August 2020

THE LINK







In this issue:

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- Scarecrow time again!
- A tale of the full Monty
- Hever Castle gets the butterflies
- More gardening advice

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the August edition

We hope you enjoy it.

I keep spotting a glint of white in the sky and thinking it is the moon but then I realise that it is that strange beast - a plane. It is funny how quickly I have become used to the air being free of metal. It is also amazing how quickly so many of us have adapted to zoom-life, fixing meetings, discussing bandwidth and seeing the huge benefits of home working and not having to travel to meetings. The parish council met by zoom and I was able to join a Hever village hall committee meeting from the train (still so quiet that I didn't disturb anyone) although I was a bit muffled in the mask.

We are tantalisingly close now to being able to hold larger events again. As well as church services "in the flesh", the horse/pet supplies etc at Four Elms and the cafe/ shop in the old garage are thriving as is Falconhurst farm shop in Markbeech - not to mention the Henry VIII, now open as well as still serving takeaways.

We are pleased to be getting back to delivering paper Links to those of you who want them. We are also proud of the colour version on the website which means that we can display good quality photos (colour printing is too costly I'm afraid).

Joanna Wade



pet of the month

Vera, who passed away a few days ago, was the most affectionate cat I've ever shared my life with. My constant companion for almost 18 years, she loved people and was always delighted when friends or students came to visit, especially if they were cat lovers and she could get some extra fuss. She also loved other animals and Paul and I have wonderful memories of her walking along the top of our fence to rub noses with the donkeys in the neighbouring field.

In recent months, I moved all my dance teaching online and Vera seemed to have a knack of knowing when I was doing a video lesson, regularly video bombing the lessons, leaping up onto the computer keyboard, sending everything haywire and even breaking the connection completely.

When I posted on social media that we had to say goodbye to Vera, I had literally hundreds of messages from dancers around the world. This, from



an Israeli student is a favourite: "Vera will always be remembered as a pillar of the bellydance community in the UK no one practised more than her....she was always there watching over our technique and musicality with her sweet and calming face. She was loved by us all. I wish Vera an exciting life in cats' heaven where I know she will continue monitoring our progress."

Charlotte Houlton

Falconhurst Cricket Club

Season starts at last

There will be a game every weekend from now until the end of September. If you would like to play in a socially distanced way please call Tom Churton on 07734 311716

Hever Village Hall

Our trustees are currently undertaking a risk assessment to determine the conditions under which the hall can reopen as advised by government regulations. We hope to be in a position to take bookings in the near future.

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Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** is overdue and will now be held on

Wednesday 19th August, 2020
at 7.15 for 7.30 pm

It will **NOT** be at the Hall, but it **WILL** use **ZOOM** communications.

Our trustees represent most local activities, but if you wish to attend, and have access to zoom facilities, please contact our Secretary, Mandy Yarnold, on **mandy.yarnold@gmail.com** and she will arrange for you to be invited, up to the maximum possible.

Any local resident can participate in electing Officers: Chairman, vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Booking Secretary – please make your nomination (in confidence) to Mandy. The same goes for Committee Members (up to 5 persons).

[please make sure your nominee agrees to being proposed. and note that existing officers and committee members are also up for election and may have indicated their wish to continue in office]

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

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August

Visit the Castle and Collections

Come and see new displays as the castle opens on Sunday 2 August (Sundays and Mondays) from 11am to 5pm (last entry 4.15pm). Tickets £9.50 adult. £4.50 children (special offer £2.50 children during August). We hope to be open from 2 August to 27 October 2020 dependent on government guidelines. More details https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk/

Take away Tea and Cakes

Bring your picnic furniture, find a spot, and select from our delicious display of cream teams, cakes and hot and cold beverages. Available 11am to 4.15pm every Sunday and Monday from 2 August 2020 to 27 October 2020.

Enjoy the Grounds

Our grounds have welcomed many families, fishers, walkers and cyclists to enjoy the space, views and sunshine, woodlands, lawns and lake this July and we look forward to seeing more friends and visitors in August. Fishing has been particularly popular and we recommend a quick view of our fishing rules at https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk/visit-us/fishing/

We follow COVID-19 government guidelines to respect visitor and staff well-being.

