THE LINK

June 2020







In this issue:

- Wartime memories from Mary Boyle, and of Mark Mead
- Rememberring Celia Weston and Leslie Griggs
- Food and supplies locally

Village magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

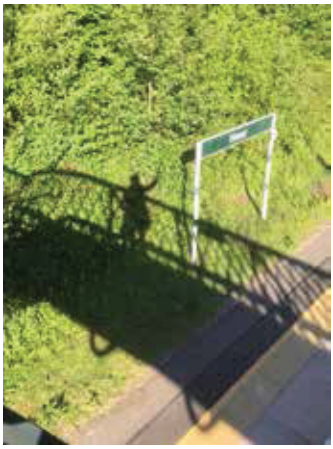
£1

Welcome to the June edition

We hope you enjoy it.

The good news for walkers is that the work at Hever station is finished and the footpath behind it is finally open again. I was walking near there one evening a couple of weeks ago, after a downpour when the light was very soft and the contrasts in the green spring leaves muted but manifold, when I heard clattering and cheering, gently at first, then surging up from every direction, an ancient spring ritual on that gentle, plane-free evening. The ritual was of course more modern - the Thursday 8pm celebration of the NHS. Then a horn, like a ship's hooter, started to sound and I was surrounded in this remote field by human enthusiasm and gratitude - then it subsided and I carried on rather damp eyed.

This last month was Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday. One of her great innovations was to insist on frequent hand washing by her nurses, very prescient, and she saw the benefits of pet-therapy which featured regular trips round the wards by Jimmy the tortoise.



Another moving event was the VE Day celebration, muted but nonetheless powerful. The HRA lit the Hever beacon and decorated the village and there were a few socially-distanced tea parties and lots of music, read on for a report and more war stories.

Joanna Wade (the only lonely commuter left in Hever – though perhaps not for long)



Thanks to two young brothers Tom and Jack who live in Pigdown Lane with their mother Nicola, those of our neighbours who were able to join in, were treated to wartime music and then a singalong to Vera Lynn after the Queen's message to the Nation. What a good idea, enabling us all to put the present difficulties aside for an evening.

Trudy Weaver

An update on local food outlets, deliveries and sources of help compiled by Hever Parish Council.

Please check opening hours / supplies directly as details change rapidly.

Local shops

Four Elms Garage 01732 700121 text 07734007911. Small shop at Four Elms Crossroads to visit. Will also deliver across parish.

Falconhurst Farm shop http://www.falconhurst.co.uk/farmshop.html or Facebook. Farm shop on Cowden Pound Road for visiting only 10am – 3pm

The Sussex Kitchen. Delivery only, bakery and basics. Delicatessen in East Grinstead.
£6 delivery charge.
www.thesussexkitchen.com 01825 722201

For pets, The Elms pet supplies is open in Four Elms, as is **Bradfords** in Edenbridge

The following information is from the Sustainable Edenbridge group, a community group formed by local people who are interested in improving the sustainability of Edenbridge and the Eden Valley, find them on Facebook. Please contact supplier directly to check about delivery to villages:

Fruit and vegetables

John Beaney (of the Edenbridge Thursday market that is closed for the moment) delivers weekly to Edenbridge. jbfruits@yahoo.com to place an order. He prefers email but if you don't have email please text him on 07977 461759

Meat and eggs

Allmans Butchers 49 Edenbridge High Street. For weekly delivery telephone 01732 863214 to order and arrange payment.

General groceries

Causeway Stores in Chiddingstone Causeway (also open to visit) delivers general groceries most days of the week including bread, milk, fruit and vegetables
Mobile 07377 949412 Landline 01892 871527.

Frozen ready meals for one person including smaller portion option and gluten-free
https://www.oakhousefoods.co.uk/
Delivers on Wednesdays to Edenbridge. They are taking on new customers in all categories. **Wiltshire Farm Foods** offers a similar service but states that they are taking on new customers in the "highly vulnerable" category only at the moment.

Takeaways

Aniseed - Indian Cuisine - 31A Edenbridge High Street 01732 866611 01732 866644
info@aniseededenbridge.co.uk

Domino's Pizza 65a Edenbridge High Street 01732 866663 online ordering also available on their website.

Quality Tandoori 108 HighStreet Edenbridge 6-10 pm 7 days a week takeaway only 01732 865043 or 864378

Tom Bells Fish and Chips 84 High Street call 01732 867878 or delivery through just-eat.co.uk (different menu and prices)

Henry VIII Hever various takeway nights and Sunday lunch with delivery for the vulnerable 01732 862457

If you have any corrections or additions to this list and / or would like to receive updates please contact: sustainable.edenbridge@gmail.com

Volunteers and help

The minor injuries unit at Edenbridge Hospital is currently closed but the unit at Sevenoaks is open.

Contact Sevenoaks District Council to register as a shopping volunteer 01732 227 000 although they may have enough for now.

