March 2019

THE LINK







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...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the March Link

‘You’re not loved because you are blessed, you’re blessed because you’re loved’

This quotation comes from a crime novel I read so many years ago that I can’t remember the title or the author! At the time it seemed so out of context that I wrote it down, and every now and then it slips out of my notebook as a timely reminder. Of what? For me, it says that God loves and blesses us all without distinction.

As Lent approaches, that set me thinking about the Beatitudes - those beautiful sayings that we can read in St Matthew’s Gospel. In 8 short verses the Bible provides a rich mine of resources for living faithfully in the world of today – they are always relevant, whatever the state of the world.

Whether you’re planning to give something up for Lent or not, this is an invitation to join us to focus your thoughts and prayers on what is important in life. Some versions of the Bible replace the word ‘blessed’ with the word ‘happy’. Maybe that works for you. There’s no right or wrong version.

So, with very many thanks to all who have let me know what might work well for a Lent programme this year, this is the plan: we shall meet at 10:30am on five Saturday mornings beginning on 9th March. Most of my respondents said that they prefer to meet in someone’s home – so I am grateful to Elly Heard, who has promised us not just the comfort of her home, but also a generous supply of coffee or tea! Her address is – Wedgwood, Uckfield Lane, Hever TN8 7LJ. All are welcome. If you can offer someone a lift, please let me know.

Wendy Izod



THE LINK

news from the pews

Markbeech
Our monthly Family Services have begun! This is a very exciting time in the life of Holy Trinity Markbeech – historically a high Anglo Catholic church basing its worship in Tractarian theology – now offering a light hearted service with coffee and buns, might well have our ancestors turn in their graves! The church was built to provide an alternative to the rather low and liberal minded churches in Cowden and Hever and was, for over a century a single parish with a large vicarage (originally Edells).

As we puzzle together as a Benefice of three parishes about our future financial viability, it makes me wonder: how did they afford it? It was, however, wonderful indeed to see the church filled with families of all kinds singing, praying and worshipping together along with a good deal of chat and laughter. Our next Family Service will be on 16th March at 9.15 am.

Also in February we celebrated the life of Margaret Dale.. It was lovely to hear her story and tales of village life from her son, Shaun.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Four Elms
During the quiet winter months of January and February when we expect the worst of the winter weather, St. Paul's Four Elms celebrated our Patronal Festival on 27th January, which coincided with the meeting of 'Inspire Club' Unfortunately, the Parish Rooms were not available for use so the young members of Inspire worked quietly at the back of the Church, joining in the service at the end. Well done everyone for not making a difficulty into a problem. Café Church was back in its home in the Parish Rooms, Four Elms for its monthly meeting on 10th February. Learning about Jesus calling fishermen to be his disciples, the children coloured cut out fish, while others (a little older) participated in "name the fish". The enthusiasm of the very young children listening, singing and just participating in the short service makes Café Church a happy event. Our "Inspire" and "Café Church" resource tins are beginning to become depleted, so we are, ourselves, being resourceful and are holding a family quiz evening on Saturday 6th April to raise some funds to fill them up. Do please join us for some easy/slightly harder quiz questions and to enjoy a fun evening.

At the end of December, Four Elms Primary School, decided it would not be hiring the Parish Rooms anymore. Fortunately, a small local business running an afterschool club has taken the opportunity to use it for the foreseeable future. We hope that others may also use the Parish Rooms for meetings, small parties and the like so that this amenity may continue to be of service to the village.

Christina Hodson

Hever

Our year started with fun and sparkle at the Grand Hever Quiz, a much needed fundraiser for the church. We all had a very jolly and mind-bending time and the winners this year were the Brocas Bunch who collected the Mollie Brudenell rose bowl. Thanks to the Castle for lending the Guthrie Pavilion and to all the sponsors and donors of raffle prizes. You know who you are!

We also enjoyed our Valentine's Day parish lunch at which we celebrated Una Higgs's 97th birthday with many congratulations and a heart shaped cake.

As we start Lent we have some special services ahead, for example Ash Wednesday on 6 March, for details see the list on page 18. Easter weekend sees services throughout the Benefice and an Easter egg hunt in Hever church. Meanwhile we look forward to our next Parish lunch on Thursday 14 March .

Jane Rosam
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

What is Collop Monday?

