January 2023

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Stamped out!
- Who was Margaret Cheyne?
- A winter warmer
- The benefice In concert
- Remembering Dudley Staplehurst
- A throw away line

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the January Link

Today is one of those days which never got light. The grey hangs everywhere, softening sound and freezing my ears. I nonetheless walked round the lake at the Castle, no longer blue and tranquil, but a raging torrent, impersonating Scotland; Queen Victoria would have loved it. I am rather proud of this photo which shows the all-important weir at Hever Castle, which helps to regulate the height of the Eden. The Castle works hard for us by keeping it clear of obstructions, branches, trees, televisions etc. A little upstream, Duncan Leslie, Castle CEO, was woken up one dark night by a splash and run incident; vandals dumping a jet ski into the river from the bridge and screeching off at full speed.

So, to the photo, what looks like a factory scene - a roll of shiny plastic feeding into a vat of froth - is in fact the flow of the water with the river bank reflected in it. It could actually win a prize as the photographic classes for the Hort Rose show on 10 June are “Washing out to dry” and “Reflections”. Fingers crossed!

Turning to local events, do come to the film on 13 January if you can. Twelve Angry Men is a great film and the Golf Club do lovely scampi and chips. New audience members are very welcome, as are suggestions for future films.

Joanna Wade



pet of the month

Happy 2023 to one and all. And what a way to start it for little old me, Barney the 5-year old Cavapoo. I was asked to feature in the Parish magazine! As a relatively new floof to the area I feel very honoured.

I was born in Llandrindrod Wells in Wales - but as a pup I grew up in London. Having lived in Hever for just over two years now I can safely say the country life is for me. Long winter walks, crunchy leaves beneath my paws and a warm fire to snuggle up by. Oh - and the pubs! I can sniff one of those out a mile off, thanks to my dad's love for them as well. Everyone in the area has been very welcoming and I have lots of lovely new friends - Tats, Fred, Poppy, Auntie Gemma's big Jerry the horse and Pepe the greyhound with her long legs too.

2022 was the year of settling into my new surroundings. And I've been thinking about what the next 12-months might bring. More adventures, sausage snacks galore and weekly trips to the beach to play with stones would be nice. But there are some pawsonal goals I have, so I wanted to share my New Year's resolutions here with you all in case it helps to inspire some of your own!

Eat all the snacks. Life's too short to worry about that next vet weigh-in!!

Drink more water and remember to wash the floor with any that I slurp and spill. I think mum really likes it when I do that

Exercise once a day. Running away from responsibility and towards all the treats counts

Practice my barking at squirrels skills. The more unnecessarily dramatic the better - all 4 paws must leave the floor

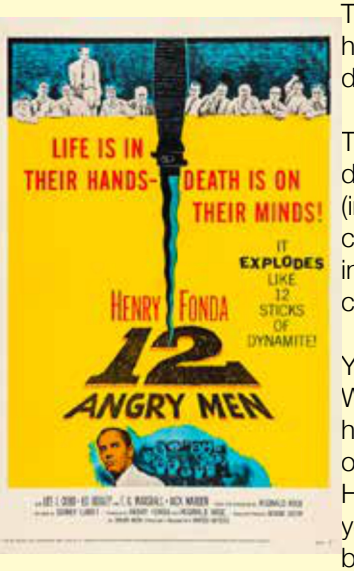
Don't forget to steal mum and dad's shoes WHENEVER they leave the house. This is a proven way to make sure they come back - works EVERY time

And that's me folks! I don't know about you but I'm feeling super pawsitive about the rest of the year already. Have a healthy and happy 2023 everyone - and thank you for letting me call Hever home x



village screen film club 2022/23

Friday 13 January- Twelve Angry Men This is a classic courtroom drama from 1957, directed by Sidney Lumet, starring Henry Fonda as the dissenting juror and considered by many to be one of the greatest films ever made. At stake is the life of a teenager accused of murder Not to be missed!' Save these dates in 2023 for more films: Friday 10 February - Foul Play Friday 25 March - The Duke



The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30

Tickets are a suggested donation of £3 for the film (increased from £2 to cover costs, sorry!) or £16.50 to include the meal - scampi and chips or vegetarian quiche.

