January 2020

THE LINK







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- New season of films
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Village magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the January edition

and Happy New year to you all from the Link team

Thank you all for renewing your subscriptions in 2019. As well as running all the production side of The Link so well (with the indefatigable help of Phil Lotter of Newgraphic), Bridget has done such a good job collecting in subscriptions and advertising fees that we are able to keep the subscription at £5 for the forthcoming year. She asks me to remind you that your 2020 sub is now due, unless you pay by standing order or joined the list more recently and pay later in the year. If in doubt please call her or email (for details see page 21). She will also email anyone who prefers not to have a paper copy, the electronic version which also goes on the hever.org website.

I am sure you will enjoy reading about Fedora, our pet of the month. Anyone like to offer theirs for February? And finally, put 8 May in your diaries because the Castle will be opening its doors for a village VE Day celebration.....

Best wishes
Joanna Wade

Thank you …. thank you …. Thank you. How can I thank you all enough – for your friendship and support these last three years; for the wonderful farewell service held at St Peter's Hever in which all three parishes had a hand; for the scrumptious food and wine at the party afterwards, and particularly for your very generous gift, that will speed us on our way to the Antipodes next year.

I have felt very blessed to have had the opportunity to be your Priest-in-Charge, and to serve alongside so many talented and faithful people. So many of you squeezed into church for the farewell service – leaving room for just a few visitors. I am delighted to announce that the two charities I nominated to share the collection will benefit by some £345 each. One is CenterPoint in memory of Cecil Paynter, and the other is the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal, which amongst other things, funds work locally at Bore Place. Thank you also for the many letters, cards, gifts and flowers. So far, I have succeeded in sending some thank you emails, but don't give up hope, the Izod computer will still be running - way into 2020.

When I wrote to wish you a Happy New Year last year, I reflected that each new year represents a new chapter in a book, a chapter that has yet to be written. That seems to me to as true as ever; for you, my friends in the Benefice, as well as for me a brand new chapter awaits and who knows what God has in store for each us and our friends and families. As the prophet Isaiah foresaw "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." What a wonderful promise for the future!

God bless
Wendy

village screen film club

The 2019/20 film season begins in November at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club. Please note that the dates don't follow the usual pattern of the second Friday in the month. Our films will be:

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.

Friday 7 February
Letter to Brezhnev
This is an excellent romantic comedy about two Liverpool girls in the late eighties who fall for two Russian sailors and try to contact them after they disappear back into the Soviet Union.

Friday 6 March
Finding your feet
When "Lady" Sandra Abbott discovers that her husband of 40 years is having an affair with her best friend, she seeks refuge in London with her estranged, older sister Bif. The two could not be more different – Sandra is a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, free-spirited sibling. But different is just what Sandra needs at the moment, and she reluctantly lets Bif drag her along to a community dance class, where she starts finding her feet. Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall and Joanna Lumley star.

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



Pet of the month..... Fedora
This is our 14 year old alpaca Fedora in the snow. He lives with us in Hever with his friends Punto and Manfred. He was named by our son James after a pc operating system "Linux Fedora" as he liked the name. He wanted alpacas for his 21st and we got him Fedora, Punto and Chico. Sadly Chico died and our new one, Manfred, came from a children's farm and is crazy! Fedora hurt his back a few years ago so doesn't run but the sheep still line up behind him and his colleagues when there are dogs about as they are fierce and determined security guards. All the alpacas are now well into their teens but still enjoying life!

Jill Tisdall

Brenda Hillman's memories of teaching at Hever School in the 1950s

In September 1950, Grace Goble and I began our days at Hever. It was her first headship and my first teaching post. We were the only full time teachers although we did have an art teacher visiting for an afternoon a week which allowed Miss Goble to do some paperwork. We followed Miss Brown and Miss Gardiner who moved from Mark Beech when that school closed on St Swithins Day 1945.



The building was T shaped, the junior classroom faced the road and the infant room and hall was at the back. There was a wood and glass screen between the two which could be drawn back to give a large room for special occasions like the Christmas party. In each angle of the T was a cloakroom, one entrance labelled Boys and the other Girls. To the rear was a small kitchen and the rather basic lavatories were in the playground which was divided so that boys and girls could play separately. There were coke fires in the classrooms but there was no heating in the cloakrooms or the kitchen.

