November 2021

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Christmas Fairs
- Present ideas
- When the Orient Express came to Hever
- Film club is back!

...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the November Link

This is the month of spiders. I reached down to pick up the stuffing from a dismembered dog toy and it dissolved in my hand.

It was the tangled web of a long legged spinner, not the usual beautiful symmetrical Halloween construction elegantly looped on the long grass, but more like cotton wool. The next day, the field and hedges were covered with little woven hammocks glittering with dew and carefully constructed to catch a falling fly.

So, several types of web in the space of yards such is the extraordinary diversity of our arachnid friends. I see that there are over 650 species of spiders in the UK. What I cannot discover is why the same very large spider appears in my kitchen sink every morning. At least I think it is the same spider. Very clever beekeepers mark a queen bee with nail varnish to identify her, and if I had any I would do the same, but meanwhile I am guessing that he, and he probably is a he, is a house spider looking for a mate. This is a non-poisonous breed which can grow to a diameter of 8 cm. They build funnel webs which are less glamorous than the Halloween type but effective at catching prey and, being closely woven, a lot of dust as well.

The Natural History Museum says that spiders are not particularly happy inside centrally heated homes and the kindest thing you can do is to trap them “gently and with respect” and put them outside. I have been encouraging the friend in my sink towards self-help but he seems quite happy with my levels of respect.

Meanwhile, do come along to the film club later in the month, it will be lovely to see everyone again.

Joanna Wade

(PS the scientific name for the harvest mouse is Micromys Minutus, so cute that I needed to share this!)

THE LINK







pets of the month

Hello, my name is Larry. I am a chocolate Labrador which is ironic because I'm not allowed to eat chocolate. I love sniffing out my owners' new kitten, Tom. His scent is new to me and it's brilliant!



Anyway, I LOVE my family! I came to Hever when I was just 8-weeks old, for my best human-friend Jacob's 5th birthday, I will be 4-years old on Christmas Eve. I absolutely love it here, it's brilliant, fantastic, spectacular and any other words that mean REALLY good!

My absolute favourite thing to do is to go on a family walk. I simply must go on two BIG walks a day, even when it's pouring with rain. I love it when Jacob takes me outside in the garden to throw the tennis balls with me, but I sometimes struggle to give them back to him – I just love tennis balls so much!

Hi, I'm Tom and I'm only 11-weeks old. I've been in my new home for just over two weeks, and I came from Redhill where I was born and lived with my mum and brothers and sisters.



Most of the time I'm upstairs because the massive dog who lives here isn't allowed upstairs. Sometimes I go downstairs because I am super-brave, or at least that's what my humans say.

Every day me and that humungous beast get used to each other a little bit more and I think one day we'll be best friends. My favourite game is sneaking into Jacob's room and messing with his ONE-THOUSAND-piece jigsaw puzzle that he's been working on since before I arrived here! Jacob and his mum go crazy when I do it – it's so much fun! Playing with the plant in the bathroom's good too.

Written by Jacob Miller – age 8 and three quarters

what I do

Hi, my name is Fiona Coppard. I moved to Hever with my husband and cat in March this year after living most of my life in and around Purley, Surrey.



My husband was born in Cowden and grew up there so we have always been around seeing friends and family in Hever, Lingfield and Cowden area and its been a wish of mine to be able to live here.

I am 54 and a midlife women's fitness trainer, nutrition coach and I help women transition through peri menopause and beyond, ensuring better health and wellness into later life. My company is Smart Nutrition and Fitness and I have been established for 10 years.

I have been so welcomed into the Hever community and have started women's fitness classes for midlife and beyond in Hever Village Hall on Monday mornings at 10.30am and Cowden Village Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and both are well attended. We base the sessions around **maintaining muscle and bone health** as well as cognitive and cardiovascular health, they last 30 minutes and then we do 15 minutes relaxation to calm the body and mind.

I like to give the ladies healthy recipes to take away and other information around this time of life. I also do private one- one sessions with clients in person or online based around their needs and level of fitness or just menopause and nutrition support at my home in Hever.

