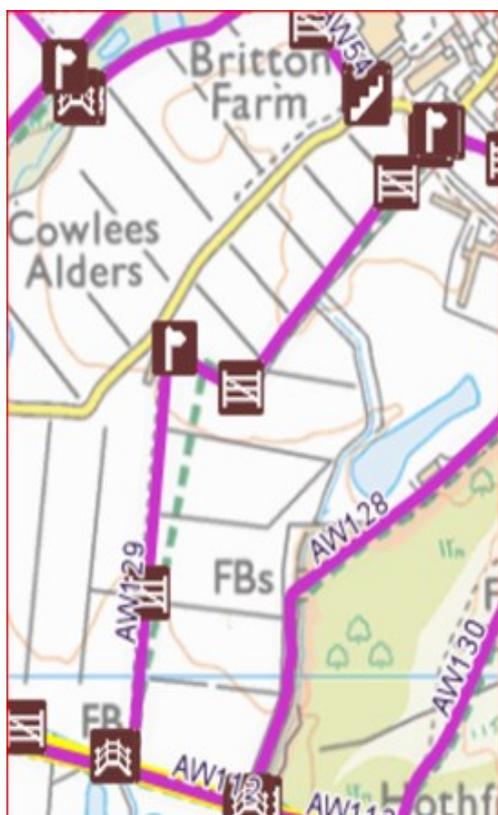
Diane Wakeling Community Warden Service,
Community Warden for Charing and Hothfield/Public
Protection Service/Growth, Environment & Transport/
Kent County Council

Mobile 07977981990

www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens



Good News for Walkers



An important footpath (AW129) has been re-opened. The path disappeared under brambles, and requests by Hothfield Parish Council have resulted in an effectively new path with new gates being driven through by KCC Rights of Way Department. The path leaves Ram Lane a short distance behind the petrol station, at the point where the road makes its first turn, 90 degrees right going round the edge of the new estate. New public footpath signs can be seen, with the right-hand one indicating the new section. The footpath heads over market garden fields to the Common, close to the bridge over the Stour.



Our very best wishes to all the children and students going back to their schools and courses this month

Saint Margaret's Church



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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 September

Sunday 5 at 1100: The Eucharist

Sunday 12 at 1100: Matins

Sunday 25 at 1100: Family Worship



11 September

Cycle or walk between a few of our loveliest churches and raise money for their upkeep. A warm welcome and refreshment at each.

For sponsor forms go to <https://www.calehill-westwell.uk/ridestride21>



HOTHFIELD WALKING FESTIVAL



& FABULOUS HOMEMADE FOOD

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 09.30 TO 16.00

AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HOTHFIELD

BOOKING FOR THE WALKS IS ESSENTIAL SO PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - FSMHothfield.org.uk or contact Sharon on 07968 054898 wheatbutler@btinternet.com.

ALSO IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP US BY PROVIDING CAKES OR OTHER BAKES, WITH YOUR EXCESS FRUIT, VEGETABLES OR ANY OTHER LOCAL PRODUCE, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE RUNNING OF THE DAY THEN PLEASE CONTACT US AS ABOVE.

Hothfield Gardeners' Competition
Unfortunately the competition could not take place in July,
as we only received 3 applications

Action at Coach Drive Wood and a new approach to enforcement

At a meeting this week at Coach Drive Wood, the owners and representatives from Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council and Hothfield Parish Council met to discuss the future of rubbish dumping in the wood.

ABC will arrange a quote from Biffa for removing nearly 65 years of dumped material of all kinds. The wood, especially at the lower end, has ceased to be a place where anyone can walk. The owners will have to meet the huge cost of removal, despite not being responsible, but for a strip along the road, where rubbish dumping has extended the wood over the carriageway, KCC will have to pay.

ABC and KCC have a joint approach to this situation, and a tough policy will be applied. It is reiterated that it is and always has been illegal to put anything in the wood without the owner's express permission. That is generally true and includes, for example, the Park Drive triangle. A letter will be sent out by ABC describing the new approach.

Each act of dumping will now be treated as flytipping (fine up to 400) and cameras will be installed after clearance. Further consideration of the long term after clearance will be conducted by interested parties. This topic will be on the agenda of the next HPC meeting.



Village Green

'HPC is planning to build a fence along the north side of the informal car park that visitors to the Children's Centre use, and also the track around the former school, used by residents on West Street. The purpose of the fence is to stop parking on the green, and also to prevent wheelies and other damaging activity by vehicles of various kinds on the main part of the green. The fence would cross the green from the school side of the entry point by the zebra crossing towards the far left lamppost on the Muga. The fence would match the design and materials of the fence on the road side of the green. There will be a locked central gate for official vehicles, perhaps with a gap there for pedestrian-only access, and also a larger gap by the Muga. The proposed route is shown below as a black line. Two quotes have been received, and KCC is currently considering a request for permission to build the fence on its land.