You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 91963 or heverbrocas@gmail.com or buy tickets at the door. However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat. Please bring cash if possible.



old style stamps – the last few days



As the new King's head is sculpted into our postage stamps, be warned:

- Regular 1st and 2nd Class "everyday" stamps that feature just the profile of the late Queen Elizabeth will no longer be valid from 31 January.
- The new stamps are used in exactly the same way, but are very much larger and show a barcode.
- Non-barcoded Christmas and other special stamps with pictures on continue to be valid for postage.
- If you have old style stamps left after 31 January they will have to be sent in to the Royal Mail with a special "swap out" form completed - you will not be able to do this at a Post Office (which is a separate organisation).

Royal Mail introduced barcoded stamps in February, saying they would open up possibilities for "new innovative services." The long-term plan is that people will be able to watch videos (including Shaun the Sheep), find out information and send birthday messages to each other through the barcodes which can be scanned with the Royal Mail app. This is quite a change and analysts Mintel said it reflects how widespread smartphone ownership has become as well as people's familiarity with QR codes.

Stamps have changed little since the introduction of the Penny Black



in 1840 and the Handwritten Letter Appreciation Society (it slightly inconsistently has an email address on its website) would like to hold back this new tide. The Penny Black was the first adhesive stamp and for the first time the sender not the recipient paid for the postage. The number of letters sent had quadrupled by 1850 and the

postal service became profitable; but 170 years later the number of letters sent has fallen from 20bn in 2005 to just 8bn, and falling, so Royal Mail (now a privately owned company) felt the need to do something radical.

Radical has been tried before - in 1964 Tony Benn the postmaster general proposed to remove the royal head from commemorative stamps but the Queen was having none of it. And so what feels like a struggle for survival continues, a sad thought when you realise that British stamps, unlike those from every other country, do not say "United Kingdom" because when Rowland Hill invented them they were the only stamps in the world.

Is the postal system coming to a sticky end (the Guardian's joke not mine) - a first class stamp does after all now cost 95p.

We shall see

Joanna Wade

Did you know
the first pillar boxes

Rowland Hill is famous for introducing the penny black stamp, but the other vital ingredient of the modern postal system, the pillar box, was invented by the novelist Anthony Trollope.

Before he retired to write full time Trollope had a successful career in the post office and was sent to the Channel Islands in 1851 to try to work out how to make the postal system work in rural areas where there were no post offices to deposit letters for their onward journey. He came up with the idea of a pillar box. After several iterations, including an ornate version by a manufacturer who failed to include a slot for the post in the design, the standard red box we know today was born in 1874. Royal Mail estimates that there are over 100,000 boxes in the UK and many, many more across the world.



Margaret Cheyne

Fair Margaret

Joanna: I have long loved the brass of Margaret Cheyne in the chancel of St Peter's Hever but whenever I enquired about her, the answer was always "no one knows"; it was not a name with local connections - so I asked an expert, local genealogist Lyn Layland from the Eden Valley Museum, for help. She found a lot and I asked her to tell us how she had done it (I have all her references if anyone would like them!).

Lyn: Researching medieval ancestors requires different searching skills from those used to find our more modern ancestors. However, if the person was of high birth, the opportunity to find reference to them is quite high.



As with all research, you start with what you know about the person, in this case Margaret died on the 23 August 1419 and she was the wife of William CHEYNE. She was obviously a person with some wealth.

My first thought was to look at any local history which had already been researched but I drew a blank in the archives at the Eden Valley Museum. I then looked at the website theweald.org. According to Historic Hever-The Church by John EASTMAN, published in 1905, William CHEYNE owned the property Syliards. His son was Lord Justice of the King's Bench in 1430. However, when I looked at Syliards (now Delaware) there was no reference to William CHEYNE.

An internet search for Margaret CHEYNE brought up a very interesting article written by Randolph Jones for Bygone Kent called 'Who was Margaret CHEYNE of Hever'. This gives a very thorough account of Margaret's life. He goes on to say that the arms displayed on Margaret's brass are those of the CHEYNE family. They first appear on the seal of Sir Thomas CHEYNE who died 1381.

