May 2019

THE LINK







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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the May Link

MAY LINK

Welcome to the May Link from Hever Parish Council, your Parish Council for Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech. My colleagues and I were elected unopposed this year as was our District Councillor Matthew Dickins. Although we are pleased to remain as councillors, it is sad that no one else wanted to stand as it is an interesting and rewarding job. We are lucky to have an excellent Clerk, Charlotte Cole, and a small budget to spend on making life better in our villages and so between us we are able to make a difference.

The Councillors are me, Joanna Wade (Vice chair), Christine Thompson (Chair of the planning committee), Rick Brookes-Smith, Angela Haydon, Stephen Lark, Stephen Sadler, Anita Sebastian and Bonnie White. You can see profiles of us in the Parish Council section of the local website www.hever.org. Do look at the website – it has information from most of the local organisations all in one place as well as electronic copies of this magazine. Its development was funded by the PC and it also has a community diary and a link to sign up to the local e-newsletters.

Finally, we do hope to see as many of you as possible at the Assembly at Four Elms Village Hall on the evening of Thursday 23 May, doors open at 6 for 7.30.

John Hodson
Chair



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

news from the pews

I hope you have all enjoyed a very happy and blessed Easter – a time of excitement, promise and hope – new beginnings are just around the corner!
There will be a lot going on around the Benefice in May:

- The first weddings of the year begin in May, and we pray for them, that each couple will enjoy a long and happy marriage.
- On 5th May, Simon Braid will join us for three months to get to know the parishes and the people here as he prepares a report for the Archdeacon on Rural ministry in our Deanery.
- 12th to 18th May will be Christian Aid Week. Why not join us a for this year's "Big Brekkie" fundraising breakfast. At the heart of Christian Aid is the commandment to 'love your neighbour' – including not just those we see and meet most days, but also those who are in danger of being out of sight and out of mind further afield and in other parts of the world.
- 26th May will be Rogation Sunday when we take a walk (or stroll) around the Parish boundary "beating the bounds" and stopping to ask God's blessing on the crops as we take in the beautiful countryside that surrounds us. There will be a stop for tea! Look out for more information on the website!
- On Monday 27th May we shall all be able to enjoy some well-deserved time to relax before we round off the month on Ascension Day (30th May). From then until Pentecost on 9th June, we pray under the banner of Thy Kingdom Come in unity with Christians world-wide for more people to come to faith.

Rev'd Wendy Izod

Four Elms
We have all been lulled into believing that spring was well and truly with us but to quote an old adage, (from my Scottish Grandma) "N'er cast a clout til the May be out". And how true, after a few days of glorious sunshine the first week in April brought cold weather.

Whatever the weather, church life continues. St. Paul's celebrated Mothering Sunday with posies for all during our service. However beautiful professional bouquets of flowers are, nothing can beat handpicked garden flowers tied into a small posy by loving hands. Long may this wonderful tradition continue.

On Tuesday 30th April, St. Paul's Church has its AGM. All those interested in church activities are warmly invited to the Parish Rooms at 7pm. It is a time to reflect on the year we have had and think how we can improve our Church, its place within our village community and the preservation of the building itself in the year ahead. At its foundation at the end of the nineteenth century, the Church was the centre of the village in every aspect of life. Let us strive to continue this legacy and reach out to everyone near and far.

The Benefice was saddened by the news of Cynthia Mead's passing. St. Paul's Church has much to be thankful to both Cynthia and Mark for their participation in our church life. Among the very many things we thank Cynthia for it was her devoted service to polishing the brass pulpit rail which literally "shone" out. Thank you Cynthia.

Christina Hodson

Hever

April saw two funerals for people who have done a great deal for the church, Cynthia Mead and Peter Mendelssohn. Cynthia's eulogy is in this edition and Peter's will be in next month's. The choir sang out for both and we hope we gave them a good send off.

Cynthia was much missed at the parish lunch. Do come this month, Thursday 9th May at 12 for 12.30. We are grateful to the anonymous donors for the bottles of wine which accompany the regular soup, bread and cheese, cake and fruit. And this month there is breakfast too! St Peter's will host a "Big Breakfast" in aid of Christian Aid on Wednesday 15 May from. See the Benefice website for more details.

April also saw my donkeys processing to Markbeech church for the Palm Sunday service. I was very proud of them, they had not forgotten any of the skills they learnt as Whitby beach donkeys before retirement.

We say hello to Simon Braid who is coming to work in the Benefice for a couple of months and to help us plan for the future. And we say a sad goodbye to Sue Hart who is stepping down as secretary of the Friends at the AGM. We are immensely grateful to her for all she has done. Do come along to the Friends AGM on Thursday 2 May at 5.15pm in the Bullen Chapel at St Peter's, and do join if you are not already a member!

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Holy Week started with a bang in Markbeech with a wonderful Palm Sunday Procession led by Jane Rosam and her two donkeys. The procession began at Falconhurst and went up The Church Walk to Holy Trinity. This was the path that was created to walk from Falconhurst to the Church in the days when daily visits (often twice on Sundays) were made to Church. It threads a wide trail through a pretty patch of woodland with heavenly views through the trees towards the Ashdown Forest. We were treated to a moving performance of the Passion Narrative led by Janey Cooper and Pennie Scott.

