February 2022

THE LINK







In this issue:

- A February miscellany
- The work of Baillie Scott
- Una Higgs – 100 and counting
- Seasonal garden advice

...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the February Link

I am so enjoying the dark skeletons of the winter trees. If you have ever tried drawing one, you will know how hard it is to catch both the topography and the essence of a tree. I can of course do neither, but I have always thought that although David Hockney does not draw them precisely, he does get the spirit of these wonderful creatures. Another master is John Constable - "Late Constable" is open at the Royal Academy until 13 February and well worth a visit.

The forestresearch.gov.uk report for 2021 paints an encouraging picture. The UK is covered by 3.23 million hectares of woodland and 13,000 of those were planted in the last year, all predicted to sequester 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over their lifetime. The Woodland Trust is similarly upbeat, estimating that we now have as many trees as we did at the time William the Conqueror counted the forests for his Domesday book.

And, surprisingly, the south-east of England hosts the lion's share of woodlands, 14.1% as opposed to 6.4% in Yorkshire and Humberside. This is partly because oak trees traditionally had so many uses in Kent, from shipbuilding to fuel for the many local iron-smelting furnaces, that they were left to grow. Furnace farm, off Roodlands Lane, is but one example of the name living on, together with the intriguing earthworks nearby which are the remains of a man-made pond controlling the flow of water, vital to the smelting process. And the cliffs near Bassett's Mill show signs of the iron ore which was readily available.

So forgive me if I glory in this time of year and don't want the spring to hurry along.

Joanna Wade

THE LINK



my pets of the month





Max is a short haired British blue cat, who joined the family in 2019, when we adopted him. Max himself is sweet, but he can be a little annoying! He's sweet because he loves a hug, and he loves a scratch under the chin. But he is also annoying because he pushes your door open and jumps on your bed when you're sleeping- He wants you stroke him and give him attention, even when you want to sleep! Now, when he does that, he will persist and if you try to shut him out, he will find a way back in again! So, then you've just got to ignore him. Max is also a very friendly cat but as you can tell, sometimes he is bit too friendly!

Now, this is Tikka. She is very sweet, but she does occasionally nip when she gets carried away! She is very playful whenever we come back from school because she is so pleased to see us! This can mean that she jumps up, which I don't mind but other people do, so we have to say 'No!' to her. We also have to say 'no!' to jumping on our laps at the table to get food! She does that because she is a half Labrador (who can be quite greedy!) and her other half is cockapoo. People are sometimes surprised by this because she looks so much like a lab, but we're hoping she won't be quite as greedy or quite as tall, but only time will tell on that!

As you can see Max, the cat, is not very happy about Tikka, the puppy, joining the family!

Tikka just wants to play with Max, but Max just wants her to leave him alone! Max gives Tikka a HISS or a SWIPE around the face. They are very different personalities, but one thing they have in common is that they are both VERY greedy, which can sometimes drive us mad, but we love them anyway!

Phoebe Armitstead aged 8

What I do

What inspired me to become a Professional Organiser? As I mused that question, I recalled a childhood camping trip to Blacklands Farm, East Grinstead (I grew up in Hever and my dad still lives in Uckfield Lane). This was my first time properly away from my family, I was nervous and excited. What I didn't realise, in the 3 days I was away, that there were some changes happening at home



I was not the tidiest child, perhaps typical, stuff was piled up on my bedroom floor, I'd hop, skip and jump over my belongings to get to bed. On my return, my mum and nan had moved me to a new bedroom with a cabin bed, and storage cupboards, shelves and a desk underneath. Whilst only 8 or 9 years old, the feeling of joy and wonder was cemented in my mind, my dolls, toys and games were visible, neatly arranged on shelves in baskets and containers. The room felt different, I loved it, I'd experienced first-hand the wonderful feeling when we create space in our homes. And this is what I help other people do today as my job, and I love it.

Over subsequent years family and friends needed help to declutter and organise their own homes, I never thought I would make this a job or that a career in London, helping corporate teams be more organised would add fuel to the fire. The spark to me starting my business was two-fold: I met my husband and stopped working in London. We moved six times in just over two years; moving involves you taking stock, noticing what you own and ideally keeping only what you need. After 5 rounds of this I became fascinated about why we all keep certain things and I got good at letting things go. I learned first-hand that decluttering takes practice and asking the right questions of ourselves.