The old air raid shelter stood unused and it was wonderful to see the lovely library it had become when I visited the school a few years ago.

We had only two classes with roughly 60 children in all, so the third room served as a hall for meals, indoor p.e. and a place to listen to the BBC radio music and movement programmes. Equipment was fairly basic as wartime shortages were still being felt. I taught the 5 – 7 year olds and Miss Goble had the older children.

School milk came in a small churn from the castle dairy and our first job was to pour the children's milk into mugs on a table in the corner of the hall and cover them with a clean tea towel. School meals came in heated containers from the school kitchen in Edenbridge. Mrs Staplehurst came in to help serve them and to wash up.

Amos Boakes ,who lived in Brooke Cottage, was the caretaker. He called Miss Goble "that guvness" and me "that young guvness". He lit the coke fires in the morning in the winter and came to clean in the evening.

To begin with Miss Goble and I arrived on our cycles, she from her rooms at Brocas and me from the bottom of Marlpit Hill. Later I discovered that the school coach which collected the schoolchildren was garaged in Swan Lane so the

driver would pick me up en route. This was a great help, especially when it was raining or snowing and I think that he was glad to have another adult on the coach.



He picked up children from various points up Stick Hill and went on to Cowden, then on to Horseshoe Green and Mark Beech and down Uckfield Lane, picking up children of all ages en route. The under elevens got off at the school and the rest went on to Edenbridge Secondary School.

Apart from the children on the bus pupils came mainly from farms, castle families or Hever Warren. The children at the Warren were in care for various reasons so their home lives were vastly different from the locals so it made for quite a challenge to meet the needs of all.

On Monday mornings there was dinner money to collect and National Savings Stamps sold. Many children would bring sixpence a week to buy a stamp which could be converted to a savings certificate at the post office when they had 30.

The Rector came in to take assembly at least once a week after which he would spend time with each class. He used to tell them jokes and funny stories which must have been very welcome light relief for the children before they had to get back to the three Rs.

In the summer parents and children were invited to sports day and tea in the rectory garden. At Christmas time there was a party at the school. The food for this came from the baker in Penshurst and the children enjoyed every scrap as there was still rationing on some items.

In spite of the shortages and challenges I was very happy at Hever and when I met up with my fellow students at college reunions I realised how lucky I was but I thought that the time for a move was coming. My brother had been in the navy for a few years and had seen foreign parts.

Travel was not easy in those days and I knew that the army and the navy had schools in all sorts of interesting places so I thought that a complete change would be the answer so I applied and off I went. Although I had dreams of being sent to Malta or Ceylon I was offered a posting to Germany where I ended up teaching at a school at RAF Bruggen on the German/ Dutch border with many happy memories of my four years at Hever.

a big thank you

We would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who made the Hever Christmas Fair a success this year.

Our sponsors Hever Castle & Gardens and Hever Health & Wellness Club as well as everybody who came to visit us, bought presents, helped on the day, followed us on social media, everybody was brilliant and we couldn't have done it without you.

We managed to raise in excess of £6,200 for our local school and church and we are really happy with the result. Thank you very much for all your support.

This is also the first year without the late Cynthia Mead, one of the founders of the Hever Christmas Fair, 23 years ago. We are really grateful to this special lady and for all that she did and she was missed this year.

Ana Roxburgh
on behalf of the Fair Committee



The Coco jumble sale

I would like to thank all of the lovely people involved in making the Jumble Sale such a success on 30 November. All of those who donated both items and money, who helped me set up the hall and sell so much stuff, who advertised the event and the customers who came from far and wide to buy our jumble.

Coco was present all through the event and really enjoyed being the star and showing off her new leg. We actually raised £520 for the last operation which has meant we do not need to ask for any help from Last Chance. So Thank You All.

In fact it was such a success I hope to hold about three a year to raise money for good charities, help promote recycling and get more funds for the village hall.

Susanne Smith

tributes to Pat Humphreys

The church was full of family and friends for Pat's funeral in November at St Peter's. Her nephew Rory paid tribute:

"Pat as she is known to many is Aunt Pat to her eight nephews and nieces, 15 great nephews and nieces, four (and soon to be more), great, great nephews and nieces.