There is an interesting psychological phenomenon of cycles of behaviour within families, or systems, repeating themselves. Our Benefice has been in a state of turmoil for much the same amount of time as the Government, thanks to the Diocese insisting on change. In the country's case some people voted for change; in ours, we were not asked to vote. Not surprising there is turmoil. We need to pray for a resolution to both. On a brighter note, we are delighted to report the 'Friends of Holy Trinity Church' has been officially launched with the obligatory party held at Markbeech village hall. The Friends group will help to support the church financially, especially in projects that do not come under the general remit of maintenance. We are looking forward to many more fun events in the future!

Dates for the diary: 7th May – Choir Sunday; 21st May – Family Service; 23rd May – Parish Lunch

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Hever Castle unveils its new find

A rare portrait of Mary Queen of Scots has gone on show at Hever Castle. As Dr David Starkey who unveiled the portrait explained, paintings of Mary created during her lifetime are few and far between: “In Scotland, which she ruled in person as queen-regnant from 1561 to 1568, there were few painters of talent; while in England, where she spent the rest of her life, she was a political prisoner – though in 1578 she did manage to sit for an important portrait miniature by Nicholas Hillyard, which is the basis of almost all her subsequent images.”

Therefore, the majority of images portraying her are, for the most part, iconography – romanticised portraits commissioned by her son James I, following his accession to the English throne in 1603.

Hever Castle’s portrait was recently rediscovered in France, where it was unidentified and thought to date from the 17th century. However, dendrochronological examination of the oak panel on which the portrait is painted, revealed that it was created after 1547 (Mary was born in December 1542). Stylistic analysis further confirmed that this portrait was painted in the mid-16th century, making it a highly significant addition to her visual historical record.

The work is believed to come from the studio of François Clouet (c.1510 –1572), a French Renaissance miniaturist and painter, particularly known for his detailed portraits of the French ruling family.



CHIDDINGSTONE
CASTLE

HISTORIC HOUSE • COLLECTIONS • VENUE

Discover a unique and fascinating country house that's right on your doorstep
Exhibition of local history | Accredited Museum collections | Tudor origins
Victorian rooms | 35 beautiful acres & fishing lake | Tea Room | Gift & Antique Shop

April has been a very busy first month of our open season here at the castle. Visitors have enjoyed a varied selection of events and workshops including a fascinating evening talk by our resident curator, Naomi Collick, on the restoration of our Victorian cape, gifted by a local family and conserved with funds donated by visitors and the local community. Mervyn Streatfeild concluded the evening with an entertaining and enlightening history of the Streatfeild family at Chiddingstone. We also enjoyed hosting the Alive With Flavour's Spring Workshop, run by Jo Banks. It was a great success.
There was much fun had over the Easter holidays with children chasing around the grounds hunting out the Easter Bunnies.

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE LITERARY FESTIVAL – 4th - 7th MAY 2019
May starts with our fourth annual Literary Festival, an exciting opportunity to experience wonderful and varied author events. Tickets and information are available on our website.
www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk/literary-festival-2019/

Open 31st March to 30th October, Sundays to Wednesdays and
Bank Holidays (excluding Good Friday) 11am – 5pm
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

Paracise is new to Hever

As the NHS says, 'Exercise is the miracle cure we've always had, but for far too long we've neglected to take our recommended dose'. There are many activities and classes available but often it is a question of finding what suits you. Paracise™ may be the solution!

My new class held every Monday 9.30am at The Studio, Hever Castle Golf Club is for anyone who would like to maintain or improve their quality of life. Gentle on the joints Paracise™ uses flowing, functional, low impact movement and can result in improved posture, core strength, increased flexibility, mobility and can reduce the risk of injury or pain.

All classes are 45 minutes of standing exercise (no floorwork) to fabulous music working first on breathing, posture and balance. The classes are fun and there is always a warm welcome.

Having taught exercise to music for over 25 years I am thrilled to be able to teach Paracise™ locally. No need to book, just pop along and give it a try. Your first class is FREE (thereafter £6 per class as and when you attend) There is plenty of parking at Hever and you do not need to be a member. Why not enjoy a drink afterwards in the lovely café/bar!

Our bodies are designed to last a lifetime and the better they work the easier it is to enjoy life every day.

Please do get in touch for any additional information, I would love to hear from you.

Sharon

Sharon@paracise.com
Tel. 07736 641033 www.paracise.com
www.paracise.com

Neighbourhood watch in the villages

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the United Kingdom is a partnership intended to bring people together to make their communities safer. It involves the police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, other voluntary organisations and individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit. Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through a coordinator (this is me Olivia Stone) and I am supported by the police although the scheme is a community initiative and not run by them, so success depends on what the members make of it.

My role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is to set up and maintain a scheme within Hever. I am in contact with our crime prevention co-ordinator at the police station and the main duties I manage are:

- Encourage vigilance amongst scheme members and actively encourage the early reporting of suspicious incidents to the police.
- Receive crime information from the Neighbourhood Watch messaging system and distribute these messages to scheme members.
- Encourage scheme members to be aware of and put into practice crime prevention measures, such as property marking and security devices.
- Keep a check on vulnerable households and provide advice to members about dealing with callers at the door.
- Circulate newsletters and other relevant information to scheme members.
- Welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood and invite them to be part of the scheme.
- Supply each scheme member with Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention literature, such as Neighbourhood Watch window stickers and incident report cards.

Should you like to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Hever please drop me a text with your e-mail address to 07776255385.

Hever Hort Plant Sale

Saturday 11 May doors open at 10.00 – mind the crowds come early. First come first served. Excellent plants from local grower and members own produce.

