May 2021

THE LINK







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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the May edition

I have greatly enjoyed the pink lady's smock or cuckoo flower abundant in the verges this year. Hawthorn or May blossom is also a glorious sign of spring, a spring which has been late arriving this year (for once there would have been plenty of daffodils available for the Hever Hort spring show, curses). We have already enjoyed blackthorn blossom, (see below) the difference being that blackthorn flowers on the black stem before the leaves come out whereas hawthorn comes along with its leaves a little later in the year. Of course, blackthorn produces sloes which are delicious in sloe gin at the end of the year. Hawthorn berries don't get much press these days but did used to be made into sauces and preserves. The thorny bush provides a wonderful environment for saplings because it protects them from predatory animals nibbling on the young plants, the old proverb "the thorn bush is the mother of the oak" is rather beautiful. These days we despise "scrub" and see it as a blot on our beautifully maintained landscape but in 1768 a statute established in the New Forest imposed three months' forced labour on anyone found guilty of damaging thorn bushes, starting each month with a number of lashes of the whip. How our attitudes have changed!

Jays are the best birds for propagating oaks. They carefully bury acorns at the bottom of thorn bushes and then remember to go back and eat them, leaving enough growth to create the next generation of trees. They have an amazing stacking system in their gullet which means that they can carry up to six acorns at a time which they carefully plant, about 18 inches apart, and deep enough to outwit most mice and squirrels. We always think of Latin names for birds and plants as being rather grand and academic but the Latin name for the jay, Garrulus glandarius, translates as "the chattering acorn-gatherer" which is rather splendid. So, time to stop being garrulous myself and end this piece. Time indeed to go and get a haircut, visit the pub and re-learn how to be sociable.



Joanna Wade

THE LINK

pet of the month

Our guinea pigs, Toffee and Cookie

We got our guinea pigs a year ago, just before lock down 1 and mummy calls them our lockdown pets! They have been making us happy throughout Covid-19, keeping us company and giving us something to do. What I love about them is that they can always make us happy even if we are feeling upset! It is relaxing to stroke and cuddle them.

I named one guinea pig 'Toffee' and my brother Sam named the other one 'Cookie'. They are both girls. Toffee is brown and white and Cookie is white and black. I give them plenty of hugs especially in the summer on the warm grass.



A cute thing they did when they were little (and sometimes now!) is fight over who gets to go in their hidey-hole and tunnel. Usually, it's Cookie who wins as she thinks SHE's the boss, but then we got them a huge hiding place and now they share. When it is warm and sunny the guinea pigs sunbathe in the sun.

They are quite fussy eaters and mostly eat hay, fruit and vegetables but they do love a treat every now and then! Grass and dandelions are their favourite. They make squeaking sounds and my brother has managed to make a perfect impression of a guinea pig.

We have to clean their hutch every week. They have a hutch with two levels and we put it inside the garage in winter or outside in the summer. They also have a big run which they can run around in on the grass. In February it was so cold, we brought them inside the house for a week. Sometimes (not now!) we go on holiday and we got our neighbours to look after them for us.

I would highly recommend guinea pigs as pets they are easy to look after, clean, small and all you need is some space for their hutch and run, time and hands for cuddling them!

Isabelle Cheshire aged 10

Emily's Kitchen: Rhubarb & Almond Loaf

For the stewed rhubarb
4-5 stalks of rhubarb (chopped into 2cm pieces)
70g caster sugar
20g unsalted butter

For the sponge
190g unsalted butter
140g plain flour
190g caster sugar
3 large eggs
1tsp baking powder
50g ground almonds
½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp ginger
½ tsp ground nutmeg
25ml whole milk
100g of the stewed rhubarb
15g flaked almonds

Method

1
Preheat the oven to 170 degrees Celsius (325 degrees Fahrenheit), Gas mark 3. Grease a loaf tin (8.5 x 17.5cm) with butter and dusting flour.

