January 2019

THE LINK







In this issue:

- News from the pews
- What's on in January
- Film Club news
- Reports from the Councils
- A local man remembers

...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the January edition from HRA

Well the New Year is almost upon us and Hever Residents Association's committee members are taking stock of what we have achieved to benefit our community in the last year, and what we can do in 2019.

Last year we focused on events for children. There are many young families, some new to the area, who want to join in the community who find difficulty doing so. So we came up with several new ideas. We started with an Easter Egg hunt in conjunction with St Peter's Church, which brought whole families out on a brisk morning. Chocolate eggs were found and consumed, and medals awarded!!

The Scarecrow competition in the summer turned out to be our 'star' event, thanks to the inventiveness and sense of fun of families around Hever. We thought we might get 10 'crows, 20 at best. To get 60 was magnificent, all so different and enjoyable. Well done everyone!

Our Halloween party entertained over 70 young children and their parents in the Village Hall with crafts, games, fun and spooky food and decorations. These three events brought many compliments, for which we are grateful. It's pleasing to know we have been doing something which is appreciated.

We have also been doing some more serious stuff to achieve HRA's aim to 'preserve, protect and, if possible, improve the local environment' e.g. commenting the Hever station paid-parking proposal, planning applications (including the draft Local Plan), and local events e.g. Neverworld. We also ran a Life Saving Training course.

We are now planning events for 2019 and needless to say some of the above will feature again, but if you have any ideas as to what more we can do for the community please let us know. We welcome members to join the committee and new members to join HRA. The subscription is £10 for an individual and £15 for a family and is due on 1st January. Email us at hra@hever.org or phone our Treasurer Jo Cockerill on 07932 141951 and come along to our AGM, the date will be announced shortly.

We wish all Hever residents a happy and prosperous New Year.

John Adkins Chair, Hever Residents Association

News from the Pews

St. Paul's Four Elms

For the last few months we have had St. Paul's Church opened on a daily basis and we hope this has given more opportunity for people to visit our lovely church.

During October we were delighted that 5 young people from Four Elms were confirmed by the new Bishop of Tonbridge at Mereworth, followed by a wonderful party in the Four Elms Village Hall to celebrate the occasion. A very successful "Meet your Neighbours" ploughman's lunch was held in Four Elms Village Hall. This was kindly sponsored by the Four Elms Fete Committee and Southworth & Co. Around 50 neighbours gathered together, greeting old friends and meeting new residents.

Sunday morning December 10th saw the parish room filled with 27 children their parents (and grandparents) making Christingle candles.

Afterwards we moved to the Church for a short Christingle service conducted by the Reverend Wendy. It was a lovely service and especially charming was seeing the lighted Christingle candles in the darkened church, with the sunshine streaming through the beautiful stained glass windows. We must thank the parents who organise the services for Café Church and Inspired, both of which are becoming very popular in Four Elms and Hever. The Christingle service is a special activity in the church calendar and the participation of children and young people make it a very happy occasion.

We now look forward to a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and send best wishes to all.

Christina Hodson

St Peter's Hever

We are enjoying a busy Christmas in Hever and it will be sad to take down the star from the tower on twelfth night which is Saturday 5th January. Many churches had stars up this year as the church "followed the star" nationwide. The bell ringers will be ringing in the new year from 11.30pm on 31st - do come along to listen, the church will be open as we toll out the new year with muffled bells and then ring out in full peal at the stroke of midnight.

The big event for January is the Grand Hever Quiz on Saturday 26th. It is in the Guthrie Pavilion which the Castle kindly lend us for the evening. The quiz is seven rounds of a variety of testing (but not too testing) questions with a supper interval held halfway through, the delicious food provided by Leith's. Do join us if you can - you can either take a full table of 10 or book individually and we will find you a slot. Profits go to the church. Please come along - see the advert for more

details (www.bookitbee.com/Hever).

Meanwhile we hope to see as many of you as possible at the parish lunch in Hever Village Hall on Thursday 10th January at 12 for 12.30. We will be holding a lunch in the hall on the second Thursday of every month throughout the year. Everyone is very welcome.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

We enjoyed a tremendous Bazaar in November with the Village Hall packed with Christmas shoppers. Paul & Charlotte's Pie Stall is always a favourite; delicious home baked cakes, sweets and preserves, and lots of toys and crafts for the children. Ivy Wilkinson won the cake decorating competition!