A riddle by Churchound

In eastern counties you must search
For this cathedral-like church.
Mystified? The axe provides a clue
And so does Ted – another too!

Answers to thelink@hever.org
Churchound says that his website explorersbritain.co.uk might help you find the answer.....

Tonbridge Philharmonic Society Orchestral Concert

Saturday 18th May 2019, 7:30pm
St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church, Tonbridge

Classic Russian programme heralds a new musical era

The second orchestral concert of the 2018/19 season marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Tonbridge Philharmonic Society – the eagerly awaited tenure of new Music Director, Mark Biggins.

A regular chorus master at ENO, Mark has also recently conducted the Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the University of London Symphony Orchestra, the RCM Symphony Orchestra, Petersfield Orchestra and Epsom Chamber Choir. We are thrilled to welcome him to Tonbridge.

For his first concert at the helm, Mark Biggins has chosen a programme featuring music by three Russian musical giants – Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. The concert will open with Rimsky-Korsakov's Sadko, Op.5 (1867) . Often referred to as the first Russian tone poem, the Bylina of Sadko is as significant in Russian folklore as the tale of Beowulf in Britain. It later became the subject for an opera by Rimsky-Korsakov.

The musical story-telling of Sadko paves the way for Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.1, to be performed by rising star Yume Fuijse, a BBC Introducing Classical artist and prize-winning recent graduate of London's Royal College of Music. Written in the summer of 1917, the concerto was not heard until 1923, partly due to the difficulty in finding a soloist capable of and willing to play it! The piece includes some of the most rhapsodic music composed during the first quarter of the 20th century.

The concert is set to conclude with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, a monument to the Russian Romantic symphonic form, and depicting Tchaikovsky's fascination with the concept of 'Fate'. The symphony includes one of Tchaikovsky's best-loved tunes (famously echoed in Annie's Song), and the rousing music of the final movement will appropriately mark the dawning of a new musical era for Tonbridge Philharmonic Society under Mark Biggins.



Experienced adult volunteers required to help re-decorate Hever Village Hall to tide us over until our major refurbishment.
18 & 19 May 10am onwards, any time you can spare will be appreciated.

Please call or text 07976 588 789 to let us know when you can help and for how long.

Rosemary Bayford

Tributes to Rosemary Bayford from her brother Tony, husband Terry and daughter Julie

Tony: Rosie was four years older than me. My early memories are playing with her in the sunshine in the orchard behind our house in Leeds (Kent). I was an outdoor boy, never indoors, Rosie would come out to play at times but preferred her toys and books indoors. Even when very young, Rosie's hair was always plaited, two immaculate golden plaits down to her shoulders; that was Rosie, she always wanted to look smart.

When we were big enough, mum and dad would take us for Sunday afternoon walks in the local lanes and woods, picking spring flowers, bluebells, primroses, and looking for violets. I'm sure Rosie's interest in plants and flowers started in those early days. Summer holidays were never adventurous, normally a week or two in a coastal guest house – usually Ramsgate, Broadstairs, or Folkestone. It never seemed to rain! – much! Like me she did enjoy the beach so most days were spent playing with bucket and spade, making sand castles and things, eating candy floss, rock, and ice cream, searching rock pools and trying to swim; she was a good playmate and looked after her younger brother.

Our first school was Langley C of E primary. When I started I didn't know any of the other children because we didn't live in the village, so was a prime target for bullying, until Rosie made it very clear to the bullies that she would not tolerate it – they got the message! In an unfortunate accident at primary school, a teacher crushed Rosie's thumb when closing some heavy sliding doors – she hardly cried, I thought she was very brave.

After primary school, Rosie attended secondary schools in Maidstone and then went on to train as a nurse at The London Hospital in Whitechapel. Rosie was very caring and thoughtful for others. I well remember a weekend not very long after she started as a trainee nurse, when unusually, she came home because she was so upset about the condition and prospects of some of her patients. She was a good nurse.

Terry and Julie: Rosie completed her three years training and qualified as a State Registered Nurse at The Royal London Hospital. For a period she worked as a staff nurse in Maidstone then as an industrial nurse at a vast factory near Grays. Along with a colleague she was responsible for the medical care of 600 employees & at the time industrial accidents were commonplace. This experience caused Rosemary to re-evaluate her career and she decided she would like to become a GP practice nurse.

Whilst she was training at The London, she encountered a life changing event – she nursed a patient called Terry Bayford. Two years later they married and two years after that their daughter & only child Julie was born. Four years later Rosemary returned to nursing & was a practice nurse in the Brentwood area until moving to Uckfield Lane in Hever in 1989. Following that she worked as a practice nurse in Tonbridge.

As a nurse, she was popular and liked very much by her patients because she was always exceptionally professional, kind, helpful, caring, discreet, thoughtful & a good listener. Her professionalism & attention to details was always highly regarded by her peers.

She was a lifetime member of The League of Nurses & The League of Friends of The London Hospital. She also did much voluntary work, some of which was not even known about to close family & friends. These included helping in running a bereavement service & a multi-cultural support **c**lub for Stroke patients at The London. Rosemary loved animals & had many special pets over the years. She was also a proud supporter of Julie's obsession with horse riding & was often to be seen braving the elements at horse shows cheering for Julie & her horse Toby.

Horticulture was Rosemary's passion. She was a qualified garden designer, a keen member, and latterly President, of the Hever Horticultural society & had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Latin names of plants. She created many beautiful gardens at the various homes we lived in & even when quite ill in recent times she planned a garden design for Julie's latest home.

