THE LINK

September 2020







In this issue:

- Hever Hort show news
- The story of Mapleton House
- A potted history of Markbeech

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the September edition

Here is a seasonal tip picked up from Anne Glenconner's excellent memoir "Lady in waiting" about her life as said lady to Princess Margaret as seen in the third series of The Crown. If you have no bubble wrap for fragile items, use acorns. In the nineteenth century the Coke family of Holkham Hall in Norfolk where Lady Anne grew up imported their ancient statuary from Italy wrapped in acorns and leaves and then planted the acorns to make the first Holm Oak Avenue in Britain.

Another thing I was reading made me realise that "to Zoom" is now an equivalent word to "to hoover" such is the popularity of this type of video calling. Only a few years ago the company couldn't find investors because "it will never catch on" but now Zoom's daily users have ballooned to more than 200 million in March from a previous maximum of 10 million.

We record our grateful thanks to retiring deliverers Ed Dixon, Barbara Jackson, Gill Lambert, Joyce Staplehurst and Peter Titchmarsh who have done so much for so long. You have been invaluable....thank you. Thanks also to the new arrivals who make the door to door delivery of The Link possible.

Finally, those of you who have noticed the leaning bus stop of Hever will be pleased to know that it is not dangerous and will be fixed soon. Joy riders back in July rammed a number of gates and bent the bus stop, I can only imagine the harm this did to their vehicle.

Joanna Wade



pet of the month



Meet Blue, the scrumptious new addition to our clan, (AT LAST another female in the house)! She arrived on Saturday 8th August at exactly eight weeks of age. A welcome hole filler two and a half years after we lost gorgeous Pip. It was worth the wait, she is dreamy beyond belief and I have achieved nothing since her arrival, such a divine time waster.

It's with heartfelt thanks to her wonderful breeder who has become a firm friend and my goodness does she know her stuff. We seemingly have a fully trained puppy who knows "where to do what" and sits on command, and is the sweetest, softest little bundle of gorgeousness, quite extraordinary. The sweetest temperament all thanks to her yellow mummy Annie and black daddy, Callum and one of eight puppies, four yellow and four black.

Annie was expected to have seven pups on scan and we were reserves for any drop out purchasers, so an unlikely outcome. Can you imagine our surprise and delight when the call came through to say Annie had delivered a surprise eighth little black girl, someone was looking down on us that day. We are truly blessed and completely in love with her already. Now I really must get on with something other than puppy gazing!!!

Amanda

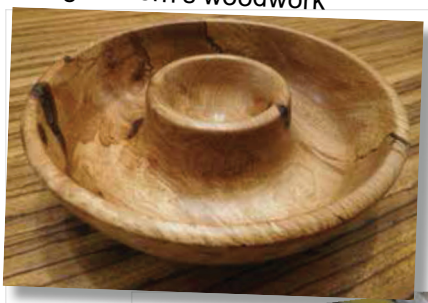
Hever Hort summer show

The summer show is on line at Hever.org in the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society section. Do take a look. The committee is looking forward to being back in the flesh next year. Here are some highlights (in colour for on-line readers).

Jean Mason's dahlia



Doug Bowern's woodwork





Carol Bowern's Autumn Spice



Una Higgs's blueberries

Joanna Wade's photo "Hands"





Jane Rosam's "10.5 hands", her donkey Simon with Mr Tumble photo-bombing in the background.

The Mapleton story part 1

Mapleton House lies at the southern end of Mapleton Road in the parish of Four Elms. Part of the house which stands today was built in 1878 by Samuel Henry Phillips as an addition to an estate which included a farm.