If you need some assistance have a look at the District Council's website: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20026/your_community/514/request_help_from_a_volunteer_in_your_community

Kent County Council also offer help if you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks. You can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hour service. Another option is to contact Hever Parish Council for urgent supplies or urgent prescription collection: clerk@hever.org

Hever Residents Association is also offering help: contact Laura Palmer 01732 864 257 or Jane Hall 01732 862 569 or email HRA at hra@hever.org

Daren Wood
– chimney sweep

As you may have heard Daren has been very ill with Covid19. He is now, thankfully, on the mend but will be off work for the forseeable future. We will advertise his return in the Link.



FOUR ELMS VILLAGE FETE 2020

The Four Elms Village Fete Committee are so sorry that this year's Annual Village Fete will have to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Let's ALL look forward to better times and

"We will meet again" at the 2021 Fete

Celia Weston

29/6/1946 – 30/3/2020

Celia passed away peacefully at home – Buckhurst Cottage, Mark Beech – on Monday March 30th – finally defeated after her 5-year fight against the debilitations caused by MSA (Multiple Systems Atrophy) – an incurable condition.

She was cremated in Tunbridge Wells on Friday May 1st with a very personal service conducted by Rev. Simon Braid, with a 'lockdown' congregation of 10 and many beautiful flowers provided by Camilla of Hever Flowers.

Celia was probably best know for her business Celia Hendry Interior Decoration in Limpsfield High Street – run from late 1983 until 2012, together with her husband David (Architectural Designer). With continuous work commitments for both, not much time was spent in Mark Beech or with village life, apart from developing and tending a lovely garden which was her passion and relaxation.

Nevertheless, it was always her happy home, since 1991.



In these extraordinary days it is easy to be absorbed by the wall-to-wall coverage of the Covid 19 pandemic. There is a real danger of forgetting that there are on-going issues around the world which we need to remember.

One among many is the brutal transport of live animals for slaughter. The suffering endured is horrendous and the ultimate slaughter frequently barbaric. The real tragedy is that is it so unnecessary. The carcass trade is far more efficient in terms of time and money. I could go on.

Instead I encourage you to support International Awareness Day 14th June 2020. Join the global call to Ban Live Exports by visiting ciwf.org.uk/AwarenessDay remembering that Britain sanctions the export from Scotland of thousands of unweaned calves to Spain for fattening. Details of legal action being taken against the Scottish Government by CIWF can be found on ciwf.org.uk/JudicialReview. It is a disgrace that these vulnerable animals are known in the trade as 'by products of the dairy industry'. I hope you feel able to support the appeal.

Eleanor Heard

Leslie Griggs

My cousin Leslie John Griggs, who died in Sevenoaks Hospital on 30 April of heart failure and had lived for many years in Four Elms, was born in London in 1941.

After the war, Leslie with his parents James and Pauline settled in Edmonton, north London, where Leslie attended Edmonton County Grammar School. He went on to study chemistry at Leicester University, and spent the whole of his working life at the Institute of Cancer Research, based near the Royal Marsden Hospital in Kensington and later, when he and Pauline moved to Four Elms after James' death, near the Royal Marsden in Sutton.

Here, Leslie and his mother continued to share their love of opera and Leslie's of formula-1 racing, while also making the trips to Ramsgate which had long been a regular feature of their lives.

James had grown up in the house in which my parents, brother and I subsequently lived, and Pauline would recall each of these day trips, typically involving lunch, games and a pootle around the countryside of the Isle of Thanet, in a humorous poem.

After Pauline's death in 2001 and his retirement a few years later, Leslie threw himself into the life of Four Elms. He was a familiar figure selling raffle tickets at the annual village fête and also at St Paul's Church, where he served as church warden.

Leslie was a gentle, playful, loveable, unflappable, highly intelligent soul, who retained a deep interest in medical research throughout his life.

His funeral will take place at St Paul's at 11.30 am on Monday, June 8th. The coronavirus rules mean that the service must take place in the churchyard, with only a small number of mourners. Rather than flowers, I should prefer donations to St Paul's, in aid of a new sound system; cheques should be made out to PCC St Paul's Church, Four Elms. Leslie's friends at St Paul's and I are hoping to hold a memorial service, once social distancing rules have been relaxed.



Marion Shoard
(email: marion@marionshoard.co.uk)

Leslie, or Les as we all affectionately called him, was a popular member of both St. Paul's Church Four Elms and the whole of the Four Elms community. Living in the centre of the village we marvelled at the way he managed to reverse his car into his parking space, just 100 yards from the village crossroads. He served as a Church Warden for over 10 years, only resigning this April due to his poor health. He managed

with precise skills the sound and the heating systems in the church. His scientific mind could manage the finest tunings and remember the precise configuration. To say he leaves a gap in these areas is an understatement.

Les served as the Village Fete Treasurer, again with his own meticulous system and would be regularly seen at the Summer Fete. He also diligently delivered the Link to his near neighbours.

He was a great follower of F1 motor racing and one would know never to call him when one of the races was on.

