March 2021

THE LINK







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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the March edition

Welcome to the March Link. The snowdrops are out and the crocuses (croci probably more correct but rather Latin O level) are following on - even daffodils. And, visiting Penshurst farmers market (first Saturday of the month), there were the first lambs!

Talking of food, I wanted to mention Katherine Whitehorn who died in January. Like Whitehorn, my mother wasn't a feminist but she quietly and joyfully absorbed her messages about independence and priorities in her column and passed them on to me. I'm not sure if the soup trick was a recipe from "Cooking in a bedsit" but it symbolises a freedom which neither my mother nor I ever exercised, but knew we could - fry some mushrooms and fold them into a can of mushroom soup. Da dah! Your guests will love it.

Walking news - mud continues to affect play but after the first section of the footpath from Threshers to Hill Hoath was almost washed away, it has been resurfaced and vastly improved. The Parish Council is talking to the County Council footpaths officer about a few "wet spots" on our patch to see what can be done. Yes, that's how local government works!

Back to nature - I am reading "Wilding" by the aptly named Isabella Tree, a book about the fascinating "let nature take its course" project on the Knepp estate in Sussex. I have told the noisy wren who is thinking of nesting outside our back door, and who gets very cross whenever we open it, that she should head off to join the rare turtle doves who have arrived at Knepp from the Sahara for the peace and quiet. But she's having none of it.

Joanna Wade



THE LINK

pet of the month



Waiting for you to throw the ball

All about Biggles

Hi my name is Daisy and I am going to talk about Biggles. He is a cocker spaniel and 11 years old. His birthday is New Years Eve. He is one of the most important things in our lives. He loves balls, food and remote controls and in the morning he barks and he knows when it is food time. He once jumped on the table and it was really funny. He has won so many prizes at dog shows and the Four Elms Fete.

On walks he sometimes turns around and goes home on his own. When he stays at grandpa's home, if it's a bit rainy or cold grandpa has to persuade him to go for a walk with a dog biscuit.

Biggles is greatly loved by all the family and makes us all happy, he is a very lovely and special dog.

Daisy Walker Aged 7



Biggles showing off!!







what we do

The past year at Last Chance Animal Rescue has certainly been like no other, with lockdowns and Government restrictions, life at Last Chance has been very different.

However, time does not stand still here as the animals' needs continue as before. But we have had to adapt a lot of what we would normally do in order to keep in line with government guidelines and to keep everyone safe whilst still doing our utmost for the animals.

Sadly as I write this, we are once again in the position where we have had to pause the rehoming of the dogs and cats in our care in order to protect us all and prevent the spread of the virus. But our work continues and one thing that has remained the same is our lovely dogs and cats continue to be cared for by our wonderful, devoted staff and we are still rescuing the dogs and cats in need of our help.

However, it hasn't all been doom and gloom, during the periods where we have been able to open (all be it on a restricted, limited basis), we have been overwhelmed by the numbers of people wishing to offer a home for one of our lovely animals and fortunately have managed to place many with new families.

One such lucky dog was Bess. Sadly Bess had been with us for 10 long years. Bess had issues with trust and was very sensitive to being touched or having to do something she wasn't keen on. But after a huge media appeal a very kind couple came forward and Bess at long last has found her new home – and we couldn't be happier for her!

It has been very strange at times without the normal hustle and bustle around the centre, but we look forward to the time where we can open fully and welcome back all our wonderful supporters to the centre.

In the meantime if you are able to help support our work with a donation we would be extremely grateful. This can be done by cheque, via our website www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk or over the phone by calling one of our centres on 01732 865530 or 01797 366620.

Susan Anderson



A tribute to Martin Lambie-Nairn

Martin was a resident of Haxted and, with his wife Cordelia, a regular visitor to the Henry VIII. As his Guardian obituarist, Nick Sunderland, said he was also a graphic designer who transformed the world of broadcast branding and co-created Spitting Image.

Even though Martin's name will not have been familiar to millions of audiences all over the world, his ground-breaking work in the fields of television and broadcast design will certainly have touched, entertained and inspired them. Especially his branding work for Channel 4 and the BBC. His idents were so hugely popular they even received fan mail for their wit and originality.