This is from a client:
"Fiona I wanted to say a huge thank you for helping me so much over the last few years, our weekly sessions have made such a big difference to my mobility and general wellbeing and I am very grateful to you for your patience and good humour, especially at the beginning when I was a total novice and in poor shape. You never made me feel useless or that I couldn't improve and that was exactly the approach I needed to continue and feel inspired and encouraged each week. Obviously I'm still work in progress and no doubt always will be but I'm on a much better wellness path for my future and am most grateful to you .

Christine J

My website is www.smartnutritionandfitness.uk.

VILLAGE SCREEN FILM CLUB 2021/22

We are delighted to announce that we are back! The film season begins this month at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club but with an earlier start time.

Our first film will be:
Friday 26 November
Battle of the Sexes
We are all talking tennis and this film charts the real life contest between Billie Jean King and her adversary, former champion Bobby Riggs who bet her that a woman could never defeat him! It stars Emma Stone and was very well reviewed when it came out in 2017.

Save these dates in 2022 :
Friday 28 January - **Man Up**
Friday 25 February - Whistle Down the Wind
Friday 25 March - The Hundred Foot Journey

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 pm and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar – with ice cream and popcorn in the interval.

Tickets are a suggested donation of £3 for the film
or £14 to include the meal (scampi this month). You can book with Bridget Harris on 01732 700986 or bcharris@btinternet.com
or buy tickets at the door. However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday morning before the show if you would like to eat.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

A very successful coffee morning was held at Hever Village Hall in aid of the Macmillan Nurses.

Sue Harvey instigated this and with the help of volunteers making cakes and bringing items for the Bring and Buy Stall we were on course to raise a reasonable amount of money for this worthy charity.

But wait, what's this? When 16 Harley Davidsons roared into the village hall car park we all wondered what was



happening. As soon as we realised we had a group of hungry and thirsty visitors we immediately put the kettle on! Great Big Thanks to Andy St.Pierre for suggesting that his group of bikers called in to see us on their way to a rally in Brighton. Due to their extreme generosity and to the many people who have donated, we have made our target of £1,000.

A big thank you also to the residents of Rectory Field in Hartfield who donated an enormous hamper to the raffle; a most generous gift as this raised £90 and was won by a lady from Cowden. Thank you also, for everyone who supported the cause from other villages. An extremely successful event.

Jan Tolfree

2021 Ride and Stride – a postscript

It was a glorious day to set up at St Paul's Church, Four Elms in preparation for this annual event. My Mum had as always prepared the basket of tea and coffee and juice and cakes to refresh the weary.

It was a classic village scene with cricket being played over the road to provide a perfect vista and quiet relaxation to those who had given up their time to man the church (thank you.) Luckily we were just set up in time when two on "electric" bicycles turned up. Not sure they were in control of their vehicles having landed in the hedge when setting off.... but were sent on their way with a prayer.

A sole cyclist with a long list of churches he wanted to explore was next. We were visited by the Hever bell ringers who tucked in to the refreshments and announced we were the most hospitable they had been to (as regards the food!) Walkers enjoying their hike popped in.

It is always a great day to get to know the churches in Kent. You can walk the countryside from village to village, visit the town churches, cycle the lanes and explore the more remote churches. Whatever you choose to do it is a way raising money for your local church, in our case St Paul's. Half of what is raised goes to your church, the other to the Churches in Kent. Put the date in next year's diary.

Margaret Bates and Helen Rahn



Christmas Card Competition

Calling all artists and designers, big or small!

Christmas is coming up and we are looking to create a new Christmas Card for our church to send out. So polish your brushes, sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw, paint or create a collage, then take a picture of it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.

We are looking for a card that will show the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus's birth and the joy this brought with it. We'll select the best creation and we'll use it to print our 2021 Christmas card, which will go out into our parish and beyond. The winner will receive the Real Advent Calendar from us.

The deadline for submitting your creations is Sunday 7th November at midnight!

Get creative!

Hever Christmas Fair needs CAKES

The Christmas Fair is a fundraising event for Hever school and church. Could you bake a cake or two for our cake stall? If so we would be hugely grateful, please mail us at HeverEvents@gmail.com

Following our coverage of local trains in October we received this note from Andrew Izod and the photo below showing the Orient Express at Hever Station in 1984 from Jane Higgs. Many thanks both.