For three and a half years Rosemary courageously fought the battle against Motor neurone disease. Sadly, she knew it was one she could never win.



HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH

FOREST ROW

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

Charity Concert in aid of the

Parkinson's U.K. and Holy Trinity Church

MARGARET WATSON – HARP

HOLY TRINITY FESTIVAL CHOIR

LINGFIELD COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS – ORGAN / PIANO

SIMON MORRIS – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2019 7.30pm

£5.00 Adults **£2.50 Children**

Lucky Programme Prizes / Refreshments

Tickets: Simon Morris 01342 823940

Cynthia Mead

A word of thanks from the family….
Huw, Clive and Stephen would like to offer their sincere thanks for all the kind condolence messages we received following the death of Cynthia Mead. It is truly comforting to know how highly respected and loved she was. She will be sadly missed by many.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended her memorial service at St. Peter's Church on Friday 5th April. We are sure she would have been genuinely overjoyed that so many friends and family were able to attend.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection which raised just under £700 for the maintenance of St. Peter's. Cynthia would have been thoroughly delighted by this show of generosity as she was a regular worshipper for fourty years and loved this church dearly.

And an excerpt from the fine eulogy given by Clive and Stephen……

CLIVE
My mum was very organised and left us clear instructions on how today's service should proceed and she would want it to be filled with love and happy memories.

So – mum's life. She was born in Bristol on 19th June 1926 to Marie and Donald Jones. She was one of three boisterous girls known as "the Jones girls" and the smartest girls in the neighbourhood.

By the end of the war, mum was 19. She has often said she had a good war and



I think she enjoyed the excitement and freedom of the era. She served in the WRENS for a while and when the war ended, she joined the Orient Line, which is now P&O Cruises. Mum met Kenneth Roberts, our father, during the 1940's. He was a pilot in the RAF and in the late 1950's she reluctantly gave up work to become a housewife and mother. We enjoyed a happy childhood and have fond memories of beach trips to Brighton and family holidays in Europe.

Mark came into our lives in 1975 and he was to become the love of her life. They became a devoted and well matched couple; Mark was a quiet gentleman and Mum, although sometimes feisty, adored him. It proved to be a winning combination. They moved to Mead Cottage in Four Elms and this was probably the happiest period of mum's life. Mum loved to socialise and new friendships were formed which were to endure for the rest of her life. Her skills as a hostess and cook were a source of great pride to Mark and great enjoyment to her friends. They both became involved in the church and St Peter's became a special part of their lives. It

was also an important anchor during the move to Hilders Lane. Mum and Mark finally moved to Lingfield Mews in Edenbridge in 2010.

STEPHEN (son in law)
Clive first introduced me to Cynthia in the summer of 2011. I didn't really know what to expect but I knew that she was a lady in her mid eighties and that she was pulling out all the stops for our first meeting. No pressure there, then – I was, effectively, attending an interview for the post of potential son-in-law.

We arranged to meet Cynthia on Edenbridge High Street and she was going to take us out for lunch. Suddenly I was aware of a black car speeding down the High Street. It, literally, screeched to a halt outside the bank and Cynthia was inside. If I'd been expecting a little old lady, I had to realign my thoughts pronto! She ordered us into the car and there followed a high speed car journey through Kent that is forever imprinted on my memory. Tailgating a tractor, liberal use of the horn, trying to overtake on a bend were all features of that first journey with Cynthia. I'm guessing that others here will have had similar experiences of her legendary driving skills and what she described as her 'unlucky' cars. We arrived at Gravetye Manor for the first of many meals together and I managed to regain my composure enough to try and make a good impression.

Cynthia was entering a new phase of her life. Mark died in the October and after this sad and challenging time, she started putting her life back together as a widow. She played a major role at our civil partnership ceremony in 2012. Not only did she look stunning, she also helped with 3 small flower children and partied till the wee small hours. Directly after our Civil Partnership, there was a honeymoon in Kerala, India. I'm not sure how this happened but I didn't actually go – Cynthia went with Clive! Her love of travel showed no sign of abating and there followed an epic 90th birthday tour of South Africa, regular trips down to Deal and weekends away with Clive. Only last year, she was very put-out not to be included in a trip to Australia. She also wanted to make 'one last trip' to India. And New Zealand. And New York. And Italy...

One last thing. Some of you may be wondering why mum's body is not here at St Peter's today. The answer is that she left her remains to The London School of Anatomy. She made these arrangements many years ago and, much as it took us a day or two to get our heads around the matter, we knew that we had to honour this very generous bequest.



Don May – life in Stridewood

Don May is now 94 and has lived in the Eden Valley all his life. His early years were spent in the remote valley between Horsehoe Green and Bassetts, in a house which no longer exists. Bridget Harris interviewed him for the Link:
" I was born in Keeper's Cottage, Stridewood, in 1925. I weighed 2lb 9 oz, one of twins (my twin sister didn't survive). I'm the seventh child of William and Edith May. My father was an under gamekeeper to the Charrington family who ran the shoot at Stonewall Park. My grandfather was their head gamekeeper and he lived at Keeper's Cottage, White Post (just up the lane from the Bottle House pub).