Martin, who died on Christmas morning at the age of 75, was an early adopter of computer animation, which he used to create the bold and colourful 'animated blocks' identity for the launch of Channel 4 in 1982. From then, he and his design agency, went on to reinvent and create the visual identities for a host of TV channels and brands around the world. These included the iconic BBC One and BBC Two television 'idents' (an industry term used to describe a moving logo shown to identify a TV channel between programmes) such as BBC 1's floating globe balloon and BBC 2's witty, dramatic or beautiful "2"s, as well as the oxygen bubbles identity for mobile phone network O2. It was as important to him to bring wit and beauty into people's lives as it was to differentiate the brand that he was working for.



In the wider world of television, Martin was also credited with the co-creation of Spitting Image in 1981 with John Lloyd, Roger Law and Peter Fluck and was pleased to see the show return to British screens in 2020. Sharp eyed viewers will have seen in the closings credit that the show was "from an original lunch with Martin Lambie-Nairn."

Born in London on the 5th August 1945, the son of a tax inspector

and an accountant, his prodigious talent would not have been predicted but after attending Canterbury College of Art, now the University for the Creative Arts he began his career in television at the BBC and then moved to London Weekend Television and ITN where he developed the on-screen graphics for the Apollo space missions and later the design for ITN's corporate logo as well as the title sequence for News at Ten.

In 1990, Martin became consultant creative director for the overall BBC brand, a position he was to hold for 12 years. In 1999 he worked alongside the television and radio composer David Lowe to launch yet another category-defining identity, this time for BBC News. The aim was to capture the brand's strength and reputation as a world class global news organisation. The work is still used on air and online today.

In later years, Martin continued to work on a range of major national and international branding projects including the rebrand of the Royal Opera House in 2011, the launch identity for the UK's leading biomedical research centre, The Francis Crick Institute in 2016, the creative development of the HSBC brand in 2018 and the rebrand of BT in 2019. He also oversaw the Blue Peter competition to design the official emblem for the Queen's diamond jubilee.

Martin was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry in 2012 and was a Fellow of the Royal Television Society. His work received numerous accolades including the Prince Philip Design Prize, a Gold D&AD for his work for Channel 4 and a BAFTA for his work for BBC2. The company was also awarded the Queen's Award for Export in 1995.

Always keen to encourage the next generation of designers and creative talent, he was a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design at the University of Lincoln where he held an Honorary Doctor of Arts. He also held an Honorary Doctor of Arts from the University of Northampton.



Reasons to be cheerful

The sale of men's slippers is up by 53%.

In Paris the Rue de Rivoli has been closed to private cars, Rome has approved 93 miles of new cycle routes and Dublin and Athens have declared swathes of their centres car-unfriendly - all to keep city centres cleaner and more people-friendly.

The first lockdown led to 58% increase in childcare undertaken by men.

Almost 90% of new electricity generation is from renewable sources

Ghostwriting agencies have seen their work increase by 400% as people use lockdown to write memoirs (see for example StoryTerrace).

M&S aims to make all its packaging recyclable by 2022 and recyclable packaging has become a selling point – this box of spaghetti pointing out "No more plastic window"!



Coronavirus at the Castle



Duncan Leslie, Chief Executive of Hever Castle, writes about their experience of the pandemic.

The last year has been a difficult one for us, just as it has for most, other than subscription TV channels, some take-aways and, of course, Amazon – to name a few!

We started 2020 with really poor weather which suppressed our visitor numbers and then coronavirus hit. Initially numbers fell away, particularly schools, as people were concerned and then, of course, the first lockdown happened. This was devastating. The team here work very hard planning events going forward and suddenly we were having to cancel things left, right and centre. Once we got over that initial shock, a degree of stoicism kicked in and I think, particularly for the resident staff, Hever Castle with no aeroplanes and no people, meant we privileged few felt extraordinarily lucky – particularly with the kind weather.

