THE LINK

July/August







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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the Link for July and August

We must learn to love our slugs. Slugs are our friends, or so many naturalists would have us believe, they munch their way through dead and rotting materials and provide food for birds, especially thrushes, and for toads.

That is all fine, but my slugs are far from sluggish as they prepare to devour my very un-dead hostas and love is very much not in the air. Without chemicals we are doomed as I realised on a visit to the Doubleday organic gardens in Yalding some years ago (now sadly closed due to lack of funding) only to view rows of holey cabbages surrounded by egg shells and glasses of beer in a vain attempt to stem the slimy tide.

But of course slug pellets have taken a dreadful toll and when they wash into local watercourses, water treatment works such as the one at Bough Beech have to spend untold sums to purify the water with carbon filters. The effective but bird and hedgehog lethal slug pellet metaldehyde is being banned from 2022 (except for use inside permanent greenhouses) and some farmers fear that this will spell the end for their crops because the replacement, ferric phosphate is less effective. However, Kevin Agate of Hever Countryside Services, who runs training on the new regulations, says that old fashioned practices such as crop rotation has the slugs scurrying from field to field in search of their favourite tucker and this really helps to keep them under control, so there is hope.



And so the love-hate relationship continues - my car will not be carrying an "I ❤ Gastropods" sticker anytime soon - but maybe I should just give up on the hostas.

Joanna Wade

PS This is the edition for July and August. We look forward to being back in touch with you in September.

THE LINK

pet of the month

Myrtle - our rough coated Jack Russell

We had a short haired Jack Russell twenty years ago, Mary, and as much as we loved her, she attacked almost all other dogs and we swore we would never have another Jack Russell. The years rolled by and when, ten years ago, we decided to have another dog, what did we choose, but a Jack Russell!

Myrtle was a rescue dog from Last Chance. They had found her at a dog pound in Swansea, shortly before she was due to be put down. Her CV said that she was good with “some” dogs, and that has proved to be surprisingly accurate!

She is incredibly loving to all family members, although we sometimes wonder if she thinks our four year old grandson is part of the human race!

As with Mary, we have tried to give her a modicum of training, but to no avail. Myrtle suffers from “terrier deafness“, no order knowingly obeyed. She is very keen to further the reputation of small dogs, being bossy and noisy. Despite this, she does have security issues, hates closed doors and is anxious to know where we are at all times.

When we first had her, Ruth took her to dog training classes at Chiddingstone Causeway. She only managed one lesson and it didn’t go well. In exercise number one, she launched herself at a pedigree West Highland Terrier and took a chunk out of her.



Pandemonium ensued and Ruth thought that discretion was the better part of valour and made a hasty exit from the class, never to return. Jane Rosam, who was there with her dog, often refers to Ruth and Myrtle’s “ Walk of Shame”!

Despite all the above, we love her dearly and she has enriched our lives. Apart from her food and walks, she loves a tug of war, mostly at inconvenient moments. She will be our last dog. If we were foolish enough to get another, it definitely wouldn’t be Jack Russell - or would it? !!

Robin and Ruth Rouse

what I do

A little more than a year ago, I'd just passed my medical at Heathrow and was having my British Airways uniform fitting photo taken. My darling, proud fiancé Miles was waiting in our little yellow car and at fifty, with my two children grown up, I was about to launch into a flying career as Gatwick Cabin Crew; a dream I'd had since regularly flying the Kent skies as a child with my late dad in a Cessna over Biggin Hill in the 70's. But it was March 2020 and we all know what happened next. So two weeks into training my team returned the BA iPads and left our uniforms in Hangar Six. We hadn't even stepped on a plane.

Miles and I had moved into a converted garage on our landlord's drive to be nearer to Gatwick – we didn't think we'd need a garden anymore as I'd be flying and there'd be little time for growing the wonderful vegetables we used to. A few dark weeks followed then I literally went back to the drawing board. I'd always loved painting and in the 90s had a market stall which with a low cost loan from the Prince's Trust, I grew into two high street galleries in Horley and Redhill. In the mid 2000s and with a young family, running the galleries became too much of a financial strain so I went back to university and retrained as a teacher.

