THE LINK

October 2020







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- Farewell and thanks to our amazing printer
- All about acorns
- A potted history of Markbeech part 2
- A profile of Gerry Ryan
- Don't miss the bus!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the October edition

We dedicate this edition to Phil Lotter of Newgraphic, our printer, who is retiring this month. Phil, we are so grateful to you for all you have done for the Link and indeed the whole community, banners, leaflets, programmes and Links have rolled off your press on time, and better looking, than when they went in. My Link co-editor Bridget Harris writes:

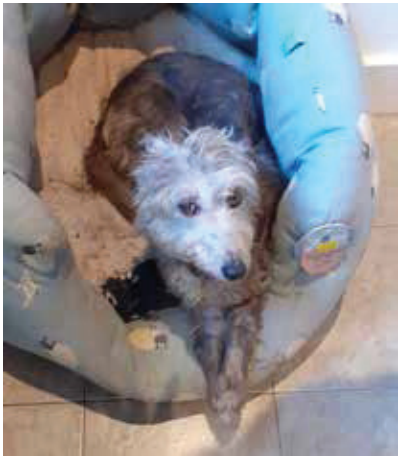
"As anyone who has ever worked with Phil will tell you, he is the nicest, most patient, most easy going person one could hope to meet. His unfailing good humour and kindness have made producing the Link for the last two years a real pleasure. And he thinks about what he's producing and as a result has caught my careless errors before they are duplicated 300 times. I am so very grateful to him and will miss him so much."

A couple of extra points.. the Edenbridge Open Day is on 3rd October - still going ahead at the time of writing. Also, you will see in these pages a few photos of the Hever scarecrows. Congratulations all for your brilliant creativity.

Joanna Wade



pet of the month



“When you wish upon a star……” along comes Gladys

Last November, Albus, my well known dog in the neighbourhood, suddenly became extremely ill and the inevitable happened. Although Albus was a “handfull” he was very precious to me and despite having two cats, the house was very empty when he died.

Then Coronavirus hit us. This meant that I was unable to visit rescue centres to get another companion. At the beginning of May I received a text message from my great niece to say there is a stray dog that needs a home – was I interested? A very positive reply was quickly sent.

So life with Gladys, a long hair grey and white Lurcher, commenced. She was extremely nervous and not a flicker of a wag in her tail which was kept down all the time. She was very reluctant to eat, not even stealing the cats’ food. The dog bed I had for Albus wasn’t large enough for Gladys so a large luxurious one was purchased. Of course I couldn’t leave her in the kitchen, so started the habit of her sleeping in my bedroom.

Gladys is one of the best companions I could have. She is so lady-like and gentle. Never leaves me and although, presumably hasn’t had any training, walks on and off the lead by my side. With some reluctance she will share her bed with one of the cats but is never aggressive. She never barks but does make the odd ‘squeak’ so not mute, but the disadvantage is I don’t always know if someone has called at the front door.

Gladys is not a typical name for a dog, this comes from my childhood. My father was always a tease. One occasion I was sent to our local hardware store for a jar of elbow grease! The other tease was pretending that Gladys lived under the bath. When he was shaving he would start talking to Gladys and I would run in to see her only to be told that I was too late, she had gone under the bath. I never found Gladys despite sliding on my tummy on the lino floor to get under the bath!! That is why I have kept the memory and name.

Although we are restricted in our movements due to the virus, how fortunate we are to live in this glorious open area and now I have a great companion to walk. Thank you Gladys. Wishes do sometimes come true.

Jan

Editor’s note: Jan says she now wags a bit and her eyes look happy

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

HISTORIC HOUSE • COLLECTIONS • VENUE

What's Coming Up in October

Bring a Friend for Free!
During October, bring a friend or family member and your copy of the village magazine with you to the Castle for buy one get one free entry! Discover the home of the eccentric Denys Eyre Bower and his collection of curiosities. Finish your visit with a delicious homemade cream tea or cake from our Tea Room takeaway.

Explore the Castle and Collections
Plan a day at the Castle on Sundays and Mondays during October. Entry from 11am to 4.15pm (close at 5pm). Tickets £9.50 adult. £4.50 children.
We are operating a one-way system inside the Castle. It is now a requirement to wear a face covering and to fill out an NHS Test and Trace form. More details https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Tea Room Treats
Hot drinks, locally-made cakes, fresh cream teas, and more are still being served from our takeaway Tea Room during our open hours.

Enjoy the Grounds. Fish the Lake
On any day of the week, the grounds are a perfect place for an autumn walk. Enjoy the woodland, lake, lawns, and beautiful Victorian Orangery. It is also possible to fish the lake for £10 per two rods.
More details at https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Celebrate!
Our virtual viewing for weddings and celebrations 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.