Born in 1928 Aunt Pat was the third of three girls, Betty, Anne and Pat who lived a comfortable but somewhat isolated life in County Cork. She was home schooled by her mother and raised by maids. Through childhood and adolescence the girls were together singing, dancing, schooling, playing tennis (the family game). Their bond was deep.

However, Aunt Pat had the courage in 1952 to leave Ireland and go alone to London. Her father had died and she knew if she wanted an independent life she had to leave traditional Ireland including the Cork Opera and her dream to be a professional singer.

All her life she was self sufficient with a resilience inherited from her prisoner of war father. In London she found a bedsit and job as a secretary. Aunt Pat made regular trips to see her family and whatever the journey she arrived with open arms, a big smile, eager to talk and advise. In the 1960s she got a car and her dogs, Nicky and later Rusty accompanied her. Before Facebook, Aunt Pat was our Facebook page, a fount of information on the latest family developments wherever in the world we were."

Lord Astor also spoke:
"In preparing my family's recollections of the greatly loved Pat Humphreys, I spent much of my time laughing. Pat loved to laugh, and made all those around her laugh too.

Pat adored Hever and her job. She was employed as secretary to my father in the summer of 1963. She worked happily for my family for 20 years, and afterwards for the Guthries, and was involved in every aspect of running and maintaining the castle and estate. Pat organised most of the functions, one of the highlights being the Christmas party. And who can forget the wonderful Christmas tree in the hall which she helped my mother decorate?

She was also the best person to have on hand in an emergency, which was put to the test after the flood of 1968. It was a terrifying time for all concerned, with the frantic rescuing of people and valuables. But she kept calm and organised throughout, as well as lifting everyone's spirits. Pat loved the Hever shoot, a great dog lover, she picked up with a yellow Labrador, called Copper, once or twice standing next to the Queen with her dog.

When Hever played host to Richard Burton for the filming of Anne of 1,000 Days I remember her telling me, with a twinkle in her eye, that word got out

that Elizabeth Taylor was sunbathing topless and some of the estate men surreptitiously sloped off to have a peep! She also told of the lunch in the Tudor Suite with Princess Grace and the Monaco Gardening Club.

I particularly remember enjoying her wonderful chortle when recalling the day a delivery van got lost and ended up driving over a newly seeded lawn in front of my father - very angry - with two large dogs and, having been cutting down trees, an axe in his hand. The terrified driver left in a flurry of wheel spins.



Not only was Pat the doyenne of the estate office, she also did so much for Hever village. She was a Governor of Hever School and started the Hever Bullen Women's Institute evenings. She was also a pretty formidable member of the church choir. Everyone knew when she was there, singing in full voice!

Pat represented the staff at the funeral of my father in Scotland. In her typically loyal and caring way, she wrote an account of it, and sent a copy to everyone she knew would want to have a first-hand report. And today, we attend her farewell with great love and gratitude.

A neighbour writes:
"Coming into the community 30 years or so ago we knew no one. We were fortunate in being introduced to people who became dear and close friends, who helped us to integrate into the life of these small villages. Pat Humphreys was one of those rare people, with a full and busy life, who nevertheless committed herself to the service of others. Always on the lookout for newcomers she would issue invitations to lunch or dinner and offer whatever help she could to help them with their new life here. Thank you Pat I will always be grateful for your input in my life and all the love and laughter we shared along the way."

Rory concludes:
"Aunt Pat would want to thank the many friends who have been such a support to her over the course of her long life. To thank you for being here with her today. If I could phone her again today "Hallo Aunt Pat how are you?" She would answer as she always did "Oh Rory, I am very lucky, I have everything I need."



Hever Residents Association- the year ahead

After all the merriment of Christmas, we in the HRA are turning our minds to more serious matters.

We hope HRA members can join us on Wednesday January 8th at 7pm in Hever Village Hall for a talk by Stephen Whitehead, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer from Sevenoaks District Council. Stephen is a highly experienced officer. He recently joined SDC Planning and has made significant inroads into a backlog of enforcement cases. He is preparing a paper for a local MP on 'Six ways that Planning Laws need to change' i.e. how planning rules can be improved to remove frustrations and inconsistencies. He will talk about this along with day-to-day planning and enforcement matters.