Stridewood was about a mile from the nearest road, a three storey semi detached house in a valley in the middle of nowhere. By the time I came along my elder sisters Vera and Dorothy and brother Peter were living away from home but Frank (6), Sybil (4) and Jack (2) were all in residence. The Theobalds lived next door, they were smallholders farming the fields in the valley. They had six boys and we all got on very well. They had a few sheep, a pig and a dairy cow and we kept hens and ducks for eggs and the pot. With the fair sized vegetable garden tended by my father, rabbits and hares from the woods and a spring for water we were nearly self sufficient. My parents were keen wine makers and would make wine from pretty much anything, parsnips, rhubarb, elderberry etc. There was a bakery at Horseshoe Green and a shop at the Hoath. We didn't have a horse or a bike so we walked everywhere.

The family soon expanded and two more brothers Dick and Bernard arrived. From the age of five I joined my siblings at the village school at the Hoath, walking with them almost a mile each way each day, over the stream and up through the woods and fields. Other than going to Edenbridge for woodwork classes when I was older, this was the only school I ever went to.

In such a remote spot we didn't have many visitors other than family. We children played football and cricket together and from an early age we helped our father as beaters at the shoot. He was a very easy going man but we never stepped out of line. We were given to understand that his job depended on us behaving well. I'm not sure that was entirely true but that was his excuse!. My grandfather retired as head gamekeeper when he was 65 in 1931 and my father took over his job and his house. The move was a great excitement for us children. My mother and new born Bernard went by pony

and trap but the rest of us travelled on a hay cart pulled by a heavy horse with all our furniture piled high. At White Post we had a much bigger garden and we reared pheasants, partridge and 'wild' duck, using chickens to incubate the pheasant's eggs as they are much better mothers.

I left school on my 14th birthday in March 1939 and went to work as a gardener and delivery boy for Stoneham & Shotter who ran a market garden behind the shop at the Hoath. I took the deliveries to private houses and the Kentish Horse in Markbeech and did a lot a digging! I started on 10/- a week. I always gave my mother half of what I earned; she wasn't overpaid! When I was 16 my wages should have risen to £1 a week but the market garden couldn't afford that so I was given a job as under gardener at Hoath House and Stoneham & Shotter took on another school leaver. We looked after the garden on both sides of the road, the two parts being linked by a pedestrian bridge slung high over the road between the rocks. I started work at 7.30am and finished at 5 with an hour for lunch.

When I was called up on my 18th birthday in 1943 I was immediately sent to Scotland. Other than a school trip to London, this was pretty much my first time out of the parish. My poor mother was dreadfully upset, she had already lived through WWI, when my father and his three brothers all served. Only two came home, Charles died in Mesopotamia in 1917 aged 26 and John died approaching St Quentin in northern France aged 23 in 1918. Now she had four children, including me, serving again. She went missing as I was leaving but emerged before I left, drying her eyes. As it was, all her children returned safely at the end of the war.

I joined the Highland Light Infantry and put my name down to work with dogs and soon found myself in the Royal Army Veterinary Corp as a dog handler in mine detection. I was given embarkation leave before travelling to France a few weeks after D Day. My walk from Whitepost to Cowden Station took me past Stridewood and this was the last time I walked down that valley. The house was long gone, just the footings remained."



Postscript
After four years in the army and following a chance meeting in the Kentish Horse, Don worked on the railway for the rest of his career.

did you know – jays?

Jays store thousands of acorns – from the RSPB website.

Studies on how many acorns are hidden during a season have revealed that a single jay can store as many as 5,000 acorns. Jays 'cache' their acorns in many different places but most often in natural holes, under leaf litter and crevices in tree bark.

The jay can remember where it left most of its haul and is thought to use visual clues such as nearby features to help guide it to its stash. They can even dig them out of 40 cm of snow! Of course, not all acorns will be recovered, which helps the oak tree as the acorns can then germinate.

Amazingly, a jay can fit up to nine acorns in its gullet at any one time, although on average they transport two or three, with one in the bill. This behaviour usually starts in September and will carry on until all the available acorns have been eaten or hidden.



Jays can spend as much as ten hours a day caching acorns and other nuts and seeds, often travelling several kilometres between their home range and the oak trees. One study in Germany estimated that 250 jays removed 3,000 kg of acorns in only 20 days!

did you know – hares?

I was so excited to see a hare running across a clearing in some woodland near Chiddingstone a few months ago. It's run was completely different from a rabbit's and it was much larger too.

According to the Wildlife Trust's website female hares are good feminists: "Early spring is the best time to see the fastest land mammal in the country. Reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour at full pelt, the brown hare is one of our great athletes, and its great speed can make it a tricky character to get a good look at.

Luckily, "mad March hares" choose a different sport in the spring, taking up boxing instead of sprinting. The fighters are actually the females, spurning the advances of males by boxing prospective partners".

They live overground and their normal lifespan is two to four years but they are endangered by growing numbers of foxes and illegal hare coursing.

According to the Kent Mammal Group hares are very rare in the Weald so I was lucky – if you see one (or other interesting mammals) please report it on their website.

Joanna Wade

schooltime

news from Hever

It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents join us for our *Easter Pause* service. The overall aim of the Easter Pause week was to give Hever students an opportunity to connect with those who witnessed the events of the first Easter.

Thank you also to everyone who attended the Easter Fair after the service. We raised an amazing £420!

During Easter celebrations, Year 6 class reflected on the meaning of Easter and wrote individual Easter poems. They challenged themselves with poetic devices and language, as they were trying to write sophisticated poems using similes, metaphors and symbolism.

The Year 6 students also spent the week revising and consolidating after analysing the results of the children's Mock SAT's assessments. We are delighted that the children are making good progress, they are working hard to stay on track with positive and motivated attitudes – we have high hopes that they will do really well in May.