The village thanks Les for all his quiet but loyal support.

Hever Residents Association
Scarecrow Making Competition

Decorate the village
with homemade scarecrows
and win the HRA Trophy
Hever.org/HRA

Wonderful, bespoke cakes

(from £17) and cupcakes (from £18 per dozen) delivered locally.
For more details please call Emily on 07767069577 or email emily.kleinschmidt@hotmail.co.uk




War Stories – Mary Boyle

When my mother was in her late eighties, her mind lucid and her memory intact, she wrote her life story for our family. I am reliant on this book for the earlier details but remember well the journey home. My mother came to live with us in Markbeech for the last eight years of her life until she died in 2006.



Connie, Mary and Tim

My parents lived in Shanghai where my father worked in the tea trade. In 1937, although Europe was not yet involved in World War II, the Japanese were already attacking the Chinese. It became very dangerous in Shanghai and the British Consulate suggested women and children leave. My mother, together with 300-400 other women was put in the hold of the Witch, a gun-boat, which took them down the Huangpo River to the Rajputana, moored at the mouth of the Yangtse, bound for Hong Kong.

The Japanese and Chinese promised to cease shelling while this evacuation took place, but nevertheless a serious air battle raged overhead as they steamed down river. I was overdue and my mother's condition prompted the commander of the Rajputana to give her his cabin, where she lay hardly daring to move in case I chose to arrive. She told me later it was terrifying. Two and a half days later we arrived in Hong Kong, where there was a cholera epidemic raging. Two days after that I was born and then a typhoon hit Hong Kong causing much loss of life and damage and destroying the nursery from which we babies had only just been removed.

It was too dangerous to return to Shanghai so my mother took me to her parents in England when I was six weeks old. We travelled by ship as there were few airlines in those days. We returned to Shanghai after several months, despite my father's fears that it was unsafe, but he was right and again the British authorities ordered women and children to be evacuated. We did not go to Europe this time because of growing fears of Naziism, so my father booked us on a ship bound for San Francisco. During the voyage war was declared between Britain and Germany. We stayed in America for some while and returned to China but soon evacuation was again ordered by the authorities. It was very difficult to get a passage and I had bronchitis. My mother had twelve hours to pack, basically one case, largely consisting of baby clothes. Her house, clothes and possessions she left behind for the Japanese. My father tried unsuccessfully to book a passage to Manila but eventually we boarded the Nankin sailing for Australia.


E. AND A. S.S. CO. LTD.

S.S. "NANKIN"

IS A PASSENGER TO Sydney

8

It was a dangerous voyage as there were Japanese patrols and the ship was blacked out but we were lucky to get out. My aunt and uncle and many of my parents' friends were interned by the Japanese. We stayed in Australia for five years.

I was very young but I can remember masses of American and Australian soldiers in Sydney and the fear that Australia would be invaded when a Japanese submarine got caught in the net under Sydney Harbour. We went to the Blue Mountains until things had calmed down. I also remember my mother crouched over the radio listening to the news. The reception was awful.

As soon as the war with Germany was over my mother was desperate to return to England so in July 1945 we boarded the Andes a large liner converted to a troop ship, bound for Southampton. The ship was crammed with young evacuees returning to England, British troops, Italian prisoners-of-war and three German prisoners. We shared a tiny cabin with eight others and a bathroom with fourteen. We wore life jackets all the time. The captain spoke over the tannoy telling us he did not care a jot for us but he did care about his ship and he was determined to get home. We must not show lights at night or throw cigarette butts on to the deck where they could smoulder and cause fire. He told us there were many mines and Japanese submarines in the Indian Ocean and that the journey was dangerous but luckily we had a new invention – radar.

It was very hot, lots of children to play with and we all ran wild rushing up and down the decks. We did not realize the danger. I made friends with a sailor, who took me below to see the prisoners of war. My mother was furious when she discovered where I had been. While we were in the Indian Ocean VJ day was declared just after my 8th birthday. There would be celebrations and the guns would be fired. My mother was advised to go below and not attend the celebrations. It was good advice because the noise from those guns and the roll of the ship as a result was terrifying. I have never before or since been so frightened. My mother was told afterwards that the Captain had been seen rolling his hat along the deck.

The Italians were disembarked at Naples and I remember Vesuvius smoking. After seven weeks we arrived at Southampton, met by my aunt and taken to my grandparents' home in Weybridge. The journey had taken seven weeks. We were home in war-torn Britain.



Coming home on the "Andes" 1945

War Stories – Mark Mead

bomber pilot who endured the long march

Mark Mead was a country boy, born in 1920 and brought up on a farm in Surrey with three brothers and four step-brothers. He volunteered for the RAF when the war broke out and learned to fly, first a Tiger Moth, then graduating to a Halifax bomber.