The PCC were most grateful for the £1600 raised and thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a joyful occasion.

A tree has been planted in the churchyard! It is a Prunus Cerasifera which should look very pretty in early spring. We have removed the remainder of the rotten Beech, leaving a yew which we hope to shape once it puts on some more growth.

As I write, the choir is rehearsing hard for the Carol service. It's a time when we encourage singers from Hever and further afield to join us. We meet at least once a week at Falconhurst to try out new numbers and practise under the iron rod of Charles's baton. Not a wrong note is missed by him and only perfection is good enough (though rarely achieved). It is hard work but very good fun.

January will see a 'first' for Holy Trinity Markbeech! We are going to have our inaugural Family Service on 20th January. It will be at the usual time of 9.15am and will hopefully have something for everyone in the family: songs and crafts; discussion; coffee and buns. We look forward to welcoming you there.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Last but not least - Rev. Wendy Izod wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous new year!

January diary

21 Dec **Nine Lessons and Carols**, St Peter's Church Hever 7pm

21 Dec **Hever Carol Supper**, Hever Village Hall 7pm

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

10 Jan **Village Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12 noon

18 Jan **Hever Film Club**, Hever Golf Club 7pm

24 Jan **Buddhist Collection evening talk** Chiddingstone Castle 6.30pm

26 Jan **Grand Hever Quiz**, Guthrie Pavilion Hever Castle 6.45pm

HEVER CHRISTMAS FAIR

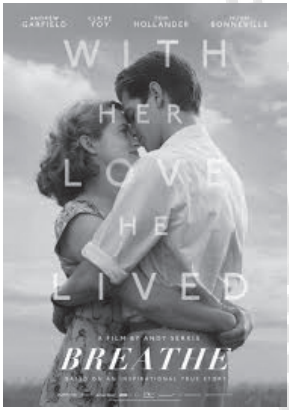
A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who baked, knitted, helped set up, tidied up, shopped, sponsored and came to support our Christmas Fair at Hever Castle! It was our 21st edition and it was a record one. We had 940 people through the door, almost double last year and we managed to raise £6,600. I cannot stress enough how important these funds are for our local school and church and we are really grateful for all your support. Thank you Hever Castle for continuing to support our event! Thank you all!

Ana Roxburgh

Village screen film club at Hever Castle Golf Club

The 2018/19 film season continues in January. Hopefully the films will now be shown on the ground floor so no more stairs!

Friday 18 January
Breathe



Starring Claire Foy and Andrew Garfield this uplifting film is based on the true story of a newly married couple and their struggles to overcome adversity after he contracts polio.

Friday 15 February
The Post



Second only to the Watergate scandal was the discovery of the Pentagon papers. Set in 1971, The Post depicts the true story of attempts by journalists at The Washington Post to publish classified documents regarding the 30-year involvement of the United States government in the Vietnam War. Starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks.

Friday 15 March



Paddington 2
This film needs no introduction really. It scores 100% on one film review website and is loved by the immature and the mature alike. It features the voices of Hughs Grant and Bonneville with Ben Whishaw as that bear.

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 8pm and doors open at 7pm for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream and popcorn in the interval.

Tickets are a suggested donation of £5 for the film or £13 to include the meal. You can book with Bridget Harris on 01732 700986 or bcharris@btinternet.com or buy tickets at the door. However PLEASE pre-book your meal by the Wednesday morning before the show if you would like to eat.

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.

Subscriptions for 2019 are due!

Please could everyone wanting to receive a paper copy of the Link make arrangements this month to pay their annual sub. Its £5 pa for a copy delivered to your door by a volunteer and £18 for postal subscriptions. This does not apply to anyone who has already set up a standing order that pays at other times of the year.

You can pay in many ways:
a) Send a cheque payable to 'The Link' with your address to Bridget Harris at 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or
b) Make a bank transfer or ideally (from our point of view!) set up a standing order payment to 'The Link' at Lloyds a/c 01057697 sort 30-92-92 with postcode and surname as reference.