Note from our Curator Naomi
We are very grateful for your continued support, donations, and visits. Whilst closed, we installed new displays in the Japanese Room. They tell the story of Denys' remarkable collecting and showcase some of the highlights. From samurai armour and iron dragons, to gold-lacquered picnic sets and ancient tomb figures, Denys was captivated by the skill of Japanese craftsmen. Artefacts which have been in storage are now back on display, including the Chiddingstone Casket, a rare 17th-century lacquer jewel box.

Local history | Japanese, Egyptian, Buddhist and Jacobite collections | Tudor origins
Victorian rooms | 35 acres of woodland, lawns and fishing lake | Take away Tea Room

Year-round availability for weddings, parties, corporate events, groups & school visits.
We follow COVID-19 government guidelines to respect visitor and staff well-being.

www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk
Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7AD - 01892 870347 - hello@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Lotter – a name in print!

It was at least 35 years ago that I came to realise that when I wanted serious printing done I went to Newgraphic.

At that time it was run by Bill Lotter, Phil's father. I don't remember when he was joined by his apprentice Phil, but when Bill retired Phil just merged seamlessly into the printer-in-residence and of choice.

I remember my first jobs for Phil involving metal sheets (lithography), which then later became computer-driven typography, always executed with courteous professionalism. Apart from when he would disappear on holidays to Cyprus, the Alps, skiing, or bicycling and returning occasionally with a broken limb, Phil provided a service second-to-none - he would rapidly revise texts, often over weekends, and our record was something like 120 revises.

I used to think that I was his only customer, which was clearly not the case, but he gave such personal attention that there must be many in Edenbridge and its surrounds who will feel equally bereft by no longer being able to call upon his services.

I wish him a long, peaceful and well-deserved retirement, free of demands from the likes of me.

Andrew Izod

When Phil finally shuts up shop, closes his printing machine, distributes the boxes of unused paper we will all feel a bit sad.

Phil has been the stalwart of our rapid service printing. Be it posters (encapsulated), funeral services, church services or a myriad of different printing jobs, Newgraphic in Edenbridge was the place to go.

Requests could be emailed to him one day and the printing would be ready for pick up the next. You could fit in your shopping at a certain supermarket nearby so it was a brilliant system. Also it was always good to pick up the work and chat to him about his holidays or the roadworks in Edenbridge.

He never seemed frustrated when copy was sent in non compatible software and he even took the trouble to be a copy reader as well. His printer's eye picking up those silly errors.

We all wish Phil a happy farewell. I am certain he will spend his time enjoying the pursuits that he couldn't quite fit in whilst working. Thank you Phil and also thank you to his assistant Janet (now retired).

They made life very easy for us all.

Christina Hodson

A big year for acorns



Huge acorns are everywhere this year - it is known as a “mast year” - from the old English “maest” meaning nuts of forest trees (the photograph shows a selection with a £1 coin for scale). Why do trees do this? The Woodland Trust provides a widely accepted answer:

“One of the major theories amongst scientists for this behaviour is predator satiation. Many animals including mammals and birds feed on this woodland fruit. The trees in effect holding back for a few years keeps these populations low. Then during a mast year, more food is produced than these frugivores can possibly eat, ensuring that some seeds will start to grow.

This has a major evolutionary advantage for the tree. Producing seeds is costly work so it’s important that some of the fruit will grow. Producing fruit in a mast year does stunt growth of the tree but as this only occurs every five to ten years, it’s a worthy pay off to ensure the production of more saplings.”

Our pigs hope there will be a few left for them - all donations welcome, they really do love them.

Joanna Wade

Daren Wood chimney sweep

We are truly delighted to announce that Daren Wood is fit again and back at work. Details in the business directory and in his advert.

Welcome back Daren.

Falconhurst Farmshop in Covid times

These past few months have been quite a roller coaster at Falconhurst. From quiet beginnings just before Christmas when the shop opened, to Easter with queues stretching down Falconhurst drive with people clamouring for eggs, flour and pasta.

We are now settling down to a happy routine of a steady flow of customers: some local and walking from their homes with knapsacks on their backs, some on horseback, some on bikes, both pedal and electric, and quite a few from further afield who have heard tell of a pretty little shop selling delicious things.



Dan and Charlie, who are both the brains and brawn behind the shop, have worked non stop to keep the shop stocked with imaginative and delectable things to keep us all content during these difficult times. The rationale of the shop is to provide good ethically and locally produced products that will tickle the taste buds and to create a pleasing environment to shop. The cheese counter is probably a focus for many with soft lemony goats cheeses, perfect for a summer salad, creamy blue cheeses such as the aptly named 'Blue Clouds', perfect to follow a sumptuous dinner, and the divine Plaw Hatch raw cows milk cheddar style cheese, perfect for a ploughman's lunch, made in Forest Row.