Thank you so much to the Hever community for sharing our Robo-tastic afternoon. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning with you as well as offering presentations and tutorials to the other children at Hever. They have learnt so much and I hope their enthusiasm and knowledge impressed you.

Chestnut class are so excited about their residential trip to Cornwall which includes team building and watersports.

Finally, Joshua, Penny, Giada and Oliver had a great result during debating club. The motion that Britain should leave the European Union was discussed. All the speakers worked hard delivering their arguments and deserved their prizes.

We wish you and your loved ones the renewal of love, happiness and life. Have a wonderful Easter!

Joanna Stratton

news from Four Elms

Happy Easter!
At the end of term, the whole school took part in an Easter service in St Paul's Church, Four Elms. The children gave readings and sang songs to celebrate Easter. Reception children enjoyed a dress-up day and Easter bonnet parade.

Green fingers
With the arrival of spring, the children were asked to grow a plant from seed and log the plant's progress as part of their take home task. Cue plenty of egg shell cress heads! Class three also dreamt up their own unique, fictional plants and produced some imaginative and informative posters. To celebrate their fantastic work, the posters were put on display at Four Elms Garden Centre, and parents and carers invited along to view the artwork and marvel at

the inventive creations.

POD
We have installed an interactive pod in the playground. This acts as an interactive noticeboard providing parents with useful information. The pod has interactive lessons for the children to engage with, as well as physical activities such as yoga. It also plays our anti-bullying video, which the children starred in, to remind everyone of the importance of anti-bullying.

Love 2 Dance
Children from Four Elms took part in the 'Love 2 Dance' event at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. Children were asked to audition to join the dance team. After weeks of rehearsals, they got the chance to perform their routine to a medley from Matilda.

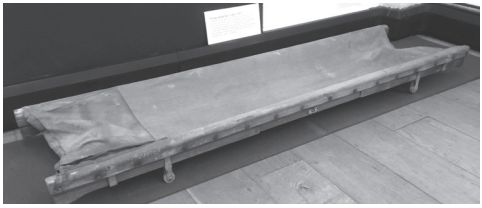
Sports
We held our first parent/teacher netball tournament: roles were reversed with mixed teams of parents and teachers and children as referees and timekeepers. The tournament helped raise money for the PTA.

The cross country team is building up to the highlight of the year: the local Chiddingstone race. Many local schools participate and competition is fierce. Last year we bagged medals in two races and are hoping for more this year.

Nicole Holt

The mysterious stretcher

When I was researching Hever for the Eden Valley museum's exhibition on the villages of the Eden Valley in WWI I was told that the Flemings, who bought Stonewall Park from the Meade Waldo family, had found a stretcher belonging to Lieutenant Colonel Mead Waldo, who had had a distinguished war career, and donated it to the museum. But the museum had no record of it – it had disappeared!



Then when the HRA and the school were clearing out the hut in Hever Parish field they were surprised to find a stretcher! How it got there no one knows, but a visit to the Imperial War Museum confirmed that the stretcher was the same as used in WWI. How many WWI stretchers can there be in the area – so we can believe that the missing stretcher has been found – and you can now see it in the Museum exhibition until it closes at the end of June.

Joanna Wade

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.

30 April – The Wonderful Wildlife of Edenbridge – Mike Reed

28 May – A Lifetime in Aviation – Peter Griffiths

Bore Place

Nestled in the beautiful countryside between Hever and Chiddingstone, Bore Place is home to the Commonwork Trust, which explores how to live and work sustainably. The estate spans 500 acres and at its hub sits an organic dairy farm and market garden as well as a collection of historic and modern buildings that host school visits, weddings and corporate away days.

There are opportunities to visit Bore Place throughout the year, with a selection of self-guided trails taking in the immediate farm as well as walks exploring the panoramic views of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Commonwork Trust was founded by Neil and Jenifer Wates in 1976 to find sustainable solutions in farming, education and the environment. The family still have strong links with Bore Place, with Jenifer's role as a Trustee Emeritus and their son Edward being the Chairman of the Trustees.

The passion for sustainability is wide reaching – carbon emissions reduced by solar panels, a wind turbine and using biomass energy, the dairy farm and market garden certified by the Soil Association as organic, and much of the produce is cooked on site and served to guests. To celebrate these achievements, Bore Place holds a Gold Green Tourism award.

Bore Place is steeped in local history. The name was first recorded in the 14th century and past owners include an executor of Henry VII's will and Robert Read who built the Bore Place chapel in St Mary's, Chiddingstone (where some owners of Bore Place are buried). Read died in 1518, and Bore Place passed to his son-in-law Thomas Willoughby, who began a significant building programme which saw another wing, 'North Bore Place', added to the manor house.

The Streatfeild family bought Bore Place in the 18th century, and as they already owned or had links to myriad estates in the local vicinity, chose to lease it out to tenant farmers, a practice which continued throughout the Victorian era. Much refurbishment by the Denny family took place in the early part of the 20th century, and North Bore Place was dismantled, with parts now incorporated into the National Trust site Stoneacre near Maidstone.

Whether you are visiting to join a bread making or a craft workshop, taking a class of school children round the farm or bringing your team for a day away from the city you will be sure of a warm welcome. You can sign up to the mailing list and find out about everything that's happening at www.boreplace.org

Steph Rueff
Receptionist and marketing assistant
(and Hever bell ringer)



Top tips for gardening in May by Warren Young

Signs of summer are everywhere in May, as the grass is growing quicker, flowers are beginning to bloom and weeds and pests need tackling. Fortunately, the longer evenings let you potter outdoors…

It's time to harden off those plants you've grown from seed, get the barbecue fired up and protect your swelling strawberries from birds – but watch out for late frosts which can still wreak havoc with your tender plants.

