July/August

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Accidently archived
- Snippets of the past
- Bake off!
- Love a duck!
- Repaired and revived

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the July/August Link

And what a swell party it was!

The sun shone, the band played, the picnickers danced, the boat skimmed through the water and then the finale fireworks lit up the sky.

Over 900 locals and their guests celebrated the platinum jubilee in the wonderful Italian garden at the castle. Grateful thanks to the Castle for hosting, to their friendly staff, to the sponsors (including The Link!) and to HRA, and especially Laura Palmer, for making it all happen.

Meanwhile I also want to celebrate small things: the seedling growing out of the gatepost (below), the tiny wren with a huge song and a beautifully woven mossy nest in our garage, the ducklings and their story later on in this edition and the tiny dog in the church window.

This Link covers both July and August, we hope you enjoy the Hever school fete on 2nd July and the Four Elms village fete on 9th July and that you have a lovely summer.

Joanna Wade

A seedling growing out of the gatepost





The tiny dog in the church window

pet of the month

My dog is called Talisker, but we call her Tallie. She is a German Shorthaired Pointer. She has just turned one. We had her grandmother Dalwhinnie (Whinnie) but she died in 2020. I was very sad and I still think about her a lot.

Tallie is my best friend now. I love her silky soft fur and her ears are especially silky. She runs very fast and I would like to see her race a greyhound one day. She loves to swim and I throw sticks into the lake at Hever for her to bring back. I feed her in the mornings at the weekend when I get up before mummy and daddy. She makes a funny yowling noise when she is stretching and waking up. She is always hungry so you have to be careful with food in the kitchen if you aren't looking.

We have lots of adventures together in our garden. She is good at finding hiding places but not very good at hiding. Daddy gets cross when she runs through his flowerbeds but she doesn't know that it's wrong, she's still just a baby. Whinnie didn't used to bark much but Tallie definitely does. She can sound quite fierce and I feel safe that she can scare robbers away. She makes me laugh when she gets excited which is quite a lot. Sometimes she comes onto my trampoline with me and then she's definitely too excited and one of us has to get off. One of my favourite places is being in the dog bed with her. I always have to kiss her goodnight before I go to bed. She isn't allowed upstairs but sometimes she sneaks up when Mummy is reading to me at bedtime and I love that.

I miss her when I'm at school and like to imagine that she is at doggy school.

Freddie Leslie,aged 7
(and Talisker aged one)



what I do

Hiya, Jem Pickard here! (58 and a bit) I've been living in and around the area for most of my life and I am now based in Edenbridge.

I had my own graphic design company, Words & Pictures, for 28 years doing work for many of the big book publishing companies, but had "a change of direction" and took up painting and decorating 10 years ago. So you could say I've spent all my working life using paint brushes of various sizes to make things look nice for my customers!? My aim has always been to do local decorating work in and around the area… and provide a friendly high quality job to my customers at a competitive price… my list of satisfied / repeat customers has grown over the years. I specialise in interior work, but don't mind the odd exterior job every now and again. A client recently said... "Jem has been redecorating our house from top to bottom, literally! We are thrilled with his work and I have been so very grateful for his tidiness!" (So I must be doing something right).

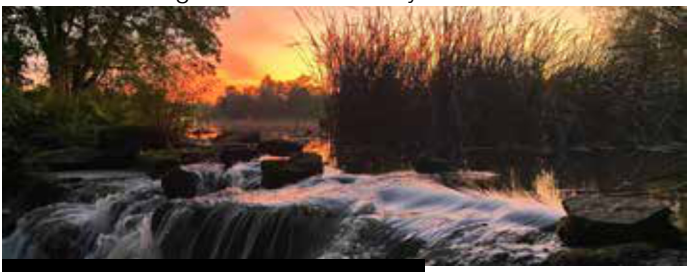
As well as being an "artist" I am also a keen local river angler and have a fascination for the River Eden which I fish from it's source above Lingfield down to where it merges with the Medway at Penshurst. I am on the committee of the local Edenbridge Angling Society. I am member of The River Eden Revival Group who are a small, dedicated group of local fishermen, originally set up by me and local farmer Paul Vicary, whose aim is basically to restore and rejuvenate the beautiful river.