So Miles brought home a huge sheet of plastic, we moved our two beanbags and the lounge was transformed into a studio. Every day I painted, some days were a success some days were disastrous with a canvas covered in tears. But practice, determination and discipline is a wonderful thing and bit by bit I began to find my style. Amazingly I am now just about making a living doing what I love and opening my front door to some incredibly interesting people. I regularly hold mini exhibitions here and squeeze in as many paintings that I can fit onto the floor. I've also managed to get into three galleries and two golf clubs to exhibit my work. It might not be flying the skies but with a paint brush in hand the sky is now the limit!



Sally Scott aka Sally Oasis
Instagram
sallyoasisoriginalabstractart
Facebook
Sally Painting
WhatsApp
07547384148
Exhibiting at Sweetwoods Park and Holtye Golf Club, The Hive Gallery Westerham, The Green Tree Gallery Borde Hill Garden and Artwork Framers and Gallery, Weybridge.

Edenbridge Water Meadows Nature Reserve

Edenbridge Water meadows – a small 'nature reserve' of 15 acres – is sandwiched between the River Eden, in the east, the Edenbridge Town Council's Recreation ground to the west, and the Environment Agency flood bund in the north, just alongside Mont St Aignan Way.

The water meadows are privately owned by the Great Stone Bridge Trust (GSBT) by whom they are managed for the benefit and protection of all forms of wildlife present in this small area. Whilst there are no footpaths across the meadows, the GSBT extends an invitation to anyone who wants to see the wildlife whilst respecting this little 'jewel' which nature has been so kind to provide for our enjoyment.

Together with the adjoining farmland, the water meadows comprise a key part in the rich mosaic of wildlife. In any one year the area will be visited by somewhere in the region of 84 different species of birds, 22 different species of butterflies, 10 different species of dragonflies and damselflies, 8 different species of mammals, and have growing in this relatively small area 132 species of angiosperms (flowering plants).

Unique habitats have been created to provide shelter and protection from both the weather and predators and whilst these specific habitats look like 32 piles of old wood, covered with oak leaves in autumn, nothing could be further from the truth. They provide a 'safe haven' for insects and other



species which do not hibernate during the cold winter periods; shrews and voles are obvious examples of this group of vulnerable creatures.

Other than regular mowing of certain grass swathes for the benefit of ground-feeding birds and access by the larger mammals, nature is left to get on with managing itself, the only intervention being during the winter months when there will be a slight need to keep all aspects of the meadows 'in balance'.

Now in its twelfth year of management, this last year has been the meadow's busiest in terms of human footfall, with unprecedented numbers visiting for their Covid 'daily exercise' and, more recently, a recognition that getting out into the countryside is good for your health and for your soul! Many of the visitors – from Edenbridge and beyond, as far afield as Guildford, Maidstone and Catford – have been extremely complimentary. To stand in the meadows in the not-too-early morning, or later in the afternoon, and to listen in the quiet to the most exquisite birdsong, restores one's faith and sense of well-being. It is, truly amazing, what miracles nature can work.

Clive Pearman

The Barn at Falconhurst

We are extremely proud to announce the opening of our events venue, 'The Barn'. On the 4th June our doors opened and it was an immensely enjoyable moment that felt as if it would never come!

The Barn has had many uses since it was built in the 1840's. Until the second half of the 20th century it was one of several tenant farms on the estate and was primarily used to help manage a small dairy herd. Charles Talbot, the current proprietor of the Falconhurst estate, fondly remembers the farmer Willy White and his mixed herd of twelve cows that used to graze the parkland and then be milked in The Barn.

In the 1970's Charles' parents, Cynthia, and Tom, decided to merge all the tenant farms on the estate into Horseshoe Green Farm, and since then The Barn has been lying dormant…

The Barn is now very much awake and its new purpose it to help us entertain the local community with a variety of events. The focus will be on food, art and music so expect to see information on upcoming pop-up restaurants, markets, exhibitions, and concerts soon!

After having a very successful June with 'Art in June' and Flora Smith taking over The Barn with their respective exhibitions, we now turn our heads towards to July and to the upcoming events there. We have two supper clubs, on the 10th & 20th, hosted by Freddie who runs Wild Seasoning, a catering company based near Sevenoaks. We also have a jazz night on the 24th where a local artist called Dulcie May and her quintet will be showing us all a good time. More information on all events at The Barn as well as ticket links can be found at www.falconhurst.co.uk/thebarn - we hope to see some of you there over the course of the summer!

