March 2023

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Cool for cats
- Desert Island Whisks
- Pay up or else!
- The old and fungus...
- Egg hunts
- A great history quiz

...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the March Link

March is a bleary month - lightened by the perky grey wagtails which flit around our manure heap - not all grim grey in fact but with a distinctive yellow under-tail which flashes in the gloom when they fly.


Grey Wagtail

But who am I to talk of nature when I should be paying tribute to the great master of country writing, Ronnie Blythe, who has just died? His most famous work was Akenfield but he also wrote many other books plus a regular column for the Church Times which was compiled into a book to celebrate his 100th birthday.

This is his description of his daily life:
"I write a bit, then wrap up, go out…. come in, type a page or two, read a chapter, listen to a story on the radio, water hyacinths, answer letters and call it a day. For such is the literary life. All go."

There is much to look forward to in March - check out the Weald and Downland museum near Chichester, the Royal Academy in London and our own film club and Horticultural Society show. The Castle have just opened an interesting new exhibition about Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn which is well worth a visit.

Here, there are tentative plans to celebrate the Coronation on 6 May and the King has asked people to volunteer on the bank holiday, 8 May. If you have a project which needs volunteers or you have an idea for one please get in touch.

Joanna Wade

THE LINK

pets of the month

Our two cats, Ziggy and mum Kiara came to us in Feb 2020 from Last Chance animal rescue. Kiara had just had 5 kittens and we fostered all of them for one very chaotic but fun week before the other kittens went off to their new families!

Kiara and Ziggy happily settled into their new lives and quickly trained hubby and I to cater to their every whim and desire - as any self respecting cat owners should.



Kiara loves to be outside but with her short legs and very long fur, especially in her winter coat complete with lions mane, she often returns with twigs and leaves stuck all over her. Ziggy doesn't like the cold and prefers to keep a watchful eye from her cat tree by the window or can be found snoozing curled up on a nice warm bed. Come the spring though, she transforms into a sleek hunter prowling, plotting and scheming.

I would like to be able to tell you all about Kiara and Ziggy's clever tricks but in reality they have barely mastered the catflap, preferring to sit by the door waiting for the on call human to oblige.
Instead I'll tell you about their favourite things to do.

Kiara
1. Stretching out to sleep in the middle of the bed leaving hubby and I clinging to the edges trying not to disturb her
2. Eating treats. Even coming back inside must be rewarded with treats
3. Knocking my jigsaw puzzle off the table



Ziggy
1. Sitting on our laps in the evenings refusing to move long after we've lost all feeling in our legs
2. Catching her toy mouse at 4am and miaowing loudly to wake us up just to make sure we know what a brilliant hunter she is
3. Knocking my jigsaw puzzle off the table

We adore our cats and honestly, there is no better definition of contentment than a purring cat on your lap and a snoozing cat on your bed. And who needs a jigsaw puzzle with no missing pieces anyway?

Jan Ross

what we do

We are Martin and Sarah Bissex and have lived in Hever for sixteen years. We have our own architectural metalwork company based in Lingfield. We formed our business in 1998, so 2023 will be our 25th anniversary.

Martin learnt the trade from his father and upon leaving school joined his company in 1981. Forty-two years later and his enthusiasm and enjoyment of metalworking has not diminished. Sarah worked for NatWest bank and left to join Martin in the business in 2001.

Working with your hands and creating bespoke metal items is very rewarding and it is amazing to see the start and then to finish the process. We always invite and encourage our customers to visit the workshop and see their metalwork being fabricated. This gives them an insight into how their project actually progresses to the finished article and gives them much enjoyment in being allowed 'behind the scenes'.

Our usual work consists of manufacturing gates, railings, handrails and staircases in mild steel. Sometimes we receive unusual requests for items such as:

- Manufacturing the underframe skirt for a Chelsea Flower Show promotional dress; there is a photograph of this on our website under the gallery section.
- Building a mud brick forming machine press for Africa to help the customer make his own bricks for a housing project.
- An Indian wedding Mandap which consists of a four-way arch manufactured from round hollow tube with decorative metal leaves welded on for decoration. It was so tall and wide we had to take all of the pieces outside to erect it. This was then transported by our customer to London Hilton Hotel.
- A bespoke wine room display and storage system manufactured from 5mm diameter rods, cut and welded to make the shelving. Sarah had to cut overall 1km of this rod into the correct lengths and Martin welded them together. A real team effort.