The maintenance team continued to work as, alas, the castle doesn't stop needing attention just because it's closed. The gardeners went down to a skeleton crew, as did the greenkeepers on the Golf Course and most other people were furloughed.

Many of our regular contractors, including our caterers, and some of

our tenants have had it very tough this year. Hever Health (up at the golf club, highly recommended), a relatively new business, and the Henry VIII, another tenant of the Estate, has also felt the full force of this awful virus.

We were very excited to open in June but it was, however, somewhat disappointing. Fortunately we already had a booking system and it wasn't too difficult to change it so that everybody coming had to pre-book to limit numbers. The problem we had is that most who visited in June were annual passholders so the income we received was less than 20% of normal whilst the income for weddings and events was zero. Also some of our annual passholders booked a visit every day but only turned up on one of them, thereby precluding other visitors - on a bad day we had over 40% no-shows! An appeal had some success in reducing the problem.

July and August were better although we were still some way off normal but the Astor Wing/accommodation was particularly successful with 99% occupancy with people just desperate to get away and the feedback was that the team managed visitors and safety very well which was great to hear.

September and October were better still and our numbers were above the 5 year average. November was our best ever. This heralded the start of our Christmas opening and Coronavirus forced us to re-think everything we did and so we came up with a new system which allowed us to get visitors in safely without too many at any one time.

The loss the castle has made this year is not surprisingly a record, but thankfully because of the hard work of the employees I believe it was significantly smaller than it might otherwise have been.

As I write this, much of the team are furloughed again and we have been cancelling accommodation all winter long and, increasingly, weddings and other events too - some might well be delayed two years! Despite all this the team have stayed positive and are working hard to ensure that, as soon as we are able, visitors will be warmly welcomed and there will be much to see. We opened on the 10th February for people that live locally to take exercise. You should see lots of snow drops and later on tulips and daffodils.

PS We also have had two film crews recently – one a company filming a period drama, the other a BBC docudrama about the Boleyn family.



Pied Wagtails, Motacilla alba

Pied wagtails are always a joy to see. They are small birds, immediately recognisable by the jaunty bounce of their long tails and their immaculate black and white evening dress attire.

They are unfussy about where they live, being found across Britain in areas from remote mountain moors, to low-lying wetland and city centres. I read recently that they are an almost exclusively British bird, although some are found along the channel coast in Europe.

They prefer to nest in stony crevices and frequently make use of buildings, tucking into any nooks and gaps under eaves. They used to nest by our front door, but one morning, as I was watching, a sparrow hawk flicked past my shoulder and snatched one away. They have not been back to nest since then.

They tend to rear two clutches of four to six chicks each season. Their diet mainly consists of insects. In winter evenings, they gather together to form roosts in great numbers, very often in city centres. Apparently, there is one in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. One evening walking out of Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells, I became aware of the chittering of birds and looking up, saw that the branches of the trees above were filled with talkative wagtails, the inspiration for this etching.

Why do they wag their tails? There are many theories about this, ranging from scaring off predators to bringing out insects to eat. I have not yet found a convincing explanation!

Claire Longley



Cyril Skinner

an appreciation by his son Nigel



Cyril was was born in 1924 to Gwendolyn and Herbert at Roodlands and was an only child until Mary was born in 1937. He went to the Miss Eades School in Edenbridge, where he met Una Higgs who was a friend for life. He was born to be a farmer, or in his own words, bred for cheap labour. He spent much of his spare time helping his parents out on the farm as a youngster. He later went to Judd School in Tonbridge and left at 15 as war broke out.

War was a great adventure for Dad as he recounted many times. When there was a dog fight above, he would stand in an open field to get the best view. All the old boys would take cover and say “get under the trailer ya silly young bugger, ya get ya self killed” as the bullets kicked up the dust but Dad took no notice.