In October 1942 he was shot down over Belgium, quickly captured and sent east to a prisoner of war camp, Stalag VIIIB, on the Polish border. There, to their mutual delight, he was reunited with Peter, a friend who he had trained with and they supported each other through difficult times, including being handcuffed from morning to night. It was a lifeline as were the Red Cross supplies, parcels and letters that arrived from home, though one contained the very sad news that Mark's brother David had been killed in North Africa.

After a year the handcuffs were removed, boots and socks replaced the wooden clogs they had been issued with (which made a good fire) and camp life improved, activities including Gilbert and Sullivan performances.

All this did not distract from the hunger and the boredom for long and Mark would never forget the agony of fourteen days of solitary confinement in a cell five foot by ten with absolutely nothing to see or do after an escape attempt.

In June 1944 the prisoners heard the news of the D Day landings on a simple crystal radio which they had secretly constructed and carefully deconstructed and hidden every night. This was not good in that in the ensuing chaos the Red Cross parcels dried up and the already meagre rations provided by the guards declined further. By November they had begun to hear explosions which was a sign of the approaching Russians - freedom became a possibility but fear increased knowing the Russians' reputation for brutality.

On 18 January 1945 the guards told them that they had to be ready to leave the camp on foot in an hour's time. They were marched out into the bleak moorland in the deep snow with the warning that anyone who fell out of the column would be shot. The march was to last 11 weeks and cover 600 miles, the RAF contingent was about 1,000 strong at the start but by the end of March there were only about 200 left. Some had gone off in a different direction but many died of dysentery, frostbite and malnutrition as there was little food and no medical help. In his memoir Mark recalled the kindness of a peasant woman in the Black Forest handing out apples and one night when the temperature had fallen to about minus 15 when they had to sleep out doors:

"We had no groundsheet so three of us decided to settle down on the tarmac surface, to reduce the

amount of dampness. As there were three of us, we had three blankets, and we changed position during the night so that each of us had a turn in the warm centre, between our two companions. I had the last two hours in the centre. As we slept with a blanket over our heads we were not aware that it had snowed heavily during the night, and there was a 6 inch fall of snow on top of us."



The march came to an end in April at a vacated military camp in the centre of Germany. By then Mark and his companions were very thin indeed and infested with lice. After a night's sleep the prisoners were amazed to find that all of their guards had disappeared. There was absolutely no food so Mark and his friend went foraging and found a young boy who had two carrots which he would not share until Mark gave him his wristwatch in exchange for the single carrot. He felt he had struck a good bargain.

After a short time the Americans arrived and at last the ordeal was over. The prisoners were put on a plane after being deloused with DDT and flown home to an airport near Leighton Buzzard. Mark remembered being taken into the dining hall at the airfield and been given a splendid breakfast of cornflakes followed by bacon and eggs and toast and marmalade, he weighed just 6 stone 4 lb.

Mark managed to return to everyday life although he suffered from nightmares for many years, one being that he was just on leave from the long march and was expected to return.

Sadly civilian life was not without its own tragedies but after the death of his first wife he married Cynthia and the two settled in Four Elms and became happy pillars of the community. Mark was a bell ringer and edited the Link for many years and he and Cynthia helped to organise the quiz and many other activities. Mark published his memoir not long before he died in 2010, followed by Cynthia in early 2019. He was a gentle man who bore many adversities with great nobility.

Joanna Wade

Pet of the Month

Milly the Jackapoo

Sitting in the sun that has been such balm throughout these weeks of COVID isolation, I am listening to outrageous levels of bird song, and watching several nesting bird families go about their business, and it's all made utterly magical because I'm sharing it with a small creature for whom birdsong and sunlight is all absolutely new. She's sitting on my lap, ears pricked, head darting from side to side as different sounds and sights catch her attention; the jackdaw chicks in the chimney, the clumsy flapping of a pigeon, the chit chit chit of an anxious wren.



I lost my dear old terrier a year ago, and he left a huge gap as he had been very much my late husband, Andro's, dog, and I had huge doubts about replacing him. But the empty house was getting tedious and so I started to hunt for a small companion, and decided on a Jackapoo to keep my terrier tradition going but with something extra. Both Jack Russells and poodles are highly intelligent, empathetic and highly energetic. I bought Milly as a 70th birthday present to myself. I know that as time goes on I probably won't be able to cope with a bigger dog, but hopefully, I have enough energy to cope with her puppy years.

So far all is going well! Milly sleeps through the night in her crate which is beside my bed, at about 6.15am I hear little mewing sounds and I let her come to bed with me for an hour of snuggles. Through the day she is alternately wildly energetic, or fast asleep, and her preference is to sleep on me (I'm getting masses of reading done!). The trick is to tire her out with a good walk, or a long game of fetch in the garden. She arrived knowing how to play fetch, a tiny scrap of a puppy carrying a full size tennis ball in her mouth and running up the garden with it at a ferocious speed.

We're working hard at trying to learn not to nip at me and my clothes when she gets excited, but she's also quite good at amusing herself and potters around the garden examining leaves and flowers and then charges up to me where I am working in the border and tries to kill my leather gardening gloves. So I am not doing as much gardening as I might.