Redundancy just before Covid hit allowed me time to reflect, to make a change and start my own business. I could put into practice what I'd been doing since I'd seen my childhood bedroom, helping people get organised. So I did, and I haven't looked back. Bedrooms, kitchens, lofts, sheds, paperwork and wardrobes, all tidied and decluttered, delight both me and my customers. I have the best job in the world and everyday takes me back to being 8 or 9!

For an instant organising transformation in your home or office book my declutter and organising service to make space in your life
https://thelittleorganisingcompany.com

Imogen Murphy,
professional organiser

village screen film club 2022

Friday 28 January
Man Up
Friday 25 February
Whistle Down the Wind
Friday 25 March
The Hundred Foot Journey
The films are shown at Hever Castle Golf Club. They are 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 £15 to include the meal (scampi or vegetarian quiche with chips). 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.

Grange Park Opera

Grange Park Opera sits just 23 miles from London, by the Surrey Hills, and was founded in 1998 by Wasfi Kani CBE. Productions take place at the Theatre in the Woods, a five-tiered, 700-seat opera house on the estate of the 14th century West Horsley Place (where BBC's Ghosts is filmed).

Arrive early to wander in the historic walled gardens, champagne glass in hand, and a convivial atmosphere reigns: the city seems far away. A short walk through the ancient orchard – passing a 300-year-old mulberry tree – takes you to the five-tier opera house.

The all-important part of the evening is the long interval. A three course meal with fine wines can be booked in the 14th century house. Or for a more bucolic approach, fling down your rug and picnic – or reserve a seat in a marquee.

The 2022 season features Ponchielli's La Gioconda, Verdi's Otello, Wagner's Der Fliegende Hollander and David Pountney directs The Excursions of Mr Broucek (an opera about a disappointed man who goes to the moon). With three of the biggest names in the world of opera – Bryn Terfel, Simon Keenlyside, Joseph Calleja – the season showcases Grand Opera, emotion, and strong casts.



Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have already paid their Link subscription for 2022 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

We are starting a children's choir. Would your child like to join in?

We are looking to start a children's choir with the aim to perform at the 900 years celebration service at St Peter's Hever on Sunday 26 June and other occasional events.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we want to create something truly fun and wonderful! Please get in touch with Ana Roxburgh (beneficeemail@gmail.com) if you'd like to join in.



Cliffs near Bassetts Mill

This month Una Higgs celebrates both her hundredth birthday and 65 years living in Hever.



Una French was born in Edenbridge on 14 February 1922. She was the only child of John and Lillian who ran the shoe and ladieswear shop on the High Street in what was until recently the antiques centre. Her father had come originally from East Grinstead and her mother, a milliner, from Okehampton.

The shop did well over the 50 years her parents ran it from 1912 until 1962 when it closed on her father's retirement. Her father was able to buy a crystal radio and a three wheeler car, amongst the first in Edenbridge, which he loved. Every Sunday the three of them drove down to the seaside, parents in the front and little Una in the apex of the triangle behind. They were also able to buy a house in Stangrove Road.

After some years rather treading water at Miss Eades's school in Mill Hill, an aunt said to her parents "you can't leave her there" and so off Una went to Croydon High School. She had a wonderful time, developing her life-long love of music and nervously performing a Chopin waltz at a concert.

But then the war took hold and "everything changed" for young Una who, rather than be evacuated with the school, left and got a job in the local tax office until she discovered that she wanted to teach. She loved her training in Hampton and worked for a time in Tunbridge Wells until, during a production of The Letter by Somerset Maughan with the Edenbridge Players, she met Douglas Higgs!

Douglas was a star and she just a bit part player, but love blossomed and they were married in 1950, a very happy marriage which endured for 50 years. At first they lived in Edenbridge where he ran a number of shops, including the well-known Higgs carpets in Edenbridge and Oxted. Douglas had an interest in property development and one day he took Una to look at a decrepit house on the edge of Hever at Brocas. It had been converted into flats, left empty since the war and was full of dry rot. As she walked round she told him "I could live here" - and so, undaunted, Douglas started the restoration. Thus began 65 years in Hever.