At night, during the air raids, he would refuse to go into the cellar with the rest of the family, reasoning that if the house was hit he didn’t want to get buried. So he either slept in his room at the top of the house, or probably went out in the garden to get a closer look. Several bombs landed nearby sometimes blowing out windows and knocking off roof tiles. He made a fine collection of bullets and anything else that either fell off or was thrown out of a plane during these events. I remember he once told Tom and I that he applied to join the RAF. We often muse that it was a good job they turned him down because we more than likely wouldn’t be here today if farming hadn’t been considered an essential service. A few years later he joined the Observer Corps and spent many nights, after milking, searching the sky’s at Delaware near Hever for enemy planes. And this interest stayed with him for the rest of his life. In fact there were not many planes crossing the sky that he couldn’t identify.

He met my mother Vivian in the mid fifties. She was working as a landgirl on a nearby farm and Dad would take squirrels he had shot for their ferrets to eat. I don’t know how many squirrels it took to win her but they married in the late fifties and sooner or later Tom and I were born.

Dad would often take us to Biggin Hill for the air shows, and most times

treat us all to a flight in some old museum piece. After he sold most of the farm in the late seventies he and Mum embarked on his second love in life, travel. They travelled pretty much to the four corners of the earth. Dad in particular wanted to visit as many countries as he could, sometimes changing the whole itinerary when he realised the trip dipped into a country they had visited before. I think they managed to notch up about a hundred and thirty countries, before Mum died in 2004. Dad continued to travel, this time going with Mary, sometimes revisiting old ground or trying out something new.

With Shirley, Sam and I living next door and looking after him, with increased frequency as time went on, Dad was able to live at home for the rest of his time. He maintained some social life and enjoyed his garden until his death on 22 January at the age of 97.



The Observation post above Delaware as it is today

Bridges Centre, Edenbridge

Hello! I'm Mary, Manager of the Bridges Centre in Edenbridge High Street and though sadly it is currently unable to open, I'd like to share with you the hopes we have for the future.

Bridges is a welcoming place for everyone in our local area where all individuals who visit our Centre are valued. Our aim is to build networks among those individuals we meet but particularly among the most vulnerable whose existing needs are not otherwise being met.

The term vulnerable has perhaps taken on a wider meaning during this pandemic as it is probably fair to say that most of us at some point in the last few months have felt quite vulnerable and been looking for a way of escape. Bridges is such a place but of course, we find ourselves closed to visitors and unable to welcome people, and thereby lessen their feeling of isolation.

I would like to tell you about some of the projects which we are hoping to roll out when we are able to open again and I hope you might see something here where you can help…

By its very nature, Bridges is a Community Café and we will continue to serve the public with good quality, freshly prepared and locally sourced food and drinks. This is a given! But more than this we look forward to welcoming back the mental health support groups which hire our premises, including Reachout, Bridges Dandelion Café, and Creative Minds. The details of these projects can be found on our website www.bridgescentre.org

A new venture will be to open BRIDGES as a 'Place of Welcome' on Friday afternoons with a new team of volunteers, possibly also operating alongside being a collection point for our local Foodbank. We will offer hospitality, friendship and signposting in addition to the practical help provided by the foodbank. www.placesofwelcome.org.uk

We also hope to bring face to face debt/money management advice to Edenbridge in cooperation with other organisations e.g. Citizens Advice, West Kent Debt Advice and Kent Savers Credit Union This project will aim to reduce stress on those who can only access this advice at present via public transport, or who have no current access to online services.

Naturally, none of this can be done without PEOPLE! These projects will only succeed if I am joined by volunteers who have a desire to help others and share their talents, ability and experience with those who need it. If you think this might be something which could be of interest to you, please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Perrett,
Centre Manager,
mary@bridgescentre.org

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

Affordable housing consultation
The consultation is paused until 1st May 2021 to provide more information and time. If you have a query which is not answered by any of the NEW information on www.hever.org then please contact the Clerk (clerk@hever.org). HPC will continue to update the website with further information and plans for May onwards and how to submit comments (from May).

Other news
The Four Elms Playground and Hever Parish Field remain open for use as per national guidelines (please follow the guidance regarding social distancing etc.)

Hever and Four Elms Primary schools have sent their thanks to the Parish Council for the £500 covid grant recently distributed in order to assist with educational resources for home learning.

Salt bins around the parish are filled by Kent County Council routinely but if you notice an empty one, please report it on the KCC website, Report a Fault page. In addition to this, HPC have additional supplies used as necessary by our caretaker, thanks to him for all his hard work.