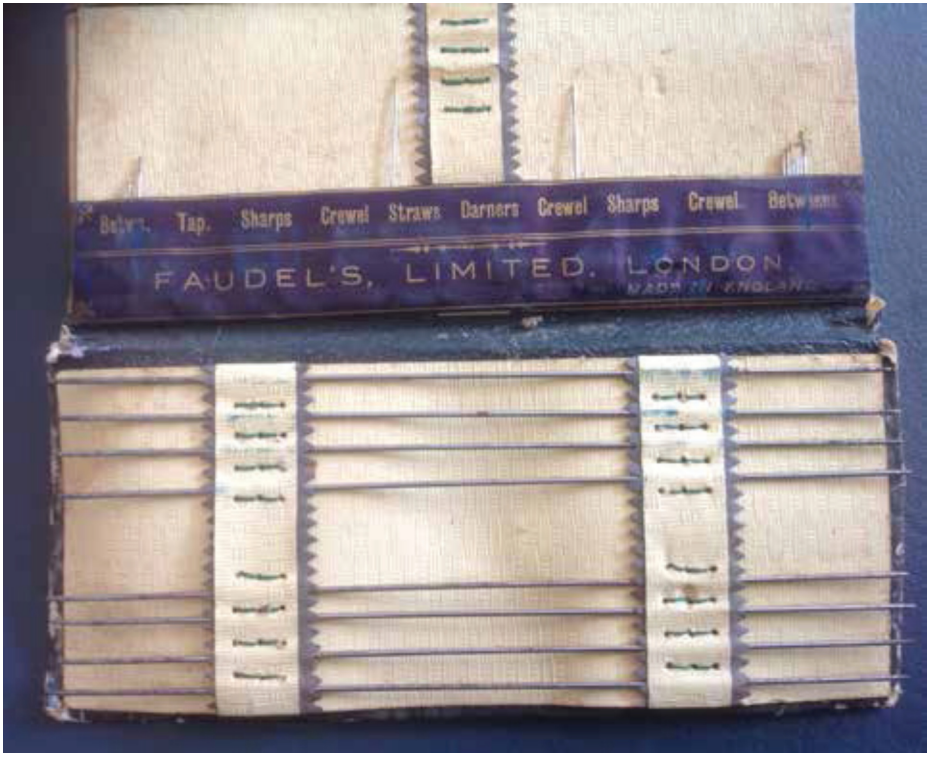
Samuel, born in 1838, was the son of Benjamin Phillips, who was a merchant in the city of London. The Phillips family were influential members of The Great Synagogue in London and were also great philanthropists. Benjamin became Lord Mayor of London in 1865 . His younger son, George was Lord Mayor in 1897, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year.

Samuel's mother was Rachel Faudel, and her brother Henry Faudel, also Jewish, was a businessman selling needles, embroidery patterns, sewing accessories, books and silverware. He lived in London but his country address was Mapleton Lodge, Westerham in 1861 though it is not the lodge that exists today.

Some time after Benjamin and Rachel were married, Benjamin joined Henry Faudel's enterprise and in 1861 Samuel and his younger brother, George were made partners in the business of Faudel and Phillips. There were great celebrations. Business was suspended for the day and the employees were given the day off. An excursion party of some sixty guests rattled across Blackfriars Bridge and on to Waterloo station and thence to Hampton Court where entertainment was available for all from fishing and boating to tours of the house and pleasure gardens. In the afternoon they played a cricket match and at 5pm they all sat down for dinner at The Greyhound Hotel nearby.

Samuel was one of five siblings and in 1875 he married Sarah Georgina White. Her father was a cement maker and brickmaker and they were gentiles. Samuel's family did not appear to have a problem with that. Samuel continued to work closely with his father and brother. When his uncle, Henry Faudel died Samuel was given the property at Mapleton and decided to build a house there. It was to be a country retreat and was a very modest affair.

Samuel and his family spent most of their time in Wimpole Street in London and later in Grosvenor Street, the home of his late father, Benjamin. The house that Henry built was designed to be viewed at its best from the rear. The house gave onto parkland with a walled kitchen garden and displays of rhododendrons which Victorians seemed to be so fond of. There were extensive views of the surrounding countryside and a ha-ha was erected across the rear of the garden so that there was an uninterrupted view of the sheep in the adjoining field without the inconvenience of them getting into the garden. There was also a magnificent granite seat placed there which still survives.



Samuel's initials, SHP intertwined, were put on the front of the house and the new lodge. It was not until the 1880's that Henry was granted a coat of arms and allowed to style himself Faudel-Phillips.