They moved into Brocas in 1957 with four small children and big ambitions. Una developed a passion for gardening (she remembers the backbreaking work of planting her first hedge) and with that and the children she was busy. Hever was a friendly place and she joined the horticultural society and the WI. As soon as the Rector, Jack Collins ("a dear man"), found out that Una's three youngest could sing, he enlisted them into the choir which struggled to find members - then as now - and so the Higgs family singers (Una joining them in time) were a real asset to the church and beyond. Una was indeed a proud mother of Tim, Jessica and Sarah, and also of Trevor who took on the carpet shop and ran it successfully for years. She now enjoys ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Una says that Douglas was a wonderful man and a fine husband who, as well as juggling his various businesses, always supported her and found time to run a local Abbeyfield house for old people . Together they founded the Edenbridge Forge singers which is still going today. They also had many exciting holidays, driving their caravan all over Eastern Europe, with an enduring interest in Czechoslovakia. Latterly, when Douglas was on dialysis, Una did the driving with the dialysis kit in the back!

In the early 80s Douglas and Una ingeniously converted Brocas farmhouse vertically, her son Tim and his wife Jane living at the front and they at the back. When Douglas sadly died in 2002 Una started her project to convert the Brocas cow byre into a home and we were lucky enough to buy Hever Brocas from her in 2006.



On ho;iday, in a military emplacement!

Never be without a dog says Una. She will not mind me saying that she is quite small and it must have been amusing to see her out with her dogs, the first a German Shepherd and then two enormous Bernese mountain dogs. In 2009 she downsized in dogs, and much-loved King Charles spaniel, Charlie, arrived.

I asked what she loves about Hever and she says that it is the peace, Edenbridge had been a busy town when she left it 65 years ago and in Hever you can go out into the garden and experience only tranquility. Of course I also had to ask the other question - what is the secret of a long life? The answer is always to keep busy and, once committed, do the thing wholeheartedly - and never feel sorry for yourself. Happy birthday Una!

Joanna Wade

miscellany in February

Number 1: Desmond Tutu



Archbishop Desmond Tutu died at the end of December. Here are a couple of brilliant Tutu quotes:

"Enemies are always friends waiting to be made."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world".

Number 2: Charity giving

CAF estimates that 1.6 million fewer people gave to charity in 2020. Demos says that it is unsurprising that around one in 10 charities and community organisations believe they will be forced to close within a year.

There are a number of possible reasons for this drop in income.

- First, social distancing has decimated traditional fundraising channels – Hever church for example lost its quiz, barn dance and Carol supper – the Royal British Legion estimates it will fall millions of pounds short of its Poppy Appeal target as door to door collections were cancelled for the first time in its history.



- Second, with the economy perceived as slowing down, people will donate less to charity
- Third, charity retail income has fallen dramatically, as charity shops have had to close. The Charity Retail Association estimates that during the first national lockdown shops lost around £285m in customer sales

- Finally, the nature of donations seems to have shifted – towards NHS support charities and away from non-Covid-19 related causes such as medical research funding.

The Government has recognised this challenging time by providing a £750 million package of funding for charities.

Number 3: Frogs etc

Frogs do not hibernate. Amphibians are ectothermic creatures which cannot generate body heat. They are therefore very dependent on environmental conditions as they need to remain moist and avoid their blood freezing. If it freezes the crystals can hurt them, but their blood contains a high level of glucose which is a natural anti-freeze.



Instead of hibernating they enter a period of "brumation", a time of low metabolic function and activity, their hearts can even stop beating. Although not fully asleep, they are less active during the colder weather, seeking sheltered places in burrows, under compost heaps and sometimes in ponds where they are protected from severe conditions.

Number 4: Bird feeders

The RSPB say that wild birds are vulnerable to infections picked up in birds feeders and that we should wash them with disinfectant once a week - my goodness that's a hard one!

