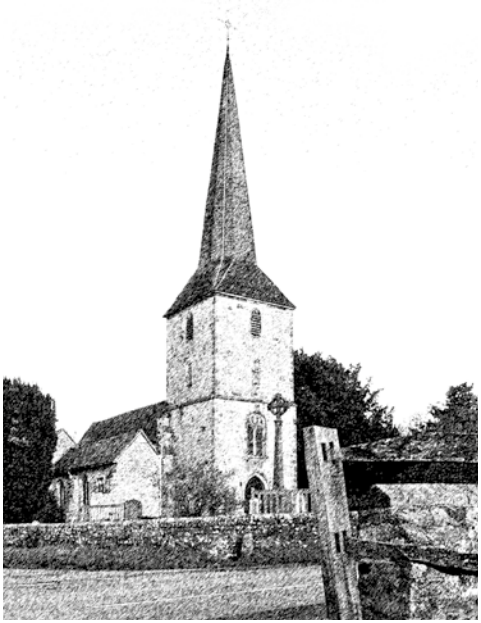
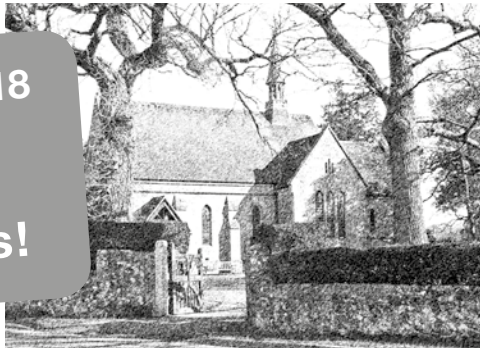
THE LINK







December 2018

In this issue:

Christmas!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

AFRICAN PROMISE

Christmas Carol Service

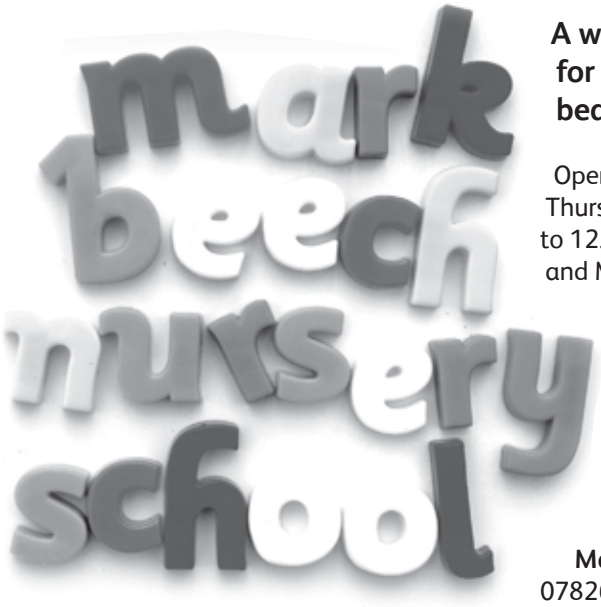
Wednesday 5th December 2018
6.30pm (doors open 6pm)

St Giles-in-the-Field Church
60 St Giles High Street, London, WC2H 8LG

Tickets £22 (over 16s only) including wine and mince pies are available from www.africanpromise.org.uk/support-us/events/carol-service

All proceeds go towards our work supporting primary schools in rural Kenya

Featuring musical performances from the *London International Gospel Choir* and baritone *Felix Kemp* and readings from stars of stage and screen including *Sheila Hancock CBE, Charles Dance OBE* and *David Caves*



A warm caring environment for children 2-5 years with a beautiful outside play area.

Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday mornings 9am to 12.15pm in the Village Hall and Monday and Wednesday afternoons until 3pm. Lunch Club available each day to 1.30pm

Do come and see us. To arrange a visit please contact:

Mrs Ann Roberts-Cleeve
01342 850403
Manager: Miss Fiona Baxter
07826011880

An ordinary child?

One of the main things we can learn from the familiar Christmas stories and carols that will be heard in our churches this year is that Jesus comes to us as an ordinary child, born to an ordinary mother. He comes as a sign that God comes to us where we are, bringing light and hope in our world as it is, in all its splendour and its need. God is at work in him because of his ordinariness not despite it. His very name tells us he is 'God with us' in all the parts of life where he is most needed.

As we revel in the rosy glow of those familiar stories, well-loved prayers and carols, it is important not to think of his birth as something that happened in ancient history, but something we can welcome afresh every year as an event that can give us the inspiration and commitment to play our own part where we can in bringing new hope, new life and new vision to the issues of today.

Why not join us in any of our churches this Christmas – there is so much choice: a candle-lit Crib service for all ages, Christingle, traditional carols and lessons and Community carols as well as Midnight Communion and Christmas Day family services. There will be something for everyone to celebrate together as we welcome the birth of an ordinary child who would have an extraordinary impact on the world for all time. Please come along and bring the family and your visitors too!