2
Put the rhubarb, sugar, butter and 50ml of water into a saucepan and cook on a medium heat, stir occasionally, until the rhubarb softens. Remove from the pan and set aside to cool.

3
While the rhubarb is cooling, make the sponge batter: cream together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Whisk the eggs in a jug and add a bit at a time, mixing well in between each addition.

4
Combine the flour, baking powder, ground almonds, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg together and add to the butter mix. Now add the milk and stir thoroughly.

5
Pour 2/3 of the batter into the tin and put the rhubarb on top in an even layer. Then add the remaining 1/3 of the batter and sprinkle the flaked almonds on top.

6
Bake for 50-60 minutes, until golden in colour and no batter is on the knife/ skewer when inserted into the sponge.

7
Leave the loaf tin to cool before removing from tin.

8
Serve on its own or with Chantilly or clotted cream!



Hever Festival Theatre

returns with more shows in more venues! 29 May To 30 August 2021 Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent

Following Hever Festival Theatre's successful bitesize season last year, we're continuing to social distance and offer a full programme of vibrant and varied performances across four very different and spectacular venues



in the award-winning gardens of Hever Castle.

As well as the **Two Sisters Theatre,** the original theatre where the seating is tiered and under cover, performances will also take place in **The Loggia** the tranquil Italian Gardens with the magnificent lake view, **Anne Boleyn's Walk** a secluded open-air ancient woodland glade and on **The Main Lawn** with a superb view of the castle. These new performance spaces allow audiences to choose where to sit and enjoy the vista from their own chairs or blanket, in the sunshine or under the stars.

To open the Season we're excited to welcome The People's String Foundation with their latest album release **Res Publica.** Shakespeare fans can see a comedy and a tragedy, The Lord Chamberlain's Men with Macbeth as it was originally performed; in the open air, by an all-male cast with Elizabethan costumes, music and dance. And the popular Three Inch Fools return to the Loggia with **The Merry Wives of Windsor.**

The Two Sisters Theatre will be hosting some wonderful entertainers including Britain's Got Talent finalist, magician **Ben Hart,** Grammy nominated vocalist **Stacey Kent** and BBC Radio 2 favourite Reverend **Kate Bottley .**



The programme of family shows start with half term entertainment from Illyria Theatre's **The Further Adventures of Dr Dolittle** and the hilarious comedy Blue Planet III.

This year we are thrilled to welcome an eclectic mix of homegrown Kent

artists, including the return of **Beyond the Barricade;** Night Owls Amy Winehouse Tribute **Back to Black ;** New Creations Collective re-telling of **The Secret Garden** through classical music and ballet; First Knight Theatre's second instalment of Alan Ayckbourn's Norman Conquest Trilogy **Living Together** and Hever Castle's own historian, Dr Owen Emmerson who with Claire Ridgway will spend an evening charting the colourful history of Hever's most famous residents from their astonishing rise to power to their dramatic and bloody end **The Boleyns of Hever Castle.**

There will be jazz, classical music and opera including three **Gilbert & Sullivan** productions. Hever favourites Opera Brava bring two greatly loved classics; Puccini's Tosca and Mozart's **The Marriage of Figaro.**

For full details of the programme and tickets go online to www.heverfestival.co.uk or the Box Office is open for telephone bookings Monday-Friday 9.30am-5pm on **01732 866114.**

what I do

I started my journey through frames and mirrors restoration and gilding as a hobby over 10 years ago.

As a child, I used to do a lot of DIY with my late Dad, frankly a very clever DIY man and established bespoke joiner. I used to watch him at work and sometimes we would team up on projects which taught me many basic skills. I look back with great affection to that peaceful and fun time with him at the workshop.



