

# HOTHFIELD NEWS

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY  
VOLUME 12 NUMBER 7

July 2021

**Enjoy the football whatever happens!**

## VILLAGE HALL TO CLOSE?

This headline is not meant to shock. The Hall Committee wants to let the community know that closure of the Hall could be on the cards.

Most villages in England have a village Hall, a space where the people living there can get together, have parties, enjoy a quiz, raise money for a favourite charity. Many, though, never have to think about how their Hall runs, how it keeps open.

So how does Hothfield Village Hall run? The Hall is leased to Hothfield Parish Council by Ashford Borough Council, and then run by a Village Hall Committee as a charity for the benefit of the village. This Committee looks after the building, insures it, protects it, maintains the Hall as you would your house. Do the members receive any money to do this? No. Does the Hall receive any money from the Borough or Parish Council? No.

Who are the Committee, then? They are local people from the village who spend some time every month attending a meeting, discussing what needs to be done and thinking of ways to raise funds to keep the Hall going. The Hall can only run if it is booked by people in the village or organisations in the village or outside the village. The Committee tries to get organisations to book the Hall or tries to organise events to bring in money. The only income

that allows the bills to be paid is from bookings or people attending events.

Hothfield Hall is fortunate to have received some money from the solar farm when it was installed, which is for the benefit of the Community, and more recently, because of Covid, some grants from Ashford Borough Council. But once this money is spent on the cost of insuring the building, rates, heating, lighting, grass cutting, alarm system etc. etc., without income it cannot run. Without bookings, and a Committee to get them, it cannot run.

So, no Management Committee, no one to run the Hall, and eventually no Hall.

At the moment there is no valid Management Committee because there are not enough people on the Committee for meetings to take place. Only three people are left, and as a Charity that means these last three cannot run the Hall without more members.

Could you help?

Could you organise events?

Could you keep the Hall open?

Please consider helping your village, and contact Steve on 01233 329824 to learn more, or come to the Hall on 12 July at 7.00 p.m.



# Saint Margaret's Church



2

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)

## THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



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

### Services in July:

Sunday 4 at 1100: The Eucharist  
Sunday 11 at 1100: Matins  
Sunday 25 at 1100: Family Worship

Sandra Marsh has now been installed as Rector of Calehill with Westwell. Her first visit to Hothfield will be for the Family Service on 25 July.

Date for your Diary

### RIDE AND STRIDE

11 September. Plan ahead!



Lovely moment at the funeral of Jan Frederick Bras, a war veteran. A piper to see him on his way, and the poppies came out just in time!

### Country Funerals

Our Lady Funeral Director will assist and guide you in saying goodbye to your loved one with compassion.

Leah Hutchinson  
01233 712 222

Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford, Kent TN25 4LE

## HOTHFIELD NEWS

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

The deadline for the August 2021 issue is 20 July.

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.

## Hothfield Educational Foundation

Please note that the Foundation will be meeting next on 17 August.  
All applications should reach the secretary,  
e-mail address [hothfieldeducation@gmail.com](mailto:hothfieldeducation@gmail.com), by 10 August.



Sissinghurst Castle © HGB



We are not quite back to fully normal scouting yet, but we are getting there. All three sections are meeting every week. The weather has generally been kind so we've been outside learning knotting, map reading, teamwork and having fun.

Our scouts are planning their first camp for nearly two years. It will be so good to see the young people learning a whole new range of skills.

We have been ready to open our new Explorer section for over-fourteens. The good news is that we are set to start in September. We are always on the lookout for more leaders to share the fun. Please contact me if you may be interested

*Terry Lister Group Scout Leader 07748818660*

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)

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

June Draw Results

1st prize £22.75 no. 198

2nd prize £13.65 no. 186

3rd prize £9.10 no. 179

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

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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.

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weald of kent protection society

find out more: [www.wkps.org.uk](http://www.wkps.org.uk)  
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### Opening Times

Sunday	0900 – 1200	Post Office closed
Monday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Tuesday	0700 – 1300	
Wednesday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Thursday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Friday	0700 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	
Saturday	0800 – 1300, 1400 – 1800	PO morning only