October's editorial reminded me of the minor walk-on part I played on that fateful Saturday. At that time, I was a Special Constable in the Kent Special Constabulary. I first heard about the crash on the radio news and rang Sevenoaks Police Station to report my availability. I received no call in the next hour and decided to 'put myself on duty' and proceeded to the crash site, in uniform.

By the time I reached the scene the area was littered with the abandoned cars of Her Majesty's Press Corps with numerous individuals wandering in the lane with enormous brick-sized mobile phones pressed to their ears. The mobile network was in its infancy, especially in Mark Beech, where there was a positive black hole.

I joined my Regular colleagues and our principal task was keeping spectators and the press away from the scene. It wasn't long before a major problem of communicating with the outside world became apparent for both the authorities and the press alike. The only landline to the station was split between the station office and the coin operated public phone in the booking hall. Stymied by the lack of a mobile signal, the reporters resorted to feeding the coin box to file their copy, until such time that the box was full, which disabled that option. I think that police and Kent Fire Brigade had to climb Blowers Hill to establish a radio link, which was equally unreliable in the valleys.

The KFB worked on under arc lights all night but were refreshed by the resourcefulness of the WRVS and fish and chips brought up from Edenbridge. By the next day the metal trackway was craned into place and thereafter the salvage operation took place. All the wreckage and including the complete carriages was taken on transporters up Blowers Hill and via Cow Lane.

As a result of the comms problems Kent Constabulary issued all duty Superintendents with Vauxhall 4x4 SUVs equipped with adequate radio capacity. Following the Official Enquiry an effective radio system between track controllers (signallers) and drivers was introduced as witnessed by the aerials mounted at the ends of the Mark Beech/Cowden tunnel and the Signal Passed At Danger sign was placed 50yds south of Hever Station downline before the start of the single track section.



Introducing you to some of the stallholders coming to the Hever Christmas Fair on 11 November...

The Pigdown Pottery

I am Lotte Andrews, founder and creator of Pigdown Pottery a small Ceramic studio based in Hever. I focus on functional wares that creatively draw us away from the casted moulds of everyday life and take inspiration from the colours and surface textures of mid-century and West German style ceramics. Recently I have been focusing on using bold colours which contrast with the simple forms and shapes produced on the wheel. I also offer weekly classes on wheel throwing, hand building and glazing giving you a chance to explore your ideas and interests fully and with hands on help. It is a great space to expand your knowledge and understanding of ceramics within a peaceful environment. More info at www.pigdownpottery.com email Lotte at mail@lotts.co



Funky Mutterings

Hi - I'm Jane and I moved to Hever about four years ago. When I'm not walking the dog or gardening, you'll find me faffing with interiors or in my little studio making cards. I started making them when my kids were small because at the time most cards available in the shops seemed too fussy for my taste. I'm all for simplicity. What started as a little hobby grew into a slightly bigger hobby and over the years I've sold them in local garden centres, gift shops, florists and craft fairs under the name of Quite Simply. I changed the name to Funky Mutterings a few years ago as it reflected a changing style to my products… it's amazing how popular a card becomes when it has the words 'prosecco' or 'gin' in it!



Sally's cakes

Hi, I started after I took voluntary redundancy a few years ago. I have a degree in Hotel and Catering and have spent most of my working life in the catering industry and baking. I always loved modelling and creating, basically I have never grown up - only moved on from plasticine and salt dough to sugar! I love creating handmade cakes in bespoke designs for any occasions using only the finest ingredients. I make cakes for Falconhurst farm



shop, but my main business is celebration cakes, all designed around the client. I particularly like making sugar flowers and cake toppers which people can then use to decorate their own cakes.

Handmade by Wendy

My name is Wendy and I have had my own kiln for 3 years. It started as a hobby, but once my confidence grew, I started Handmade by Wendy in November 2019 and I now do fairs and sales at home plus orders for family and friends during lockdown. I am also selling my creations at The Hive in Westerham. I make items for the home, from coasters to tree decorations. Do come along to the fair or follow me on instagram at handmade_by_wendy or Facebook at handmade by Wendy.