Joanna Wade



Ian and Mandy Yarnold with Ian getting his OBE



Hugh Mackay Baillie Scott

a notable local hero



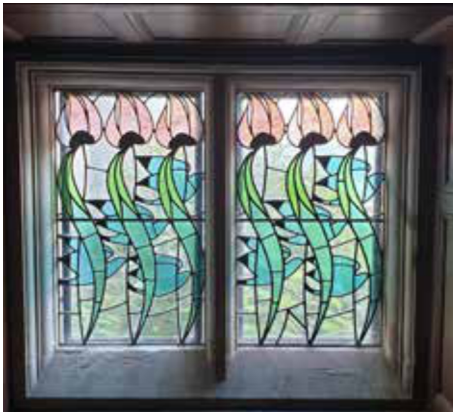
Blackwell House

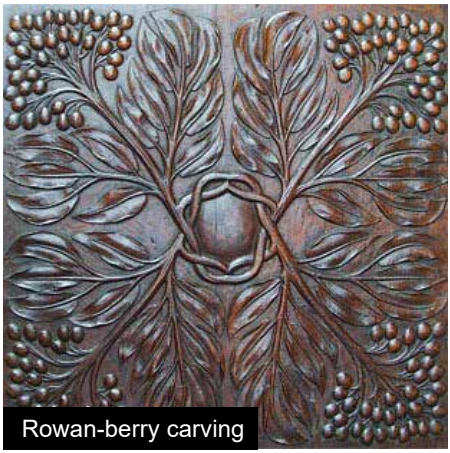
Once bitten by Blackwell house on Windermere, you are forever smitten; it is my dream home from the wonderful situation right down to the window fittings.

So imagine my excitement when I found out that it's architect, Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott, was buried in the cemetery at Edenbridge.

The distinctive memorial is on the roadside edge of the old burial-ground, first erected for his wife Florence Kate Nash. A descendant of the Regency fop Beau Nash and the daughter of a doctor, she was born at sea off Ceylon and baptised in Madras in 1862. Florence married Baillie Scott in 1899 and they had two children.

Having started his career on the Isle of Man, Baille Scott moved to the south east and developed his own take on the arts and crafts style, believing strongly in the integrity of materials and the importance of architecture in nature.





Rowan-berry carving

Blackwell (now owned by the National Trust) is his masterpiece, but he designed over 300 houses over his career though, unlike Lutyens, none were notable public buildings so he is less well-known. His houses were of a traditional English nature, but with spacious and well-planned interiors suitable for modern life and his attention to detail was legendary. Many of his designs were taken from indigenous older houses in Kent, having large chimneys, steeply pitched roofs with old peg tiles, local handmade bricks, inglenook fireplaces and a wealth of oak joinery, so familiar in Kentish farmhouses.

He felt that much of the 1920s building style was of a "ready-made" nature with little regard for the occupants. He said:
"A study of all buildings, and especially the kind of buildings one finds in our villages, suggests that it is not only better than any modern building, but has some essential differences from it which sets it as a thing apart. The difference largely consists in the character of the workmanship which, like hand writing, conveys personality, instead of being a lifeless mechanical formula."

Florence died in Sevenoaks in 1939 which is probably why she came to the cemetery in Edenbridge and she was probably in Sevenoaks because her husband had been designing many houses on the Wilderness Estate and in the Sevenoaks area. The houses were built by the leading



Kentish builders G.E.Wallis and a member of that family married his daughter Enid.

Baillie Scott died in Brighton in 1945, two years after his son. The inscription on the back of his section of the Edenbridge memorial, very likely designed by him, says: "Nature he loved and next to nature art".

The text on Florence's section says: "Death is but crossing the world as friends do the sea, they live in one another still".

Joanna Wade

Hever Parish Council

This is my last article as Clerk/RFO for the Link magazine as I am leaving the position.

I have enjoyed my time supporting the Councillors who have been very helpful and supportive and generously do so much for the local community. I am leaving you in the capable hands of Rachael Turner who writes - "I live in Hartfield with my family and enjoy the beautiful area we live in. My career has predominantly been in Human Resources in the insurance and retail sectors and, more recently, I have followed a different career path working in education as a bursar and running a school office. I hope my varied business management experience puts me in good stead to support the community in my new role as Parish Clerk. I look forward to meeting some of you over the coming months"

We had our first meeting of the year on Tuesday 11th January and the minutes will be online/on noticeboards in the next week. Our next meeting is on 9th March 2022 at Mark Beech village hall. See www.hever.org for agenda nearer the time.