From now on there will be an electronic copy of the Link uploaded to the Hever.org website each month, available free of charge. If you would rather read the Link online and no longer wish to subscribe for a paper copy, please let us know asap by calling Bridget on 01732 700986 or Joanna on 07958 919631 or by emailing us at thelink@hever.org. It is important that you let us know as we are keen to avoid waste and keep costs to a minimum. Many thanks.

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

HISTORIC HOUSE • COLLECTIONS • VENUE

LITERARY FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATES: Saturday 4th-Tuesday 7th May 2019

Chiddingstone Castle is delighted to announce the dates for next year's Literary Festival. Due to its increasing popularity next year's festival is expanding to FOUR days over the first Bank Holiday in May. The full line-up will be announced in the New Year with details of how to pre-register for priority tickets available on 28th February, 24hrs before going on general sale on 1st March 2019.

If you are looking for inspiration for a Christmas gift why not give a voucher for next year's Literary Festival. Available here https://event.bookitbee.com/20296/chiddingstone-castle-literary-festival-2019. These vouchers will have a code which will be redeemable against tickets purchased for festival events on 28th February, 24 hours before going on general sale ahead of 1st March when public booking opens.

BUDDHIST COLLECTION EVENING TALK ON THURSDAY 24th JANUARY, 6.30pm – 9pm
Join us to hear our Curator, Naomi Collick, talk about the fascinating collections of Buddhist objects at Chiddingstone Castle. Enjoy a glass of cordial, exclusive evening access to the rooms and displays, and an opportunity to handle a Tibetan Buddhist prayer wheel. You can book tickets here or call us: https://event.bookitbee.com/20540/buddhist-collection-evening-talk

The Castle, Collections, Tea Room and Gift Shop are now closed until our 2019 season : Sunday 31st March - Wednesday 30th October
www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk
hello@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

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	96	
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	127.5	
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	105.5	

Hever Parish Council

Your Hever Parish Council
PROUDLY REPRESENTING HEVER, MARKBEECH & FOUR ELMS
Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

Hever parish council
Local council elections - your chance to become a Parish councillor!

Sevenoaks District Council will be holding elections in May 2019. Hever Parish Council is also planning elections if seats on the council are contested. Would you like to get involved as a local Councillor?

We are encouraging residents who are passionate about their community - Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech - to stand for election. If you care about where you live and about your community you could make an excellent local councillor. No previous experience or specialist knowledge is required, just an interest in your local area, a desire to make a positive change and enough time. For example, at the last Parish Council meeting, the following decisions were made:

(1) To work with other groups to comment on a new planning application for 300 - 400 homes between Hever and Hartfield road.

(2) The budget for 2019 - 2020 was agreed. There will be a small REDUCTION in the HPC part of household council tax (by 7.4%) - thanks to careful spending & successfully obtaining grants for the Four Elms playground we were able to cut our spending slightly.

(3) The Council will work with English Rural Housing Association to identify any local affordable housing needs. There will be a parish wide housing needs survey coming to you soon…please do complete it. There have been several housing questionnaires recently but this one could enable the building of affordable housing strictly reserved for local people - both those with families and those who are looking for somewhere smaller and easier to manage.

Hever Parish Council meets 6 times a year, usually at 7.30pm and meetings last approximately 2 hours. You would also get involved in particular projects that interest you, for example, planning or highways issues or improving our open spaces.

Getting elected
To stand for election to a local council you must:

- Be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union (we don't know the situation post Brexit!!)
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months lived or worked in the parish or lived within three miles of the boundary.

If you would like further information please do contact me and/or **come along to the next council meeting on Tuesday 15 January at 7.30 in Markbeech Village Hall** to meet the councillors and see what we do. All members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Charlotte Cole
Clerk and Financial Officer
Hever Parish Council
01732 865547
clerk@hever.org
www.hever.org
Facebook/Heverparishcouncil

Sevenoaks District Council

Your district councillor Matthew Dickens provides some wise advice on how to apply for planning permission

The New Year has traditionally been a favourite time for people to place their home on the market and for house-hunters to renew their search for that perfect property. However instead of moving, many choose to apply for permission to enlarge, alter or completely rebuild.