Tony Yates .

I am a retired Mechanical Engineer and have lived in Hever since 1982. I have always been interested in all aspects of working with wood, but since retiring I have concentrated on wood turning and decorative box making. I tend to rely mainly on local UK timbers, including highly figured, burr and spalted versions when I can find them, but do use small quantities of exotic timbers when available. It is especially satisfying when beautiful timber can be recycled from old items which have come to the end of their useful life.

FOREST ROW R.N.L.I. CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2021

Freshfield Hall, Forest Row
Saturday 4th December
2.30pm
Tickets: £8.00 tel: 01342 32419
or from Veasey and Son
Fishmongers, or on the door

Trinity Methodist Church,
East Grinstead
Saturday 11th December
2.30pm
Tickets: £6.00
tel: 01342 324196
or on the door

THE BEAUTIFUL SWEET PEA

It always gives me great pleasure when visitors to our garden seem as delighted as I am by the rows of sweet peas. Their colours and their scent are superb. Quite a few people say they find them difficult to grow. I don't have any particular secret except I always buy the seeds from a grower from Stafford who displays his prize flowers at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The seeds are sown into small pots in October in an unheated potting shed. When they are about two inches tall, they are put into a cold frame. The cold frame has a concrete base as this prevents mice and slugs eating them. We plant out in early spring when all frost has passed, pinching out the top two or three sprouts. This encourages them to grow straighter. The reason for the early sowing is to give the plants good strong roots which will produce better flowers. They are planted in a sunny spot (we do face south) in a good composted soil with a frame and string to tie them into.The first blooms are always the best but keep cutting and more will come.

I did say I didn't have a particular secret – I do. His name is Nick and he has been gardening for us for many years.

Christina Hodson



Hever Village Hall

In 2018 a survey was carried out in the village on the future of the Village Hall. It was evident from the responses that you value your village hall.

The survey indicated that you would like:

- more activities to be held at the hall, particularly sales/fairs, fitness classes and training sessions;
- the activities and events held at the hall to be better advertised;
- the general appearance and décor of the hall to be improved
- the kitchen and loos to be upgraded

It was clear from the added comments that villagers love the rustic charm of our village hall, they wanted it to be the social centre of the village but that it was tired and in dire need of an overhaul and enlargement to create more floor space and storage.

The Village Hall committee has been working hard on making these wishes a reality and we are now ready to share the plans for a new village hall. There will be an exhibition of the designs at the Village Hall on Saturday 13th November between 10.30 and 12.30, prior to the plans being submitted to Sevenoaks District Council for planning approval. Please do pop along for a coffee and some homemade cakes.

Mandy Yarnold
Chair Hever Village Hall

Hever Parish Council

The next Hever Parish Council meeting is the 2nd November, 7.30 at Hever Village Hall. If there is a planning meeting that will start at 7pm. Please check hever.org for updates.

The Bulk refuse freighter will be available on November 27th.
09.15 - 10.00 FOUR ELMS village hall
10.15 - 11.00 HEVER bottle bank area next to Henry pub in coach car park
11.15 - 12.00 MARKBEECH village hall

The freighter cannot accept white goods (washing machines, fridges etc), cast iron boilers or baths, long metal poles, building materials, manure, large parts of engines or vehicles or hazardous waste or compostable garden waste.

Hazardous waste now includes items like fluorescent tubes, televisions & computer monitors, batteries, oil tins and filters, paint and paint tins and chemical containers. Please do not leave any rubbish unattended. Please DO NOT arrive early or leave items on site.

From councillor Nick Roberts

Hever Parish Council were given an exclusive opportunity to buy the Four Elms village pond. At the last council meeting, held on 7th September, members voted in favour of the purchase and following a fundraising exercise and thanks to the generosity of community spirited inhabitants and businesses, we have now raised enough money for the purchase to go ahead. Any surplus funds collected will be used for maintenance and the slightly greater ongoing running costs. As a result the council now owns the freehold of the pond (over which we had previously had a tenancy agreement) and the banks behind and to the west which were not part of the previous tenancy.