We are aware of horse riders using the Parish Field which is used daily by school children and other users. This is sadly damaging the surface, please DO NOT ride horses as it is costly to repair and could cause ankle injuries! Thank you.

Next Hever Parish Council meetings:
Please see www.hever.org for all agendas and links to join (via zoom).

The next full Council meeting is on 9th March 2021. Thereafter 6th May, 7th July, 7th September and 9th November.

Charlotte Cole
Clerk and Financial Officer
Hever Parish Council
clerk@hever.org



The other day a newspaper bore a cartoon in which two dogs are in a garden. In front of them, a hole. Beside them, a bone. One dog, looking up from a newspaper carrying the headline 'Landfill Tax' remarks to the other, 'It'll be a lot cheaper hiding the bone up a tree!'

The sketch accompanied a piece on the findings of the National Audit Office. '700% landfill tax rise sees surge in fly-tipping,' it proclaimed. You will not be surprised to learn that the Auditor General's report was rather more nuanced. Nevertheless, fly-tipping seemed a good a topic this month what with the press coverage, time having flown since I last wrote on it, and perfectly reasonably being asked the other day, 'Why is there fly-tipping?'

With limited space this will be a bit of a whistle-stop update, but let's give it a go!

The starting point is that a ban on activity doesn't of course result in its cessation. A more nuanced approach is required, which tackles the fly-tippers' motivation, creates deterrents, ensures satisfactory tools for enforcement, and recognises the importance of education too. Therefore, we're trying to play our part on all those strands in addition to the work of Sevenoaks District Council's fly-tipping investigation team, which remains the only one in the county.

First, the motivation. It's money. People wish to avoid the cost of safe and legal disposal of waste. Criminals serve the market and make money, illegally dumping waste. What, therefore, are these costs? The Landfill Tax is one. A noble idea, however, one that the aforementioned report suggested has increased fly-tipping. Fees at the dump cannot have helped either. That's why when it was proposed they be introduced in Kent, I advocated the projected surplus be ringfenced for fly-tipping enforcement.

Second, deterrents. The fines issued by the courts are far too low. A few hundred pounds is not uncommon. So, Sevenoaks has been working with the Magistrates Association on securing higher penalties.

Third, enforcement. Some of this is a matter of prioritisation of resources in other organisations, so we do what we can to bump it up the agenda. But there are a few practical issues too on which the District Council has worked by designing a new, simpler and more easily enforced licensing regime for waste carriers. Legislation is required so we've engaged the District's MPs.

Finally, education. Only using approved waste carriers is a legal duty for us all. That's why I repeatedly stress the importance of asking to see the paperwork of any contractor removing waste. From leaves to rubble, the requirement is the same. Deprive the criminals of their customers and they will go and find another, more rewarding, activity.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
∀Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Rd,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG
∀cllr.dickins@sevenoaks.gov.uk
∀07910 328 110

schooltime

news from Hever

We are now half a term into the Spring term and things are looking positive nationally with the vaccination roll out and the transmission rates. We remain hopeful that all Hever students will be reunited soon.



Students have been engaged in Children's Mental Health Week following the theme 'Express Yourself!' Royal Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge's video message marked the start of this special school week.

Also children made some special memories during the snow fall. Sledging, making snowmen and collecting outdoor items to make natural storyboards, offered an opportunity to go outside safely and have some fun and learn at the same time!

This year, Safer Internet Day was on 9th February and was be celebrated in the UK with the theme, 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'. Pupils carried out relevant activities using materials produced by 'UK Safer Internet Centre'.

I have said it repeatedly; the students are a credit to themselves and to the support they receive at home. We know from how they are completing



their work that the vast majority of students are staying on track with their learning. The students have certainly lived up to our values of Love, with the manner in which the majority have applied themselves to their creative learning, Respect, for the manner in which they have observed current regulations, and Wisdom for the various levels of disruption and uncertainty they have faced.

