April 2022

THE LINK







In this issue:

- A coffee for Ukraine
- Grand Easter egg hunt
- Electricity... demand and supply?
- Cook a chicken Kyiv
- Remembering Thomas Boleyn

...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the April Link

So here we are - cautiously optimistic about a year of activity ahead. And for the Link there is so much going on we have put in extra pages! The Parish Council and HRA are very grateful to the Castle for inviting us all into the Italian garden and lakeside for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party on 2 June and the Four Elms Fete are building up to an excellent comeback on 9 July.

Meanwhile, this edition has a special focus on Hever, Thomas Bullen and Jan Ryan in equal measure, foreshadowing the start of Hever church's 900th anniversary celebrations. Hever Festival (heverfestival.co.uk) is featuring an anniversary talk in the church on 25 June and Hever Castle historians are lecturing on 10th August. Horrible Histories are performing the Terrible Tudors and Howard Brenton's excellent play "Anne Boleyn" focuses on Anne not as a tragic heroine but as a shrewd intellectual progressing the Reformation, not just for marital reasons.

Other highlights include an Easter egg hunt in Hever church and a quiz in Four Elms, highlights rather over-shadowed by the dreadful situations in Ukraine and Afghanistan. The Disasters Emergency Committee is a group of leading UK charities which works with local partners to bring humanitarian aid to where it is needed most. If you can donate (with gift aid) you can easily do so via dec.org.uk or come to a Parish coffee morning in aid of Ukraine on Saturday 16th April from 11.00 in Hever Village Hall.

And Sainsbury's was the first supermarket to change the name of its Chicken Kiev to Chicken Kyiv!

Joanna Wade

THE LINK



Easter at Hever

pet of the month

Most people are completely mystified as to why we keep rheas, as they are neither cuddly pets nor considered edible.

Our first rhea came from Penshurst vineyard, where there was once a "pet area" with all sorts of animals from wallabies to ducks and geese. Being in the wine trade, we had a good connection with the family and adopted Schnapps. She had been hand raised and was affectionate and very endearing. We acquired a mate for her, whom we named Damien, because of his mischievous nature. Schnapps was with us for over 20 years and all our current rheas, (we now have 15) are descended from her.

Rheas originate in the grasslands of South America. They are part of the ratite family, related to ostriches and emus. They are hardy birds needing no protection from inclement weather. Unlike ostriches, rheas are rarely aggressive except in the spring mating season. The males spend a lot of time chasing each other round the field and tussling with their beaks locked together. They also emit a curious booming call. They are polygamous and, unusually, in the animal kingdom, it is the males who make the nests, incubate the eggs and raise the chicks, with no assistance from the females. Sadly, very few chicks survive as they are predated, presumably by foxes. Rheas are mainly grazing vegetarians, although they appear to eat anything. Damien once gobbled up a golf ball. We called our vet, who could barely contain his laughter and advised us to take no action. On the whole, they prefer broad leafed plants. Over the years they have completely cleared our field of docks, thistle and nettles. A useful way of weeding without herbicide, but perhaps not so good for biodiversity.

They are contained with ordinary stock fencing, which works well until the fence is damaged or a gate left open, when they will depart with alacrity. As they can run with extraordinary speed, they are very difficult to herd back. One of our rheas lived wild near Markbeech for several years startling many a walker and horse rider. Rheas are certainly not renowned for their intelligence, but their grace and speed is extraordinary. Every now and again all our flock will spurt into action, racing around the field in all directions wings outstretched. Their entertainment value is high!

Claire Longley



A rhea



Coffee morning for Ukraine

Come and show your support for Ukraine - drink coffee and bring and/or buy cakes and plants, all in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee's humanitarian appeal……

Saturday 16th April • 10.30 - 12.00
Hever Village Hall

See you there!

What I do

What I do at Hever Castle

I joined the Castle Team in 1983, the same year that the Astors sold it to Mr and Mrs John Guthrie. With the help of many of the staff who worked for the Astors and a new Managing Director, one Bob Pullin, the Guthries turned the whole place into a fully commercial operation.

Refreshments were provided in a massive Tea-Tent, which was a very high marquee and during its opening hours the highest part of the top was always full of sparrows, all hoping to steal any bread or cake crumbs dropped by careless diners. The birds kept up a constant chatter, which certainly added to the informal atmosphere.

