THE LINK

November 2020







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- Congratulations to Ian Yarnold
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- Autumn gardening tips
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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the November edition

I have been thinking about yellow sheep and root canal treatment this month. Driving through Wiltshire we passed a herd of sheep with bright yellow wool. This rather worried me at first but apparently farmers dye them yellow in order to defeat sheep rustling, a yellow sheep in a field of white is rather distinctive. I hope the idea catches on round here, if only to brighten up the winter a bit.

I cannot make much of a link between sheep and root canal treatment so I will just say that it turns out that this treatment is a modern wonder. When I was able to talk to my dentist without biting his fingers off I asked for the history. Apparently infected root canal was a huge killer in its day because the swelling, untreated, could block the airways. Everything was tried, including arsenic and pigeon droppings to defeat what some called “the white worm“ because surgeons could see the nerves and thought that they were worms, I am sorry if you are reading this at the wrong time of day, but thought it was interesting.

Closer to home, the existence of three healthy goldfish in a cow trough at least 10 minutes from the nearest road up near Chiddingstone Hoath has been a long-term fascination. They thrive there without the usual trappings of pond weed and fish food. What are they doing there? Has anyone any ideas? They even manage to avoid being drunk by the cows, see right.



Joanna Wade

PS thanks to Michael from Broxham for offering me some acorns for the pigs.

THE LINK

pet of the month



Tails of Brooke Cottage - another episode from Laura Palmer's menagerie - the Hever Puma

'There's a puma in your garden' says the friend who also 'found' me my sheep Baba. Well sure enough there was…the biggest, black cat I have ever seen. But it didn't belong to me. Puff lived with his sister Diddy at the Bower, up the road and Jenny tried several times to retrieve him, but he kept coming back to me. His sister also liked to wander and often slept at the Henry and set alarms off at the Castle out of hours.

Jenny gave in. 'I can see he loves you, so you can keep him!'
Puff believes that he is so big, he can sit in the middle of Uckfield Lane, hence the sign warning of Cat Crossing. However, Puff is huge for a reason. He also visits Penny at the Coach House, the Carnegy family at Crouch Cottage, and Hope Cottage. There are probably more! He is getting slower in his old age so we are not getting so many bunnies and mice brought in as presents these days, but he will follow me all around the garden like a puppy and can still jump the brook.

Interestingly, over the years several reliable people have told me of sightings of pumas very early in the mornings. According to Big Cats Kent there have been sightings nearby. Apparently, following the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976 those not able to meet new regulations sometimes release animals into woodland. There are so many rabbits etc for them to eat that they largely go unnoticed, roosting high in trees in dense woodland. Next time you're walking home from the pub, it might not be Puff that you bump into on your way home.



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What's Coming Up in November

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More details at https://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Celebrate With Us
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.

Christmas Fair
We are sorry to announce that our Christmas Fair has been cancelled this year due to government restrictions and guidance on social distancing.
Our yearly Christmas Fair is usually a wonderful community event bringing together local businesses and offering expertly handcrafted gifts. We are hoping to be able to run it again next year.

Call for Garden and Grounds Volunteers
We are currently looking for additional volunteers to help us maintain the garden and grounds over our closed season. If you are interested, please email hello@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk and we will be in touch.

Greetings from our Estate Manager, Mike
It has been great to see so many people using and enjoying the grounds and returning to the Castle over the last three months. Your continued kind support and donations in the honesty box have helped us through this difficult period. The grounds are always a pleasure to work in, but autumn in particular shows off their natural beauty and variety with the turn of the leaves. You may have noticed that the front windows of the Castle are looking bright, having just been repainted this autumn. During our closed season, I will be working on other projects to improve the condition of the historic building. Watch this space for our next open season, which will be April – October 2021.
Thank you

For upcoming events and announcements, please check our Instagram and Facebook pages.
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Allmans butchers

As so many of us know, Allman's butchers in Edenbridge High Street is a class act and one we would like to celebrate this month.



Photo courtesy of Eden Valley Museum

Terry Allman opened the Edenbridge shop, in what had been Skinners' butchers, in 1987. His parents had met in Charcott during the war when his father, a Wilmslow butcher, had been posted to Red Leaf barracks in Penshurst and his mother, a butcher's daughter from Bromley, was visiting relatives. They bought the Four Elms butchers shop in 1949 and when meat came off the ration in 1954 they reopened the abattoir behind the shop which the family has run ever since.

