February 2020

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Some superb concerts
- Remembering Anne Simmonds
- About Anne Boleyn
- A new local farm shop
- Gardening tips

Village magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the February edition

We hope you enjoy it.

We are pleased to confirm that the plans for a VE Day celebration at Hever Castle on 8 May are progressing well. The Castle is kindly opening its gates that evening so save the date.

In Four Elms the building work at Chartwell Barns is coming along and the new cafe hopes to open soon. I hear that they may even be planning to offer evening meals. The coffee and grocery shop at the former garage is also open.

I am sorry to report that Ken Seale, former butler to the Astors, has died. We ran an article about him and Mavis in December - they had been married for 73 years. His funeral is at 11.30 on 6 February at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium.

Do come to the film club on 7 February. In a change to the published programme we will be showing the WW2 film "Reach for the Sky" about the heroic pilot Douglas Bader.

Joanna Wade



Pet of the month

This is Aggie, our much loved, slightly yappy Jack Russell, on the beach at Holkham, Norfolk. An excellent, cheery little dog who we were lucky to inherit from our lovely neighbours, after one too many confrontations with her grandmother, almost 6 years ago. She has resisted most of the training we have offered although she has been willing to embrace a love of what modern people call wild swimming.

Bridget and Ivan

village screen film club

Friday 7 February
Reach for the Sky

A celebrated WW2 film starring Kenneth More as Douglas Bader, the heroic pilot who lost his legs but carried on flying. We are showing this in place of Letter to Brezhnev to mark the VE Day celebrations this year.

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 bcharris@btinternet.com or by phoning Joanna on 07958 919 631 or buy tickets at the door. However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat.

Hever Rose and Horticultural Society

Wednesday 19 February
at 8.00pm
in Hever Village Hall
Talk by Derek March –

Story of English Cheeses





Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have already paid or who have standing orders/ arrangements in place to pay later in the year. If you haven't, please pay now.

We had to chase up a lot of subs last year, please don't wait to be chased again. If you aren't sure what arrangements you have in place please contact Bridget by phone or email, contact and payment details on p. 21. The annual sub is unchanged at a modest £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at hever.org BUT please let us know.
Many thanks

PS We receive a standing order payment from HARTT C LRK F HARTT which we can't match to a subscriber. If it's you please get in touch, many thanks.

Penshurst Choral Society
Conductor: John Hargreaves

Presents

Faure: Requiem (Op 48)

Haydn: Great Organ Mass

Mendelssohn: Organ Sonata No 2 in C

Organist: Charlie Warren

Saturday 29 February 2020 at 7.30 pm

St John the Baptist Penshurst TN11 8BL

Tickets via the website. Some tickets available on the door for cash.

Adults £12.50 Children (16 years and under) Free

www.penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk/concerts

HEVER CASTLE SNOWDROP WALK FROM 8 FEBRUARY 2020

A heavenly carpet of snowdrops will provide a magical trail for visitors to follow at Hever Castle & Gardens from 8th February.

Around 80,000 snowdrop bulbs have been planted in the Gardens over the past few years including a mix of single and double snowdrops, interspersed with some unusual varieties such as the yellow tipped 'Wendy's Gold', a giant Galanthus called 'Colossus' which at 9 inches is one of the tallest snowdrops you can find and Galanthus 'Green Brush' with its unusual green tipped flowers.

Award winning garden writer Val Bourne will also be giving a talk entitled The Wonderful World of Galanthophilia on Saturday 8th February at 1pm.