The next bulk refuse collection is on Saturday 12th Feb 22. 09:15-10:00 Four Elms Village hall. 10:15 - 11:00 Hever Bottle bank area. 11:15 - 12:00 Markbeech village hall.

Christina Divall
Clerk and Financial Officer
Hever Parish Council
077849 12645
clerk@hever.org
www.hever.org
Facebook/Heverparishcouncil

Queens platinum Jubilee
Save the date: 2 June at Hever Castle
Evening party for all locals!



Hever station at dawn

Although we are now in February we are only just recovering from the busy Christmas term. We have had so much fun with such a range of Christmas activities which we felt very lucky could go ahead considering the circumstances.

We started off the celebrations with our Christingle service at the Church. This is a beautiful, traditional service where all of the children light their christingles and then we all sing “Away in a Manager” A truly magical moment.

We were also lucky enough to put on our Class One and Class Two nativity, “Lights Camel Action 2: The Sequin” The children were professionals in their performance to their families which took place in a theatre. The X Factor style nativity had us all dancing and laughing in our seats.

Our PTA organised a fantastic outdoor Christmas market for the annual fete and a great deal of money was raised for the school. We are very lucky to have such a committed and active PTA and the funds they raise benefit every child. For example, the PTA donated a considerable amount to the school to ensure that every child could visit the panto at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks for a discounted price. A fantastic afternoon and a memory I am sure the children will never forget.

Katie McCann
Headteacher



Sheep posing for their portrait

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Accommodation		
Edenbridge Manor Care Home, residential, dementia and respite care		01732 492282
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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
Catering		
Gorard Dean Catering -	all events undertaken call Melanie Dean	07710 005 635
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
Dog grooming and walking		
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 personal training for midlife women and beyond		0771 8588847

Funeral Services		
Alex Jones	funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047
Garage Services		
Stuart Rieman luxury passenger car servicing & repairs		01883 715 037
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.htherapy.co.uk	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
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
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR:

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FOREST ROW
SINGING CHORAL EVENSONG
FEBRUARY 16TH 2020 4.00PM REFRESHMENTS AFTER

Church in February

Given the continuing uncertainty concerning Covid, please watch out for any late changes with details of services 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
6 February 10am*	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Acts 9:1-12; Galatians 1:11-16a; Matthew 19:27-30	Patronal Festival & 4th before Lent
13 February 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26	3rd before Lent
13 February 3pm	Forest church Hever churchyard		3rd before Lent
20 February 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Isaiah 43:1-7; Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 7:24-27	2nd before Lent
20 February 6pm	Evening Prayer at St.Paul's Four Elms	Psalm 147:13-21; Genesis 1:1-2:3; Matthew 6:25-34	
24 February 6pm	Evening Prayer in person St.Peter's Hever	Psalm 49:12-20; 2 Chronicles13:1-14:1; John 20:1-10	Epiphany 3
27 February 8am	Said communion St.Paul's Four Elms	1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 18:31-43	Sunday before Lent
27 February 10am	Family Service at St.Peter's Hever	Luke 4:1-13	Sunday before Lent

Zoom Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm continue as does Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm with our meeting in person at Hever on 24th February. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March so watch for details of our Lent course from Monday 7th March. For details 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
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

February is the month of Valentine's Day. It's a wonderful time to celebrate love and romance as well as – hopefully – the end of Omicron!

We use the word 'love' in so many different ways: We love chocolate – we love (insert the football team you support) – I love my family – I love you – we make love.

The ancient Greeks had four words for love: Eros for romantic love, from which we get the word 'erotic'; Phileo for affection and friendship from which we get 'philanthropy'; Storge for love of the family or community; and Agape which is divine, self-giving love.