Very sadly, Terry died in 2012 but the shop in Edenbridge continues to thrive as a family business with Terry's son Jimmy, a fifth generation butcher, at the helm. Self promotion is not a family strength so it may not be obvious to the passer by that all the meat is free range, the lamb from Penshurst and Chiddingstone, the beef from local farms in Haxted and Underriver and chicken and pork from Suffolk. Their most popular products are home made sausages and chipolatas - they make about 200lbs a week.

Throughout the pandemic Allman's have continued to open and to deliver to those who were unable to get about. They have seen a welcome upturn in younger shoppers in recent months who keep them on their toes asking for more unusual cuts like bavette steaks and chicken's feet. Naturally they are happy to accommodate such requests and meet more traditional demands. We are very lucky to have a first rate butchers in the town and one staffed by friendly, skilful people to boot.

Bridget Harris

Blackwoods Cheese Company

will be raising their shutter door from 9am – 2pm every Saturday from October 24th – December 12th at Bore Place. The doorstop pop up will feature a range of local cheese, wines from England and abroad, beer, organic veg, provisions and their award winning raw milk soft cheeses.

Congratulations Ian!

Congratulations Ian Yarnold OBE
The citation for the Order of the British Empire, says: “THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of Her Majesty’s Birthday, to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire”. On the list is Ian Charles Yarnold, Head, International Vehicle Standards, Department for Transport, for services to Transport and Engineering. What a surprise when he opened an email in June to find an award - then he had to keep it secret until a few weeks ago.



Ian was brought up on a farm on top of the north downs. From an early age he was good at fixing things and when he left school at 16, keen to get on with something practical, he completed a four-year apprenticeship in Farningham as a car mechanic.

After a while he moved on to more demanding vehicles and eventually to a large truck haulage company in Erith. He enjoyed the work but it was hard, physical and dirty and one day he had a lightbulb moment watching a much older mechanic struggling across the yard, bent and dejected. Was this the future? Ian thought not, so he found a job at the Ministry of Transport as a vehicle examiner. This was to be the start of a very successful civil service career.

By 1984 he had married Mandy and they were living in Sevenoaks, on his patch as an MOT inspector was the garage at Horseshoe Green and John Surtees in Edenbridge. His talents did not go unnoticed because, aged 35, he became the first person the Ministry had ever allowed to take day release to study. He was, in those days, an unusually mature student and he emerged from Southbank University with an engineering degree. The studying had been hard work and he acknowledges Mandy’s great support along with their sons Charles and Sam.

Ian’s career has been dedicated to improving public safety in some way, often on an international stage with regular journeys to Brussels and the UN in Geneva. As an engineer he was well placed to promote not only the UK’s safety record but also its innovative technical achievements. From 1992 his work in the vehicle emissions team involved grappling global warming, black smoke and carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulates. In 1999 he was

promoted to oversee the vehicle technology research programme, and thence to head the crash avoidance technology team. He led big projects developing speed limiters for trucks and crash test dummies, that involved the odd cadaver.

He also worked on braking and tyres, travelling all over the world he remembers standing on the Toyota test track at the foot of Mount Fuji. He is proud that whilst road deaths in 1988 were 5,000, by 2010 the number had dropped to 1,700. Improvements in vehicles, rather than Tufty and the Green Cross Code are the single biggest contributor to this success.

Meanwhile, he and Mandy found a plot of land on Stick Hill and another dream came true – they built their own home - it took three years and literally with much blood, sweat and heavy lifting. They have also been loyal supporters of St Peter's Hever, Ian sitting as the local representative on the Deanery synod for years.

In 2005 Ian was promoted to Head of vehicle safety, heading up a department of around 30 people, then in 2011 to Divisional manager, a role he created, combining environmental and safety roles. The VW emissions crisis in 2015 made the division change track and focus again on emissions and to develop the increased scrutiny that is now commonplace. And so we come to automation, or driverless cars in plain English. Political interest in automation had taken off in the early 2010s and Ian has been massively involved in their development – they sound dangerous but 85 % of accidents are due to driver error - and so these cars have both safety and environmental benefits and can be used by people who would otherwise be housebound. Other projects include working on the implications of Brexit for the automotive sector and dealing with the many implications of the Covid lockdown. Usually a regular on the 7am from Hever, Ian has discovered the joys of working from home under the "new-normal" and the convenience of armchair meetings with Geneva using Zoom.