If you are at all interested in planning we recommend this event. If you're not already a member, and are interested in attending, we will have subscription forms available on the night so you can subscribe, or please email hra@hever.org or call Laura on 01732 864 257 to subscribe.

We welcome new members and would also love to hear from you if you are interested in getting more involved.

For those of you who don't know much about HRA, our aims are to preserve, protect and if possible, improve the local environment along with promoting the wellbeing of the community. More information can be found at www.hever.org/hra.

Sevenoaks council news

Council Tax is a big bill these days and although the District Council's element is only about ten percent of it – or £215 for the average household – that's still large enough to be felt in the pocket before adding the County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner, Parish Council and Fire & Rescue Service's demands into the mix.

Besides the Sevenoaks District continuing to stand out as the only part of Kent in which rubbish and recycling collections still take place every week, you wouldn't be alone if you were to struggle to call to mind what else you see for that money. In March, writing about the District Council's budget, I touched briefly on some of the other areas for which the authority has responsibility. But you would be forgiven were they not front of your mind. So over the course of the coming year I will take the opportunity to highlight a few more.

Whilst perhaps a few weeks late, I think it's worth reflecting on the role the District Council plays in the democratic process. Last month, up and down the country, thousands of council staff helped people register to vote in the General Election, processed nominations, printed poll cards, issued postal votes, and manned polling stations. Then, on Thursday 12th December, tens of millions of voters like you, me, our friends and our neighbours made the journey in the dry, rain or – further north – snow to their polling station. In the confines of those little booths, be they in a pub or portacabin, castle or caravan, school or village hall, we placed a simple cross beside the name of a fellow citizen who was, it is probably safe to say, complete with imperfections of their own. Throughout that night and into the morning thousands more counted each vote, one by one, to establish the outcome.

There is something incredibly special that for whatever reason, with whatever reservations we may feel, and with whatever vision in mind, we enjoy in this country a system in which every citizen has a vote which allows them to say who they would like to see represent them and their interests. As flawed as some argue it to be, it is all the more precious when one considers how many people in the world are not afforded this most basic of rights.

At around a fiver a head, democracy has a financial cost. But I would contend it's actually priceless.

The result of an election may not be in a District Councillor's gift, however, if there is ever something with which I might be able to help, then please do get in touch.

Matthew Dickins
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schooltime

news from Four Elms

Merry Christmas from Four Elms Primary School!
December is always met with excitement by all the children as we count down to Christmas. We are holding lots of Christmas events to get the children, teachers and parents, feeling festive and ready for their celebrations.

First up was the annual whole school trip to the panto to see Aladdin in Sevenoaks, which the PTA generously helped to fund. This was followed by our candle lit Christingle service in which all the children, from the youngest to the oldest, sing carols, light their Christingle oranges and celebrate the story of Christmas.

A popular December event is the Mums' and Dads' gift stall. This is an exciting occasion for the children to be able to choose and wrap a special gift themselves ready to surprise their loved ones on Christmas Day (if they can keep it a secret that long!).

The PTA have also been busy organising our school Christmas fete, including a visit from Father Christmas, a raffle and silent auction, as well as a party for all the children on the last day of term.

Christmas carols and… aliens…?
Key Stage 1 have been practising hard for their Nativity, which we hear will contain spaceships and aliens. We can't wait to see what the children will perform for us!
Key Stage 2 have been tuning their voices for their Christmas carol concert and will be performing a mixture of traditional carols and top Christmas hits accompanied by a live band.

Sporting news
We leave you with news of our Cross Country team's superlative performance in the Kent Junior Cross Country Championships. There were some incredible scenes at our biggest race of the year, which is open to every primary school in Kent and includes 90 schools and over a thousand children.

Our small school once again punched above its weight against the big guns. For the first time ever in this countywide race, we took home some medals! Four Elms placed 3rd overall in the year 5 girls' race! As a result, two of our year 5 girls qualify for regional heats based on their 3rd and 10th position finishes. This is an astounding achievement given the scale of the race.

Well done to all who took part: everyone did brilliantly, running, supporting, cheering and clapping, because we know (as per the club's motto) "teamwork makes the dream work".