EDENBRIDGE AND THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

In the eighteenth century



A guest exhibition by Alethea Mitchell

5th FEBRUARY – 3rd MAY 2020

Eden Valley Museum
Church House
72 High Street
Edenbridge
Kent
TN8 5AR

Opening times

Wednesday	2pm - 4.30pm
Thursday	10am - 4.30pm
Friday	2pm - 4.30pm
Saturday	10am - 4.30pm

www.evmt.org.uk

Image
© Wikimedia Commons



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR:

SINGING CHORAL EVENSONG
16TH FEB 2020 4.00PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
FOREST ROW
FEBRUARY 16TH 2020
4.00PM
REFRESHMENTS AFTER

Chichester Cathedral Choir undertake about 300 performances each year. The choir has 14 choristers, 4 probationers (choristers-in-training) and 6 Lay Vicars – professional musicians who sing the alto, tenor and bass parts. They are under the Direction of Charles Harrison the Cathedrals Organist and Master of the Choristers.

remembering Anne Simmonds

Elly Heard delivered a tribute to Anne at her funeral on 23 December. Here is part what she said:

"Anne lived all her life in the South East of England. Born in Crowborough in 1937, an only child, her childhood was marred by the death of her father whom she adored. As she grew up she stayed at home to help and support her mother. Eventually she met and married Geoff and in the early 70s they moved into Terry's Farm in Rectory Lane.

Anne was a devoted wife and she loved her home, which was always immaculate. She was wonderfully hospitable and produced mouthwatering eats at her parties. She also loved her garden and took endless delight in the fabulous display of roses, wisteria and the glorious ornamental cherries which she had planted.

She had a wide range of interests, perhaps the most important was her love of acting. For many years she belonged to the Tunbridge Wells Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society and the Pantiles Players and had major roles in many of the productions as well as working on costumes and scenery. She became passionate about opera and classical music, making regular trips to London, Glyndebourne and the Barn at Leigh. She was critical of any soprano or tenor who did not meet her exacting standards.

Anne was also a great country lover. She was able to identify many species of wildlife as her father had taught her so much about nature. She frequently carried a camera to record what caught her eye. Of course she loved walking with her dog. After the demise of a particularly wild English setter she got Oliver, her first springer spaniel, followed eventually by Ben. Ashdown Forest, Hartfield or the sea shore – all favoured places for walks. The space, the peace and quiet were very precious to her. That was one of the reasons why she loved Africa. It was a great disappointment to her that she never did get to Uzbekistan.

After Geoff's death in 2010 her spaniel was her constant companion. She was devoted to her animals and had a great empathy with them. The arrival of the donkeys was a real joy, it was a dream fulfilled. And she adored horses. We spent many happy hours ringside at the South East Shire Horse Association Show enjoying watching the heavy horses. All this accompanied by a glass (or two) of wine and smoked salmon sandwiches. She was a great supporter of the Brook Hospital for Animals in Cairo.

As a widow Anne refused to be reclusive. Instead she blossomed into the Anne we all knew and loved. The conversion of the barn was a project which she revelled in - planning it exactly as she wanted it and moving in about six years ago. Another of her talents was art. She was very artistic and she held a regular painting group in her house. She recently went to Vienna to see the Monet and Brueghel

.exhibitions with her friends Rosemary and Una.

Anne also became more involved with St Peter's Church - doing the cleaning and organising the flower rota. She also organised the distribution of the Link Magazine in Hever.



She treated herself to a new car, the Mini, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Whilst Geoff had a succession of classic sports cars, Anne had a modest Ford Escort in which she provided the rescue service with her sensible car, and a certain amount of smugness I'm sure, when his broke down. She did eventually have an orange MG which she loved.

Anne was a very private person, always interested in other people but never giving away much about herself. She was fiercely independent and had a wicked sense of humour, and it was this strength of character that sustained her through the relentless onset of disability during the last two years. In her quiet way she made a great impression on all who knew her. She is greatly missed."

Her friend and executor, Vicki Ellinger, wrote this:
"I got to know Anne in 1985. She drove an orange MG and she and Oliver [her dog], in the passenger seat, cut a bit of a dash. We walked the dogs together and put the world to rights, saw each other through operations and the less attractive side of life and after Geoff died she joined the singles. Her energy and determination were formidable and she did not tolerate fools, she was very special and generous.

I have been completely bowled over by the kindness of the Hever residents in all that they have done for Anne during her illness and in particular the close neighbours, who could have done no more.