This one didn't get away

We have embarked on a plan to improve it's flora and fish stocks, remove litter from the banks and rubbish from the river itself, reduce pollution and predation from invasive species. We work closely with the Environmental Agency, to increase and improve fish stocks for the coming generations of like minded anglers to enjoy... basically we try to improve all things "River Eden".

Jem Pickard
Painter, decorator and River Eden revivalist
07850 371558
www.jempickardpaintingdecorating.co.uk



Weir and Hever Castle lake

PS: I also own and love a Land Rover Defender!

accidental archivist

I first heard the expression ‘a portfolio career’ when I studied for the Certificate of Arts Management at Sussex University in 1999. I thought it was a very smart way of describing my situation as a part-time nursery garden worker and volunteer archivist.



Jane Higgs and Pa

By 2003 I had added Hon Curator, Eden Valley Museum. I retired from the museum in 2017 but now find myself responsible for three diverse archives. In 2001 I took over the Association of British Theatre Technicians collection when they needed an archivist to sort out 40 years of accumulated papers. I got the job because, as a former stage manager, I had a good understanding of the nature of their collection; I had backstage experience. If you want to know about the development of the Exit sign or crash bars on emergency doors, consult our archive. It also includes a section of knowledgeable advice and interesting comments for many of the theatres that have been built or developed in the UK since 1962.

I now have my father, actor Frank Thornton’s, 1941 - 2013 career archive to finish sorting and cataloguing. I have rescued his first scrapbook which was falling to pieces because the pages of acidic wartime paper were very brittle. Each page has now been put into the correct type of clear cover to protect it and it can now be looked at without fear of further deterioration.



He was a perfect Eeyore and wrote: “It is ironic to note that this is the first time I have received quite unreserved, and generous praise from my beloved wife & daughter. In fact, on no previous occasion have critics been so generous in praise either. It appears I have to disguise myself with a skin, hooves & grey make-up to rate such words. As my friend Eeyore would say: “Typical! Absolutely typical!” .

From a letter he wrote in reply to one from a BBC executive when the run of ‘Are You Being Served?’ came to an end: “In practical terms a free-lance actor must go where the work

is, whether it's the West End or the Mechanic's Institute, Biker, and in my forty years I have certainly worked for many different employers in every medium. Undeniably, though, the B.B.C. figures in my files more than any other, from my first war-time propaganda broadcast in 1942 and my first T.V. at Alexandra Palace on through those happy day at the Centre with "It's A Square World" and all the other shows; so that these days I cannot help feeling a little bit of a stranger when I enter the gates of other T.V. studios. But when I point the car up Wood Lane the feeling is always that I am returning to the old alma mater." 14 July 1984



The latest assignment in my 'portfolio career' is really thrilling and is not as random as it might first appear. When the Talyllyn Railway archivist had to retire recently and a replacement not yet recruited, I offered to help out. I am a regular visitor to West Wales and until the search for someone who lives a little closer bears fruit I remain their Archives Advisor.

The Talyllyn Railway in Snowdonia was built to carry slate to the coast from a quarry in the mountains. My great grandfather, Thomas Evans of Water Street, Abergynolwyn, worked in that quarry. I have been aware of the historic narrow-gauge trains wriggling up and down the valley since I was four years old because my grandparents, in retirement, had returned to live in the area. The line would probably have been lost to history but for an intrepid group of pioneer volunteers who formed the first Railway Preservation Society in the world in 1951. It inspired the plot for the film 'The Titfield Thunderbolt'. In 2021 we became the southern hub of the Welsh Slate Landscape UNESCO World Heritage Site. Their archive, which is stored off site, is primarily their business archive, a record of how the railway is managed, but it is also the repository for donations from its devotees which will enhance the story for future historians. The archive now has to meet the challenge of entering the digital world which will revolutionise access to its collections. www.talyllyn.co.uk

Isn't it strange how life seems to push you along in a particular direction? I currently have three diverse challenges all with the overarching theme of conserving the history of these people, industries and organisations. In addition, members of my family have always had many photographs to look at - numerous albums full of mini time machines and they also need looking after properly. More work for the accidental archivist.