More recently we have been able to introduce a range of vegetables grown here at Falconhurst. We are attempting to grow new vegetables that you can only get here – mixed bags of green, yellow and black French beans; mixed bags of salad leaves; heritage mixed tomatoes as well as figs, apples, plums and pears that have been grown here for generations. The range will get wider as we gain more experience. Our farm is able to supply some organically grown beef, pork and lamb to the shop – it's very much a case of watching out on social media to bag your joint!

'We Fill' – a small company specialising in refilling containers with soaps, shampoos, cleaning products etc are now visiting Falconhurst on the first Saturday of each month. The products have an excellent scent (or none at all) and are an excellent price and it's not necessary to bring your own empty container. We hope to create more alliances with guest producers in the future.

There were plenty of things that didn't happen this year such as supper clubs and wine tastings but hopefully we will find new ways of creating a safe environment to provide new and innovative experiences.

Nicola Talbot

a potted history of Markbeech part 2

From the sixteenth until the nineteenth centuries Markbeech continued to grow as an agricultural community, raising cattle, pigs and sheep and growing oats, wheat and barley.

The village was transformed, however, by the arrival in 1850 of the Talbot family. John Chetwynd Talbot, Q.C. was the fourth son of the 2nd Baron Talbot and had become extremely wealthy through his activities at the Parliamentary Bar promoting railway construction.

In 1850 he bought most of what had been the Manor of Cowden Lewisham. He built a grand country mansion, Falconhurst, and as a Tractarian, Markbeech's first church, designed by David Brandon and consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 14 December, 1852. Also he constructed several cottages in Cow Lane and a school at the crossroads, which remained functional until closed in 1945.

Wooden churches had been erected at Cowden and Hever in Jutish times, but stone replacements were built in the twelfth century and these essentially are the churches one can see today. Immediately Talbot set about getting an ecclesiastical parish for the new church, which was achieved by lopping off bits of Cowden and Hever. Owning the advowson Talbot nominated Robert Shapland Hunt, an Irish priest he had met in Florence on a tour of Italy as Vicar and Hunt was to stay until his death in 1904. W.E. Gladstone Prime Minister, who was related to the Talbots by marriage and who stayed at Falconhurst, attending worship in both Markbeech and Hever, said of Hunt that he 'felt too much'. In 1853 a chiming clock by the famous maker Bernard Vulliamy was installed in the tower. Edells was designated as the Vicarage, but in 1904-05 a new vicarage, designed by John Coleridge, a pupil of Lutyens, was built in Cow Lane, nearer the centre of the village. The parish was transferred in 1905 from the diocese of Canterbury to that of Rochester. When Rev. Bernard Wigan left in 1965 no new Vicar was appointed and Markbeech was joined to Hever and Four Elms, although legally it remains an autonomous parish.

In 1854 the Talbots founded Falconhurst Cricket Club, which although an estate club eventually transformed to being the cricket club of Markbeech. It is still thriving.

Starting in 1865 the London, Brighton and South Coast railway began to construct a railway through or, rather, under Markbeech with stations for Cowden and Hever.. This was to lead to the only event for which Markbeech can be said to be known nationally, namely the Markbeech Riots of 5-6 August, 1866. By premeditation native navvies attacked foreign navvies at the Cowden end of Markbeech Tunnel. Fighting continued down



the workings to Edenbridge, where the rioters were quelled by a large contingent of police, backed, though not used, by troops brought from Folkestone. Consequently the workings were abandoned and construction was not revived until 1884 when the line from Hurst Green to Groombridge, Crowborough, Uckfield and Lewes was opened. It was planned that the line would be used by boat trains from Newhaven. Steam locomotion was stopped in the mid-1960's to be replaced by diesel electrics. A proposal to electrify the route, first devised in the 1930's, has never materialised.

The twentieth century saw the erection of a new village hall in 1924. Electricity came to the village in 1946 and for the Millenium the first ever history of Markbeech was published and an iron sign was placed at the crossroads, where an oak tree had been planted for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887.

In 2000 Markbeech became part of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and parts of the centre of the village were granted Protected Status. The censuses up to 1911 show that the population remained stable up to 1914 and that 95% of the residents were employed on the Falconhurst Estate. Today there is very little agricultural employment and the village has become one of retirees and commuters to neighbouring towns and London. We wait to know whether the release of the 1921 Census will show the effects, if any, of the First World War.

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

happy retirement Gerry

Gerry Ryan has retired as Chair of the Trustees of Hever Village Hall after 18 years. The Link pays tribute to the long and varied service which he has given to the Hever community.