The thing that makes him most proud is being an engineer in the civil service, not an economist or statistician, but a very niche role which has enabled him to play a crucial part in saving lives - making the politicians listen because he understands the difficult problems and also their solution.

If you see a lycra clad cyclist whizzing past you at the weekend, that could be Ian, he is even known to cycle to work in Westminster. On the day he goes to the Palace for the investiture I hope he manages to contain his incredible energy long enough to take a taxi.

Joanna Wade

the Mapleton story part 2

Henry (known as Harry) Faudel-Phillips inherited Mapleton when his father died. He was the youngest child and only son. He had been educated at Eton and from there joined the army serving with the Royal Irish Lancers stationed in Ireland. He was Lieutenant Faudel-Phillips in 1904 when he met a much older woman and fell madly in love. He was twenty years old when he announced his engagement to Ellen Deane-Tanner who was nine years his senior. His father refused permission but his mother took his side and he married on the 31st October, 1905 in Chelsea, London. Ellen had been born in Tipperary but had lived much of her life in England.

Ellen's older brother, William, had emigrated to America where he became an actor. He married a wealthy woman but left his wife and child in 1908. He changed his name to Desmond Taylor and starred in and directed over fifty films. In 1922 he was murdered in Los Angeles. The murder was never solved.

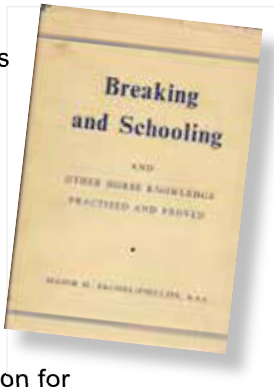
After their marriage Henry and Ellen rented Holmwood in Four Elms. When he inherited Mapleton four years later he decided to make some significant additions to his country house. He added a two-storey ballroom extension with a galleried landing. As a keen horseman he also built a stud and a stable block. In order to raise money for the work, he sold three of his late father's paintings – a Rembrandt (Head of the Artist's Sister), a Sir Thomas Lawrence portrait and an Angelica Kauffman. Valuable then, they would have been worth a fortune today. Henry paid for the extensions and also bought a house on the French riviera near Grasse.

In 1912 Henry and his wife hosted a Conservative Party 'At Home' at Mapleton for about 200 guests. The Four Elms Gardening Society also hosted shows there. The couple were at Mapleton in March 1914 when Edenbridge experienced terrible floods. All the main roads were impassable with water 2-3 feet deep in places.

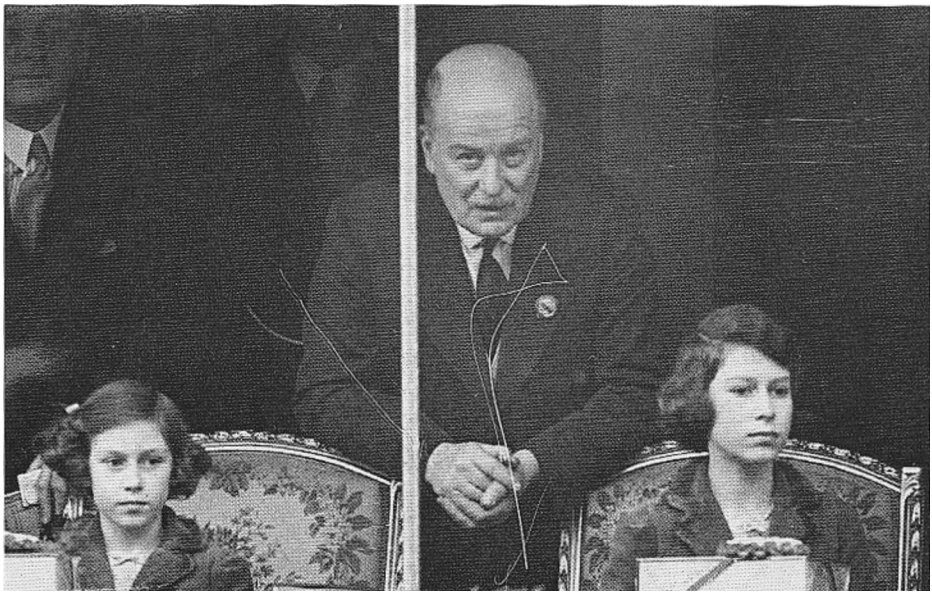
When war broke out in 1914 Henry re-enlisted and by the end of the war had reached the rank of Major. Four Elms and Edenbridge were very involved in the war effort. In 1915 soldiers were billeted in Edenbridge for three weeks. On 30th April there was a church parade. The town band played and they paraded in Stangrove Road, and after inspection marched to the parish church where the Rev. Wheatley of Four Elms gave the address. There was also a send-off smoking concert at Oddfellows Hall which was well attended. On Wednesday 2nd June the officers and men of the Royal Army Service Corps left the town. Several hundreds of townspeople accompanied the troops to the railway station and gave them a hearty send-off.