Jane Higgs

snippets of news from Four Elms

There are many aspects of modern-day living which are echoes from the dim and distant past. We can be preoccupied by the weather, the state of the roads, road traffic accidents, national or local tragedies and even good news stories. Human nature has always been the same and these same issues caused similar concerns in times gone by. Here are a few illustrations from various newspapers of the time.

June, 1746
"Last Tuesday afternoon was the most violent storm and tempest of thunder, rain and whirlwind I ever remember. In half an hour's time it did great damage in hop grounds, throwing down poles with bines then tearing them from their roots. It has blown down many elms; the lightening rived into splinters four oaks in the neighbourhood.
For 15 minutes together there was one continued thunder without intermission, and a continual torrent of Hail, Rain and Flame. In short, I have never seen such a tempest, nor could think the heat of this climate could have produced such a one."

June, 1904
"On Tuesday, a six year old boy named William Richard Barnett, son of a labourer named J.W. Barnett of Four Elms, was drowned in the Four Elms Pond. He reached home from school about 4 o'clock and then went out to play. Two hours later, his mother, desiring him home for his tea, was unable to find him. His fishing rod and his cap were lying on the bank of the pond, and a search resulted in his body being found in the water. Artificial respiration was tried for some hours, but fruitlessly. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of accidental death."





1914
A serious accident occurred on Monday evening at the cross-roads in Four Elms village, when a motor car belonging to Mr. Janson of Crockham Hill (and later, Mariners), was going in that direction and a cart belonging to Mrs. Jewels of Hendon, was going towards Edenbridge. The motor car caught the cart, which was overturned, and the driver, named Greenstreet, thrown out and badly injured about the face and shoulder. Dr. Newington was sent for, and under his care, Greenstreet is progressing favourably."

March, 1915
"On Wednesday at Four Elms crossroads, a lad named Holland leading a horse drawing a cartload

of hay, fell under the wheels and sustained a broken thigh."

May, 1918

"A somewhat serious accident took place at Four Elms Road on Saturday. Miss Alice Cornish was driving a horse and cart containing three other persons, when the animal backed into the bank at the side of the road and the cart overturned completely. Mrs. Cornish, of Furnace House Farm, Four Elms, was trapped. She was rescued and carried home and a doctor called. She had sustained broken ribs and a smashed jaw bone. The other occupants of the cart escaped with a shaking."

May 1934

Alsatian's Bite Costs £206

Pax Homer, an Alsatian dog, was the cause of a lawsuit in the King's Bench Division, London.

Pax Homer belongs to Miss Bertha Margaret Wills of Four Elms Road, Edenbridge, Kent.

One evening last July Miss Emma Cadman, who is a dressmaker and also lives in Four Elms Road, went to see Miss Wills about the making of a dress. And according to Miss Cadman, Pax Homer resented the visit. He rushed down the garden path -so she said- and bit her severely on the thigh with the result that she could not follow her employment.

Mr. Justice Acton heard the story on Wednesday when Miss Cadman claimed damages from Miss Wills. She suggested that Miss Wills knew Pax Homer was vicious because he once bit one of her maids who gave evidence. Miss Wills denied this and defended Pax Homer's character. Mr. Justice Acton said he believed the maid's evidence. He gave judgement for Miss Cadman for £206 plus costs.

1939

Four Elms Christmas Cheer!

"Cottagers in Four Elms and Toys Hill will not lack the little luxuries that make a good Christmas, for through a provision in the will of the late Mrs. Hattie Kennedy, the gifts that she made to the villagers at Christmastide will be continued forever in memory of her parents, John and Mary Stansfield-Williams of Boones Park, Four Elms. The gifts which are distributed by the Trustees, consist of beef and groceries to 52 cottagers in the ecclesiastical parish of Four Elms and Toys Hill, and a bonus to all members of the clothing club."

Compiled by Stella Carroll



Four Elms village fete

Saturday 9 July 2022

After two years without a Fete we are back!!! Behind the scenes the Fete Committee are working to make the Village Fete as good as ever.

All Health & Safety checks done, nothing new, just the good, old fashioned, much loved Fete with all the usual attractions.

Once again there will be a fly past by a BBMF Spitfire at 13.34 pm.This is always a thrill for all spectators and especially the few who can still remember the Spitfire heroics during WW2.