Collop Monday – is a day of feasting, taking place the day before Shrove Tuesday, but now much less well known and rarely observed.

This year, it falls on Monday 4th March. The holiday most likely has its origins in medieval England and was traditionally the last day on which meat would be cooked and eaten before the Lenten fast. As the day occurred towards the end of winter, the cuts of meat were usually smoked or salted, and although the definition of the word is 'slice of meat', in England it came to be synonymous with bacon. This would usually be served fried with eggs in the morning, with the fat from the rashers used to make pancakes the following day.

From the magazine *Landscape*

fine furniture indeed!

What I do.....Richard Maslen Fine Furniture Ltd

I served my apprenticeship working for Westerly yachts whilst living in Cornwall. This taught me the skills and patience needed to produce high quality work. Having gained my City and Guilds in Carpentry and Joinery there, I decided to move back to Kent where I was born, and I then gained further experience and knowledge working for a local cabinet maker.

In 1997 I set up my own business in Hever. I quickly established my reputation working for clients up in London in areas such as the prestigious Brompton Square. However I have always retained a workshop locally and employed up to three local people.

I take great pride in my work, using traditional methods and high quality hard woods to create stunning work. In 2008 I built Woodlands as my family home. For this I used traditional building methods from tudor times. In 2012, I was commissioned to refurbish Hever Church porch and the following year made some striking doors for Cowden Church. Having created libraries, wardrobes and kitchens to compliment homes in and around Hever, I also particularly enjoy making stand alone furniture such as cabinets, tables, chest of drawers, dressers, tables and libraries with secret drawers.

I appreciate working in such a beautiful location and have been fortunate to receive a variety of interesting commissions.

If you would like to commission a project, please call Richard on 01342 851160 or 07930 341 415.



Hever Parish lunch

Thursday 14 March
12 for 12.30 in Hever Village Hall.

All welcome to come to lunch - delicious home made soup, bread and cheese, cake etc. The company is good too!

The lunch is free although donations are always welcome.

Do join us if you can!

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

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CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE LITERARY FESTIVAL – 4th - 7th MAY 2019
Please see our website for the online Box Office and the full programme of talks/events – including Anna Pasternak, Sabrina Ghayour, Joanne Harris, Giles & Mary (Googlebox), Oz Clarke, Giles Milton, Tracy Borman, Guy Parker Rees, Pericles Theatre Co, Aardman animations and many, many more

For more information about our forthcoming events please visit our website
www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7AD - 01892 870347 - hello@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Village screen film club at Hever Castle Golf Club

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 film (less than two hours long) starts 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 £4 for the film or £12 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 Hever Festival Theatre

The Hever film club may be coming to an end but a cornucopia of culture is opening up at the Hever Festival Theatre (heverfestival.co.uk) in the grounds of Hever Castle. The season starts on 4 May with "Horrible Histories" and ends on 30 August with an Elvis tribute act. In between there's drama, opera, comedy, more tribute bands, talks and cinema – and Jeremy Vine in person, not a tribute Jeremy as far as we can tell. Most of the theatre is under cover and there is food available on site or you can take a picnic. On a beautiful evening it is a delight, and in the rain it is an experience.

Our Mum, Margaret Dale

Margaret Dale's funeral took place in Markbeech Church at the end of January. She was born at Cherry Tree Cottage, Horseshoe Green in 1929 and lived in and around the village all her life until 1995 when she moved from Grove Cottages to Cowden to be nearer to her children after her husband Roy died. She was a renowned flower arranger in Markbeech church and a stalwart of the Women's Institute. This is an extract from the lovely eulogy written for her by her children Shaun and Stephanie.

"It can't have been easy raising a family in the 1950's. The war hadn't been over for that long and the country was still struggling to get back on its feet. I'm sure my sister Stephanie and I thought nothing of this at the time. Nevertheless, Mum and Dad worked incredibly hard to bring us up correctly and make sure we had all we needed. My sister suffered terribly from asthma when she was young. This must have been a terrible strain on them. On several occasions I remember being woken in the night and having to get up so that she could be taken to hospital. I think the only time I ever saw my father cry was as he was carrying her down the long, dark path to the car.

They also found time to take part in many local events with Mum being very active in the W.I, Hever School and this Church, my father was also heavily involved in the St John Ambulance service.