She's four months old now, and I love her to bits. The serendipity of bringing her home just before the lockdown has been a miracle, I have someone other than myself to nurture and care for, someone to share this beautiful spring with and someone to entertain me. And my ripped jeans and jumpers don't matter in isolation!

Marielou Linklater

Hever Residents Association
– what we've been up to

Whilst the dreaded coronavirus unfortunately meant we couldn't go ahead with our planned VE75 celebrations, we were very grateful that, thanks to The Scott Partnership and The Henry, we were able to light the village beacon to celebrate the end of WWII in Europe.

Although many of us remain at home, HRA and our trusted friends have been busy helping elderly, vulnerable and self-isolating residents where we can. We have been thrilled that so many people have offered to help us, there is a real sense of community spirit! If anyone does need any help, please do get in contact. Telephone Laura Palmer 01732 864 257 or Jane Hall 01732 862 569 or email us at hra@hever.org.

It is lovely to hear so much clapping, banging and hooting over the fields during the weekly 'Clap for the NHS'. As many of us cannot see our neighbours making all this noise we have decided to post photos and sound clips on our website, so please do send us your photos.

We've also been making good on our aim to preserve and protect the local environment. We certainly don't respond to all planning applications, but we do receive a weekly list of all planning applications from SDC, and where there are unusual applications or if members raise concerns about specific, unusual applications, we occasionally respond, as we have done recently.

To help keep us all occupied, we think it is about time for another SCARECROW COMPETITION! More details will follow. We hope we will get a bumper crop of scarecrows this year as we're all spending so much more time at home, and it will be so cheerful to see the village once again festooned with our straw friends!

If anyone wishes to join HRA, please email us at hra@hever.org.



schooltime

news from Hever

As we come to the end of what has been an unusual term, I hope that everyone in the Hever community is staying safe and well! Our school building is not the same without the hustle and bustle of our students and families but we know that staying in touch in other ways is helping us all get through these difficult times.

Hever 'HOME LEARNING' School has forged a successful routine of home education. I have been looking at the class pages on the website and there are some lovely examples of work, so well done to our children and their families! Reception children have been engaging in a variety of exciting activities including mini-beast hunts, baking cakes, writing to their friends and making bird feeders. I can see how happy the children are and the pride they have in their achievements.

In the other year groups the children have been enjoying a range of Space themed learning tasks during our Hever STEM week. The children have been identifying constellations, creating mnemonics to remember the planets, crafting models of the solar system and investigating the universe!

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents for your creativity, preparation, time, energy and patience. I can see how much you care about your child's learning and well-being. It really shines through. You are all embracing the ethos of learning through and following your child's interests.

Hever All Read Together (HART) has enabled the children to enjoy story time with their teachers virtually. Teachers have enjoyed receiving recommendations of great reads from the children.

Keeping active has been a priority in many families and the children have been sharing their adventures of long walks and bike rides in the local area. Of course, teachers and children alike have risen to the challenge of Joe Wicks' workout each morning!

This year's special VE Day celebrations could not go as planned but we encouraged our Hever students to make their own bunting to display in their homes over VE Day weekend. Children sent in pictures of their 'stay at home street parties' on VE Day. There were special prizes for the winning families.

Mrs Hendy, Y6 class teacher, wrote the following poem for her class to read during 'Lockdown SATs Week:'

15 strong, 15 brave, young minds
Possessing gifts God gave.
15 young people,
Exceptional, kind,
Free-thinkers, ambitious,
Hard-working of mind.
I know some are struggling,
The SATs now have gone,
But in the empty Oak classroom,
Your presence lives on.
You are the exceptional,
I promise you're ready,
Greatness awaits you,
Hold tight! Remain steady!

Thank you – we remain in this together.

Joanna Stratton
Head teacher

news from Four Elms

Home school
Home school continues with daily online learning for all classes and whole school challenges. This month, let's celebrate some of the challenges the children have completed and how they are remaining positive despite the unusual situation.

'2020 – A year of change' challenges
Challenge 3 was 'What can you see from your window?', an art challenge to appreciate the beautiful countryside we are lucky to be surrounded by.

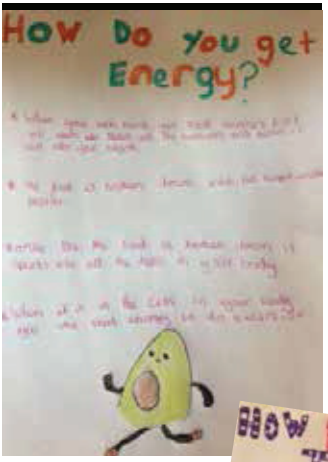


Challenge 4 involved 'Random acts of kindness' to show that even in times of uncertainty we can still be kind to each other. We created good news reports of all the wonderful things going on in our community and across the UK and to thank key workers.