The majority of our customers are long term, often starting with recommendations from previous customers. Also, being in the modern age of technology, our website features our completed projects and Blogspot and features raw metal to finished project articles to show how it all happens. Our website is www.mandsmetalcraft.co.uk. Our hobbies include gardening for wildlife, attending car and traction engine steam shows, birdwatching and volunteering at Bough Beech Centre which is managed by Bore Place.



village screen film club 2022/23 at Hever Castle golf club

Friday 10 March -
The Duke starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. This acclaimed comedy/ drama from 2020 is based on the true story of the theft of Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in 1961 – by a most unlikely modern day Robin Hood.



The film (less than two hours long) starts at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval. Tickets are a suggested donation of £3 for the film or £16.50 to include the meal - scampi and chips or vegetarian quiche. You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@gmail.com - please book by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat.

You can buy tickets at the door if you are not eating. Please bring cash (the exact cash if possible).

Desert Island whisks

- which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

Margaret Bates has two vying for the top place, a bread knife and her vegetable peeler. The bread knife was a wedding present when she married in 1952. It has had a long life and is going a bit blunt but she still loves it and uses it every day. Many years ago it was on the verge of being scrapped when the handle broke but Margaret's clever husband Dennis made a new one and saved it! So much history envelops us in our kitchens every day.
The yellow peeler is an essential instrument, no other will do and it shows the signs of wear, moulding itself into the perfect fit for Margaret's hand over the years - to lose it would be a disaster. And any other type of peeler would be unconscionable.



I didn't make her choose between them, thus breaking the rules of the game, but in a good cause

Joanna Wade

Please let us know about your favourite at thelink@hever.org



Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have already paid their Link subscription for 2023 or who have standing orders/arrangements in place to pay later in the year. If you haven't, please pay now. We had to chase up a lot of subs last year, please don't wait to be chased again. If you aren't sure what arrangements you have in place please contact Bridget by phone or email, contact and payment details on page 25. The annual sub is unchanged at a modest £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at hever.org BUT please let us know.

Many thanks

RICHARD BENNETT

Everybody in the Benefice seems to know Richard and following his indisposition during and after Christmas, we are pleased to say that he is on the mend. He wanted to thank everyone who has been concerned for him. He has asked that the Link might print his thank you letter.

Dear All,
Just a little note to say thank you to all the kind people who either rang, called at my front door (some with food), sent cards or prayed for me while I have not been very well.

Thank you all so much and love to you all

Richard B

Rediscovering Hever Castle

A Tale of Two Hevers

In January 2023, Hever Castle announced that it had been working for several years on a project to discover more about the history of the castle and the many people who had lived between its striking, crenellated walls. Working with the architectural historian, Professor Simon Thurley, this project aimed to confirm when Hever Castle was built, by whom, and how it had evolved.

The task was unenviable, considering how contradictory previous findings had been. However, his groundbreaking research has uncovered a plethora of hitherto unaccounted-for documentary evidence and given us the most comprehensive understanding of Hever Castle's history to date. Most excitingly for the village, Thurley has been able to reassert not only the importance of Hever Castle but also the significance of the manor that shared so much of its history: Hever Brocas.

Tradition had long been that William de Hever had built Hever Castle in the early 1270s, an inference drawn from a license to crenellate a manor at Hever granted by King Henry III on 17th January 1271. However, King Richard II issued a second license to fortify some 112 years later, in 1383. This second license had long been a thorn in the side of historians who claimed that both licenses applied to Hever Castle when John Goodall, Anthony Emery, and Nicolaus Pevsner all argued that, stylistically, it dated to the latter of these two dates. Through meticulous archival research, Thurley concluded that Hever Castle was built in 1383.