# HOTHFIELD HEATHLANDS IN JULY



Summer arrived in a rush after the damp and chill Spring, and the reserve is in full bloom. The orchids are in flower, with some hybrids of the southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* mixed with either common spotted or heath spotted in the lower fen. The hybrids tend to be much larger and generally sterile. Another attractive plant combination in the lower fen at the moment is the southern marsh orchid, surrounded by the bright pink tattered petals of the ragged robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. Neither plant likes to have to fight for space, so they have benefitted from the mechanical clearing carried out during lock-down last winter. There are now a few ragged robin growing up near the causeway over the upper bog close to colonies of heath spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculata*. Ragged robin is a perennial that grows in damp ground, so it is losing habitat as land is drained for commercial uses. Flower stems covered in rough hairs rise up to 90 cm above a basal rosette of leaves close to the ground. Sarah Raven describes the flowers as 'a red campion that has gone through the shredder'. It flowers from May onwards, hence the Latin *flos* = flower, *cuculi* = of the cuckoo, one of several flowers with this common name. It may be the crowflower included in Ophelia's garland by Shakespeare, who knew his wild flowers. It provides nectar for long-tongued bees, butterflies and many other insects. Ragged Robin was dedicated to St Barnabas, whose saint day on 11 June coincided with haymaking in olden time. It was my mother-in-law's favourite wild flower, a reminder of a north Westmorland

childhood when it was very common in damp meadows. Red campion and ragged robin are in the pink family along with stitchwort, seen in our hedgerows, and sea campion, familiar on the Kent coast. It is native across Europe and Asia and adapts well to damp areas in gardens. Leaving a patch of lawn uncut except in autumn can produce other lovely surprises over the years, including orchids and associated treasures.

Volunteer work continues apace, pulling out young birch seedlings and carrying out repairs. Reptile monitoring tiles are being checked, with quite a few sightings of grass snakes, and butterflies and moths are monitored regularly. The reserve-wide habitat and plant survey was completed last year, and we will be leaving a five-year gap before seeing how things have changed in 2026. The cuckoo may still be heard in July, and many young birds are establishing themselves, trying to keep out of sight of their aerial predators. The main birds of prey are buzzard and our ever-present kestrel, but you can see sparrow hawk, hobby and even peregrine falcons.

**Margery Thomas**



Area Warden Ian Rickards reminds you: Please shut any pedestrian gates you use, and protect yourself and your dogs against the risk of tick bites. Ticks can carry Lyme disease, which may be transmitted to humans through their bite. There are no vaccines to defend against tick-borne disease in the UK and Ireland, therefore the best defence is to avoid being bitten. Walk on the main paths, keep yourselves and your dogs out of the long vegetation. Check yourselves and your dogs when you get home.

## Dormouse Box Builders wanted

One of our Trust woods, Spong Wood, has been monitored for dormice longer than any other woodland in Kent.

Dormouse monitoring is carried out by installing dormouse nest boxes in trees (think of a bird box with the hole in the back against the tree). Licenced surveyors check these boxes during the summer, looking for dormice nests and dormice themselves.

Most of the 50 boxes at Spong wood are on their last legs and we would like to replace them.

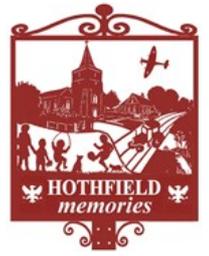
If you think you would enjoy building some boxes and have the space and tools for cutting thin planks down to size and putting the boxes together, we would supply the material (plywood sheets or planks).

To give you some idea of what it will involve, instructions for building can be found here.

Please contact Ian on [Ian.Rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:Ian.Rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk) if you think you would like to help.



# Hothfield History Society



## Did you know Owen and Margaret Hall at Kempton Manor?

Stuart McKellar e-mailed from Canberra, Australia and ordered a copy of our publication "Hothfield in the 20th Century". Stuart has traced a family connection to Kempton Manor which was on the site of what is now the Holiday Inn and the Hop Pickers public house on the A20. Kempton Manor had previously been known as Cowlees when it was owned by a copper merchant, Chester Beatty, between 1934 and 1950.

Kempton Manor, or Cowlees, was one of the very few properties not previously owned by Lord Hothfield. The Westwell/Hothfield boundary used to run across the Common (as it was then), which meant that Cowlees was in the parish of Westwell for most of its existence.

Sadly, therefore, Rev. Russell's extensive research on the parish of Hothfield makes only one passing reference to Cowlees.

During the second world war Kempton Manor was commandeered by the army, along with all the big houses and farms in the area. The REME were based at Kempton Manor and you can read more about their time there on our website:

[www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk](http://www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk) (see John Wilkinson's story). When the Holiday Inn was built in 1990 they named a restaurant 'Kemptons' in honour of the previous manor which burned down.

Past residents of Hothfield recall that the Manor had a swimming pool on the western side which the public were allowed to use for a modest fee. Sadly, we know very little about the Manor and we don't have any pic-

tures. If anyone has any information on the Manor, then we'd love to see it.