The work on the Fete starts on Friday 8th July when a team of hardy people pitch tents and the Willerby Landscape team create the Maze. Everyone keeps their fingers crossed that the weather will be kind and not blow the tents down – as has happened in the past. For Saturday, it's a scramble to get the stalls and attractions in place, from the Beer Tent to the Tea Tent passing by the BBQ, ready for the opening at 1pm.It is hoped there is something to entertain everybody. If you are dog owner we have the wonderful Dog Show. If you like to sit and have a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake there is a nice Tea Tent. For those who prefer something colder there is the Beer Tent and ice creams and cold drinks are on sale during the afternoon. In the main arena there is plenty of fun and games and at the end of the afternoon you can see if you have won a prize in the Grand Draw. Bargains to be had on the Bric-a-brac, the plant stall and many more stalls. And not to mention the Coconut Shy, Bowl a Pig, Wang a Welly – well something for everyone. Please come and enjoy your village fete and bring your friends.

We thank Montreal Estate for the use of their land.

Christina Hodson



THE GREAT JUBILEE BAKE-OFF

At the Four Elms Fete
Saturday 9th July 2022



Under 11s | 11-16 | Over 16s

Deliver your creations by 1pm on the day
Info: sophie_corton@hotmail.co.uk
No professional bakers please

Free to collector - Bike rack suitable for hatchback plus cycle foot pump. Call Sue 07788 411127 (Hever)

the jubilee picnic







FALCONHURST

GARDENS & EVENTS

An Evening of Opera in the Falconhurst Gardens



Friday 22nd July

Join us to hear a selection of arias by composers such as Mozart, Handel and Rossini, performed by Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor, Baritone and accompanied by a string quintet.

Gardens Open 16.30. Guests can set up Picnic spots.
18.00 – First Act, 18.45- Interval, 19.00 – Second Act, 19.45– Picnics

Standard Ticket £40 per guest• Front Row Ticket £55 per guest

For details on how to get tickets to this event as well as many other Falconhurst Events including Supper Clubs, Jazz Nights and Wine Tastings, please visit the Falconhurst website.

Falconhurst
Gardens & Events,
Markbeech,
Kent TN8 5NR
01342 850 526

falconhurstestate

www.falconhurst.co.uk



duckling rescue at the castle

There follows a sad story with a happy ending. Does anyone know why male ducks are so murderous?

"Kate McCaffrey, assistant curator at Hever Castle, writes:
A mother duck had been safely nesting in our Castle courtyard for a few weeks. We fed her and kept visitors away from her, so she could nest in peace. On Monday morning, her eggs hatched and seven little ducklings ventured out into the courtyard guarded bravely, of course, by their mother. We watched them try all day to climb the three steps out onto the drawbridge. At the end of the day, to cheers from everyone, they eventually managed to follow their mother up the steps and across to the forecourt.

Very sadly, their mother was then attacked by eight drakes who pushed her into the moat and killed her. Her ducklings had also been pushed into the moat in the chaos, but we were determined, having not been able to save their mother, to save them. If they had been left to fend for themselves in the moat overnight, they very likely would not have survived.
In a concerted team effort (myself, Nicola, Alison, Ben, Caz and Laura), we managed after a while to coax the scared ducklings to the side of the moat with duck food.



Nicola and Ben used a double net, pincer action to scoop our ducklings up and out of the moat.

They went straight into a box and were taken to Nick Hoggins at Delaware who will kindly look after them. We were all (including the whole castle team of stewards, and several visitors who had been watching our rescue) hugely relieved that we managed to help the ducklings and see them off to safety. What started as a rather distressing event to witness, turned into some amazing team work to save the ducklings."


Roots Into Horticulture
An afternoon of career advice and inspiration with a range of industry professionals including:
Neil Miller - Head Gardener, Hever Castle
Simon Sutcliffe - Director, How Green Nursery
Kristina Clode- award winning Garden Designer
2nd August 2022
2pm - 4.30pm
Book: www.heverfestival-tickets.co.uk
The Festival Theatre at HEVER CASTLE



The Repair Shop and its museum

If you haven't been to the Weald and Downland Living Museum near Chichester, you have really missed out. Thanks to the amazing energy and foresight of its founders, buildings on the verge of extinction, such as a medieval shop in Horsham, were dismantled and resurrected on site. There are buildings from every era including a little row of farm workers' cottages such as I remember from my childhood, fablon on the tables and rag rugs on the floor.