Ready to Celebrate?

Our virtual viewing for weddings and celebration planning has helped many continue their planning whatever the situation. For a quick view of opportunities take a look at our Instagram page @chiddingstonecastlewedding and our Pinterest boards www.pinterest.co.uk/chiddingstoneca/boards/. Do share with friends and family who may be thinking ahead.

Summer Listening. Virtual Literary Festival 2020 – renowned author podcasts – listen for free

Summer reading? Why not summer listening? Famous authors such as Peter James, Michael Morpurgo, Maggie O'Farrell, Robert Sackville-West, Alexandra Shulman, Joanna Trollope, Tom Holland and Andrew Roberts share behind-the-scenes thoughts on their latest books.
To listen for free, go to https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk/literary_festival/, scroll down and click an event.

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John Harris

The end of the war

John Harris, with the Second Derbyshire Yeomanry, had landed in Normandy on D+6 and in the course of battle had been awarded a Military Cross. His story continues….

"The breakout from the bridgehead came at last in early August 1944, the Germans suffering immense casualties at Falaise, then drawing back over the Seine the bulk of their forces. As the reconnaissance unit to the 51st Highland Division, we took part in the battle for Le Havre then crossed the Seine and helped chase the enemy across Belgium into waterlogged Holland. After several months of minor scraps in appalling conditions we reached Maastricht in December.

Then Hitler made his last throw. All the best of German armour was massed for a thrust through the Ardennes on the American front, the aim being to cross the Meuse, get behind the allies and attack Antwerp. On Christmas Day 1944 we were in a British force sent (just as Christmas dinner was ready) into the area of Marche to help the Americans to seal "The Bulge". The Yanks suffered badly in the extreme cold. They would exchange a Jeep for a bundle of our warm battledress and I did several such deals. I then drew my own name out of the hat to proceed on home leave.

When I returned from leave in a bitter January to Regimental HQ it was already dark and I elected to stay there overnight rather than rejoin my squadron and to sleep downstairs in the warm rather than in the communal cold bedroom upstairs. That last decision may well have saved my life for during the night the Germans dropped anti-personnel bombs which exploded on the windowsills of the upstairs room where slept all the HQ officers except one on duty by the radio and me.

We returned from the Ardennes to Holland, re-equipped and crossed the German frontier to take part in very severe fighting for the Reichswald forest in early February. This was the area of the Siegfried Line. The Germans were defending their native land and did so defiantly. We seemed to be in action nearly every day, suffering a steady stream of casualties – but we were inexorably making way toward the last great obstacle before entering the heart of Germany – the Rhine. We reached that great river in March and 2 DY went over, on a floating Bailey Bridge hastily erected under fire by our engineers. We streamed on eastward, of course not welcomed as in France (sometimes) or Belgium and Holland (always) but by sullen bewilderment.

We had had a little light relief in Bentheim on the Dutch/German border, where at the station siding an engine was found with steam up and an ex engine driver in our ranks got it moving up and down the line to loud cheers. Then we found a magnificent black Mercedes in a garage carrying a huge swastika on its bonnet so clearly belonging to a high Nazi official. We kept it until war's end, then our miserable control commission insisted all such perks must be handed in. A friendly naval officer had earlier offered to take it home for me via Cuxhaven but I missed the boat!

May 4 was a day of triumph. Odd pockets of die hard Germans gave fight but we had our tails up. That evening one of my troop leaders came up on the radio to say that he had a German major carrying a white flag with him – who said his superior officer wished to surrender the 15th Panzer Division, along with the 21st - the best armoured divisions in the Wehrmacht, with which allied soldiers from throughout our then Empire had done battle from Alexandria to Tunis, from Normandy to Bremerhaven. I thought, at first, my officer was pulling my leg, but not so. Similar approaches were being made on other fronts. The war in Europe was over.