Whilst in some places much can be done without planning consent, it's no surprise that many of those rights don't exist in a District which is 93% Green Belt – 100% in our villages – and 60% Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Those constraints, which are in no small part responsible for preserving the special character of our area, mean that one requires permission for most alterations – thus contributing to Sevenoaks District Council's Planning Department being the busiest in Kent, processing over two thousand applications a year.

I know it may not always seem it but the District Council approves the smallest proportion of applications in the county and has an enviable quality of decision making, as borne out in the high rate of decisions upheld at appeal.

Therefore the prospect of securing that much desired planning permission may seem pretty slim, and for those who find their dream scheme being turned down I know what a disappointment that can be, so I want to set out my number one piece of advice – and that is to seek advice.

First, contact the District Council for pre-application advice, even if your proposal has yet to be fully formed. The Council will be able to advise what restrictions are in place and what policies could affect your plans.

Seek the opinion of a professional too. Anyone may call themselves a planning consultant so obtain references and shop around as few have an intimate knowledge of our patch and the relevant protections. The best will provide frank advice, even if it is to their commercial detriment.

Take soundings from your neighbours. They will have an opportunity to make representations once you've applied, so ironing out issues beforehand is not just a matter of courtesy but can minimise objections. The same goes for the Parish Council they are consulted by the District Council.

These simple steps might seem obvious but they are all too often overlooked. So - if you have some home improvement in mind for 2019, investing that little time and money at the outset could save you a lot later on.

As ever, feel free to get in touch if there's anything I might be able to assist with.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
Sevenoaks District Council,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG
cllr.dickins@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07910 328 110

Hever Rose And Horticultural Society

Our AGM at the end of November marked the last activity in the Hever Hort calendar. As well as the usual agenda items of reports, finances and re-election of the committee, it is a chance to look back and celebrate another busy year. To this end we display a selection of photographs from our three shows, and list the winners of the 22 cups, bowls and salvers awarded in the various categories. Seeing pictures of the glorious exhibits reminds us of the high standard of horticulture of our exhibitors.

We now have over 80 members, the highest for some time, and our President, Wendy Izod, reflected on this when she made an impromptu speech, commenting on how encouraging it is when local organisations thrive and provide a focus of interest for the community. Wendy's final duty was to present the President's cup, awarded to the person who has accumulated the most points over the three shows. In third place was Laura Palmer, second was Simon Fuller but the clear winner was Jane Rosam, so well done Jane!

The schedule and programme of events for 2019 have been printed, so if you would like to join our society please contact me.

I have been asked to provide some seasonal gardening tips, a daunting task given the level of knowledge among gardeners in the area, so I have resorted to cribbing from the Royal Horticultural Society website. One suggestion is to make your own winter feed for garden birds. Our bird feeders are getting depleted very quickly, so I am making my own bird food 'balls', based on the RHS recipe. Gently melt some vegetable suet or lard in a pan and add a selection of bird seed, breadcrumbs, chopped peanuts and dried fruit. You need just enough suet to bind the mixture together. When it cools a little, spoon the mixture into containers. I am using 2" plastic flower pots, with string looped through the top and one of the bottom holes before the mixture is added, so that they hang horizontally. So far they have been pretty popular with our regular visitors; blue and marsh (willow?) tits, robins and nuthatches, among others.

A couple of other jobs (if not already done) are winter pruning of apple and pear trees and inspect Dahlia, Begonia and Canna tubers for rot or drying out, weather permitting, of course!

Doug Bowern
Chairman

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall – Mr Leigh 01732 700514
Parish Rooms – FE School 01732 700274
Hever – Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech – Mrs Paige 01342 850328

Councils

Kent County Councillor
Peter Lake 07740 701695
Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
Charlotte Cole 01732 865547

life on the farm

Antony Penman was born in Sydenham in 1919 and at the age of 16 left home to start as an apprentice farm hand at Squerryes Farm Westerham and then Scords Farm Toys Hill. He farmed Oak House Farm, Mapleton Road, Four Elms from 1938 until 1989. He and his wife Barbara then retired to How Green. Ant died in 2015. Richard Bennett worked with Ant on the farm from 1961 until 1989 and here he remembers life on the farm.