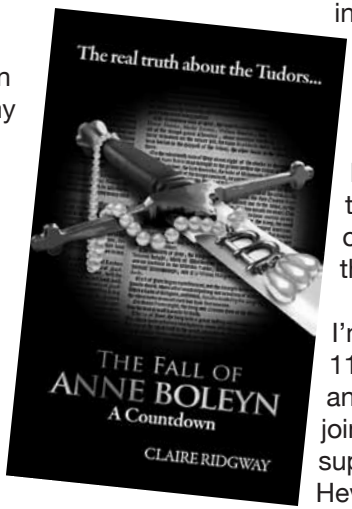
Anne so wanted to get to the beach again this Christmas day, so Rosemary and I will endeavour to get there and toast her with her chosen King's Ginger. The lady had style!

Joanna Wade writes: "Although I only knew Anne a short time, she made a big impression. Her ashes are to be interred in the churchyard at St Peter's next to Geoff and her infant daughter Lucy whose death, many years ago, she bore so stoically. Finally, many thanks to Anne for introducing us to King's Ginger - which is delicious."

what Anne Boleyn and I do

I'm a full-time researcher and author specialising in Tudor history, and particularly the Boleyn family, who, of course, are a big part of Hever's history. I began the Anne Boleyn Files website in 2009 and this, in turn, led to me starting the Tudor Society and writing ten history books, including The Fall of Anne Boleyn: A Countdown and George Boleyn: Tudor Poet, Courtier and Diplomat (co-written with Claire Cherry).

I also run a very active YouTube channel, The Anne Boleyn Files and Tudor Society, where I vlog about Anne Boleyn and do "on this day in Tudor history" videos on a daily basis.



Queen Anne Boleyn has always been my historical heroine, and Hever was a big part of her life. Anne spent her formative years at Hever Castle, before being sent to Mechelen and then the royal court of France, and then retreated to the castle when King Henry VIII started pursuing her.
She also suffered sweating sickness there, as did her father, Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond. Hever was her safe haven and home. It is also where the Thomas and Elizabeth Boleyn would have grieved after the brutal executions of Queen Anne and her brother, George, Lord Rochford, in May 1536.

St Peter's Church would have been the Boleyn family's place of worship and it is also the resting place of Anne's father, Thomas Boleyn, and her brother, Henry, who sadly died in infancy. Another child, Thomas, was laid to rest at nearby Penshurst.

I love visiting Hever, the castle and the church, and paying my respects to the Boleyns. I also bring tours here as I feel that walking in historical people's footsteps gives us insights into their life and brings history alive. It gives us such a connection with the past. I much prefer visiting Hever, where Anne would have spent happy carefree times, to visiting the Tower of London, where she spent those awful last days.

I'm presently working on my 11th book, Hever: A Castle and its People, which is a joint project with Hever Castle supervisor, Owen Emmerson. Hever Castle has such a rich history and we want to tell its story through the very different people who owned it and resided in it, who all put their stamp on it in some way.

Claire Ridgway

Sevenoaks council news

It's about putting the right houses in the right places with the right infrastructure. That's how I described the Local Plan some seventeen months ago, as it approached its conclusion. If approved by the Government's Inspector, their Plan would deliver housing, jobs and infrastructure investment, whilst protecting the environment and seeing no sites proposed for development in the three villages in our Benefice.

Submitted for the Inspector's consideration in April, she proceeded to conduct the public hearings. However, as you may have heard, these came to an abrupt halt in October. The stated reason being a failure to comply with what is known as the Duty to Cooperate.

The Duty to Cooperate is an obligation to work with neighbouring planning authorities on matters of common interest and, all importantly, establish whether a neighbouring borough might be able to take part or all of an unmet identified housing need. Sevenoaks have engaged with neighbouring authorities, and those further afield, for years. It is, the District Council believes, fundamentally untrue for the Inspector to either state or imply that the Council did not satisfy the Duty to Cooperate and in any case if she had such concerns, why did she initially continue with the hearings – at public expense – when the Duty to Cooperate was considered on the very first day?