When Dad died Mum was devastated, as we all were, she could have been forgiven for giving up there and then. Instead she got quietly on with things, once again it was family she lived for, being heavily involved with my three children, Christopher, Kimberley and Joseph. Soon the great-grandchildren started to come along, once again she blossomed as she watched them grow up. Towards the end, I was particularly struck by the fact that even though she was starting to have trouble recognising people, when we brought baby Evie to visit, her face would immediately light up with joy and for a moment she would be her old self.

"She lived a good and honourable life. Please remember her with fondness."

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall – Mr Leigh 01732 700514
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
clerk@hever.org

Paul Houlton, judge of the Rose Show photography classes tells us

What I'm looking for in a picture

We live at a time when taking photographs has never been easier, mobile phones incorporate cameras and we are bombarded with imagery. Inevitably, the quality of this is variable so when I'm asked to judge a competition it is useful to analyse and determine what constitutes quality in a picture.

Here are some of my criteria:

Interpretation of the brief

I will always respond to an interesting and creative interpretation of the set subject. It can be an opportunity to create something out of the ordinary, something to intrigue or amuse. But above all, try to avoid cliché - for example, we all know that a beautiful sunset is beautiful; but showing how the colours of the light impact on reflective objects could make for a more original and interesting approach.

Structure

How do the elements of the picture combine, what is the picture trying to convey and is your eye led to an explanation of the subject? In short, does the composition work? Does it make you understand what motivated the photographer to take the picture? Is it framed or cropped for maximum impact?

Light

Has light been used to good effect, are details in the image readable or has low lighting been used for a more dramatic effect? Does the lighting support what you are trying to convey in the image?

Emotion

Does the image convey a feeling or a mood – happy, sad , wistful? Whether it is something that makes us laugh or cry, emotion is what ties each and everyone of us together. Does your picture tell a story? We know that the book is often better than the movie, because it allows us to use our imagination to create individual special effects in our minds. This undoubtedly applies to photography.

Clarity

Photography is communication – is it clear what the subject of the picture is and what it is trying to achieve? Does it communicate this successfully?

Technique

Never overlook the obvious: is the subject in focus, should you have used a faster speed to avoid camera shake, outdoors – have you taken the position of the sun into account, indoors – have you been aware of the impact of different light sources? Would going in closer have given a better result?

Conclusion

This article is guaranteed to be controversial. Is it possible to objectively describe how to take a great picture? I have simply tried to list the elements that help me to reach a decision.

But most important all, enjoy taking pictures... have fun!

PS. At the Hort show in June in the Photographic Class for borderless, landscape 15cmx20cm colour photos, the categories are photos entitled *A building I like* and *Textures.*

50 years of Mark Beech nursery School

Ann Cleeve's Markbeech nursery school - fifty years old and going strong!

Ann Cleeve moved to Markbeech with her first husband, Mike Roberts, in 1959. Mike had just left the army and they needed a home for their growing family which was near to his work in East Grinstead.

Ann had fallen in love with Mike when she was 19 but her mother insisted that she "did the season" as a debutante - she complied but then married him as soon as she turned 21. Hers was to be a conventional married life with children and dogs, some work in the community and a great deal of homemaking for her husband. But Ann has never been predictable..... She did the community work locally in spades - Chairman of the British Legion Women's branch, the Conservative club, St John's Ambulance, the Parish Council, and the Governors of Edenbridge Primary and organiser of the poppy appeal - but when the idea of running a nursery school came along, she did that too.

It all started when she and Mike were thinking of how to educate their two small sons, Mark and Tim. Mike had had a governess as a child and wanted the same for the boys, but times had changed and the governesses who looked after children, seen but not heard, in the nursery were no more. They did however find a retired governess called Miss Starey in Cowden who said that if they could find seven friends to join the boys she would run a nursery in her home for two years, one year for Mark and one for Tim. And that is what they did. The children thrived - they learned to play together and were taught to read and all the parents were pleased to be involved; nursery schools were not that



common in the early 60s and children tended to stay at home (mothers rarely worked) until primary school, so mothers got no time off and their children were isolated.