Lawn care
Mow established lawns weekly. Apply a spring lawn feed if you didn't do it last month. Repair thin or bare patches in the lawn before the end of the month. If the grass has grown tall, raise the blades to the highest setting to start, gradually lowering the height over a couple of weeks.

A new lawn which has been grown from seed should be left for a while. Cut the tips of long tufts down with a pair of shears until the grass has made longer roots.

Tidying up tasks
Dig up and dry off tulip bulbs once they have finished flowering to make way for summer bedding plants. Clear out pots in which you've had spring bedding, ideally replacing the old compost with fresh, to minimise the risk of disease.

Pest control
Protect newly-planted bedding and vegetables from slugs and vine weevil. Remove aphids – greenfly and blackfly – before they take over. If there are just a few, hand squash or pick them off, or zap them with a strong jet of water or an organic pesticide.

Flower power
Thin out hardy annuals grown from seed, placing them in larger pots, preferably in a cold frame if you've grown them indoors or under glass.

Water plants regularly in dry weather and pay particular attention to any new plantings and to anything growing in containers.

Plant and train sweet peas on netting or trellis.

This is the best month to plant up summer containers and hanging baskets, but bring tender specimens close to the house or under a porch at night if a late frost is forecast. If you don't have a sheltered spot, wait until the end of the month to plant up your pots.

For extra help in your garden please contact:
Warren and Janine
– Hand on Horticulture
www.handonhorticulture.com
info@handsonhorticulture.com
07800 824554

News from Hever Parish Council

(the local council serving Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech)

Everyone is welcome at the Hever Parish Council Annual Assembly on Thursday 23rd May in Four Elms Village Hall. Doors open at 6pm and from 7.30 speakers will include Dr. Morrison to update us on Edenbridge Medical centre plans and English Rural Housing Association, our planned affordable housing provider.

There will be displays showing what we have achieved during the last year and at the meeting suggestions will be gratefully received for the next year/s. Do come and meet your Councillors, refreshments will be provided.

Our current projects include:

- The damaged bus shelter in Four Elms has now been removed for Health and Safety reasons (was hit by an unknown large vehicle last Autumn) and plans are underway to replace it. Nearby residents have been consulted on the style and design.

- Affordable housing – following the public "call for sites" four landowners in Four Elms and one in Hever have expressed interest in working with English Rural Housing Association who are considering the affordable housing needs in the parish, with possibly one site being proposed. A need has been identified by an independent housing needs survey, which will be repeated later this year. The sites have been submitted to Sevenoaks District Council for initial comments, these are not planning applications.

- A group of Councillors and the Clerk have been reviewing the state of the roads and concerns about speeding traffic. Over 20 "wear and tear" issues will be forwarded to Kent Highways. Also the Council has agreed a budget to erect village gateways (mock wooden) entrances at Markbeech village hall and in Four Elms on the B2042 from Ide Hill and B2027 from Edenbridge and to work with the HRA to develop a scheme in Hever. There is evidence that gateways can reduce speeds by 2mph and emphasise to drivers that they are in a residential area, thus encouraging more cautious driving. The Council resolved not to save towards re surfacing of the red zone at the Four Elms crossroads because of the high cost, about £90,000 and the relatively short life span of the work.

- Tuesday 7th May 7.30pm is the Parish Council Annual General Meeting, Hever village hall – the full Agenda will be on website and noticeboards the week before. This is largely for the election of council officers.

- For all of May please use your Waitrose green tokens to support the ongoing renovation of Four Elms playground! We are hoping to purchase more sensory equipment for youngsters – which will especially help those with sensory impairments. Thank you for your support.

Charlotte Cole
Parish Clerk
www.hever.org

Services in May 2019

Services rota

Day	Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
	01 May 02 May	9.30 16.30	Hever Hever	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer				
Easter 3	05 May 08 May 09 May 11 May	08.00 9.15 11.00 09.30 16.30 11.00	Four Elms Markbeech Hever Hever Hever Hever	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Baptism – Abigail Rowland	Leslie Griggs Ricky Calvocoressi Andrew Izod & Elly Heard	Gill Lambert James Calvocoressi & Marielou Linklater Daryl Roxburgh & Jane Rosam	Duncan West Ana Roxburgh	Duncan West Jane Rosam
Easter 4	12 May 15 May 16 May	09.15 10.30 18.00 09.30 16.30	Markbeech Hever Four Elms Hever Hever	Sung Eucharist Café Evensong Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Ann Bellamy Church warden Leslie Griggs	Jill Linden & Ann Bellamy Gill Lambert	Liz Kaberry	Nicki Talbot
Easter 5	19 May 19 May 22 May 23 May 25 May	09.15 11.00 09.30 16,30 13.00	Markbeech Hever Hever Hever Hever	Family Service Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Brendan Smith & Alicia Chaineaud	Elsie & Peggy Bain Jan Tolfree & Elly Heard	Alexander Irens Ann Simmonds & Robin Rouse	Kitty West Marion Purrl	Elly Heard
Easter 6 Rogation Ascension Day	26 May 29 May 30 May 30 May	11.00 09.30 16.30 18.30	Four Elms Hever Hever Hever	Parish Communion & Inspire Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Ascension Day Eucharist	Mary & John Proctor Will & Lisa Cowell	Mary Proctor & Gill Lambert Elly Heard & Andrew Izod		