Postscript

There followed six months of occupation, stationed near Hamburg. The official policy was one of "non-fraternisation" with the Germans. Whoever conceived that did not know the British soldier! For myself there was little to do. I spent a lot of time organising horse racing at Stade with captured Russian ponies. Having joined at the beginning of the war I was in an early release group and was demobilised in mid December.

My regiment had finished the European war quite close to Belsen and I talked to many of our people who had been there. What they said left me in no doubt that our war was one of the most just in history. The cliché that the Allies saved civilisation just happens to be true. I am proud of my country's contribution – of course modest compared with America's men and materials, not to mention the Russians, but let it never be forgotten that but for those airmen in 1940 there would have been no chance to earn those subsequent victories."

Major John Harris was awarded a bar to his MC for his leadership in the chase through Germany. He said "I had had a 'good war' without a scratch". A master of under-statement. He went on to have a distinguished civilian career as editor of the Farmer & Stockbreeder and later Chairman of IPC Agricultural Press and lived in Swan Lane, Edenbridge until his death in 2009.



A tale of the full Monty

My father had two cousins who both served during the Second World War. The eldest was Ronald, aka Ronnie or Nonnie. He had a most distinguished war record, about which a book should have been written. His younger brother was Dudley, who told this story, unlikely to feature in war diaries.

Without further research, I cannot give details of his regiment, suffice it to say it was an armoured car regiment that found him sitting on his armoured car in the middle of the desert.

An approaching cloud of dust revealed General Montgomery's staff car with the General on board. The great man approached Dudley's armoured car and enquired "When did you last see a newspaper?"

Dudley gave the obvious answer of "long time ago, Sir." "Here, have mine" said Monty, and a staff officer handed Dudley a very recent copy of The Daily Telegraph. On the top right corner was written, in pencil - Bernard Montgomery, much as might be expected from a local newsagent. Remarkable, one might think, were it not for this whole scenario being repeated two weeks later (Dudley sitting on his armoured car, in possibly another piece of desert; staff car arrives in a cloud of dust; Monty asks same question and a copy of the personalised DT handed over).

Opinions are divided on Monty's skill as a commander, but he was clearly well up on minor morale boosting practices. I wonder if Rommel ever handed out copies of Der Telegraf?

Andrew Izod



lockdown diary

26th April to 13th May
I've been recycling my path. I don't like using weed killers so the hoe was my tool of choice for the annual clean up. Dandelion, daisy and grass to be banished.

I decided to try a new tool I had inherited, a short-handled item with a sharp triangular head. It proved remarkably efficient at removing the impacted clay and gravel, revealing the sandstone edging to its proper depth and exposing a chalk foundation with a camber to it as well. I also found a 1945 penny and several handmade nails in my mini archaeological dig.



Several sessions later the issue from this labour was a stock of about twenty bags of soil and gravel. I sieved it all! The outcome this time was 200 litres of soil and 130 kilos of dull gravel. A third round of activity saw me washing the gravel in two buckets to save water; wash and rinse! This produced four bags of clay sludge. Are there any potters in Hever? The lovely clean gravel was returned to the 6m2 section of path. The soil will be returned to the garden.

24th June
One of the first evenings warm enough to sit outside so late. It is 9.30 pm and I am writing this under a cloudless sky; there is no traffic on the road or in the air. A sheep bleats in the distance, even my robin who comes for supper every evening has gone to bed but a blackbird has just been alarmed by something. Strange times indeed.

27th June.
Those feisty dandelions have re-appeared. I will need the long handled hoe after all.

Footnote: The paths around this house were probably laid out c 1880/1900. The chalk foundation, specifically for stability and improved drainage, is also under the adjoining farmyard. There was a smithy in Hever, I wonder if those handmade nails I found were made there?

Jane Higgs

Friends of Holy Trinity, Markbeech

In April 2019, a new account was set up solely for the Friends, to support and secure the future for any extra need to enhance the fabric of Holy Trinity. Many residents of the village have made such a difference in being so incredibly generous in making a donation, we are extremely grateful and thank them enormously.