I pray that you all will enjoy a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Wendy Izod Priest in Charge

THE LINK



There but not There exhibition in Hever Church.



Hever Carol Supper

On Friday 21st December

Following the nine lessons and carols service at St Peter's Church Hever, which starts at 7pm, there will be a hot two course meal at the Hever Village Hall and everyone is very welcome to come along. There will be a vegetarian option, but this needs to be ordered at the time of booking. Please book your meal by 18th December. The supper will cost £10 per head, payable by cash or cheque, and can be booked by contacting Ellie Heard on 01732 865564, please leave a message on the answerphone.

News from Hever pews

Hever had a memorable Remembrance weekend with a successful concert, well attended Sunday service and the bell ringers rounded it off with a quarter peal. Hever is very grateful to John Scott for donating the wood and Tony Yates for making the remembrance crosses for the fallen which are ranged around the war memorial

Carols around the Christmas Tree
in St. Paul's Church Four Elms



Sunday 23rd December at 3pm
Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
EVERYONE WELCOME

The Grand Hever Quiz

Seven rounds of brain stretching (but not too stretching) questions with tables of ten competing for the trophy....

The menu: Boeuf Bourguignon or Confit Byaldi
Sticky toffee pudding and clotted cream ice cream
Cheese and biscuits • Tea and coffee

Cash bar • Raffle

Saturday 26 January 2019 • Quiz starts 7.30pm sharp
(doors open 6.45pm) Carriages 10.30 approx
Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle

Tickets £25
www.bookitbee.com/Hever • or from Mandy Yarnold: 01342 850028
Profits to St Peter's Hever.

December diary



4 Dec	RNLI Christmas concert, Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead 2pm
5 Dec	Carol Service in aid of African Promise, St Giles-in-the-Field Church London WC2 6.30pm
8 Dec	RNLI Christmas concert Freshfield Hall, Forest Row 7.30 pm
11 Dec	Markbeech Village Lunch, Markbeech Village Hall 12.30 – 2pm
15 Dec	Hever Family Carols, St Peter's Church 5pm
15 Dec	RNLI Christmas concert Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead 2.30pm
16 Dec	Markbeech village carols, Kentish Horse 5pm
20 Dec	Christmas Bingo, Four Elms Village Hall 7.30pm
21 Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols, St Peter's Church Hever 7pm
21 Dec	Hever Carol Supper, Hever Village Hall 8.15pm
23 Dec	Four Elms Village Carols, St Paul's Church 3pm
23 Dec	Markbeech Carol service, Holy Trinity Church 6pm
24 Dec	Crib Service St Peter's Church Hever 4pm
24 Dec	Midnight Communion St Peter's Church Hever 11.30pm
25 Dec	Christmas Service Holy Trinity Church Markbeech 9.15am
25 Dec	Communion Service St Paul's Church Four Elms 11am
26 Dec	Boxing Day Meet, Chiddingstone Castle 11am
18 Jan	Hever Film Club, Hever Castle Golf Club 7pm
26 Jan	Grand Hever Quiz, Guthrie Pavilion Hever Castle 6.45pm



Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms												
	67	50	22.5	9	59.5	71	74					
2018					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38		
Hever												
2017	73	53	19.5	10	60.5	67	70	37	42	36	56.5	
2018	79	36	81	65.5	79	0	36	63	32	41		
Markbeech												
2017	73	50	26	6	63	72	76	41	43.5	34.5	55	
2018	83	40	82	77.25	70.05	1.5	51	68.5	33	47.5		

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Edenbridge has a thriving U3A - University of the Third Age - for anyone retired or semi-retired.

We have over 60 groups run by members most of which are in no way academic, just social, interesting, healthy or simply fun, though learning still occurs e.g. board and card games, exploring town and countryside, travel, book club or wine appreciation.

New members can now join from January to June for £10 covering all groups you join, monthly speaker meetings and refreshments or £17.50 for a couple at the same address. We will be able to guide you towards the groups you are interested in and help you to circulate and make new friends or meet up with old ones. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, you can come along as a visitor for £2 at our Tuesday afternoon Speaker meeting and socialising. Last Tues of each month 2-4pm at Crockham Hill Village Hall.

All our information is online - just type in edenbridge u3a and have a look around! You can join up at the monthly meeting or contact our membership secretary Estelle, details on the website or ring 01732 866186.

Our 1st speaker of the New Year is Antonia Gallop on 29th January 'Across India on an Enfield Motorcycle'. Come and join the fun!"

Christine Byrne Publicity Officer



My name is Kate Hume and I am a locally based Zumba Instructor and Performing Arts Teacher.

I grew up in Marsh Green so I have always been aware of existing local activities and had it in mind that I would like to set something up in the area. After graduating from Trinity Laban, I wanted to use my training and experience to explore the world of fitness instruction, so decided to train in Zumba. I set my first class up back in April - a session at Crockham Hill which runs every Monday from 6.30 - 7.15pm.

It was popular and well attended so I then formed another group, which meets every Thursday at Markbeech Village Hall, from 6.30 - 7.15pm.