Before and after

After many years of office work it was time to look for something else and the call of the workshop atmosphere was strong ...although I didn't know what to do exactly. Being a flea markets regular, I used to spend most of my weekends there. One day, I came across a wonderful 19th century gilded frame. Even though one side was totally destroyed, I thought I could manage easily to fix it. I tried again and again but with little improvement. The

reason was simple: restoration and gilding, like any art, takes time and professional tuition. So, I decided to enrol with a Parisian studio, rue des Beaux Arts, in order to gain the necessary skills. After the first lesson, was totally… hooked…and am still today!

What was initially a hobby had progressively become my profession. I now specialise in frame restoration and gilding and mainly restore picture frames but also other wood gilded items such as clocks, candlesticks or barometers. What I am really fond of in this job is the opportunity to learn the story of what were once beautiful pieces from my customers. Restoration is always an adventure, you often face a mix of good and bad surprises... it is rarely straight forward. The art of restoring and gilding requires patience, precise and meticulous work, and, of course, experience.

Having taken the leap from office work I feel so privileged to spend my time doing something that I truly love and I know my Dad would be proud seeing the smiles of the owners as they pick up their pieces which will once again adorn walls and continue with their story for generations to come.
My studio is based in Tonbridge. If you wish to discuss restoration and gilding, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Frederique Cotteret
www.framerestoration.co.uk
Mobile 07722 728 911



Work in progress – All the white parts have been re-carved



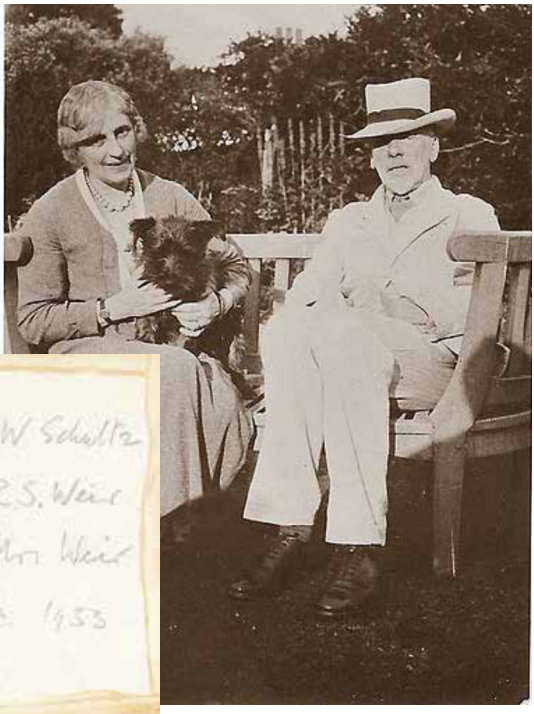
Work done!

Falconhurst Cricket Club
Fixtures May 2021

2 May v Hartfield (A)
9 May v Shipbourne (H)
15 May v Refreshers (H)
22 May v Chairman's (H)
30 May v Crawley Old Skool (H)

How Green House

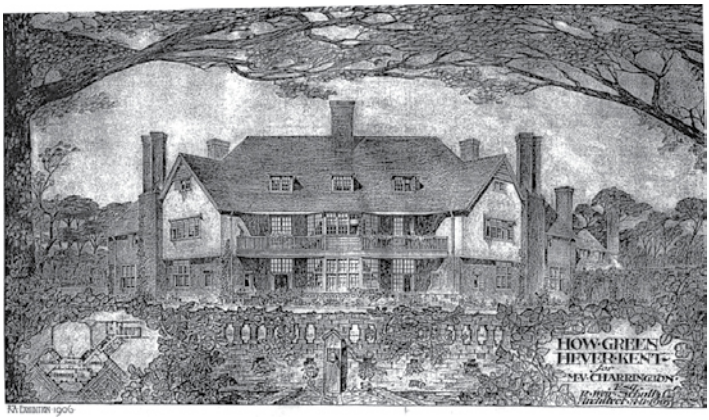
Apart from the Church and the Castle, the only building worthy of a mention in Nikolas Pevsner's famous series "Buildings of England" is How Green House. It was built by the architect Robert Weir Schultz in the Arts and Crafts style, a style championed by William Morris and Philip Webb, architect of the National Trust house, Standen near East Grinstead.