Regrettably there exists an impasse and the Inspector now threatens to reject the draft Plan having expressed an unwillingness to engage further with the authority. The Council could withdraw its draft Plan, begin again, at great cost to taxpayers like you and me, and develop a political plan without the evidence base on which local authorities are obliged to produce these documents. But that would be to set ourselves up for failure.

Equally, the Council could have developed a plan which would accept wholesale the imposition of housing and permit the desecration of the precious local landscape we all so hold dear. But these are an inheritance of which we as a community, and we as a Council, are custodians. Anything which jeopardises it should not be contemplated.

This is why the Council is standing by the draft Local Plan. A Plan supported by evidence and which is the product of your constructive and patient engagement over nearly four years. And a plan which both satisfies the Government's requirements and defends our Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Should you wish to discuss this or any other matter which I might be able to help with then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Matthew Dickins
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Sevenoaks District Council,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent,
TN13 1HG
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Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

The last meeting of Hever Parish Council was in November, draft minutes (to be approved at next meeting on 21st January) are online http://hever.org/draft-minutes-of-meeting-of-hever-parish-council-21-11-19. It was a very interesting and varied meeting (all are welcome to all the meetings), with an update from the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC).

Did you know that SDC has the biggest enforcement caseload in Kent? Enforcement can be a civil (e.g. beds in sheds, caravans, permitted development) or criminal matter (e.g. listed buildings, Tree Preservation orders, advertising).

The budget plans were considered and decided on. The budget for 2020- 2021 will lead to a tiny increase in the parish councils part of each household's council tax – from £65.91 to £66.89 per year per band D household. Village halls are to receive £500 each and each church £1,000 before the end of this financial year and £1,000 to Hever school towards their sensory garden. We await details of the Four Elms school grant application.

Next financial year (2020-2021) the Council decided expenditure including:
•£500 to each school and £1,000 to each church for the year (which will be instead of any further grantapplications)
• to increase spend on "environmental works" e.g. bulk refuse visits to £1,000 / year (4 visits), litter picking in Oct / Nov ~ £250 (in addition to the Community Easter one), hedge cutting etc. Other plans are:
• to gradually fund the restoration of some old wrought iron fingerposts and replace others
• to support a parish wide Victory in Europe picnic for the whole community at Hever Castle on 8 May. For information about the celebrations nationwide see www.veday75.org

All community groups are encouraged to apply for grants for suitable projects – forms online at http://hever.org/parish-council/hever-parish-council-community-support-grants

The Parish Council continue to work with the Rural and Community Housing Manager (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) www.ruralkent.org.uk and the English Rural Housing Association to consider the parish wide need for affordable housing. See http://hever.org/hever-parish-council-call-for-sites-for-local-needs-homes for more information.

The free summer family fun days the Parish Council organises and funds (in conjunction with Sevenoaks District Council) were another success last Summer - 16 children attended the Markbeech session (31st July) and 63 in Hever (12th August). We hope to organise more this summer.

Do come to a Parish Council meeting, and particularly the Annual Assembly on Thursday May 28 in Hever village hall

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 17 March at Hever village hall at 7.30pm.

The Clerk has moved out of the parish but is still contactable on clerk@hever.org or landline details on the website.



Eden Valley Museum
20th Birthday Exhibition
& Church House Memories

5th February - 19th December 19th 2020



'A Museum for the Millennium and Beyond'

Respect the past, Learn from it, Look to the future...

War stories

We are planning a few articles to mark the end of WW2 and would love to know about your or your parents' war experiences. We will send the material we collect to the Museum in Edenbridge as part of a permanent archive.

A few random paragraphs will do fine - what did they do in the war and how did it end for those close to you? Please get in touch - and if you would rather tell us the story on the phone and we write it down, that is fine too.

Joanna Wade - 07958 919631
or Thelink@hever.org



Falconhurst Farm Shop

"Finally, you're open!" This is what we've been hearing constantly as people have stepped through the door of the shop since we opened on 18th December. It has been a very, very long road to get to the point we are now.