We know that a decision will be made during the week beginning Monday, 22 February regarding the return to onsite learning, which I hope will be from Monday 8 March for as many students as possible. I sincerely hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing half-term break.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

news from Four Elms

The Ocean Project
In our second month of home learning, we introduced a whole school challenge: the 2021 Ocean Project. The project was to raise awareness of pollution in the ocean (e.g. plastic pollution) and suggest strategies to others for reducing pollution in the ocean. The aim was to encourage the children to be positive global citizens and be empowered to make a difference to the world they live in.

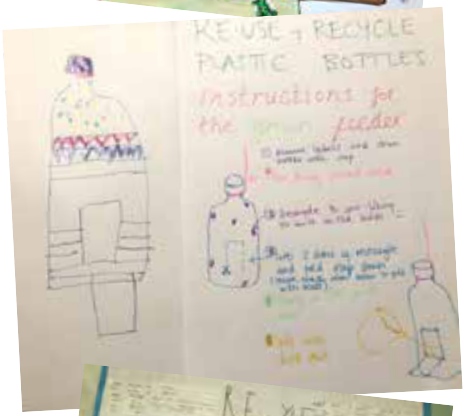
The children were given complete freedom to approach the task any way they wished to find out about pollution in the oceans (e.g. plastic pollution), the problems that are caused by the pollution and what we can all do to reduce the pollution.

Outputs from this project included: speeches, videos, artwork, models, and posters to share with others.

Here are a few of the lovely results from this project

Nicole Holt







business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
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Accommodation		
Edenbridge Manor Care Home, residential, dementia and respite care		01732 492282
Agricultural Engineers		
Leppards	plant and machinery hire and more	01342 850888
Bookkeeping		
David James	accountancy services	01892 871 139
Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
Building & Design Services		
Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01732 700 353
Causeway Joinery	bespoke joinery for the public and trade	01342 850170
Clare Elizabeth	painting and decorating	0777 5328781
G Moss	joiner & builder	07778 440 644
Jem Pickard	painting and decorating 07850 371558 or	01732 863062
M & M Walker	painting & decorating, plumbing, heating	07774 218 684
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341 415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559
Cleaning		
Housecleans	cleaning, ironing	01959 532 223
Rockport Cleaning	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		
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Chiddingstones' Tennis Club		0776 964 2590
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
Paul Marro	Cognitive Hypnotherapy www.htheraphy.co.uk	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
Hairdressing		
Lorna Galbraith	hairdressing in your own home	07989 587931
Home services		
Andy Sayers	electrical services maintenance and repairs	07836 256146
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		
My IT Wizard Ltd	Computer problem solving	07779 285839
MR Computing	computer repairs in your home, no call out charge	01732 590077
Local Produce		
Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Falconhurst Farm Shop and deli		01342 850172
Travel, Taxis and bike hire		
Country Hire and Go,	electric bike hire and local taxi service	07723054863
Stuart Rieman	luxury passenger car service	01883 715 037
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526

Church in March and up to Easter

We are continuing to record all our services which are accessible via https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice and by phone by calling 01732 927132 with a livestreamed introduction on Sundays at 10.00am on Facebook. We hope to be returning to worshipping in person at some point, so please look at the website and Facebook page for information as things can change at short notice.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
7 March 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Lent 3
14 March 10am	Holy communion St.Peter's Hever	Isaiah 49:8-18 John 3:14-21	Mothering Sunday
14t March 3pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever		Mothering Sunday
21 March 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Passion Sunday
28 March 10am	Family Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 11:1-11	Palm Sunday
1 April 6pm	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Maundy Thursday
2 April 12noon	St.Peter's Hever Devotion at the Cross		Good Friday
4 April 6am	Sunrise service St.Paul's Four Elms	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Mark 16:1-8	Easter
4 April 9.15am	Family Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Easter
4 April 11am	Family Communion St.Peter's Hever	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Easter

We are a holding a Lent course by Zoom at 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Mondays. You can still join and for details of this and our Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm please contact Simon.

