May 2022

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Up with the lark
- A Global vision
- Cuckoo!
- Serenaded by mandolins
- Howzat? – ladies cricket

...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the May Link

I have just been walking between Whistlers and Delaware and could not only hear but see a hovering lark singing high up in the blue, blue sky. The idyll was only slightly marred by several planes – Gatwick is getting busy again.

Talking of birds, I sponsored a migrating cuckoo through the British Trust for Ornithology (see the article on page 5) and have been delighted by the regular tracker updates as they fly north to join us for the summer season. A couple of weeks ago Ellis flew the whole length of Spain, 489 miles, between 4 am and 9 am; he was speeding at nearly 100 miles an hour, quite extraordinary!

It seems rather decadent to be sponsoring cuckoos in these difficult times but I felt that a bit of quality of life was important and the parish has already been marvellous in fundraising for Ukraine (the coffee morning alone raised over £1000).

And then of course there is the May blossom, glorious on the bare branches of the hawthorn. It is the only bush named after the month in which it flowers and it can support up to 300 types of insect, including the Hawthorn moth whose caterpillars love to eat its leaves. Dormice enjoy the flowers and we can eat it in capsules on sale from Holland and Barrett, but I'm not quite sure why we would want to.

This next month sees the Parish Assembly on 26th and then the big parish Jubilee party at Hever Castle on 2 June - hurry, tickets are going fast and entry is by ticket only!

Joanna Wade



Skylark

THE LINK

pet of the month

We adopted Kit, a little border collie cross, from a rescue centre in Uckfield in 2015. He was estimated to be about a year old and had been abandoned at a vets in Ireland and then shipped over here to find a new home. As with many rescue dogs, we had a few issues to overcome as he was not quite house trained, had a penchant for chewing computer cable leads and was adept at escaping from our garden.

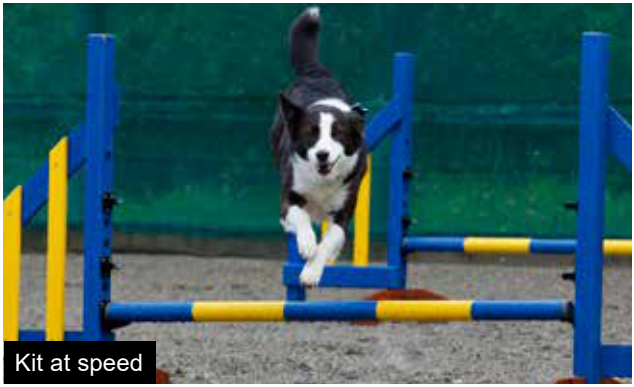
On the plus side, he was very affectionate and bright. I decided that he might enjoy agility and happened to mention this to a group of friends and one of them recommended that I contacted Jane at Clever Paws dog training in Blindley Heath. We went along for our assessment and Jane told me that, while she felt he would be good at it, we needed to do some obedience training first as instant recall was necessary for agility and Kit was still getting used to the name we had just given him and settling into our lives. I signed up and for the first time in my life I went to a formal dog obedience training and loved it.

We then started a beginner's agility group learning all the hand signals and commands required to get your dog around the various obstacles in the correct order, touching the contact spots on the dog walks and seesaws, and trying to master the dog weaves- we are still not quite there yet. We recently went to our first agility competition, a low-key beginner's event, and competed in three runs. We were eliminated in two runs but came second in the third.

On the obedience side, we had enjoyed it so much that we kept going and recently Kit was awarded his Gold good citizens award from the Kennel Club. The gold award builds upon the skills learnt in the silver award. The gold award introduces new concepts such as sending a dog to bed, relaxed isolation, an emergency stop and heelwork off the lead, all of which provide greater understanding and control. Kit had to complete nine exercises faultlessly and I had to correctly answer ten questions on responsibility and welfare.

I have made some great friends at my classes and I am sure for a budding writer there is a great comedy TV series waiting to be written on dog training!