Inquisition Post Mortems were held from the 13th century to around 1660 by the Crown when a tenant-in-chief died. The purpose of these inquests was to discover what property the deceased held from the Crown. The website 'Mapping the Medieval Countryside' holds digital editions from 1236 to 1509 and this is where I found Margaret CHEYNE. The Inquisition told me about her land and property in Lincolnshire and York. I learnt that she had married three times, first to William MOUBRAY with whom she had a daughter Eleanor and a grandson called William INGLEBY, secondly to a man named DALYNGRYGGE with whom she had a son Richard and lastly to William CHEYNE. I then turned to A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies by John Burke and found the INGLEBY'S pedigree.

But I still could not find any explanation of why Margaret was buried with a monumental brass in Hever Church.

A search for Margaret CHAMOND gave her biography and a reference to Sussex Archaeological Society's 1848 publication including a chapter on 'Bodiam and its Lords'. This gives a comprehensive lineage for Margaret CHAMOND and her marriage to Walter DALYNGRUGE together with the pedigree of the LEWKENOR family into which Phillipa (the daughter of Margaret and Walter) married.

There are many books written on Medieval Ancestors but the one I find the most useful is Magna Carta Ancestry. A search for CHAMOND and LEWKNOR brought up references to Phillipe [Phillipa] DALLINGRIDGE, Margaret's daughter.

I hope this goes some way to solve the mystery of Margaret CHEYNE, but why she chose Hever for her final resting place, and why none of her family appear to have joined her there, needs further research.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE PARISH
You might like to subscribe to the Three Spires church website to keep in touch with services and other local events. To subscribe, go to ThreeSpires.wordpress.com and at the bottom of the page enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email. Join 653 other followers.

Other websites and links you might want to follow include:

Hever.org - Community updates and soft copy of the Link Magazine

Facebook groups - Hever Grapevine, Markbeech Community Group and Four Elms Exchange.

Instagram - Hever Events, for all local events in Hever, Four Elms and Markbeech

Gill Meller's braised celeriac stew

SERVES 4-6

Ingredients

- 1 medium celeriac
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 50ml olive oil
- 2 medium leeks, washed, trimmed and cut into 1cm rounds
- 1 onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 x 400g tin of cannellini beans, drained
- 4 cloves of garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- 100g orzo pasta (or other small pasta)
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 bunch of parsley, leaves picked and chopped
- ½ bunch fresh thyme leaves, picked
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Method

- Slice away the skin of the celeriac and cut the flesh up into 3-4 cm cubes.
- Place a shallow casserole for which you have a lid over a medium heat. Add the olive oil, the sliced onion, garlic and a little salt and pepper. Cook, stirring regularly for 6-8 minutes.
- Now, add the celeriac, bay and thyme leaves and continue to cook for a further 10 minutes, stirring regularly so nothing sticks or catches.
- Pour in the vegetable stock and add the leeks and beans. Stir well, turn down the heat and put the lid on. Cook gently together for 25-30 minutes, stirring once or twice. Now add the orzo pasta, replace the lid and continue cooking for a further 20 minutes
- If the vegetables look a little dry at any point, add a dash more stock or water.
- Stir in the parsley and season to taste. Allow the dish to sit for 10 minutes before serving.
- It's delicious with a generous grating of hard aged cheese e.g. Parmesan, and a crisp dressed green salad on the side.



Out of the darkness – a concert of words and music at St Peter's Hever

A concert that opens with birdsong and closes with Jerusalem is not short on ambition. To celebrate the 900th anniversary of Hever church and evoke the essence of that extraordinary passage of time was the aspiration and one achieved by myriad talents with great aplomb.

The church was candlelit for the medieval opening reading, in Latin, of St Peter's story. What followed was uplifting, enlightening and moving from Hildegard von Bingen's wonderfully rendered O Virtus Sapientie, through Geoffrey Chaucer's words to Thomas Tallis' music brought to life by six extraordinary recorders.

After the interval the cerebral tone dropped a notch to Edward Lear and Flanders & Swann although the spirits were tempered by recollections of the World Wars. This concert was a triumph of imagination, talent and artistic excellence. I am confident that despite my friendship with the impresario who brought all these people together, this view was shared by all who were present.