The idea of the class is to keep moving, have a good time and get sweaty! You can take exactly what you want from it - some people like to focus on the dance and technique side of things and Ihelp with this as much as I can. On the other hand, others like to be left to their own devices and simply make sure they keep going and get their daily dose of exercise. As long as you leave feeling elated and energised, I don't mind either way! I charge £5 upfront or £7 on the door - please do enquire if you are interested - we'd love to have you join us! kate_hume@hotmail.co.uk/07595921574

News of the new medical centre in Edenbridge

Residents in the Edenbridge area are one step closer to getting their new, combined hospital and GP surgery after the NHS agreed on its preferred location on land next to the Eden Centre on Four Elms Road. The NHS will canvass views on what the new centre might look like, ahead of seeking planning permission and purchasing the land from the KCC.

Dr Simon Morrison, from Edenbridge Medical Practice, said: "There is clear evidence that having a new combined hospital and GP surgery will enable us to recruit the best GPs, nurses and other staff, and to work with the hospital teams and others, to deliver improved, holistic healthcare for the people of Edenbridge and the surrounding villages. We are excited that this project has taken a real step forward."

A good profit for Combat Stress

The moving and atmospheric concert '1918' held in Hever Church on 'Remembrance Saturday' raised £460 for Combat Stress. The printing and publicity was all sponsored by the Parish Council and the Hever Charity so many thanks are due to them. Thanks also to our impresario Joanna Wade whose idea this concert was, the musical director Charles Talbot and to the performers, the helpers and the audience who made the evening a great success.

Bridget Harris

Boxing Day Meet @ Chiddingstone Castle

Come and join your local hunt on foot at Chiddingstone Castle on 26th December for our festive Boxing Day Meet where you can enjoy the spectacle of the horses and hounds arriving at 11am.

The earlier you arrive at Chiddingstone village, the nearer you can park, so please leave in plenty of time.

Please support this by purchasing refreshments, served from 10am within the Castle grounds, which will benefit the Hunt and help this time honoured countryside tradition continue for generations to come.



Four Elms Bingo

In Four Elms Village Hall, every Thursday evening 7:30 - 9:00 and on the 20th December there will be a big bingo night for Christmas with lots of prizes, a Christmas raffle and a chance to win £100.

Come and meet a neighbour!

Village Lunch : Soup, cheese & fruit (cake if you are lucky)

11th December 12.30-2pm

Markbeech Village Hall

If you know you are coming please either call Nicki Talbot on 01342 850526 or email Nicola@falconhurst.co.uk

Or just turn up! Donations welcome.



Markbeech Pub

Carols at The Kentish Horse

Sunday 16th December 5pm

Come and sing some favourite carols in our favourite pub!

Mince pie pastry

As taught at Bread Ahead, a bakery in Borough Market – this pastry is delicious and very easy to handle

For the pastry:

375g strong white bread flour, plus extra for dusting

225g cold unsalted butter, diced, plus extra for greasing

150g caster sugar

1 whole egg

1 egg yolk

1 egg, beaten, to glaze

2 tbsp demerara sugar

Rub the flour and butter together until you have the texture of ground almonds. Add the sugar and mix well. Separately whisk together the egg and yolk and gradually add to the flour mix but stop when the mixture comes together and gently knead for 30 seconds. Wrap in clingfilm and rest in the fridge for at least 3 hours (you can leave it overnight).

Remove the pastry from the fridge about 90 mins before you want to use it. Butter a deep 12 hole bun tin. Dust with flour. Turn upside down and tap to remove the excess. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface to about 6mm. You now want to cut 24 discs for use as the bases and lids for your pies. The bases need to be large enough to overhang the individual tins. Typically a 10cm base and 7cm lid should work but do a test run. This pastry can be re-rolled as necessary. Once lined spoon in about 3 heaped teaspoons of mince meat and cover with the lids. Eggwash and then seal by bringing the overhanging pastry up onto the lids. Crimp closed with your finger tips and sprinkle with demerara. Cut a steam hole in the lids and rest in the fridge for a couple of hours.

Preheat the oven to 160°C/fan 140°C/gas 3 and bake for about 40 minutes, until golden brown. Let them stand for 5 minutes and then with a small knife, loosen gently and turn out onto a rack to cool.

News from the Markbeech pews

It's a been a busy time in Markbeech, a wedding, two funerals, Harvest supper, a village lunch, and a cabaret evening, and as I write this I am smelling the spices infusing for the Swedish mulled wine for the Christmas Bazaar this Saturday!

The wedding was very charming, Teresa Cornwell married Dr Mark Ilsley (at last) on a very sunny and warm Wednesday.

Markbeech has lost one of its iconic figures with the death Bob Theobald, known so well for building, golfing and supporting the Kentish Horse. He was liked by everyone and there was a huge congregation for his funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Sue Theobald and the family as they deal with their loss.