Hever Castle has been the backdrop for many filmed television advertisements, and on one occasion NatWest filmed a whole series utilising various venues around the grounds. In those days How Green Nursery had a retail outlet at the castle and the crew bought up the entire stock for use as props. After filming had finished, it was all returned – the sales lady said it was the best day's trading she had ever done!

We in-house Room Stewards, had a very strict dress code, summed up as band-box elegance. We females were only allowed trousers if they were part of a trouser-suit, and skirts had to be below-the-knee at least. Our behaviour was also strictly regulated, and we were not allowed to initiate conversations with visitors unless it was absolutely necessary. We had to wait for them to speak to us first. This resulted in us hovering near visitors, smiling like mad and looking hopeful, especially if they were giving each other mis-information!

Gavin Astor had a Secretary, and she stayed on as Mr. Pullin's Secretary after the Astors left. Her name was Pat Humphreys, and I'm sure many locals will remember her – she was a larger than life character, and was very prominent in village affairs.

In October 1987 the south east of England was hit by what came to be known as The Hurricane. The gardens at Hever Castle had been designed and created 80 years earlier, by William Waldorf Astor, and were just reaching their most glorious maturity. Overnight much of it was destroyed, with huge trees reduced to so much firewood, and paths and flowerbeds obliterated by debris. Our Head Gardener, Kurt Stahr, walked through the devastation in absolute silence, but with tears running down his face. I was able to make it in to work the next morning, the only Steward to do so but it was immediately obvious that there was no possibility of opening that day or for the rest of the season. It was with a heavy heart that I made my way home again.

A few years later I was on duty at the Castle entrance, and had gone to

the Staff Room to make tea. When I arrived back, I learnt that some of the miniature paintings had been stolen. I immediately closed the Castle gates but it was too late; the thief had already made his getaway. It transpired that one of the staff had thought it odd that a young man on his own had bought a Castle-and-Gardens ticket, and then left half an hour later. She had managed to remember part of his vehicle registration number. On the strength of this, the Police were able to identify him! They recovered some of the miniatures, but they were the least valuable ones. The real prize, a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, painted when she was about eighteen, and with a lock of her hair, still retaining its red tint, in the back of it, was not there. It still saddens me that I will never see it again.

One summer, the Guthries went to Rome on holiday, and came back full of enthusiasm for the beautiful fountains there. They were very keen to install something similar at the Castle. Bob Pullin suggested that a water feature could take the form of a maze, which would be interactive rather than just visually pleasing.

The water maze takes the form of large stepping stones set in a shallow lake, leading from the edge to a tower in the centre. Some of the stepping stones produce a jet of water when trodden on, and his idea was that no-one would want to get wet, so participants would try to avoid these. Local residents were invited to the grand opening which took place on a hot summer day. Poor Mr. Pullin was mortified when the children gleefully jumped up and down on the 'spiked' stones, getting soaked in the process. He shouted 'Stop them, someone stop them!' But of course no-one did.

Today the water maze is hugely popular, and on the strength of that alone many annual passes are sold.

Jan Ryan



village screen film club 2022

Friday 25 March
The Hundred Foot Journey

The film will be shown at Hever Castle Golf Club. It is two hours long, starts 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.

SAVE THE DATES

9 Events for Hever 900

25 June
Thomas Bullen talk by historian Lauren MacKay

26 June
Patronal service with the Archdeacon & bellringing followed by picnic

Art and Walk in June

June
Flower Festival

17 September
Barn Dance

5 November
Son et Lumiere

10 November
Christmas Fair at Hever Castle

13 November
Bulb planting

3 December
Concert with music from various centuries from 1122

#Hever900



Children great and small are welcome to come hunting chocolate eggs and paint pebbles in St Peter's churchyard (in the church if wet) on Saturday before Easter at 3.30pm.

Plenty of coffee and cake for the adults.
The hunt is sponsored by St Peter's church and the Hever Residents Association and it's free of charge!
Any donations will go to support Ukraine.



Spring grass

electric blues

So Storm Eunice arrived as predicted and knocked out a fair bit of power on Friday 18th February. What we hadn't expected was that by Thursday 24th a large number of neighbours would still be without electricity. Those without included our neighbour Una, famously just 100, the Henry VIII, Hever church and school and a large number of other households, including many vulnerable people.