When Miss Starey retired again after her agreed two years and her boys moved to primary school, Ann expected that to be the end of it. Not so! Ann's friend Toupette Lochrane had another child, Alexandre, and she did not know what to do with him. The answer was simple, set up nursery school around him at Toupette's house! Mike did not want her to do it because he was uncomfortable about Ann running a business with friends as clients but "I did it anyway and some of my best friends have been my parents". They applied to

Social Services for permission and were given it on three conditions: the Council and the neighbours agreed, there were enough lavatories and they each had a chest X-ray. Things were simpler in those days!

Ann says that after Alex left "no one would let us retire!" The children kept on coming and they ran the school in Toupette's house from 1965. They charged £9 a term and opened three hours a day, three days a week. Ann loved watching the children develop and get ready to go to "proper" school and she was able to guarantee to a worried parent that their child would by perfectly happy after a week with her - and they always were.... then after seven years Toupette moved away and they closed the school in 1972.

But just as Ann was thinking about learning to be just a housewife..... one of the school's parents, Maureen Burdock, had another child who needed a nursery - and it all began again! Maureen offered to help run the school and they started up, this time in Mark Beech village hall. The hall's only condition was that they didn't play with sand or water in the building which was not a problem - and the school has been there happily ever after.

As the school expanded to up to 24 children they took on other teachers and over the years the children of the first toddlers started to arrive as pupils. Ann continued to be delighted by them and loved her work but she has had to take on the many regulatory changes that crept up over the years. Social Services had given way to Ofsted who, ten years ago, demanded that as the Head Ann should have a teaching qualification. Ann was outraged that after 40 years running a nursery (not a school at all) this should be demanded of her - but she fought back and aged 70 took her first exam in 55 years and passed the required Level 3 in Education - the school was saved!



Three years ago the school celebrated its 50th birthday with a big party in the Hall. Nearly 200 grandparents, parents and grandchildren attended including five children from the original 1965 class of seven - one sent his best wishes from Australia! Ann still loves the school and has many fond memories of the children. One of her proudest moments was getting a letter from a mother who now lives in Texas. She said that she had despaired of finding a nursery for her autistic son as schools she tried always asked her to take him away - until she found Mrs Roberts who gave him the stability he needed.

And that, children, is the end of the story!

Joanna Wade

Hever Horticultural Society news

When you read this the Hever Hort year will have kicked off with our first talk on 'All things Nutty', by Alexander Hunt. This will be followed by a talk on March 20th entitled 'The fascinating and secret life of the Mole'. All talks are at Hever Village Hall at 8pm and everyone is welcome.

The first big event of the year is the Spring Show on 6th April. This is the smallest of our three shows and of the 38 classes for exhibits 15 are devoted to daffodils, so it is worth saying a bit about these glorious flowers. There are over 13,000 varieties of daffodils (including Jonquils) and these are categorised into 11 divisions or main types. However, the Hever Hort show classes refer just to the first five; trumpet, large cup, small cup, double narcissi and triandrus and the accompanying diagrams show a couple of examples of these. The schedule has more information on how to distinguish between these divisions and there are some diagrams in the Hort section of www.hever.org.

There are, of course, other spring flowers to exhibit, including tulips, hyacinths and primulas, as well as a wide variety of flower arranging, children's and domestic classes.

This year we have included an 8" Simnel cake, traditionally made at Easter. These rich, sweet treats have been eaten since medieval times and are decorated with eleven marzipan balls, representing the apostles, minus Judas. So if you fancy putting your culinary skills to the test, or exhibiting any of the other classes, contact me or Jan Tolfree for more information on how to enter. We will be pleased to hear from you.

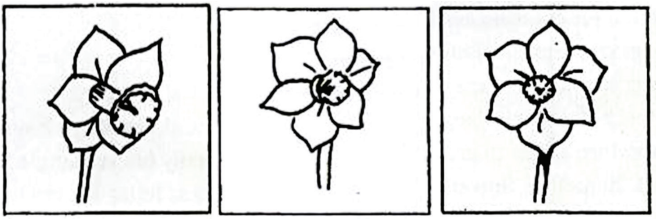
A few jobs to think about for this month: Winter prune Wisterias by cutting back the long green shoots to two or three buds, This will help ensure the flowers are not hidden as the leaves grow. This may be obvious but now is a good time to dig over vegetable beds and add compost. Also, think about rotating beds, but bear in mind the soil conditions needed by different crops. Hellebores make great cut flowers and to give them a longer lease of life slice one side of the stem from the flower right down to the end.