The Harvest supper was well supported and fun and we enjoyed terrific entertainment from Edgelanders band, with Flora Smith singing. The village lunch in the village hall was a success too, with a good selection of people enjoying soup and cheese and cake. We are experimenting with timings and places for this roughly monthly event around the benefice and are hoping it will become something looked forward to by young and old alike, especially those who are stuck at home for too much of the time.

Sam Chara is a brilliant singer who came to Markbeech for the second time to be the star of a cabaret evening with dinner held with Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust. Nicki Talbot and I were expecting to cook the dinner for this but were delighted when we were offered professional catering from the enormously talented Charlie and Lotte of 'Eat Lotts'. They provided imaginative and delicious canapes, perfectly cooked venison fillet with dauphinoise potatoes (with a twist), and a very impressive trio of desserts. They live locally and are young and energetic with great ideas - well worth contacting! They can be contacted via their website www.eatlotts.com or 07950 614904 or 07973 522250.

And lastly Markbeech was very happy to contribute to the evening of WWI commemoration, providing singers to support the excellent programme organised by Joanna. Charles Talbot's singing was particularly powerful and moving.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden



THREE SPIRES

United benefice of Hever, Four Elms & Markbeech
Rev. Wendy Izod (01342) 850738, izodiham@gmail.com

Benefice website: Threespires. wordpress. com
Community website: www.hever.org

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

Hever parish council part 2

Last month I talked about the local council structures and this month I describe the work we do for Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech.

Hever Parish Council owns and maintains the following:

- Four Elms recreation ground (the field and playground behind Four Elms Primary school)
- Hever Parish Field (opposite Hever Primary school) including the "hut"
- And also benches, bus shelters, streetlights, dog bins, defibrillators (one in Four Elms and one in Hever).

Council is kept busy ensuring their administration is executed properly and within budget whilst keeping up to date with changes and plans from District and County statutory bodies such as Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council and many more. Parish Councils also comment on planning applications and can be represented at public inquiries.

In the last few months we have been busy – including the following projects:

- Complete replacement of Four Elms playground. The Clerk was able to source grants of ~ £15,000 and thanks to lots of practical help from local firm Willerby's, a fantastic new playground has been installed – do go and have a look!
- New website for www.hever.org for the Community – complete with Calendar and many areas for many of the local groups and facilities.
- Responding to County or District wide consultations that will affect us here in West Kent e.g. SDC Draft Local Plan and KCC waste consultation.

Plus many more – e.g. Free family fun days over Summer, Easter litter picks, bulk refuse freighters, the Village Screen film club etc. etc!

Coming up in the next few months:

- We will be planning for the 2019 – 2020 budget.
- Reviewing the long history of traffic calming attempts across the parish and considering whether/ where a 20mph zone / limit would be effective or perhaps there are other solutions?
- Reviewing the results of the compulsory Housing Needs survey (undertaken every 5 years by every parish / town council) to consider affordable housing needs locally and what we can do.

We also work collaboratively with local groups , notably the Hever Residents Association. In this way we ran the successful Queen's 90th party in Hever Castle, and fund the Hever Carols in the church and the Four Elms carols round the tree. This year we are supporting the 1918 concert.

We are very pleased to award small grants to local groups, for example Edenbridge Voluntary Transport and the Samaritans.

We often debate our name because "Hever PC" does not reflect the whole parish. It is hard to think of a better name - FEVERbeech doesn't do it - do let us have any ideas.

You are always welcome to attend meetings – the next one is Tuesday 15th January 2019 at Markbeech village hall.

Sevenoaks council news

One of the many great privileges of serving as a councillor is the range of people one meets. Everyone has a different story, bringing to meetings or events their own experiences and expertise. Often it emerges in conversation that they are quietly putting their talents to good use supporting our community through volunteering.

Our cricket clubs, our village halls and our churches are all supported by committees of residents beavering away to sustain these local institutions. We benefit from residents' associations, horticultural societies, litter picks, a citizens advice bureau, fetes, a parish council and plenty more – all led by volunteers.

A community's strength is derived in no small part from those within it and it is therefore a testament to ours that there are so many people who are able and willing to give of their time.

Recognising this, three years ago the District Council established with kind support from sponsors – and a small army of helpers – the inaugural Making It Happen Awards. I was privileged to attend the prize-giving and hear stories of truly transformative work touching the lives of thousands of people, which simply would not have occurred were it not for the generosity of others.

Duly inspired, the following year I nominated one of our own local success stories, which counts amongst its volunteers and beneficiaries many in our villages.

In a moment of particular pride, the Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service (EVTS) went on to win Charity of the Year in appreciation of the invaluable contribution it makes to our community. In testament to their characteristic modesty and dedication, the EVTS team was not present to receive their prize at the awards ceremony as they were assiduously attending to their AGM!

I am pleased to say the awards for unsung heroes across our patch are back with a greater number of categories than ever before: charity project of the year; community arts or sports group of the year; youth group of the year; best business in the community; individual community champion; carer of the year; equalities champion; lifetime achievement; community safety; dementia friendly initiative of the year; outstanding volunteer for local attraction; and, older persons group of the year.