Schultz was a young Scottish architect who worked in Norman Shaw's office, Shaw being the architect of many grand projects including another National Trust house, Cragside, in Northumbria, the first "stately home" to be powered by hydroelectricity. Schultz moved to Scotland where he produced some progressive designs for the Earl of Bute. He broke away from the conventional 'block' plan and experimented with new plan forms intended to maximise the amount of sunlight and improve the prospect by spreading the building wings in the form of a butterfly. He went on to have a distinguished career, including designing Khartoum Anglican Cathedral.

Meanwhile, down in Kent, the tradition of Kentish oak mullioned and leaded windows, tile hanging and elaborate roofs was readily assimilated into the 'Arts & Crafts' style, producing a series of country houses admired by discerning patrons, one of whom was Mowbray Charrington of the brewing family. He commissioned Schultz to design a small country house for his family on the site of an existing farmhouse at How Green.

The new house was completed in 1905, at a cost of £5,000. A typical terraced house at that time would have cost about £100. Schultz built it using his 'Butterfly' principle, the wings being angled to take full advantage of the view over the Eden valley. The design was shown at the Royal Academy in the summer of 1906, and published in The Builder.



of her mother. In 1896, Mr Charrington presented a sixth bell to the tower ‘to complete a peal of six’. The Charrington family left the house in the mid-thirties, when it was occupied briefly by the Mackinnons. Mr Mackinnon was then Chairman of Imperial Airways.

The oak-panelled entrance hall with its fine tile and brick fireplace gave access to the sitting and dining rooms, library and billiard room. A generous oak staircase ended in an arcaded gallery, originally leading to seven bedrooms.





The gardens extended to 33 acres.
Over the years the house had a number of interesting residents. Mowbray Charrington was a Churchwarden and local benefactor. In 1894 a total renovation of the interior of the church was undertaken, and the first stained glass window in the refurbished church was presented by Mrs Coralie Charrington, in memory

In 1935 Alfred Ernest Yarrow bought the house, his business was in coal and shipping. Mr and Mrs Yarrow had a large family, six sons and a daughter, and two hard tennis courts and a grass court were constructed for their use. The Yarrows experienced a tragic time during the second world war, when two sons were killed within six weeks of each other. We hope to write about them in another edition of The Link.

In 1948 the house was sold to Frederic and Maria Floris, the colourful Hungarian pastry cooks whose well-patronised Soho shop specialised in expensive cakes and chocolates. They had two sons, Chris and George, and the Floris family were the last to occupy How Green House as a single family residence. Cyril Skinner recalled a visit from Mr Floris who had called at Roodlands Farm, driving a large Daimler with a pre-selector gear,

once the property of President Benes of Czechoslovakia. Mr Floris successfully reversed the car, then shot forwards and ploughed straight through a flower bed.

Another story is that the couple followed their ten-year-old custom of baking a birthday cake for their well-known neighbour, and occasional visitor, Winston Churchill. For the Prime Minister's 77th birthday, they delivered to 10 Downing Street a monumental 80-lb. confection in the shape of a flat-topped bowler hat, heavily iced with chocolate and decorated with 200 fancy sugary feathers commemorating some of the honours and triumphs in the long Churchillian career. The biggest feather of all bore the name Clementine, his wife.

In 1960 the house became the target for developers who intended to demolish it and build as many of 'Executive' dwellings as the site would allow. However, planning permission was refused, and a local builder, Douglas Higgs, who had just restored Brocas Manor, stepped in and rescued the main house, converting it into four separate homes.

Joanna Wade

with thanks to past editions of Museum News published by the Eden Valley Museum for most of this article, and to Una and Tim Higgs for showing it to me.