Bridget Harris

Dudley Staplehurst

November 1936 to October 2022

Dudley was born in 1936 in the Red House in Hever to Agnes and George. His parents lived in half of the house and Ken Seale and his parents lived in the other half. He was the youngest of seven children. He and his friends had the run of Hever Castle grounds because his mother and father worked at the castle and at the castle farm. His father was an experienced thatcher of hay and straw stacks.

He lived at the Red House until he was 21. He deferred his national service to complete his engineering apprenticeship and then served 2 years in Germany.

He worked in Edenbridge as an engineer all his life for Bostitch making the machines that made the staples. He played football for Hever and cricket for Falconhurst. He also played snooker and golf at Villa Golf for several years. In later years he took up wood turning and metal work as hobbies. He loved everything about nature and all wildlife in the countryside and the garden.

Dudley married Joyce in 1959 at Hever Church. They moved to Four Elms in 1963 where their two daughters, Susan and Sonya, were raised. He was a very proud father of Susan and Sonya, father in law to Chris and Bruce, granddad to Jessica and Harry and their other halves Paul and Chloe and great granddad to Poppy and Reggie. He was a wonderful man and a very a talented craftsman. He was funny and kind and hugely missed by all who knew him.



Joyce and Dudley in the Henry after their wedding



recycling

- trying to make every little help

I am a very bad person I have failed to save the planet I have failed to wash this dirty container and have just thrown it away; I confess I used cling film yesterday. And is the string attached to my teabag compostable?



These are my daily agonies is it better to throw away rubbish which Kent then burns to make energy or recycle? Should I waste energy washing dirty tins, or, worse still, might I contaminate my recycling with something so bad that Sevenoaks rejects the whole sack? When my mountain of empty porridge oats canisters was joined by a little empty bouillon pot, the probably compostable last straw did the trick, and I turned to Google!

The answer to many of my dilemmas is that “it is complicated” and I am not alone in struggling with these issues; a comfort in itself. A cardboard canister with a foil lining and a metal bottom is theoretically recyclable but anything with a mix of components takes a lot of work to unravel and whilst it is worth detaching the metal disc at the bottom, the rest should be binned.

As for cotton string, well that is the tip of the pyramid tea bag.... in the past most tea bags had plastic in them to help their strength but, with Clipper leading the way, the ordinary square bags are usually now good to go into any compost. Guidance on more highfaluting bags such as Tea Pigs says something like “this will compost in a well-maintained compost heap” - which actually means that, like “compostable” plastic carrier bags, the corn starch bags and their elegant strings will take ages to break down in a domestic bin.

I am now a proud subscriber to “everydayrecycler.com” and thanks to my co-editor I have discovered that quite a lot of plastic I would have thought was bordering on troublesome can be recycled provided it is “PP5”. Also, a new “plastic bag” called Natureflex is being introduced, made out of wood pulp which IS suitable for home composting. And there are several charities making sunglasses and watches from plastic reclaimed from the ocean. So all is not lost and we soldier on!

Joanna Wade

news from Hever primary

The governing body at Hever are delighted to share with you our news that we have appointed Mrs Helene Bligh as our new headteacher starting in January. Helene has already been working closely with us over the last 2 months, getting to know staff, parents and pupils. She has also met with some of the prospective parents at our well attended and popular open mornings. She has now accrued a great deal of relevant information about the school so she will be in a position to hit the ground running when her role starts. As you will see from her warmly received letter to parents which we set out below Helene has extensive leadership experience and she has also been responsible for leading special educational needs provision.

It is with considerable pride and excitement that I am writing to you today as the newly appointed Headteacher of Hever CEP School. I bring several year's senior leadership experience of an Ofsted rated outstanding school, including an extended period as Acting Headteacher. What drew me most to Hever School, was the strong sense of community, the shared commitment of staff, governors and parents and, of course, your delightful children. I am passionate about early education and inclusion, and creating an environment where wellbeing and high standards of academic achievement go hand in hand. I am committed to building on the progress that has been made at Hever School, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Family is very important to me and I am particularly looking forward to getting to know you and your families over the next few weeks and months. We have three boys, the youngest of whom is currently studying for his A levels at Bennett School. We also have a beautiful 18 month old granddaughter who is an absolute joy, and a lively Labrador puppy!