In 1916 a notice appeared in the local press encouraging the people of Four Elms to inform the government of the names and addresses of people who were eligible to serve in the forces. It looks like there was no hiding place. Many young men from Four Elms did enlist, and many made the ultimate sacrifice as the war memorial in St. Paul's testifies. In 1915, wounded soldiers were convalescing at Eden Hall and Marlpit Court. At the time there was a diptheria epidemic and many patients attended the Edenbridge Hospital. There were many deaths. It was a tragedy that those wounded in the theatre of war should die of diptheria when they returned home.

After the war Henry and his wife moved to Marlowe in Buckinghamshire. Henry had become more and more involved in equestrian pursuits and was the co-founder of The Pony Club, writing several books on the training, breaking and care of horses. He commentated on the competition for The King's Cup at the International Horse Show at Olympia. He was also at the Islington Horse Show in 1936 with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, showing his knowledge and expertise to the young royals and photographed with them.



Ellen died in 1935. They did not have any children, but Harry was close to his niece, Ceril, the daughter of his sister Norah. In 1938 she married Prince Bira Birabongse of Siam who



was a renowned racing driver. Prince Bira was very rich and something of a playboy. He drove a Bentley and achieved much success. His father



was the subject of the film 'The King and I'. Bira and Ceril were eventually divorced but remained friends, Ceril lived until 2010 having published her autobiography, 'The Prince and I' in 1992.

In 1926 Harry put Mapleton up for sale and the Faudel-Phillips association with the house came to an end. However, when Henry died in 1971 at the age of 87 he was buried at Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill beside his parents. In the winter he can still see Mapleton from the churchyard.

Stella Carroll



No film club in November

We are sorry that we aren't going to show a film in November. The rules are too confusing and we don't want to be asking everyone to wear face masks for several hours.
As soon as we can we will!
Best wishes to all.
Bridget and Joanna.

what I do



Billy Ward

Last year I started my Duke of Edinburgh Silver award. My school doesn't do the Bronze award, so I was thrown in at the deep end with a year of volunteering work. The criteria were very relaxed, simply saying it had to be an hour of unpaid work to help out other people and not businesses. I spent half the year working at the Oxfam shop in Edenbridge, an enjoyable if slightly hectic job.

Then disaster struck, and lockdown was announced. At the time, my DofE volunteering was quite low on the list of things to worry about, however as we settled more into lockdown life, I needed to find somewhere new to volunteer. The obvious choice seemed somewhere within walking distance. This began at my neighbour's farm, but when it was suggested that I could litter pick in the village, that became my new weekly work.

Litter picking has been very eye-opening for me. It's amazing how other people choose to spoil our environment by their laziness, especially in somewhere as naturally beautiful as Hever. It's always a surprise what random junk can be found along the side of the road, ranging from plain crisp packets to a pair of muddied shoes tossed aside.

I believe there should be a bigger push for people to pick litter up in everyday life. If you're walking the dog, going for a run or even walking up to the station, try and pick up a piece of litter you see along the way. It goes a long way especially if it's lots of people doing it little and often.

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

The Council last met on 22nd September and then for an extraordinary meeting on the 29th September – see the full (draft) minutes on the hever.org website.

We are delighted to have three new Councillors joining the Parish Council – thank you to them all for stepping forward to volunteer their time, local knowledge and enthusiasm to represent the community on the Council. Welcome to Angela Connolly and Nick Roberts for Four Elms and Philip Lindsay for Hever. We are confident they will bring much expertise from their own careers and perspectives to the decision making of the Council and are most grateful to them. THANK YOU.