We are acutely aware of the grave times many people are experiencing, but if this is an area you may be interested in helping us with, however small, we would be more than grateful, if only to share our appreciation of our very special church, the landmark of the centre in our beautiful village of Markbeech.

With all our thanks.
Should you have any further queries, please contact
marielou@me.com or
claredenisonpender@gmail.com or
the treasurer
stevethompson55@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

We are happy to report that the playground in Four Elms has been reopened following government guidance and hope that all users enjoy being back in the play space.

Sincere thanks to outgoing Councillor Anita Sebastian, Hever ward for her many years of contributions to the Parish Council. There is now a vacancy for a Councillor to represent the Hever 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 to the local area. The Parish Council has it's own funds and the Councillors are supported by the part time employed Clerk who deals with the administration and finances. See www.hever.org for more information about the parish council (not to be confused with the Parochial Church Council) and minutes from previous meetings.

The vacancy in Four Elms for a Councillor is still open if anyone is interested in representing Four Elms on the Council. Thank you.

The very successful and much appreciated Sevenoaks District volunteer service which has been delegated down to each parish to manage locally will be drawing to a close (in this format) at the end of July. This has been running parallel to the parish council scheme, co ordinated by the Clerk. Everyone receiving help will be contacted to establish what their future needs are. For those volunteers who were on the list, a massive thank you and if you would like to continue volunteering in another way locally then of course that would be most welcome. More information will follow.

Our next meeting is planned to be on zoom (22 September 7.30pm full council meeting). Please see noticeboards or website / facebook for link details. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can meet in real life again.

Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org



Sevenoaks council news

Across the country, headlines read 'Council's Covid Cash Crisis', or an equivalent. Even adjusted for sensationalism, there are very real concerns about the solvency of the bodies which supply our essential services, from bin collections to the care of our elderly and vulnerable.

Local government is, of course, not alone. It is only right to recognise that recent months have been a period of acute hardship for many people and organisations. And it would be a failure to leave unacknowledged too the great uncertainty which lies ahead for many more.

Nonetheless, figures last month illustrated how at a time of crisis the District Council is relied upon more than ever in housing the homeless, distributing emergency food boxes, hauling hundreds of tonnes more waste each week and fielding thousands of coronavirus related enquiries.

Now, I proceed with a degree of caution because when politicians, whether national or local, talk about money, their references can seem rather dry, intangible, arbitrary – even, you might say, a little out of touch. "What difference does it make to me?" is a familiar and often understandable response.

But I wrote last year of the three reasons why the District Council's finances matter to us all. To recap: first and foremost, because it's your money; second, because the things the District Council do are in many respects the marks of, for want of a better term, a civilised society; and third, but by no means least, because the Sevenoaks approach is seriously different to pretty much any other authority up and down the country.

So when in July, wearing my finance hat at the Council, I presented to colleagues the figures for the impact COVID-19 has had on the organisation, it was a message of two parts. Broadly speaking, the financial hit this year alone is expected to be around a third of the Council's £15m revenue budget. That is a shortfall most businesses, most households and most councils could not overcome. However, whilst in no way downplaying the seriousness of the situation, Sevenoaks entered this crisis in a better position to weather storms than any other local authority which comes to mind. Its financial management is underpinned by a widely praised yet still unique balanced ten-year budget, allowing peaks and troughs to be smoothed out. And we've received some funds from the Government and are working to secure more.

My message this month is therefore not one of 'Council's Covid Cash Crisis' but one which, though perhaps rather dull, is of cautious positivity about the ability of your Council to continue to work for you.