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

HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN SEPTEMBER ⁴

Heather and acid grassland plants

The heather on the heathland, stunning in August, is now gently fading. Millions of seeds will be shed, but the tiny papery flowers will persist until spring. There were dense swathes of ling, *Calluna vulgaris*, on the dry sandy slopes and in the upper bogs; it is pleasing to see many juvenile colonies in flower. On the sandy paths through the ling the beeswolves, *Philanthus triangulum*, were busy. These solitary wasps feed on pollen, but their larvae, in their few days of life before pupating, eat meat, so the female paralyses then carefully carries honey bees to the burrow in the sand, and lays an egg on them. Each cell has several bees, preserved from mould in the humid warmth by nitric oxide emitted by the bee eggs.

Cross-leaved heath, *Erica tetralix*, with pale pink bells and grey-green foliage, favours damper spots but often grows tangled with ling and devil's-bit scabious on hummocks of sphagnum moss with other plants or shrubs. These intricate colonies invariably include a dainty perennial that has flowered since May and will only stop with autumn frosts – tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*. A member of the rose family with miniature strawberry leaves, the flowers of four indented yellow petals look almost



Buckshorn Plantain (© Ian Rickards)

square. In tussocks the slender scrambling stems are supported by other plants, but it is just as happy threaded through close-cropped turf, spreading small spangles of gold at the feet of walkers and animals. The flowers are rich in nectar, so an important source of energy for insects and butterflies throughout the summer. Another plant that tolerates footfall but is less obvious is the buck's horn plantain, *Plantago coronopus*, which occurs at the top of the slope leading to the former football field, where it enjoys thin dry gravelly conditions. The downy leaves are usually divided, resembling stags' antlers. Co-

ronopus is Greek for crow's foot. They grow in a low rosette and are edible, crunchy and tasting of spinach – a nice foil for the vinegary leaves of the dwarf sheeps' sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*, that covers the nearby slopes with a haze of rusty flowers in early summer. This plantain produces dense spikes from May to July, the protruding yellow anthers giving it a fluffy appearance. The whole plant resembles a tiny baroque candelabrum. It has also adapted to roadsides where salt accumulates. All plantains are important sources of pollen and/or food plants for caterpillars of butterflies and moths; they make a good addition to wildlife-friendly gardens. Hoary plantain, *Plantago media*, has fragrant flowers and plantain leaves are good for nettle stings. The ling is a food plant for the hairy caterpillars of the oak eggar moth, whose caterpillars then shelter in the leaf litter below through winter. The eggs, caterpillars and pupae of many insects including butterflies and moths are now hidden everywhere, on undersides of



Tormentil

leaves, on grass stems, in cracks in bark, in ground litter, here and in gardens. Leaving some areas of the garden untidy will protect the next generations of our endangered insect and butterfly populations. Meanwhile ticks are still active, hanging off grass stems or bracken in those shoulder-high tunnels to catch onto whatever is walking past. So keep to open paths and remember to check dogs and yourselves. The NHS website has information on safe tick removal.

Margery Thomas



Painted Lady

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. Don't forget to take poo bags to the bins at the entrances.

Ian Rickards,
Area Manager

Vine 2 Wine Talk, 21 August 2021

The Friends of St Margaret's at Hothfield would like to thank Helen and Martyn of Nine Oaks Vineyard for such a wonderful, interesting talk. We were blessed with an evening of blue sky and warmth. Martyn started off the talk in the vineyard surrounded by beautiful vines, where we learned about the grape varieties that they have planted, the pruning of the vines and the effect of the terroir. They hope (weather permitting) to have a small harvest this year, but this is secondary to ensuring the vines become well established. Helen followed up in the church, talking about local English wines and how the different grape varieties impact on the taste of wines.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Friends event without food; the canapés and tasting samples went down a treat. Thank you to everyone involved.

For more information on the vineyard go to www.nine-oaks.co.uk and contact Helen and Martyn on info@nine-oaks.co.uk

Karen Brock, Chair of the Friends of St Margaret's Hothfield



Hothfield History Society



History Walks on 18 September

The Friends of St. Margaret's are organising walks in and around Hothfield on Saturday 18th September. There will be walks of different lengths, covering various local topics including the river, Hothfield Heathlands, a nature trail and two on Hothfield History. There will be a short walk around the remaining buildings of Hothfield Place, next to the church, including the site of Hothfield Manor itself, which won't cover a great distance but could take a few hours if there's lots of interest. There will be photographs of how the stables and the Manor looked before they were demolished in the 1950s and early '60s. We'll look at the tree that was hit by a doodlebug in World War II. and the balustrade that stood in front of the Manor. Hopefully we'll include a few of the older buildings of the village nearby, and the vineyard. Well-behaved dogs welcome.

Former resident Andy Spicer will also describe his memories as a boy growing up in the village, recalling life from the 1950's. Look out for publicity on the walks and register your place on the walk of your choice. Refreshments and lunches will be available in the church throughout the day. Bring sturdy footwear.

Parking will be in the field opposite the end of Church Lane.