Samuel and Georgina had four children – Rachel born 1876, Henrietta Norah, 1877, Ceril, 1880 and Henry, 1884. As children they saw little of their parents only being taken to the drawing room briefly each day, but their mother never failed to go upstairs to bid them goodnight, the nursery cat often sitting on the train of her gown. The girls were educated at home and Henry, the only son, went to Eton.

Georgina was a beauty and a fine needlewoman, but she was strict with her daughters and thoroughly spoilt her son.

In 1891 the Faudel-Phillips family were at Mapleton with their four children and 12 servants, including a French governess. The bailiff for the estate lived at Mapleton lodge with his daughter who was a dairymaid. His younger daughter was a servant in the main house. There were two grooms living above the stables. The coachman, Frederick Leggatt lived at Mapleton Cottage. His master must have thought a great deal of him as he left him a legacy of £200. The Head Gardener, Mr. King, lived at



White Post Cottage at the junction of Mapleton Road and Pootings.

We do not know how often the family visited Mapleton but they seemed to be involved in the local community attending shows and presenting prizes. Henry was also president of the Edenbridge Fat Stock Show and raised funds both for a new church and later a new vicarage. St.Paul's at Four Elms is the oldest concrete church in England.

A great traveller, Samuel was often on the continent and on Whit Sunday 1909 he died of pneumonia in Paris. He was buried at Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill. He left an estate of £321,000.

After his death his wife arranged for the village institute to be built in Four Elms in memory of her husband. Her son inherited Mapleton and made many changes. Georgina lived in London with her two unmarried daughters but in 1913 she died at the Earl's Court Hotel in Tunbridge Wells. Her body was conveyed to Crockham Hill where she was interred beside her husband.

Stella Carroll

Hever Residents Association

Scarecrow Competition



There is still time to get creative
Display from September 1st
and give people a smile.

Contact hra@hever.org to register your entry



a potted history of Markbeech part 1

As readers will know Markbeech (not Mark Beech, let alone Mark Beach) is a small village of about three hundred plus inhabitants in the High Weald of Kent, about thirty miles south of London.

Historically the site of this settlement lay deep in the dense forest, mainly of oak and beech, which lay between east Kent and Hampshire, hence the later Germanic term Wald or Weald. Celtic peoples had lived in the area since time immemorial and in about 100-75 BC they built a hill fort, which was part of a defensive system of fortifications, covering west Kent from hostile incomers from the Continent. Dry Hill Fort was about two miles west of Markbeech and from it there was a track, which rose out of the valley of the Eden near Chiddingstone and part of which is the metalled road that passes today east/west through the village.

Not long after these events Britain was incorporated within the Roman Empire. The Romans penetrated the forest by a road from London to Lewes. This road passes about a mile west of Markbeech and was used to transport iron goods and grain and for communication generally. There are notable iron workings around Markbeech, especially near Horseshoe Green and at Pyle Gate, including a bloomery or furnace. We must assume that Romans visited Markbeech, although they have left no traces except the road and iron workings.

The Romans abandoned Britain in the first quarter of the fifth century and very soon after England, especially Kent, began to be invaded and settled by Germanic people from north-west Europe. Kent was occupied by people known as Jutes and they quickly established political and legal structures and created the kingdom of Kent. This state was eventually absorbed into Wessex and, then, England. All land technically belonged to the king but very soon settlements of tenants, known as manors, evolved. The main tenants provided warriors for the king and, thus, a quasi-feudal system began to develop.

One of the features of Jutish Kent was that the main settlements in west Kent were to the north and the forest area, such as Markbeech, were left to cattle grazers and for pigs, particularly in the autumn. The clearings in the forest were known as dens (hence for example Cowden and Pigdown Lane, originally Pigden, Claydene, Crippenden, etc.) and it is here that we find the etymolgy of Markbeech. Markbeech is a Jutish compound word meaning ‘a beech tree on a boundary’ in this case that between the manors of Cowden Lewisham and Hever Brocas, later the parishes of Cowden and Hever. Taking the present crossroads in the village, Cowden held the quadrant to the south-west and Hever the remainder, although where the Kentish Horse now stands was an enclave of another manor, Penshurst



Halimote, which was held by the Archbishop of Canterbury. No doubt at this point the Jutes observed a beech among the oaks and which marked the boundary. It is said that the beech in the graveyard is a successor tree. Another Jutish feature was the unique system of inheritance know as gavelkind, which lasted until the twentieth century. There is an example of gavelkind in Markbeech in the nineteenth century.

