December 2019

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Remembering Cecil Paynter
- Ken and Mavis Seale – a long life in Hever
- Carols galore
- News from around the benefice

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the December Link

One of the great pleasures of the peaceful Christmas break is long winter walks, there are so many around the parish. One of my favourites is the walk down the hill behind Markbeech Church, past Hole Cottage and on to Cowden station. The OS map app takes all the confusion (and some may say fun) out of finding new routes. I have noticed masses of interesting fungi around this year, I suppose the damp has made it a good year, I think the one below is the False Deathcap but it may be the real thing, it is hard to tell.

If you want to stay indoors, here is an easy recipe for mincemeat, good for pies, crumbles and cakes. You don't need to cook it, just mix the ingredients and put in sterilised jars:
Soak 250g of raisins and 375g of currants in 100ml of brandy for an hour or so. Then mix in the zest of a lemon and the juice of half, half a teaspoon of ground nutmeg, 250g shredded suet, a large grated bramley apple, 250g dark brown sugar and 85g of chopped mixed peel.

The misunderstood mushroom
These rather elegant mushrooms have appeared in the fields margins over the last month. Their distinctive feature is that they are not what they seem.....



Known as the false death cap, or Citron Amanita, it is a basidiomycotic mushroom, one of many in the genus Amanita. It grows in silicate soil in the summer and autumn months. It bears a pale yellow or sometimes white cap, with white stem, ring and volva. The top looks a bit like a cappuccino. Though it is not poisonous, its similarity to the lethal death cap (Amanita phalloides) means that it is unwise to use it in cooking. Also it doesn't taste of anything much.

The Link team wishes you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

Joanna Wade

village screen film club

Friday 10 January
The Wife
Glenn Close won a Golden Globe for her role as a supportive wife who begins to question her life choices when she travels to Stockholm with her narcissistic husband (Jonathan Pryce) who is about to receive the Nobel prize for literature.

The film at the Hever Castle Golf club 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 £3 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.







U3A is a charity, it stands for University of the Third Age, an International organisation.

Edenbridge U3A for retired people was set up in 2013 and has over 200 members around 60 groups covering everything from art, books, gardening, history, languages, to walking and wine appreciation.

To join come along to our monthly last Tuesday meetings in Crockham Hill Village Hall 2-4pm with speakers on a wide range of subjects or look at our comprehensive, easy to use website edenbridgeu3a.co.uk for full details.

From January to June it is £10 to join then sign up to as many groups as you can fit in, they are a great opportunity to learn and meet people.

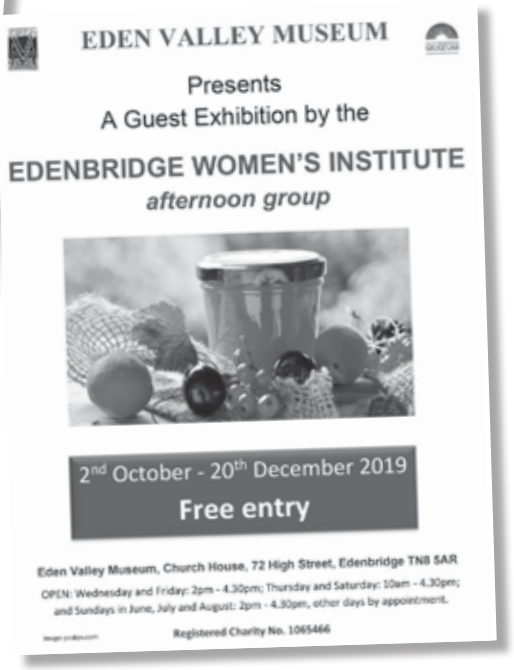
28 January 'A Scotland Yard Detective's Anecdotal Stories of Major Crimes'

FOREST ROW R.N.L.I. CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2019

Freshfield Hall, Forest Row
Saturday 7th December 7.30pm
Tickets: £10.00 tel: 01342 324196

Apron Bar and Coffee House
Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead
Friday 13th December Lunchtime
tel: 01342 302000

Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead
Saturday 14th December 2.30pm
Tickets: £6.00 tel: 01342 324196



Ken and Mavis Seale

Ken and Mavis Seale have lived in Hever a long time. He was born at Pigdown farm in the 20s and she came from Beckenham at the end of WW2 to work for what she calls “Kent War Ag”. This involved farm work although she was deemed too small to do milking.