As the days wore on, every deadline given by UK Power Networks for the restoration of the service passed without good news, freezers started to thaw, houses got very cold and we were all worried. It turns out that UKPN will pay for people to go to a hotel (not an easy option when you have a young baby and the hotel has to evict you halfway through your stay because of pre-bookings) and also a £50 allowance after 48 hours for each day without power, but that's a poor substitute. Eventually after much campaigning, including slots on Radio Kent and with help from our excellently active MP, Tom Tugendhat, UKPN agreed to provide a small generator for Una. They had been reluctant because it turned out that they only had 500 for use across the whole county and these were all in use in medically critical situations to support life. Una's was coming down from London…..

Just at that moment a team of specialists arrived from the Cambridge area, took one look at a pole, climbed up it and found that a trip switch had tripped! The explanation for the patchy problem is that our electricity runs in three phases, two of the phases were still going and servicing 2/3 of the houses but the third had just suffered a simple trip of a switch. Six days later, and with a flick of the wrist, all was back on - in the middle of a candlelit funeral in the church.

Everyone is delighted but of course upset that the simple solution had not been discovered sooner. The silver lining is that the community did a lot of self-help and there were many kindnesses. We benefited from a delicious apple and blackberry crumble from our neighbour's melting freezer. Sadly as we go to print a large swathe of Hever suffered the after effects for weeks more with phone and internet down until mid-March. Hopefully some lessons have been learned from the chaos.

Joanna Wade

chicken kyiv

Chicken Kyiv (with thanks to Felicity Cloake, Prue Leith and Thomasina Miers for recipe inspiration)

Makes 2

2 skinless chicken breasts
50g salted butter, at room temperature
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tbsp parsley and 1 tbsp tarragon, finely chopped OR 15g of wild garlic leaves washed, patted dry and finely sliced
Zest from ½ lemon
3 tbsp flour(seasoned)
2 beaten eggs
4 tbsp breadcrumbs, ideally Panko (seasoned)
Vegetable oil, to fry

- Mix the butter, garlic, lemon zest and herbs thoroughly with some black pepper. Form into a sausage, and wrap tightly in greaseproof paper and chill.
- With a sharp knife open up each chicken breast like a book. Put them between sheets of wet greaseproof paper and, with a rolling pin, beat until about 0.5cm thick, being careful not to create any holes. Season both sides well.
- Place half the butter near one edge of the first chicken breast and begin rolling the meat up around it, tucking in the ends as you go. You can make a little mix of egg and flour as glue to help. Roll into a tight sausage wrap with greaseproof or clingfilm, repeat and freeze for 2 hours.
- Put the flour, eggs and breadcrumbs into 3 shallow dishes then roll the frozen Kyivs in each in that order, then for a second time, carefully, in the eggs and crumbs. Put in the fridge to defrost, which should take about an hour.
- Now decide if you are going to deep or shallow fry. If deep preheat the oven to 150C. Otherwise 180C (160C fan)/ gas 4.
- For deep, heat the oil in a large deep pan or fryer to 160C, or until a crumb of bread turns golden in about 15 seconds. Gently lower the first Kyiv in. Cook it for 8 minutes, turning if not fully submerged then drain on kitchen paper and put in the oven to keep warm while you cook the next.
- For shallow pour 1cm vegetable oil into a large frying pan on a medium heat. When it's hot enough for the crumb sizzle, cook the chicken for two to three minutes a side until golden and crisp, probably in two batches so as not to crowd the pan. Transfer to a baking dish or tray and bake for a final 15 minutes to finish cooking.



hever good friday litter pick

Once again our verges and footpaths have an accumulation of litter so we are planning another Easter Hever community litter pick on the morning of Good Friday 15th April from 9.00am to 12.00 noon.

Please bring your family or just yourself to assist. Most of the litter is discarded from passing cars so we will have to work on the roads and lanes around the parish. If you have youngsters with you or would prefer not to pick on the roads then let us know and we can assign you to a footpath.

We will meet at the Hever Village Hall from 9.00am for a briefing and to collect bags, long handled pickers and high viz vests. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits to sustain us. If you are unable to get there for 9.00am but would still like to participate then please turn up at the Hall Car Park any time during the morning.

Please bring your own thick gloves and strong footwear is recommended.

Also if you have a warning triangle in your car then please bring it along to assist with traffic calming.

Hopefully we will have another great turn out this year! There is no need to register beforehand but to help give an idea of numbers then please call John Roundhill on 07720 882356 or email roundhilljohn@gmail.com. Please also let him know if there are any roads or footpaths of particular concern to you.

John Roundhill

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Garden Party

Thursday 2 June 6.30-10pm,

Hever Castle lakeside

Dear subjects of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech, Hever Residents Association and the Parish Council cordially invite you to celebrate the Jubilee: live music from Jazzbomb in the Italian Garden, bring your own picnic, take a boat trip round the lake and enjoy the firework finale.