We first fell in love with the idea of opening a deli style shop over 15 years ago after spending endless hours browsing the wonderful delights of similar shops local to us as well as seeking out new ones wherever we visited. The usual distractions of jobs, mortgages and children overshadowed our great plans but they stayed in the back of our minds ticking away. We moved back to Markbeech in 2014 into Falconhurst Farmhouse and spent the following years exploring various farm buildings on the estate and assessing their suitability for transforming into a farm shop and deli.



Work started to convert the former garage at the top of Falconhurst drive in Spring 2019. We naively thought this would a quick straightforward process! After completing the planning application process the water, drainage and electricity all had to be updated but we were very lucky to receive funding though the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) towards part of the building work and equipment to fit out the shop. When fitting out the shop we tried to repurpose as much as possible from the estate – apple crates, trestle ladders and leather trunks are all put to good use, with a very heavy solid old workbench taking pride of place as you enter.

The farm shop has a fantastic cheese counter with a mix of local and well-known popular cheeses along with all the little extras to go with them. Fresh bread with all the other essentials of milk, eggs, butter, yogurt, fruit and vegetables as well as numerous other items to tempt you, including Weald Smokery products, ByRuby frozen meals and Rowdy & Fancy chocolates. Our alcohol licence came through a day before opening (phew!) so we are pleased to stock local beer, cider, wine and spirits.

Having got to grips with the till system and improving our cheese cutting and wrapping skills our first challenge of 2020 will be mastering our beautiful (but rather intimidating) Faema espresso machine. With a small seating area inside the farm shop the warmer months will enable people to take their drinks with them to explore the wildflower garden, pond and woods behind the farm shop or sit on the patio and soak up some of those much-needed rays of sunshine. We are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and you can find us on Cowden Pound Road in Markbeech. Pop in and say Hi!

Dan & Charlie.

Falconhurst Farm Shop & Deli.

Four Elms

The stark contrast between the purple altar frontal, the church without flowers during Advent and the transformation to the white altar frontal and the lovely Christmas flowers illustrates the heart of the Christian season. We herald in the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, and it couldn't be more symbolic than this.

Christmas, as always, is a great joy with Christmas trees and traditional carols. We were delighted to welcome everyone to our church for the afternoon carols with the Edenbridge Town Band and were just as delighted to receive £430 collection for Crisis, a charity helping the homeless. Christmas morning Eucharist was also a continuation of a Four Elms tradition and we thank the Rev. Simon Braid for officiating at both services.

We welcomed and thank the Rev. Andrew Procter for presiding over our Café Church. We celebrated the Baptism of Jesus and the Rev. Procter enthralled everyone with his address on the importance of baptism.

You might think that January is a dull month post Christmas. Not a bit of it. Although we have had a lot rain that should not deter intrepid walkers. Our beautiful countryside offers good footpaths and each season has its own beauty, muddy or dry, winter or summer. But be sure not to bring the mud from your boots into the house!

As we look forward to 2020 let us look out for our neighbours who maybe troubled in some way. Perhaps we can help.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

This year marks the 900th Anniversary of St Peter's Church which is truly something to celebrate. We are very fortunate to have the Bishop of Rochester joining us on Sunday 28th June for a celebration service to which all are invited.

Also we are in the process of firming up a series of events to mark this milestone and are thrilled that Hever Festival will be hosting their first ever event outside the Hever Castle theatre - in St Peter's. On Saturday 20th June Lauren Mackay will talk on the history of Thomas Boleyn. This will be an excellent opportunity to explore further the rich heritage of our Church and we hope to see many of you there, especially as the Church will be running the interval bar!

I hope that you are all enjoying the visiting clergy who are covering the services and the diversity of ministry that they bring.

The advert for a new Priest in Charge is, as I write this, up and running and we hope to interview candidates at the end of this month. There is a reasonable optimism therefore that we could have a new Vicar before long! Watch this space....