Ken was the third generation to work for the Castle farm. His grandfather had been a carter and his father the foreman. Sadly father was badly affected by malaria caught serving near Basra in WWI and died in his 60s. He was a keen bell ringer but Ken was put off by long waits outside the church as a child AND he didn’t like the noise - so he stayed well away.

Mavis was unhappy at first as some of the girls were “a bit wild”, but she enjoyed pruning apple trees and cycling up to Ide Hill to bale hay. Then one day she met Ken at the station and romance blossomed. He was working on the Castle farm and hadn’t been called up because he had failed the medical. Also, as the last one left on the farm the Astors may have pulled strings to keep him. During the war they ploughed up the golf course to grow wheat and he served in the Civil Defence.

Then he got bronchitis and was sent inside to help the butler - and the regular Astor family refrain “ask Ken - he’ll see to it!” was coined. The butler retired and the next one left soon after when he turned out to be rather too fond of a tipple - so Ken became butler. He was also the driver and he and Mavis would regularly drive up to Tillypronie, the family’s estate in Scotland, with the silver plate in the boot - a must for sociable summer holidays. One dinner celebrated the EEC and a hand-drawn menu survives.





the castle where they were served lunch, a commercial arrangement with the railway.

When the Astors sold Hever in the early 80s they made sure that the Seales were housed for life on the estate - a final gesture of thanks to a couple who had served them so well.

Joanna Wade

Staff numbers reduced greatly after the war and the Castle was left with "only" housekeeper, cook, ladies maid and butler. The staff had to work weekends although there was a day off in the week. Dinner was at 8 and when there were guests Ken would work until midnight (he was paid for the extra hours).

For a time the Seales lived in the Castle with their children and Mavis worked as a housekeeper. She particularly remembers cleaning the teas-mades in every room - at the time the height of luxury! Ken can't remember if he met the Queen - but they both remember that the Orient Express used to come through Hever Station on its way to the continent and the passengers would decamp to

Cowden Memorial Hall
Christmas Fayre
Sunday 1st December 2019
12-3pm

In aid of HALL funds and
CANCER CHARITY
Book a TABLE in advance £10 each

We are looking for

BRIC a BRAC, RAFFLE PRIZES
and items for CHRISTMAS HAMPER
Any donation
will be gratefully received.

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHARITIES

Cecil Paynter

Extracts from Cecil Paynter's son Andrew's eulogy for his father, delivered at a Service of Thanksgiving on 15th October.

Dad was born in 1930, in Colombo, Sri Lanka (or Ceylon as he would always continue to call it), and he was in many ways a classic son of the "old Empire". He spent the first six years of his life in Ceylon, living near Kandy, where his father Pen, a former Cavalry officer, worked as a tea-taster.

Dad retained many vivid memories of his childhood in the Indian subcontinent. These included memories of trips to far away Kashmir, where his mother Cicely's family had a large carpet factory; as well as memories of the times he would ride in front of his mother on horseback to see elephants washed in the nearby river - led along the path by a pair of tame cheetahs that used to sleep at the end of his parents' bed!

He was very proud of his family heritage. The Paynters were in fact Cornish, from Boskenna near Land's End, and although his grandfather had left Cornwall and settled in Somerset before Dad was born, you'd never have known it. Dad wore his Cornish middle names of Pendarves and de Camborne as badges of Cornish pride.