During the first three days of Holy Week (29th-31st March) we will be holding a service of Compline ('Night prayer') at 6pm in each of the churches starting in St.Peter's Hever. We also hope to be holding Easter egg hunts in the Hever and Four Elms churchyards on Saturday afternoon 3rd April and after the Easter service at Markbeech on Sunday.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help including obtaining text versions of the above services or having them read 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 heard someone say that' the vaccine prevents hospitalisation and death'; so it's great that it's being rolled out so rapidly. Strictly, of course, the vaccine prevents death from the Coronavirus and only postpones the inevitably of death itself.

The statistics on deaths from Covid make grim reading and with at least one funeral a month, I am continually confronted by it. Another tragedy is that fact that in the current pandemic many die in hospital without their loved ones present to comfort them and hold a hand.

When I was ordained, the Bishop told the congregation that one of the priest's jobs is 'to prepare the dying for their death' and from time to time I have had the privilege of doing so. But if we're fit and well and we've had the jab, then preparing for our death isn't perhaps something we think about beyond maybe having made a Will.

Despite the prospect of dying unaccompanied in a Covid ward, Christians have always found comfort in believing that they are not abandoned when they die. Martin Luther preached a sermon in which he said: No Christian should doubt that they are not alone. They can be certain that a great army of eyes are upon them: first, the eyes of God and of Christ himself, then also the eyes of … all Christians.

Facing our own mortality, we may look for reassurance that we are not abandoned. This is exactly what we are given because Jesus has walked this path before us as we will celebrate this as we approach Easter. Jesus died and, having conquered death when he rose again on Easter day, will be waiting to welcome us on the other side. These words of Jesus when he comforted his followers are often read at funerals: 'My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2-3)

Whether or not we believe this, we need something to hold onto as we make the final journey that we all will one day. Maybe one of the lessons of the pandemic is to be prepared, to look at this life in the light of the fact it won't last for ever and strangely to find it can have a greater meaning when we see it in the light of Christ. Then death, like birth, might be a gateway to something even greater. God bless you all

Simon

Four Elms

On the television recently Joanna Lumley put our present situation quite succinctly. "It's the pattern of life that has changed that we all find so difficult". How true this is. For many the absence of sharing Holy Communion, part of the essence of our faith, is to be regretted. Although our services are recorded and are available on our Threespires website it doesn't compensate totally for the absence of being in Church to share Communion and worship. Our faith is predicated on sharing and community.

However, the services from each of the churches in the Benefice are online and if you cannot access via internet, printed services and information can be sent to you through your letterbox. Do ask if you wish to have this service.

The churches in the Benefice have been closed as we feel the safety and welfare of everyone is paramount. Notices are posted on the outdoor notice board and on the church door as we try to keep up with the changing situation.

Nowhere has the "pattern of life" been more acutely felt than for schools. I applaud the teaching staff and parents who struggle to give children the education they have a right to expect. It is doubly difficult as other members of the families cannot easily help. We must all look forward to the time when we can visit our family, friends and neighbours.

As the vaccines are rolling out let us give thanks and praise for the scientists who must have worked tirelessly to produce them so quickly. And we thank all key workers everywhere for their service during these difficult days.

And last, but not least, thank you to Richard Bennett and John Hodson who have worked tirelessly to pump the flooded cellar of the church. (Once the boiler room for the church heating) Unprecedented rain and an ageing pump have caused flooding again. So, actually, in some areas life does go on as usual!!

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Many of you will have noticed that the church clock has not worked for some time. The clock itself is now working but the mechanical timer mechanism, which stops the bells ringing through the night, is broken and we have been unable to source a replacement because of the impact Covid 19 has had on the supply. Rest assured, it will be back up and running as soon as possible.

The Hever PCC Annual General Meeting will take place in April and amongst the items that will be dealt with will be the end of year Financial Accounts for 2020 and electing officers of the PCC. We are hoping to find another churchwarden for St Peter's, if you are interested in finding more out about this historic church role then please get in touch with

Simon Braid or me.
At St Peter's Hever we are starting to plan our Easter services which we hope will take place inside the church. There are plans afoot for an Easter garden outside the church in Easter week and we are also optimistic that we will be able to run our usual Egg hunt in the churchyard on Easter Saturday with teas and coffees- watch out for more details British Summer time starts on Sunday March 28th so don't forget to make sure your clocks spring forward an hour.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

And still Covid goes on. A year ago we barely knew what it was, and yet it has shaped all our lives ever since the first lock down in March 2020. Along with all the others over 70 I have had my first vaccination and am allowing a little optimism to lift my mood. Our week of snow was rather a boost, all that light, and clean tasting air, now sadly back to damp greyness. Although I'm holding on to the fact that the snow-drops have withstood a week of being blanketed and are flowering bravely in a vase on my kitchen table. Things really must be looking up!