But first, a little history Gerry was born in Halifax in 1935 where his father was an RSPCA inspector. Young Gerry emerged from Liverpool University with a physics and maths degree which he put to good use during national service with the RAF, working on air radar.

On discharge he was quickly snapped up by a small company called IBM - he was its 110th employee! He supported the heavy, bulky installations which were the very earliest computers – punched card machines which stored and then spat out data on demand, and also electronic calculators which even in the late 50s were capable of calculating a payroll.



In 1959 Gerry moved to Philips (salary £2,000 a year) and here he spent the majority of his career, an interesting time of intense change in the world of IT.

By 1974 Gerry's first marriage had ended, he had married Jan and they had decided on an adventure. She says that Gerry asked "Where would you like to go?" and she replied "somewhere warm" - so they moved to Canada, Gerry as "Vice President information systems" and their baby Ben only 10 days old! Over those five years they fostered teenage boys and pursued their enduring involvement in amateur dramatics, Gerry on the technical side and Jan acting.

Returning in 1980 they found Sandfield Cottage in Hever, next to the station. It was pretty derelict and Gerry worked all hours to restore it, drawing the line when it came to thatching. Jan started working at the Castle and when Gerry left Philips he started a consultancy "GRIT" - Gerry Ryan IT - free advertising on every grit bin in the country says Jan, in the course of which he held significant roles such as IT Director for the Granada Media Group.

As work wound down in the early 90s Gerry turned his attention to his community. He was a founder member of Hever Residents Association, working hard to stop both the school being closed and an outbreak of barn conversions and organising the famous fireworks until 2018.

He was on the Parish Council for ten years and our councillor on Sevenoaks District Council for nine. There was also time for fun such as driving (in between breakdowns) the London to Brighton in one of Chris Dane's 1904 De Dion-Boutons.

Gerry took over from David Woollett as Chairman of the Hall in 2002. It had been given to the village by the Astors as a reading room when the navvies who dug the lake had left (they used a long rope stretched across the hall as a pillow at night) and adapted into a village hall. Gerry has worked tirelessly, with Jan, to run the hall and has been leading upgrade plans which his successor, Mandy Yarnold, will continue.

The Ryans remain on the committee so we wish him very well in his only-semi-retirement, his three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild will be pleased to see a little more of him.

Joanna Wade

Go2 new bus services

The existing bus services have been replaced by what will eventually be a door to door on demand service.



At present because of social distancing Go2 is only operating buses on demand to and from the bus stops in our area. In time the buses will be replaced by vans which will come to your door and drop the user off where ever they choose.

There is no longer a timetable, within the service area shown on the map you summon the bus as required (around here the service runs from 9.30 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday) and the bus will be at your chosen stop within 30 minutes.

One way fares for adults range from £2.50 for under 2.5 miles to £5 between 4 and 8 miles. Children's fares are a flat £2.50 each way. Those with a concessionary pass travel for free up for 8 miles. All adults pay £6.50 each way for any journey over 8 miles. The service operates within the area shown on the map from one bus stop to another (even if those stops used to be on different routes).

To use the service you first need to register using the Go2 Sevenoaks app or by phoning 01732 463 964.

Bridget Harris

Stewarding at the Eden Valley Museum

Eden Valley Museum is something of a hidden treasure of the Eden Valley, a social history museum covering the rich history of the towns and villages. Largely run by volunteers, our stewards are the heart of the Museum. If you can give a few hours of your time each month as a steward you will be part of a friendly, welcoming team.

Now we have re-opened we are in more need than ever to keep the public safe and new stewards will be given full guidance and training by the House Manager. If you feel you can give your time please get in touch via email: curator@evmt.org.uk

We asked one of our long-standing stewards to give some feedback on his experience of the role and what it means to him, have a read of his thoughts and see if helping the Museum as a steward might be for you.

Martin Frost
House Manager
Eden Valley Museum

My mantra has always been "you get out of something that which you put in." My wife and I really enjoy our time there, giving something back to the community and would urge anyone with some time to spare to volunteer as a steward to enable this excellent tourist attraction to open as frequently as possible. It really is something that the local area should be proud of.

Unsurprisingly, the more volunteers there are the easier it is to fill the times when the museum can open. For many years now my wife and I have covered a Saturday morning (10am-1pm) once a month. The visitors range from a quick look lasting for 5 minutes to those that stay for a couple of hours showing real interest and deriving real pleasure from the exhibitions. Those that can be given information regarding a relative or a property connected with same are always grateful. I am helped by the fact that my wife happens to be 5th generation Edenbridge but the museum also offers an excellent research service if the stewards are unable to help on the day.