Gradually the forest was cleared to provide open grazing and land to cultivate crops although it was not until at least the thirteenth century that anything like the present topography was established. In 964 King Edgar I gave the royal manor of Lewisham, including its dens in the forest, to the Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul at Ghent in Flanders. This may have been a confirmation because there is evidence that in 918 this manor was given to the Abbey by Aelfryth, a daughter of King Aelfred and who was married to Baldwin II, Count of Flanders. St. Peter's lost control of the manor during the reign of the Danish kings, but it was restored by King Edward the Confessor in 1044. Thus Markbeech was within the manor of Cowden Lewisham until in 1402, when after several previous royal confiscations, the manor was sequestrated by Henry IV and his Parliament.

After many visicitudes and different tenants, the manor was given by the Crown in 1558 to Sir Edward and Dame Frances Waldegrave, in whose family it remained until, in the eighteenth century, it passed to the

Mead-Waldo and Streatfeild families. Inventories compiled in 1281, 1336, 1343 and 1376 show how much sub-infeudation had occurred by the later Middle Ages.

One such was the bequest of Agnes de Montacute, a Sussex land-holder, to the Priory of Michelham. In 1414 the manor was transferred by Henry IV, despite protests from Ghent, to his newly-founded Carthusian priory at Sheen, Surrey until all ecclesiastical land was alienated to the Crown in the 1530's.

Obviously since the Norman Conquest Markbeech was involved in the evolution of a fully feudal society and bits of the area are delineated in Domesday. One very important tenant-in-chief, Richard Clare, the Conqueror's second cousin, who was the builder and custodian of Tonbridge Castle, held land just to the east of Markbeech at Newtye Hurst. There were now established several settlements and these included Bramsells, 'a miry place where there are brambles', which was held by Battle Abbey, recently founded by William I on the site of the Battle of Hastings. In 1066 William passed very close to Markbeech in the course of his destructive march to London.

Apart from Domesday the first document naming a place in the area is for Old Buckhurst in 1232 and for Markbeech itself the first mention is in a lease agreement of 29 September, 1461. The oldest extant houses are Bramsells, Old Buckhurst and Wickens from the fifteenth century and Old Farm from the sixteenth. From the mid-fourteenth century vines began to disappear and they were replaced by hops and there were a number of hop gardens in Markbeech until the nineteenth century.

Tim Boyle, F.R.Hist.S,
resident of Markbeech since 1966
and formerly Senior Lecturer in
History, Goldsmiths' College,
University of London

Part 2 of this article will appear next month.

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

Sevenoaks council news

For those so inclined, few pastimes over the last few months have proved quite so absorbing as keeping abreast of the Government's changes – and proposed changes – to planning rules. Such has been the volume of new policies and ideas that it has, at times, proved rather taxing for even the most devoted of followers.

Our neck of the woods is a product of its constraints and I know many readers take a keen interest in seeing those upheld. This month's column, therefore, is devoted to what has happened, and next month's will be to what is on the horizon, sticking in each case to that which is of the greatest relevance to the three villages in our Benefice.

Since March, pubs, restaurants and cafes have been allowed to provide a takeaway service, regardless of any restrictions against them previously doing so. This right runs for a year and has been not just broadly welcomed but something from which many of us have benefited too.

In July, the Business and Planning Bill received Royal Assent, allowing until next Spring the extension of planning permissions and listed building consents which had lapsed or are due to lapse between lockdown and the end of the year, as well as longer construction hours. For High Streets, such as Edenbridge, it has been made easier to acquire permits to place tables and chairs on the pavement, and to change the use of premises without the need for a planning application.