When his parents returned to England from Ceylon in late 1936, the family soon moved to Little Gill in Spode Lane and so began Dad's lifelong affiliation with the village of Markbeech.

The village of Markbeech; the church; the Falconhurst Cricket Club; the Royal British Legion; endless gatherings in the Village Hall and all the other aspects of local community, were in many ways what defined Dad.

He played his first game of cricket for Falconhurst in 1941 and took a keen interest in the Club long after he hung up his boots. He was Chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion for some 25 years and was a Churchwarden and Treasurer of the church for a similar length of time. And Rookery Cottage, into which Mum and Dad moved in 1965 (having married in 1961) was a happy family home, always buzzing with visitors or committee meetings of one sort or other.

After Wellington College, he attended the nearby Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, following in his father's footsteps. He went on to enjoy a rewarding life as a young Officer in the Kings 3rd Hussars cavalry regiment and as an airborne specialist with the North Somerset Yeomanry. Dad was proud, yet modest, about his military career, but his Parachute wings, and

tie, and his Regimental swords said enough. The Army gave him huge joy and many lifelong friends. Not to mention countless stories!



Dad was a very proud member of The Vintners Company, which he joined in 1957, and he served as Master of that livery company in 1993/4. He never missed an opportunity to enjoy the rather fine lunches and dinners that were a happy adjunct to Court business and the many charitable causes that were part of his life as a Vintner.

And in addition to his love of wine, how Dad loved his food! Michael and I were brought up with the regular wartime refrain "waste not want not, pick it up and eat it". And that's exactly what Dad did. He loved fine food but he wasn't at all fussy! In his retirement years he moved into the kitchen, often as head chef, doubtless to appease Mum given the regularity that he would invite people to supper without much consultation! He would slave for hours producing canapes, and starters in particular. And he loved making the most of anything he could find in the cupboard!

At the heart of everything, was Dad's love of good company. He loved having family and friends around him, and it was genuinely impossible to be in his company at home without him offering you something. He was lucky to be able to live life to the full for the vast majority of his years. And when walking became more difficult he never really complained. "I am just pretending", he used to say. In life, Dad's glass was always half full. Never half empty.

He will be much missed - but we will never forget him! He enriched the lives of all of us and was a loving and loyal husband to Fiona for 58 years.

Addendum: Fiona Paynter and the family would like to thank the local community sincerely for the many kind words and warm wishes received in the weeks since Cecil's death.



Sevenoaks council news

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, or so goes the festive classic. That certainly holds true in our shops and high streets. And it does here too, with the Hever Christmas Fair last month, Markbeech Bazaar up next, and Cowden Christmas Fayre following hot on its heels. It's also the case at the District Council.

First is a long-standing and much-loved festive gesture of goodwill: free parking in the Council's car parks and on-street on the weekends of 14/15th and 21st/22nd December, meaning there's no charge to park in Westerham, Sevenoaks or Swanley.

The Christmas cheer needn't end with shopping locally. Consider grabbing a bite to eat somewhere new. We've got some truly fantastic places to eat in the District. But some are better than others. And when going out with friends and family, it's worth taking a moment to check the hygiene rating of your destination of choice. Review websites tell you about taste, presentation and service but they can't tell you about the areas behind the scenes, where the Council's inspectors go – whether the place adheres to national standards of food hygiene, condition of facilities and management. That's why it's important to check those things using the Food Standards Agency website, app or sticker.

Come Christmas Day, I'm conscious one of the most heated debates surrounds what you can and cannot recycle. Well, perhaps not! However a handy video has been created to help explain what can go in your clear sack and what to do with the rest. Do take a look at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/festivewaste.

All importantly, none of us want food festering a fortnight, so everyone will continue to receive our unique-in-Kent weekly rubbish and recycling collection, though your collection day may change – keep an eye out in the Winter 2019 edition of InShape, arriving soon, for the dates.