Richard Johnson
Steward

To keep up to date with other Museum business find us at
www.evmt.org.uk
https://www.facebook.com/edenvalleymuseum
https://twitter.com/EdenMuseumKent
https://www.instagram.com/evmtrust/

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

I'm afraid Sevenoaks District Council are not offering the (paid for) service of the bulk refuse freighter collection for the rest of this year, so we shall have to wait until the start of 2021 and be on their waiting list.

Planning news

http://hever.org/hever-parish-council-comment-to-sevenoaks-district-council-on-article-4-placed-on-land-newhouse-farm-lane-hever

Hever Parish Council support the Article 4 Directions placed by SDC on land bordering both Hever Parish and Edenbridge Town (Newhouse Farm Lane), with this being communicated to the current owners, the current tenants, the buyer, the buyer's agent and the two companies marketing the land.

We believe this is justified in order to control works that could threaten the character of an area of acknowledged importance, to protect the wellbeing of the area, noting the exceptional circumstances of the location (Green Belt and directly on the boundary of the High Weald AONB) where the exercise of permitted development rights would harm local amenity, the historic environment and the proper planning of the area. This rural landscape is characterised by rough grassland, an irregular pattern of small to medium scale fields punctuated with small woods and frequent narrow strips of woodland.

We also welcome that SDC have shared their concerns regarding the way the site is being marketed to KCC Trading Standards

Earlier this month, the Government published three consultations on reform of the planning system:

Planning for the future

- the planning white paper.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907956/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf

Changes to the current planning system https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_version.pdf

Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transparency-and-competition-a-call-for-evidence-on-data-on-land-control

Anyone can comment on these and Hever Parish Council will be considering its response at the next meeting.

Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

Get in touch to discuss your 2021 Sussex Lund project!

Calling all landowners, farmers, community groups, trusts, charities,

town and parish councils, schools and individuals who own or manage land in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):

If you've spent time during lockdown thinking about how you could improve your corner of the High Weald for wildlife or scenic beauty, there may be funding - if needed - through the Sussex Lund 2021 grant programme. The scheme offers grants of up to £10,000 for small-scale, practical projects that improve the landscape and ecology of the High Weald.

Whether you're thinking of creating a meadow on your land, managing your community greenspace for wildlife or creating new habitat in your school grounds, get in touch with the AONB team now by emailing sussexlund@highweald.org for a chat about your potential project - and to arrange a socially-distanced advisory site visit from one of our team members to guide your project and application to meet the Fund's criteria.

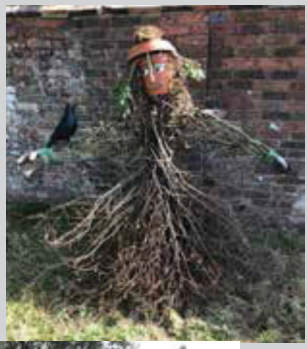
The deadline for applications is February 2021, but we strongly recommend making contact as soon as possible as all site visits must be carried out by the end of November 2020. You don't need a detailed plan for your project right now - just an inspiring idea!

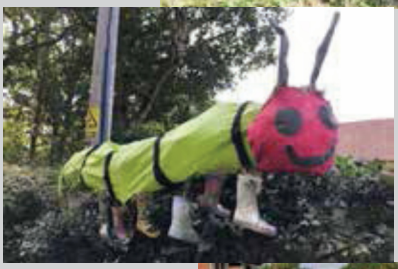
Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

scarecrows 2020

Thanks to everyone who has entertained us this year with their ingenuity and humour.

Jane Higgs' ***Hazel***





John & Jacqi Adkins' ***Caterpillar***

Doug & Carol Bowern's ***The Tiger who Came to Tea***





Jane Rosam's ***Bee with Flowers***

district council news

This month's column is devoted to the Government's planning white paper, 'Planning for the future', the recent launch attracting so much media interest.

Let's start with the reason for the document. The principal objectives are to deliver additional new homes each year, to reach an annual target of 300,000 and making housing more affordable. To achieve this, a planning system which is simpler, faster and more predictable is proposed.

It sounds an appealing prospect but it is flawed as it relies on two misconceptions. First, that the planning system, as imperfect as it is, is the main obstacle to the creation of those homes. Second, that housebuilders are willing to supply at a rate which makes homes affordable. Given that the 300,000 target is the driving force behind these reforms, for all of the welcome consideration of community, beauty and infrastructure, it is only reasonable to conclude that those will always be secondary.