The beginning of August brought the Government's much-vaunted planning white paper, but, as I say, more on that next month. Meanwhile – and make sure you're sitting down for this – as of 31 August, regulations permit the addition of two additional storeys on existing houses, detached or in a terrace, to create new self-contained homes or additional living space. The height of bungalows may increase by one storey too.

Clearly, this last one is that which has the greatest potential negative impact on the landscape. As you would expect, there are some tests that need to be satisfied – not a lot, but a few. Likewise, not all areas are included – Conservation Areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are exempt, thus excluding Markbeech and the centre of Hever. But that still leaves large swathes, including Four Elms, very much exposed.

Further detail on all these plus more, as well as links to the legislation itself, may be found via www.gov.uk/mhclg.

Not one of the above, I hasten to add, is a change on which either I or the District Council has had any say but, as you know, I've always taken the view that whether good news or bad, it's important to share it so everyone knows where they stand – that's another way of saying I am merely the messenger, please don't shoot!

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

Hever Parish Council



by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

We held our last meeting by Zoom on 23rd July, when issues discussed included the speed limit in Four Elms (at the request of a local resident), the volunteer scheme and Four Elms pond. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, two locals were able to join via their laptops and one Councillor even managed to contribute whilst on the commute home. The Clerk was happy to report that a £500 grant had been secured from a Tesco Covid fund. For any local groups who are looking for grants can register at: https://kentcf.org.uk/ and/or https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/kent or contact Clerk@hever.orgfor support. Draft minutes and the next agenda will appear on local noticeboards, Facebook and the website (www.hever.org) soon.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 22nd September, Hever village hall, 7pm planning and 7.30pm for full council meeting. As always, everyone is most welcome. We have Councillor vacancies in the Four Elms and Hever wards – so if you are interested please do contact clerk@hever.org We hold six meetings a year (early evenings across the villages) and are a friendly bunch supported by the employed Clerk who deals with the finances, processes and administration of the Council.

Planning news

From Sevenoaks District Council (the Planning Authority):

"Certain types of development, subject to some conditions, do not require full planning permission from us. These are called permitted developments. An Article 4 Direction can be used to remove specific permitted development rights. We have become aware of a piece of land that is being marketed north of Newhouse Farm Lane, Hever and it has been considered necessary to introduce an Article 4 Direction. It would be appreciated if you could encourage residents within your areas to make comment on this matter. https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20008/planning/523/article_4_directions_-_newhouse_farm_lane_hever_near_edenbridge

SDC have passed on information regarding this latest piece of land and the way it is being marketed to KCC Trading Standards." Hever Parish Council are in regular contact with SDC Planning on all planning matters, and will be considering the Newhouse Farm matter at the next meeting.

Finally, news from Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum:

"There seems to be a dearth of easy listening music on radio, so we were pleased to discover a new free radio station. Listeners can choose music from the 1930s/40s, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s 24 hours a day. The station can be accessed via any internet enabled device including computers, tablets, mobile phones, smart TVs and Alexas. Music for Dementia launched this service but having listened to the station we feel that anyone interested in taking a nostalgic, musical interlude down memory lane would enjoy tuning in: https://m4dradio.com/"

Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

business directory

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Agricultural Engineers		
Leppards	plant and machinery hire and more	01342 850888
Art		
The Topfoto Gallery	photo gallery, family albums, framing	01732 863 939
Bookkeeping		
David James	accountancy services	01892 871 139
Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
Building & Design Services		
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

After just over 4 months our church opened it's doors for a "live" Holy Communion service on 29th July. Despite social distancing and face masks it was still a great pleasure to see everyone.

And what an obedient flock we are, observing the rules in an effort to make life safer for all. During Simon's absence, on a well earned break, Sally Musson led us in Morning Prayer on Sunday 9th August. Another glorious Sunday with the summer sun streaming through the windows and doors.

However good it is to have the church open again, services are in a different format. No hymns for singing but a pleasure to sit and listen to Angela playing familiar hymns and trying to resist singing along. It is strange that the things which are taken as normal have now ceased and singing a hymn – with words known since childhood – is not permitted. A muffled hum seems to be acceptable (via a face mask) but it's not quite the same.