I was born in 1946 in White Post Cottage on the corner of Mapleton Road and Pootings Road, just down from Ant's farm. I had been around the farm from about the age of 8 with my brother who was five years older than me and Ant allowed us a great deal of freedom with the animals and let us drive the tractor across the fields which we loved.

When I was about to leave school aged 15 my dad asked me how I was planning to make a living and I said I thought I would work for Ant. On discovering that I hadn't mentioned this to Ant, Dad took me to see him to broach the subject. Ant said he had rather assumed that was what I was planning and that was why he had extended the dairy herd to provide enough income to pay me. Typical Ant, the most thoughtful of men. My starting pay in 1961 was £4 7s 6d for 40 hours a week plus 3/6 per hour overtime. Milking was my job once Eddie Mitchell retired. He had milked all his life, even as a POW in Germany! Milking was hard work, we produced about 150 gallons a day so that was 15 heavy churns to roll in and out of the parlour, all of which then needed cooling when they were full to reduce the heat of the milk. We did this using masses of water and it was a great saving of energy and water when the bulk tank arrived. That was refrigerated and held 300 gallons. A great innovation!

Officially there was only Ant and me so I helped out with everything although Barbara would muck in with any task bar the milking, she felt he had to draw the line somewhere! When Mrs Flint retired from farming at Holmwood Farm Ant bought some sheep which initially caused no end of trouble. Ant hadn't realised that sheep can't be confined with just a line of barbed wire like cattle. They were escape artists and in the early days we spent a lot of time retrieving them from neighbouring farms!

My Dad's health was poor and he only earned £8 per week in the 1970s. Mum used to clean three houses a day to try to make ends meet. Ant would often visit with a box of groceries to help us out. When Dad died Ant realised that Mum and I were in difficulty and offered us Eddie's old cottage on the farm. He even moved all our belongings with the tractor and trailer. So we lived on the farm from 1972 until 1989 when Ant packed up farming for good. Ant's kindness extended to his neighbours as



Antony and Barbara Penman and the oak tree which fell into their house in the great storm of 1986
Photo courtesy Eden Valley Museum

well. In the very hard winter of 1962/3 the milk lorry couldn't get to us or up the hill to Chartwell Farm where there was a big herd of Jersey cows, so every day for months Ant would go up the hill in his unheated tractor to collect their milk and put out their churns, with ours, on Pootings Road in the hope that the lorry could collect. The collection was vital as we didn't hold a stock of churns so we depended on the return of the empty ones to store the next lot of milk. When he wasn't out in the tractor Ant could be seen with his blow torch in hand, trying hard to keep the water flowing to the drinkers in the barn where all the cattle were housed.

I remember another bad winter when Ant was lambing at Holmwood. I was just finishing off the milking when it started to snow heavily. Ant came rushing to get me as there was suddenly so much snow on the ground that he was losing sight of the lambs in the whiteout and he needed help to dig them out and save them.

Thinking of Chartwell, one day we were summoned as Ant's cattle had strayed to the ornamental lake. Off we went with stakes and wire to make good the breach in the fence and round up the herd and I even caught a glimpse of Sir Winston painting in his garden. On another occasion we were up there with a tractor which had dodgy brakes. It set off alone into the lake! Ant calmly got in and backed the tractor out of the water.

As well as calm he also had patience. He used to use a shandy barrow, an early hand operated seed broadcasting device which you wheeled up and down the field to distribute seed. Ant could sow a 10 acre field in a day. He would place a metal stake at the field edge and walk towards it to keep the distribution even. I remember going off to choir practice with my brother one summer evening while Ant was at

Richard milking 1970



work with the barrow and when we came back he was still at it, in the semi darkness. At his request we stood with our bicycle lamps to help guide him as the rods were no longer visible.