Now, the proposals stretch to eighty-four pages, and there are associated documents with which they ought ideally to be read. Therefore, the focus here is what it means for our immediate patch. The idea is that each inch of the country be given one of three designations: Growth, Renewal, or Protected and applications are tested against a set of rules, in some cases by algorithm. It's not a new idea. Nor is it untested. But, if poorly defined, it risks removing the existing system's (admittedly sometimes infuriating) subjectivity, placing greater weight on quantitative rather than qualitative assessments. As bewildering as it can sometimes be, both policies and outcomes tend to be complex and imperfect because life is too. Unless great care is taken, a painting by numbers approach to planning risks creating more problems than it solves.

The good news is that it is proposed that the Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Conservation Areas receive the Protected classification, meaning that applications will be determined similarly to how they are now. All three of the villages in our Benefice would therefore be covered. However, Edenbridge would not.

There is no doubt the planning system needs root and branch reform, there are advantages to zonal planning systems, and the white paper contains some welcome suggestions. I remain, though, to be convinced that the headline reforms are those that are required to achieve the stated outcomes, be that to improve the planning system or the supply and affordability of housing. Nonetheless, as you would expect, my colleagues and I are working to respond constructively to the proposals and you may be assured I will continue to keep you posted on how things progress.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
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m. 07910 328 110
Instagram: mycornerofkent

schooltime

news from Four Elms

Back to school at last!
We are delighted that all the children are now back in school. We also welcome our new reception children! In the village, it is lovely to hear again the joyful cries of the children whilst they play outside with their friends whom they have been separated from for so long. School is slightly different, with 'bubbles', one way systems for drop off and pick up, staggered lunch time and break times, and school dinners and packed lunches eaten in classrooms. Frequent handwashing is now the norm. But most children are very happy to be back in the classroom (as are most parents I imagine!).

'Curiouser and curiouser'
Term started with a bang with a new whole school experience based on Alice in Wonderland. A surprise awaited the children when they arrived on Monday morning as they were transported to the fanciful, whimsical world of Alice. The teachers dressed up to immerse the children in the experience. Each class has their own key question which they will answer as part of the experience.

Class 2 are learning: **How can I represent my understanding of a chapter within a book?**
To answer this question, they are creating collages to represent the White Rabbit's house and creating an audio version of the chapter where Alice goes into the White Rabbit's house. They will also be making special potions and taking part in a drama activity where the children will imagine that they are very big and very small.

Class 3 are being asked: **How can I use artistic techniques to create a 'mad' world where Alice meets the Cheshire Cat?**
The Cheshire Cat has been hidden on their classroom walls. By learning how to make UV torches, they will search for the cat who should appear as if by magic! The children will produce a well written imaginative piece of writing describing the scene when Alice meets the Cheshire cat.



Class 4 want to know: **What is the Queen's side story and how can I represent this through textiles?.**
They are learning about perspective and that there are often two sides to every story. Why is the Queen of Hearts so angry? And why does she want to chop everyone's head off? To go alongside this, they will be creating a class collage piece to represent a rose garden and the flowers changing from white to red. The children are learning basic sewing skills whilst being presented with the challenge of following written and verbal instructions. What a great start to the school year!

Nicole Holt

news from Hever

Over the summer we made many plans for the full re-opening of Hever Primary. After such a long period out of formal education, it is critical for children's academic and social development to return to school and we feel very safe for them to do so.



We have had a very successful return to school and it is joyous to see all of our students learning and playing together. We have been impressed with the way students have adapted to our new ways of working.

They have been co-operative and considerate of others by remaining in their year group pods at all times, moving calmly and sensibly around the school and adhering to our new rules including sanitising their hands during the day. Attendance has been high so far, and students have been punctual to school and lessons, and the quality of work produced in lessons has been high across all year groups.

What a fantastic start to school for our new Acorns! All the children have been so brave to say goodbye at the gate in the mornings and have walked into school ready to start their day. We have been amazed at how quickly they have settled in. Well done Acorns! Their first focus has been to build relationships and develop confidence to explore their new setting. They are learning new routines and expectations and becoming more independent.



In the rest of the school the children have settled well into their new classes and are getting to know their new teachers.

We have had our very first virtual Celebration Worship. The children enjoyed celebrating the achievements of one another and sharing in a moment of reflection and prayer. The children were congratulated on their successful return to school and how well they have adapted to the new systems in place. We officially welcomed our lovely Acorn Class children to the Hever community and wished our new Year 6 Oak class well in their final year. Head Boy and Head Girl led us in a prayer as we remembered 9/11 on the 19th anniversary.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

business directory

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Venue Hire and Weddings		
Chiddingstone Castle		01892 870347
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

Hever

September was a busy month in Hever. The second Parish Picnic took place outside the village hall and fortunately we were blessed with excellent weather! The Four Elms gazebos were once again useful shade from the sun rather than protection from rain. As the weather turns more autumnal, we shall take guidance on what we do this month, so please check the website and listen out for the notices at services.