Free entry to locals and their guests by ticket only: bookitbee.com/HeverJubilee

Footpaths - Time to get walking again!
At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Kent https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/kent has hundreds of walks to download for free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Also Peter Titchmarsh's excellent 10 Walks in Hever Country is available at the Ide Hill shop and from the Link editors, sold for £4 in aid of the benefice.

Swathe and Visibility Cuts
Kent County Council has reviewed swathe and visibility cuts across the county to take into account highway safety as a priority coupled with biodiversity. Across the Parish we are planning to have swathe & visibility cuts at the end of April/beginning of May and then again at end of September/beginning of October plus a visibility cut at the end of July.

Due to the damage caused by Storm Eunice the day before, the refuse freighter failed to arrive. Apologies



to those who were expecting it. I am pleased to say it will be with us on Saturday 26th March,see the diary on the back for details.

Road Safety and Road Damage
We have had concerns raised from parishioners regarding road safety, in particular the junctions of Roodlands Lane onto Bough Beech Road and Bough Beech Road and Bull Lane. HPC have informed Kent Highways of this and proposed a 30mph speed limit in the built up boundary of Four Elms Village. KCC Highways will review this.

The recent roadworks that led to closure of the main Hartfield Road caused traffic to take detours around the narrow back lanes which resulted in much damage to the verges in New House Farm Lane. HPC will request restoration work and, in the future if diversions are required, to improve planning and provide clearer diversion signage.

Keep Britain Tidy
Several community Litter Picks have been arranged across the Parish. Come and join in it is great fun, with free refreshments and great exercise. If possible, please bring own gloves and wear sturdy clothing and footwear. All other equipment provided. See dates in the diary on the back.

Councillor Vacancy
We have a vacancy for a Councillor to represent the interests of those living or workingin Four Elms Village and are welcoming applications. Please see www.hever.org or contact clerk@hever.org for further information. The Councillor will be Co-Opted.



Bus survey
Kent County Council are looking at reducing funding for bus services and, as a result, the bus services across the county. Please do take part in the consultation on bus funding reductions at:https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab
Please remember your Parish Council is here and do continue to tell us what concerns you and what issues you feel the Council should be focussing on.

Save the date for the annual Parish Assembly in Hever on 26 May at 7pm.

Rachael Turner
07784 912645
Clerk@hever.org”



Lady Rhea by Claire Longley

schooltime

news from Hever

Since our last article, there has been so much news and excitement in learning. Firstly, we officially opened our new kitchen - The Hive at Hever after 5 years of hard work and grant applications! Our special guest, Paul Cookson, read the bespoke poem he had written for the kitchen and then cut the big yellow ribbon adorning the building to the sound of the whole school cheering and laughing. We are enjoying the fantastic lunches and recently celebrated Pancake Day ahead of Lent. Some of our children helped the chefs to inspire the children and think beyond chocolate spread and sugar and reach for their 5 or more a day.





The children enjoyed a mega Numbers Day with some imaginative maths inspired costumes and some fantastic maths games, quizzes and fluency all in the aid of the NSPCC. We also celebrated World Book Day with a visit from the celebrated author Chris Connaughton. He had a storytelling workshop with each class and he brought to life many different genres.

We also reopened the library and the children have been visiting each lunchtime to swap books and share stories. We have also introduced "100 books to read before you leave Hever" and the children have enjoyed leaving book reviews for other students.
We have also been saddened and affected by the Ukraine humanitarian crisis and are pulling together as a community during this time. Two car loads of donations were delivered to a collection point filled with notes and drawings for the Ukrainians and an impulsive, modest cake sale raised over £360 for the Ukraine appeal. Thank you Hever – you donated folded notes with no change expected and wiped your tears away in hope of more peaceful times.

Our PTA have done a fantastic job of fundraising over £22k and our next project is the arrival of a Shepherd's hut which will be used as a space for counselling, speech therapy and art therapy. Work on this will begin over the Easter holidays.

Finally, it's been lovely to have lots of volunteers back in school. 'Look for the helpers and you will always find people who are helping.'

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

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Accommodation		
Edenbridge Manor Care Home, residential, dementia and respite care		01732 492282
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
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 Roper 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
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

Church in April

Easter Sunday is 17th April. 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/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
3rd April 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8	5th of Lent
10th April 10am*	Outdoor service with procession from Falconhurst at 9.45am Holy Trinity Markbeech	Luke 19:28-40	Palm Sunday
10th April 11.15am	Said communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:1-24	Palm Sunday
14th April 6pm	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Maundy Thursday
15th April 12 noon	Devotion at the Cross St.Paul's Four Elms	Jesus' seven words from the Cross	Good Friday
17th April 6am	Easter Sunrise at St.Peter's Hever	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 24:1-12	Easter Sunday
17th April 9.15am	Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12	Easter Sunday
17th April 11am	Family Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12	Easter Sunday
24th April 8am	Said BCP Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	1 John 5:4-12; John 20:19-23	2nd of Easter
24th April 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	John 20:19-31	2nd of Easter

** There will be no Forest church this month as the Palm Sunday procession will be outdoors.

There will be services of Compline or Night Prayer during Holy week at 6pm on Monday 11th at Holy Trinity Markbeech; Tuesday 12th at St.Peter's Hever and Wednesday 13th at St.Paul's Four Elms

Our weekly Zoom Lent course continues on Mondays at 6.00pm until 4th April; the Tonbridge deanery course 'Living in Love & Faith' is in Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall on Thursdays and on Zoom on Sundays at 6pm. Zoom Evening prayer continues on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help.

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

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the first ruler of Soviet Russia wrote "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen". As I write this article and hear the news in Ukraine it seems sadly too true. There has been a paradigm shift for the whole of Europe referred to by the new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announcing Germany's intention to rearm. The words of Graham Kendrick's song 'the clouds are gathering' written in 1988 just before the fall of the Berlin Wall, seem strangely prophetic:

O Lord, over the nations now where is the dove of peace? Her wings are broken
O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase - their bread is stolen

There is a dread in 'doom scrolling' through the news each day and we feel powerless. Yet we've seen an explosion of generosity including at our service for the Ukraine on 6th March and people are registering to house Ukrainian refugees. The world has changed suddenly.

For Christians, the events of Easter mark a defining and changing moment in history. A solitary man dies on a cross in an obscure part of the Roman Empire. His followers are scattered and the women lay his body in a borrowed tomb. Three days later there are reports of the body missing and Jesus seen alive. His followers are transformed and rapidly a new movement is born. Today about 2.4 billion people call themselves Christians. Something happened that Easter weekend, which transformed history - even more profoundly than what is happening today.

Could the old story be true? What relevance has it for geopolitical events in the 21st Century? In 2016, religious leaders were asked by the Times to comment on the events of Easter. Canon Andrew Wingfield Digby, the former chaplain to the England cricket team, wrote: *'There are three problems in the world that even the greatest political leaders cannot deal with: evil, suffering and death. The Easter message speaks to all three: Evil flees when faced with the love and power of Jesus, Suffering is made sense of only at the Cross of Jesus. Death is defeated only by the Resurrection of Jesus. If people don't think that is relevant they must be living on a different planet to me.'*

Do join us to worship God at this special time of the year. I'm always ready to talk and pray with anyone disturbed by these world events or for any other reason. Our churches are open for private prayer during the daytime and in Hever we have a prayer space dedicated to prayers for Ukraine.

God bless you all this Easter

Simon

PS. On May 17th at 7pm I will be installed as Rector by the Bishop of Tonbridge in St.Peter's – do save the date.

news from the pews

Markbeech

Gradually more is happening in our villages as the Covid restrictions have eased but now our thoughts are diverted to the hideous war in Ukraine. I have dear friends in central Kyiv, and every day I check Nika's FaceBook feed to see that they are OK. She is posting beautiful, uplifting images of sunlight on fine buildings, the intricately decorated interior of the cathedral with shafts of light pouring through it, of cacti on her windowsill and of her cat sunbathing on a table. By the cactus she has written: "among many other things, I'm full of fury these days, so I'd rather stay quiet for a while, so as not incidentally to hurt someone dear, loving and well-meaning in general, we are as ok as is humanly possible in this shitty situation - and I love you all no less than ever thank you for being there for us, dearest friends."

She doesn't talk of escaping although they have sent their 17 year old daughter away to Lviv, and I believe they intend to stay come what may. She is an adventurous, hugely intelligent woman, who went to college in America and has worked as a journalist, and is so like many of my friends in the media here, liberal and proactive. Her husband is a successful designer and art director. It is simply unimaginable that their life has changed so radically in a few weeks, and makes it very clear that we should never ignore the fact that even here everything could change. We need always to cherish our way of life, and make sure that we hold the most important things closest. Apart from donating to the Ukrainian cause, or helping refugees there is little we can do but pray, and pray hard for Putin to come to his senses and withdraw.

Here we are looking ahead to Easter and the renewal it brings. Markbeech is hosting the Palm Sunday procession and. service this year, which will be starting out from by the Falconhurst Farm Shop, and going up Church Walk, to Holy Trinity. We have donkeys, 'palm' fronds and music and look forward to meeting you there at 9.45am (check the diary). The service will continue in the churchyard and be family friendly so we hope the donkeys can stay. Wear good footwear and we pray for good weather!

All the other services are in the diary, and lots happens in Holy Week, including the very quiet and contemplative services of compline in each church which I particularly love.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Four Elms

It was with great joy that we welcomed Reuben Laycock into our Church family at his baptism service early in March. Reuben is the baby son of Angela and Matthew (Angela is our wonderful organist) we hope Reuben will be as musical as his mama. And, talking of which, we are seeking young singers for a Benefice choir. Please contact Ana (Benefice) if you are interested to find out more.

We have St. Paul's Four Elms APCM in the Parish Rooms on Tuesday 26th April at 7pm Everybody is welcome to attend this meeting and prior to this the Annual Review and Financial Statement will be available to anyone who wishes to know what has happened during 2021.

Copies will be available in the church from the 11th April.

There is a Village Quiz night in the village hall on Saturday 23rd April. Its an opportunity to meet your neighbours and find out what is happening in Four Elms in the coming months and to have some friendly quizzing competition. Please book tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.

The horrific war in Ukraine is a blight on what we believed to be a relatively peaceful world, especially in Europe. The prospect of modern warfare taking place with all its potential horrors is difficult to comprehend in the 21st century. It is difficult to understand how a despot can see any gain in bombing cities. But while a dictator may believe military might will win battles it will never win the war as the hearts and minds of people cannot be changed by bombs alone. We all pray for peace in Ukraine and support its brave people. We have a place in our church where you may light a (battery) candle for the citizens of Ukraine. Please leave a message if you wish.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The Cabin Service held recently was well supported and took on a special significance because of the unexpected turn of events in Ukraine, the large sum raised which will be donated through the DEC to help the people of Ukraine. Jane Rosam will be holding a coffee morning at the Village Hall between 10.30 and midday on Saturday April 16th to raise funds for the Ukraine, your support would be very welcome.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the Graveyard on Saturday 16th April at 3.30pm. The Easter sunrise service will be held at 6am at St Peter's and will be followed by bacon baps, boiled eggs and hot drinks in the church.

Don't forget to book your tickets for the talk by Dr Lauren Mackay being held in St Peter's Church on 26 June. She will spend the evening delving into Thomas' life and career, moving beyond the myths and stereotypes to establish his place in Tudor history. Tickets are available to book from www.heverfestival.co.uk

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 14th April 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 to let Jane know that you are coming or have any special dietary requirements (please text 07766 763124 or email Janerosam@gmail.com)

Jane Rosam has been running a very interesting series of Zoom calls on a Sunday evening on the "Pastoral Principles for living and learning well together" during March. Sessions so far have included looking at Ignorance and Power, Confidence and Fear, Respect and Prejudice and we are looking forward to the final 2 sessions.

Mandy Yarnold
Church Warden

From the register

Baptisms

at St Peter's Hever 20 February
Fergus Joseph Ruthven born on 3 December 2020

at St Paul's Four Elms 6 March
Reuben Michael Philip Laycock born on 4 September 2021

St Peter's – Burial place of Thomas Boleyn and Henry Boleyn

Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, father of Queen Anne Boleyn and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I, is buried at St Peter's Church and his resting place can still be seen today.



His tomb is topped with a magnificent memorial brass, considered one of the finest surviving memorial brasses in England. It depicts him dressed in the full robes and insignia of a Knight of the Garter, including the badge on his left breast and garter around his left knee. Thomas's head is resting on a helmet surmounted by his daughter Anne Boleyn's falcon badge, while his feet are on a griffin. The inscription on his tomb reads:

"Here lieth Sir Thomas Bullen, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Erle of Wilscher and Erle or Ormunde, which decessed the 12th dai of Marche in the iere of our Lorde 1538."

In those days the new calendar year didn't start until 25 March, Lady Day or the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, so that's why the brass inscription gives his date of death as 1538 and we say 1539. Thomas Boleyn was in his early sixties when he died at Hever Castle. His servant, Robert Cranwell, wrote to Thomas Cromwell the next day to give him news of his death:

"My good lord and master is dead. He made the end of a good Christian man."

Although two of his children, George Boleyn, Lord Rochford, and Queen Anne Boleyn, had been executed as traitors to the crown in May 1536, and Thomas had been stripped of his office of Lord Privy Seal in June 1536, Thomas had done his duty to his remaining family and his monarch, and had climbed his way back into royal favour, just as families like the Staffords and Howards had done before him. He had helped quash the Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion in late 1536 and was present at Prince Edward's baptism in October 1537. Historian Eric Ives describes how he diligently went to Order of the Garter functions, even lending Thomas Cromwell his chain and best Garter badge at one point, and he was back at court by January 1538.

In July 1538, three months after his wife's death, there were rumours that

"my lord of Wolshyre will marry lady Margaret Dowglas". The marriage to Lady Margaret Douglas, King Henry VIII's niece, never took place, but Thomas Boleyn must have been high in favour for it to be rumoured that he would marry her.

In April 1539, Henry VIII paid 16l. 13s. 4d. to his chaplain, William Franklyn, Dean of Windsor, "for certain oraisons, suffrages and masses to be said for the soul's health of th'erle of Wilts, late deceased", which is hard evidence that Thomas was back in favour at his death.

Thomas is not the only member of the Boleyn family to be buried at St Peter's. Near to Thomas's tomb is a small brass cross memorial which bears the inscription "Henry Bullayen the sone of the Thomas Bullayne". Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth (née Howard), lost two children in childhood, Henry, the one buried at St Peter's, and Thomas, who was laid to rest at St John the Baptist Church, Penshurst, in the Sidney Chapel, with a similar brass cross memorial. Although historian Alison Weir believes that Thomas the Younger may have lived into adulthood, Michael Harris of the Monumental Brass Society confirmed to me that the cross-shaped memorial brasses used for Thomas the Younger and Henry "are almost certainly to children." This would tie in with the fact that neither Thomas nor Henry are mentioned in any court records.

Queen Anne Boleyn and George Boleyn, Lord Rochford, were laid to rest in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, at the Tower of London, following their executions in May 1536. Their mother, Elizabeth Boleyn, Countess of Wiltshire and Ormond, was buried at St Mary's Church, Lambeth, (now the Garden Museum) a traditional burial place for Howard women, when she died in April 1538 .

Claire Ridgway is the founder of the Anne Boleyn Files blog and Tudor Society, and the author of several Tudor history books, including The Fall of Anne Boleyn: A Countdown. She is presently working on a book on the social history of Hever Castle with castle supervisor, Dr Owen Emmerson.



Four Elms village pond



Swanning around!



The aptly named Stanford Water Lane

Hever Parish Council are pleased to announce that we have now completed the purchase of the Four Elms Pond, on behalf of the community. This was made possible through the generosity of local residents of the Parish.

The pond will be maintained, for and on behalf of the community, by HPC. It is the quintessential feature of Four Elms and we hope it can be enjoyed by all, for years to come. In this current rather uncertain geopolitical environment, its nice to have something that galvanizes people through a sense of pride and mutual ownership.

Along with the existing ducks, a pair of swans have recently settled on the pond. Although not part of the purchase, it could well be a harbinger of good things to come! HPC would like to extend much gratitude for the generous donations that have made this venture possible.

There will soon be an additional new picnic table with seating on Four Elms Field and a bench for the community to enjoy. These were procured as part of post Covid EU Welcome Back Fund.

Councillor Nick Roberts

Four Elms Village Fete

Tickets £5 per person

Book a table for a team of 6 or we can allocate you to a table

Bar available on the night

Prize for the winning team

Bring your own food or have it delivered

Quiz Night

Raffle tickets available on the night

A fun evening to support your Village Fete

7pm Saturday 23rd April

At the Four Elms Village Hall

Book tickets in advance: Call: **01732 700247** or Email: **harvest21@btinternet.com**



Hever is 900 years old

Sponsor a day

and become part of history

1 CHOOSE A DAY
and give a reason

2 SPONSOR THE DAY
£25 per year

3 RECORD THE DAY
in the Hever 900 calendar

#Hever900

gardening

Spring is in the air and hopefully your garden is full of uplifting colour with Daffodils and Tulips coming into their own with the promise of Azaleas and Rhododendrons to come. Now is a good time to check your garden for gaps that might benefit from bulb planting in the autumn.

Hever Rose and Horticultural Society (HRHS) will be holding their Annual Spring Show on the 9th April, this is a popular event with both members and non-members entering the various classes providing riot of colour and amazing scents in Hever Village Hall. Come and visit between 2pm and 4pm.

The show has three sections covering flowers, mainly daffodils and tulips but also including others such as hellebores, camellias and primulas. There are three flower arranging classes for spring flowers, a miniature arrangement and one entitled “Easter Surprise”. In addition there are four domestic classes including a loaf of bread, an Orange Spice Cake, a chocolate tray bake and a jar of marmalade.



Full details of the society’s events and the show schedule can be found at www.hever.org simply click on the HRHS link. If you would like to join the society or make an entry in the show please contact Jan Tolfree 01342 850206 or David Dutton 07519 346787 for details.

Now is a good time to start preparing your vegetable plot, it is always rewarding to see the daily progress as well as later in the year savouring your produce. This doesn’t have to be an arduous task as you can grow as much as you want. Why not start off with tomatoes, cucumber and beans all of which will taste so much better that shop bought alternatives? Or add a little colour by planting marigolds around the edge of your patch, these may also keep those pesky greenfly and blackfly at bay.

In these most harrowing of times consider planting a few sunflowers to show support for Ukraine as this is their national flower. I am sure many of you are showing support in other ways but these will keep the nation in your thoughts.

Finally don’t forget the annual plant sale run by HRHS from 10am 7th May at Hever Village Hall. A wide variety of bedding plants, patio and container plants, perennials, herbs and vegetable plants will be available supplied by a local nursery and members. Do come along and have a look**.**

David Dutton

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2020**	66	106	55	38	6	45	21	42	35	142	59	88
	2021	134	46	30	6	58	79	45	54	41	121	21	78
	2022	22	55										
Hever	**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
	2022	16.5	44										
Markbeech	**2020**	96.25	140	47.5	40	10	49.25	31.6	36	54.6	163.75	40.5	95.6
	2021	120	40	51	4	55.5	38.5	48	0	39	141	11.5	86
	2022	21	80										

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:
Rachael Turner
07784 912645
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 **May** edition should reach us no later than **15 April**-
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

April diary

24 Mar	**Parish Tea** at Little Chittenden 3- 4.30pm	
25 Mar	**Film club,** Hever Golf Club, doors open 6.30pm,	film at 7.30pm
26 Mar	**Spring Foraging Walk**, Bore Place call 01732 463255 for tickets	10-1pm
26 Mar	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Four Elms Village Hall	9.15 – 10am
26 Mar	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Hever Bottle Bank	10.15 – 11am
26 Mar	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Markbeech Village Hall	11.15 – 12 noon
4 Apr	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847) and every Monday Hever Village Hall	10.30am
6 Apr	**Hever Residents Assoc AGM** Hever Village Hall	7pm
7 Apr	**Midlife stability ball class** (call Fiona 0771 8588847) and every Thursday Hever Village Hall	10.00am
9 Apr	**Four Elms Litter Pick** from Four Elms Village Hall	9.30am
9 Apr	**Markbeech Litter Pick**	2pm
9 Apr	**Hever Hort Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
10 Apr	**Penshurst point to point**, Brookers Farm Chiddingstone	2pm
14 Apr	**Hever Parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
15 Apr	**Hever village litter pick**, Hever Village Hall	9-12 noon
23 Apr	**ID walk – small mammal survey**, Bore Place call 01732 463255 for tickets	8-10am
23 Apr	**Four Elms Quiz Night**, Four Elms Village Hall	7pm
26 Apr	**St Pauls Four Elms APCM**, Parish Rooms	7pm
7 May	**Hever Hort Plant Sale**, Hever Village Hall	10am
10 May	**Hever Parish Council AGM,** Four Elms Village Hall	
13 May	**Bat walk,** Bore Place call 01732 463255 for tickets	7- 9.30pm
26 May	**Hever Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly**, Hever Village Hall	7pm
28 May	**The London Mandolin Quartet concert**, Edenbridge Parish Church	7pm
2 Jun	**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party,** Hever Castle	6.30 – 10pm
11 Jun	**Hever Hort Rose Show,** Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
25 Jun	**Hever Festival talk** by Lauren MacKay on Thomas and George Boleyn, St Peter's Hever	8pm
3 July	**Jazz AlFresco**, Saxby's Mead, Cowden	
9 July	**Four Elms Fete**	