We made about 10,000 bales of hay on the farm and the fields that Ant rented but we also needed straw for our animals so we would go bailing in neighbouring farms like Emmetts and Holmwood. The farmer would keep the grain and we bought the straw at a reduced rate. We'd pitchfork the bails onto the trailer and bring 100 home at a time.

Sometimes Ant grew oats which we would harvest with a binder and then stack until it was dry and ready for Jenkin Lewis from Swan Lane Farm to visit with his thresher. The sheaves were fed into the thresher and the grain would come through a chute and into one hundredweight sacks. No wonder Ant had a bad back in old age as he'd carry those sacks on his back up the steps to the granary.

They were good days and I will never forget Ant and his kindness.

Richard Bennett was interviewed by
Bridget Harris

schooltime

news from Hever

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Having worked hard all term, the children will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries. We've had a busy and productive term with lots to tell you about.

Firstly, an incredible record amount was raised for the church and the school at the Hever Castle Christmas fair. Huge thanks to Helen O'Connell and Ana Roxburgh, you must feel so proud. There was a great buzz and atmosphere with everyone pitching in to help and the Hever children sang beautifully. Thanks to the Hever community for all your support.

Oak class have been studying reptiles and were visited by a real python, a tamed pet belonging to one of the children. They have also been practising hard for their Mexican nativity performance of "The Miracle of the First Poinsettia".

Chestnut class have been preparing for the Christmas Fair (run by the newly formed businesses in the class). They created a brand, and produced financial accounts to support the spending of their budget. They were delighted to make over £320 profit from this event. To increase their profit the children will be hosting a Christmas movie night. All proceeds will fund their trip to Cornwall in May 2019.

Elm class have been focusing on Anti-Bullying week and investigated what bullying is, and how to help ourselves and others who may be suffering from bullying. They also enjoyed the magical Christingle Service, preparing their very own Christingle, listening to Christmas music and discussing its meaning.

Elderberry class discovered a love of poetry and entered the 'Young Writers' competition. To their delight they received a full class of winners! The children's poems will be published in the Young Writers book on 31 January 2019.

Magnolia class continued their journey with the "Everywhere Bear". They used their imagination to spend time in the sea with him; describing what it was like and how he was feeling. They also designed a helpful plan of the school to aid "Everywhere Bear" when he goes off on his own adventure at the weekend.

Acorn class were visited by one of the parents who is a Firefighter to teach the children how to stay safe and what to do in an emergency. They tried on the uniform then went outside to see the fire engine and had a go at using the hose to spray water. The children also showed wonderful determination when they took part in the Sponsored Walk and ran round the course several times with great enthusiasm.

Joanna Stratton

Christmas celebrations abound at Four Elms school in December!

Celebrations got off to a flying start with our annual school Christmas fete. We had some fabulous prizes to win in our raffle and tombola, a silent auction, lucky dips, games to play, toys and books to buy, cakes to savour, face painting and glitter tattoos to get in the Christmas spirit, and last but not least, a visit from the big man himself.

One of the highlights of the year is the Christmas gift stall for Mums and Dads. Children have the opportunity to buy their family members a Christmas gift independently. This is an important event for the children who enjoy the chance to select and wrap a special gift chosen especially for their family member. Some of the younger children were so excited they needed reminding about the importance of keeping their gift a secret until the big day!

Elf mayhem!
Since the start of the month, it has been reported that a number of mischievous Elves have been appearing around school causing havoc and mayhem in the classrooms overnight. Some of the elves have been spilling glitter, climbing Christmas trees and hiding things. Each morning, the children and teachers have no idea what will greet them!

Christmas performances
This year, Key stage 2 children are hosting a Carol Concert as part of our Christmas celebrations. We are excited to be using the Pajoma Theatre at Sevenoaks School for this event. This is an impressive theatre which will bring a sense of occasion to the event. The children have been practising hard to learn the songs, which are a mix of traditional and modern carols and Christmas classics. The children are also delving into the history and background to the songs and carols to make the lyrics more meaningful.

Key stage 1 will be performing their nativity sharing the story of Christmas and the whole school will be holding the annual Christingle service in St Pauls Church. The children make their own Christingles in class from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story. It is a lovely sight to see the entire school from youngest to oldest singing carols with their lit Christingle candles.