The last couple of years have presented unprecedented challenge to all aspects of our lives, with considerable impact on education. My role as Headteacher, will be to ensure that the children at Hever School receive the best possible start to their education and leave us ready to take their role as confident and responsible young people, ready for the challenges and successes of their secondary education and our diverse society beyond. With the support of staff, governors and the parent community, I greatly look forward to leading the school forward on the next stage of its journey.

We would also like to express our thanks to Mrs Gemma Hunter who has been our interim head since June.

Margaret Cooke and Bridget Harris
co chairs of governors

Hever Parish Council

You may have seen the posters and advertising online about Plan 2040 Consultation that is currently taking place. Everyone is encouraged to have their say, as it will help to formulate the plan for the entire district where we live for the coming years up to 2040, including development, infrastructure and protecting our environment. There is a brief version: Short survey response and a full survey form Full survey response together with the full that plan can be found on the website: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/plan2040. I have a hard copy available to view so please do contact me on clerk@hever.org should you wish to view it. The consultation is open until Wednesday 11th January 2023.



Four Elms pond recently had a clean-up. A team of local volunteers spent nearly three hours cutting, raking & clearing up the pond; one volunteer even donned waders and climbed into the pond to clean from the bottom upwards! A generous neighbour saw the working party in the cold and provided tea & coffee and another kindly provided some much needed bacon/sausage rolls. With the communal effort a huge amount was achieved. A wonderful example of community spirit and a pond with flora and fauna that will thrive and be enjoyed, as it should be, by the community.

We have the bulk refuse freighter booked to visit the Parish on Saturday 18th February 2023, see details in the diary on the back page of the Link. Our next Hever Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 12th January 2023 in Markbeech Village Hall at 7.00 pm for Planning and 7.30 pm for Full Council Meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

As usual, please do let us know if there are any areas within the parish that you would like us to focus our attention on.

Happy New Year!

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

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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
Hever Painters, quality decorating service	heverpainters@gmail.com	07530322629
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

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		07434841421
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07434841421
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
Soul Fit	personal training, classes, injury clinic and spa	01732240398

Funeral Services

Alex Jones	funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047

Financial advice

Adam Tyrrell	Wealth Management	07769642590

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		
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 January

Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
1st Jan 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21	Epiphany
8th Jan 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St Peter's Hever	Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17	Epiphany 1 The Baptism of Christ
8th Jan 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17	Epiphany 1 The Baptism of Christ
8th Jan 3pm	Forest Church at Hever churchyard	Epiphany	Epiphany 1
15th Jan 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42	Epiphany 2
15th Jan 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	A new start	Epiphany 2
19th Jan 6pm	Evensong Holy Trinity Markbeech	Psalm 133; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 17:6-25	Week of Prayer of Christian Unity
22nd Jan 8am	Said communion St.Peter's Hever	Romans 12:16-21; Matthew 8:1-13	Epiphany 3
22nd Jan 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	The Wise Men	Epiphany 3
29th Jan 10am	Holy Communion and Patronal Festival at St.Paul's Four Elms	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 9:1-22; Matthew 19:27-30	Epiphany 4

We are relaunching our Family Service at Four Elms on 15th January as 'Four Elms at Four' and hope you'll come along. Bible studies start again on 10th January and successive Mondays at 6.00pm on Zoom and 8.00pm in person continues as does Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details please contact Simon.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help, including text versions of these services or having them read over the phone.

Rector
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

I hope you all have had a joyful, Covid free and hopefully not too indulgent Christmas.

As we go into the New Year perhaps you've made some New Year resolutions. The trouble is keeping them isn't so easy - trying hard doesn't seem to work and, like the Christmas tree, our New Year resolutions are soon consigned to the scrap heap!