Hever Brocas

The key to disentangling the two manors of Hever was a prominent landowner named Stephen de Pencester, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, for thirty-two years between 1267-1299. Through examining land ownership, Thurley could assert that the manor of Hever Brocas, located less than a mile from the castle, had descended from de Pencester and that it was Brocas that had been granted a license to crenellate in 1271. De Pencester had died without a male heir, and his manor at Hever passed to John de Lynchpole, who granted it to Ralph de Hever and his wife, Hawise. Their son, Thomas, was given free warren at Hever in 1331. Hever Brocas passed through Thomas' daughter, Margaret, to John Brocas, the owner in 1378. When John died without issue, his lands passed to Joan: a descendant of Ralph de Hever. Joan married Nicolas Weston, and their manor was granted to Sir Reynold de Cobham. Upon Reynold's estate inheritance, this manor was first called 'Hever Brocas'.

Hever Cobham

The lands where Hever Castle (originally named Hever Cobham) was built were also owned by Stephen de Pencester, and they passed through another scion of the Cobham family. Stephen's daughter, Joan, had inherited her mother's dower lands which included lands at Hever. Joan had married Henry Cobham of Randall, and their son, Stephen de Cobham, baron of Rundall (d.1322), held 'land, a message, and rents at Hever'. Thurley traced these lands through Stephen's son, John (d.1362); his son Thomas (d.1393-4); and thence to Thomas' brother, John de Cobham of Devonshire. Accordingly, he was granted a license to crenellate 'Hever Cobham' in 1383.

de Hever

The de Hevers were undoubtedly a part of this story. Thurley established that the de Hevers had a manor at Hever by 1200 and that an earlier William de Hever, son of Walter, had granted the Church of St Peter to Combwell Abbey. Williams's heirs confirmed this grant in 1220. Later, in 1268, the Priory presented another Walter de Hever (son of Lord Ralph de Hever) with the church's living. Walter's son, William, became a prominent figure, being a custodian of both Canterbury and Arundel Castle. It is likely Ralph de Hever, who inherited Hever Brocas, was a relation of William. Where the original manor that the de Hever family occupied from 1200 was located remains, for now, a mystery. It is a challenge, however, that the curatorial team of Hever remains determined to solve.

Over the coming years, we will be re-curating Hever Castle so that it can better encompass the thrilling findings of Professor Thurley. From showcasing original timbers dating to 1383 to conveying a richer understanding of the three (perhaps four!) Tudor monarchs who owned the castle, we will shine a new light onto the castle's importance to history. In doing so, we will also highlight the importance of the village of Hever's place in history.



Dr Owen Emmerson

(From left to right): Professor Simon Thurley, Dr Owen Emmerson (Hever Castle Historian & Assistant Curator, Alison Palmer (Hever's Curator), Kate McCaffrey (Hever's Assistant Curator), and Duncan Leslie (Hever's Chief Executive). © Hever Castle and Gardens.

SATURDAY 11th March



COME AND JOIN THE ANNUAL LITTER PICK

FOUR ELMS VILLAGE HALL 9.30 AM
HEVER VILLAGE HALL 9.30 AM
MARKBEECH VILLAGE 1.00 PM

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.

Come and join the community litter pick, excellent fun, free refreshments and great exercise.
If possible, please bring own gloves and wear sturdy clothing and footwear. All other equipment provided.

clickfibre.org
hever.org
FACEBOOK – Hever Parish Council





The Greyhound Hever

Licensed boutique restaurant with en suite guest rooms, The Greyhound at Hever no longer runs as a public house. We have re-modelled the interior to incorporate a cosy boutique style a la carte restaurant and luxury guest rooms. We only cater for diners on a pre-booked table – only system.

Further information can be found on our website www.greyhoundhever.co.uk

Veteran trees and their fantastic fungi

I was puzzled and impressed to see Professor Lynne Boddy on Winterwatch studiously boring into healthy young trees to insert a rotting agent which would hasten their transformation into veteran trees.

A veteran tree is an old, though not necessarily ancient, tree, which is beginning to decline. The problem is that there are not enough veteran trees around because there has not been consistent planting across the decades, and so she needs to create a few more.

These trees, with their nooks and crannies, are brilliant for nesting and for bugs of all kinds, hedgehogs hide in their shelter - and fungi thrive. There are around 15,000 species of fungi in the UK, all working hard to release nutrients into the soil and provide water for their hosts. The professor says that they are quite simply the keystone of life in our ecosystem.