And finally, come Twelfth Night, what to do with your tree? The Council provides an easy way of disposing of your Christmas tree free of charge from the kerbside, regardless of whether you subscribe to their popular garden waste collection service. It should save you a trip to the tip – not to mention the hassle of removing all those needles from your car. Again, more information will be in the forthcoming InShape.

We may well see one another at one of the carol services or other events but if not, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas? As ever, do get in touch if there's anything with which I might be able to assist.

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

pet of the month

Coco by Susanne Smith, Rectory Lane

My name was Granola but I am now called Coco. I am 14 months old, I think. One minute I was with my mum and then I am living on the streets of Wales trying to fend for my little self. I ended up in the dog pound with lots of friends. The whisper was that we would be “put to sleep”, the others told me it was not a good thing.

Luckily a van came and took a whole load of us to an animal rescue charity in Edenbridge called Last Chance. They were very nice to me and gave me a thing called a chip, but not the kind you eat. I liked it there but I was very lonely at night. A lovely family adopted me but sadly their daughter was allergic to my fur so I had to go back to Last Chance.

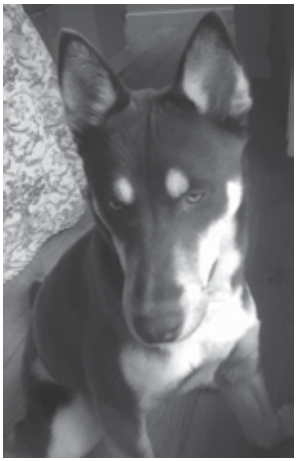
After some time I found my forever home. I am very happy again but I had another HUGE hurdle to get through. It seems that when I was really young I suffered a trauma and this left a large mass under my elbow. It meant that the inside bone of my leg stopped growing but the outside still grew. I now have a really wonky leg, which is probably what put some people off adopting me. The lovely vet at Last Chance found a dog bone doctor who could fix my leg with plates, if it was not done asap I would have trouble walking and a lot of pain as I grew older.

I had the operation in July but sadly I got an infection and I had to have another expensive operation to remove a plate. I now have to rest for four weeks which I really can’t do as I am still young and full of beans. I am so very happy with my new family, even though I have been through lots of surgery and pain. I still visit my friends at Last Chance and they do dressings and x-rays to help with the cost of this all.

I will have to have one more operation to remove the other plate at some point and my owners are looking to find a way to raise £1000 so that we don’t have to ask for any more help from Last Chance. They are having a Jumble Sale in Hever Village Hall on Sat 30th November from 12 - 3, please come if you can.

I hope to see you around Hever. You will know me because I have a bandage on my leg. Please remember there are lots of dogs just like me at Last Chance looking for a nice loving home.

Whoof Whoof



schooltime

news from Hever

November already!?
It has definitely started to feel like winter at Hever School. The leaves are falling, students are completing many reading and academic tasks around pumpkins and apples, and students are dressing in many more layers, (even thermals during Forest School).

In the lead up to Remembrance Day, Hever School sold poppies and raised money towards the Poppy Appeal. The school took part in a Remembrance service at the war memorial at St Peter's Church and were impeccable during the two minute silence. The sound of a lone bugler, (from Edenbridge Town Band) played the Last Post, surely one of the most distinctive sounds in the world, charged with the memory of generations of the fallen. It was then followed by few moments of silent prayer and by the sounding of Reveille, the first call of the day, to signify man's rebirth into eternal life.

The service was led beautifully by Reverend Wendy Izod and Year 6 children. Prior to the service, the Year 6 children studied the origins of Remembrance Day and created stunningly-heartfelt poems in honour of those who have died for their country in the First World War and all wars since.

Year 5 students are working hard with their reading and comprehension in class, using their journals to capture the moments from their books that they feel they could 'magpie' and use in their writing. They have also been studying improper fractions in great detail in maths and simplifying them in order to convert them to mixed numbers.