Mandy Yarnold



Kit at speed

What I do

When you retire it should be a wonderful time, because you are on your own time with, hopefully, a pension so that your own desires can be followed. Experience says you need a plan.

In 2010 I was a retired computer geek and emergency planner, ie what to do when it all goes horribly wrong (no shortage of toilet roll in this house). Judi had just retired as a specialist nurse. Some years earlier we had been to London and toured the newly recreated Shakespeare Globe that was in rehearsal before opening . There was this balcony scene being tried out. Juliet says "no, no, no. I can see Romeo out there on stage, it would be much better if he were under the balcony so that I cannot see him but the audience can". Realtime adaption of the scene by the players and in what a gorgeous space. We were sold.

When we retired, Judi inquired about being a volunteer steward. Ex nurse (first aider?) with free-time for weekday performances. She was in, with me tagging along. Judi determined nurses do not necessarily make good first aiders, so booked on a St Johns course, with me again tagging along. Our first outdoor summer season started in April 2010 and we became part of the Globe volunteer family of some 500 souls.

Our very first stewarding shift was Macbeth, and it started with Mother Nature providing wind, thunder, rain and hail to the entry of the 3 witches through the standing audience and passing me onto the stage. It was cold, wet and unforgettably wonderful. In subsequent years our first aid training proved invaluable especially for plays directed by the delightful Lucy Bailey which prove to be particularly graphic. Notably Titus Andronicus has some 17 gruesome deaths in the play but during one performance we had 46 audience members collapse and we had them overflowing the first aid room and laid out on the piazza outside the theatre. None were injured, just temporarily overcome.

There are many stories about the Globe and as a steward you get to hear about them, experience them and meet some fascinating people. If you can stand up for a couple of hours (break for tea and biscuits) it is a great experience and you learn a lot. Here is a tip. Best seat in the house is £5, always has been since 1997, and is standing stage front. You miss nothing and you can be the unintended love interest of Falstaff in Twelfth Night, as I once was !

12 years later we are still part of the Globe now including the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, a beautiful candlelit indoor Jacobean theatre …… tbc.

Judi and Stuart Young



Stuart Young at The Globe

Baillie Scott post script

Thanks to readers for all the feedback on Baillie Scott and his local connections. I hadn't realised when I wrote February's article about him that he had lived so locally. In fact he lived and farmed at Ockhams near Marsh Green from 1921 until 1942 when he moved into a nursing home in Brighton where he died in 1945.

Also, if you Google the Gate House, Limpsfield you will find a Country Life article about the "sprawling country mansion" he built for Sir Stanley Farr which was on the market in 2020 for £4 million.


Ockhams

Joanna Wade

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 ice cream, bar, barbecue and the firework finale.

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

The Cuckoo sang in June and May

I recently came across a website called "Tweetapedia" which, as a big fan of Wikipedia, I immediately fell upon. I wanted to know about cuckoos because this is their time of year, and now I have quite a bit to share.

Apparently there are 54 species of cuckoos but only two live in Europe, most in Africa, Asia and Australasia. Only the male cuckoo calls cuckoo and he does indeed change his tune in June! Their favourite diet is hairy caterpillars and the word "cuckold" to describe a betrayed husband is a reflection of the cuckoo's mating habits. This is where we get to the bad bit about cuckoos - they lay their eggs in other birds' nests and do away with the progeny of the host bird. A weird sort of loyalty is shown by female cuckoos as they lay their eggs in a nest belonging to the same species of bird that reared them.

But despite their dog in the manger habits, cuckoos are becoming increasingly rare. Part of the reason for this is the dangers they face during their astounding migration which they make down to Africa every year as soon as they have laid their eggs. They don't even wait until the young are reared because the host bird is doing that for them, indeed young cuckoos never see their parents, only their confused adoptive mother.