During September we shall be celebrating Harvest in Four Elms on Sunday 29th September but, of course, it will be probably be without the cheerful harvest hymns. We shall, as usual, be accepting gifts but these should be mainly of the canned variety as we have to have produce which is easily and safely handled to pass to the Edenbridge Food Banks and provide some local gifts as well. And finally … to all those students, A levels and GCSE'S we wish you well whatever your grades. For those starting a university career we wish you well and for children returning back to school we wish staff and pupils well and a happy term.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden



Hever parish lunch



Hever

After a long, hot and very dry summer we now begin the more mellow months of autumn in September. This month gives us the final part of this year's harvest - hopefully there will be some apples left on the trees! And of course our harvest festival. We will also hold our final parish picnic on Thursday 10th, Hever Village Hall field at the usual 12.30, once again under the Four Elms Gazebos that were such a success last month - staving off not the predicted thunderstorms but sunshine! (See photo on previous page). As we make up individual picnic boxes, please let me know if you wish to attend.

Something new this month will be Hever Forest Church on Sunday 13th at 3pm. This is outdoor church - we are taking church outside and into the natural world in our church grounds. Many people find that their most profoundly spiritual moments are when they are outdoors, in nature. So Forest Church will hopefully become a spiritual home not only for those looking to explore God through scripture but also for those outside the traditional church. This means that we will welcome our parishioners and those who prefer not to meet in the building but would like some time in peaceful contemplation with others in a friendly group developing a direct relationship with the world around them whilst being inspired to look after the planet we call home. Finding a time to slow down from the busyness of life in order to earth ourselves in what is truly important. This will be an all age service and whilst children might prefer to sit on the ground (or up a tree!) seating will provided, as will creative activities.

Traditional services will of course continue within our Church building and I look forward to seeing you there.
God bless

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

This morning there's a deep stillness to the air, a soft, almost-mist, gently wraps the landscape and is damping down all sound except that of the wood pigeons. There have again been no planes and no-one seems to be driving around, I could be quite alone in the world. It feels appropriate, August should be a month for doing restorative things and pausing before the 'New Term' of September. It's two days since the storm that broke the heatwave and it feels like the end of summer. I hope it isn't.

As we creak back into some sort of normality after the (first?) lockdown, I am consciously relishing these moments to contemplate, meditate and thank God for my blessings. I start the day early with a walk round the garden with Milly, and then take a cup of coffee, and settle into a chair somewhere in the garden to listen and look and empty my mind. Milly tends to jump up on my lap and together we enjoy that sense of peace.

And then my mind tends to be pulled to all the bad that is happening in the world and so I do the only thing I know that might help - I pray. How else can I enjoy the quiet gentle life I lead when others' lives are filled with such suffering? The people of Beirut and Belarus and so many other places must want to enjoy their gardens and drink their coffee in peace just as I do.

We all need to pray very hard for our politicians to find wisdom, to be driven by a sense of fairness and justice, to realise that the power they wield must be a force for good. Only a few years ago places like Beirut were delightful, liberal and sophisticated. We must pray to ensure our generous democratic values are not cast aside, and that we prevent our society following so many bad examples in sliding into corruption and a love of power for its own sake.

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

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

POSTER COMPETI TI ON

Calling all creative people 3-99 years old!!
Please draw, paint or make a collage for our Forest Church poster.

Please email us a picture of your poster before 7th September at beneficemail@gmail.com

AND YOU COULD WI N A BOX OF CHOCOLATES!

Church in September

Given the constantly changing situation, we are continuing with our services at each of the churches on a rotational basis and we will also 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. Please look at the website and Facebook page for information as well as for other spiritual help and information.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
6 September	Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20	Trinity 13
13 September	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35	Trinity 14
13 September	Forest Church in St.Peter's Hever church yard	Job 12: 7-10 Ephesians 4:23-24	Trinity 15
20 September	Holy Communion from St.Peter's Hever followed by Holy Baptism	Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-6	Trinity 15
27 September	Harvest festival and Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:16-20	Trinity 16

All services will be at 10.00am and you are strongly advised to wear a face mask. The Forest Church on 13th September is suitable for all ages and will be held at 3pm in the Hever churchyard. It is unlikely we will be able to hold our normal Harvest Festival on 29th September but do look out for details as to how we can thank God for his provision as well as provide our gifts to those less fortunate than ourselves. We also plan to provide some recorded material suitable for all ages during the month.