Closer to home, the tin church looks very like Hever Village Hall and one of its key buildings, Bayleaf Farmstead, comes from Bough Beech. The farmstead, dating from the early 1400s and belonging to the manor of



Brocas, was destined to be drowned when the valley was flooded to make the reservoir, so it was re-homed and saved. Now Hever has a replica in Bayleaf Hall behind the station.

If you want to visit the museum, see their website wealdown.co.uk. The museum has gardens, animals and of course a cafe too! It is also full of living history events such a cart pulled by oxen picking up rubbish and cookery displays of mediaeval food; strange combinations of meat and fruit and bone marrow.

The one part of the Museum you cannot visit is the barn which houses the popular television series The Repair Shop. You can lean over the gate and see the real thing; no further. But no matter! As I scrunched up the gravel drive to the workshop of neighbour Tony Yates who lives on Uckfield Lane, I realised that we have our very own repair shop right here.



He has done such a fine job on my much loved kitchen drainer which was in a sad state and I'm pleased to say that he is happy to take on other small projects, only things that can be delivered to him, such as chairs and small tables, for very modest prices. His number is 01732 863847.

Joanna Wade

PS. Check out the Repair Shop spoof for Comic Relief by French and Saunders on YouTube. It is funny.

Hever Parish Council

Exciting news is that homeowners can now benefit from £5,000 grants to fit clean heating systems when they come to replace their oil and gas boilers. Heat pumps are now much cheaper and more competitively priced against gas and oil boilers, and closer to the cost of installing a traditional gas boiler. The scheme will improve the energy efficiency of homes, reduce energy bills and cut emissions in the long-term. For more information please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022

Gatwick consultation – this is now open for anyone to comment on and relates to the updated highway design following on from the consultation last year to bring the Northern Runway into routine use. The consultation is open until Wednesday 27th July 2022. All materials and details on how to respond to this consultation will be available at www.gatwickairport.com/futureplans . During the consultation period there are virtual briefings and telephone surgery appointments to speak to technical experts. Please contact info@gatwickfutureplans.com should you wish to make an appointment or attend a briefing.

I am sure we have all received suspicious texts and emails at some point. Did you know there are sites operated by Action Fraud UK where you can report these?
So, if you receive a suspicious text you can forward it to '7726' free of charge, or if you receive a suspicious e-mail you can forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

The next Bulk Refuse collection is due to take place on Saturday 23rd July. Details will be on the website nearer the time.

On Monday 8th August, there will be a Family Fun Day from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Four Elms Field. The event is free to attend and is run by Play Place. The PTA will be on hand selling refreshments too.

For the rest of the year the Parish Council Meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 5/7/22 - Four Elms Village Hall
- Tuesday 13/9/22 - Hever Village Hall
- Thursday 10/11/22 Markbeech Village Hall

Planning Meetings will start at 7.00 pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm
Don't forget, the Hever Parish Council website www.hever.org has much information and updates (under Latest News) plus all the Minutes of Meetings are available to view.

Have a lovely summer.

Mrs Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO
077849 12645 clerk@hever.org

district council news

I'm afraid the secret is out! Our little neck of the woods has been declared the best place to live in the South East. In its annual list of the country's top spots, The Sunday Times described Sevenoaks and its surrounding villages as boasting great community spirit and beautiful countryside. The accolade coincides with a post-pandemic campaign by the District Council entitled So Much More Sevenoaks, highlighting all the area has to offer.

But though the initiative is targeted at individuals looking for somewhere to visit and businesses seeking opportunities to invest, it underlines just how much there is on our doorstep that might have gone unexplored. Ask a Londoner whether they've visited Buckingham Palace, St Paul's Cathedral or the Churchill War Rooms and you'll find they'll answer more often than not in the negative. So I conducted a straw poll of admittedly questionable statistical soundness to see whether the thesis we too rarely visit local attractions held true. With our very own Hever Castle excepted, it seems it does.