If you feel it is high time a person, project or organisation got the recognition they deserve, do submit their details via www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityawards – or let me know if you'd like a paper form. Nominations need to be submitted by Friday 14 December.

In the meantime, feel free to get in touch if there's anything with which I might be able to assist.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG

cllr.dickins@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07910 328 110

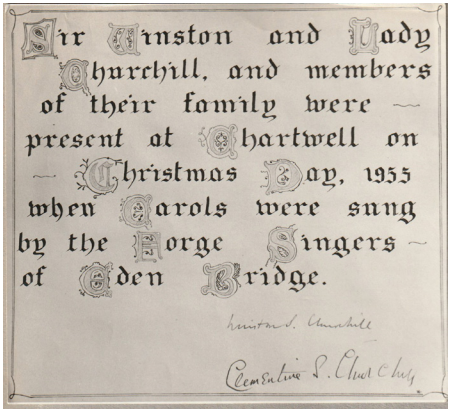
Christmas with the Astors ...and the Churchills

Pat Humphreys worked for the Astors at Hever Castle for 20 years and then for the Guthries for another five. She was born in Cork in Ireland. Her father died when she was in her early 20s and as the unmarried daughter she was expected to stay at home and look after her



Pat Humphreys at her 90th birthday party

mother. But, encouraged by her sisters, she realised that she needed to live her own life and so, with only £5 in her pocket, and no family money behind her, she arrived alone in London in 1952 and got work as a secretary. Her aunts and uncles never forgave her for leaving. In 1963, after ten years of living in "ghastly" bed-sits she was offered a job in the estate office at the Castle which had recently opened it doors to the public and moved down here. She lived in a flat in the Tudor village.



The Astors loved Christmas and every year an enormous tree was erected in the inner hall which reached right up to the ceiling. Lady Irene would decorate it (with a little help from her staff) and presents were piled underneath. Highlights were the visits of local choirs who came to sing carols. Lord Gavin Astor would lower the drawbridge as the singers approached and the family and staff would gather to listen to the singing. Afterwards sherry and mince pies were offered round - wine was not drunk much in those days.

Pat says that at the time she did not realise what a privilege it was to work at the castle. The Astors were good employers and the staff loyal, and it seemed an almost everyday experience to see the Queen and other grandees visiting, especially in the autumn for the famous Hever shoot. Pat enjoyed a happy retirement in Pigdown Lane and was busy as a churchwarden and a leading member of the Horticultural Society for many years. Her 90th birthday party at the golf club this year was a great success with locals and many relatives gathering to celebrate.

Una Higgs was singing for the Astors well before Pat was there to hear her. She recalls: "In December 1938 I was asked to join a local choir for some carol singing. Loving singing, carols and Christmas I looked forward in anticipation. Our destination was Hever, our transport an open backed lorry used for delivering coal, which for our use had been swept and fitted with wooden benches (few people had cars in those days)! There had been an early fall of

snow, and the landscape sparkling in frost was lit by a low full moon in the sky, a Christmas card scene giving just the right atmosphere as we were driven along. Arriving at the castle we were set down by the drawbridge which we crossed to a warm, well lit Christmassy interior. There was a beautifully decorated tree reaching to the ceiling and huge swathes of evergreens criss-crossing above our heads.

In the great hall we were greeted by J J Astor and his wife Lady Violet where we sang the carols in a very relaxed atmosphere, our hosts chatting with members of the choir in between. After about half an hour we made our farewells to the family and went to the kitchens where the French chef waited eagerly to join in our singing and rewarded each of us with a large orange.

By the next Christmas, 1939, there was no more carol singing as the war had overtaken us, but in 1949 I thought the time had come to revive old traditions and I gathered together a few friends, rehearsed, discovered that Hever was delighted to have us and set off.

The next year we did the same and it was during our rehearsals that the idea of singing through the year and perhaps give a charity concert was voiced and that was how the Forge Singers began and they are still alive and active locally. As more and more people joined the singers we became more ambitious and undertook musicals and an annual pantomime. The highlight of the Singers story must be the visit to Chartwell in 1955 to sing carols to Winston Churchill



Una Higgs (front far right) and her carol singers in front of the Castle Christmas tree with Lord JJ and Lady Violet Astor in 1949.

and his wife on Christmas Day. We were asked to time it at 5 o'clock which meant we had to reshuffle a lot of our own family arrangements, but we all agreed it was something we had to do, and seeing the great man in his siren suit and slippers enjoying our singing is something none of us will ever forget."

And, as Helen Francis, PR Executive writes, Hever Castle continues it's Christmas traditions today, with rooms of the Castle beautifully decorated and themed around tales including the Nutcracker, The Tailor of Gloucester and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' with twinkling lights and welcoming log fires. Outside visitors can enjoy a festive interactive trail themed around Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. As dusk falls, the gardens are illuminated with up-lighting and colour washes.
Christmas activities also include a carousel and vintage fairground and on selected dates visitors can pose for a picture with a husky.