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
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
Elly Heard 01732 865564 or
Revd.Simon Braid (left)

our rector's thoughts

I'm delighted that we are now able to hold services in person, albeit still with heavy restrictions. Our service at Four Elms on 26th July was my first ever fully masked service and it did feel rather strange as well as challenging as my glasses steamed up!

Prior to the ruling at the end of July, there was much debate about the wearing of face masks. People felt it was infringing their liberty. They felt uncomfortable, embarrassed and significantly less able to communicate given the loss of facial expression. But now we are wearing face masks to protect each other and that includes in church.

Masks are necessary but difficult and they affect our relationships. We can feel it hides our personality. Indeed we say someone has 'put on a mask' to mean that they are hiding who they really are. Maybe, when we think about God, he may seem hidden from us, as if he too is wearing a mask. Wouldn't it be good if he could just reveal himself; all the more so when we're facing so many difficulties. Or perhaps we see God as a stern judge and want to hide away ourselves – even put on a mask before we approach him. The Bible talks about faces being 'veiled'.

For example, when Moses came down Mount Sinai after the giving of the Ten Commandments, it is written that he had to veil his face. He had been in God's presence and as a result his face shone so brightly that the people were afraid. The Christian gospel is that God has unmasked himself and revealed himself in Jesus. St.Paul says that when someone turns to Christ the veil is taken away 2 Corinthians 3:16. And this is the experience of many who become Christians – me included; it is like the scales dropping from our eyes and so we can see clearly.

Can I encourage you all to wear the physical face masks as directed to help protect each other. But at the same time, have a think about what unseen masks we might be wearing. There is great freedom in feeling comfortable in our own skin and that often comes from knowing we are loved by others, by our family and friends and most of all by God, who has unmasked himself in Jesus.

Keep safe – keep well – keep praying

God bless you all

Simon



gardening

We trust you are all well and have managed to get through lockdown safely.

Here at How Green it is amazing we're even in the position to pen these pages as a business! As the news broke on 23rd March we thought the future for the nursery was bleak – could we make it to our 40th year next year? Happily we were able to adapt our practices to suit our trade customers and our 'contactless' home delivery service has been and still is very popular with the public.



The government's decision to reopen garden centres in May took sales to another level. We un-furloughed all our staff bar one who was in the high risk bracket. We in fact bettered sales in May/June/July compared to last year! We are delighted to say we will still be here and growing again for next year and we are even recruiting!

Although the general economic future is uncertain horticulture and gardening has seen an upturn in fortune in these difficult times. There has been a focus on outdoor space, especially in the height of lockdown. The weather has been fantastic and with many people with plenty of time on their hands, gardening has been a saviour! Gardening is both great for physical fitness and great for the mind.

We know there have been so many people new to gardening that are now hooked. No more evident than in Tunbridge Wells where we had our pop-up shop. During what would have been Chelsea Flower Show week, we ran a competition and urged locals to send in photos of their gardens. We issued gold medals to the worthy winners and 'Best in Show' went to a couple who had never gardened before lockdown!

People have had time to assess how they live their lives – many will continue to work from home and not make the arduous journey to London each day. Gardens and outdoor spaces could become even more important to people going forward. Certainly our garden designer customers are seeing more enquiries than ever at the moment.

And what of the virus? Again, it is difficult to say what will happen and for how long, but unfortunately there seems to be a trend here and in Europe for localised spikes. With this in mind, we've had to make the decision to cancel our September public open weekend. However, as we have done throughout the pandemic, we have adapted and we have some ideas in the pipeline for you! Please check our website and social media for news nearer the time.

All is left to say is please stay safe and keep on gardening!!

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2018**					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38	96	70
	2019	28	33	54	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112	115	114
	2020	66	106	55	38	6	45	21					
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	25					
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	31.6					

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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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