The planning committee have been working hard on the Government White paper on planning, which has received much press coverage in relation to the proposed reported "mutant" algorithm and the possible risks to local democracy, affordable housing and the Green Belt. We shall publish our full response on the hever.org website by the end of October. There are lots of different organisations considering these proposals representing many stakeholders / interested parties, for example the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

Apply for a community grant

Applications are now open for Sevenoaks District Council Community Grants Scheme which supports volunteer-led services that help with the health and wellbeing of our residents.

You have until 5pm on Friday 13 November 2020 to submit your application. If you're successful, you'll receive your funding in April 2021. This year there are two application forms, one for grants of up to £500 and one for larger grants between £500 and £5,000, see the conditions on the application forms. Search for community grants on the SDC website.

For queries/problems regarding rubbish and recycling please contact Sevenoaks District Council.

For queries about highways, eg potholes, public rights of way and drainage please contact Kent County Council. This is most easily done through the KCC website.

Our next meeting is planned to be on zoom 26th November - 7pm planning and 7.30pm full council meeting. Please see noticeboards or website/ Facebook for link details and full agenda nearer the date. Members of the public are always most welcome to attend.

Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

schooltime

news from Four Elms

Usually at this time of year, we'd be celebrating our beautiful rural surroundings at our Harvest festival and enjoying spooky goings on in the community in the run up to Halloween. Whilst neither of these events were typical this year, we still managed to celebrate.

Children brought in goodies from home to be delivered to the Edenbridge food bank to help those in need.



For Halloween, the children had a spooky dress up day at the end of term with prizes for the best dressed in each class. Over half term, the PTA are running a spooky run competition. Key stage 1 are invited to make a scary mask and Key stage 2 to carve a pumpkin.

Spooky scary skeletons
Class Four are continuing the spooky theme with an experience designed to bring intrigue to their writing. By reading the inspiring text The Witches we will be looking at creating our own short spooky stories that we can share with the other year groups.

We will be looking at how to add drama and suspense into our writing so that the other classes will be on the edge of their seats! The best of our videos will also be sent to CBBC Newsround in the hope that they will be promoted in a Halloween special.

Fingers on buzzers please!
Classes 2 and 3 now have 'Quizday Friday'; a fun event where teachers will host a quiz for each class based on what they have learnt that week. Staff have done a lot of research on the benefits of quizzing and the positive effects this can have on progress. High scores will be documented and celebrated to help encourage healthy competition!

This isn't just any school…this is Four Elms Primary School
The pupils have been helping to promote what they think is unique and special about their school. In this experience, the children will be learning to use adjectives and expanded noun phrases in a real life context. They will think of ways to persuade potential newcomers to choose their school. Just like the infamous Marks & Spencer slogan, the children want to show people that their school is not just any Primary School, it is Four Elms Primary School.

Nicole Holt

At the end of September we held our Harvest Festival in the churchyard of St Peter's. The weather couldn't have been better and Reverend Simon welcomed all the children as they came together for the first time since



reopening, at a social distance. We were blessed during the service with a brilliant rainbow as the children reflected on 'The Genesis Creation' narrative. The community were very generous with their thoughtful and creative donations, which have been sent to the Edenbridge Food Bank.

The children's Harvest prayers were lifted literally via bubbles into the sky by our visiting bubbleologist. The children were then entertained by Bubbleman with some children being placed inside a giant bubble! Our students were captivated by this international entertainment and creative workshop company based in the UK and New Zealand!

We have had a busy few weeks which have included being forensic scientists and architects and learning about the Mayans, the Stone Age and the Saxons through interactive workshops which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. The children have also participated in Black History Month learning about Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

We are extremely excited to introduce our new Sphero robots, kindly funded by our amazing PTA. Elderberry class were lucky enough to have a taster session which taught them how to connect the iPads to the robots through the 'Sphero Edu' App. The children loved them and will soon be using their coding skills to control them. Meanwhile, Years 2 to 4 have been learning how to use our



new Greenscreen board, alongside the 'Greenscreen' App to create their own visual effect outcomes. The children have been deep-sea diving, on a trip to Disneyland, chased by dinosaurs and some have even been to space!

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

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Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341 415
TN16 Handyman	property maintenance, home repairs, painting, gardening	074754 38788
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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		
Amy's Top Dog Grooming - dog grooming - Amy		0792 3351299
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
Pilates by Lorna at Four Elms and Ide Hill village halls		07747 628993

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
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Daren Wood	Chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
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
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Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
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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

Autumn, the season of mellow fruitfulness. How beautiful the colour of the autumn leaves and this year the abundance of fruitfulness. Seed catalogues arrive and its difficult to restrain oneself from overbuying exotic seeds which seem to stay inside the packets never to be sown.

We were able to enjoy Harvest Festival at St. Paul's this year. Thank you to everybody who brought harvest gifts, be it flowers for decorating or the food products. Thank you to Four Elms Primary School for their generous gifts. The food products were delivered to some local residents of Four Elms and also the Food Bank in Edenbridge. We appreciate everyone's generosity during these uncertain times.

As we approach our APCM, we urge all who attend our beautiful church here in Four Elms, however infrequently, to enrol on to the Electoral Church Roll (not to be confused with the Electoral Register for political voting). It is good for the PCC to know to whom we may look to for support and, of course, ultimately giving you a say in the running of your church. It is a way of saying "I belong to St. Paul's Church, Four Elms".

On 1st November we have the Service of All Souls at 6pm, where we remember those who have passed away and the Four Elms Remembrance service at the War Memorial will take place at 10.50 am on Sunday 8th November. If anyone would like to be actively involved in this Service please contact one of the churchwardens.

As we approach the shorter days and winter weather may we all pray for some good news concerning the Coronavirus pandemic.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Bishop Simon visited Hever Forest Church in October. Outdoor Forest Church will continue into the winter and we have now introduced fire in the shape of firepits. This meant that we were able to toast bread, marshmallows and roast chestnuts, it will also warm us as the temperatures drop! November's service will be at 3pm on Sunday 8th November.

Most of you will know by now that I did not seek re-election as churchwarden at our recent APCM. This was because I am now starting training as a Licensed Lay Minister (new name for a Reader).

It is a journey that I started just over a year ago when I began the Bishop's Certificate Course which is the Foundation course in Christian Ministry and runs until next Easter.

The course is Tuesday evenings, some Saturdays and an annual weekend. We are required to write essays and assignments on a regular basis and the volume of work means that we all have to really be quite disciplined about it all. Now that

I have been accepted to go on to licensed training also, this will run alongside as an extra module. It is all based at Malling Abbey which gives it the most beautiful setting



The Abbey is home to a community of Benedictine nuns and also is the centre for ordination training for Rochester and in usual times, hosts many other courses and events.

I feel very blessed to be on this journey but also quite nostalgic about having spent many happy years as Churchwarden for Hever, which truly was both an experience and a privilege.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

As Covid-19 continues to shape our lives we keep trying to come up with ways of cheating it! We're trying to devise ways of singing at Christmas or having our Christmas events safely. So we are planning a Christingle service outdoors, umbrellas optional, and on November 21st, a Winter Fair in the open barns at Falconhurst. It's being held in the afternoon, 3.00 - 6.00pm so we can turn it into a wonderland of candles and fairy lights, there will be gourmet hot dogs and Swedish glögg (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) stalls with preserves and cakes and pies, decorations and toys, wreaths and flowers, and, new this year, designer guest stalls where you can buy some exciting Christmas gifts or treat yourself to a beautiful scarf or piece of jewellery.

Entry will be by pre-booked ticket and numbers strictly controlled, payment by card only and proper safety assessments done. We do so hope this can go ahead as we feel the glue in our community needs a little strengthening. Look out for announcements on how to book your ticket.

Our worship has settled into its new pattern well and we look forward to our turn to host the 10.00am service, one week in three, with a family service every fourth week. Many things continue as normal, not least Clare making sure that the church is made beautiful with flowers, and she also opens the church on Sundays between noon and about 4.00pm. You are very welcome to come in and enjoy the peace of this lovely place.

Tonight is our delayed annual church meeting and we will be deciding who does what for the next year. Reports will follow.

In the meantime I, again, echo Simon's phrase 'Keep safe - keep well - keep praying.'

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Church in November

Notwithstanding the restrictions, November is a busy month and we are continuing to live stream and record services which can be accessed via our website https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice and by phone (01732 927132).