Children have also learnt about how plastic waste travels into the world's oceans. More specifically they have been looking at our accountability as residents of an inland town, and whether we are as culpable as those who live near the coast. The children have tracked the journey of plastic from Hever to the sea, working hard to identify rivers and describe this journey using the 8 points of a compass. Our Eco – School Ambassadors (Charlie, Tobi, Ava and Mia) have been presenting the ideas of Chestnut class this week at their meeting at Sevenoaks School. Our class initiatives to support our journey towards gaining Eco-School accreditation are now identified as: • Using plastics positively in the school environment including the production of eco-bricks • Growing fruit and vegetables to become more self-sufficient and promote healthy eating. • Saving water by educating the younger students of Hever to turn off the taps. With their business brains activated… Chestnut class have seen an opportunity. They are planning a Christmas gift shop to help turn recycling into positive and desirable Christmas gifts.

Reception children visited the Bridges Centre Dandelion Cafe in Edenbridge for an Inter-generation creative workshop with older adults. The enthusiasm and creativity of the Acorns brought joy to the session and really encouraged the older adults to have a go and join in.

The children have also been very engaged during their time in the Forest, climbing, building dens and learning how to make a fire.

Joanna Stratton
Head Teacher

news from Four Elms

Diversity

Following on from our Diversity Project last year, we have launched a campaign to raise awareness of the right to be treated fairly, particularly for those who have a physical disability.

This month **'Just Different'** visited our school. One of the presenters, Helen, has cerebral palsy and she used her computer system to communicate with us. She told us about the disability and celebrated the fact that she could still do lots of things, just in a different way. It was a great start to raising awareness of a range of disabilities.

Great fires and bonfire parades

Class 2 took part in a Great Fire of London drama workshop. It gave the children a fantastic start to their new experience where they will be creating a news broadcast, reporting on the fire.

We were also proud to take part in the Edenbridge Bonfire parade with our Lion King theme, complete with papier mache Pride Rock. We were delighted to come third in the Junior Cup!

Come to school in your PJs!

Onesies abounded on Children in Need day on Friday 15th November. To raise money for the charity, the whole school, teachers included, came to school in their pyjamas, dressing gowns, onesies and slippers.

You may remember that our oldest children recently held a Macmillan Coffee afternoon. The pounds and pence have been counted and Class Four raised a fantastic £482.45 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We were so proud of the children for the commitment they showed to ensuring this was a successful event and thank you to all who came along to drink coffee and eat delicious homemade cakes.

We will remember them

Class 4 have been learning more about the history of WW2. The children focused on the many characters of the war: land girl, evacuee, nurse, soldier. They wrote their own poetry trying to imagine spending a day in the shoes of our characters. The poems were performed at a private poetry reading for parents.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Classes 3 and 4 have signed up to a six-week health programme provided by Charlton Athletic Community Trust. The "Joy of Moving" initiative is a national programme which aims to get children active and promote healthy lifestyles. The aim of the programme is to increase the levels of physical activity, promote nutritional education and build awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and active lifestyle amongst children. The programme content has been developed by nutritional, educational and sporting experts in line with the recommendations in the Government's Eat Well Plate and its learning outcomes are in line with the National Curriculum for PSHE and Science.

Sporting news

Despite the shorter days, wet weather and boggy conditions on our pitches, our cross country, football, netball and tag rugby teams continue to put in the effort to train and compete in regular matches.

Nicole Holt

news from the pews

Four Elms
Celebrating the glorious season of Autumn, St. Paul's Four Elms' theme for its October "Songs of Praise" was appropriately Autumn. Biblical readings and poetry combined with music and favourite hymns which, of course, featured some Harvest hymns. Angela and Wendy put together a lovely collection of words and music for us all to enjoy. It was particularly nice to have Matthew Laycock, accompanying us on the trombone. A family affair. Thank you Angela for performing "Autumn" from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" so beautifully. The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial was well attended. Each year the poignancy of the lives lost in our small communities never fails to move all who attend. It was a pleasure to welcome all our friends from the Benefice during the service.