The British Trust for Ornithology has been tracking cuckoo migration since 2011 and, if you can forgive them, you can sponsor a cuckoo through their website. As at the end of March, according to the tiny tracking devices attached to them, Calypso had reached the Ivory Coast and Ellis had crossed the Sahara. If you have a moment you can watch their progress on the Trust's website. There is special mention for a cuckoo called PJ who arrived back in his Suffolk home in early spring becoming the first tracked bird to complete his fifth annual migration cycle!

I hope that by the time you have read this article you will have heard a cuckoo and, as is traditional, written to The Times to report it. You will certainly have seen the Cuckoo flower or Lady's Smock which is in the meadows everywhere at the moment. Its leaves taste of hot mustard and the flowers of cress. Worth a try?

Joanna Wade



Holy Trinity Parish, Forest Row

Platinum Jubilee Charity Concert

in aid of Holy Trinity and St Dunstan's Churches

Holy Trinity Festival Choir

Lingfield College Prep Orchestra

Christopher Harris – Organ/Piano

Simon Morris – Director of Music

Saturday 11th June 2022 7.30pm

£7.00 Adults £3.50 Children

Tickets: Simon Morris 01342 823940





Hever is 900 years old

Sponsor a date

and become part of history

1 CHOOSE A DATE
and give a reason

2 SPONSOR THE DATE
£25 per year

3 RECORD THE DATE
in the Hever 900 calendar

#Hever900

The Hever Hort show

The Hever Hort show on Saturday 9 April was a great success. 18 separate entrants competed in 35 classes, including four new members - two of whom won their class!

It is a relaxed and friendly show for anybody who enjoys gardening or cooking and the tea and cake is delicious; all will be welcome at the Rose show on 11th June.

The Alan Townsend Cup for the most points in the daffodil classes was won by Jane Rosam, the Barker Perpetual Challenge cup for the best entry of flowering shrubs AND the Ann Bellamy Award for best exhibit in flower arranging classes by Carol Bowern and the Mavis Seal Salver for the most points in the domestic classes by Emma Scott. A Certificate of Merit for flower arranging went to Sue Harvey.



Hever Parish Council

Calling all residents of Hever, Markbeech and Four Elms. Your Parish Council would like to invite you to

The Annual Parish Assembly

This is an occasion to gather the community to celebrate achievements, feedback on local life and plan for the future. We need your support to make our parish a better place!

With short presentations from a range of local speakers plus exciting updates on the proposed new Hever Village Hall.

COME AND ENJOY A DRINK, SOME NIBBLES, MEET SOME LOCAL GROUPS AND HAVE A CHAT AS WELL!

7:00 PM THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022

FREE TO ALL

VENUE: HEVER VILLAGE HALL

PARKING AT THE CASTLE COACH PARK

Hever

Walk and Art



Lovely neighbours, Hever needs you! St. Peter's Church is celebrating its 900th Birthday!!! The Art in June festival is taking place again this year, and we call on you all to come along and give your support. We propose an art-themed walk on Saturday, June 11th, so invite your neighbours and friends, and well-behaved dogs, and join us at 11am in St. Peter's churchyard. The walking route from there will follow in the next issue.



Falconhurst Jubilee Ladies Cricket Match

Falconhurst was among the very first ladies cricket teams to be created and was a popular pursuit in villages across Kent. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Falconhurst Cricket Cub is hosting a short Ladies cricket match, Falconhurst v. The Village comprising (not surprisingly) village ladies in traditional cricket dress. Start 11am. Coffee & buns; Pimms. **ALL WELCOME**



Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust
presents

LONDON MANDOLIN QUARTET

SATURDAY 28TH MAY 2022 AT 7.00 PM
EDENBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH
Ss PETER & PAUL, KENT TN8 5BD

Tickets £15.00: on sale at
Lennox Cato, (open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10.00 am-4.00 pm)
1, The Square, Church Street, Edenbridge Kent TN8 5BD
(01732 865988)
also from the Trust Secretary (07821 683482)
or on the door

Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust Registered Charity 802486

gardening

I can't believe we've reached May already! As I write, the Easter Bunny will be preparing to deliver chocolate eggs and in glorious sunshine and warmth! April is synonymous with being an unpredictable month for the gardener. This year was no different with snow, a hot spell and damaging frosts! We look forward to May with it's more settled weather that acts as a catalyst for the plants.