Four Elms is widely known for the crossroads at the centre of the village and the pond is the principle feature and focal point. It offers a tranquil area for locals to walk or sit, in addition to being a popular fishing spot. It is a picturesque open space, that is a natural conservation area and rich in heritage. As a result of the kindness of donors, ownership of this beautiful asset has now been captured permanently for the parish.

Any help with management and policing issues by locals would be gratefully appreciated. A working party of people is being organized to clear weeds/debris from the inlet and outlet feeds in early November and the council will be most grateful of community involvement.

We would like to thank all who contributed to this venture.

If you require additional information on this scheme or to contribute or help out with the maintenance working gang in November, please call Nick Roberts (077 177 51064) or email councillor5@hever.org .

Christina Divall
Clerk and Financial Officer
07733228748

district council news

Car tyres serve as a good metaphor for councils. They generally appear much of a muchness and are an expense we'd rather do without. But we concede they perform a necessary function, with some making for a smoother experience than others.

The motoring cognoscenti in our midst are probably greater in number than local government anoraks. Yet I am still willing to bet the number of readers who would be champing at the bit to engage in animated conversation about styrene-butadiene are as few as those for whom the thought of Section 31 grants sets the heart racing. This need not be the case, though, for, as devotees of this column know, Sevenoaks District Council is a hotbed of innovation. With revolution better reserved for tyres than political institutions, we at Sevenoaks favour evolution. In that spirit of progressive improvement there have been a few developments, on which I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update.

You've no doubt seen new bins popping up in our villages. In her capacity as Cleaner & Greener Portfolio Holder, my District colleague and now our County Councillor, Margot McArthur, successfully secured funding to introduce new smart bins, which contain sensors that notify the council when they need emptying, thus both saving wasted trips, and the cost to you and me associated with that, but also ensuring a more reactive approach can be taken, with bins collected when they're full rather than awaiting collection on a rota basis.

Hot on the heels of the smart bins, another exciting change has been a move to a seven o'clock to seven o'clock operation, meaning you may now telephone the council outside traditional working hours.

A less recent initiative, though still largely unknown, was the launch of an online interactive planning policy map, showing the extent of conservation areas, tree preservation orders, listed buildings and the like. An invaluable resource for those submitting or commenting on planning applications: https://maps.sevenoaks.gov.uk/planning/

Speaking of planning applications, like many organisations the council is embracing hybrid working, which has seen members of the public who wish to address the Development Control Committee do so, if they so choose, from the comfort of their home via Zoom or telephone rather than make their way to Sevenoaks. Indeed, all committee meetings are now livestreamed on YouTube too. And those who tuned into the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee the other night will have heard the welcome news that the fly-tipping enforcement team I established a few years ago has now doubled in size.

As I say, evolution rather than revolution, but all I hope welcome news.

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

schooltime

news from Hever

We are always proud of our students when they represent Hever School. We have been delighted to be part of a sporting fixture for the first time since COVID-19 and our Tag Rugby team were successful and made us proud. We are so thankful to our coaches Mr Richard Young and Miss Hollie Halcomb for leading the Hever team. I know that there are many other students involved in other sports too inside and outside of school, at a variety of levels, and I would like to acknowledge their efforts too.



Roald Dahl day was incredible. The assemblies throughout the week were inspirational with time for browsing books, reading poetry and celebrating students' own creative writing. Pollen Partnership created Roald Dahl recipes from some of the famous stories. Every Roald Dahl fan loved the 'Tummytickling' dishes. Each child received a lucky envelope with the chance to win a GOLDEN TICKET! and Wonka Bars were awarded to the lucky seven children! The Chef even made WONKA brownies for parents. We are so excited to be two weeks away from our Hever School Kitchen build and so grateful to the PTA and the Hever School Governors for their support of the school and fundraising!