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

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David James	accountancy services	01892 871 139
Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
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Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01732 700 353
Causeway Joinery	bespoke joinery for the public and trade	01342 850170
Clare Elizabeth	painting and decorating	0777 5328781
G Moss	joiner & builder	07778 440 644
Jem Pickard	painting and decorating 07850 371558 or	01732 863062
M & M Walker	painting & decorating, plumbing, heating	07774 218 684
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341 415
TN16 Handyman	property maintenance, home repairs, painting, gardening	074754 38788
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559
Crafts		
Woodlea Craft & Design	presents,pottery,lamps,baskets,jewellery	01732 700 279
Cleaning		
Housecleans	cleaning, ironing	01959 532 223
Zero Dry Time	dry carpet & upholstery cleaners	01732 387 046
Commercial Property		
Hever Business Centre Office Suites - Karrison Property		01959 563800
Hever Castle Golf club - modern office space to let		01732 701006
Dog grooming and walking		
Yappy Days	dog walking and pet sitting – Katie	07768 614577
Wash n blow, dogs to go – dog grooming - Chris:		01892 740170/07736 484184
Education		
Markbeech Nursery	for children 2-5 years	01342 850403
Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315
Equestrian		
Four Elms Farm Livery		07771 634995
Fitness		
Toni's Pilates	Personal training, pilates classes	01892 711 197
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Chiddingstones' Tennis Club		07771 912 108
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762

Funeral Services		
Alex Jones	funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047
Gardening and landscaping		
APF Trees,	tree surgery and garden maintenance	07786 884924
Hever Landscapes	for all your garden projects	01892 740133
French's Fencing	gates, automation, fencing supply & fitting	0779 5551436
R. Bennett	hedges, fencing, grass cutting	01732 862971
Sam Thompson tree care,	felling, hedge cutting, logs	07747 345815
Health		
Emma Darthuy Chartered physiotherapist	home physio visit, pilates classes	07771 925346
Hever Castle Health and Wellbeing Centre,	classes and treatments	01732 651359
Paul Marro	Cognitive Hypnotherapy www.htheraphy.co.uk	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
Hairdressing		
Rosemary's hairdressing	in the comfort of your own home	07813 400393
Home services		
Andy Sayers	electrical services maintenance and repairs	01892 740631
Pegrum	fuels, boilers, plumbing, solar panels, water/oil tanks	01732 463256
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
IT		
IT Wizard	Computer problems	01732 361234
MR Computing	computer repairs in your home, no call out charge	01732 590077
Local Produce		
Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Printing services		
Newgraphic	leaflets, business cards, orders of service, invitations	01732 862 222
Travel, Taxis and bike hire		
Country Hire and Go,	electric bike hire and local taxi service	07723054863
Stuart Rieman	luxury passenger car service	01883 715 037
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Travel Counsellors	tailor-made travel, leisure & business	olivia.wells@travelcounsellors.com
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Chiddingstone Castle		01892 870347
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

Four Elms

Saturday 11th July 2020. This date would have been our Village Fete day but no Village Fete. However the first service, with a "live" participating congregation from St. Paul's Church, was able to take place (for filming) on this date. And how relevant that during our strange and difficult times it was the Pet Service where we gave thanks for "All creatures great and small". Limited in numbers and observing social distancing we were delighted for Simon to take the Pet Service and to give his blessing to four dogs, two guinea pigs, one chicken and one horse. Thank you to everyone who came and for all the very many who have sent videos and photos of their pets. You can see the Service (with your contributions) on the Threespires website.

The church has been opened for several hours each Sunday since the end of June. It is a pleasure to welcome visitors. It makes us feel that we are moving forward, however tentatively. Our first Service inside the church will be on Sunday 26th July, but, of course, with the usual restrictions.

St. Paul's Church Four Elms wishes you all a happy sunny August. A break from home schooling and for a real treat visit our coffee shops/café/pub here in Four Elms. Perhaps we can take advantage of the Chancellor's half price meal on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday during the month of August. And continue to see our regular services on the Threespires website. Happy holidays to everyone and keep safe.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

As St Peter's gradually reopens for prayer on Tuesday mornings 8.30-9.30 and for Sunday Services every third week in rotation with the other churches, we begin to establish the new 'normal'! In doing this there has been lots of effort behind the scenes, first off the church had to be given a good clean having been closed for nearly three months, there were plenty of cobwebs and dust. Thank you Elly Heard and sister Heather. Next, in order to comply with guidance, hand sanitiser needed to be positioned next to the entrance, and here I have to thank our very own Hever Bellringer and carpenter extraordinaire, Tony Yates who made us an ecclesiastical, wooden, freestanding dispenser which now greets every visitor to the church!