Last year Susie and I saw the charming film, 'Living'. It's set in 1950s London with bowler hats and the tea trolley at Fortnums. It stars Bill Nighy as Mr.Williams, a widower and a 'stiffly venerable' bureaucrat who spends his days processing planning applications for the London Council. This all changes when he learns he has terminal cancer. He resolves to add 'colour to his monochrome existence': he skips work, forms a platonic relationship with a former colleague and most importantly champions the efforts of a group of East End mums to build a children's playground on a bomb site. In doing so Williams finds genuine happiness. The film asks the profound question: what makes life meaningful? It seems this is what Williams finally finds – meaning.

An example of putting this into practice is the foodbank movement which is so needed at this time. I pay tribute to all the work done by the Edenbridge foodbank at Rickards Hall as well as many other small acts of kindness in our communities, which bring to both the giver and the recipient joy and meaning. It reminds me of Mother Teresa's words: Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

However, putting this into practice isn't easy. Over 2,500 years ago, the Old Testament prophets recognised that more was needed than just trying hard to keep the Jewish Law. What was needed was a change of heart. The prophet Ezekiel wrote that God says: ' I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you…' (Ezekiel 36:26) This prophecy was fulfilled in the coming of Christ and the sending of his Holy Spirit that we might be changed from the inside out.

The Christian gospel is about making a new start. So, if we are to approach this New Year with the huge challenges we face with hope, let's shake off those post-Christmas blues and resolve to find out how, even in 2023, we can be part of fulfilling this ancient prophecy! I wish you all a very happy and safe New Year

God bless

Simon

Markbeech

Thick snow is muffling the world around me as I write this. My ancient house is not warm and despite log fire and supplementary electric heating I'm wearing a big blanket over my layers of wool. My little dog Milly is snuggling close to keep warm and I am hoping my friends in Kiev have heating at the moment in their much colder city as they endure the dreadful war.

Last night folk trudged through the snow to the Kentish Horse where we sang jolly carols and the children raced out to throw snowballs and put on a show for us watching from the warm, and in a minute I'm off to a Carol rehearsal for the service of 7 Lessons and Carols at Holy Trinity next Sunday evening.

I'll be in Sweden for Christmas itself this year (if strikes and weather allow) and will really miss the traditions at Holy Trinity. After last year's chilly outdoor service, as we shielded ourselves from Covid, the Christmas morning service will be in church and full of the warmth and greetings that our community share. I will probably take an early walk along the chilly seashore where I'm staying in Sweden and say my prayers thinking of Markbeech and my friends in the village.

By the time you read this, of course, Christmas will be over with the tree needles making a mess and everyone thinking of new year resolutions and hoping the rest of the winter will be warm. January tends to be a quiet time in the church but our services continue and you'll find all the details online and elsewhere in the Link. Do come and support us and let us know if anyone is in need of support or visiting. Dark winter days can be depressing and sometimes just sharing a cup of tea can make a difference.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Four Elms

So the winter has arrived. How beautiful the landscape is with a covering of frost. A very low sun and a clear sky may herald very cold weather, but it is still a joy to behold.

St Paul's Church enjoyed a contemporary service with young thespians treading the boards to tell the story of 'Light of the world'. It was a beautiful service – well done everyone and thanks to Cabin Worship who provided music. On the same theme the pupils of Four Elms Primary School illuminated our church with their beautiful advent candles. I hope their parents enjoyed the service as the children had obviously worked very hard(with a bit of help from very dedicated teaching staff!!).

During the winter months we have our "Be our Guests and Enjoy a Cuppa" morning when we open the church as a warm place to sit and chat with friends.

The next date for "Enjoy a cuppa" is Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Finally, of course, we hope that you have enjoyed the variety of Christmas services, the Nativity scenes in the Parishes and the Christmas trees. The all-consuming FIFA world cup progressed, with concerns and criticism and despite the valiant effort by the team England was knocked out in the quarter finals. Enthusiasm for our team, whatever country you support, reaches unprecedented levels but we have to remember it is a game. Gareth Southgate (Manager of England) supported his player Raheem Sterling who returned home to comfort his family after a robbery. His loved ones came first. Perhaps it is a lesson we could take on board this Christmas. It is a time of love, kindness and sharing and hopefully for the years to come as well. We wish all our readers a very happy 2023.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

What a busy time we had in Hever throughout December and Advent! Our Christmas season started off on a high note with Songs of Praise filming around Hever, including St Peter's Church, the School and the nativity crib, alongside Hever Castle and it's beautiful lights. The programme, shown on December 18th, involved many people, not only in front of the cameras but also behind, helping to clean and tidy and making it happen. So a big thank you to all who contributed their time and efforts, and for anyone who missed out, it can still be viewed of iPlayer, so enjoy!