The subjects and rules for all the photographic classes are in the schedule in the Hort section of Hever.org

Doug Bowern
doug.bowern
@gmail.com

Jan Tolfree
01342 850206

Division one
One flower to a stem, trumpet as long as or longer than the petals.



Division 3
Trumpet no more than one third the length of the petals.

Division 2
Trumpet more than one third but less than equal to the length of the petals.

Cheese puff biscuits

This recipe is a bit of a cheat but it works very well and they look good. Buy a ready rolled sheet of puff pastry, open it out and (optional) spread thinly with Dijon or grainy mustard. Then scatter liberally with grated cheese, I normally use cheddar but any will do. You could scatter in a few cooked lardons too if you wanted.

Then roll it up, rolling the long side for small biscuits and the short if you want a biscuit you can use as a starter. Squeeze the roll so that it sticks loosely together but make sure that the cheese is still visible at either end.

Put the roll in the fridge for about half an hour if it is getting sticky.

Cut “Swiss roll” slices about 5mm thick across the roll to make the biscuits and put them on a greased or lined baking sheet. You can scatter a bit of paprika on top if you want. They look a bit small but they spread and as the cheese melts it sticks them together too so don’t worry if they are falling apart.

Cook for about 10 minutes in a hot oven until golden brown - but keep checking them. You can freeze all or part of the roll and use it another time.

Joanna Wade

Wanted: Committee Chairperson and Treasurer for Chiddingstone Nursery School.

Chiddingstone Nursery School, an Ofsted Outstanding Nursery at the heart of the Chiddingstone community, is run as a charitable company and is seeking volunteers to join its management committee. The existing committee is very dedicated and consists of both long-standing and new members. However, due to future commitments, the current Chairperson and Treasurer roles will soon become available.

Would you like to give back to the community, or do you know someone who would like a small, rewarding project? This voluntary role will involve monthly evening meetings, and a few hours a week of your time to help manage this excellent pre-school. No previous experience required, just enthusiasm!

Many of our committee members are parents of young families but we would benefit from the expertise and wisdom of a more senior member of the community - so we are reaching out to anyone who may be interested. Please contact nmc@flsuk.biz for further information.

Sevenoaks council news

Our language is a funny thing. From the French word 'bougette' – a little bag in which one transported one's wealth – came 'budget'. And to 'open your budget' means 'to speak your mind'. So that's precisely what I'll do, about Sevenoaks District Council's budget.

It was passed last week with less grandeur than its more famous cousin in Westminster but it's no less worthy of inspection.

It's important for three reasons. First, because it's your money - £215.01 if you're the average household. Second, because the things the District Council do are the marks of, for want of a better term, a civilised society. And last but not least, because what we are doing is seriously different to pretty much any other authority in the country.

We stand out in Kent as the only area to have kept weekly rubbish and recycling collections. And we still stand alone in having a dedicated fly-tipping investigation team.

But it doesn't end there! Locally we've benefited from new technology to improve noise monitoring for disturbance such as during the Neverworld festival, cafés in village halls including 'Pop Up Sue's' in Cowden, and staff in Tunbridge Wells Hospital to coordinate installation of home improvements like grab rails to get loved ones back home. Meanwhile, community grants have been retained, helping support the likes of our Citizens' Advice Bureau and award-winning Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service.

Visit Edenbridge or Sevenoaks and you'll benefit from CCTV being monitored so criminals are caught in the act, rather than just recorded on a tape for posterity, and town centre parking charges which are in their fourth year of freezes.

And then there are the basics: those things which we are probably only aware of if they go wrong – checking standards of hygiene in restaurants, managing planning permissions, licensing taxis and the sale of alcohol, providing leisure centres, and much more!

My colleagues and I try go the extra mile not just because it's often the right thing to do but also because, perhaps counterintuitively, much of it keeps pounds in your pocket and mine. Crime, unemployment, low wellbeing, and similar problems cost us all, so it's in all our interests for the Council to address them.

Prudent financial management, continuously innovating and doing little things which make a big difference have set us apart at a time when hardly a day passes without some headline about local authority cuts or councils in crisis.

As ever, do please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss this or if I might be able to help in any way.