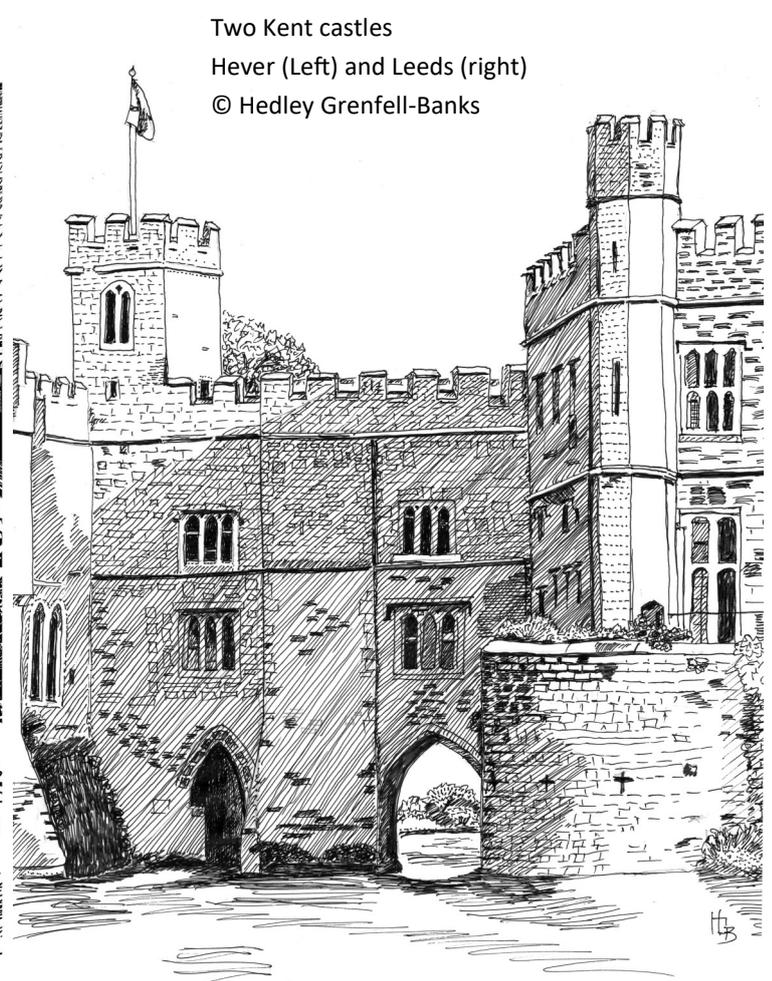
Stuart wrote: 'It seems my Grand-Uncle, Owen Moore Hall, died at Kempton Manor Hothfield, suddenly, on 10 November 1953. He may have been the proprietor, but I'm not sure as a news article says that a Mr A Kempe Roberts was the proprietor. Would anyone have any more information or photos relating to the pub and Owen Hall and partner Margaret from that time? Owen was last in Melbourne, Australia, in 1937, and never returned, spending his remaining time in Kent, firstly in Folkestone in the ARP ambulances in 1939, then at various parts of the Kent countryside - Hotel Celeste in Molash, then 'White Ladies', Harrietsham, then Hill House, Lenham, and finally Kempton Manor Hotel. He was a solicitor, so perhaps

had some Real estate work, but I don't really know.

I believe Margaret moved on to Whitstable at some point around 1953. I've found, via a very helpful Ashford Cemetery's team, that Owen is buried in Bybrook Cemetery there, and no sign of Margaret. His profession is recorded as 'hotel proprietor'. We believe that he had a mental illness, and I would really appreciate any info that would help me understand his issues a little better.'

If any past residents of Hothfield from the late 1940s or early '50s can remember anything about Kempton Manor, or Owen and Margaret, then please e-mail me at [hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com](mailto:hothfieldmemories@hotmail.com) or leave a comment on our website.

**Chris Rogers**



Two Kent castles  
Hever (Left) and Leeds (right)  
© Hedley Grenfell-Banks



## Learn Italian in Kent

The site for private Italian tuition in the mid-Kent area.

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#### 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.