Discreet floor signage reminds us all to respect social distance and points everyone to a one way system - up the main aisle and left towards the Bullen Chapel before returning back down the North Aisle and another left towards the main door! The pews no longer contain any seat runners or kneelers, thank you Mandy Yarnold for doing this as it allows us to disinfect and clean easily and effectively between services. Bellringer Tony has continued to be busy as he has also made us a freestanding screen so that we

can all participate in communion safely and it then moves to the door enabling Rev Simon to say goodbye to all!

In this 'new normal' one thing remains closed and that is the Hever Bell tower. Quite simply, our Tower is a very small chamber and the ropes are close together. Therefore whilst some bigger churches have commenced limited ringing, we are remaining cautious but hopeful that before too very long we will be able to return. We have throughout remained in touch with each other courtesy of the online platform of Zoom every Thursday evening (our usual practice night) and recently Rev Simon joined in with us too!

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Holy Trinity is coming alive once more! The church is now open on a weekly basis on a Sunday between 12 and 3pm and is being kept clean and safe with grateful thanks to Clare Denison-Pender and Ricky Calvocoressi. Our first service will take place on 2nd August at 10am and we very much look forward to seeing you there.

Our big news is that the Markbeech Choir, directed by Charles Talbot, is looking to expand and grow into a Benefice wide choir and will be renamed the Three Spires Choir. We are not allowed to sing in church yet but are attempting to sing as a virtual choir in occasional services. We look forward to a time when we can worship in song in our three lovely churches. Singing is known to be as good for the soul as gardening and we hope this will be a real boost to our efforts to bring the three parishes together post lockdown. Please contact Charles if you would like to join: charles@falconhurst.co.uk.

We are going to have our first fund raising event in the parish during lockdown on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August. Falconhurst will be opening the garden for the National Garden Scheme and the church will be offering delicious teas. Falconhurst raised nearly £8000 for the National Garden Scheme last year and sadly this year we will be lucky to make £2000 through pre-booked tickets. The National Garden Scheme raises over £3 million a year for nursing and garden oriented charities including Macmillan, Hospice UK and Perennial and these charities will suffer terribly from this year's lack of funding. If you would like to come to Falconhurst please go to the Kent page of the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk and book your slot!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

our rector's thoughts

Slowly the lockdown seems to be being relaxed and we can return to something closer to normality albeit now wearing a face mask.

We have started services in our churches and I've had the joy of taking one wedding in Markbeech. But at the time of writing, the one thing we are not yet allowed to do is to sing. I read that communal singing is good for you: it improves your mood by releasing feel-good brain chemicals, it relieves stress, improves sleep and even releases pain-relieving endorphins!

Music is and has always been a key part of Christian worship. The Bible contains a hymn book – the Psalms – and St. Paul writes of the early church singing psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude…" (Colossians 3:16). During the lockdown, I've been delighted by how the Markbeech virtual choir have been able to record hymns to enhance our worship across the Three Spires. It has also been great fun for the choir members as they bring together their musical gifts and manage the challenges of the technology. Charles Talbot, who directs the choir, the choir members themselves and I are keen to expand the singing into a new occasional virtual choir to be called 'The Three Spires Choir'. Anyone would like to join or find out more, please contact Charles Talbot by email charles@falconhurst.co.uk so you can be included within the WhatsApp group and enjoy being part of our sung worship.