SUBS PLEASE!!

Many thanks to all those who have already paid their Link subscription for 2021 or who have standing orders/arrangements in place to pay later in the year. If you haven't, please pay now. We had to chase up a lot of subs last year, please don't wait to be chased again. If you aren't sure what arrangements you have in place please contact Bridget by phone or email, contact and payment details on page 21. The annual sub is unchanged at a modest £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at hever.org BUT please let us know.
Many thanks

Falconhurst Garden Open to Visitors!



We have opened our gates to visitors for the past few years for the National Garden Scheme and it has been evident that people have loved coming here to see what we do with a small workforce (mainly the family), enjoy the views and lovely surroundings.

We have recently taken on a WRAGS apprentice, Ellie Gill, who is with us for a year. WRAGS is a scheme for people to work and retrain in horticulture and was originally an offspring of The Women's Land Army which was set up by Meriel Talbot, born and brought up at Falconhurst. It is fitting indeed to have the lovely Ellie working here!



So, our plan is to open the garden twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer from 5th May to fund our apprentice gardener.

Tickets £6 from Bookitbee or Falconhurst Farmshop.

Nicki Talbot

Beating the bounds -
Sunday 9th May 2021



This ancient custom takes place on 'Rogation Sunday', the fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday. "Rogation" comes from Latin rogatio and means "asking" as in asking for God's blessing on rural life and agriculture, in blessing the fields at planting time.

It is also a reminder to everyone of important boundaries.

Historically the Village Rector or priest would walk the parish bounds and children would carry willow wands to beat the boundary markers in order to imprint them firmly in their memories. Today modern maps show these boundaries clearly but it is always special to walk these ancient paths and connect with our village traditions.



This year's walk will take place on Sunday 9th May as part of Forest Church at St Peter's. It will be an easy circular walk of about 45 minutes from the churchyard footpath through the Castle woods to the boundary with Chiddingstone and back.

We will meet in the churchyard at 4pm and will have plenty of willow wands - everyone is very welcome to join in, including dogs!

Jane Rosam

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

We may have been in lockdown for the majority of the past year – but now we have hope for the future and we say thank you to the community for coming together to get through these difficult times. The work of the parish council has continued apace – looking after green spaces, responding to planning and licensing applications (an increasing number of these), planning enforcement, fly tipping, emptying dog bins - responding to consultations on everything from Gatwick to recycling. We also work with our neighbouring parishes – Licensing, Planning & enforcement, protection of land by Article 4 directives, for example.

We have been proud to also support local groups with grants, in the last financial year: £5,500 to Hever village hall, £2,000 to Churches, £2,000 to schools (including grants to help with home schooling during lockdown), £400 towards tennis coaching in Four Elms, £300 to The Samaritans, £500 Four Elms Parish Rooms, £100 to Four Elms Christmas events.

The Clerk working with Hever Residents Association has secured £30,000 from Govia Thameslink Railway for Hever station – we are looking forward to a canopy over the ticket machine, additional seating and a waiting shelter.

Everyone is enjoying the new seating at the Four Elms bus shelter and thanks to KCC Highways for re surfacing the red friction surface at the crossroads, at our request.

The Council continues to encourage landowners to replace inaccessible / damaged stiles (on their land that they are responsible for) with more accessible ones – Kent County Council and HPC will support with the modest costs of doing so. Let's hope landowners take up more of these offers!

Every year we budget extremely carefully to ensure public money is most effectively used and out of 31 Town and Parish Councils in the District, HPC are one of the only two who have reduced their precept this year, which of course keeps your Council tax bill as low as possible.