It is Agape which is translated as 'love' in St.Paul's famous passage on love from 1 Corinthians 13, so often read at weddings: If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship … but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

The origin of Valentine's day is rather patchy. St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who was martyred around about 270AD. Legend has it that St. Valentine signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. That doesn't sound like much to do with love!

But in fact it has everything to do with love because it is at Easter that we see real love – agape – demonstrated in Jesus. Paul writes in Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Through Jesus' self- giving love something happens in our hearts that brings us to love God in response.

In fact many theologians see romantic love – Eros - as a picture of the love between us and God. There is this desire within us that which can get misdirected into things like pornography. But when properly directed, it brings peace, joy and fulfilment because this is how we are designed as human beings. St.Augustine wrote: You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

This year Valentine's Day is also the 100th Birthday of Una Higgs to whom we wish Many Happy Returns and Congratulations!

God bless and may we all experience the love of God as we approach Lent (starts on 2nd March) and Easter.

Simon

PS. If anyone is interested in Confirmation, there is a short explanation on our website and do contact me for further details or to ask any questions.

news from the pews

Markbeech

Today is one of those blissful cold, still and sunny days we have far too infrequently in a British winter.

I am writing this on my terrace with my little dog on my lap and the main sound is of birdsong. No doubt the birds will go through many disappointments before the real spring arrives and thus I am reminded yet again, that we must cherish every good moment here on earth, and thank God for the beauty around us and allowing us the means to enjoy it.

Things aren't always so good and I've spent time today talking to a friend who has been close to despair, but is finding the strength to look forward and plan for better times ahead. I believe the nourishment we can absorb on days like today, when it's easy to feel God's pres-ence, can help us store up some resilience for those other days when things look much darker, and faith is far more elusive. February has always been my least favourite month and requires some serious work to be got through, so I'm consciously storing memories and sensations of this beautiful day and a thankful conversation with God to draw on later. And there will be snowdrops soon and they will help.

We don't have so much in our village diary just now, we are all still respecting Covid and holding our breath for what spring will bring.

For the moment we are meeting for regular church services (masked) and testing before encounters with friends, perhaps this is as normal as it will get but that's ok. I am sad that we have fewer services in each of the churches nowa-days, but those that we have, are well attended and energetic and full of faith and friendship. Keep coming, of course to Markbeech where you will usually find a slightly 'higher' form of service, with more emphasis on traditional music, but also to Hever and Four Elms. Each church has its own distinct identity, our own form of trinity, and you are so welcome at all of them.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Four Elms

Despite you reading this in February, it would be remiss not say thank you to all who came out on a very cold afternoon in late December to join our Carol Service held in the Churchyard. You were all wonderful, singing unaccompanied and with such joy. Thank you. Likewise thank you to Wayne and Mark of the Four Elms Inn for generously putting on an early evening of Christmas carols and Christmas songs

After Christmas we enter Epiphany celebrating the arrival of the three Kings to the Holy family. While not necessarily arriving at the same time as the shepherds they are always included in the Nativity play. The message of the gifts, giving and receiving is, I believe, an important part of Christmas. Maybe,

in the twenty-first century, it is too commercialised for our own good but how miserable we would be without our special Christmas festival.

It has undoubtedly been a difficult two years for everyone but hopefully we are through the worst of Covid and can look forward to 2022. We are more confident that the Four Elms Village Fete will take place in July. Before this we have the celebrations of the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Four Elms village has always celebrated jubilees. Let's do so again this year. The idea of a "pudding fit for the Queen" competition is very appealing!!!

During the various lockdowns I have discovered footpaths I had never encountered before. My 2022 resolution – keep walking and reduce my carbon footprint!

Please do remember the church is open every day for anyone who wishes to have a quiet place to sit and reflect.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The repairs to the Spire mentioned in the last issue have been completed but the Spire will need recovering in the next 5 years or so. The latch to the lych gate has also been repaired.