Date Lectionary readings May 2019

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
05 May	Zephaniah 3:14-end	30	Acts 9: 1-6	John 21: 1-19	Easter 3
12 May	Acts 9: 36-end	23	Revelation 7: 9-end	John 10: 22-30	Easter 4
19 May	Gen 22: 1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13: 31-35	Easter 5
26 May	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	67	Acts 16: 9-15	John 5: 1-9	Easter 6 (Rogation Sunday
30 May	Daniel 7: 9-14	47	Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24: 44-end	Ascension Day

From the register

Funerals

5 April, Cynthia Mead, Hever
8 April, Rosemary Bayford, Tunbridge Wells Crematorium
10 April, Rachel Dixon, Four Elms
23 April, Peter Mendelssohn, Hever

Baptisms

30 March, Sadie Smith, Hever
31 March, Alexander Downing, Hever
7 April, Lowenna Hands, Hever
14 April, Chris Ord, Hever

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

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
clerk@hever.org

Eden Valley Museum

FREE GUIDED WALKS



Walks suitable for all abilities

Walk down the High Street (an old Roman Road) and under the Old Crown sign board, known as a gallows or beam sign (the only one in Kent) and learn about the buildings, industry and lives of locals in days gone by.

Walks start at the museum and last about one hour. They are led by our museum guides. To take part, meet in the courtyard at rear of museum 15 minutes before start time.

8th June **13th July**

10th August **14 September**

The walks are in the evening at 6.30pm apart from 14th September which will be at 2pm

72 High Street Edenbridge Kent TN8 5AR

www.evmt.org.uk **curator@evmt.org.uk**

@EdenMuseumKent **01732 868102**

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms												
2018					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38	96	70
2019	28	33	54									
Hever												
2018	79	36	81	65.5	79	0	36	63	32	41	127.5	81
2019	23	56	45.5									
Markbeech												
2018	83	40	82	77.25	70.05	1.5	51	68.5	33	47.5	105.5	91.5
2019	39.5	41	59.25									



Caption competition – the winner!

We had some excellent entries:
"Bark! The herald angels sing"
"Bark!, it's the shepherd's voice I hear."
"I've requested the hymn Guide Me O Thou Great Retriever"
"GRRR punctuality has gone to the dogs round here…."
"Paws for thoughts".

And the winner is Jane Higgs with "Waiting for Dogot"

The Link Team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Paul Houlton
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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 June edition should reach us no later than **15th May.**
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

May diary

26 April	**EVM talk on Iron Age and Roman coin hoards**, Rickards Hall	7.30pm
27 April	**Falconhurst CC home match against the Duck Hatters**	12 noon
30 April	**U3A talk on wildlife** in Edenbridge, Crockham Hall Village Hall	2pm
	Four Elms PCC AGM, Parish Rooms,	7pm
2 May	**Friends of Hever church AGM**, St Peter's,	5.15pm
4 – 7 May	**Chiddingstone Castle Literary Festival**	
5 May	**Falconhurst CC away match against Hartfield**	1.30pm
	Four Elms CC home match against Tatsfield	2pm
6 May (and every Monday)	**Paracise**, Hever Castle Golf Club,	9.30am
7 May	**Parish Council meeting**, Hever VH,	7.30
9 May	**Hever parish lunch**, Village Hall,	12 for 12.30
11 May	**Hort plant sale**, Hever Village Hall	10am
11 May	**Four Elms CC home match against Linton Park (1sts)**	1.30pm
12 May	**Falconhurst CC home match against Shipbourne**	1.30 pm
	Four Elms CC home match against Locksbottom	2pm
15 May	**Christian Aid Big Breakfast**, St Peter's Hever 8am	
16 May	**Mark Beech Village Hall AGM**	7.30pm
18th May	**Chiddingstone Nursery Open Day** Chiddingstone Nursery	10:30 – 11:30am
18 – 19 May	**Hever village hall redecoration weekend**	10am
18 May	**Falconhurst CC home match against Refershers**	1.30 pm
	Four Elms CC home match against Linton Park (2nds)	1.30pm
	Tonbridge Philharmonic, Tonbridge Parish Church	7.30pm
23 May	**Hever Parish Assembly**, FE Village Hall,	7.30
25 May	**Courtney Pine**, Hever Festival	
	Four Elms CC home match against Horsmonden	1.30 pm
	Falconhurst CC home match against Chairman's XI	2.30 pm
26 May	**Four Elms CC home match against Horton Kirby**	2pm
	Rogation "Beating the bounds" walk	
	– see threespires.wordpress.com for details	
	Milos Karadaglic, Hever Festival	
27 May	**Mica Paris**, Hever Festival	
28 May	**U3A talk A Lifetime in Aviation**	
	– Peter Griffiths Crockham Hall Village Hall	2pm
	Markbeech parish lunch, Village Hall,	12.30
29 May	**Four Elms CC home match against Warlingham**	2.30 pm
8 June	**Concert at Holy Trinity**, Forest Row (tickets call 01342 823940)	7.30pm
8 and 9 June	**How Green Nursery open day**	9am – 5pm
30 June	**Eden Valley Museum WWI exhibition ends**	
3 July	**Eden Valley Museum Hop picking exhibition opens**	
9 - 23 June	**Art in June,** The Red House, Hever	