And finally, the whole school have a trip to the panto to see Dick Whittington in Sevenoaks courtesy of the PTA. The PTA are also kindly hosting end of term Christmas parties for each class with music, party games, Christmas jumpers and party food.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Four Elms School!

Nicole Holt

Smiler A4 Stamp Sheets

Royal Mail started to issue greetings stamps in the 1990s for births, birthdays, anniversaries etc.

They decided in 2000 to print these on A4 sheets and allowed the public to add their own photograph beside the stamp. The stamp sheets thus became known as Smilers.

This rapidly expanded into the Royal Mail and other commercial organisations (with Royal Mail permission) issuing a multitude of so called Smiler sheets for a number of anniversaries etc. Sheets normally contained 10 first class stamps.

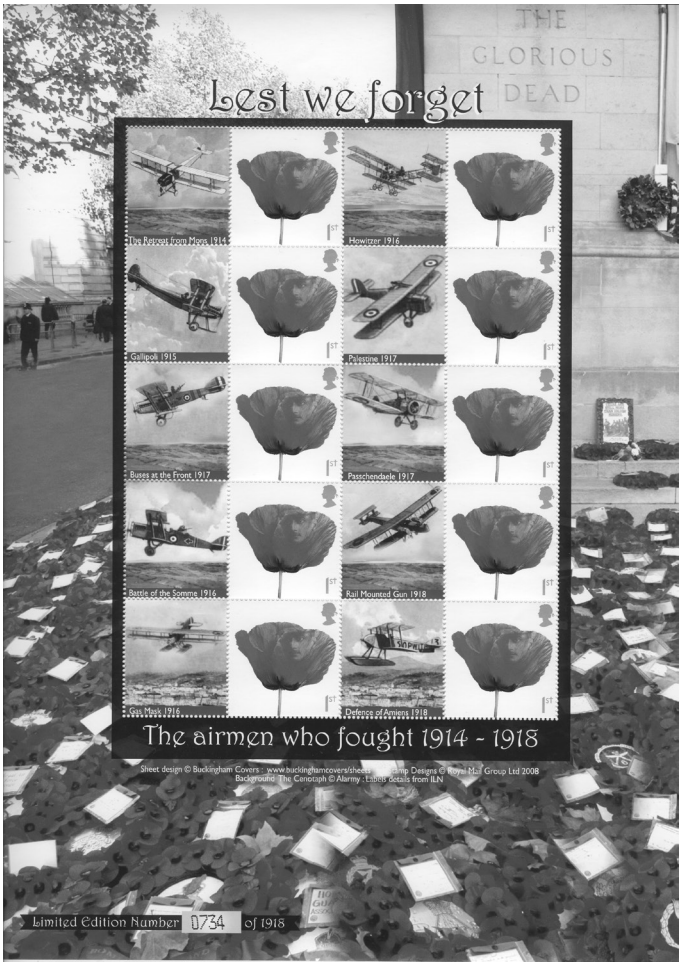
Over the past twenty years I have purchased many such sheets from Royal Mail, BFDC Ltd in Leicester and Buckingham Covers in Folkestone. I am now winding down my collection of these A4 sheets and wish to dispose of many of them and give the proceeds to charity. My chosen charity for sheets sold through 'The Link' is Combat Stress.

Below is a photograph of a sample sheet.

Anyone interested in purchasing any of the sheets is asked to contact me on 01892-870539.

Prices are very realistic at £15 per sheet.

Kit Kaberry



services in January 2019

Services rota

Day	Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen
Epiphany	06 Jan 09 Jan 10 Jan	08.00 09.15 11.00 09.30 16.30	Four Elms Markbeech Hever Hever Hever	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Church wardens Ricky Calvocoressi Anne Simmonds & Andrew Izod
Baptism of Christ	13 Jan 16 Jan 17 Jan	09.15 10.30 16.00 09.30 16.30	Markbeech Four Elms Hever Hever Hever	Sung Eucharist Café St Paul Evensong Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Carol Bowern Church wardens Pat Evemy & Elly Heard
Epiphany 3	20 Jan 23 Jan 24 Jan	09.15 11.00 16.00 09.30 16.30	Markbeech Hever Four Elms Hever Hever	Family Service Parish Communion Evensong Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Ann Bellamy Lisa & Will Cowell John & Mary Proctor
Conversion St Paul	27 Jan 30 Jan 31 Dec	11.00 09.30 16.30	Four Elms Hever Hever	Patronal Festival with Inspire Club Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	John Proctor & Christina Hodson
Candlemass	03 Feb	09.15 11.00	Markbeech Hever	Sung Eucharist Parish Communion	Liz Kaberry Jan Tolfree & Pat Evemy

Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
Fiona Irens & Liz Kaberry Daryl Roxburgh & Robin Rouse	Jill Linden Ana Roxburgh	Vasile Nedelcu Jane Rosam
Pennie Scott & Janey Cooper Anne Simmonds & Jane Rosam	Nick Irens	Nick Irens
Jane Rosam & Andrew Izod Mary Proctor & Gillian Lambert	Elly Heard	Jane Rosam
John & Christina Hodson	Marion Purrl	Cynthia Mead
James Calvocoressi & Nick Irens Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Duncan West Marion Purrl	Duncan West Elly Heard

Date Lectionary readings January 2019

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
06 Jan	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:10-15	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	Epiphany
13 Jan	Isaiah 43:1-7	29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Baptism of Christ
20 Jan	Isaiah 62:1-5	36: 5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11	Epiphany 3
27 Jan	Jeremiah 1:4-10	67	Acts 9:1-22	Matthew 19:27-end	Conversion of St Paul
03 Feb	Malachi 3:1-5	24: 7-end	Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19	Mark 4:35-end	Candlemass

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
Funerals
07 December William Anthony Bullen Hever

Tea up!

Alongside grappling with the great issues of our time - or perhaps because it is the greatest issue of our time - I frequently wonder if I should be composting my tea bags ..... This is because tea bags are made using small amounts of plastic to make a strong seal and so when composted this gets into the soil. Given that 96% of tea drinkers use tea bags and the British drink 60.2 billion cups a year this is quite a problem. I was therefore very pleased to hear from Clipper tea:

"From the 20th October 2018 we moved all our production to the first plastic-free, unbleached and non GM (genetically modified) tea bags and we won't be going back!"

Clipper and also Duchy are leaders in the field but it turns out that many of the big names have been developing plastic-free alternatives over the last 12 months and that PG Tips is not far behind - you can track progress by other brands on Google. So this is good news and the future for our Rosy Lee and it's life as compost is indeed, and literally, rosy! **Joanna Wade**

The Drake Oil Syndicate

Winter's here……..keep warm with Drake……..help your community…. Our three Churches benefit each year with a donation from Drake of some £500 plus towards their running costs. Our syndicate members enjoy excellent prices on their home heating costs.

What's Not To Like...So What Is Drake?

Some years ago my neighbour Campbell Simm had the idea of joining with a group of local friends to achieve better buying prices for domestic heating oil while at the same time negotiating a charity discount from the supplier which would provide funds to help support the local Edenbridge EHAS children's scheme together with our local churches.

Today the club has approximately 700 members and generates a charity pot of some £10,000 to £12,000 each year. At the moment I am captain of the ship.

Each quarter I check with a number of local oil suppliers and then agree with Certas energy that a supply price for the syndicate will be as close as possible to the second lowest price I can find. Syndicate members are then notified of this price and have to decide [without any obligation] whether they want a delivery on these terms. The deliveries take place over the next 2 weeks and Certas then credit the charity account with half pence per litre delivered.

At the end of the year the charity funds are then distributed with just under half going to Edenbridge charities and the rest split among the local churches with the amount determined by the number of members in each parish.

If you use oil what's not to like? If you are a member try and sign up your neighbour …its almost a no brainer.

Give me, John Hodson, a call 07770 394098



the Link team

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Copy for the February edition should reach us no later than **15th January.**
Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer. For payment either: a) Send a cheque payable to 'The Link' with your address to 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or b) Make a bank transfer or set up a standing order payment to 'The Link' at Lloyds a/c 01057697 sort 30-92-92 with postcode and surname as reference.