#### OPEN AIR THEATRE

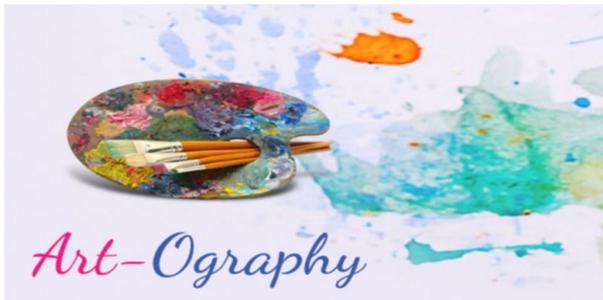
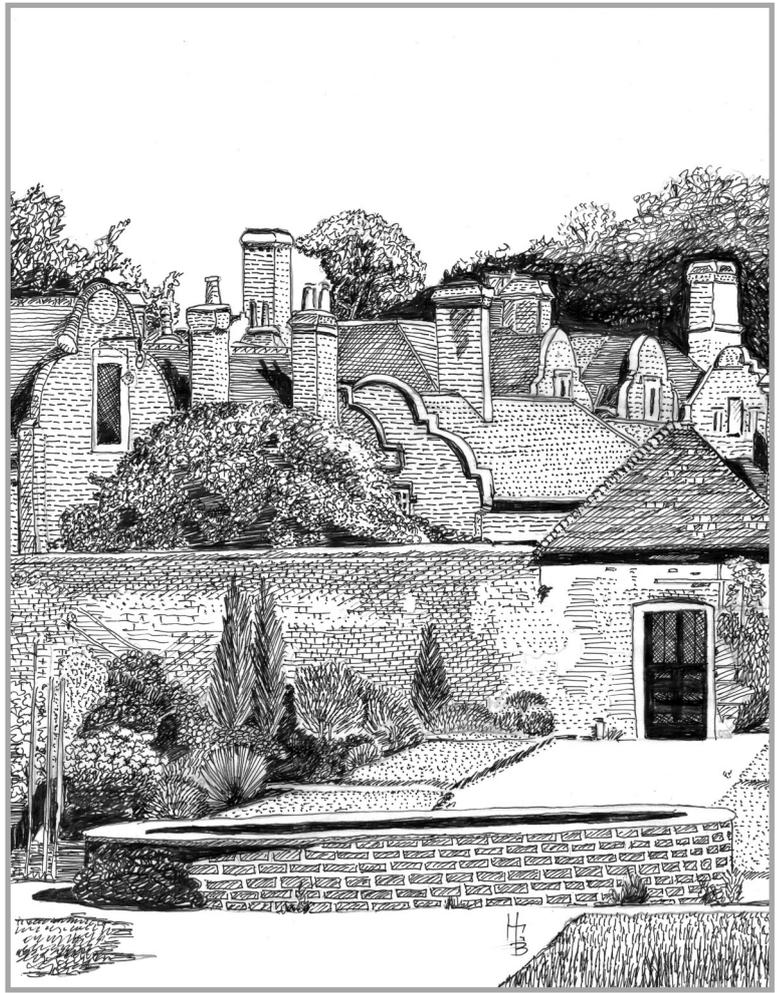
**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** 17 July, 18:30 – 21:00

#### SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

24 July – 15 August, 13.00 – 18:00

#### OPEN AIR THEATRE

**LITTLE LILY HARLEY** 31 July, 1900-2130



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For pre orders, please call 07973 410973  
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Cash and Card payments welcome**

# AUNT JEMIMA'S LISTENING TO COMEDIANS

Swimming is good for you, especially if you're drowning. *Jimmy Carr*

You can't lose a homing pigeon. If your homing pigeon doesn't come back, then what you've lost is a pigeon  
*Sara Pascoe*

I do all the exercises every morning in front of the television – up, down, up, down, up, down.

Then the other eyelid. *Ken Dodd*

Feminism is not a fad. It's not like Angry Birds. Although it does involve a lot of Angry Birds. Bad example.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that. *Adam Hills*

The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing somebody's plaster cast. *Demetri Martin*

I was playing chess with my friend and he said, 'Let's make this interesting.' So we stopped playing chess.

*Matt Kirshen*

I went down the street to the 24-hour shop. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, 'Hey, the sign says you're open 24 hours.' He said, 'Yes, but not all in a row.'

If toast always lands butter-side down and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap toast to the back of a cat and drop it?

A friend will help you move. A best friend will help you move a body. *Ken Jeong's favourite joke*

I've given up asking rhetorical questions. What's the point? *Alexei Sayle*

A government survey reveals the prime minister is doing the work of two men. Laurel and Hardy. *Ronnie Corbett*

Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm a schizophrenic, and so am I. *Billy Connolly*

I went to the doctor and he said, 'You've got hypochondria.' I said, 'Not that as well!'

Police arrested two kids yesterday. One was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off. *Tommy Cooper*

I'm not a fan of the new pound coin, but then again, I hate all change. *Ken Cheng*

I was watching the London Marathon and saw one runner dressed as a chicken and another runner dressed as an egg. I thought, 'This could be interesting.' *Paddy Lennox*

I don't care what they say. Donald Trump's nothing like Hitler. There's no way he could write a book.

*Frankie Boyle*



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ARE ORGANISING THE HOTHFIELD WALKING FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 10.00 TO 4.00. THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF GUIDED WALKS OF VARIOUS LENGTHS THROUGH OUR BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE ALL STARTING & FINISHING AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, WHERE A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE FOODS & REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TOGETHER WITH STALLS SELLING LOCAL PRODUCE. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP US EITHER AS A WALK LEADER OR WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF THE WALKS, THEN PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE VOLUNTEER MEETING ON SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY AT 10.00

Please contact Sharon on 07968 054898, [wheatbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:wheatbutler@btinternet.com) or [fsmhothfield@gmail.com](mailto:fsmhothfield@gmail.com) if you can come to the volunteer meeting or if you cannot make it if you can help on the day itself.