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

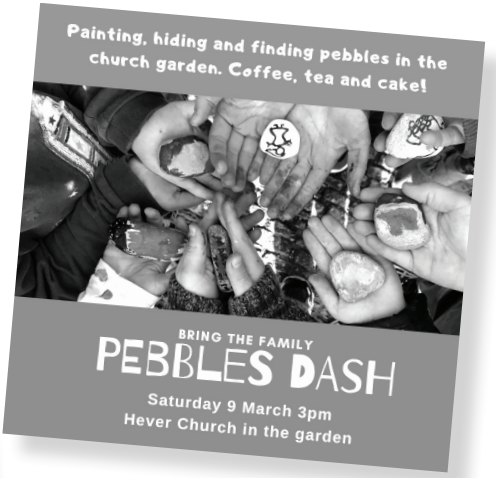
FAMILY QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 6th April, 7.30pm start

£8 adult £3 child
to include a welcome drink

BYO SUPPER
(tables of 6)

Four Elms Village Hall
All proceeds for resources for
"Inspire" & Café Church
Email: fevhlunch@btinternet.com



Hever will be

litter picking

on Good Friday, 19 April from 9.00-12.00 and Markbeech on Saturday 20th from 12.30. There will also be one in Four Elms. Meet at the Village Halls. We will publish more details next month.

Speaker meetings of U3A

(University of the Third Age, though not academic) held on the last Tuesday every month 2-4pm at Crockham Hill Village Hall. Anyone retired is welcome.

26 March - Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies - Martin Lloyd

30 April - The Wonderful Wildlife of Edenbridge - Mike Reed

Hever Parish Council

The next meeting is at 7.30 in Four Elms Village Hall, Wednesday 20th March (planning at 7pm), all very welcome.
The agenda will be posted in the Parish Council section of www.hever.org and on the noticeboards around the Parish and on Facebook (Hever Parish Council).

schooltime

news from Hever

As we come to the end of another Half Term at Hever Primary School, there is much to celebrate. Following on from the well-publicised success of our Key Stage 2 assessments last year, we were very pleased to receive a letter of congratulations from the Secretary of State for Education and the Minister of State for School Standards. Our school's results show that 100 per cent of our pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 2. This means for achievement in writing, our school is in the top 1% of primary schools in England. This is exceptionally good news and a credit to the hard work of students and staff for producing such high standards. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, all stakeholders, for your continued support.

Continuing the theme of celebration, Hever School recently performed at the O2 in London with a choir of nearly 8,000 students as part of Young Voices, the largest children's choir in the world. The day began with rehearsals before the doors opened to the estimated 23,000 parents, teachers and members of the public who were keen to hear us sing! The atmosphere was electric, our students can now all say that they have sung at the O2 - an amazing night and a memory that will stay for a long time, inspiring our children to discover their love for music.

Our Reception children also went on a trip to the Bridges Centre, Dandelion Café to take part in the 'Inter-generation Creative Workshop' last week. Each child was partnered with an older adult and the theme was Valentine's Day. They worked together to make beautiful heart paintings. Everyone was really engaged and the customers have asked if the Acorns can stay longer next time!

Joanna Stratton

news from Four Elms

Video stars

Last year we attained Bronze status as a United Nations Rights Respecting School. As part of this initiative, the children have created and starred in an anti-bullying campaign video directed and produced by panto star Silly Billy (AKA Ant Payne) to promote the 'Right to be Safe'. Children in years 1-6 were given the opportunity to star in the film with auditions giving them one minute to demonstrate their acting talents and persuade the judges they were perfect for the role.

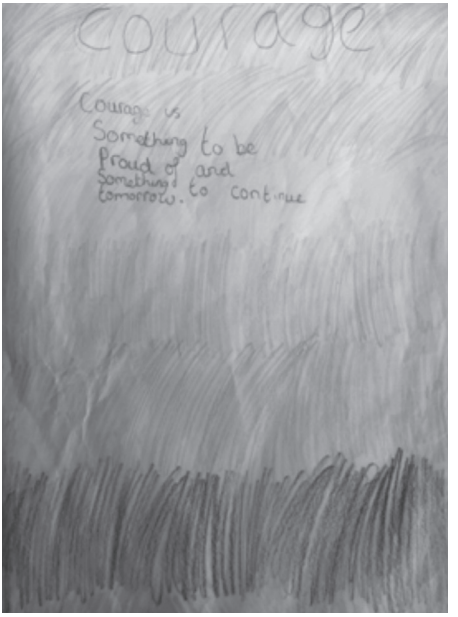
The completed film is now available on YouTube! Go to https://youtu.be/W8Cufpv0fWU or search YouTube for 'Four Elms zombully'. Please watch and like our film to share the importance of anti-bullying.