Hothfield – a History of the Village by Reverend Russell

One of the former vicars at Hothfield was an enthusiastic researcher of history, and he recorded in detail many aspects of Hothfield's past from the earlier days up to 1902, just before he died. His works were transcribed and are available in Word for Windows format on USB memory stick or CD (text documents). A recent reader of Rev Harry Russell's works has realised that the electronic copies are missing two pages. One of the chapters has been duplicated, but pages 7 and 8 are missing. If you have previously bought any electronic copies of the Russell works, then you will be missing a short chapter describing the boundaries of Hothfield Parish (as they were in 1902) and Russell's interpretation of 'beating the bounds' which historically was a ritual where the men and boys of every parish would walk the boundary. Russell describes that along the route of the boundary there were trees or stumps, some of which had the letters of the parish carved on each side. Russell records the accounts of a couple of men who recall beating the bounds in the mid 1800s, who explained that it ended with a meal for everyone at the King's Head pub and was quite an occasion, led by the church minister. If you have a copy of the Russell transcripts, then please email me at hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com or leave a comment on our website, and I will email you the two missing pages. If you're interested in purchasing a copy of the complete research by the Rev. Russell then it is £10 on CD or USB flash drive, plus postage if you're outside the area.



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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HOTHFIELD NEWS

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Email: Hedley@grenfell-banks.com

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

The deadline for the October 2021 issue is 20 September.

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 30 March 2021 to Sunday 31 October 1pm to 6pm (last booked entry 5pm). Book your tickets online.

HOUSE

Open Friday and Saturday from Friday 4 June 2021 to Saturday 2 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.

HOUSE & GARDENS

Adults **£12.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**, except on some event days

GARDENS ONLY

Adults **£7.00**, Children (under 16) **FREE**, except on some event days

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

AUTUMN PROPAGATION

4th September 2021, 9:30 – 13.00

A practical session learning the secrets to fill your garden with free plants. You will look at seed collecting and sowing, plant division and all types of cuttings and have the chance to take home a piece of your favourite plants from Godinton's borders. Booking essential, £40.00 including morning coffee. Please contact the office on 01233 643854 to book a place.

KITCHEN GARDEN

11th September 2021, 9:30 – 13:00

A morning of practical advice on how to grow your own fruit, veg and cut flowers, to include rotation and successional planting, companion planting and composting. Booking essential. £40.00 including coffee. Please contact the office on 01233 643854 to book a place.

NGS GARDEN OPEN DAY – SEPTEMBER

26th September 2021, 13:00 – 18:00

Supporting the work of the National Gardens Scheme. Garden Season Tickets, RHS and HH cards are not valid today. Purchasing an admission ticket will support this worthy charity, thank you.



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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**

AUNT JEMIMA'S GRUMPY IN GOOD COMPANY

Yes, I'm a pessimistic, cynical, grumpy old git. You only get that way through great trial and error. — George Banister
I'm a perfect example of the grumpy, old man. I'm really good at it. — Ned Beatty
I wouldn't say I was grumpy. It's more pathological - I have seismic tantrums. I get red in the face and cry at least three times a week, and I have to lie down and have a nap afterwards. — Jenny Éclair
In actual life I am a grumpy old bag. — Dawn French
Some men just want to watch the world burn — Michael Caine
I used to be good with kids, but as I get older, I'm grumpy and terrible with them. As for doing a gig at a 6-year old's birthday party, you couldn't pay me enough. — Johnny Vegas
I can be a bit grumpy. I'm full of angst, and hormones. — Nicholas Hoult
Don't talk to me. I'm tired and grumpy and I'll probably make fun of you. — Ann Brashares
Some people have told me that I'm grumpy; it's not something that I'm aware of. It's not like I walk around poking children in the eye... not very small ones, anyway. — Dylan Moran
The line between angry young woman and grumpy old lady is very fine. — Judy Horacek
People say that if you're still angry at 52, you're not an angry young man, just a grumpy old git. — Paul Weller
Hopefully I'm not a grumpy old guy sitting in the corner, yelling at people and demanding things. — George W. Bush
Normally, in anything I do, I'm fairly miserable. I do it, and I get grumpy because there is a huge, vast gulf, this aching disparity, between the platonic ideal of the project that was living in my head, and the small, sad, wizened, shaking, squeaking thing that I actually produce. — Neil Gaiman

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

August Draw Results

1st prize	£22.75	no. 26
2nd prize	£13.65	no. 167
3rd prize	£9.10	no. 14

Cost to enter: only £1 per draw,
£12 per year or £6 for six months.

Collect a form from
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 Or telephone Peter on 01233 623568

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

HOTHFIELD POST OFFICE STORES

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Saturday	0900 To 1300 1400 To 1800	Post Office closes 1230



This September is a very exciting time for us. We have been working for a long time to set up our own explorer section. This will allow scouts who reach the age of 14 to continue their scouting in Charing. Until now at that age they have had to move to a different group. Starting this month the Charing Explorer Unit will be meeting every week! The programme looks very exciting.

The group continues to work hard to maintain links with our community and to forge new links. Our scouts have been working with the warden on Hothfield Common and are continuing this project. We are delighted to be involved in the alderbed project and to help with hosting their event this month. This promises to be a very exciting term for all our sections

Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660