Lent starts this year on the 26th February - Ash Wednesday. It will be celebrated at St Peters by a 6.30pm

service of Imposition of Ashes as we begin the 46 days leading up to Easter. The focus for the Church of England's lent campaign this year is Care for God's Creation, where we hope to explore the urgent need for us all to value and protect our world. Perhaps a time when we can aim to use only recyclable, chemical free, natural products?

The parish lunch will, as usual, be on the second Thursday 13th February at 12 for 12.30. Many of you will remember that these started off as "lent lunches" a couple of years ago but have continued monthly by popular request ever since. We especially welcome any newcomers.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Our interregnum has begun! We are missing Wendy's calm and smiling face, gentle prayers and thoughtful sermons but also enjoying our stimulating and interesting visiting preachers, Simon Braid, Heather Hughes and Andrew Proctor. They give their time freely, often travelling some distance and each person leaves us with so much food for thought and grateful that we made the effort to go to church.

The January PCC meeting is a full one with so much to discuss, covering our successes and disappointments of the past year and looking forward to the new year ahead with enthusiastic plans. So, get out your new diary and save the date for these exciting events:
15th April 2pm-4pm: Easter Lambing Tea Party at Ockhams – the children will love this! Janey Cooper has kindly offered to show us their newborn lambs, arrange an Easter woodland treasure hunt followed by tea.
18th April: The Markbeech Quiz in Markbeech Village Hall with supper. Kit Kaberry is renowned for his brilliant quizzes.
19th July: The Village Lunch at Old Farm. Marielou Linklater provides the most picturesque setting for this special Markbeech Village Lunch.
2nd October: The Markbeech Harvest Talent Night in Markbeech Village Hall with supper. Now this is not to be missed! If you can sing a song, recite a poem, dance then please put your names forward to either Nicki Talbot or Marielou Linklater for a chance to appear in this star studded show!
21st November: The Markbeech Bazaar. Another unmissable village event – now becoming a foodie's paradise.

Our monthly Parish Lunch will now take place on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall from 12.30pm. The next one is on 4th February when we will be serving delicious soup, cheese, bread and maybe even a little glass of wine. Please come and meet your neighbours!

I am often asked 'how can we support the church best'? Our little church is deeply loved by our community and for that I am very grateful. But the best way of supporting us is to be there, in church, sharing the peace and joy that comes with a communion with God.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Services in February 2020

Services rota

Date	Time	Church	Service	Sidesmen
02 Feb	09.15 11.00	Markbeech Hever	Sung Eucharist (HH) Parish Communion (HH)	Ricky Calvocoressi Sandra Dell & Daryl Roxburgh
09 Feb	09.15 10.30	Markbeech Hever	Sung Eucharist Café St Peter (SB)	Liz Kaberry Café Group
16 Feb	09.15 11.00 16.00	Markbeech Hever Four Elms	Family Service (AP) Parish Communion (DC) Evening Prayer (SM)	Bain family Lisa Cowell & Elly Heard Richard Bennett& John Hodson
23 Feb	08.00 11.00	Hever Four Elms	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion with Inspire (SB)	Ian Yarnold Christina & John Hodson
26 Feb	18.30	Hever	Imposition of Ashes (SB)	

Readers	Intercessions	Chalice
James Calvocoressi & Carol Bowern Daryl Roxburgh & Robin Rouse	Nicki Talbot Ana Roxburgh	Liz Kaberry Robin Rouse
Nick Irens & Jill Linden	Liz Kaberry	Nick Irens
Ivy Wilkinson Lisa & Will Cowell Christina Hodson	Elsie Bain Elly Heard	Jane Rosam
Ian Yarnold John Hodson & Stephen Short	Marion Purll	Gill Lambert

Celebrants Simon Braid (SB), Andrew Procter (AP) Sally Musson (SM), Heather Hughes (HH), Deryck Charnock (DC)