Christmas beckons. We celebrate the birth of Christ and enjoy the festivities. However, Christmas is not always the happiest of times for everybody. There are many who are lonely, sad and hungry. Perhaps we should all bear this in mind and try to make Christmas less about overwhelming consumption and more about looking out for our neighbour. Notwithstanding, we hope we shall have a full church enjoying carols and readings, accompanied by the Edenbridge Town Band on Sunday 22 December at 3pm. (Mulled wine and mince pies to follow). Family Communion will be at St. Paul's on Christmas Morning at 11am

The end of November sees the departure of Wendy as Priest in Charge. St. Paul's Four Elms, along with the rest of the Four Elms village thank her for her unstinting devotion to the Church, its people and the village as a whole. We wish Wendy and Andrew every happiness and wonder how they will fill their days.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever
As November ends with Wendy's departure (all welcome to her final service at St Peter's on Saturday 30th at 4pm), we look to the future. December brings the General Election which unfortunately clashes with the parish lunch (I was surprised that Boris was so thoughtless) so we have brought it forward to Wednesday 11 December, please put a note in your diary and come along.

As usual the Hever Carol Supper will follow the Nine Lessons and Carols which is on Friday 20 December at 7pm, please ring Elly Heard (T: 865564) if you would like to come, it is a lovely occasion with good food and excellent company and all are very welcome.

All our Advent and Christmas services are being covered by a range of local priests, culminating in the arrival of the Archdeacon to take midnight communion at 23.30 on Christmas Eve. We hope that Wendy and Andrew will meanwhile be enjoying a very well-deserved rest.
The family Christmas Eve Crib Service is at 4pm on Christmas Eve, also taken by the Archdeacon, and do not forget the Village Carols on 14 December at 4.30, with mulled wine and mince pies in the Henry VIII beforehand.

Finally, we were saddened by the death of our former Churchwarden and parish

stalwart Pat Humphreys at the end of November and the Link will be printing an obituary in January.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas on behalf of St Peter's

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Life without Wendy begins! I can't tell you how sad we will be not to be seeing Wendy in our church with her smiling, calm face leading our worship. We have been blessed to enjoy her ministry these past years, as a Reader, as a support Priest and as our Parish Priest. We hope that Wendy and Andrew will now enjoy a very happy retirement.

Advent begins once more. A period of waiting until the joy of Christmas Day; a busy period of choir practises preparing for our lovely Carol Service on 15th December at 6pm led by Revd Simon Braid. We have a splendid choir that seems to grow and grow and Charles has found some really wonderful music for us to sing. It is a fact that choral singing is good for you! It focuses the mind; is joyful; good exercise and sociable. If you would like to come and join us let me know! Singing also makes you very hungry and thirsty! Following the Carol Service there will be drinks and nibbles for all in the Village Hall so please do come and join us there.

Markbeech does like to sing! The next opportunity to exercise the vocal chords in December – as heartily as you like and aided by a glass of mulled wine very kindly provided by Trevor in The Kentish Horse – will be on Sunday 22nd December at 5pm. It's a great village event with guest conductors, Steve Thompson and Chris St Pierre.

Christmas Day! Lucky us – Simon Braid has offered to come and celebrate Christmas Day with us. Our service will be at the normal time: 9.15am. Please bring your noisiest stocking present/best hat. The church will look beautiful and all those wonderful Christmas hymns to sing. I can't wait!