For more information visit hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on

schooltime

news from Hever

This month, the children have been busy learning and remembering our fallen soldiers.

In year 6, all the children made tissue paper poppies to create a splendid wreath. Ten of the children performed poems at the beautiful and moving Remembrance service for which they practised and rehearsed hard. Meanwhile a group of the children attended an Able Writers course with a well-known author and produced some excellent journalistic news reports.

In year 4 and 5 class, the children embraced the theme of Remembrance with a mature and reflective attitude; considering the thoughts and feelings of soldiers and their families whilst they were at war. They have made earthquake and tsunami dioramas to aid their learning about geographical changes and extreme global events. We are extremely proud of their initiatives to raise over £330 money to help the victims of the earthquake in Indonesia.

In year 3, the children enjoyed travelling back in time to the Stone Age for the day. They arrived in costume and spent the day talking, hunting and gathering food together in their tribes to learn about Stone Age life. As part of Remembrance the children created a beautiful Poppy Cross and thought about the impact war has on every day citizens as well the families that are left behind.

Year 2 class have shared facts about World War 1 and 2 to deepen their understanding of why we wear poppies. The children have been so considerate and thoughtful in creating their own wreath to be laid in church at our Remembrance service. They also studied the story of the Gunpowder plot and investigated the reasons why we have bonfires and firework displays in November.

In year 1 class the children also delved into the past. They focused on a map of the village of Hever dating back to 1918. The children were amazed to recognise some of the landmarks we know and love today. In recognition of Armistice Day the children created a range of poppies.

Finally, in our Early Year Reception class, the children have enjoyed reading “The Little Red Hen” and told the story to the whole school at the Harvest Festival. After receiving a Bread Recipe from The Little Red Hen they made their own bread and very much enjoyed eating it too! The class have been very expressive creating paper poppies and paintings for the Remembrance Service.

We are very excited to announce that the school has been awarded the Platinum Mark at the Literary Awards, which recognise the achievements of the whole school in raising standards and engagement in Literacy. This is the second year in a row we have won this and our success is down to the hard work and dedication of the staff and pupils.

Joanna Stratton

Nearly 101 Dalmatians… the rest got stuck at the roadworks! We had a great turn out for our walking party at the 90th Edenbridge Bonfire parade. It was quite a spectacle to see 'Nearly 101 Dalmatians' in one place! Our mini Cruella de Vil came 1st in 'Best Humorous Child Costume' and our adult Cruella was 2nd in 'Best Individual Humorous Adult Costume'. Overall, Four Elms Primary came 2nd in 'Best Walking Party'.

New experiences

The children are getting stuck into their new experiences which put learning in a real life context. A highlight this term is the Willy Wonka themed 'Chocolate Advent-ure' where children will be learning how to make their own chocolates, with help from the Science department at Sevenoaks school, for a class advent calendar. The children will trial and assess different flavours, textures and toppings to create a unique, delicious and mouth-watering delicacy. To inspire creative ideas, the children will be focussing on Roald Dahl's classic story Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Sounds delicious!

Sports

We are delighted to have attained our Bronze School Games Mark! We achieved this for the increasing profile of sports in the school and the number of competitions that we have participated in, such as football and cross country tournaments. As we go to print, the cross country team are competing in the Kent Junior Schools Cross Country Championships 2018 at the Kent Showground, Detling. Good luck Four Elms!

Class Four have been given a fantastic opportunity to receive free cycling lessons through the British Council who support the training of Team GB! They will have several lessons before taking part in a national competition.

And finally, a pupil's eye view

In the first of an occasional series uncovering what it's really like to be a pupil at Four Elms Primary School, we interviewed one of the year 4 girls about 'Wake Up Shake Up'.

Q. So, what is wake up shake up exactly?

Pupil: It's dancing to music outside in the playground at the start of every day before lessons start.

Q. How does it work?

Pupil: Years 5 and 6 lead the dancing and choose the music. We have to copy the moves that the leaders do. Everyone from year R to year 6 gets involved!

Q. Why do you start the day in this way?

Pupil: It's so that our brains wake up ready for the school day.

Q. Why do you like it?

Pupil: It's fun!

We think it sounds like a great way to start the day to boost energy levels and get ready for learning.

Nicole Holt



Scarlett Murray, aged 6, with her harvest alien.