Date Lectionary readings February 2020

	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
02 Feb	Malachi 3:1-5	24.7-10	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2:22-40	Candlemass
09 Feb	Isiah 58:1-9	112.1-9	1 Corinthians: 2 1-12	Matthew 5: 13-20	3 before Lent
16 Feb	Genesis 1: 1-2.3	136	Romans 8: 18-25	Matthew 6: 25-34	2 before Lent
23 Feb	Exodus 24:12-18	2	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Matthew 17: 1-9	Sunday next before Lent
26 Feb	Joel 2: 1,2 1-2, 12-17	51.1-18	2 Corinthians 5: 20b:6-10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday
01 Mar	Genesis 2.15-17.3.1-7	32	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11	Lent 1

Churchwardens

Hever	Jane Rosam	01732 868085
Four Elms	Leslie Griggs Christina Hodson	01732 700428 01732 700247
Markbeech	Nicki Talbot Marielou Linklater	01342 850526 01342 850579

Altar Flowers
St. Paul's Four Elms
Feb 2 Mrs Bates
Feb 9 Mrs Bates
Feb 16 Mrs Hodson
Feb 23 Mrs Hodson

From the register
Funeral
December 23rd Anne Simmonds Hever

2019 was, from a gardening perspective, a mixture of successes and failures at our house. On the plus side I was particularly pleased with how our espaliered fruit trees are developing. These are Braeburn and Discovery apples and a Conference pear. This is a great way of making the most of space, and their shapes can be quite attractive when covered in blossom. Ours are about five years old and gave a good crop last year. I am now in the process of winter pruning them; taking out unwanted horizontal branches and cutting the vertical ones close to the main horizontals, just to create the overall shape I want. In the summer they will need pruning again to maximise the fruit yield.

The main downside was that my second attempt at creating a wild flower area was not successful. The seeds germinated and started growing but flowering was very sporadic and the area (only about ten square metres) succumbed to the weeds. It was probably due to a lack of proper preparation on my part, so it is back to the drawing board, probably to try something else.

I guess lots of us have our favourite horticultural book and mine is 'the complete food gardener', by John Seymour. My copy is forty years old but I still refer to it regularly. I was wondering where to spread the wood ash from our wood burners to get the most benefit and according to Seymour one of the best uses is on broad beans, so that's where it is going! The potassium in the ash has to be 'fixed' to be useful so I have dug it in already. I am about to start the broad beens in the greenhouse so the bed should be ready by the time they are planted out.

The first event of the Hever Hort year is on Wednesday,19th February, with a talk called 'The story of English Cheeses', which should be very interesting. All talks start at 8pm in Hever Village Hall and you are all welcome. We sadly lost some long standing members in 2019, in particular Rosemary Bayford, Cecil Paynter, Pat Humphreys and Anne Simmonds. They all contributed a great deal to our Society, and they will be missed.

If you would like to join the Hort, or would like any more information, please contact me or Jan Tolfree. The Schedule of shows and programme of talks and events will be on the Hever.org web site.

Doug Bowern
Hever Hort



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	114
	2020												
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	114
	2020												
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	138
	2020												

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

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Paul Houlton
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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 March edition should reach us no later than **15th February 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

February diary

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	
4 Feb	**Markbeech parish lunch,** Markbeech village hall	12.30pm
5 Feb-19 Dec	**20th Birthday Exhibition Eden Valley Museum**	
7 Feb	**Film Club, Reach for the Sky,** 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
16 Feb	**Chichester Cathedral Choir evensong,** Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row	4pm
29 Feb	**Penshurst Choral Society Concert,** Penshurst church	7.30pm
3 Mar	**Markbeech Parish Lunch,** Markbeech Village Hall	12.30pm.
6 Mar	**Film Club, Finding their Feet,** Hever Castle Golf Club	7pm
12 Mar	**Hever parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall,	12 for 12.30
17 Mar	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Hever Village Hall	7.30pm
15 Apr	**Easter Lambing Tea Party** at Ockhams	2pm-4pm
18 Apr	**The Markbeech Quiz** in Markbeech Village Hall with supper	
5 May	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Four Elms Village Hall	7.30pm
7 -10 May	**Chiddingstone Castle Literary Festival**	
8 May	**VE Day village party,** Hever Castle	
28 May	**Parish Assembly** Hever Village Hall	