Our various events over Christmas, including the Carol supper, crib service and Hever village Carols, were once again enjoyed by all who attended - and the parish postal service ran without strike action. Now in the quieter month of January, while Hever Castle is closed for its annual rest, St Peter's is also closed outside of services and events. However, do contact me if you would like access.

The Parish lunch will be held as usual on the second Thursday of the month, 12th January, at 12.30 in Hever Village Hall. Please do come along to a warm welcome, a warm space and warm food for a companionable start to the New year.

With warmest wishes for a very happy 2023.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptism
20 November Markbeech
Indiana and Redford Greenish

Funerals
15 November Four Elms
Kathleen Gardiner aged 93
24 November Markbeech
Deirdre Philomena Clark aged 87

The weather was appalling, wind and rain for a couple of days, roads flooded and a dark night. Did it stop Hever Hort members from coming to our AGM? Of course not! We had about 40 people in Hever Village hall for the culmination of our 2022 year, on 16th November. It was the first full programme of events since 2019 and was a chance to celebrate the Spring, Rose and Summer shows. Over the shows 20 cups, bowls and salvers are awarded and this year they were shared by 12 different winners. The final event of the evening is to award the President's trophy to the person who has accumulated the most points over our three shows. Third and second places went to Sue Theobald and Carol Bowern but this year Wendy Izod was pleased to present it to Jane Rosam, with an impressive tally of points. Following the meeting there were snacks and drinks and convivial conversation. So a very successful year, with a total of 88 members, including 16 who joined in 2022.

We also launched our programme and schedule for 2023. In addition to the shows and plant sale, there will be talks on a variety of subjects including, 'A gardener's response to climate change', and 'The story of plants and plant hunting'. There will also be a visit to a local horticultural organisation, hopefully How Green Nurseries. You will be able to find the programme and schedule on the Hever.org website.

The Link publishes the monthly rainfall in our three parishes, and for November the figure in Markbeech is 226mm, three times the level for the previous month. So not a great deal got done in our garden, just winter cutting back and leaf clearing. The broad beans and garlic I planted at the end of October have started shooting and look pretty good. However, with a cold snap likely with overnight frosts, I will put some protective fleece over them, to ensure they are ready for a good start when the weather warms up.



If you are interested in joining the Hever Hort, whose origins go back to 1901, or would like more information, please contact me at doug.bowern@gmail.com, or phone 01342 851307.

Happy gardening for 2023!

Doug Bowern

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	36	79	75	201	
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	39	85.5	58	195	
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	0	82	76	226	

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”

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Copy for the **February** edition should reach us no later than **16 January**

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

January diary

26 Dec	**Boxing Day meet**, Chiddingstone Castle	11am
5 Jan	**Start of outdoor nature play sessions**	
	18 mths to 5 years £5 , Bore Place	
6 Jan	**Gardening club, making a bird box,** Bore Place	10-1pm
7 Jan	**Penshurst Farmers Market**	9.30-12 noon
12 Jan	**Hever Parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
12 Jan	**Hever Parish Council meeting,** Markbeech Village Hall	7.30pm
13 Jan	**Hever Film Club** – 12 Angry Men, Hever Golf Club	7.30pm
4 Feb	**Penshurst Farm**er Market	9.30-12 noon
9 Feb	**Hever Parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
10 Feb	**Hever Film Club** – Foul Play, Hever Golf Club	7.30pm
18 Jan	**Start of Drama Club, Games for Life, Bore Place**	
18 Feb	**Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Four Elms Village Hall	9.15 – 10am
18 Feb	**Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Hever bottle bank	10.15 – 11am
18 Feb	**Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Markbeech Village Hall	11.15 – 12 noon
7 Mar	**Hever Parish Council** meeting, Hever Village Hall	7.30pm
9 Mar	**Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
10 Mar	**Hever Film Club** – The Duke, Hever Golf Club	7.30pm