Business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
Just £25 per annum

Accommodation		
Becketts B&B	bed & breakfast	01342 850 514
Art		
The Topfoto Gallery	photo gallery, family albums, framing	01732 863 939
Bookkeeping		
David James	accountancy services	01892 871 139
Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
Building & Design Services		
Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01732 700 353
Charlie Thompson	plastering & property management	07468 596 786
Clare Elizabeth	painting and decorating	0777 5328781
G Moss	joiner & builder	01732 863 940
M & M Walker	painting & decorating, plumbing, heating	07774 218 684
Wealden Interiors	bespoke carpentry and cabinet making	07711 129983
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559
Car repairs		
R B Autos	service, MOT, repairs, home start	01732 860 077
Crafts		
Woodlea Craft & Design	presents,pottery,lamps,baskets,jewellery	01732 700 279
Cleaning		
Housecleans	cleaning, ironing	01959 532 223
Zero Dry Time	dry carpet & upholstery cleaners	01732 387 046
The Oven Cleaner	hobs, ovens, extractors, agas	01732 863 864
Education		
Markbeech Nursery	for children 2-5 years	01342 850403
Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315
Fitness		
Toni's Pilates	Personal training, pilates classes	07590 413 495
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Chiddingstones Tennis Club		07771 912 108
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
balancelotts	yoga classes	07950 614904
Funeral Services		
Alex Jones	funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047

Gardening and landscaping		
Hever Landscapes	for all your garden projects	01892 740133
French's Fencing	gates, automation, fencing supply & fitting	0779 5551436
R. Bennett	hedges, fencing, grass cutting	01732 862971
Sam Thompson tree care,	felling, hedge cutting, logs	07747 345815
TJ Arb Tree services	professional tree surgeons	01342 851008
Chris St Pierre Tree Surgery	felling, planting, hedge cutting, woodland	01342 850248
Wilkinson Gardening	professional gardening services	07875 432097
Health		
Emma Darthuy Chartered Physio	home physio visit, pilates classes	07530 857613
Private GP Clinic	Complete Private GP Service	01732 835212
Paul Marro	Cognitive Hypnotherapy	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
Home services		
Andy Sayers Electrical Services	maintenance and repairs	01892 740631
Pegrum	fuels, boilers, plumbing, solar panels, water/oil tanks	01732 463256
SAS air conditioning services	Installations, service, maintenance. domestic and commercial	07717 318 075
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
Milborrow Chimney Sweeps	pots, cowls, birdguards, stove repairs	01342 71790
IT		
IT Wizard	Computer problems	01732 361234
Local Produce		
Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Printing services		
Newgraphic	leaflets, business cards, orders of service, invitations	01732 862 222
Taxis and Travel		
The Elegant Voyager	chauffeured classic car hire	07787 612 229
Stuart Rieman	luxury passenger car service	01883 715 037
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

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St. Paul's Church Four Elms had a wonderful display of harvest gifts generously given by Four Elms Primary School and the congregation during our Harvest Service. All beautifully and imaginatively packaged in boxes,



the produce will be given to the Food Bank in Edenbridge.

It was a wonderful effort by the school and the congregation of Four Elms. Café Church had also celebrated Harvest at its monthly meeting in Hever School. Children and parents decorated letters spelling out Harvest as well as singing heartily and accompanying the last hymn with percussion instruments.

Café Church's next meeting is at Four Elms on Sunday 9 December. We will be making Christingle Candles in the Parish Rooms and then a short service will follow in St. Paul's Church. We welcome everyone to this lovely service.

Christina Hodson

FOUR ELMS REMEMBERS

A short Remembrance Service to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice was well attended at the War Memorial in St. Paul's Church Gardens, Four Elms. The names of those who lost their lives in the first and second World Wars were read out and a wreath was laid remembering all who have lost their lives in conflicts throughout the years.

Dear friends,
There is smoke in the chimneys, fires are lit every evening and the smell is cheerful and welcoming. Wood ash is good stuff to spread on your flower and vegetable beds, or your pots, rich in potassium (pot-ash) and good for your fruiting plants next year.

This time of year is already too cold and too wet. Plants feel the change as much as us. Nothing seems to dry out before spring comes round again, and it is time to put the garden to bed for the winter. Nevertheless, even though it is warming and cosy to light a fire, you must beware while stockings go up in the fireplace: because "Santa Klaus is coming to town". But Christmas is much more than that, it is about feelings and good cheer, a very special season.

In the southern hemisphere the monsoon brings good cheer (I don't mean that Christmas is not well celebrated there as well!). The greatest river on earth moves in the air, and with it big herds travel thousands of miles to get to water. Many plants cope for long periods without rain, but sooner or later they will all need a good drink. Without rain plants cannot survive and we know all life depends upon plants. The vegetation in the northeast of my home country, Brazil, seems dead during the dry season – you can only see leafless trees with contorted trunks over hot, dry, soil; any green is just from cactus trees. Mandacaru (Cereus jamacaru) is a tree cactus that comes into flower just before the rain arrives. How it times the bloom with the rain is anyone's guess. But some cactus are epiphytes, and one of them takes pride of place in many households during Christmas, the Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera truncata). Our May flower, as it is known back home, is native to rainforests, where it is humid and warm but protected from direct sun, making it a perfect house plant.

In Brazil it flowers in May when winter is just arriving, so here it flowers between November and January – ideal for the Christmas table. They need to be fed and watered regularly, but not excessively; cacti are not fond of too much water except during their growing season. Despite coming from the tropics they enjoy cooler temperatures. Apart from that, repot them every 2 years and enjoy their colourful cheer throughout Christmas, alongside all the activities drawing us to the mother church to join our neighbours in the divine blessings.