Nicole Holt

news from Hever

It has been a busy run up to the end of term with our Hever Christingle Service, Christmas Bazaar, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch, Pantomime visits, Nativities, Carols around the tree and Christmas Church Services.

Y4 also started their exciting journey on The Polar Express. They immersed themselves in the story, as well as watching clips from the film in order to produce a range of written work. These have included describing emotions in their own opening to the story and using figurative language to recreate the 'delicious' hot chocolate scene. Furthermore, they have used their reading skills to interpret character thoughts and emotions. As an art project, they have chosen their favourite scene from the book, creating their own illustrations, which they have carefully painted using fine paintbrushes.

In Maths, children have started their perimeter unit. They enjoyed creating their own rectangles from only four squares, investigating the shortest and longest perimeter they could make. This week, they have calculated perimeters of a range of shapes, some children even creating their own formula! The highlight of the past two weeks has to be the reintroduction to Times Table Rockstars. The children are extremely enthusiastic and are making great progress towards their future status as a 'Rock Hero.'

KS2 enjoyed a very colourful production of Oscar Wilde's " The Canterville Ghost" at London's Unicorn Theatre this week. A headless ghost with clanking chains in need of oiling, some fiery twins, a doom merchant of a housekeeper and wonderful sound and lighting effects, made for a memorable dramatic experience!

The children prepared for the show in their drama lessons, exploring the Victorian setting and events leading up to the arrival of the American Otis family to haunted Canterville Chase. The situation of the servant characters was explored through lively group improvisation. The children shared their performances of earnest cooks, snooty butlers and exhausted gardeners amongst others!

There were plenty of school-friendly visitor attractions around the Unicorn Theatre. Following our exciting train journey, the children made a splash in the fountains beside the River Thames, lunched in The Unicorn Café, took in the impressive view of the iconic Tower of London and Tower Bridge and finally explored the annual river Christmas markets. Children enjoyed looking at the homemade gifts, delicious food from German-style chalets and amazing views of HMS Belfast, where she is now permanently moored as a museum ship, on the River Thames.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

Hever

January is the month of the Grand Hever Quiz. It is an excellent fun evening. Do come along. See advert for tickets.

More than 170 people came to Wendy's last service in St Peter's. The choir sang beautifully and Angela Purll not only played but also read a lesson. We also celebrated Andrew Izod for his stalwart support of Wendy and because it was St Andrew's day! The bellringers rang a quarter peal in her honour.

We will miss Wendy - but the church must go on! Services are being taken by kind local clergy while the Benefice takes steps towards a permanent successor which hopefully should not take too long.

We were very saddened by the death of Anne Simmonds, a pillar of the church and the lead flower arranger. Following her funeral on 23 December there will be an obituary next month.

The bellringers raised the magnificent sum of £635 in the Ride and Stride last September. Half goes to the Kent Churches Trust and half directly to St Peter's. Well done to Ringers/Riders and sponsors alike.

We published a notice of a safeguarding review regarding past cases of concern within the Diocese, in the recent pew sheet. If you require a copy or any further information, or if you wish to raise any issues of church related abuse, past or present, please contact the Diocese of Rochester's safeguarding team on 01634 560000 or the NSPCC on 0800 80 20 20 or visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding

Finally may I wish you all a very Happy New Year?

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Four Elms

It was with joy and a tinge of sadness that St. Paul's Four Elms bade farewell to Wendy as she officiated at her last Communion Service on the 24th November. We now enter our interregnum period where we contemplate our way forward and we pray we shall be blessed, once again, with an incumbent who will seek to take on our Parish to lead and to care for our spiritual needs.

During the Advent period in December the church may not seem very colourful. We are without flowers and although we light the Advent candles on each Sunday there is no doubt that it is a period of reflection, waiting for the celebrations of Christmas. However, what a joy on Café Christingle Sunday. Truly a family service with children and adults enjoying making and holding their orange Christingle candles.
I am always interested to know how other people celebrate Christmas. I asked a Swedish friend, Kerstin Jay, whether a Swedish Christmas was

very different from Four Elms. She tells us, “No, Christmas is not too different in Sweden. Ham instead of turkey and lots of herring and salmon and gravid lax, ’smörgårdsbord’, which makes you put on a couple of kilos just looking at it. Church very early morning Christmas Day. Long walk in the cold (often sunny) weather. Lots of hats and gloves!” And probably a little snow as well.