The consultation on the possibility of a limited number of affordable homes, to be built as an exception on green belt land in Bull Lane, Four Elms has really fired local interest in the community. Many comments have already been received, thank you. If built, the homes would be reserved ONLY for people with local parish connections. Due to covid limitations and by general request, we have paused this consultation but it will resume this month. Further information can be found on www.hever.org

The dates of all our meetings are on the website hever.org, Facebook and the noticeboards. The next Zoom meeting, the AGM, is on 6 May at 7.30pm with a planning meeting at 7pm. If you would like to join please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

Finally, thanks and best wishes to Peter Lake (Kent County Councillor), who retires in May.

Charlotte Cole
Clerk and Financial Officer
Hever Parish Council
clerk@hever.org
www.hever.org
Facebook/Heverparishcouncil

Mark Twain wrote of there being "lies, damned lies, and statistics." The original source of the saying is hotly disputed. It was suggested Disraeli coined the phrase. However academics have dispelled that and attributed it to someone else, who I daresay may in turn have heard it elsewhere. The long and the short of it is I neither recall nor have troubled to commit to memory the debate or its conclusions.

This admission of self-imposed ignorance will invoke a paroxysm in some readers. Others, though, will regard the whole question something of a triviality. And many will likely fall somewhere in between. More broadly, I err towards the view that life is full of little titbits of information which we don't need to recall but are nevertheless interesting. Sometimes knowing they exist and where to find them is sufficient.

So, what prompted these thoughts? It was the census. It reminded me that a little over a year ago I had intended to set out a few very basic facts about the patch – hence lies, damned lies and statistics. Events overtook me, but here we are now.

My hope is simply that the following are of passing interest to you, since I am asked these figures by fellow readers with surprising frequency.

The Cowden & Hever ward comprises two parishes in which there are four villages: Cowden, Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech. 2,200 people live within its 11 square miles, making it the least densely populated part of the Sevenoaks District. Recent estimates suggest the balance bucks the national figures by being slightly in favour of men – a change since the 2011 census.

Pubs per capita is high. With six pubs, each notionally serves 366 residents. Or put differently – given there are 840 households – about 140 homes.

Nearly three quarters of local people identify as Christian. And on ages, a fifth are under twenty and a similar proportion over sixty-five.

There, that's it! Data can be powerful – challenging perceptions, prompting questions and provoking change. Life changing those figures are unlikely to have been but at least you'll now know where to find them.

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

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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
Smart Nutrition and Fitness and beyond	personal training for midlife women	0771 8588847

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
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815
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 May

We have now returned to worship in person and we continue to livestream and record our main services which are accessible via https://threespires.wordpress.com/ or https://www.facebook.com/threespiresbenefice .

Please still check our website and Facebook page for information as things may still change at short notice as we emerge from the Covid restrictions.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
2 May 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms followed by Baptism	1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Easter 5
9 May 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Easter 6
9 May 4pm	Forest church Hever – Rogation walk		Easter 6
13 May 6pm	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53	Ascension Day
16 May 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Easter 7
23 May 8am	Said communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Acts 2:1-21 John 16:4b-15	Pentecost
23 May 10am	Family Service at St.Peter's Hever followed by Baptism	God sends help based on Acts 1-5 & John 15	Pentecost
30 May 10am	Patronal festival at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	Trinity Sunday

Our weekly Bible study continues by Zoom at 6.00pm on Mondays and our Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details of both please contact Simon.

As the weather improves, do join us for our short Rogation walk meeting starting from the Hever churchyard at 4pm on 9th May.

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.

STOP PRESS:
Our Annual Parochial Church Meetings have been postponed till late May in order that we can meet in person, as advised by the Diocese. Please look out for further announcements when we have dates agreed.

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

It has been great to be back worshipping in person, albeit with restrictions, and especially for the services over Easter - many thanks to all those who made them possible and for the many of you who came. I'm writing this shortly after the sad news of the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. By the time you read this the funeral will have happened and much will have been said and written. So I share some of the things I have read and which I felt are worth repeating.