Courage

Class Three presented an assembly to parents based on one of our core values, courage. It reminded adults and children alike that we have

to overcome our fears in order to benefit from different experiences. The children shared posters they had created on the theme of courage and wrote personal accounts of episodes in their lives when they had felt afraid and how they had overcome it. Courage stories ranged from cross country races, to sleepovers to roller coasters!

As Nelson Mandela said: "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." Wise words, which resonated with the whole school and the parents.



Sports

The school Netball and Football teams have been going from strength to strength with impressive wins this month. Under the guidance of dedicated parent coaches, the teams have been training really hard and scored seven goals in each of the last two netball matches and the football team scored ten goals in their last match.

Nicole Holt

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms												
2017	67	50	22.5	9	59.5	71	74					
2018					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38	96	70
2019	28											
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	81
2019	23											
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	91.5
2019	39.5											

Services in March 2019

Services rota

Day	Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
Sunday before Lent	03 Mar 06 Mar 06 Mar 07.Mar	08.00 09.15 11.00 09.30 18.30 16.30	Four Elms Markbeech Hever Hever Hever Hever	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Morning Prayer Imposition of Ashes Evening Prayer	Church wardens Ricky Calvocoressi Will & Lisa Cowell Church warden	Roger & Lynnie Hopkins Will Cowell & Daryl Roxburgh	Nicki Talbot Ana Roxburgh	Nick Irens Elly Heard
Lent 1	10 Mar 13 Mar 14 Mar 16 Mar	09.15 10.30 16.00 9.30 16.30 tbc	Markbeech Four Elms Hever Hever Hever Markbeech	Sung Eucharist Café St Paul Evensong (Rural Dean) Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Baptism – Matthew Penn	Ann Bellamy Church wardens Pat Evemy & Elly Heard	Carol Bowern & Marielou Linklater Anne Simonds & Jane Rosam	Ann Bellamy	Nicki Talbot
Lent 2	17 Mar 20 Mar 21 Mar	09.15 11.00 09.30 16.30	Markbeech Hever Hever Hever	Family Service Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Alexander & Arabella Irens Jan Tolfree & Andrew Izod	Kitty West Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Ivy Wilkinson Marion Purll	Jane Rosam
Lent 3	24 Mar 27 Mar 28 Mar 30 Mar	11.00 09.30 16.30 11.30	Four Elms Hever Hever Hever	Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Baptism – Sadie Smith	John & Mary Proctor	Mary & Gillian Proctor	Marion Purrl	Elly Heard
Mothering Sunday	31 Mar	11.00 TBC 18.00	Four Elms Hever Hever	Mothering Sunday Communion Service Baptism – Downing Evensong	John & Christina Hodson Anne Simmonds & Lisa Cowell	John & Christina Hodson Andrew Izod & Will Cowell	Wendy Izod	Gillian Lambert

Date Lectionary readings February 2019

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
03 Mar	Exodus 34:29-end	99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9: 37-43a	Sunday next before Lent
6 Mar	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	51:1-18	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	John 8: 1-11	Ash Wednesday
10 Mar	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	91:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13	1st Sunday of Lent
17 Mar	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	27	Philipians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-end	2nd Sunday of Lent
24 Mar	Isaiah 55:1-9	63:1-9	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9	3rd Sunday of Lent
31 Mar	1 Samuel 1:20-end	127:1-4	Colossians 3:12-17	John 19:25b-27	4th Sunday of Lent

Churchwardens

Hever	Jane Rosam	07766 763124
Four Elms	Leslie Griggs Gill Lambert	01732 700428 01732 862976
Markbeech	Nicki Talbot Marielou Linklater	01342 850526 01342 850579

From the register
Funeral
31 January Margaret Dale, Markbeech

Helping Eden's Wildlife

Since 2011 Kent Wildlife Trust has been working in partnership with local landowners and volunteers to combat the decline of species in the Eden valley and make the river a better place for wildlife and people. Our RiverSearch project is all about understanding what's happening in the River Eden, so that we can restore local wildlife.