Sadly there seems no time in December to hold a Parish Lunch so we have decided to postpone December's lunch and hold a special 'New Year' Lunch on Tuesday 7th January at 12.30pm in Markbeech Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Services December 2019

Services rota

Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
01 Dec 01 Dec 01 Dec 04 Dec 05 Dec	08.00 09.15 11.00 09.30 16.30	Four Elms Markbeech Hever Hever Hever	Holy Communion BCP Sung Eucharist Parish Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Richard Bennett Liz Kaberry Ana & Daryl Roxburgh	Gill Lambert Nick Irens & Lynnie Hopkins Jane Rosam & Daryl Roxburgh	 Nicki Talbot Ana Roxburgh	Gill Lambert Nick Irens Jane Rosam
08 Dec 08 Dec 08 Dec 11 Dec 12 Dec 14 Dec	09.15 11.00 16.00 9.30 16.30 17.00	Markbeech Four Elms Hever Hever Hever Hever	Benefice Communion Café Christingle Evensong Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Village Carols with mulled wine in the pub beforehand	Janey Cooper Christina Hodson & Stephen Short Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Flora Nedelcu & Liz Kaberry Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Ann Bellamy	Vasile Nedelcu
15 Dec 15 Dec 18 Dec 19 Dec 20 Dec	11.00 18.00 09.30 16.30 19.00	Hever Markbeech Hever Hever Hever	Benefice Communion Carols in the church plus drinks Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Nine Lessons & Carols, Carol Supper	Lisa & Will Cowell Liz Kaberry Lisa & Will Cowell	Jane Rosam & Will Cowell	Marion Purll Elly Heard	Jane Rosam
22 Dec 22 Dec 22 Dec	11.00 15.00 17.00	Hever Four Elms Markbeech	Benefice Communion Carols in the church& town band Pub Carols	Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Daryl Roxburgh & Robin Rouse	Ana Roxburgh	Jane Rosam
24 Dec 24 Dec 25 Dec 25 Dec	16.00 23.30 09.15 11.00	Hever Hever Markbeech Four Elms	Crib Service Midnight Communion Christmas Family Sung Eucharist Family Communion	Ana & Daryl Roxburgh Lisa & Will Cowell Ricky Calvocoressi John & Christina Hodson	Will & Lisa Cowell Nicki Talbot & Marielou Linklater John & Christina Hodson	Elly Heard Flora Nedelcu Marion Purll	Jane Rosam Vasile Nedelcu Gill Lambert
29 Dec	11.00	Hever	Benefice Communion	Elly Heard & Robin Rouse	Jane Rosam & Robin Rouse	Elly Heard	Elly Heard

Lectionary readings December 2019

Date	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
01 Dec	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Romans 13:11-end	Matthew 24:36-44	Advent 1
08 Dec	Isaiah 11:1-10	72: 1-7,18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12	Advent 2
15 Dec	Isaiah 35:1-10	146:4-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11	Advent 3
22 Dec	Isaiah 7:10-16	80:1-8,18-20	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-end	Advent 4
24 Dec	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16	89:2,19-27	Acts 13:16-26	Luke 1:67-79	Christmas Eve
25 Dec	Isaiah 9:2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Day
29 Dec	Isaiah 63:7-9	148	Hebrews 2:10-end	Matthew 2:13-end	Christmas 1

Churchwardens

Hever	Jane Rosam	07766 763124
Four Elms	Leslie Griggs Christina Hodson	01732 700428 01732 700247
Markbeech	Nicki Talbot Marielou Linklater	01342 850526 01342 850579

Benefice website: Threespires. wordpress. com

gardening news

from Willerby Landscapes

Many of us will go out and buy a houseplant or two over the festive period eg. a Poinsettia or a Christmas cactus (Schlumbergia) so we asked our head gardener, Des Smith, what do we need to do to keep them looking their best.

Buy from a good source

"The first and most important thing is to purchase your plant from a good source, a nursery or garden centre where it has not been in contact with frost and has been watered correctly.

Secondly, check the plant through for damage or pests and fungal rots, there is no point taking on a hospital case.

Thirdly, on getting the plant home, don't rush to put it in its desired position straight away. Gradually get it accustomed to your centrally heated dark and dry home.

Remember, where it has been grown it has had the best of everything, good light, perfect stable temperature and the right amount of moisture. Start by giving the plant as much light as possible, as a sudden lack of light will cause leaf and flower drop. A draft proof window sill is ideal, then bring the plant into the room at night if you close the curtains.