Many of you will have heard the Church bells ring on Saturday 12th. Whilst we have not yet resumed regular ringing, we were very happy to ring for the wedding of Stacey and Ellie. Guidance dictated that we should only ring for 15 minutes and we were very glad of that as after 6 months of no ringing we soon realised that we were not as 'match fit' as we once were! That said it was very nice to ring those lovely old bells again and particularly to wish the happy couple well.

Hever Bellringers also took part on their bicycles in the Annual Ride and Stride event raising £510 for St Peter's church and the Kent Churches Trust. Many thanks to all of you who helped sponsor us.

Finally we held our first ever Forest Church in the Church grounds. Our aim is to take church out of the church building and into nature, where those who relate better to an outdoor spirituality can slow down from the busyness of daily life and connect with the natural world to learn, worship and meditate whilst taking inspiration from all that is around us. October's Forest Church will be on 11th October at 4pm and we are delighted that the Bishop of Tonbridge will be attending.

Finally it has been lovely to see and hear the Hever School children return after such a long absence.

God Bless.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Four Elms

Times are strange. We are unable to sing our favourite hymns, just hum but it is so good that so many attend our services. Our September service was especially good with pre Autumn sunshine streaming through the beautiful windows here in St. Paul's Church.

The lovely weather makes it so much easier to manage Holy Communion, an important part of any Christian's worship. We are able to exit after Communion through the East door thus keeping social distancing.

The Church has had all books and non necessary items removed and it certainly makes for easier deep cleaning. St. Paul's is fortunate to have a very happy band of cleaners. We are always pleased to welcome more help if you feel so inclined, once a month on Saturday morning, before the Sunday service.

We thank all those who participated in the Friends of Kent Ride and Stride on 12 September. It was a lovely

day and I know that those who did either the cycling or walking enjoyed the day very much and thank you to those who sat outside our lovely church to welcome participants.

May we all pray for a peaceful Autumn and likewise pray that the Winter season is not as grim as some forecasters indicate. Finally, at our All Souls Service at 6 pm on 1 November we especially welcome those who have lost loved ones and wish them to be remembered.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Markbeech

As I write the temperature is in the high 20s and it feels as if summer will never end, but we are all too aware now that things change in a flash and things that we never imagined might happen change the course of our lives.

I will never forget the summer picnic service held at the end of last month at Holy Trinity. Our congregation full of families, young and old, sitting higgledy piggeldy around the gravestones, no pomp, no ceremony, just plain worship, prayer and a modern action song to boot. Hardly the rather high Anglo Catholic tradition of Markbeech! Things do change in our lives and I feel that in this benefice we are truly embracing the change and I thank you, Markbeechers, for all your support.

We had an interesting visitor in our church recently, Dr Clare Thackray, commissioned by The Bat Conservation Trust to do a bat survey. Clare erected her slo camera in the church to look for bat activity. She found a lot of droppings and walls marked by bat urine. Lovely! Bats are still in serious decline in this country. They play an important part in pollination and pest control so we must look after them. I will let you know the results.

So, what can we look forward to? Today I was comforted by learning in my 'Bible in One Year' podcast, that the Chinese symbol for the word 'crisis' is two lines: one meaning 'danger' and the other 'opportunity'. Maybe with continued prayer we can find new opportunities at this time. We can continue to meet in our churches, vigilant about distancing, mask wearing and sanitising. I am hopeful that we can introduce more music too, in a safe way with just a few singers.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden



Church in September

Thankfully worship and certain church activities are exempt from the recent 'rule of six' and so we are continuing with our services at each of the churches on a rotational basis, please wear a face mask.. We'll also continue to live stream and record these services which can be accessed via https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice and by phone by calling 01732 927132. Please look at the website and Facebook page for information and spiritual help.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
4 October 10am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	Trinity 17
11 October 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Trinity 18
11 October 4pm	Forest Church in St.Peter's Hever church yard	To be arranged	Trinity 19
18 October 3pm	Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-6	Trinity 15
25 October 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Nehemiah 8	Last after Trinity
1 November 10am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31	All Saints
1 November 6pm	All Souls Commemoration of the Faithful departed at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lamentations 3:17-26, 31-33 John 6:37-40	All Saints

We are continuing to hold our Zoom Evening prayer 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 6pm.

We have been advised that we are able to hold our Annual Parochial Meetings in person and these will therefore take place in the respective churches as stated below. Anyone is welcome to attend but to vote and contribute, you need to be on the church electoral roll (if you would like an electoral roll form, please let us know).