George Talbot

FOUR ELMS VILLAGE FETE
Due to the recent extension of the Covid lockdown as announced by the Prime Minister on Monday 14th June 2021, the Fete proposed for Saturday July 10th will not now take place

Great Stone Bridge Trust

Whenever you travel through Edenbridge you are likely to pass over a great stone bridge at the bottom of town. The story is that the bridge was built following complaints by two ladies of the parish who found it inconvenient to use the stepping stones previously provided.

In 1511 a fund was established to care for the maintenance of the bridge and to provide charitable assistance to the residents of the town. This role was formalised in 1978 when the charity commissioners permitted the trustees to spend the income generated by the trust for the charitable benefit of the inhabitants of Edenbridge.

Last year the trust awarded grants in the region of £60000 to almost 50 local institutions, clubs, societies, schools and students. It has been able to help activities in our parish where there has been a majority of Edenbridge children involved.

As well as being able to support local needs the Trust also owns and manages the meadows on the other side of the Bridge [behind the fire station] which are available for all to walk and enjoy at absolutely no cost to themselves.

The Great Stone Bridge Trust is a group of 11 local people, 2 of whom are nominated by Edenbridge Town council, coming from a diverse range of backgrounds. I am very proud to be the current chairman. For further information please look at the Great Stone Bridge Trust website.

John Hodson



Jean Cust

– a tribute by her husband Cad

My beloved Jean who died on 10 May was beautiful, in every sense of the word; and so brave, on many occasions, during over half a century of our marriage. Many of the sympathy cards refer to her kindness, enthusiasm and energy. She was happiest supporting the community in roles including PTA, WI, Tourist Information, Edenbridge Museum, Sevenoaks District Council (EdenbridgeOffice), Edenbridge Library and of course Twinning. Jean was also a committed environmentalist, living the principles of Friends of the Earth, The Soil Association, R.S.P.B, Sustrans and Edenbridge Sustainability.

Jean was born in 1950, an Essex girl and proud of it. She had great respect for her parents, Eva and Jack Dennis, and what they had done during the War. Her father was a merchant seaman, freighting across the Atlantic. His vessels were torpedoed twice but he was saved by people who put their lives at risk to do so. Jean was a lifelong supporter of the RNLI. Her mother served in the ATS. However, after the war her father's profession took him away for months at a time and the marriage broke down. Jean grew up under her grandfather's roof. The only child in an elderly household created an introverted teenager and education at a distant grammar school meant few local friends.

In 1968 she secured a job in the Westminster Bank, in the City and this time in her life was fun with lots of new friends and excitement. I cannot recall the date when I first saw Jean but I have the same sensation of wonder, thinking of her now. I was one of the computer boys. We were soon dating and in



Argentina, Bariloche, riding in a cable car

September 1969, standing outside a jeweller in West London I suggested I could buy her a ring, if she would marry me. I am the eldest child of a large Irish family and was playing rugby at a senior level and often needed A&E after a game, Jean would turn up expecting me to take her out and when told that I was in hospital went out with one of my brothers! We were married in her village church at Hadleigh in August 1970. Intelligent, knowledgeable and adaptive Jean became the matriarch of my family and then we started

our own. Our three children are the most beautiful creatures on earth; I suspect because of inheritance.

We arrived in Hever at Easter 1979. Hazeldene then had a toilet, bath and kitchen sink in a lean-to at the back. Jean had three young children to cope with and a husband working all hours trying to build a career in London. And for Jean it just got better. Throughout the building works she would welcome family and friends to the sitting room, and not mention the elephant in the room: the chemical toilet. I didn't know anyone in Hever, I am dysfunctional, yet for over 40 years Jean tried to integrate me because she said the people of this community were worth it.

Between the children leaving university and the responsibility of being grandparents, Jean and I bought a small, but very seaworthy, yacht. We were occasionally caught in a storm and I would have to go below and calculate a course to a safe haven. Jean would simply take the helm and I can still hear the little childhood songs she sang whilst engulfed in breaking waves. I knew she was scared, but she bravely stuck to her task, sometimes for hours. We would also go away for months to remote places and did things I would never have dared to without Jean: facing down a puma in the Andes; donkey riding in the Sahara; standing in respect watching funerals of HIV dead crossing the track outside a township in South Africa; coping with me when I nearly died of diarrhoea in Bolivia; swimming 20kms offshore along the Australian great barrier reef, with the ever-present sharks; going the wrong way up the River Iguazu rapids in a 400 Horsepower Rigid Inflatable Boat(RIB) near the Argentinian and Brazilian border. Some of the things Jean did could fill a novel. I quote from Roy Batty's Tears in Rain: "I've known adventures, seen places you people will never see, I've been Offworld and back… frontiers! I've stood on the back deck of a blinker bound for the Plutition Camps with sweat in my eyes watching stars fight on the shoulder of Orion... ". Not bad for an introverted teenager from Essex.

Following round after round of chemotherapy and three major operations, when the treatment started to take its toll, we had a new routine. When we were in bed ready to nod off, one would say "Love you" the response would be "Love you", then "Kiss Kiss" and in the darkness the other would reply "Kiss Kiss".

Jean was brave and beautiful to the end. On the 9th May Jean had a number of episodes which required medical intervention from the Hospice staff. In the evening she was semi-conscious as they had fitted a morphine drip. Jean told me she "wanted to go".

I squeezed her hand and said "Love you, Love you, Kiss Kiss"and the last words Jean whispered were "Kiss Kiss".

The Drake oil syndicate

After all the bad news it was a pleasant surprise to receive cheques from Certas energy payable to St Pauls Church, Four Elms and the other churches on the patch. This was because many of you are members of the Drake syndicate.

How it works is that every time a member buys heating oil, a half pence per litre delivered gets added by Certas to the Drake charity pot. At the end of the year the total is distributed amongst local parish churches and a number of Edenbridge charities. You generate somewhere between £8-10,000 annually.

Each quarter I check the prevailing oil price from a number of suppliers and the bargain with Certas for the best price. The customer is then offered a delivery at that price. And that's it. If you use oil, please join! The switch process is easy, just email me, John Hodson, john@johnhod.co.uk.

Falconhurst Cricket Club
Fixtures July/August 2021

Sunday 4 July 1:30pm v Stonewall Park (H)
Sunday 11 July 1:30pm v Chessmen (H)
Sunday 18 July 1:30pm v Bidborough (H)
Sunday 25 July 1:30pm v Wadhurst (H)
Sunday 1 August 1:30pm v Grannies (H)
Sunday 8 August 1:30pm v Linden Park 2nds (H)
Saturday 14 August 1:30pm v Chelsfield Park (H)
Saturday 21 August 1:30pm v Rusthall (A)
Saturday 28 August 1:30pm v President's XI (H)
Sunday 29 August 1:30pm v Cowden (A)



schooltime

news from Four Elms

It's end of another slightly atypical year, so here is a round up of our end of year events.

Good luck Year 6

We said goodbye and good luck to our year 6 children before they embark on the next stage of their lives at secondary school. The Year 6 leavers play is the BAFTA-winning gangster spoof, Bugsy Malone, being held at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. Set in the Prohibition era, the story tells of the rise of 'Bugsy Malone and the battle for power between 'Fat Sam' and 'Dandy Dan'. There is lots of singing and dancing and of course the iconic 'splurge guns' dispensing masses of whipped cream!

Other year 6 leavers events include a trip to Thorpe Park and to the seaside at Westgate-on-Sea followed by an overnight camp out. Fingers crossed for dry weather! We are also holding a year 6 prom and presentation assembly in the final days of term.

Inspirational Class 1

Class 1 created a virtual art gallery inspired by the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy. Andy creates 'Ephemeral Art': art that does not last a long time. He is inspired by nature and uses natural resources to create his art.

Here are some of Class 1's inspiring creations.

Mother Earth, by Elsie



"This is Mother Earth. Mother Earth has lovely flowers in her beautiful hair. I was excited to make Mother Earth."

The Pattern, by Harry



"The trail is made of big rocks. I made a pattern."

Collaborative work: Crab Land by Oliver and The Volcano by Fearne



"Crab land is made of soft sand. I love crumbly sand, that is why I made it." (Oliver)
"I used bumpy shells and wet sand to make the Volcano." (Fearne)

Sports Day
Sports Day will be a little different this year with separate events for Key Stage 1 and 2. This is an event enjoyed by all the children, with some healthy rivalry across the school houses.

Nicole Holt

news from Hever

As we move into the final term of the school year I would like to recognise the great resilience Hever children have shown this year. The children have adapted to new systems, different ways of learning and interacting and have done so with drive and a smile.

Our Creative Schools Week included both in-school and online celebrations. The week was an opportunity to share and showcase all the exciting work that is being undertaken across our school. The children enjoyed a variety of activities – Elm Class went on a road trip of the USA that culminated in a cowboy BBQ! Chestnut Class turned their hands to sewing and made some lovely soft toys. Oak Class learned about portraiture, discovering Spain and finished the week making pizzas. Elderberry travelled back to Tudor times, making Tudor style houses and recreating the Fire of London! Acorn students experienced a joyful first educational visit to Hever Castle with Magnolia children.

The children were visited by Vernon Barker, the Kent Fire and Rescue Service's Education Officer who talked about how firefighters work to keep everyone safe. The children found out about the protective clothing that firefighters need as well as all of the equipment on the fire engine. Afterwards Mr Barker wrote especially to thank the children for their good behaviour, maturity and excellent engagement which made his job both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Going forward we are very much looking forward to our Olympic Week at the end of June. All the children have qualified to represent one of 20 countries and after the Opening Ceremony, they will spend the week festooned in their country colours competing in lots of different events – sporting or otherwise. The week will finish with the Closing Ceremony where all the medallists will be announced.

We are very mindful of our Year 6 leavers and are planning Covid-safe transition activities. It's been a chaotic year and Year 6 children deserve the best ending to their primary school journey that we can give them before we say farewell and good luck as they move onto their secondary schools in September.



Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

Hever Parish Council are delighted to report that Christina Divall has been appointed as the new Clerk of Hever Parish Council, with immediate effect. 15 people were interested in the post, 9 applications received and 4 candidates were interviewed. Christina lives in Edenbridge and is deeply involved in the community.

She has over 17 years' experience in the civil service from working in the Information Centre and Library at Fort Halstead, Sevenoaks. She has excellent IT and administration skills and will be an efficient and friendly Clerk to the Council. She replaces Charlotte, who, after 5 and a half years in the role, is returning to her first career as Dietitian in the NHS and will assist Christina with handover until the end of June.

At the Annual meeting on 06.05.21, John Hodson was re – elected as Chair and Joanna Wade as Vice Chair for another year, many thanks to them both and indeed all the Councillors for their time and commitment for the benefit of the local community. A grant application from Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air ambulance for £300 was supported. Minutes will be on the website shortly.

Please see our website for details of future meetings.

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

The parish Council is very grateful to Charlotte Cole for all the work she has done as parish clerk over the last five years and we wish her well in her new career in the NHS.



“If there’s something strange, in your neighbourhood, who you gonna call?” ask the lyrics to the title track of the 1984 classic, Ghostbusters.

If recently dismissed professors of parapsychology aren’t always your first port of call, then how do you get in touch with the right people with minimal fuss? It can be a time-consuming and frustrating process, so on the back cover of this Link, there is a short directory of handy links and email addresses. I make no claim to it being comprehensive but the contacts are those for which I am most frequently asked, and included alongside them are some which I hope you never have cause to call but prove invaluable if you do.

In any case, something for the fridge door, beside the phone, or to photograph for storage on your mobile. And should you prefer to telephone rather than use Internet or email, those marked with an asterisk may be approached via 01732 227 000.

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



business directory

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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
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 July and August

Subject to the precise timing of the lifting of Covid restrictions we are looking forward to the 'new normal'. It is likely our Patronal Festival at Hever on 27th June will be subject to some restrictions and we hope that all three churches will be fully open to visitors later in July. Please watch the website and Facebook for information https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
4th July 10am	Pet service St.Paul's Four Elms followed by short service of Holy communion	Genesis 1:1-31	Trinity 5
4th July 6pm	Choral Evensong Holy Trinity Markbeech	Jeremiah 29:4-13 Romans 14:1-17	Trinity 5
11th July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	Trinity 6
11th July 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever		Trinity 6
18th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Trinity 7
25th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21	Trinity 8
1st August 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech with baptism	Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	Trinity 9
8th August 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Trinity 10
15th August 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	Trinity 11
22nd August 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69	Trinity 12
29th August 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Trinity 13
5th September 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	James 2:1-10; 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Trinity 14

Our weekly Bible study which is following 'the Prayer Course' 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.

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

our rector's thoughts

As I write this, I hope we are at last in the final throes of the pandemic. So I wonder looking back what things we might all agree that we love, value and appreciate afresh. Here are some suggestions.

The first is the beauty and value of the human face, which we have become used to seeing covered. The creation story describes humans as 'made in the image of God' (Genesis 1:26-27) and in the bible God is described as having a face that we can seek (Psalm 27:8); that we have seen in Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:6); and will one day see, face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Second is singing. How we've missed not being able to worship God in song! There is a rich variety in church music of all kinds and we are fortunate in the Three Spires to have an enthusiastic choir in Markbeech which we are hoping can be expanded to form a Three Spires choir. Please can anyone who enjoys singing and would like to be involved let Charles Talbot know by emailing charles@ falconhurst.co.uk

Third is freedom from fear. The pandemic has been a time of uncertainty and fear where at one point we even feared social contact. There are many things that cause us fear and anxiety. It is said that there are 365 verses in the Bible calling us not to fear – one for every day of the year. St.Thomas Aquinas taught, following St.Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, that 'perfect love casts out fear' by seeking the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love.

Fourth is fellowship and the proximity of others. What a joy it is to be able to meet together again such as at the Hever lunch in June, the Art in June and many other gatherings. Susie and I will be inviting anyone to our open home in Penshurst as soon as the lockdown is lifted for teas and fun for all ages - swimming and bouncy castle! Watch for details once we've agreed a new date.

Finally there is the Christian message of eternal life which we bear as Easter people. Many writers, such as the historian Tom Holland and scientist Karol Sikora, have pointed out the fear of death has been the largely unspoken reality in this crisis; one which the Church is uniquely placed to address. Speaking of the resurrection, St.Paul writes that death is the last enemy to be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26) and I've seen the impact of that assurance on the faces of many who have died in the faith.

May we continue to be people of faith, hope and love as we emerge from this crisis.

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

One of the most beautiful features of our churches are the stained glass windows and St. Paul's is endowed with the most wonderful collection thanks to the generosity of patrons a hundred years ago. Apart from their beauty they also have a purpose, as Simon indicated during Holy Week, where we are able to see the tableau by simply sitting in church. I visited the British Museum Thomas Becket exhibition. Here can be seen via the wonderful medieval stained glass windows, on loan from Canterbury Cathedral, the impressionable story of Thomas's rise to sainthood. These windows enabled the many without reading ability in the thirteenth century to marvel at Becket. Whatever we believe about Thomas Becket today the windows remain beautiful and as witness. With our overload of information today how will we be remembered?

It was with a sense of calm that we celebrated Holy Communion in early June, with the sun shining through the windows. As a church warden I am acutely aware of the cost of maintaining a building over 100 years old but I am also aware that the building is a haven of peace and tranquillity when the need arises and for this purpose we look forward to our churches being open each day of the week. I hope that those in need will find it a place of peace, reflection and prayer.

Maintaining the building is an expensive item in the church budget so we tentatively look forward to several fund raisers. The Four Elms Fete has been postponed but Little Chittenden garden will be open for a visit and tea on Saturday 26 June from 2.30pm. All gardens are looking glorious at the moment and we hope that you enjoy Little Chittenden. Book your ticket if you wish to have tea.

Our next service is the very enjoyable Pet Service on Sunday 4th July at 10am Please join us and bring your pet to this annua outside service

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

June has seen the start of our internal redecoration of the church. The fresco on the South Wall has been conserved by Tom Organ and his experts at Arte Conservation and the internal walls are being repainted by Mark Pinchin and his team. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project either directly or indirectly through their regular giving to the church.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Ellie Heard who is moving permanently to the kennels at the end of June. Ellie, as I am sure you will be aware, has been a linchpin at St Peter's Church in Hever over many years. She has been Church Warden, PCC member, Link distributor, on the Fundraising and the Friends of St Peter's committees. We owe her a deep debt of gratitude and wish her all the best for her move.

We were delighted to see so many familiar faces at the recent parish picnic, we were blessed with excellent weather and delicious food prepared by Jane Rosam and Bridget Harris. The next picnic will be held on Thursday July 8th at 12.30, everyone is most welcome. It would be

helpful for catering, if you can let us know if you are coming.
Those of you who walk the public footpath will have noticed our very smart new "vestry" and "church entrance" signs. They were made by Tony Yates with wood provided by John Scott and we are very grateful to them for donating their time and materials for this project.