Challenge 5 was entitled 'Get up and Get moving!'. Even in lockdown we can all be active and healthy. The children each created an exercise video to instruct others how to maximise their activity and boost their fitness. We had trampoline inspired workouts, football drills, ballet workouts, yoga, garden circuit training and dance routines. They learnt the importance of hydration and nutrition for energy.
Challenge 6, 'How does your garden grow?' inspired us all to be green-fingered and grow our own produce from seeds or scraps and show we can be self-sufficient. To do this, the children learnt about pollination and how plants grow and thrive.

The children have shown that even in difficult times, there is still much to be positive about.

Nicole Holt





news from the pews

Four Elms

Necessity is the mother of invention. Hever Benefice has adapted to the Coronavirus lockdown with pre-recorded services and an interactive Thursday Evening Prayer, followed by a post service chat. The creativeness of the services bodes well for the future. We thank Simon and particularly Marielou Linklater for their skill in managing our online services.

Sad news for all the Benefice and St. Paul's church in particular. Our churchwarden and friend, Leslie Griggs passed away on 30th April in Sevenoaks Hospital. Les had been in poor health since before Christmas but until very recently he was able to help us with the running of St Paul's church. Les managed the sound system and the heating in the church and was also available to help the new churchwarden. He also delivered the Link to his neighbours. Les will be greatly missed as a warden and as a friend of our church.

At the time of writing we wait expectantly for the next phase in a post lockdown period. Let us all hope and pray that we can soon get back to some normality. Perhaps we should all consider how we manage our lives post Coronavirus. However, I long for a time when we can just go about our normal lives and give our families hugs. I am sure you all do.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

As I write this in mid May, new guidelines from the House of Bishops allow for some of our Sunday services to be recorded from within our parish churches. Simon, and of course Susie's lovely services recorded from home will now be interspersed with videos made in the churches. For now this is the only easing of restrictions, but a very welcome one! We are all blessed with some beautiful church buildings and seeing some of those gorgeous interiors and stained glass windows again, as well as the painting of Christ before Caiaphas in the Choir depicting the trial of Jesus described in the Gospel of Matthew 26: 56-67 will be a joy. Recording in the churches will be more difficult for both Simon and Marie Lou (who edits and posts them), so a big thank you to them.

June is usually a busy month for weddings and although there will be none this year, we remember 9th June 2018 when we celebrated the marriage of Angela Purll and Matthew Laycock. A very happy second wedding anniversary to you both.

Recent VE Day celebrations saw the lychgate decorated with patriotic

Les Griggs' funeral will be held on 8th June at 11.30 am As we are still in lockdown period, his funeral may only be attended by a small number of people, mainly family. His funeral hearse will come through the Four Elms village (from Sevenoaks) and will drive slowly to the Church so that his friends and neighbours may pay their respects outside their home.

bunting. The gate now carries a Commonwealth war graves sign. We are proud to care for both WW1 and WW2 graves and that a few months ago our War Memorial was given listed status. With restrictions eased, now is a fine time for a walk around our beautiful churchyard.

The Thursday evening Zoom prayer service continues online at 6pm and is accessed by the link on the Three Spires Website. You can dial in by telephone or laptop. If you would like help to join, please contact me. It is a great way of staying in touch and afterwards we have a virtual coffee and chat together.

Keep well, be happy and I hope you enjoy the peaceful skies above us.....

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

I have been enjoying our zoom Evening Prayers very much. Now that we can access them on the website it is easy to simply click a button and see lots of familiar faces, and some new ones, and end the day in a reflective and prayerful way. A church-going Christian can become fixated on the building, perhaps especially if there are emotional or family links. Now we worship only in our homes and gardens, this has really made me think about the church as a building.

Carl Jung wrote much about religion, especially in his correspondence with Sigmund Freud. Their views clashed on the fundamental view about whether God exists. Jung believed in God, saying “I don’t believe, I know that he exists”, whereas Freud believed that religion was simply a defence mechanism against neurosis. Although Jung had this core belief, he also had many problems with the hierarchy and dogma found in the church and saw the church as a reflection of the human condition which is so often split, divisive and bitter. Thinking about our present circumstances, I found a letter from Jung to Freud saying this: “ The future might easily be so bad that the Church could be forced by circumstances to give up all her childish worldliness and socialism and to turn to the spiritual problem of man, which she has so sadly neglected.”

I wonder what he might make of our present situation! I believe that this lockdown could create a fundamental shift in the way we view our buildings and maybe this is a chance to instigate change.

In the meantime we remain heartily grateful for all those who look after our church. We lost a beautiful oak tree which has now vanished thanks to Chris St Pierre, Richard Bennett tends the grass and laundry angel Clare Denison Pender has washed, starched and ironed all our linen. Thank you!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

our vicar's thoughts

It now looks as if the lockdown will continue - but in a modified form - until the end of June and that there will be restrictions continuing beyond that. We are planning to start recording services in each of the three churches but congregational worship won't resume for a while.