Markbeech church was opened to say farewell to dear Len Linden who now lies in the churchyard with the ashes of Len and Jill's beloved daughter, Rebecca. We continue with our love and prayers for Jill.
Other than this one real event, our community life continues in the virtual world, the zoom evening prayer and bible study have become rather important punctuations to undefined days and I hope that everyone enjoys the weekly filmed communion service that rotates around the churches. It's been a privilege for me to be able to put it together and each week I have made a point of learning some new technique and finding music and images to rouse your interest.

Simon continues to make these services very real and important and with the live intro at 10.0am on Facebook we do have a moment which we can all share. I do hope you have been enjoying them and if you have any suggestions for improvements please let me know.

But perhaps by the time you read this we will have been able to start services in church again and I can retire my film editing skills again! Here's hoping.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden



gardening

The unknown mood of the month of March will soon be arriving, nearing the months of Spring when snowdrops, daffodils and tulips will be growing and bringing their gorgeous colours. We can't welcome her enough and look forward to a peaceful Spring and Summer.

The seed and bulb catalogues are still arriving on the door mat tempting us to buy more, and they do! Now we have packets of seeds spread on the table. Some old favourites and some new varieties. The question is, if they all produce the number of seedling as advertised, will we have sufficient room to plant them? There must be space somewhere! What about planting some up and giving seedlings to your neighbours who perhaps won't sow sufficient seeds this year?

I am trying to grow sweet peas this year. This will be the third year I have made the effort, the last two having been disastrous, although the instructions on the back of the packet say 'easy'. If I am not successful this year the wigwam will be used to support a different plant next year!

Last year I had success with cuttings of Penstemons, so this year I am trying Penstemon Beloved Bells multi-coloured flowers. I was very fortunate to be given a gardening voucher, so what a wonderful way to spend lockdown choosing plants and seeds.

I have been reading a very interesting and instructive article by Alan Titchmarsh who considers ways of being a thrifty gardener. Without his permission, I will pass some of the ideas onto you."So where can you save money? By looking after your gardening tools. Give them a good scrub, rub down with emery paper and then with an oily rag." "Another way to keep your spade shining is to rub it with crumpled-up kitchen foil. Then buff it up with an oily rag."

Alan was given this tip from the great plantsman, Roy Lancaster: He gave Alan Titchmarsh an old sawn-off dessert spoon. He had sawn off half the bowl of an old spoon and hammered the remaining half of the spoon flat, drilled a hole at the top of the handle and added a hanging loop. Apparently this is the best spade cleaner ever as its skims off wet or dry mud like a dream. Thank you, Mr Titchmarsh for your assistance.

Happy and successful gardening. Take great care and keep Covid free.

Jan Tolfree



Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2019**	28	33	54	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112	115	114
	2020	66	106	55	38	6	45	21	42	35	142	59	88
	2021	134											
Hever	**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	160.5	55	97
	2021	127										1	
Markbeech	**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	163.75	40.5	95.6
	2021	120											

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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Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the April edition should reach us no later than **15 March 2021**
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 21 for numbers) or the churchwardens (see page 18) 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

Don't forget Go2 bus services if you are considering transport options, for instance, to the Sevenoaks Medical Centre for vaccinations. You can request a bus from a bus stop near you to the Fire Station in Sevenoaks which is next door to the Medical Centre. The bus should be at your chosen stop within 30 minutes. Fares vary but all adults pay £6.50 each way for any journey over 8 miles. To use the service you first need to register using the Go2 Sevenoaks app or by phoning 01732 463 964.