7pm Wednesday 14th October St.Peter's Hever

7.30pm Thursday 15th October Holy Trinity, Markbeech

7pm Tuesday 20th October St.Paul's, Four Elms

Please note that we have a vacancy for two Church Wardens at Hever. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Simon.

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

our rector's thoughts

October 25th is Bible Sunday. Before you switch off, did you know that the Bible is by far the most popular book in the world having sold an estimated total of about 5 billion with about 20 million sold each year? Having said that, many of us may have had a Bible given at our christening or confirmation only for it to then remain on a bookshelf and rarely opened.

One reason is that the Bible is rather long. That's because it's actually made up of 66 books including History, Laws, Poetry, Prophecy, stories about Jesus and the Early church, letters and the Revelation. It's also rather old having been written between about 2,000 BC and 100AD. If we're reading it in the King James version, we can enjoy the beautiful Shakespearean language, but parts can seem rather inaccessible and, notwithstanding the plethora of excellent modern translations, it can still seem rather puzzling.

Of course, we remember those stories like Noah's ark, which still delight children today. In addition, the Bible has had an incredible influence on English literature and contributed to our national life. If you look around, there are passages of scripture everywhere. For example, words from Psalm 127 'Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labour in vain.' are inscribed into the stone floor of the central lobby of the Houses of Parliament.

Christians believe that although the Bible was written by human writers, God inspired them by the Holy Spirit as they wrote. This is why the Bible is often referred to as 'God's word'. The Bible is also a precious book. In many parts of the world the Bible is banned and people are desperate to get copies: for example, in China since 2018 it has been forbidden to sell Bibles online! In the 18th Century a poor girl, Mary Jones walked 26 miles through the Welsh mountains to fulfil her dream of owning a bible. Her inspirational story led to the founding of the Bible Society in 1802.

The Bible is a powerful book that can and has changed lives. David Suchet, the famous actor, had a life transforming experience after reading a Gideon's Bible in a hotel room. Since then he has gone on to record a reading of the whole Bible. Why is the Bible so powerful? Simply because it tells the story of God's salvation culminating in Jesus.
So if you haven't got that bible off the bookshelf, why not during this time of restricted outside activity and as we go into autumn, give it a try. There's plenty of help available – the Bible Society is a good place to start https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/
I'll also be talking more about this at our Family communion on 25th October and providing some guidance – see you then!

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

Simon

gardening

With autumn upon us it is time to get busy planning to put the garden to bed for the winter and to think about the spring bulbs that will brighten up the early part of 2021.

Greenhouse and Vegetable Patch
As the last of the crops are harvested it is time to clear out the plants from tomatoes, cucumbers, beans etc. For those lucky enough to be able to have a bonfire that is a good disposal route, otherwise it is a trip to the dump to recycle the plant material. Once the greenhouse is empty we always wash down the glass and pots with a good dose of Jeyes Fluid to kill off unwanted diseases, we also spray the soil in the vegetable patch for the same reason.

In the main garden the fruit trees have given up the last of their bounty and we immediately prune back the plum tree, whilst leaving the apples and pears for a winter prune.

Hanging Baskets
Our hanging baskets have given a good display of colour all summer and are now coming to an end, we clear these out and wash down the basket before refilling the soil and replanting with plants that will give some winter colour, pansies and viola's are good for this purpose.

Lawn
After a long hot summer you realise what an amazing plant grass is because after a few days of rain it turns from a scorched brown to a vibrant green and of course starts growing again, Autumn is a good time to repair any bald patches, we simply score the surface and mix grass seed with a bit of topsoil to cover the offending gap, if it is dry a bit of watering is needed but otherwise the warm and wet weather will do the trick.

Borders
Now is the ideal time to clear up the borders, removing the annuals that have come to an end and cutting back the perennials such as peonies, crocosmia, irises, ferns and pruning roses to stop them swaying in the autumn and winter storms.

Now that you can see the soil it is time for a spot of weeding and turning the soil with a fork taking care around any spring bulbs that are lurking underneath, it is a good time to stock up the spring bulb display by planting additional daffodil and tulip bulbs.

Several of the perennials such as peonies and hosta are suitable for splitting if there is a significant clump, simply dig them out and divide with a garden spade, finding a suitable gap in the border to replant and water in, this effectively gives you a number of free plants which is always good. The final step is to cover the beds with mushroom compost, no need to dig it in as those earth worms will do the job for you over the autumn and winter months.

Hopefully this will give some food for thought and happy gardening. Finally thank you to the kind person who found an envelope for the Hever Hort and handed it to our Show Secretary I am very grateful!

David Dutton

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	42				
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	41.5				
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	49.25	31.6	36				

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
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
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Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the November edition should reach us no later than **15th October 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 22) 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