Personally and from my discussions with other people, the one thing we are all missing is human contact with families and friends. Humans are social beings and seem hard wired for relationships, which makes isolation and even social distancing so difficult. It has been particularly distressing to see people unable to say a proper goodbye at funerals and couples are in many cases delaying their wedding plans by over a year.

Phone calls, Zoom meetings, Facetime with our friends and family and watching recorded services and the TV have been a lifeline for most of us. We've seen larger numbers attending our virtual services and one wonders to what extent this will have a positive impact on the 'new normal' when the crisis comes to an end.

But such virtual engagement at a distance comes at a cost. I've found Zoom meetings disconcerting, challenging to manage and in many cases a tiring experience. It is awkward as we miss the subtleties of body language which make real-life encounters so much easier. What is it that is lacking in these virtual meetings? The Anglican priest, Revd. Giles Fraser, who often speaks on the radio, has argued that it's the human soul, by which he means "the thing that makes me…me. My essence, my individuality, the specific characteristic that picks me out as different in the world." Whilst these digital media are extremely practical and necessary during this time, maybe they can be a bit soulless.

When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment, he said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind….and love your neighbour as yourself." I think he was saying that it is in our relationship with God and with our neighbours that we discover what it is to be a human being.

During this time of enforced separation, I hope we can take time to reflect on what it is that makes us human and how to live a truly soulful life.

Keep safe – keep well – keep praying
God bless you all

Simon

Church in June during the lockdown

Although we hope to start recording services from the Church buildings, we do not expect congregational worship to resume for some time.
Services are now being recorded and can be accessed via our website https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice where there will be other material to help us during this period. Services will be posted by 10.00am on Sunday.
We are also sending paper text versions of services to those who are unable to connect via the internet and hope to be able to offer audio access by phone soon. If you would like to use either of these, please get in touch with the wardens or Simon.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
7 June	Holy Communion	Matthew 28:16-20 2 Corinthians 13:11-end	Trinity
14 June	Holy Communion	Matthew 9:35-10:8 Romans 5:1-8	Trinity 1
14 June	All age worship	Jesus story book Bible page 244-249 (based on Mark 14, Mark 6 & Luke 9)	Trinity 1
21 June	Holy Communion	Matthew 10:24-39 Romans 6:1b-11	Trinity 2
21 June	All age worship	Jesus story book Bible page 250-255 (based on Matthew 13)	Trinity 2
28 June	Holy Communion	Matthew 10:40-end Romans 6:12-end	Trinity 3

Every Thursday at 6.00pm we hold a Zoom Evening prayer; see the website for the link. We also hold a Bible study on Tuesdays also by Zoom at 4.00pm – contact Simon for details. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during the crisis or any other help including reading the text of the above services over the phone.

Priest-in-charge
Revd.Simon Braid
01892 871453 and
simonbraid@icloud.com

Wardens
Hever
Jane Rosam
01732 868085
Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247
Richard Bennett
01732 862971
Markbeech
Nicki Talbot
01342 850526
Marielou Linklater
01342 850579
Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Prayer hotline
Ellie Heard 01732 865564
or Revd.Simon Braid (left)

Our three Annual Parochial Church meetings, will now take place in October as follows:

St.Peter's Hever
13th October

St.Paul's Four Elms
20th October

Holy Trinity Markbeech
15th October

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

Although the Council has been unable to meet in person, work very much continues, behind the scenes, across the parish. The HPC scheme to help those in need of urgent food or medication has assisted individuals and been most gratefully received. Thanks to all the other volunteers too and all the schemes that have sprung up across the area.

The clerk has been busy completing the annual review of all the Council policies and procedures and annual accounts in preparation for the financial audits (undertaken by PKF Littlejohn) to ensure that the council manages public money in the appropriate manner.

We are planning to hold a full Council meeting in June using the Zoom remote meeting application and as always members of the public will be welcome to participate. If you wish to observe the meeting or ask a question, you will be able to contact the Clerk in advance for details of how to sign in. For those without a screen, it is also possible to join by phone. Please contact the clerk with any queries or if you want assistance in using Zoom.

Works at the Four Elms pond (to clear some of the excess reeds) have now been completed and we think you will agree that the pond is looking rather beautiful. We of course encourage visitors to dispose of their rubbish in a responsible manner.

Kent County Council have scheduled the Four Elms crossroads for resurfacing in October this year, which will reinstate the safety benefits of the special surfaces in the centre of the village.

You may remember last year we worked with Hever Residents Association to bid for a maximum of £30,000 towards improvements at Hever station. We are glad to report that we are through to the next phase and await Department of Transport approval of a new waiting shelter on the London bound platform, further seating and a canopy over the ticket vending machine. Our report is available on our website http://hever.org/hpc-hra-report-on-how-to-spend-30000-at-hever-station

New noticeboards are being installed in the bus shelters by the parish council – I think you will agree that they look great, need minimal maintenance and have magnets (no more sore thumbs!).