Our rivers do a vital job to support us and our local wildlife. The River Eden has a wonderful array of unusual species and habitats which have led it be designated a 'Local Wildlife Site'. Local Wildlife Sites are areas of high quality habitat that are refuges for wildlife throughout the county. The diverse vegetation along the river corridor – including purple loosestrife, un-branched bur-reed, great yellow cress and fringed water lily – creates an ideal habitat for a variety of damselflies and dragonflies, birds and bats. However, as with most river systems, the habitat quality is below what is needed to halt the decline in species that is being experienced nationwide.

Over the last six years, Kent Wildlife Trust has run a number of projects locally, including creating and restoring almost 30 hectares of lowland meadows, protecting over 2km of river banks and creating new wetlands such as scrapes and a backwater. The RiverSearch project builds on this by monitoring the river through volunteer surveys, gathering better evidence about the problems and building biological records for the area helps to ensure that our conservation work is effective.

So far the RiverSearch team has identified some possible causes for the decline in species. In particular we have found problems with the water quality, a lack of diversity in bank vegetation and a shortage of so-called 'riffles' along the Lower Eden. Riffles are shallow, fast flowing areas over rocks and gravels which provide habitat variation to the deeper pools and runs. As well as oxygenating the water, riffles are important for fish spawning and are home to a greater abundance of invertebrates. Weirs and sluices stop the natural movement of water and sediments which are needed to form riffles and it is hard to create them artificially.

However, despite the pressures on wildlife, there is plenty to see along the banks of the River Eden. Volunteers have recorded barn owls, lapwings, white-legged damselflies, harvest mice and even otter, a species which hadn't been recorded on the Eden for about seven years. Kingfishers and cuckoos can still be found, but their numbers seem to be declining. We are hopeful that following the recent ban on the outside use of Metaldehyde, the active ingredient in slug pellets, the water quality will improve.

To find out more about RiverSearch or Kent Wildlife Trust, please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Hannah Reid,
Assistant Water for Wildlife Officer at
Kent Wildlife Trust



The Link Team

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The views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial team. There is no implied approval or recommendation for any service or event advertised in the magazine.

Copy for the April edition should reach us no later than **15th March.**
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.

A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org



March diary

4 March	**Zumba class** Crockham Hill Village Hall contact Kate 07595921574	6.30pm
5 March	**Pilates and HIIT** Markbeech Village Hall contact physioemma@btinternet.com	
9 March	**Pebbles Dash** St Peter's Hever	3pm
11 March	**Zumba class** Crockham Hill Village Hall contact Kate 07595921574	6.30pm
12 March	**Pilates and HIIT** Markbeech Village Hall contact physioemma@btinternet.com	
14 March	**Village lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12 for 12.30
15 March	**"Paddington 2"** Village Screen film club, Hever Castle Golf Club	8pm
17 March	**Eden Valley Footpaths Group** waymarking walk from Chafford Arms	
18 March	**Zumba class** Crockham Hill Village Hall contact Kate 07595921574	6.30pm
19 March	**Pilates and HIIT** Markbeech Village Hall, contact physioemma@btinternet.com	
20 March	**Hever Hort talk: The fascinating and secret life of the mole,** Hever Village Hall	8pm
23 March	**Markbeech Book Fair**	10.30 – 3pm
25 March	**Zumba class** Crockham Hill Village Hall contact Kate 07595921574	6.30pm
26 March	**Pilates and HIIT** Markbeech Village Hall contact physioemma@btinternet.com	
26 March	**U3A talk** **Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies** Crockham Village Hall	2pm
29 March	**Eden Valley Museum Talk**: Brass Instrument manufacture Rickards Hall	7.30pm
6 April	**Family Quiz Evening** Four Elms Village Hall	7.30pm
19 April (Good Friday)	**Hever Litter Pick**	
20 April (Easter Saturday)	**Markbeech and Four Elms Litter Pick**	
20 April	**Easter Egg hunt**, St Peter's Hever,	time tbc
21 April	Easter Day sevices	