Black History Month is observed every October at Hever, it is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions that Black people have made to British society, whether that be today or historically. Black History Month supports the multiculturalism and diversity that helps shape our Hever Community. Children have enjoyed learning about some important historical figures including: Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mary Seacole and Barack Obama. Reverend Simon Braid attended a school worship and his prayers and reflections with the children were so inspirational and uplifting. I would



like to take this opportunity to thank our school community for their continuing efforts in reducing the risks of Covid transmission. Clearly, we are still in the midst of a pandemic with rates of infection increasing, but I am pleased to say that cases at Hever remain under 10%. We have continued to provide outdoor tours for prospective parents, and I'm very proud of our students and staff as visitors express how impressed they are at what they are seeing. It is always a great privilege for me to be able to go round the school and see the fantastic work the children are doing and its the perfect antidote to some of the difficult national and international news that we are all hearing on a daily basis at the moment.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

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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 November

All three churches are open during the daytime and details of services are below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/ We will also be recording one service a month asterisked and putting this on the website.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
7 November 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 1:14-20	3rd before Advent
7 November 6pm	Healing service at St.Peter's Hever	Isaiah 43:1-13; James 5:13-18	3rd before Advent
11 November 12pm	Act of Remembrance outside Holy Trinity Markbeech		Remembrance day
14 November 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms followed by Act of Remembrance	Hebrews 10:11-14 & 19-25; Mark 13:1-8	2nd before Advent & Remembrance
14 November 11am	Act of Remembrance at St.Peter's Hever		2nd before Advent & Remembrance
14 November 3pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever		2nd before Advent
21 November 10am*	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37	Sunday before Advent
28 November 8am	Said Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 21:1-13	Advent Sunday
28 November 10am	Christingle Family Service St.Peter's Hever	John 1:1-5; John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16	Advent Sunday

Our weekly Bible study will continue on Zoom at 6.00pm and we will be starting an Advent course from 29th November additionally at 8.00pm. Zoom Evening prayer is on Thursdays at 6.00pm and we will meet in person on 25th November in Markbeech. For details of both please contact Simon. Do come to the Healing service on 7th November to pray not just for yourselves but those on you hearts and don't miss our Christingle on Advent Sunday 28th November! Note also that 7th November is the 'International Day of Prayer' for the persecuted church – see https://www.csw.org.uk/idop 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
07802 809849 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

One person who has just returned from furlough – this time to save the global cinema industry – is Daniel Craig aka James Bond in 'No time to die' which I have just seen. Judging from the packed cinema in Tunbridge Wells 'nobody does it better'!

The film has had rave reviews for the dazzling action sequences, breathtakingly beautiful cinematography, retraced images of Bond movies from the past, humour and a twist at the end.

Is Bond a parable of our times: good versus evil in the mould of St.George and the Dragon or just escapism led by a sexist, misogynist dinosaur? One commentator has said that Daniel Craig has 'given Bond a soul' and another that the film has 'emotional bite'. This Bond is wounded by betrayal and, set back by the death of Vesper from Casino Royale, he is wondering if he can trust again. Along this emotional roller coaster, we are asked to ponder how long a deep betrayal may sink into our being and how hard it is to forgive. Bond's new love, Madeleine, challenges him to deal with his crippling failure to forgive and in a surprising scene past sins and hurts are written on pieces of paper and set alight to be released to the wind.

Bond's emotional journey is still tentative and, like us, he struggles to understand the bigger picture. But his attitude to women seems to have made a leap forward. The women in this film are all highly competent and Bond emerges as very much a monogamous man dealing with women with more respect and a less casual approach.

I thoroughly enjoyed the film and it was a joy to be able to go out once more to the cinema, which gave me a sense of a return to normality. The film's title 'No time to die' befits it but I dare not say any more – spoiler alert!

November is a season of remembrance following on from All Souls at the end of October, through Guy Fawkes and Remembrance day itself. It reminds us that for many former generations, and even those service people more recently, this was their time to die to preserve the freedom we enjoy. One often sung Remembrance hymn is 'O valiant hearts' based on a war poem written by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright often set to music by Holst and Vaughan Williams. It looks back on the ultimate sacrifice so many made and reminds us that we follow a God who in Jesus has gone before us

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

Our Songs of Praise service in late September gave us a variety of favourite hymns – both traditional and modern. The use of the projector and screen made it easier for churchwardens not to have to find a selection of hymn books. St Paul's Four Elms is gently being steered into a 21st century way of worship, although we continue to include very traditional services for those who prefer them.