The Queen herself said in the wake of 9/11 that 'grief is the price we pay for love' and this was referred to in the Times the day after the announcement. The fact is loss is loss and it is not assuaged by a long life remarkably led. Losing someone after over seventy years of marriage leaves a huge gap and even the predictability of death's arrival for someone approaching their centenary can't soften the blow.

Our MP, Tom Tugendhat said: 'Few have given more for so long in service and duty.'

Barack Obama wrote: 'Prince Philip in particular was kind and warm, with a sharp wit and unfailing good humour…At the Queen's side or trailing the customary two steps behind, Prince Philip showed the world what it meant to be a supportive husband to a powerful woman. Yet he also found a way to lead without demanding the spotlight — serving in combat in World War II, commanding a frigate in the Royal Navy, and tirelessly touring the world to champion British industry and excellence. Through his extraordinary example, he proved that true partnership has room for both ambition and selflessness — all in service of something greater.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury adds that 'For His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh there was a willingness, a remarkable willingness, to take the hand he was dealt in life and straightforwardly to follow its call, to search its meaning, to go out and on as sent, to enquire and think, to trust and to pray.'

Of the Prince and the Queen, the Archbishop says: 'Theirs was a marriage grounded in friendship and mutual respect and sustained by a shared faith in Christ.'

Pete Greig, the founder of the 24/7 Prayer movement, tweeted: 'It's not hard to respect a man who fought for freedom in the war, stayed married for 73 years and successfully played second fiddle on the world stage for longer than anyone.'

May the Duke of Edinburgh rest in peace and rise in glory as we pray for the comfort of the Royal family and the millions of others who have themselves suffered loss during this pandemic from which, please God, we are now emerging.
God bless you all

Simon

Four Elms

Never perform with children and animals. The Rev. Simon took on the task cheerfully as he officiated at the first "live" service here at St. Paul's on Palm Sunday. It was a delight to see so many people attending the Family Service in the churchyard, social distanced and in family bubbles. Walter and Stanley, our visiting donkeys behaved impeccably and deserved their carrots at the end of the service. It was quite a contrast to our Easter Sunday sunrise service. On a crisp 6am morning we welcomed Easter and the rising of Christ. There was a spiritual and actual warmth from the outdoor fire pit and the Easter candles. The good news, now we are able to have our services inside church so please look at the Threespires website for all services and also see our notice board for information.

We emerged from lockdown on a snowy morning in April with a feeling of joy as we gradually approach some normality of life. We should not have been surprised by the weather as I believe it was also the start of the English cricket season. The morning frost and snow soon cleared and we were able to observe the burst of nature on the hedgerows and in gardens which marginally overshadowed the joy of an ability to visit a hairdresser! Nevertheless, I am reminded of my grandmother's sage words, "N'er cast a clout till the May be out". I never knew if it was the May blossom or the month of May but since she lived in the Scottish Highlands for most of her youth I imagine the May blossom was a bit later than here in the south of England. My signal that spring and better weather has arrived is the sound of the cuckoo. He has not been heard yet but surely he will be around very soon along with the swooping swallows. So let us move forward enjoying the ability to have "live" services in our beautiful churches once again.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

We were delighted to celebrate Easter in person on Easter Sunday. The pupils of Hever School had a display of Easter Gardens in the Bullen chapel and many crosses strung across the Lych Gate. Around the churchyard during Holy Week we placed pictures and quotes representing the "Stations of the Cross".

The Parish lunches will re-start outdoors at Step 3, currently no earlier than May 17th, when the limits on people meeting outdoors are increased to the required number. We will now hold all of our services in person, except for the very popular Thursday 6pm Evening prayer which will continue on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us, please contact Simon or Ana for the link to the service.

We have delayed the 900th celebration until 2022 when we can

hopefully have a proper celebration in person. St Peter's Patronal Festival will be on Sunday June 27th

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

As I write this in the middle of April, I feel as if we are slowly emerging into the light, step by step we are regaining freedoms and cautiously re-establishing routines. There are so many images that illustrate this feeling, I think of the prisoners rising from their dungeon in Beethoven's Fidelio, of butterflies swelling from their chrysalides, of buds unfurling as the sunlight warms them. Our spring this year lacks the heat of last years, but sunshine stimulates and charges our energy supplies and we really can feel the new beginnings.

The churches were opened for Easter and we rejoiced at being able to worship God together and share communion, and see each other in person, but were sad that the music we were allowed was so limited. We are working on a new Service Rota to make sure each church gets its fair share of Revd Simon's very valuable time, and looking forward to a lively and busy church in the months ahead.

Gradually, like those unfolding buds, we hope to grow the content of our services to return to the richness of experience we loved.

Our recharged energy has led us to start making plans ahead for social events too, for the village lunch in July and Harvest supper in September, and we have even started to think about the Christmas Fair.

Personally I am scrambling to get ready to show my paintings in my garden room for the "Art in June" event. There will be loads of art around the benefice and wider area to be visited and enjoyed. Look out for trails to follow to combine a gentle walk with inspiration and refreshment breaks.

On a sadder note, tomorrow we say good bye to Jill Linden at her funeral at Markbeech. She was such a pivotal figure in our little community and beyond for so many years, taking on so many roles and giving and doing so much that made the church and village work so well. She will be greatly missed but we give thanks for her life and pray that she will be reunited with her beloved Len.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

From the register

Deaths

2 February Diana Walters, Four Elms
29 March Jill Linden, Markbeech

Interment of ashes

Peter and Beryl Hunnex died on 26 October 216 and 11 May 2020, Markbeech

gardening

As I write it certainly doesn't feel like the height of Spring! I can't remember an April for such prolonged frosts and damaging ones at that.

The Magnolias were hit just before their prime & emerging Acer leaves were scorched. Here at How Green our plants have ground to a halt. The long term forecast is for bright, sunny days & temperatures are on the rise. We desperately need our stocks to be ready as demand is sky high!!

The month of May is notoriously the busiest time at the nursery. Ordinarily this would coincide with the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, but for obvious reasons it has been postponed until September.We are actively growing for a garden and we're really excited. It's never been done before, but I think the gardens will look spectacular. Normally May is all about tonal colours like pink, white and blue.

Chelsea in September will all be about the fiery Autumn colours like red, orange and yellow and will introduce gardeners to a pallet of plants that can extend a garden's interest.

Carrying on the RHS theme, we are busily growing for Wisley gardens for phase two of the 'Well Being Garden'. We're delighted to have been offered the contract following on from supplying the plants last year. Check out their website to see the progress being made.

May is a month that offers so much for the gardener. A personal favourite springs into life now and gives weeks of colourful interest – the Geum. There are many desirable varieties with new additions launched every year. The standout varieties we grow are 'Totally Tangerine', 'Scarlet Tempest', 'Mai Tai' & 'Lady Clementine'. They tolerate part shade (can take full sun) making them adaptable to most gardens. If cut back after flowering, some can re-bloom.

Aquilegia come into their own this month. Again, very versatile and can add height and a range of colours. 'Ruby Port' and 'Bordeaux Barlow' are sumptuous deep burgundy varieties that we grow.

Erigeron kavinskianus (Mexican Fleabane) – this is one of our best selling plants believe it or not! Some gardeners loathe it as it self-seeds prolifically. It flowers from May through to October with pretty white/fading to pink daisy flowers in Profusion. No dead-heading and little maintenance required. We are also growing a brand new variety called 'Lavender Lady' – same characteristics but a different colour.

Sadly we have no plans for an open day this Summer. We really hope we can welcome you back in September – we miss you! Keep gardening and stay safe.

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery

PS we are currently recruiting – if you have a passion for plants get in touch.

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	46	30									
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	42	41.5									
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	40	31									

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
email: thelink@hever.org
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 June edition should reach us no later than **15 May 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.