We're currently very busy here at the nursery with our garden designer customers and their wonderful garden projects. I've also been very pro-active with giving talks to garden societies again. I say again, as Covid put pay to these for two years. (Ironically I had to cancel my Hever Hort. talk recently because of it!)

One thing has struck me on my return to the circuit is a worrying decline in the numbers who are subscribing to societies. This seems to be going against the trend of the numbers of people who have 'found' gardening during Lockdown. Reportedly 3 million extra people are now active in their gardens. What's going wrong? Please don't be offended if I say that gardening has always had an age barrier - it's always been seen as an older generational pastime. I think this is where the problem lies.

We know there are plenty of young people and families who enjoy their gardens but there isn't enough education to show the benefits both physically and mentally that gardening brings. We also see it first hand with recruitment here at the nursery. Pardon the pun, but it's a perennial problem filling vacancies - why is this? I strip it right back to schools. Horticulture is not offered as a core subject and certainly not seen as a career option. Back in my day I studied agricultural science once a week Eden Valley! An insight into both farming and horticulture.

It's something I feel very passionate about and I'm booked in to my four year old daughter's nursery school to talk about the horticultural industry - could be a tricky audience! It's an extremely rewarding career both in terms of interest and financially - reportedly worth billions in this country if you include the garden design and landscape sector.

A recent talk to the High Halden Horticultural Society, I saw a very interesting development. To encourage more generations to the society they reached out to their local school. A fantastic success with many children and parents taking part in their society shows and competitions. Is this the way forward? Yes!!

There's a bright future for the industry in this country - we've just got to get the kids on board!

Happy gardening!

Simon Sutcliffe,
How Green Nursery

hever school and the Queen's green canopy

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year, Hever School participated in the Queen's Green Canopy.

This is an initiative to increase the tree cover in the United Kingdom where people up and down the country are being urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.

On a beautiful sunny Spring afternoon at Hever Forest School, Year 5 children learnt about the importance of trees,



from how they are key to the environment, helping to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, to how trees help support wildlife and boost our overall well-being. The children thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience and managed to plant around 35 saplings of Rowan, Wild Cherry and Silver Birch in a single afternoon to leave a lasting legacy, and special gift to the Queen, that will benefit us all for years to come. A special thank you from all at Hever School to Martin and Claire Longley for their support in making this possible.

Did you know - at around 13% forest cover, the UK is one of the least densely forested countries in Europe. This compares with 38% for the EU as a whole and 31% worldwide. If you would like to learn more, or how you could help 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' the following websites have more information.

https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/tree-pack-application/
https://www.royal.uk/queens-green-canopy

James Rogers
Forest School Leader
Hever CEP School

HEVER ROSE & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

HRHS

Bumper Plant Sale

Saturday 7th May
10am
Hever Village Hall

Piano and piano stool

looking for a good home. Collection from Four Elms. Please contact Stuart or Judi Young on jasperby@hotmail.com

Hever Parish Council

Along with the much hoped for sunshine, May is a busy month for the Parish Council with the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 10th May and the Parish Assembly on Thursday 26th May. Please do come along and join us for the Assembly. We have local speakers followed by the chance to socialise and enjoy the refreshments provided. You should receive an invite through your door to the event, plus an invite to the exciting Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party on Thursday 2nd June.

April saw our Parish Litter Pick and luckily the sun was shining. In Four Elms the team, armed with high viz vests, litter pickers and an assortment of colourful rubbish bags, managed to pick litter along the lanes and the field behind the school and around St Paul's Church. The litter pickers were rewarded with doughnuts, pastries, teas and coffees and a lovely morning walk in the sunshine.

In Markbeech the litter pick was attended by a handful of pickers, and also very generously by Cllr Matthew Dickens. Five full bags of rubbish as well as various ironwork and signage were collected! Quite a number of residents are also in the habit of regularly collecting rubbish when they are out walking.