At the moment, we are hoping that the FREE FAMILY FUN DAYS will be able to go ahead….but watch this space:
30th July Four Elms recreation ground (behind school)
13th August Hever village hall 10am – 2pm.
More information to follow, bring the kids and a picnic for free activities (indoors and outside).

Any queries please contact Charlotte Cole the clerk clerk@hever.org

Sevenoaks council news

The website 'Google Trends' allows one to view the popularity of phrases entered into the search engine. It provides an interesting insight into the fashions and concerns of a nation, with academics having used the information in attempts to predict the outcome of elections and even anticipate movements in financial markets. Comparing searches against one another could even provide an ideal lockdown game. Question 1: Who in the UK has enjoyed greater popularity – Delia Smith or Mary Berry? Fun for the whole family, if all other entertainment has been exhausted!

Turning to current affairs, searches for "lockdown haircut" – unknown in mid-March – have soared, reaching a peak a month or so after the closure of hairdressers. Interest remains high but the results suggest people have now come to terms with their longer locks, or are simply taking matters into their own hands.

Another phrase to have enjoyed a similar surge has been "new normal" and it is that term – and what it means for Sevenoaks District Council and our villages – which I wish to consider here. This is particularly important in the absence of our usual opportunities to collectively reflect and look ahead, such as the Hever Residents' Association AGM and Annual Parish Assembly.

First and foremost, lockdown has seen the continuation of the District Council's unique in Kent weekly rubbish and recycling collection. Indeed I want to pay tribute here to the bin men who have worked even longer hours and lugged significantly heavier loads than normal – my thanks extend to you too as I know they have been greatly touched by the affection shown by residents.

The other day to day work has continued. Planning applications and requests for pre-application advice are still being processed. Licensing applications too – Neverworld's was received last month. And legal proceedings have been started to resist the dismissal of our Local Plan, so our Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can be defended for the next generation.

The County Council remains in operation as well. More remains to be done but drains have been cleared and roads resurfaced. And the middle of May saw them re-open their tips. Other authorities still function in one way or another. Openreach have been out upgrading broadband, improvements at Hever Station continue to progress and addressing parking at Cowden remains a priority.

Things are undoubtedly different. Some duties have made way for others – traffic wardens are now delivering food parcels, for instance. And there are certainly challenges. But, broadly speaking, business continues as usual.

By the way, if you were ever in any doubt, the answer is Mary Berry (but only since Bake Off)!

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
NEW Instagram: mycornerofkent

gardening

It strikes me as ironic that, at a time when we are spending more time in our gardens, making them look so wonderful, they cannot be shown off and we view them in largely splendid isolation. For Hort members this is doubly frustrating, as we would normally be selecting the best of our blooms to exhibit at the shows.

In our garden at Hawthorns, we usually keep an eye on the schedule and try flowers which we have not grown before. One example is alliums, which have only been introduced (or reintroduced) to the schedule in the last couple of years. In our garden, I have not been very successful with these beautiful flowers but since Carol took charge we have had a magnificent display, so we were looking forward to exhibiting them. The picture shows one such bloom, Allium Giganteum, which reminds me of a certain virus going around at the moment!

Other plants which have done particularly well this year are our rhododendrons and hibiscus.

Like so much else, the Hever Hort programme of activities has been cancelled. All our events rely on close proximity of the people in our community and, even with the lockdown easing, social distancing is likely to remain in place for some time. The Rose Show was due to be held on 13th June and the committee has decided to try having a 'virtual' Rose show. We will be encouraging members to send in photographs corresponding to the various classes in the schedule; flowers, flower arrangements, domestic and the photographic section. These will be hosted on the HRHS section of the Hever.org website. It will be very informal, and entries will not be judged, but it will at least provide an opportunity to show off the best of our creative skills.

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	66	106	55	38								
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	77	125	48	38								
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	96.25	140	47.5	40								

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Mike Follows 01732 700280
or 07887 950921
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 01342 322123
clerk@hever.org

The Link Team

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

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

Copy for the July/August edition should reach us no later than **15th June 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

Are you self isolating? Do you need help?

If you need help with shopping, prescriptions, posting letters etc please call the editors (see page 25 for numbers) or the churchwardens (see page 23) or call any of the following. We would all be very happy to help.

Laura Palmer – 01732 864257
Jane Hall – 01732 862569
Laura Hands – 07792 167 470 (based in Hever)
Beverley Thomas – 07855 968 006 (based in Edenbridge)
Toria Corcoran – 07885 491 893 (based in Edenbridge)
Andrea Hayto – 07766 503 062 based in Four Elms)
Sophie Fraser – 07793 464 705
Amy Hurlstone – 07982 996 642
Emma Short – 07985 047 746 (based in Four Elms)
Cheryl Small – 07795 841 178
Caroline Crooks – 07887 505 409
Four Elms Helpers 01732 700247

You can also email thelink@hever.org or hra@hever.org or fevhlunch@btinternet.com