Have you, for example, taken a stroll in Knole Park, experienced Castle Farm's acres of lavender, or revelled in the vinous delights of a trip to Squerryes Winery? If not, these summer months might just provide the perfect occasion! To get you started you'll find some highlights on this snazzy map and plenty more at www.moresevenoaks.co.uk.

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

news from Hever

The children at Hever have begun the final term of the year with enthusiasm, the buzz of learning around school has been great. The whole school worked incredibly hard on their writing in English using the book 'The Journey'. The children have been discussing dilemmas, magic doorways and the lands they might find on the other side. They have taken pride in sharing their stories and writing with one another.

At Forest School the children have been learning how they can use tools to make woodland jewellery from the resources the natural environment provides. They learnt how they must always treat tools with respect in order to keep themselves safe. There were some wonderful medallions and necklaces created and decorated by the children.

In Oak Class the children have been making colour pallets and drawing using fine detail in art. Play rehearsals are underway for Treachery at Traitors Quay, the children are learning lines and the songs in preparation for the performance at the end of term.

At the beginning of term 6, Ms Stratton resigned from her post as Headteacher. We are extremely grateful for all her hard work and dedication during her 13 years at Hever Primary School. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

We would like to invite and welcome you to the upcoming school summer fete on 2nd July from 11.30am on the Parish field adjacent to the school. Come and meet parents, staff and children from the school and enjoy all that Hever has to offer!

Michelle Draper
Acting headteacher

MARKBEECH PARISH LUNCH

SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2022

AT OLD FARM, COW LANE, MARKBEECH

By kind permission of Marielou Linklater

£12 children under 16 free.

Please contact Liz Kaberry for tickets

01732 921763 or lizkaberry@hotmail.com

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to add your company email the Editors.
Just £25 per annum

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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
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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 July/August

As we go into the summer holiday season, please note that on the six Sundays from 31st July till 4th September we have just one service on each Sunday. We will also be arranging something special for all ages so please watch out for that as well as 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 July 10am	Pet service St.Paul's Four Elms	Colossians 1:15-23; Genesis 1 (abridged)	Trinity 3
3rd July 6pm	Evensong St.Paul's Four Elms with Edenbridge Churches	Psalm 133; Philippians 2:1-11	Trinity 3
10th July 8am	BCP Said Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Amos 7:7-17; Colossians 1:1-14	Trinity 4
10th July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Amos 7:7-17; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37	Trinity 4
10th July 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever	Summer theme	Trinity 4
17th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42	Trinity 5
17th July 4pm	Outdoor worship St.Paul's Four Elms	Summer theme	Trinity 5
24th July 8am	BCP Said Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 5:20-26	Trinity 6
24th July 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Luke 11:1-13	Trinity 6
31st July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21	Trinity 7
7th Aug 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40	Trinity 8
14th Aug 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56	Trinity 9
21 Aug 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17	Trinity 10
28 Aug 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:7-14	Trinity 11

Our weekly Bible study continues by Zoom at 6.00pm on Mondays until 11th July and our Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details of both please contact Simon. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

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our rector's thoughts

Summer is a time for sport. Our schools have their sports days and as you read this we'll be in the midst of Wimbledon – will Emma Raducanu be fit to play? Then there's the Tour de France, the Grand Prix, Open Golf at St.Andrews and England cricket test matches against South Africa and much more.

Sport demands passion, commitment and the strength of character to face both failure and success. Many competitors devote their lives to the goal of winning.

Few films have captured this quite like Chariots of Fire (1981). It tells the true story of two very different British athletes competing in the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Eric Liddell, a Scot, is a devout Christian, and wrestles with the spiritual implications of competing. Harold Abrahams is the son of a Jewish immigrant, who runs to prove his worth in the face of prejudice. Like many athletes today, Harold is driven in an almost addictive way by the overwhelming desire to prove himself. "I'm forever in pursuit and I don't even know what I am chasing." Our culture seems to value people on what they achieve rather than their intrinsic worth. But, as Harold discovers, this approach has a flipside because failure is devastating.

Eric is somehow different. His running style, with his body tilted back and mouth open, is almost bizarre. But it's a symptom of what is happening in his heart as he races. Perhaps he is looking heavenwards because he simply loves to run. "God made me for a purpose", he says, "but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure."

It's not that Eric's journey is painless or free from conflict. But it's clear that he's free from the crushing pressure which Harold experiences. Eric doesn't need to run to feel complete – he wants to run, because he already is.

Perhaps we are all a bit like Harold, striving with all our strength to be acceptable but finding that we can never quite make it. Or maybe we look back at missed opportunities. But take a look at Eric and wonder whether there isn't an alternative to just winning or losing.

St.Paul writes to the Corinthians: *Everyone who competes in the Games goes into strict training. They do it for a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever.*

As we enjoy watching amazing sport this summer, let's take time to reflect what is truly of lasting worth.

God bless you and enjoy the sport!

Simon

Four Elms

It was a happy coincidence that the celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee fell on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is a celebratory Sunday, when the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus' disciples. The church colour for the altar frontals is red which certainly flattered St. Paul's church, thanks to the addition of beautiful flowers created for the Jubilee. Thank you to everyone for your floral contribution.

Family Services will now be held once a month (on the third Sunday of the month) at 4pm in St. Paul's Four Elms. Outside if the weather is good and inside if not. Simon and Susie create wonderful family friendly services where children are not just welcomed, they are heartily encouraged. Activities and singing and all things young people love. Do join us.

This month Nadia (McBurnie) is kindly taking over the role of organising readers, welcoming at church and intercessions.Thank you Nadia, we all appreciate your help. And thank you to all who do the readings and intercessions. At the end of May we said farewell to Angela Purll, our organist for over sixteen years. Angela is moving to work at a church closer to her home in Horsham.

We thank her for her wonderful music and wish her much happiness in her new role. We are pleased to welcome Tim Higgs as our organist.

As you will see, the Village Fete is on for 9th July. Hurrah !!! St. Paul's Church thank the Fete Committee for all their hard work in making the Fete possible and such a success. The Church Stalls are a very important part of our fundraising so do please help where you can, making 2022 as successful as it has been in the past.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Last month we started the first of our celebrations of 900 years of worship in the village, a walk around Hever and Markbeech Art studios. This was followed by a talk on Thomas Bullen by Lauren Mackay, a flower festival and then the patronal festival service with a picnic lunch. A huge thank you to the 900th Anniversary committee for such an active start to the celebrations. Keep an eye on the Three Spires website for more events later in the year.

We welcome Tim Higgs as our new organist and we look forward to hearing him play at our services

The next Parish lunches will be held on Thursday 14th July 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. In August, the lunch will be held on Thursday 11th.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

We are breaking our alternating pattern this month. Nicki is away in Italy so I am writing from Markbeech again.

At the moment the weather is perfect and I am still tucked in my little studio greeting Art in June visitors. I think visitor numbers have been down on last year, but I've sold a few things so have covered my costs at least! And my little dog, Milly, is delighting in the flow of people who just come (as far as she can tell) to admire and pet her.

There have been various events in the last few weeks, including a rather brief Rogation Sunday walk after the Family Service, where our planned route was curtailed by the cows having got out into the woods, accompanied by the bull, so 'health and safety' decreed we'd be safer in the garden at Falconhurst, where the children all climbed a wonderful tree and were persuaded with some difficulty to come down and join in the prayers. And then we enjoyed some rather tentative sunshine with coffee on the lawns.

The Jubilee here was celebrated with a ladies cricket match at Falconhurst, followed by a barbecue at the Kentish Horse, both great successes. And the gardens at Falconhurst have been open for the National Gardens Scheme with Markbeech ladies serving teas with delicious home made cakes in aid of church funds. There will be church services at Holy Trinity, Markbeech on July 10th, 24th (family service) and 31st and on July 17th there will be a Village Lunch, here at Old Farm, Cow Lane. Please let us know if you want to come as we try to be quite precise in our catering.

As ever we are praying for the world to come to its senses and that at least some of the appalling current problems can be alleviated. Do consult the Three Spires website for updates and last minute info on events and church services.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

We are very sad to report that Elspeth Russell, wife of Dr Andrew Russell, died peacefully at home on 7th June. Her funeral service is at St Peter's on 29th June at 3 pm. We will be printing an obituary in the September edition.

From the register

Weddings

14 May Hever
Hannah Franklin and Adam Berrisford
21 May Markbeech
Blessing Daisy Savage & Chris Little
10 June Hever
Debbie Ireton & Wish Scott
11 June Four Elms
Rachel Arzon & Sam Harrington

Funerals

24 May Hever Chris Prior-Willeard age 66
27 May Hever Graham Coldman age 78

gardening

As I write the weather is really starting to warm up – flaming June is starting to live up to its name!

We all know what we need to do to help bring CO2 levels down both individually and as a business. I touched on what we are doing at the nursery to improve our 'green' credentials (growing in peat-free) last time out. Following on from this, we attended the Society of Garden Designers Symposium on sustainability within our industry held at RHS Wisley.

A fantastic line-up of top garden designers including Dan Pearson, Arit Anderson (Gardeners World), Noel Kingsbury, contributing ideas on how to improve practices in sustainable garden design. Design materials such as concrete, wood & metal are vital to some garden builds. However, these materials can be detrimental to the environment. Existing concrete or bricks in a garden that is to be built can be crushed to create a new material for pathways and seating areas. Wood can be stripped and re-used and metal recycled. 'Upcycling' using existing materials lessens the impact on the environment. If new materials are used, perhaps try using local quarries – there is also an amazing new concrete product that absorbs CO2 within its lifespan!

What excites me the most as a plantsman is the practice of using sustainable planting. We're encouraged to use reliable perennial plants instead of annuals that are ripped out twice a year for bedding schemes (a few annuals don't do any harm!). The use of indigenous plants can help the biodiversity of a garden – Common Primrose, Field Scabious, Ox-eye Daisy to name a few. We're not saying fill your gardens with natives as there are also thousands of cultivated plants which are fantastic for pollinating insects. Nepeta (Catmint) for example is great for attracting Bees and is visually stunning.

Charlie Harpur, head gardener at Knepp Gardens in Horsham, Sussex gave an inspirational talk about the re-wilding project at the 3500 acre estate. Formally intensively farmed they are using grazing animals as the drivers of habitat creation, and with the restoration of dynamic, natural water courses, the project has seen extraordinary increases in wildlife. The formal gardens have also seen a transformation. Once straight lined paths and clipped Box, this has given way to drought tolerant perennials & grasses. Seed heads remain throughout the season attracting a huge diversity of insects & birds into the garden.

We don't all have huge estates, but we can all do our bit in whatever sized garden we have. Simply leaving un-mowed strips of grass and being selective with the plants we grow can attract a huge amount of wildlife to our gardens. Even plants grown in pots on balconies can act as wildlife corridors. Gardens contribute to an enormous amount of outdoor space nationally – help 'rewild'!

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery

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	7	58							
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	2	62							
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	12	55.5							

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Parish Rooms
– John Southworth 01732 700670
Hever
– Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech
– Mrs Paige 01342 850328

Councils

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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 **September** edition should reach us no later than **15 August**

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

July/August diary

25 June	**Hever Festival talk by Lauren MacKay on Thomas and George Boleyn,** St Peter's Hever	8pm
26 June	**Patronal service at St Peter's Hever** followed by a picnic at the Village Hall	12 noon
2 July	**Hever School Fete,** Parish field	11.30-3.30pm
3 July	**Jazz AlFresco,** Saxby's Mead, Cowden	
5 July	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Four Elms Village Hall	7.30pm
9 July	**Four Elms Fete**	
9 July	**Chiddingstone Summer Dance,** Chiddingstone Sports Ground	7pm - 1am
14 July	**Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
17 July	**Markbeech Parish lunch,** (tickets £12 from Liz Kaberry 01732 921763, under 16s free), Old Farm, Cow Lane, Markbeech	12.30pm
22 July	**Evening of Opera,** Falconhurst Gardens Markbeech	6pm
23 July	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Four Elms Village Hall	9.15-10am
23 July	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Hever Bottle Bank	10.15-11am
23 July	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Markbeech	11.15
8 Aug	**Family Fun Day,** Four Elms field	10-2pm
11 Aug	**Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
20 Aug	**Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall	2pm
17 Sept	**Hever Barn Dance**	