At the time of writing, Hever has yet to do their litter pick, but I am sure that too will be well supported and fruitful.

A big thank you to those residents who turned out to help collect litter.

On the subject of being outside, there have been reports of public footpaths in the Parish that are in need of repair. If you notice a footpath that needs attention, please report this via this link on the Kent County Council website: https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way . Here you can log any issues found and upload photos etc. Please note KCC has limited funding for maintenance. Responsibility also lies with the landowners and KCC will liaise with them to determine the best course of action.

I have been out and about getting to know the layout of the Parish. I visited the Hever bus stop with Councillor Lindsay and a member of the public. The bus stop will be having a much needed spring clean. Whilst out, it was noted some of the trim trail equipment on Hever Field is damaged so a repair will be looked into.

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.

Mrs Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO
07784 912645
clerk@hever.org

Accompanying Council Tax bills this year was a leaflet about the Government's £150 rebate scheme. The District Council was asked to include the flyer but detail was a little light since the initiative had yet to be fully developed. Although seemingly a humdrum topic, this column provides a convenient opportunity to provide an update on what I know is an eagerly awaited payment.

First a little background. Earlier this year the Government announced a raft of measures designed to keep a cap on energy costs. These included the Home Upgrade Grant, a £200 reduction to bills described both as a discount and as a loan, a discretionary pot of money administered by councils, and this £150. It's easy to get into a muddle about all of these, which is why we're looking at only the last one today. This is a one-off lump sum made to ratepayers in properties in Council Tax bands A to D. That's a couple of hundred homes in our patch.

Now, if you pay your Council Tax by direct debit, haven't moved home recently and live at only one address then things should be straightforward – you can shortly expect to receive a payment of £150 into your bank account. If it hasn't arrived by the end of June then do please feel free to chase.

Things are a little more complex for everyone else. If you've moved, the key date is 1 April, with the ratepayer at the time being the one who is eligible. Unoccupied or second homes do not qualify. And for those who do not pay by direct debit, you'll receive a letter from the District Council offering a few choices, including a discount to your Council Tax account or payment of the sum to a nominated account.

As ever, be mindful that some disreputable sorts might try to take advantage of all this. We haven't seen any evidence of fraudsters impersonating local authorities seeking bank details, nor of firms offering to claim the sum on your behalf, but it's always wise to be careful.

The most important thing is that you call Sevenoaks District Council and only them if you're in any doubt about the validity of any letters you receive, or if you have a question or concern. The telephone number is 01732 227 000. My hope and expectation is, though, that all will be well.

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



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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 May

On Tuesday 17th May at 7pm, Simon is to be instituted as Rector by the Bishop of Tonbridge in St.Peter's, Hever followed by refreshments in the school – do join us! Also there are some changes to our service pattern from May with an additional Family service in the afternoon at Four Elms and an early morning reflective service. So please study the list below and watch out for any late changes at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
1st May 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19	3rd of Easter
1st May 6pm	Songs of Praise at St.Paul's Four Elms		3rd of Easter
8th May 8am	Said BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; John 10:22-30	4th of Easter
8th May 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30	4th of Easter
8th May 4pm	Forest church at St.Peter's Hever		4th of Easter
15th May 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Genesis 22:1-18; Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35	5th of Easter
15th May 4pm	Family Service at St.Paul's Four Elms		5th of Easter
17th May 7pm	Institution of Revd.Simon Braid as Rector	1 Peter 2: 4-10; John 13: 31-35	
22nd May 8am	Said BCP Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	James 1:22-27; John 16:23-33	6th of Easter
22nd May 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech with Rogation walk		6th of Easter (Rogation)
26th May 6pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53	
29th May 10am	Morning prayer followed by Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	John 17:20-26	7th of Easter

If you would like to choose a hymn or song for the Songs of Praise on 1st May, please let Simon know.