Really, spirit of Christmas is found in our hearts, not down the chimneys. Merry Christmas!

Ana Claudia.

PS: Special thanks to Joanna Wade, who inspired me to write about this species.

Services in December 2018

Services rota

Day	Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen
Advent Sunday	02 Dec 02 Dec 02 Dec	9.15 11.00 16.00	Markbeech Four Elms Hever	Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Evensong	Ricky Calvocoressi Mary & John Proctor Pat Evemy & Andrew Izod
Advent 2	09 Dec 09 Dec 15 Dec	9.15 11.00 16.30	Markbeech Four Elms Hever	Benefice Communion Café Christingle Village Carols	Ann Bellamy Church wardens
Advent 3	16 Dec 16 Dec 16 Dec 21 Dec	9.15 11.00 17.00 19.00	Markbeech Hever Markbeech Hever	Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Pub Carols Nine lessons & Carols, Carol Supper	Nicki Talbot Lisa & Will Cowell Anne Simmonds
Advent 4	23 Dec 23 Dec 23 Dec	11.00 15.00 18.00	Hever Four Elms Markbeech	Benefice Communion Carols in the Church Garden Carol Service	Pat Evemy & Jan Tolfree Liz Kaberry
Christmas Eve Christmas Day	24 Dec 24 Dec 25 Dec 25 Dec	16.00 23.30 9.15 11.00	Hever Hever Markbeech Four Elms	Crib Service Midnight Communion Christmas Family Sung Eucharist Family Communion	Ana Roxburgh & Jane Rosam Lisa & Will Cowell Liz Kaberry John & Christina Hodson
Christmas 1	30 Dec	11.00	Hever	Benefice Communion	Pat Evemy & Jan Tolfree
Epiphany	06 Jan	08.00 9.15 11.00	Four Elms Hever Markbeech	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Parish Communion	Church Wardens Ricky Calvocoressi Anne Simmonds & Andrew Izod

Date Lectionary readings November 2018

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
02 Dec	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	25:1-9	1 Thess 3:9-end	Luke 21:25-36	Advent 1
09 Dec	Malachi 3: 1-4	Benedictus	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6	Advent 2
16 Dec	Zephaniah 3:14-end	146:4-end	Philipians 4:4-7	Luke 3: 7-18	Advent 3
23 Dec	Micah 5: 2-5a	80:1-8	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45	Advent 4
24 Dec	Isiah 9:2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20	Christmas Eve
25 Dec	Isiah 62: 6-end	97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20	Christmas Day
30 Dec	Samuel 2:18-20.2	148:1-6	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-end	Christmas 1

Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
Vasile Nedelcu & James Calvocoressi Mary Proctor & Gill Lambert Anne Simmonds & Jane Rosam	Liz Kaberry Marion Purrl	Vasile Nedelcu Gill Lambert
Carol Bowern & Lynnie Hopkins	Nick Irens Elly Heard	Nick Irens
Roger Hopkins & Nick Irens Andrew Izod & Robin Rouse	Ann Bellamy Marion Purrl Elly Heard	Nicki Talbot
Jane Rosam & Daryl Roxburgh	Ana Roxburgh	Cynthia Mead
Will Cowell & Jane Rosam Marielou Linklater & Nicki Talbot John & Christina Hodson	Elly Heard Flora Nedelcu Marion Purrl	Jane Rosam Nick Irens
Anne Simmonds & Andrew Izod	Marion Purrl	Cynthia Mead
Fiona Irens & Liz Kaberry Daryl Roxburgh & Robin Rouse	Jill Linden Ana Roxburgh	Vasile Nedelcu Jane Rosam

Churchwardens

Hever	Jane Rosam	01732 868085
Four Elms	Leslie Griggs Gill Lambert	01732 700428 01732 862976
Markbeech	Nicki Talbot Marielou Linklater	01342 850526 01342 850579

From the register

Weddings

Sat 24th October Cornwell & Ilsley Markbeech

Baptisms

4th November Ruby Reilly-Smith Hever

Funerals

31st October Violet Simpson Markbeech

2nd November Bob Theobald Markbeech

Living in Four Elms at Christmas

Here we are at Christmas time again, we've heard it all year round how Christmas is a wonderful time. But what does that really mean to us? Well for me, it's the warm feeling of Christmas spirit that returns to cover our little village, it's the community of Four Elms coming together to celebrate the life of Jesus Christ and it's the people of Four Elms enjoying the lead up to Christmas. The festivity and spirit created by the brilliance of the holiday season can lift anyone's mood.

In Four Elms we are delighted with sights and sounds that are both merry and bright. The tree by the pond and church stands proud, while families come together to share their meals and gifts, neighbours exchange pleasantries and strangers share smiles because no one can resist its joyous essence. I am proud to be a part of the Four Elms community at Christmas time, because Christmas in Four Elms is simply wonderful and magical. Thank you.

Tia Batchelor

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Copy for the January edition should reach us no later than **12th December.**
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