The PCC are starting to make plans for celebrating 900 years of worship at St Peter's which combined with the Queen's Platinum jubilee celebrations means we will have a month of celebrations in the Parish this June. If you are able to help with organising events or have any suggestions for our 900 celebration please do get in touch. We would love to see some new faces getting involved

The next Parish lunch will be held on Friday 11th February as Jane Rosam will be at the General Synod on the Thursday. We will have two very special birthdays to celebrate at that lunch. 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 or have any special dietary requirements

Mandy Yarnold
Church Warden
Heverpcc@gmail.com

PS from the editor.
The special birthdays are of Una Higgs and Wendy Izod. Also, the bell ringers, traditionally responsible for the clock, report their gratitude to Simon Scott for all his work as Keeper of the Clock – it strikes away happily and he determinedly governs its eccentricities (of which there are many!)

From the register

Weddings
at St Peter's Hever
18 December Francesca Scantlebury & Ross Colman

gardening

Well, it is the middle of January as I write this, and it will be the end of January when you read it, so who knows what the weather will be doing! The warmest New Year's Eve was followed by a much colder spell, and it is a truism that the start and end of the seasons seem more unpredictable. I had thought that the fruit from our apple and pear trees were long gone but, wandering aimlessly around the garden in December, I spotted the last Braeburn from one of our espaliered trees. It was half hidden by the foliage, large and very delicious! Now the fruit is definitely finished winter pruning is well under way.

As well as the seemingly endless winter tasks of raking, pruning and cleaning, we must not forget those activities which will bear fruit (in a manner of speaking) next year. I saved last year's sweet pea seeds and have started them in pots in the greenhouse, and they are already a few centimetres tall. One of the different varieties I grew was Spanish Dancer, with pastel flowers and a lovely scent, so I am hoping for the same proliferation of colours this year. However, as I could not be bothered to keep the seeds separate, it is going to be pot luck what I end up with.
I have only ever grown onions as sets, usually Stuttgarter Giant and Red Baron, so this year I am trying Ailsa Craig from seed. They are sown in pots in January, so I am waiting eagerly to see how they germinate.


Spanish Dancer sweet pea

The Hever Hort AGM, held at the end of November, was not the usual celebration of our year, as only the Summer Show, Plant sale and a couple of talks were held. One positive was the launch of the 2022 Schedule and programme of events. As well as the usual three shows there will be four speakers, a plant sale and an outing in June to Penns in the Rocks, Groombridge. Our first talk is by Simon Sutcliffe of How Green Nursery, on Wednesday, February 16th, 8pm, at Hever Village Hall. Simon will talk about preparing for the Chelsea Flower Show and you are all welcome to what I am sure will be a very interesting talk.

The programme of events and Schedule can be found on the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society page of the hever.org web site. If you would like to join our very friendly society, or would like more information, contact myself on 01342 851307 or Jan Tolfree on 01342 850206.

Happy gardening for 2022.

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	79	45	54	41	121	21	78
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	139	14.5	87.5
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	38.5	48	0	39	141	11.5	86

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
Margot McArthur 03000 414817
Margot.McArthur@kent.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
Christina Divall 07733228748
clerk@hever.org

The Link Team

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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 **March** edition should reach us no later than **15 February** -
Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer. For payment there are 2 options:
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

February diary

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

31 Jan **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

3 Feb **Midlife stability ball class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.00am

6 Feb **Shooting The Stars: Astrophotography for Beginners**
at Bore Place 5-7pm

7 Feb **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

11 Feb **(change of date!) Hever Parish lunch** Hever Village Hall 12.30pm

12 Feb **Bulk Refuse Collection** Four Elms Village Hall 9.15 – 10am

12 Feb **Bulk Refuse Collection Hever** Bottle bank 10.15 - 11am

12 Feb **Bulk Refuse Collection** Markbeech Village Hall 11.15 – 12 noon

14 Feb **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

16 Feb **Chichester Cathedral Choir,** choral evensong
at Holy Trinity Church Forest Row 4pm

16 Feb **Hever Hort talk from Simon Sutcliffe** of How Green Nursery,
Hever Village Hall 8pm

21 Feb **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

25 Feb **Film club**, Hever Golf Club, doors open 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm

28 Feb **Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847)
Hever Village Hall 10.30am

5 Mar **Yoghurt making workshop a**t Bore Place 10 – 12.30 pm

9 Mar **Hever Parish council meeting** Markbeech Village Hall 7.30pm

2 June **Jubilee party at Hever Castle**