Our weekly Zoom Bible study continues on Mondays and Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays both 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

On 17th May at 7.00pm in St.Peter's, I am to be instituted as Rector of the Three Spires Benefice by the Bishop of Tonbridge. Many ask what difference this will make and the reality is not much. However, having been licensed in April 2020 by Zoom, I am delighted and honoured that we can hold this celebration of all that is good about our lives in the Three Spires, notwithstanding the difficult times in which we live.

I've been asked to write a slightly longer piece to give you some background about me and my wife, Susie. Susie and I are local, grew up and were educated in Sevenoaks. As a seven year old I learned to ride and horses became a key part of my life. I competed mainly in eventing and for a short while was a dressage judge. So I'm always interested to have a horsey chat with the many riders I see around the parishes! My parents were not church goers but when I was sixteen I went to a youth club at St.Nicholas church, Sevenoaks where I made the decision to become a follower of Jesus. My aim in attending the youth club had been to meet girls – which I did - I met my wife Susie and we were married in 1980!

I read history at Cambridge and afterwards started a career in accountancy, which continued with the same firm (KPMG) for thirty-three years. I became a partner in 1988 and lead the firm's work in social housing. I retired from the firm in 2009 when I was ordained but continued to work as a consultant and non-executive director. Until very recently I was Finance Director of a regional YMCA in Sussex.

Susie and I have lived in Penshurst for thirty years, so we know the local area and rural life. We have three grown up children and five young grandchildren. All live fairly close to us and some of you may know our daughter Zoe and family who moved into Uckfield Lane, Hever last June. In addition to spending time with our expanding family, I continue to ride occasionally and we



both enjoy swimming, gardening and tennis. We're fond of the arts, theatre, opera, socialising and entertaining.

My life started out inauspiciously as I was born in London to a young single German woman who became pregnant. I was then adopted a few

months later by my parents who moved to Sevenoaks when I was 6 years old. Many years later in 2004, I met my birth mother and we had nearly twelve happy years knowing each other until she died in 2016. More of this story is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iHWVGtmnBU

How did I come to be ordained? For Susie and me, following Jesus is the most important thing in our lives. We have been heavily involved in five churches of different types and styles: leading Bible studies and working with youth and children. Nearly twenty years ago I began to sense that God might be calling me into the ministry. There then followed a rather lengthy period of discernment and eventually I was accepted to train on a part time three-year theological course before being ordained in 2009. I was then a curate and later associate vicar at St.John's Hildenborough before my move to the Three Spires.

Susie and I have been wonderfully welcomed into the Three Spires and feel this is where God has called us. We look forward to seeing what he has in store for all of us in the years ahead.

God bless you all

Simon







Palm Sunday at Markbeech 10th April 2022

news from the pews

Four Elms

Seasons follow a colour pattern and this year the early sunshine brought a fabulous combination of yellow and green, colours which are signifiers of Spring. Golden daffodils and green grass. No wonder Wordsworth was compelled to dedicate a glorious poem to the sight of a "host of daffodils". And such was the unprecedented March weather, a Parish Tea at Little Chittenden allowed visitors to enjoy daffodils and luckily, unfrosted, magnolia.

Moving from April to May we can look forward and enjoy the beautiful blues and purples of the season and here in Four Elms, enjoy the splendid bluebells in the woods. And, of course, hearing the first cuckoo.

It was lovely to see our Mothering Sunday service so well attended. Thank you to all who helped with the lovely posies.

After a two year absence the Four Elms Village Fete 2022 is being planned with all the usual attractions. For St. Paul's Church this is our big fundraiser. Why do we need funds? To maintain our beautiful Arts and Crafts building and to ensure it remains in the centre of the village, whenever you have need of it. As such we ask for support of the Church Stalls, Tea Tent, Bric-a-Brac etc. See next month's article in the Link for more details about the fete. Please, please do support us if you can.

On May 17th Rev. Simon is officially instituted as Rector of the Hever Benefice. We thank Simon for all his loving and caring work and welcome him as Rector.

