THE LINK

July 2020







In this issue:

- Food and supplies update
- Wartime memories of John Harris and from Ann Cleeve
- Scarecrow time again!
- News from the schools

Village magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the July edition

We hope you enjoy it.

In these lock-down days we have decided to publish a Link in both July and August which we hope you will enjoy and find companionable. The last of our WW2 stories run over these two months before we return to civilian life. Just a snapshot of another story: on VE Day my father was in Brussels - as a German speaker he was engaged in intelligence activities, pushing eastwards to secure abandoned Nazi secrets which the allies wished to prevent falling into Russian hands. My mother, aged 16 and in north Wales, just remembered her amazement at the taste of bananas and oranges when they started to appear for the first time.

On our patch: Hever Hort has a splendid show of photographs on hever.org in lieu of the sadly cancelled Rose Show but we hope you are making a scarecrow - the perfect activity for these times. It is not only the Hay festival which has gone online - try some of the podcasts from the Chiddingstone literary festival too. And good luck to the pubs and other eating places which are gradually re-opening.

Commuting life continues to be lonely as at mid June and the London stations are bristling with staff, free hand sanitiser and face masks but few travellers. I wave at the train driver every morning to try to improve his sense of purpose.

Joanna Wade



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

An update on local food outlets, deliveries and sources of help Please check opening hours / supplies directly as details change rapidly.

Local shops:
Four Elms Store 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. www.thesussexkitchen.com 01825 722201
For pets, The Elms pet supplies is open in Four Elms, as is Bradfords in Edenbridge

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 takeaway 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

Pronto Bistro at the Four Elms Garden Centre takeaways (burgers, salads and breakfast muffins) every day 10am - 4pm

Volunteers and help
The minor injuries unit and the x-ray department at Edenbridge Hospital have reopened. MIU 8.30am - 6.30pm every day

Contact Sevenoaks District Council if you need assistance 01732 227 000 or www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20026/your_community/514/request_help_from_a_volunteer_in_your_community

Kent County Council also offer help. 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

The future of cash

The new £20 note has recently been launched.

Made of not-quite-vegetarian polymer, the down side is that it may spring out of your pocket in a bid for freedom so it needs careful handling, but the up sides are that it features Kent's own JMW Turner and the lighthouse at Margate and it is hard to forge (although fewer than one in 5,000 bank notes are forged.

Sarah John, the chief cashier at the Bank of England, doubts that cash will ever become extinct. Whilst cards took over from cash as the most popular form of payment in 2017, and only 28 per cent of payments are made in cash, two million people still rely predominantly on cash for all their transactions.

Hole in the wall cash machines and the post office are still available in Edenbridge. Did you know that if you want to pay in a cheque Lloyd's has an app which allows you to photograph and email to credit it to your account.

During this lockdown using cash has become more challenging as there is a risk of transmitting the virus when handling cash and some shops are apparently refusing to accept cash for this reason. For anyone self isolating and using volunteers to help with their shopping there are various ways to avoid cash if you have access to the internet but for those without such access one option is to buy a volunteer shopping card from a supermarket which can be sent by post or email to you or your volunteer. Waitrose offer this service, call 0330 123 0350. Lidl do not offer gift cards.

John Harris

Memories of the desert war

John Harris, father of editor Bridget Harris, was in peacetime a journalist but after enlisting he had a distinguished war. This is the first of two excerpts from his memoirs describing his part in the desert war in an armoured car regiment, the Derbyshire Yeomanry, a campaign which also involved Ann Cleeve's father and General "Monty" Montgomery.

"We departed in due course from Crowborough station, going through the middle of London on the Metropolitan line and on to the Clyde and sailed from there on 7 May 1942 in convoy, half the regiment on the 'Strathnaver', half on 'Monarch of Bermuda'. I was on the first named, in which my father had travelled to India in peacetime.

We called at Freetown, then Cape Town for four days of wonderful South African hospitality. The voyage was uneventful though being such a bad sailor I felt pretty miserable. There must have been 1,500 or so on board, including a military hospital whose nurses cheered things up a bit. I remember so well going up on deck at night looking back on the great convoy of troopships, guarded by the majestic destroyers. We reached Port Suez on 5 July, went by rail in cattle trucks to the Delta to train furiously in desert warfare, most particularly how to find your way about the desert by compass, sun compass and the stars.

The military situation was desperate. The 8th Army had stopped the Germans on the Alamein line (the battle now called first Alamein), the last defensive position before Alexandria and the open road to Middle Eastern oil and the underbelly of Russia. The next German offensive was awaited. Within a month we were in the line, briefed for a typical role for an armoured car reconnaissance regiment. Our armoured cars were in position watching the minefield gaps as the Germans advanced on the night of 30/31 August 1942.

For once the Germans made mistakes in this the battle of Alam Halfa. Their tanks drove straight into well prepared British defences, lost heavily in tanks and men and after a week's furious battles withdrew without gaining any ground. The Alamein line was unbreached; the Germans had lost their last chance to win the Desert War. Our troops on the minefield gaps had done well in an unpleasant role often heavily shelled but unable to take avoiding action. We earned the praise which came from higher command.

The 8th Army allowed all manner of dress and most officers wore corduroy trousers and suede desert boots made by one Lyras in Cairo. In the chase after the Alam Halfa victory our Regimental HQ did encounter some Italian lorries and the commanding officer roared for the gunner to fire on to the target. Alas to his furious dismay my trousers jammed the turret traversing gear solid and immovable!

Alam Halfa was General Montgomery's first battle. He had the advantage of large numbers of American Sherman tanks able to match the Germans, in sharp contrast with his predecessors whose tanks were so hopelessly outgunned. Monty's stock rose rapidly, as did the 8th Army's morale. We still had to drive the Germans back, but believed we could do just that when the time came. Moreover, Monty's reputation gave him the status to resist demands to join the next battle before he judged the moment right.

That moment came on the night of 23 October 1942, the opening of the second Battle of El Alamein, among the crucial conflicts of the Second World War. A furious infantry battle lasted more than a week while armoured car regiments and tanks waited for a hole to be punched in the German-Italian line. It came in the early days of November, and the chase was on. Thousands of the enemy surrendered, streaming on foot across the desert, but every now and again they stood their ground, and amazingly on 5 November there was a great rain storm after which vehicles sank in the sand up to their axles.

We lost cars through breakdowns, the Humbers not much better than the Guys they replaced, through enemy guns which could easily pierce our thin armour and above all by cars blown up on mines. The Humbers had exceptional ground clearance which made them a better target for enemy guns, but conversely meant all four wheels could be blown off by mines without human casualties.



We started with 60 armoured cars (brought by slow convoy from the UK). By the time we approached Tobruk we had under a score of 'runners' and were ordered to pull out of the chase, to refit. We assembled not far from Tobruk on a patch of sand by the sea, in which we swam, even on Christmas Day, expecting new cars by the day.

New cars did arrive but the powers that be had decided that only two of the five armoured car regiments could be re-equipped. The rest of us waited and waited until early March when we were moved back to Alexandria – well illustrating the fact that war is long periods of boredom interspersed with brief bouts of exciting action! We saw the Bedouin drill barley in the coastal strip of desert sand in November and reap the foot high harvest in February.

So our desert war was over. In retrospect we all agreed that if one had to do battle the Western Desert was an appropriate place – no civilians to speak of, no towns, no livestock and so on. It was very hot by day, but in November the nights were chilly and one slept well under the stars (or under your armoured car when in action). Each vehicle crew fed itself, though on very basic rations. We managed well on a gallon of water a day for all purposes. On supplying itself the British army was very good. We were never hungry nor short of fuel. Mail came up regularly. There was leave to Alexandria (and its awful bedbugs!) when things were quiet.

Towards the end of the post-Alamein chase Lord Allenby decided that the commander of my squadron should be replaced – by me, his adjutant. Thus from November 1942 I was a Major. I shall never forget my often tempestuous eight months as adjutant to Jaff Allenby. He was a very forceful character bearing a name still of great renown in the Middle East. He held in fierce contempt those who spent their war – the more senior the better – propping up the bar of Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo consuming "Suffering Bastards" (gin, fresh lime etc).

Two final desert memories. Standing-to one morning at first light as a lot of our tanks passed close to us and Allenby asked me if I noticed anything odd about them. I had not realised that these "tanks" were silent, no roar of tracks. They were dummies made of canvas on lorry chassis, part of a whole division deceiving the enemy. And lastly when the opposing armies were a few hundred yards apart before Alamein, the haunting strains of Lili Marlene coming across from the German lines in the cool of the evening – unforgettable! The best tune of the war."

Ann Cleeve

Wartime memories

When World War Two started my father was already stationed with the Army in Egypt. His family: my mother, brother (1 year and 3 months old) and I (3 years and 6 months) were with him until it was decided that all children should be evacuated.

Any of the dominions were an option but at least South Africa was on the same continent so it was decided that my mother should take us there and perhaps my parents could meet sometime (They did, later, in Mombasa when my father attended a conference there).

We first moved to Durban where we had an apartment in an hotel and then my mother moved us to Johannesburg where we lived in a small central hotel called Elmhurst: it was more convenient than setting up house. My brother and I were left with a nanny all day while my mother went to work for the Red Cross. At one point I started nursery school but in the middle of my first day I decided to walk back to the hotel to great consternation and worry. I told them that I liked school very much but that was enough and I had decided to go back home, and nobody saw me go. I was bribed with a small basket of fruit and taken back to school by nanny.

The war in the desert came to an end in May 1943 and after three and a



Ann and her family visit the pyramids

half years in South Africa my mother got a message from my father to come home to England as he was to be posted to Europe. In a hot airless over-crowded troopship, with six people in a cabin designed for two, fresh water rationed to one hour per cabin per day, we sailed up the east coast of Africa through the Red Sea (where I had my eighth birthday celebrated with a tin of peaches) and the Suez Canal to Port Said, where we were taken off the ship by my father in a small boat. We waited in Cairo for six weeks for a ship to take us home.

My father had in January 1944 been awarded the OBE. “His duties included the co-ordinating of the supply of all reinforcements to the Eighth Army during this period - in itself no easy task in view of the shortage of reinforcements. He overcame all difficulties however and succeeded in ensuring that the Eighth Army never lacked for men throughout the operations.”

We embarked on the HMT Devonshire, which carried both troops and prisoners, but at least we had a cabin for the four of us. We set off along the Mediterranean in a convoy which was constantly under attack and we would pick up the survivors, both British and German. We had a very full ship. We had



constant action stations which my brother and I really enjoyed but my parents did not! I complicated matters by getting a burst eardrum which kept me confined in our cabin. When the sirens went I would have to be carried up on deck in my lifebelt by a sailor and my doll had to come too.

When we passed Gibraltar it was decided that we would make for America as it was too dangerous to try and make it to England. But before they got there they changed their minds again and we dashed for Liverpool where we finally landed in April 1944 to a rapturous welcome. I was carried up on deck again and the band was playing - Roll out the Barrel; It's a Long Way to Tipperary etc. - and everyone was cheering.

We got home to Andover, where my father owned a house, by train to a total black-out. A taxi took us to the house. While my father was sent to Belgium where he was present at the liberation of Ghent in September 1944, my mother settled us in and soon bought some hens which produced eggs to supplement our ration (my hen laid me a white egg every day!). Any eggs we had over we put in a large bowl with waterglass to preserve them. She also got busy planting vegetables and we got accustomed to rationing which was non-existent in South Africa. In our kitchen we had a Morrison shelter, which acted as the kitchen table, complete with bed-clothes and toys and if the sirens went we would dash downstairs and spend the night in there.

We were in Andover on VE day and the whole town celebrated with a huge bonfire on a large playing field. VJ Day saw us in Edinburgh where my father was the posted to Scottish Command with an office overlooking Princes Street and he was involved in organising the first Edinburgh tattoo.

Hever Residents Association

Scarecrow Competition



To keep us all occupied and to make our village walks and cycle rides more entertaining we thought we'd bring back our popular scarecrow competition. This year it will take place over June and July.

We invite everyone to make a scarecrow, put it up outside your house and email us your name, address and scarecrow's name to hra@hever.org by 20 July and you will be entered to win the prestigious trophy! More details about how to vote etc will follow.

schooltime

news from Hever

Children in Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and key worker children returned to school to a very different environment from the one they left! However, everyone has adapted really well and I am impressed how well the children have coped and enjoyed being back at school.

Our Year 6 children have been having a truly lovely time returning to some sense of normality. As the transition period will be so different this year, they have come up with an idea to leave their legacy to current and future Hever pupils. They are in the process of redesigning the outside area to the back of Oak class to make an outdoor teaching and relaxing space for the upcoming year 6. The children have been busy sanding benches, painting, planting and getting the wall ready for the most incredible mural, inspired by the Spanish artist, Romero Britto.





It has been great to welcome back some Magnolia children although rather strange! The children have thoroughly enjoyed our outdoor learning, English work based on Handa's Hen, counting in 2, 5 and 10s, and science, classifying and identifying animals. Over the coming weeks, Magnolia will be transforming the outdoor area of Combe End. Richard our specialist PE teacher has been teaching the children to play Baseball and Capture the Flag on a Tuesday and a Thursday afternoon. It has been lovely to see our youngest children in Reception fully embracing the development of new skills.

Next week we will be designing and building our Scarecrows. The children continuing their home learning have been sending in a variety of great work from mini movies, coding to art projects. We are enjoying our glorious grounds, taking the time to improve them, planting lots of pots and beds so it will be a lovely colourful place later in the year.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

A partial return to school

In June, the school partially opened to Reception, Year One and Year Six as well as Key Worker pupils and this has run very smoothly. The children have adapted to the new measures with a fantastic attitude. Year Five returns later in June. The teachers have worked really hard not only to manage online learning for those still at home but also deliver lessons in school whilst remaining socially distanced.

'2020 – A year of change' challenges

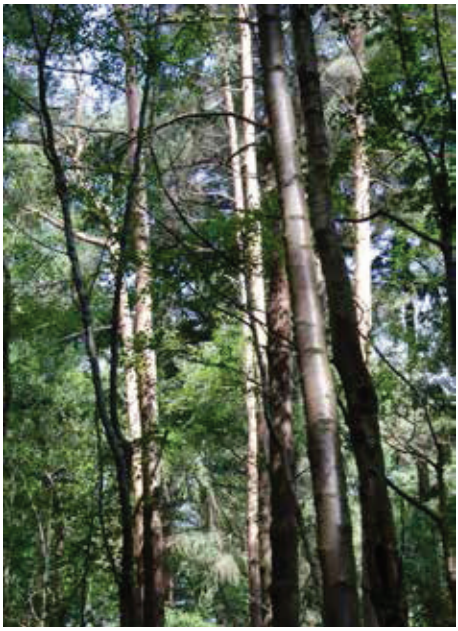
The weekly challenges continue for those in and out of school. Challenge 7 focused on 'You are what you eat' teaching the impact of a healthy balanced plate. Children had to analyse menu choices and portion sizes and then create and cook a healthy, balanced meal for their families, using the food they already had at home.

For Challenge 8, the children had to create their own entertainment whilst at home. They had to invent characters and a setting, write a script, make puppets and perform a puppet show. The finished shows were filmed and shared within each class to entertain their family and friends.

Challenge 9 focused on games before technology and asked 'what did everyone do before technology?'. It allowed the children to look back in history and research the different games played by children before we had all of the modern technology we use today. Children were then tasked with creating their own 'no tech' game for lock down.

Challenge 10 asked the children to create their ideal world and write a motivating speech about it. As part of this challenge, the children had to identify and understand the components of a great speech: first, a great script, using persuasive techniques, short sentences, and hard-hitting vocabulary and secondly, fantastic delivery, speaking loud, clear and with passion. The children were tasked to think about how in these difficult times there have been some glimmers of hope as pollution has fallen, animals are thriving, and people are being kinder and more thoughtful towards each other.

Nicole Holt



Four Elms

Public Services inside the church buildings remain suspended but the ministry of Christ continues. Necessity is the mother of invention and the use of internet technology has enabled innovative ways of presenting our worship. During this exceptional time The Three Spires Benefice has worked closely together to create videos during the church calendar and also Sunday Services. These have been creative and artistically presented and we thank Simon and MarieLou for their hard work with the production. Simon has been able to film Holy Communion inside the Church with the assistance of Susie.

Monday 8th June, Four Elms village bade farewell to Leslie Griggs. He was laid to rest with his mother, Pauline, in St. Paul's Churchyard. It was heart-warming to see very many friends and neighbours paying a respectful and affectionate goodbye to Leslie, at the village crossroads and outside the church.

Of course, Four Elms village would usually be gearing itself up for the Village Fete. Its always such a lovely happy occasion and it will be greatly missed this year. Let us all pray and hope that next year we will be "back to normal". Please look on the Three Spires website and social media for the annual Pet Service on 12th July. If we are unable to have it in St. Paul's Church garden it will be a recorded pet service. All pets and owners are invited to take part. All you need to do is send fun videos/pictures of your pets to me at fevhlunch@btinternet.com. I look forward to receiving them.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

As I write this column it is still the middle of June and after a prolonged dry spell - despite a few showers, the ground is cracked and dry. So it is with more than mild curiosity that many of us will look towards 15th July which is the feast day of St Swithun. He was a 9th century Anglo Saxon Bishop of Winchester who is best remembered for the British weatherlore proverb which says that if it rains on St Swithun's day, it will rain for forty days.

July is also when we remember William Wilberforce, the great Social Reformer and Member of Parliament. He was the first MP to raise the issue of slavery and then led the anti slavery campaign alongside his lifelong friend William Pitt Jnr. This eventually led to the Slavery Abolition Act that came into being on 26th July 1883, three days before his death. Whilst leading the campaign Wilberforce regularly spent time at Holwood House in Keston, where he met with William Pitt and they often sat together under a huge oak tree. The remains of that tree still stand together with a bench in their memory. It is on part of a lovely walk that runs between Keston and Downe Village, the directions for which are easily accessible on the internet. I was fortunate to follow this route as part of an anti Modern

day slavery walk back in March, organised by Rochester diocese.

June would normally see the Hever Horticultural Society's Rose show at the village hall. Luckily it went online and we were treated to a virtual treat as members submitted their wonderful photographs from their gardens and this can be viewed on the Hever website.

A great sadness was the death of Pat Evemy who will be hugely missed by us all. Pat took a real interest in all village and church matters, she even learned to ring the church bells in order to ring for her daughter Vicky's wedding. No mean feat and one she achieved with aplomb. A great day especially when Vicky climbed up the steep tower staircase in full bridal gown, to ring alongside her mum. During her funeral, the Hever bellringers tolled the tenor bell for 10 minutes in remembrance of Pat. There will be a full obituary in due course.

As we now begin to very gradually open our Church for private prayer, those of you who make the journey please take time to walk in the churchyard -which is looking delightful and remember Richard Bennett who throughout this lockdown has kept it beautifully mown and tended.

Keep well, happy and socially distanced!

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

And still the pandemic goes on. Imagining an end to it is now the difficult thing. In this part of the world it's been almost like a holiday, long sunny days enjoying our gardens, taking walks along lanes and paths that seem just as they always were. Revelling in clear and quiet skies, free from the usual Gatwick noise. The pattern of life and death here continues largely free of disturbance from COVID-19 and we are blessed in so many ways.

I have a rather fancy laptop from my days as a food photographer and since I retired I've been feeling it's rather unjustified, but since the churches have been locked it has enabled me to brush up on my video editing skills and enjoy the deep concentration that I have to employ to get our weekly recorded communion services online. That's a small blessing. As I piece the bits together I listen to the words, sometimes over and over as I struggle to get a transition between clips just right or try to balance the sound or straighten the image. Sometimes hearing things out of context gives them an extra meaning and they can resonate as some sort of meditation. So that's another little blessing too.

We worry that some of our community are not at home with technology, but I am regularly encouraged to hear of more people who have got to grips with an iPad or tablet and are enjoying engaging in Zoom evening prayers or watching

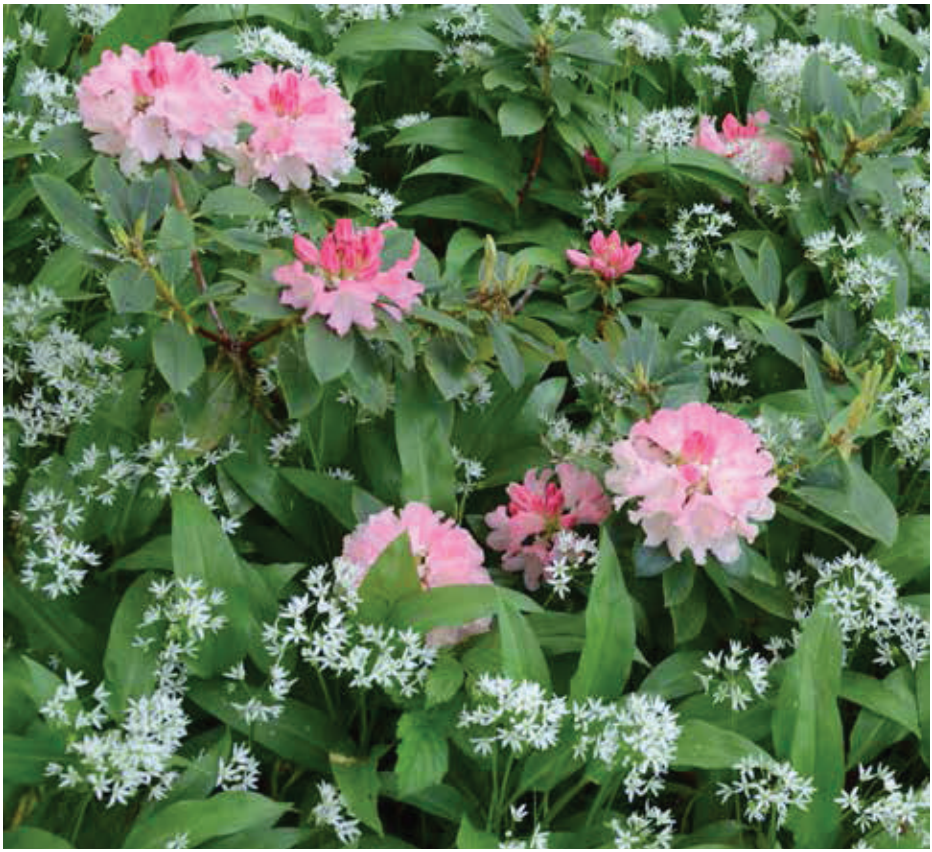
the recorded services. I hope they regard that as a blessing too.

The Markbeech choir have surprised themselves by managing to record videos of themselves for our virtual choir. The church wardens meet with Simon online every week. The technology we now have at our fingertips makes so many things possible and has made lockdown so much more bearable than it might have been. And that's a huge blessing.

And now a request - I want pictures and especially videos of your pets! ASAP. As the pet service at Four Elms can't happen this year it too will be online and the more entertaining your clips are the better the video will be! Photos are ok too but all preferably in landscape format (think cinema shape!). Contact me if you need more information.

Again I echo Simon's phrase 'Keep safe - keep well - keep praying.'

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden



our rector's thoughts

As each month goes by we long for release from the lockdown, which at last seems to be happening gradually. We have yet to see how this works out in terms of our mental, physical and financial wellbeing – or lack of it!

Last month saw demonstrations across the world under the banner 'Black lives matter' following the tragic death of George Floyd.
The theme of release of captives and the oppressed has a long history: release from slavery and iconic moments like the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. US civil rights campaigners like Martin Luther King have used the language of the Bible. In his 'I have a dream' speech, he quoted from the prophet Amos: '…let justice roll on like a river…'.
The Old Testament tells the story of a captive people, the Israelites, who were freed from four hundred years of slavery in Egypt and led out by Moses. The prophets then speak to an exiled people of a time of release when they will return home.

When Jesus started his ministry in Nazareth he applied words of the Prophet Isaiah to himself: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners… to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. (Luke 4:18-19)

For his hearers, they would have thought of this in terms of freedom from the occupying Romans. But we now know that Jesus came to bring a more fundamental freedom for the whole world: a freedom which only a knowledge of and relationship with God can bring.