One piece of good news is that Jane Rosam, our church warden and tower captain at St.Peter's Hever has been recommended to train for 'Licensed Lay Ministry'. This is great news for the Three Spires. For more details see our website https://threespires.wordpress.com/2020/07/10/jane-rosam-recommended-to-train-for-licensed-lay-ministry/

And finally, I appreciate that many people have suffered financially as a result of the Coronavirus. Consequently, we haven't so far asked for financial help. Obviously offerings are down at all three churches and sadly we've missed out on some key social and fund raising events such as the Four Elms fete. We have set up a giving page on the website and if you were able to make a contribution to our work and ministry, it would be much appreciated. See https://threespires.wordpress.com/giving/

Keep safe – keep well – keep praying

God bless you all

Simon

Church in August during the lockdown

We are pleased to have resumed congregational worship from 19th July. Given restrictions on numbers and the fact that many may be still isolating, we will be live streaming and recording these services which can be accessed via our website https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice and by phone by calling 01732 927132. The website also continues to have other material to help us during this period.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
2 August	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Trinity 8
9 August	Morning prayer at St.Paul's For Elms	Psalm 105:1-10; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Matthew 14:22-33	Trinity 9
16 August	Morning prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Psalm 45:10-17; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15: 21-28	Trinity 10
23 August	Family Communion with picnic at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 12:1-8; Matthew16:13-20	Trinity 11
30 August	Holy Communion at St Peter's Hever	Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28	Trinity 12

All services will be at 10.00am. The Family Communion at Markbeech on 23rd August will be suitable for all ages and held outside in the church yard – weather permitting! Please bring your own refreshments.

We are continuing to hold our Zoom evening prayer during August on Thursdays at 6.00pm - see the website for the link. If you would like to join our weekly bible study on Mondays 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 this time 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
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Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com
Prayer hotline
Elly 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 Castle butterflies



The Castle's CEO Duncan Leslie has been spotting butterflies in Park Wood, a part of the grounds which has only recently been opened to the public. I am pretty impressed by both his knowledge and his eyesight - he reports that he saw "Silver Washed Fritillary, White Admiral, possibly Purple Emperor (very difficult to tell from a White Admiral when they fly so fast and high!), coppers and browns (not certain exactly which kinds) and a few other, mostly moths". He says it is "interesting that I did not see, other than the Large White, any of the butterflies we see a lot of in the gardens – this year is very good for Small Tortoiseshell. I have also seen Commas, Red Admiral, Peacock, Orange Tip (earlier in the year) and some other Browns/ Ringlets? I have also enjoyed seeing quite a few Burnet Moths."

The Castle has erected large wooden butterflies painted very much like some listed above so Duncan says that at least we will see something in Park Wood!

Joanna Wade


Swallowtail


Tiger milkweed


Monarch


Silver washed fritillary


Peacock


Viceroy

gardening

At this unusual time, thank goodness most of us have a garden. It doesn't matter if it consists of acres or just a few tubs by the back door, or even a window box. It is ours to care for. We are so fortunate to have a reason and opportunity to go into the open space and take a breath of fresh air. I feel so very sorry for those who have been cooped up in a small flat in one of the many tower blocks.

I find gardening very relaxing and enjoyable, even weeding, when the bed is once again free of them. Even though you know more will be there in the morning! My favourite plants are **Alstroemerias**



and **Penstemons.**



The many different colourways that Penstemons produce are amazing and its so easy to take cuttings. This should be done now, in the Summer, ready for planting next year. Cutting back is not done until about December, leaving the dead foliage to protect the plant during the cold weather. Then cut back to about 6" from the ground – yes, I am still in the Imperial Age! I think the most spectacular Penstemon is Pocahontas, tall and elegant with mauve bell like flowers tinged with white.

The flowers that Alstroemerias produce, I think, look as if they are made of silk. So delicate and the colours which range from white, pale pink to vivid orange are amazing. These, too, are reasonably easy to propagate with their soft white roots. When picking these flowers remember to pull the stems from the base, the same action as picking rhubarb, not the usual cutting.

I was given a small cutting of a plant looking like a thistle! My advice is to check on the growth of any unfamiliar plant. This was a Berkheya Purpurea, with attractive mauve flowering thistle heads. Unfortunately, it would be more at home on the Scottish Highlands, rather than in the front of a small border in my front garden, as it grew to about four foot. An error that had to go!

Try to make time to sit in your garden and appreciate the results of your hard work, but not for long as there is always something that needs to be done!!

Happy gardening and enjoy!

Jan Tolfree

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	45						
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	45						
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	49.25						

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

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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the September edition should reach us no later than **15th August 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