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
1 November	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 Four Elms	Lamentations 3:17-26, 31-33 John 6:37-40	All Saints
8 November	Family Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever followed by act of Remembrance	Amos 5:18-24 Matthew 25:1-13	3rd before Advent Remembrance
8 November 10.50am	Act of Remembrance at St Paul's Four Elms	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	3rd before Advent Remembrance
8 November 3pm	Forest Church in St.Peter's Hever church yard	Job 12: 7-10 Ephesians 4:23-24	3rd before Advent Remembrance
11 November 10.50am	Act of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Remembrance Day
15 November	Holy Communion at St Paul's Four Elms	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	
22 November	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	
29 November	Family Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37	
29 November 4pm	Christingle at Holy Trinity Markbeech	John 8:12 & Matthew 5:14-16	All Saints

All services will be at 10.00am unless otherwise indicated and you are required to wear a face mask. We welcome especially those who have lost loved ones and wish them to be remembered to the All Souls service on 1st November.

The Forest Church and Christingle services will be outdoors and especially suitable for all ages and stages. Do also come to the Acts of Remembrance at each of our churches and see the website/ Facebook page for details.

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.

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
Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028
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 (above)

our rector's thoughts

I saw the following on social media: life expectancy is around 40 years longer than a century ago; for the first time ever less than 10% of the world's population live in absolute poverty; since 1950 the average IQ has increased by 20 points and for the first time in history more countries are democracies than dictatorships. The trouble is, with the threat of further restrictions in the face of rising Covid cases and the tone of the election in the USA this month, it's easy to feel things are just getting worse and worse. Anyway, one shouldn't believe everything you read on social media!

November is the month of Remembrance and we'll be holding acts of Remembrance in all three parishes. This year the focus has been on the Battle of Britain and the debt we owe to 'the Few' – in fact about 3,000 allied pilots who suffered about 500 losses. These were real sacrifices, of course, but the numbers in the First War are truly mind boggling. There were over a million casualties on all sides during the Somme campaign alone! One only has to look at the war memorials to see the large numbers from the Great War from such small rural communities.

The First World War was such a trauma that people of the time must have wondered what the world had come to. In the aftermath of the war WB Yeats wrote the following words from his poem 'The Second Coming'

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned;
the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.

But for Christians we have a glorious future. A modern translation of St.Paul's words to the Romans goes like this: All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs...These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy (Romans 8:22-25 The Message)

As the piece I read on social media said, 'our greatness is not in our past, it is in our future'. So how do we view the future in these troubling times? As we move into Advent at the end of the month, please join me in praying the final words in the Bible: Amen, come Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

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

Simon



Autumn- a busy time for the gardener.

Autumn is upon us, the garden has had a good soaking and it seems the last bursts of growth are happening. Now is a great time to get on with those jobs, dividing plants, organising the beds and planting out. Division of plants is one of the easiest ways of propagating and filling out your garden. You will notice over time herbaceous perennials stop performing so well and the beds get too full of solid root with no soil or space between for moisture to seep down and worms to move about so the natural system comes to a grinding halt, therefore the plants look overcrowded and are more likely to get pests and disease and can stride into space invading weaker plants.

It is best to do division as part of your regular maintenance, every three to four years dig up the plant and using a sharp spade, or two forks back to back divide in half, depending on how thick rooted it is. Alchemilla mollis needs a sharp spade and will happily settle into a new planting area and Asters will creep through a whole border if you let them so again a sharp spade will do the job and it will definitely be back next year. Do not underestimate the determination of your plants and dig out and divide as much as you can especially if it is a border that has had little attention over the years. The perennials to be more careful with are plants such as Hellebores which have the flower at the centre, you will need to tease them apart with a fork and they will naturally take their own roots with them. I use a Hori Hori knife if the plant is in less heavy soil and the roots are less dense.

Now you can redesign your borders and get planting. Fork through the soil and weed out any self sown plants not wanted, dig a suitable hole and firm in the plant and if rain is not forecast give them a light watering. If you have plants left over, divided or self sown you can pot them up to use at a later date. Having spares is always a good idea in case you lose anything over winter or donate to a grateful friend!

There is always plenty to do, so make a list and keep notes of where you move plants to and what else you may like to plant in the future and I hope the newly refreshed border will put a smile on your face.

Janine Reavell
janinethegardener.com
07802257652

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2018**					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38	96	70
	2019	28	33	54	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112	115	114
	2020	66	106	55	38	6	45	21	42	35			
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	41			
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	54.6			

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

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

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Copy for the December edition should reach us no later than **15th November 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 23 for numbers) or the churchwardens (see page 20) 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