Today we pray for all who are imprisoned and oppressed across the world: ethnic minorities like the Uyghur people in China, Christians and other religious minorities imprisoned for their faith, political pawns like Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in Iran and victims of modern slavery, even in our own country. But let's pause and use this time to reflect on whether there is anything in our own lives from which we need to be released – maybe release from guilt and shame in the past or the need to forgive and receive forgiveness. For me, this ultimate release is found in Jesus, who said: I came to give life, life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

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

Simon

Church in July during the lockdown

We are pleased to be recording services from the Church buildings, but we do not expect congregational worship to resume for some time. We plan to open the churches on a very restricted basis for private prayer – initially St Peter's 8.30 - 9.30am on a Tuesday and St Paul's 11.30am - 12.30pm on a Sunday. Please do not visit if you are unwell and follow the rules on social distancing and hand cleansing. See the website and Facebook page for further details.

Services are being recorded and can be accessed via our website https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice and can now be accessed by phone by calling 01732 927132. Services will be available by 10.00am on Sunday. Simon and Susie will be introducing the service on Facebook live at 10.00am each Sunday. The website also has other material to help us during this period

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
5 July	Holy Communion from St Paul's Four Elms	Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25 to end	Trinity 4
12 July	Morning prayer from St.Peter's Hever	Psalm 119:105-112; Genesis 25:19 to end; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Trinity 5
12 July	Pet Service	Isaiah 65:17-25; Colossians 1:15-23	Trinity 5
19 July	Holy Communion from Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 8:12-25; Mathhew13:24-30, 36-43	Trinity 6
19 July	All age worship	Jesus storybook bible pages 264-270 based on Luke 19	Trinity 6
26 July	Holy Communion from Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Trinity 7

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

some pictures of spring













Hever Parish Council



by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

First, a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone for the sustained efforts and tremendous community spirit shown during this drawn out period of immense disruption, worry and change. So many volunteers have emerged to help those in need, be it a phone call to check all ok or ongoing weekly shops and prescription collections for those who are the most vulnerable. It is so humbling to see in action what a wonderful community this is, well done everyone and thank you for such kindness, in so many ways.

The Council have been unable to meet in "real life", so we took to our inaugural virtual meeting, like ducks to water on Thursday 11th June. Resisting the temptation to study haircuts and room décor, 8 of the 9 Councillors participated and 3 members of the public joined, who were able to discuss issues ranging from grant applications to planning matters. Delighted to report that John Hodson and Joanna Wade were again elected as Chair and Vice Chair for another year. Thank you to them both for all their efforts and time for the benefit of the community, often behind the scenes.

There is a vacancy for a Councillor to represent the Four Elms part of the parish – do you have an interest in your community and would like to be involved in decisions made? Please do contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors informally for any more information. The Parish Council is a friendly and interesting way to make a real difference – look at recent good news stories with the Four Elms playground refurbishment, how beautiful the Four Elms pond looks since the millennium work and the provision on defibrillators and dog waste bins which improve the environment for everyone.

Annual maintenance of parish council assets continues with the playground at Four Elms having its annual safety inspection by a qualified company and pads for the defibrillators being checked and changed when they expire (the sticky parts of the pad deteriorate over time), plus the now weekly grass cutting and other management of assets.

Planning ahead, Kent County Council Highways are re surfacing the crossroads in Four Elms during October (the red friction surface helps alert drivers by the change in colour and the friction should help cars feel the change in environment and slow cars down in the event of an accident).
Sadly, the free Family Fun Days (were planned for Four Elms 30th July and Hever 13th August) have had to be cancelled for this year, we do hope they can return next year of course.

Thank you for supporting all the local businesses, established and ones that have emerged from lockdown – it's amazing the variety of local services there are – from historic castles to cake makers to yoga classes and florists, what a talented lot you are!

Any queries please contact the clerk clerk@hever.org

Sevenoaks council news

After a brief interlude, meetings of Hever Parish Council have recommenced. This month I thought I'd share with you the headlines from my update to their most recent meeting, along with links to further information.