Harvest is a particularly beautiful time of the year for decorating our Church. Hops, barley straw sheaves, pumpkins and dahlias, with their russet and golden colours made a wonderful back drop to the delightful harvest food gifts around the font. Thank you to everyone involved in this festival. It made many people very happy and, really, that's what a small rural church is about. After two years we were able to have the harvest supper in the village hall. Thank you to all who attended and especial thanks to Saxville who entertained us. It was a welcome opportunity for village folk to get together.

Leslie Griggs, a Churchwarden at St. Pauls, passed away during the pandemic early last year and his funeral service, albeit very simple, took place in the graveyard with mourners having to keep 2+ metres away. A Memorial Service celebrating Leslie's life will take place in St. Paul's on Saturday 6th November at 2pm. Refreshments will follow in the Parish Rooms after the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

It seems impossible to think that we are nearing Advent and Christmas. Let us all pray for a more normal time where we may come and enjoy worship and Carols in our beautiful church.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Autumn is in full swing and we are busy planning services and events for the Christmas period including the much loved Church services, possibly a Christmas Concert and the Hever Residents Association Carol evening.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Wednesday 10th November at 12.30, in order to avoid a clash with the Christmas Fair, please make a note of this change in your diary. Parish lunches are usually held on the second Thursday of every month starting at 12.30. We normally have between 18 and 24 people and serve hot soup, bread and cheese, fruit and a delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the Parish is very welcome but it would be helpful for catering, if you can, to let us know that you are coming.

There will be an Act of Remembrance at 10.45am on Sunday 14th November and in the afternoon Forest Church will take place at 3pm. These outdoor services are open to all ages but as the weather gets cooler please remember to dress appropriately.

We were delighted to hear that Jane Rosam has been elected to represent the Laity within the Diocese of Rochester on the General Synod. Jane wrote a powerful election address which detailed her passion for inclusion, especially through Living in Love and Faith.

Our church brasses are looking in tip-top condition thanks to the polishing skills of

Sue Hart. We are looking for volunteers to help with cleaning the brass in the Church on alternate months, can you help? Brasso and cloths provided! Please get in touch with me, if you are able to help

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Harvest was celebrated in style in Markbeech with a wonderful supper and amazing conjuror organised by Fiona Irens and Lynnie Hopkins. Our Harvest Festival service was a joyful occasion with lots of young families in church and produced a bootful of goodies for me to take to the Edenbridge Foodbank.

We enjoyed an uplifting Choral Evensong with a full Benefice choir singing Walmisley's Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D Minor and the beautiful anthem Lead me, Lord by S.S. Wesley. Our Carol Service on 12th December will be our next big Choral service. There will be plenty of rehearsals so please do contact either Simon Braid or me if you would like to join us for this. Who can resist singing a carol?

We are a bit short of 'normal' services in November so please, Markbeechites, use a bit of petrol and try out Hever or Four Elms. I think you will be pleasantly surprised! We will be hosting the All Souls service on 31st October to remember loved ones who have passed away. This is a beautiful, moving service and we hope to be able to offer a glass of wine at the end. Although we do not have a Remembrance Service in Markbeech, we DO meet on our little triangle outside the church at noon on 11th November to remember those men who gave their lives in service of protecting their country. We place 7 crosses on the triangle and 7 'invisible' men in the church each year and hope that you will join in this moving moment.

Finally, an event NOT to be missed – the Markbeech Winter Fair on 27th November 12.30pm to 7pm in The Barn at Falconhurst! A fabulous wintery, Christmassy experience with new and exciting stalls, a bar, mulled wine, pulled venison baps, pies, cakes, sweets, crafts and much more! Please come and tell your friends!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptisms
St.Peter's Hever on 17th October
Aurora Mae Tardivel Anscombe
(parents Daina & Simon)

Weddings
at St Peter's Hever
23rd September Golden Wedding anniversary Pauline and Brian Dimmock

Internment of Ashes
at Markbeech on
5th September Rose Stephenson



gardening

Emmetts Garden at Ide Hill is the product of a plantsman's passion. Frederick Lubbock bought the estate in 1890 as a home for his increasingly large family. He was a banker and scientist, brother of John, banker and politician, who campaigned for workers to have days off and was responsible for the Bill which gave us Bank Holidays.