Once we open the church for visitors again, we need some new volunteers for the teams that support the church building so if you are able to help on the cleaning rota, with flower arranging or being a church opener and closer then please get in touch.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Our hopes for a more normal summer have just been suspended. Messages are flying between wardens as we try to interpret the latest rules in relation to weddings and baptisms, lunches and fetes. We continue to have our meetings online and are still unable to sing hymns in our services. But I think we all believe that the extra thought and planning that has to go into every activity these days pays us back in increased enthusiasm and interest from our congregations.We still don't know how much we will be able to travel this summer, I think I will be staying home again, and so we will depend more than ever on friends and the life in our villages and will be hoping for a continuation of the current beautiful weather.

The new pattern of services will continue in our churches through July, and August, but keep checking the website diary for the most up-to-date information. Did you know that we use a Google calendar for this and that you can subscribe to it and thus get all the information on your own phone diary, updated in real time? It's really useful! Everyone has become so much more used to using technology during the last year that doing this should now be a complete doddle - if not, do ask me how to do it.

I have really enjoyed opening my little studio for 'Art in June' this month, and have decided to keep it open at weekends for the rest of the summer restocking it with new work, cards and prints. Of course I may sneak a weekend away some time so if you are passing, drop in, but it might be better to check before making a special journey. I will be serving coffee, tea and Swedish waffles, proceeds to the church!

Our only planned event this summer is the village lunch, here at Old Farm, on August 22nd. Please look out for announcements for this nearer the time - nothing feels certain in these strange times until it actually happens.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptisms

St.Peter's Hever on 27th June
Alexander David Sillitoe (parents Penelope & Benjamin)

Wedding

Holy Trinity Markbeech on
19th June Lizzie Ahern & James Isles
26th June Gary Jobson & Karolina Budzinska
27th June Katie Horton & Zach Hickmore

gardening

Like many local organisations, the Hever Hort has been looking forward to holding events once again. Our first Plant Sale for two years took place in the grounds of Hever village hall on 22nd May. It was a bit of an anxious time; would there be enough plants? Would people turn up? Would the weather hold? Yes, yes and yes! It was our most successful plant sale ever. We are grateful to all those who donated plants to supplement George Payne's gorgeous selection.

Gardens have played an important role in providing succour, comfort (and exercise) during the lockdown and there has been an increased demand for plants, both flowers and vegetable, and I hope we helped a little in meeting it.

The Government has just announced that the final stage of the roadmap will be delayed. We have therefore decided not to go ahead with the Rose Show on 28th June and put our efforts into creating a bumper Summer Show on Saturday, 14th August. Please remember the date and come along, and even enter, if you can. Details of the show are on the Hever website, www.hever. org. Just follow the link to Hever Rose and Horticultural Society and click on the link to the schedule, which is the same as for 2020. If you would like further information please contact our show secretary, Jan Tolfree, on 01342 850206.

In recent years I have become a fan of the espalier method of growing fruit trees. The word is french but derives from the Italian, spallieri, meaning 'resting on the shoulder', a reference to the trellis on which the trees were originally grown, and is a technique going back to Roman times. It is a very efficient method, basically growing in two dimensions and therefore takes very little space, so is ideal for smaller gardens. I have Braeburn (picture with the blossom) and Discovery apples and a Conference pear and it looks as though they will be very prolific this year.



In an earlier piece I mentioned my attempts to take rose cuttings. I have now lost a couple more but one, at least, has flowered, a lovely red with a pinkish tinge at the end of the petals. I think the expert advice is to not let the cuttings flower for the first few years, so that the root system gets a chance to develop properly, but I could not resist seeing what it would look like.

Happy gardening!

Doug Bowern

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	6	56							
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	5	65.5							
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	4	55.5							

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 September edition should reach us no later than **16 August 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

Useful contacts

View or comment on planning applications
https://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-applications/

Log a pothole or blocked drain
www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

Check location, duration orpurpose of roadworks
www.roadworks.org

Alert authorities to fly-tipping*
http://bit.ly/SDC-flytipping
nformation@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Request planning enforcement*
http://bit.ly/SDC-devenforcement
planning.enforcement@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Report a missed bin collection*
http://bit.ly/SDC-missedbin

Seek assistance with noise or other disturbance*
http://bit.ly/SDC-noisenuisance

Housing, debt, welfare & other advice*
hero@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Report or find out about a power cut
www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk
0800 316 3105

Edenbridge & Westerham Citizens Advice
enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk
0808 278 7962

Police (non-urgent)
www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/
111

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247

Samaritans
116 123

This list is courtesy of Cllr. Matthew Dickins.