- Claydene Farm – having secured planning consent in February for the development of nine houses, the site is once again on the market: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkClaydene
- Rail Improvements – Network Rail are consulting on proposals to reconfigure the railway around East Croydon, unblocking the busiest, most congested and most complex part of our country's rail network. This is a boost for the 'BML2' campaign but will come as welcome news to all users of the Uckfield Line, eventually providing a more reliable service amongst other benefits: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkBottleneck
- Broadband Speeds – home working would have proved impractical for many of us just five years ago. Despite great strides having been made in recent years, a few remain left behind. Overshadowed by Coronavirus news was the launch of the Universal Service Obligation, providing households with a statutory right to a reasonable connection: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkUSO
- Neverworld – the annual music and arts festival (formerly LeeFest) has withdrawn its licensing application and cancelled this year's event on account of the virus: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkNeverworld
- Markbeech Motocross – many people's Easter weekend was disturbed by the return of motorcyclists trespassing on land in Markbeech, causing a public nuisance during lockdown. The Police were informed, since when no further reports have been received. Residents are encouraged to continue to refer further incidents to them should this unlawful activity resume: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkMotocross
- Local Plan – the High Court has granted permission for Sevenoaks District Council's judicial review to proceed. In parallel, the three MPs covering our District have joined forces in calling for the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to use his powers to reconsider the Planning Inspectorate's reasons for rejecting the draft Local Plan, so our Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can be defended for the next generation: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkLocalPlan
- Bin Collections – in a twist of fate, a fire may disrupt over the next few months that which the pandemic has not: our weekly rubbish and recycling collection. Instead of being transported to Sundridge, just outside Sevenoaks, our waste is now heading to Tunbridge Wells after a fire devastated the 'waste transfer station': https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkFire
- Hever Road – planning Directions removing permitted development rights at Land West of Burnt Oak Farm have come into force: https://tinyurl.com/JulyLinkHeverRoad

This is just a taste of what's going on so even if it's on something entirely different, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you've got a query or concern with which I might be able to help.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
SDC, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG
e. cllr.dickins@sevenoaks.gov.uk
m. 07910 328 110
NEW Instagram: mycornerofkent

gardening

After an amazing Spring we now find ourselves in midsummer with the garden burgeoning. If like me you have experienced everything flowering together and coming early, don't panic, enjoy the moment and feed your plants and your display should continue through the summer. I use liquid seaweed as I am generally an organic gardener, feed every two weeks through the growing season.

Of course the need for more rain is in all our minds so do keep watering while we are able, the thought of using more water butts in our gardens and doing more preparation to keep moisture in our borders is probably being mulled over, so make some notes now as to what is possible in the space you have to collect water. Depending on your soil type you may also want to start thinking ahead and planning your winter preparation for retaining more moisture by adding plenty of bulky organic matter to your borders and mulching in Spring.

It is not too late to sow biennials but it is now a priority. I love foxgloves, honesty and forget me nots in the Spring garden not only for colour but for the bees, sowing now will give them time to get big enough to plant out in autumn. These all self sow prolifically but there is something satisfying spending a summer afternoon sowing seed and preparing for the next stage in the garden and it will guarantee good healthy plants for next year.



My final thought this month is deadheading, an essential pastime for any gardener. It will keep your plants flowering and not setting seed too early and it is also very satisfying. The art of deadheading is well described in Christopher Lloyd's book 'A well tempered garden', an essential read for all gardeners. There is nothing worse than seeing a plant with headless stems, cut them back to a definite point, whether a leaf or new stem. Some plants just need a quick tidy to encourage new growth others will need larger sections removing to encourage side shoots to then eventually form new flowers.

The trick to deadheading is knowing your plant, length of flowering time and whether it will produce a second flush, also keep in mind what plants make good seed pods and which roses have lovely hips to add colour and interest to the winter garden and provide food and shelter for birds and insects. Make sure you have lovely sharp secateurs and enjoy!

After all those jobs don't forget to sit down with a nice cup of tea and admire your work.

Have a lovely summer.

Janine Reavell
janinethegardener.com
07802257652

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	6							
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	13.5							
Markbeech	**2018**	83	40	82	77.25	70.05	1.5	51	68.5	33	47.5	105.5	91.5
	2019	39.5	41	59.25	13.25	29	78.5	74.5	38.5	71	133	92.5	138
	2020	96.25	140	47.5	40	10							

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 August edition should reach us no later than **15th July 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