The cuckoo may not have hatched yet but we are delighted to see birds using the bird boxes installed last Autumn in the churchyard. Similarly it is a joy to see visitors sitting on the church bench enjoying the peace and sunshine. If you enjoy gardens, Little Chittenden will be open on 19th June, teas available, where all proceeds will be for St. Paul's Church. Little Chittenden is an easy and very pleasant walk from Four Elms village via clearly marked footpath signs. You can enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake when you arrive.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The institution of Rev Simon Braid as rector of St Peter's, Four Elms and Mark Beech at 7pm on Tuesday 17th May. The service at St Peter's is followed by drinks and nibbles at Hever School.

The weekend of 25th and 26th June St Peter's will be celebrating 900 years of worship in the village. Please watch out for publicity on events surrounding theses celebrations and please support them. There will be a flower festival with a theme of St Peter in the week running up to this weekend, if you are interested in helping with this event please get in touch with Jan Tolfree or me. There will be a picnic lunch following the service on Sunday June 26th at the Village Hall, do let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 12th May starting at 12.30. We normally have between 18 and 24 people and serve soup, 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
Churchwarden

Markbeech

We enjoyed a wonderful Palm Sunday parade with Walter and Stanley (donkeys) leading us up the Church Walk from Falconhurst to the Church. It is clear that families enjoy outdoor services where there is no angst about children making a noise or running around. We are lucky in our villages to have pretty churchyards that make this possible and always extremely grateful to our ever reliable Richard Bennett, who keeps them in good order.

Looking forward we will have a busy May and June celebrating Simon's installation as Rector and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We had hoped to have a service to celebrate the jubilee but it's just not possible to fit this into all the village activities going on that weekend. Another time… However, we do look forward to the Falconhurst Ladies v. The Village Ladies cricket match on Friday June 3rd. Starting time 11am with coffee, buns and Pimms. All welcome! This will be followed by a grand Village BBQ at The Kentish Horse. More details anon. A great traditional village day to celebrate our beloved Queen and all that she has achieved in her seventy years.

Rogation Sunday is the fifth Sunday after Easter and falls on 22nd May when we have a Family Service in Markbeech. We plan to follow our tradition of 'beating the bounds' of the parish and praying for God's blessing upon the crops and thus the well-being of our parishes by meeting at Church at 10am and taking a short walk around 'The Church Field'. We'll pack some buns and squash for sustenance!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Edenbridge Foodbank

If you know of anyone you think would benefit from the help that the foodbank provides please either suggest they get in touch with the foodbank directly, or get in touch with us to discuss a possible referral. Besides providing food, the foodbank also has links with Citizens Advice, Social Prescribers, Debt advice and Energy Advice services as well as being a place of Christian hospitality and, where appropriate, prayer. Our foodbank telephone number is 07756 238063 and email is info@edenbridge.foodbank.org.uk.



Proud mother of three

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	27									
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	22.5									
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	23									

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

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Paul Houlton
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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the **June** edition should reach us no later than **16 May**
Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer. For payment there are two 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

May diary

26 Apr	**St Pauls Four Elms APCM,** Parish Rooms	7pm
2 May	**Midlife fitball class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847) and every Monday, Hever Village Hall	10am
2 May	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona as above) and every Monday, Hever Village Hall	10.30am
7 May	**Hever Hort Plant Sale,** Hever Village Hall	10am
10 May	**Hever Parish Council AGM,** Four Elms Village Hall	7.30pm
12 May	**Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
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 June	**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party,** Hever Castle	6.30 – 10pm
3 June	**Falconhurst Ladies Cricket match** followed by village BBQ at the Kentish Horse	11am
11 June	**Hever Hort Rose Show,** Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
11 Jun	**Platinum Jubilee concert,** (tickets: Simon Morris 01342 823940) Holy Trinity church Forest Row	7.30pm
11 June	**Hever Walk and Art** from St Peter's church Hever	11am
19 June	**Open Garden,** all proceeds to St Paul's church, Little Chittenden, Four Elms	2.30-5pm
25 June	**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**	