Finally, water little and often as most of these winter flowering house plants have their origins in dry areas around the world, so are quite used to thriving on neglect. Once the season is over, let the plant dry out slowly for a month or so then if you have the will, it is quite easy with a cut down, feed and water, to grow it on again for next year.

Chilli Plant

I am regularly asked if you can overwinter Chili and the simple answer is yes!
Take off any remaining fruit and all the leaves. You want to leave the chilli plant bare so that it just has its original "Y" shape. Replenishing the potting mix helps as a new mix delivers fresh nutrients and removes any bad insects that might be present.

Look for available spots to store your Chilli plants either in a warm conservatory, basement or spare room. The indoor temperature for hibernating chilli peppers is between 15 to 20 degrees centigrade and never below 10 degrees. Water your chilli plants when the soil gets dry and put them back outside when the temperatures consistently stays above 10 degrees centigrade and the threat of frost has passed and with careful plant husbandry you should be enjoying the "heat" in the summer."

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	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112		
Hever												
2018	79	36	81	65.5	79	0	36	63	32	41	127.5	81
2019	23	56	45.5	12	24	90	63	28.5	64	119		
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	13.25	29	78.5	74.5	38.5	71	133		

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Mr Leigh 01732 700514
Parish Rooms
– John Southworth 01732 700670
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

The Link Team

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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 January edition should reach us no later than **13th December please note earlier date.** 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

December diary

26 Nov	**Markbeech Village Lunch** MB Village Hall	12.30pm
27 Nov	**Film, Five Seasons,** the gardens of Piet Oudolf Hever Golf Club	7.30pm
27 Nov	**Hever Hort AGM,** Hever Village Hall	8pm
28 Nov	**Christmas Wreath Making at Bore Place**	10am - 2pm
30 Nov	**Jumble sale for Coco pet of the month,** Hever Village Hall	12-3pm
30 Nov	**Rev Wendy Izod celebration and farewell service**	4pm
7 Dec	**Men's and Ladies' Breakfast,** MB Village Hall	TBA
11 Dec	**Christmas wreath making,** Chiddingstone Castle	10am- 2pm
11 Dec	**Hever Parish Lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12 for 12.30
12 Dec	**General election**	
14 Dec	**Christmas Artisan Chocolate making** at Bore Place	10am – 4pm
14 Dec	**Village carols,** St Peter's Hever	5pm
15 Dec	**Markbeech Carol service**	6pm
17 and 19 Dec	**Children's Christmas cookery**, Chiddingstone Castle	10am – 3.30pm
20 Dec	**St Peter's Hever Nine Lessons and Carols**	7pm
20 Dec	**Hever Carol Supper,** Hever Village hall	8.15pm
22 Dec	**Carols at St Paul's,** Four Elms	3pm
22 Dec	**Carols at the pub,** Kentish Horse, Markbeech	5pm
24 Dec	**Crib service,** St Peter's Hever	4pm
24 Dec	**Midnight Mass,** Hever	11.30pm
26 Dec	**Boxing Day Meet**, Chiddingstone Castle	11 am
7 Jan	**New Year Lunch,** Markbeech Village Hall	12.30pm
9 Jan	**Hever parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12 for 12.30
10 Jan	**Film Club, The Wife**, Hever Castle Golf Club	7pm
21 Jan	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Markbeech Village Hall	7pm
25 Jan	**Organic Vegan cookery course** at Bore Place	10am - 4pm
25 Jan	**Grand Hever Quiz** Hever Castle	
28 Jan	**'A Scotland Yard Detective's Anecdotal Stories of Major Crimes'** U3A talk Crockham Hill Village Hall	2 - 4pm
7 Feb	**Film Club, Letter to Brezhnev,** Hever Castle Golf Club	7pm
17 Mar	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Hever Village Hall	7.30pm