Twenty years ago we were looking forward to the Millennium celebrations. Four Elms had a newly landscaped pond area at the centre of the village and also four sapling Elm trees, kindly donated and planted by Willerby’s of Bridge Nurseries. The original elms had succumbed to Dutch Elms disease. I am pleased to say that the new trees, on the edge of the cricket pitch, are still in very good shape. Good to have four elm trees in Four Elms.

As we come to the coldest time of the year let’s all look out for neighbours who may be housebound, cold or hungry.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Each year, Markbeech’s Christmas Bazaar in late November seems to kick off the whole festive season, with most of the village beavering away to contribute, this year for the first time organised brilliantly by Andrea Brocklehurst. It creates a real buzz and from then on we are on that helter skelter ride towards Christmas Day. Charles is busy rehearsing the choir for the carol service, mince pies and mulled wine appear at services and celebrations. Church linen is laundered and brass is polished, (a task made somewhat easier this year since the sad loss of our spectacular candelabra). The church is decorated and many carols sung.

But by the time you read this we will be into the New Year and the uncertainties of a new government, which rather mirrors, if somewhat less contentiously, our own new interregnum regime, which we hope will be a short one.

To that end we have been working on the Parish Profile which is needed as part of the appointment process. I am in the midst of putting this together at the moment, (delayed by a particularly vicious bout of flu), and working on it, reading how each Parish sees itself and inserting the pictures that say so much about our communities, I am struck by how much goes on here, and how people are prepared to give up their time and energy for it. We are very blessed.

Coming up in January we have the lively parish lunch for January on Tuesday 7th, 12.30pm at Markbeech village hall and the Family Service on the 19th at 9.15am led by Simon and Susy Braid. Please email me at marielou@me.com or ring or text 07860 436668, if you can come to the lunch and let me know any dietary requirements! Young and old, you are all, as ever, very welcome.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Services in January 2020

Services rota

Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
05 Jan	08.00	Four Elms	Holy Communion (BCP) (SB)	Richard Bennett	Gill Lambert		Gill Lambert
	09.15	Markbeech	Sung Eucharist (SB)	Liz Kaberry	Pennie Scott & Janey Cooper	Duncan West	Liz Kaberry
	11.00	Hever	Parish Communion (SB)	Sandra Dell & Daryl Roxburgh	Jane Rosam & Daryl Roxburgh	Ana Roxburgh	Jane Rosam
08 Jan	09.30	Hever	Morning Prayer				
09 Jan	16.30	Hever	Evening Prayer				
12 Jan	09.15	Markbeech	Sung Eucharist (AP)	Carol Bowern	Fiona Irens & Ann Bellamy	Nick Irens	Nicki Talbot
	10.30	Four Elms	Café St Paul (AP)	Christina Hodson & Stephen Short			
	16.00	Hever	Evensong (SM)	Robin Rouse & Elly Heard	Elly Heard & Robin Rouse		
15 Jan	09.30	Hever	Morning Prayer				
16 Jan	16.30	Hever	Evening Prayer				
19 Jan	09.15	Markbeech	Family Service (SB)	Wilkinson family	Alexander Irens	Henry Wilkinson	
	11.00	Hever	Parish Communion (SB)	Lisa Cowell & Elly Heard	Lisa & Will Cowell	Elly Heard	Jane Rosam
22 Jan	09.30	Hever	Morning Prayer				
23 Jan	16.30	Hever	Evening Prayer				
26 Jan	11.00	Four Elms	Patronal Service with Inspire (SB)	Gill Lambert & Richard Bennett	Pat Fletcher & Marian Purll	Jill Linden	Gill Lambert
29 Jan	09.30	Hever	Morning Prayer				
30 Jan	16.30	Hever	Evening Prayer				

Celebrants Simon Braid(SB), Andrew Procter (AP),Sally Musson (SM)