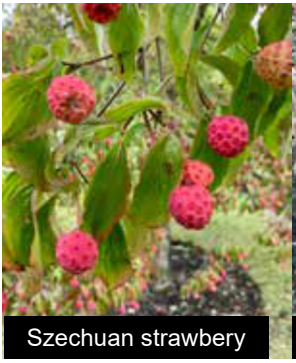
At Emmetts Frederick was able to develop his much-loved garden. He was influenced by his friend William Robinson who was the leading horticultural author of the era, an advocate of the naturalistic style of gardening: "…..the best laid out garden is that which is best fitted for its situation, soil and climate, and without much consideration as to any 'style'." The garden indeed embraces the surroundings with splendid views south across Ide Hill village and Bough Beech, apparently you can even see the South Downs on very clear days. The National Trust is working hard to restore the north garden to his original vision, like a mountain ridge with azaleas, iris siberica and kniphofia (red hot pokers). Towards the south garden are two beautiful Japanese/ Chinese cornus trees, a 'Wedding cake tree', Cornus controversa 'Variegata' and the Szechuan strawberry, Emmetts Cornus kousa.

Today's gardeners remain true to Robinson's advice: "now that many beautiful trees and shrubs are coming to us from so many countries, the aim of true gardening is, so far from mutilating them, to develop their natural forms". A helping hand is useful at times, though, and volunteers are currently restoring the tulip meadow by improving the shallow soil structure by removing stones and adding compost to make it easier to plant the bulbs.

In 1906 the family ingeniously created a water supply for the garden using a hydraulic ram pump to drive it up hill from a pond many feet below using only the kinetic energy of flowing water. Pond and pump are still functioning and visible from the public footpath through Scords woods which follows the south edge of the grounds.

After the Lubbocks left, the garden was owned from 1927 by the equally passionate American Charles Boise – he created the rockery but filled in many of the ponds due his fear of malaria. Hard to imagine on a cold winter's day! Emmetts (the old English meaning is "ants") is open 7 days a week and is not currently running a booking system.

Joanna Wade


Szechuan strawbery


Wedding cake tree


The rose garden

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	79	45	54	41			
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	84	61	73	41			
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	38.5	48	0	39			

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:
Christina Divall 07733228748
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

The views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial team. There is no implied approval or recommendation for any service or event advertised in the magazine.

Copy for the December edition should reach us no later than **15 November 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

November diary

1st Nov **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona Coppard 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

2nd Nov **Hever Parish Council meeting,** Hever Village Hall
planning 7pm, full meeting 7.30pm

8th Nov **Midlife fitness class** Hever Village Hall 10.30am

9th Nov **Tom Tugendhat MP & Charles Lloyd** addressing Gatwick's
expansion plans plus Q&A Penshurst Church 8pm

10th Nov **Hever Parish lunch** Hever Village Hall 12.30pm
(note change from the usual Thursday)

11th Nov **Hever Christmas Fair** Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle
10.30am – 3.30pm

13th Nov **Exhibition of plans for the new Village Hall** at Hever Village Hall
10.30 and 12.30pm

15th Nov **Midlife fitness class** Hever Village Hall 10.30am

22nd Nov **Midlife fitness class** Hever Village Hall 10.30am

24th Nov **Hever Hort AGM**, Hever Village Hall 8pm

26th Nov **Film Club**, Hever Golf Club doors open 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm

27th Nov **Markbeech Winter Fair** at The Barn, Falconhurst
(in aid of Holy Trinity) 12.30 – 7pm

29th Nov **Midlife fitness class** Hever Village Hall 10.30am

4th Dec **Forest Row RNLI choir Christmas concert**
Freshfield Hall, Forest Row 2.30pm

11th Dec **Forest Row RNLI choir Christmas concert,**
Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead 2.30pm

12th Dec M**arkbeech carol service** Holy Trinity Church 6pm

19th Dec **Pub Carols in The Kentish**, Markbeech 5.15pm

28 Jan **Film club**, Hever Golf Club, doors open 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm