THE LINK

September 2022







In this issue:

- A knockout boxer
- A stage struck pair
- Farewell Elspeth Russell
- Clothmaking...a local history

...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the September Link

We hope you have had a good summer so far.

Hats off to the cuckoos. The cuckoo I have been sponsoring through the British Trust for Ornithology, JAC, has made it back south of the Sahara where he is resting up before flying to the Congo to overwinter. His stay in Llangollen was extraordinarily brief but he will be back next year, if he's lucky he could make six complete migrations, flying up to 60,000 miles. You can see all the flight paths on bto.org

Meanwhile, I have been learning about our native Tree Creepers. Sharp-eyed co-editor Bridget spotted a little flutter moving up and down a tree, so small it clearly wasn't an ordinary bird. But yet it is ordinary, just so well camouflaged against the trees they scour for insects that we don't often see them! They live all over the UK and, unlike cuckoos, rarely stray more than 20 kilometres from their breeding grounds. At 12.5 centimetre against a sparrow's 18 they are small but they have a lovely tuneful call which I cannot convert into words.



A Tree Creeper

The drought has been very hard and I so admire how the animals have tolerated it although the cost to farmers in feeding their stock their winter hay early, sheep losing condition etc has been significant. The people haven't done too badly either, siphoning bath water onto the garden, taking shorter showers and more.

Whoever thought we would be looking forward to a wet autumn? Not too wet to enjoy the last few performances of the Hever Festival, I hope - and see the diary on the back of the magazine for all the other autumn events.

Joanna Wade

THE LINK

pet of the month

Meet Dylan, a 21 month old Boxer with a wilful attitude and selective hearing.

Wikipedia states that “The character of the Boxer is of the greatest importance and demands the most solicitous attention. He is renowned from olden times for his great love and faithfulness. He is harmless in the family, but can be distrustful of strangers, bright and friendly of temperament at play, but brave and determined when aroused. His intelligence and willing tractability, his modesty and cleanliness make him a highly desirable family dog” and this couldn’t be truer for Dylan. When you first meet him out on a walk you will probably hear him before you see him as he likes to greet everyone with a loud bark and although he can look intimidating at first, once you get to know him, his playful, enthusiastic personality shines through. Don’t believe me? Here is what Erin (7) and Austin (4) have to say:

What is the funniest thing Dylan does?
Austin - Licks my face
Erin - When I’m making something, he sneaks in and steals the arts and crafts then runs off with them into the garden

Best trick?:
Austin - Bites my t-shirt and runs away with me still in it
Erin - Chasing anything that moves

What is your favourite thing about Dylan?
Austin – that he loves us
Erin – His cuddles

There is no doubt that Erin and Austin will learn so much from him. His independent mindset will teach them to be patient. He will show them how to live without judgement, because he shows affection to everyone he meets, with a bark, a gentle jump and a tail wag. He also teaches them about unconditional love and how amazing it is to be on the receiving end of it.



what we do

Globe Volunteers - part 2

There are two theatres at London's Shakespeare Globe, the open air Globe and the indoor Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (SWP).

It took years to raise the funds to develop the SWP into a Jacobean theatre that Shakespeare would have recognised. Many patrons paid £3000 for a seat on which their names were inscribed, including 300 poverty stricken stewards who clubbed together. Finally, it opened in 2014 and is a beautiful wooden, candlelit space, a "Thrust" stage allowing some 330 audience on three sides, with extraordinary acoustic properties. Sometimes there are some extra seats in the musician's gallery over the stage. You really can hear a pin drop on stage and the actors are so close that they regularly include the audience area in the performance. They use beeswax for the candles, as in Jacobean times, as they do not smoke and smell very nice but beware wax drip issues. It is not all old technology, there's a modern air conditioning and lighting system that can reproduce the effects of a lovely sunrise or a complete blackout, which is very effective when an actor comes onstage just lit by a handheld candle and delivers some chilling lines. Finally there are two trapdoors. A heaven, opens in the lovely hand painted ceiling, from which we have seen some flamboyant descents, and the stage floor trapdoor used to many a good effect.

It is not all plays. One of the most delightful evenings we experienced was classical guitar with John Williams and guests. So intimate, it was as if he dropped into your front room and played a few requests. But that is the SWP, intimate and welcoming. One evening I was stewarding a new play "Farinelli and the King" which was a complete delight. At the interval I turned to the person next to me and said "what a wonderful play, the hairs on my neck are standing up". "Oh good" she said, " I am so glad you like it". Turns out I was sitting next to the playwright and musical arranger!



Stuart and Judi Young

If you get the chance to go, here is our tip. Choose a seat either opposite the stage in the lower gallery, or at the side of the stage in the front because right there you are just about in the performance.

There is more to the Globe. Below the theatre is the Underglobe a large space once a museum and entertainment area, the venue for the Volunteers' annual party. It has a large tree in it and can be visited as a part of the Globe tours. Future developments include a library and education centre. Restaurant, coffee shop, bars, lecture room, educational centre, wedding venue, shop, it is all at the Globe.

Enjoy.

Stuart and Judi Young

MARKBEECH

HARVEST

Supper

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7TH, 7.00 FOR 7.30 PM

£17.50

MARKBEECH VILLAGE HALL

RSVP MARIELOU LINKLATER 07860 436668

Orchids behind Hever Castle



Flowers for St Peter's Church Hever – can you help?

As St Peter's Church, Hever is now open to the public every day it would enhance the interior if there was a simple flower arrangement to be seen. We are asking for help to make the Church look more welcoming. Might you be able to offer help? Ideally once every couple of months depending how many volunteers come forward.

Please contact Jan Tolfree on 01342 80206 for more details

HEVER BARN DANCE 2022



After two years break, Hever's infamous Barn Dance is back and it's bigger and better than ever. Yeehaw!!!

A great night out for all the family with dancing in the village hall and two marquees with hay bales for everyone to sit, chat and eat their bbq on. You won't go hungry with local burgers and sausages, salads and splendid home made desserts! The cash and tap and pay bar has beers, wine, including Prosecco and soft drinks to quench the dancers' thirst. Vegetarian options are available, please make sure that you book these so that we can plan the catering!

The band has a great caller who will explain the steps and make sure that everyone has a great time. We always have a wide range of ages from toddlers through teenagers to octogenarians -dancing optional - but fun for all.

Country & Western / Cowboy fancy dress optional, but you may win a bottle of bubbly, with children's prizes too.

To BOOK, head over to Hever PCC (bookitbee.com) events. bookitbee.com/hever

Tickets are £20 per adult and it includes a burger, salads and desserts.

Children 5 to 15s are £10 and under 5s are free.

Family tickets for 2 adults and 2 children 0-15, £50. One child is free Bring the gang ticket - 6 for the price of 5, £100

Tickets for this event are nonrefundable as this is a fund raising event and costs are incurred based on the number of tickets sold.

ONLY alcoholic drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed at the event. Any drinks not purchased at the bar will attract a corkage charge of £5 per bottle or £1 per can.

Remembering Elspeth Russell

Elspeth Russell died peacefully at home on 7th July 2022, aged 93, surrounded by her family. Elspeth was known to many in the community as a loving mother to her three boys, Jamie, Bruce and Neil and devoted wife to Andrew. But she was also a lifelong supporter of the local community.



Notwithstanding the final years when Elspeth suffered from dementia, she had a wonderful life. It was shaped by many influences not least her blissfully happy childhood. The prospects weren't great at the outset: she was born prematurely at 32 weeks, weighing just over 3 lbs. Chances of survival then in 1929 were slender but survive she did.

Thereafter, she enjoyed the loving home created by her parents in Hertfordshire. It won't come as any surprise to those who knew her that her father was a big, good-looking man, warm and loving who was able to engage with people, particularly the young. This same empathy for others one saw in Elspeth, as well. And it was via her older brother, Bruce, that Elspeth met Andrew when he and Bruce were medical undergraduates at Clare College, Cambridge and later 'Tommy's'.

Elspeth felt entirely at home in the medical world. In addition to her brother, her father and great uncle were both distinguished physicians (the latter Professor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh), she and her sister-in-law nurses, and of course Andrew was a GP and an anaesthetist who served the community for thirty-three years. So, she felt entirely at ease supporting Andrew and the wider medical community in very practical ways – taking messages morning, noon and night when Andrew was 'on call' (a never-ending task), hosting dinners for a very active medical society and playing a role in the local Red Cross branch – which she ran for a number of years. And all was done willingly and enthusiastically.

Indeed, Elspeth was an intensely practical person. A 'doer'. In place of debating abstractions she just got on with life. Whether in her earlier years as a nurse (she trained at the Middlesex Hospital), making curtains for the family home, jumpers for her boys or producing beautiful smocking on another dress for one of her granddaughters.

Whilst never particularly bookish, one publication that was a fixture on her bedside table for many years was Lark Rise to Candleford. It described country life at the end of the Nineteenth Century and the fast-dissolving England of peasant, yeoman



and craftsman. And this appealed to Elspeth's love of the countryside and the romantic lens through which she saw life. She loved the great outdoors, fishing with the family on the side of some midge-swept loch or recounting her childhood days riding 'Freckles'.

Elspeth was also a proud Scot. Her mother's family came from Ayrshire and were Ship Engineers in Glasgow, her father's family were of Scottish parentage but lived in Northern Ireland. Whilst Elspeth spent most of her life south of the border, she ensured that her family kept in touch with their Caledonian roots. Many carefree holidays were spent north of the border staying with family members, fishing lochs and sailing on the West Coast.

Above all Elspeth was entirely selfless, giving her time willingly to others be it in her younger life when she cut short her nursing to return home to care for her dying mother, or volunteering at the primary school in Hever to teach the little ones how to read. She never expected any reward and never accepted any thanks rather passing the praise onto others.

And as a family we were the beneficiaries of the same selfless devotion. Mum stood no nonsense, but she always put our interests, as children, before hers, witness that ritual the annual family holiday. Many were frankly a bit of an endurance for Mum as we bobbed around on choppy seas in small sailing boats. Mum was actually much happier fishing or painting wild flowers - which she was very good at.

Above all, underpinning Mum's contentment was her marriage to Dad. They were married for 63 years and were inseparable. A touchstone of that relationship was her wedding ring which Mum would lift each day to read the inscription of the date of their wedding until that inscription wore away. In turn, Dad summed up the place of Mum in our lives in his reflections for the family, when he wrote in conclusion: "Elspeth has been, through all the years, my dearest friend, companion, wife and mother, and has given us all such a blissful and united family"

Jamie Russell

Cloth-making in the Eden Valley

Look into the origins of most of the traditional gentry of the Eden Valley and you will find that if they didn't make their money from ironworks, they undoubtedly made it from cloth.

Geoffrey Boleyn, great-grandfather of Anne, was a classic example. He started his career as an apprentice hatter and went on to become a mercer (or cloth trader) making a fortune that enabled to him to gain a knighthood from Henry VI, become Lord Mayor of London in 1458 and buy Hever Castle in 1462. Other families making their fortunes from cloth-making include the Streatfeilds of Chiddingstone, the Pultenays of Penshurst and the Seyliardes of Delaware, Skeynes and Gabriells manors in Edenbridge.

Below them in the chain, was a vast number of poorer people who from medieval times to the 18th century were dependent on the clothing industry. It worked on a 'putting out' system, whereby men called clothiers gave out the raw materials to spinners, dyers, fullers, and weavers who carried out the work in their homes. Alongside these were a further army of workers including sheep farmers, flax growers, milliners, tailors, dressmakers and drapers.

The High Weald was an ideal area for the trade, with good agricultural land, wood providing fuel for heating the dyeing vats, water for soaking flax, and an abundance of 'fuller's earth', a type of clay used to remove grease from wool. Local place names such as Dyehurst Gill, Coomb Field (where wool was combed), or Tainters Hill (where cloth was stretched on frames known as 'tenterhooks'), often give clues to this. Sheep were brought



to the Weald from Romney Marsh and Edward III sought to promote the wool trade by inviting Flemish artisans to Kent to develop local weaving skills. There was tension at first, with the English and Flemish setting up rival guilds, but they later united.

By the late 16th century the wool trade began to decline and attempts were made to revive it, including a law passed in 1571 that all working men should wear woollen caps on Sundays and holidays. Later, during the reign of Charles II, an act was passed requiring that corpses be buried in woollen shrouds.

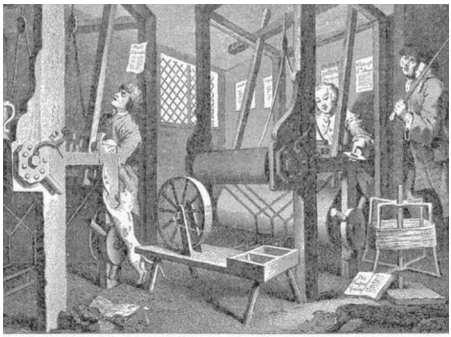




Families who buried their loved ones in linen were required to pay a fine. The Sidney family of Penshurst were fined several times, including in 1683 for the burial of Algernon Sidney, beheaded for his alleged involvement in a plot to murder the king.

Spinning was the first step in the clothmaking process, taking woollen fleece and fibres from flax or hemp and turning them into yarn. It was generally carried out in the home by women and children (hence the term 'spinster') and provided 30% of the income of poor families in the 17th century. Local records show it being used as a solution for poor relief: it was a task taken on by women in the Bough Beech workhouse; in Edenbridge the bridge wardens used surplus cash from rents they received to buy hemp for the poor to spin.

The next step in the process was dying the yarn. Orangy-red came from the leaves of the madder plant, woad produced a blue dye, and weld, otherwise known as 'dyers rocket' produced yellow. Only royalty could wear purple, expensive because it was imported from Brazil.



Weaving was generally undertaken by men and required an apprenticeship of seven years. Most villages would have a small weavers' workshop with just a couple of apprentices, while towns would have more. Records show several weavers' workshops in Edenbridge, including one in the High Street in the property now occupied by Coral's Bookmakers.

A variety of cloth was produced in this area, notably Kentish broadcloth, a heavy woollen fabric produced for the export market. Linen, made from flax, was used for undergarments and household items, canvas made from hemp or flax was used for shirts and aprons. 'Lindsey Wolsey' (mentioned in Cowden parish account books) was a cheaper fabric with a linen warp and woollen weft, used for women's gowns.

The last stage in the process was, of course, the sale of the cloth. From the early 17th century onwards, drapers' shops are recorded in Cowden, Chiddingstone and Edenbridge. Here again we see wealthy mercers owning the shops and taking much of the profit. Nevertheless, it's clear that for at least six centuries cloth-making, along with farming and the leather trade, provided a living for very many of the people, rich and poor, skilled and unskilled, who came before us in the Eden Valley.

By Hilary Brand from material originally compiled by Miranda Charalambous

See the Cloth-making exhibition at the Eden Valley Museum until the end of this year

Hever Parish Council

The council resumes its regular meetings in September after the summer break. The next meeting is in Hever Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th September, preceded by the Planning Committee meeting at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

For those who weren't able to attend the Parish Assembly back in May, here is an overview of the report from the Chairman, Angela Haydon : It is three years since our last Parish Assembly. It was a very difficult time for many and thank you to everyone for support and help during the pandemic. During the year Charlotte, Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer resigned, Christina joined and left. Rachael joined in January. Edward de Ryckman joined as Councillor. John Hodson stepped down as Chairman of HPC. All the Councillors thank him for his contribution and tireless commitment to the residents of Hever Parish.

Other points to note:

- With the majority of the community against the scheme, the council agreed not to proceed with the Four Elms affordable housing development.
- A Family fun day took place in August.
- Thanks to Councillor Nick Roberts, HPC purchased Four Elms Pond which was enabled by local donors. The pond had new fencing and the area cleared and tidied. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped and to Scott from Willerby Landscapes
- The Planning Committee volunteer their time to investigate, consider and formulate a view for Sevenoaks District Council with the final decision made by the Planning Authority at Sevenoaks.
- A revised Highway Improvement Plan was submitted highlighting speed issues in Markbeech and Four Elms.
- Requests for restoration work to some verges and improved planning and clearer signage should a diversion be required.
- Environmentally friendly 'smart' rubbish bins were installed in all three villages. Litter picks took place across the Parish. Thank you to all those who took part.
- New benches and tables have been obtained for Four Elms Field.
- Some public footpath repairs have been raised and HPC are looking at ways to help contribute to their repair.
- Grants made to local groups include Eden Valley Museum and the Film Club, and this year towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance. Some funding is still available so applications are welcome.
- The end of year internal audit confirmed HPC is compliant with both financial and regulatory requirements, and has demonstrated good practice.
- The Hever.org website has a range of information including; the full Chairman's report, meeting agendas and minutes, links to topics of interest such as Gatwick Expansion, Bus surveys and solar panel grants.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors; all are volunteers who give their time and commitment freely to help improve our local community.

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

Four Elms village fete 2022





After two year's absence the Fete was back and it didn't disappoint.

Glorious weather and the usual numbers returned to enjoy the variety of traditional stalls and attractions. The fete's purpose remains the same as ever. It is a combination of fundraising and entertainment for the village. Neither being more important than the other. But it seems to be more than just that. It is an opportunity for newcomers to the village to help out and meet up with neighbours. Friday "set up" is a happy day with a lunch provided and an opportunity to get to know each other better.

The Fete Committee is a small, dedicated group, meeting in the village pub on winter evenings planning for the July Fete. Nowadays its mainly communication by email and spreadsheets which is a far cry from the carefully notated minutes of yesteryear.

But the outcome is the same – a great day for everyone.

We had fun and games for everyone: coconut shy, bowl-a-pig, welly wanging and in the ring something for all ages, especially the egg throwing. How competitive some people are!!! Pony rides. small train rides and, of course, the Willerby Maze and classic cars, not forgetting the Spitfire flypast.

All this made for a great afternoon with refreshments from the beer tent, the tea tent, BBQ, ice creams and soft drinks. The fabulous plant stall, bric-a-brac, bottle stall were all there with the chance for meeting and chatting to old friends.



Thomas Moffat with George, Best in Show winner

This year we seemed to have achieved our wish of many years, a spot on BBC southeast television … and the national news. Oh yes, Tom Tugendhat opened the Fete. Thanks Tom for dropping by on a very busy weekend and helping us make the national news!!!!

Christina Hodson

Four Elms Harvest Supper

Saturday 1st October

Four Elms Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45pm

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

£10 per person £5 for children

Book early and let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan

Email: harvest2021@btinternet.com or 01732 700247

RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

10th September 2022

Ride or Stride and raise money for your church

Visit local churches either on wheels or walking

Refreshments available at churches

Collect sponsorship forms from St. Paul's Four Elms





Hever School summer news

by The Friends of Hever PTA

Shepherd Hut Opening
Hever PTA, with the school and governors, were delighted to invite the Chair of Sevenoaks Council to open our eagerly awaited Shepherd Hut with Hever School Head Girl, at the end of the summer term, ready for use in September 2022.

Guests included all the organisations who donated/awarded funds to enable us to build this incredibly special space for all the children, including representatives from Edenbridge Council, Sevenoaks Council, the Great Stonebridge Trust, Gatwick Airport Community Trust and Mylands Paint, as well as Karen and Rob, parents, who project managed the build and completed the hut.

The Hut will be used for interventions and SEN, music groups and break out groups, freeing up other space in the school hall and library and being a completely dedicated breakout space. This calm and neutral space will enable the school to increase its pastoral care options and SENCO support in an aesthetically pleasing and tactile setting.

Thanks were also given to Stirling Site Supplies, John Turnbull, Chris Browne Builders, Sencico, On the Groundworks and Anastasia Sergeef, as well as our private donors who were unable to attend, and of course to all the many members of the PTA who supported this.

Hever School Summer Fete
Hever PTA were delighted to announce their incredibly successful community Summer Fete raised just over £3000 which will go directly to the school to support various school and PTA projects.

The fete had a number of lovely stalls, food and activities, as well as providing a wonderful opportunity to visit the school and see the Hever School community at work. Thank you to all who came along and supported us on the day, if you were not able to attend but are interested in a place at our wonderful village school please contact our lovely school administrator Mrs Steptoe on office@hever.kent.sch.uk. She will get in touch about visiting after the summer holidays.

Thank you as always to Hever Parish Council for allowing us the use of the field to run our event.



business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
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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 September

As set out in my article, the theme of our services in September will be generosity and giving so readings do not follow the normal lectionary.

Please continue to 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
4th September 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Deuteronomy 8:1-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Matthew 6:25-34	12th after Trinity
11th September 8am	Said BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Malachi 3:6-10; Acts 20:25-35	13th after Trinity
11th September 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Psalm 24; Malachi 3:6-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 6:37-38	13th after Trinity
11th September 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Filled Full (Feeding of 5,000 from Matthew 14, Mark 6 & Luke 9)	13th after Trinity
18th September 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Ecclesiastes 5:8-17; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Matthew 19:16-26	14th after Trinity
18th September 4pm	Family Outdoor worship at St.Paul's Four Elms	1 Chronicles 29:1-20	14th after Trinity
25th September 8am	Said BCP Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Acts 20:25-35; Mark 12:41-44	15th after Trinity
25th September 10am	Family service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Mark 12:41-44	15th after Trinity

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. We are also hoping to start an in person Bible study on Monday evenings at 8pm. If you are interested in joining 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.

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

Hopefully, we will shortly know who is to be our new Prime Minister! The cost of living crisis and big increases in energy costs this coming autumn seem to be the top issues and will put huge pressure on many already living on the edge.

For many of the people to whom Jesus preached, the prayer, 'Give us this day our daily bread' was literally a cry for the day's food and even today many will echo this plea. With that in mind, why did Jesus say so much about money, possessions and anxiety - eleven of his thirty nine parables are on this subject?

Some people complain that the church is always asking for money. But in the Three Spires this couldn't be further from the truth; I can't find when anyone last preached on generosity and giving. So in September I am planning to preach on this very subject. I make no apology for this, notwithstanding the financial challenges many face. I've seen wonderful examples of generosity such as from those who have taken in Ukrainian families. As a church treasurer myself many years ago, I was humbled by the amazing generosity particularly from people of modest means.

In the Three Spires, regular giving in each of our churches has been declining as many faithful givers have moved away or died. Covid has put us under more pressure but we have survived partly because I have been in the fortunate position of offering my ministry on a voluntary basis. Long term I am praying that, with God's help, by the time I retire, our churches will be on a financially sustainable basis and can afford to pay for their Rector. I am confident we will be able to do this as the statistics suggest there are many new people who have yet to start giving regularly and on a per capita basis giving seems fairly modest compared to other churches.

Most importantly though, generosity and giving is good for us. Jesus said: 'it is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35). Giving helps us to break the power of money on our lives. Jesus also said: Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Luke 6:38).

So please think and pray about what God might be calling you to do with your treasure, time and talents whether you are a regular church goer or not. The prophet Malachi declared…. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse… Test me in this," says the LORD "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing…"

Go on, put God to the test!

Simon

Markbeech

Despite the baking conditions, we enjoyed a delightful summer lunch at Marielou's home in July. The hardiest of us turned out in our sun hats and parasols enjoying her pretty garden and delicious salads. There were some pretty good Markbeech puddings in evidence too!

Watching the harvest coming in across the country, and writing this column some time in advance of September with the ground so hot and scorched, it seems hard to imagine celebrating our Harvest Festivals. But now is the time for planning and making dates for diaries! So please make sure you have Friday 7th October in your diary for the Great Markbeech Harvest Supper. This will be a delicious traditional Harvest Feast based around the very best produce that can be sourced as locally as possible giving God our thanks and praise for all our blessings. It will be a time to chat to old friends and to meet new neighbours so please come and join us!

The Markbeech choir will be back in action in September, firstly at our Eucharist service on 11th September and then with the children at the Family service on 25th September. Markbeech is well known for it's love of music and singing, so if you would like to come and sing traditional hymns, psalms and anthems or would like your children to learn the joy of singing, please contact Charles@falconhurst.co.uk.

Finally, you will notice some scaffolding popping up around our beloved church. We have taken the plunge of restoring the stonework that has taken a battering over the years. We are very grateful to the Friends of Markbeech Church and the Friends of Kent Churches for their contribution to this work.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Four Elms

Phew, where did the summer go and phew, it was a very hot summer. Although we all seem to love discussing the weather and statistics abound, the seriousness of climate change is concerning. The conundrum is, how can I change habits to make a difference. Certainly lower the heating and a few more jumpers!! Less use of petrol driven cars and lawn mowers!!

St Paul's church welcomed two lovely weddings and we wish both couples much happiness. The PCC also thanks all who helped in various and numerous ways to make the Four Elms Village Fete such a success. Thanks to the great efforts by many, the church stalls raised £4,400. What an achievement.

The autumn heralds the harvest time. The summer drought reminds us of the precariousness of food production here and in the wider world, particularly in the poorest countries who will be

hardest hit by the devastation of changing weather patterns. Harvest Festival, a time to give thanks for our relative good fortune, is on Sunday 2nd October and the Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 1st October in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Supper is very popular so please book early, for catering purposes and also to make sure you have a place – tickets go quite quickly. Another date for the diary, Saturday 10th September for Ride and Stride. (note to book an electric bike from County Hire & Go).

Finally, we wish all schools, colleges and universities a fulfilling academic year with the hope that there will be fewer interruptions than in the past two years.

We also wish the new Head of School at Four Elms Primary, Jess Fermor, much happiness as she starts her new role.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

This month St Peter's will act as a refreshment station for the annual Ride and Stride event on Saturday 10th September. Our energetic bell ringers will be cycling from Cudham to Hever and then ringing bells at a Hever wedding. Jane Rosam will be collecting sponsorship promises in the coming weeks so please give generously. The following Saturday we will be running our very popular barn dance for the first time since Covid. Please see the information on page 5 for how to book tickets and watch out for the family and "bring the gang" ticket deals.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 8th September 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

Sadly, Deirdre Clark died at her home on 11 July 2022, she was 87 years old. She had moved from Springbank , Markbeech to assisted living accommodation in 2017. Deirdre and her late husband Dennis had lived in the village for 35 happy years. Her funeral took place on 15 August.

From the register

Baptism

17 July Hever Frederick George Alexander Woodward

Weddings

19 June Markbeech
Charlotte Warren & Andrew Furphy
25 June Hever Blessing
Christy Thomas & George Roberts
2 July Hever
Jennifer Agyekum & David John Cooke
9 July Markbeech
Clare Juliette & Andrew Durrant
16 July Markbeech
Belynda Garnham & David Enderby
16 July Four Elms
Charlotte Brereton & Lawrence Price
23 July Betrothal Victoria Roxburgh & Hunter Snowden
23 July
Amy Moore & William Kunhardt

gardening

WOW! What a Summer! Strangely enough the first time ever, we found ourselves wishing for the rain clouds to open!

But, a less expensive way of getting a tropical suntan. No hassle at the airport trying to get to the Seychelles or some other exotic destination for a holiday – no! Just sit in your garden.

So much to do in September! Normally September is the time to look after your lawn but not this year! Maybe take the opportunity to plant spring bulbs such as snowdrops, cyclamens and short stemmed daffodils under a tree and wait for the grass to grow again once there is rain and the temperature is compatible to the season.

It is the time to trim hedges, harvest your fruits and pick some of the delicious vegetables you have grown. Choose only perfect unblemished fruits wrapping some loosely in paper to store in trays so they aren't touching. Keep them somewhere cool and airy so they are ready to enjoy during the winter months.

Now is also the time to plant hardy annuals. Plants that need to be over wintered should be planted into pots of multi-purpose compost and moved into your greenhouse or onto window sills inside. Have you ever tried growing Wood Anemones in a planter or container? These can be started off now so that you have a display as early as late winter.

Now we have Autumn to look forward to, which will certainly bring a drop in temperature allowing us less 'heat resistant creatures' the opportunity to enjoy the forthcoming season. Raking up the precious fallen leaves ready to turn them into mulch for the following years is an import part of Autumn gardening. Having experienced this year's lack of rain mulching may be our best defence for the dry earth in our gardens. Mulch is a most important product to help retain moisture in the soil and also it will reduce weeds that will compete for the water supply.

Enjoy your garden!

Jan Tolfree



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	12	7					
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	19	15					
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	21	3					

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
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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

Copy for the **October** edition should reach us no later than **15 September**
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

September diary

26 Aug **Concert - Take That Rule the World** Hever Festival 8pm

27 Aug Concert - **No Town Like Motown,** Hever Festival 8pm

28 Aug **The Last Night of the Hever Proms**, Hever Festival 8pm

29 Aug **The Mikado,** Hever Festival 8pm

30 Aug **A Midsummer Night's Dream,** Hever Festival 7.30pm

2 Sept **Wildlife Gardening Club workshop: Invasive Plants,** Bore Place, free 10am – 1pm

3 Sept **Jazz night featuring Steve Fishwick** and dinner at Falconhurst (£50pp) 7 - 11pm

4 Sept **Yoghurt making workshop** (adult £28) Bore Place 10am – 12.30pm

8 Sept **Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall 12.30pm

9 Sept **Asian Street food sharing feast** (£45 pp) at Falconhurst 7.30 – 10.30pm

10 Sept **Ride and Stride**

11 Sept **ID walk – summer trees at Bore Place** (adult £8 child £6) 10 – 12 noon

13 Sept **Hever Parish Council meeting,** Hever Village Hall 7.30pm

17 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**

18 Sept **Autumn foraging walk at Bore Place** (adult £35) 10am – 1pm

21 and 22 Sept **Shakespeare's Globe's Julius Caesar,** Hever Festival

30 Sept **Bat walk at Bore Place** (adults £8 child £6) 6.30 – 8pm

1 Oct **Four Elms Harvest Supper,** Four Elms Village Hall 7.45pm

7 Oct **Great Markbeech Harvest supper** (£17.50pp), Markbeech Village Hall 7.30pm

3 Dec **Concert of words and music "Out of the Dark Ages"**, St Peter's Hever