Date Lectionary readings January 2020

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
05 Jan	Isiah 60:1-6	72: 10-15	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	Epiphany
12 Jan	Isiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13-17	Baptism of Christ
19 Jan	Isiah 49:1-7	40: 1-12	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1:29-42	Epiphany 3
26 Jan	Isiah 9:1-4	27: 1,4-12	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23	Conversion of St Paul
02 Feb	Malachi 3:1-5	24: 7-10	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2: 22-40	Candlemass

Churchwardens

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

Altar Flowers
St. Paul's Four Elms
5th Christmas flowers
12th Christmas flowers
19th Mrs Lambert
26th Mrs Lambert

From the register
Funeral
20 November Pat Humphreys Hever

Baptism
24 November White Family Hever

gardening

Where did that go?! 2019 seemed to disappear in a flash! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a happy and productive time in your gardens for 2020.

A quick look back at 2019 for us at How Green Nursery and we had a great year. We expanded our workforce, installed an all singing, dancing nursery management system that has made our business run more efficiently. Our three public open weekends were well attended with many plants finding new homes and heaps of tea and cake consumed! We grew for another successful Chelsea and we even hosted a sold-out film about the garden designer Piet Oudolf.

You'll see a running theme within our monthly posts, we are always flat out busy! January certainly is no exception. You would have thought it a quiet month but for a commercial nursery we are gearing ourselves up for a busy Spring.

One of our first jobs will be to pot up Snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis) from 'in the green' bulbs. They are much more reliable than Snowdrops bought as dry bulbs. We also have thousands of bare root perennials delivered that are also potted into containers. Come the end of the month the nursery will be at capacity.

Most people tend not to think about the garden in January, but there are plenty of plants to give Winter interest. We grow several varieties of Cornus (Dogwood) that give fantastic stem colour. Cornus alba 'Sibirica' have bright red stems as do 'Elegantissima' & 'Baton Rouge'. 'Flavarimea' has yellow stems and 'Midwinter Fire' & 'Winter Flame' bright orange. Stem colour becomes more intense as the weather becomes colder. We tend not to spend much time in our gardens in January, so plant in a position that can be seen from the house.

For an amazing vanilla scent you cannot beat Sarcococca, an evergreen shrub that come in several varieties. We stock 'confusa' and 'hookeriana Purple Stem'. Fully hardy and can take a shady position, grow near to the house to benefit from the delicious scent.

2020 certainly looks exciting as we pen these pages! We have made the decision not to grow for Chelsea Flower Show this year as we have won a major contract to grow for the next phase of planting at RHS Wisley in Surrey. The new 'Well Being Garden' has been designed by a major garden designer called Matt Keightley – we are delighted to be associated with this project.

We are able to announce our public open weekend dates for 2020. They are as follows:
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April
Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery

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	115	
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	98	
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	92.5	

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 February edition should reach us no later than **15th January 2020**
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

January diary

20 Dec	**Nine Lessons and Carols,** St Peter's Hever	7pm
20 Dec	**Hever Carol Supper,** Hever Village hall,	8.15pm
20 and 21 Dec	**CHAPS presents Oh my Lord!, a farce** at Chiddingstone Causeway Hall	7.30 for 8pm
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
4 Jan	**Men's Breakfast,** Markbeech Village Hall	8.30am
7 Jan	**New Year Lunch,** Markbeech Village Hall	12.30pm
8 Jan	**HRA talk by SDC planning enforcement officer,** Hever Village Hall	7pm
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,	7 for 7.30
28 Jan '	**A Scotland Yard Detective's Anecdotal Stories of Major Crimes'** U3A talk, Crockham Hill Village Hall	2 – 4pm
2 Feb	**"Edenbridge and the London Foundling Hospital in the 18th century"** Eden Valley Museum	
7 Feb	**Film Club, Letter to Brezhnev,** Hever Castle Golf Club	7pm
8 Feb	**Ladies's breakfast** Markbeech Village Hall	9am
12 Feb	**Cooking course Frugal Feasts** Bore Place	10am - 4pm
13 Feb	**Hever parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall,	12 for 12.30
29 Feb	**Penshurst Choral Society Concert,** Penshurst church	7.30pm
6 Mar	**Film Club, Finding their Feet,** Hever Castle Gold Club	7pm
17 Mar	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Hever Village Hall	7.30pm