A common variety of bracket fungus which grows on both living and dead trees is the Turkeytail. At first sight it is quite beige but look closely and you will see a gentle rainbow. I came across the King Alfred's cake fungus on a dead tree recently. This is named for its similarity to the famous burnt cake - but it has also been used as tinder, a natural fire lighter, for thousands of years.

And then there are the fungi which look as if an artist has wrapped the dying tree with a beautiful installation - here it is, possibly, Turkeytail again,



Turkeytail fungus

this time looking rather subtle. But many can be suppurating red or sickly yellow (Chicken of the woods). Vital but sometimes sinister.

The bottom line, according to the professor, is that death is the beginning of life. Love your dead trees, don't clear them away - and let the beasts, bugs and fungi thrive!

Joanna Wade





King Alfred's cakes

EASTER EGG HUNT







SATURDAY 8 APRIL

3.30 PM

ST PETER'S HEVER

Children great and small are welcome to the hunt in St Peter's churchyard (inside the church if wet).... with pebble painting and games - and coffee and cake for the adults!

The hunt is sponsored by St Peter's church and Hever Residents Association - entry is free with a collection for the Earthquake appeal.

Hever Hort

Clematis through the ages - a talk by Everett Leeds

Wednesday, 15th March,
8pm Hever Village Hall

All welcome
please note change to programme



The Waterside Bar & Restaurant



The Waterside Bar & Restaurant Located at Hever Castle Golf and Wellbeing and open to all. We have lots of exciting events coming up or you can pop in for breakfast, brunch, lunch and drinks. Head to our website for menus and more: www.hevercastle.co.uk/golf/dining-at-the-waterside/

Mother's Day Lunch – Sunday 19 March Treat Mum to lunch this Mother's Day. Bookings taken between 12 noon and 4pm, every Mum receives a glass of prosecco! 2 courses – £24, 3 courses – £30.

Curry Night At The Waterside - Friday 17 March Menu to suit all tastes and spices. Your meal will be served to you at your table but with a 'buffet feel', our Chefs will prepare a selection of the dishes for each guest. Just £16.95 per person.

Low & No Alcohol Drinks We have increased our range of Low and No alcohol drinks, perfect for those times when you are the designated driver, or for your own health and well-being choices.

Six Nations Rugby – Happy Hour Drinks & Burger Specials. All Six Nations Matches will be shown in the Waterside and Happy Hour Drinks prices on draught beers and wines-by-the-glass will apply during all matches. Contact us to book T: 01732 701010 | E: waterside@hevercastle.co.uk



Easter is coming up and we are looking to create a new Easter Card for our church. So clean your brushes, sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw, paint or create a collage, then take a picture of it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.

We are looking for a card that will show the true meaning of Easter, the love of Jesus and His rising from the tomb. We'll select the best creation and we'll use it to print our 2023 Easter card, which will go out into our parish. The winner will receive a real chocolate Easter egg from us.

The deadline for submitting your creations is Sunday 12th March at midnight!

Get creative!

Saturday 25th March 7.30pm

Edenbridge WI Hall

The Great History Quiz

WHO?

Where?

WHAT?



WHY?

HOW?

WHEN?

£13.50 per person

or £95 per table (max 8 people)

If you want to come but cannot make up a full team,
let us know and we will put you on a table with others.

Price includes full buffet supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

You don't need to be a history expert to join in.
The questions will be at varied levels, on varied topics, and ***fun***!

Evening includes a raffle with great prizes.

To book a team or individual ticket, contact **curator@evmt.org.uk**
or register in person at the museum, by Sat 18th March.

All proceeds towards the upkeep and development of the Eden Valley Museum

news from Four Elms primary

It has been a very busy month at Four Elms Primary School. We have taken part in a lot of sporting tournaments and races. It was a pleasure to take part in a cross-country race with Hever Primary School in January and it was one of the first that our key stage 1 children attended. We won the inter-federation netball tournament and came second in the football tournament.

We had the opportunity to take part in the 'Young Voices' concert at the 02. Our children sang their hearts out and had a wonderful time joining hundreds of other schools to form the biggest children's choir in the UK. It was an incredible event and we had the opportunity to watch other acts including dancers and beatboxers. We even accompanied Heather Small during a song.



Within our learning experiences, pupils in Class Four have been busy learning about the Mayans. As part of the experience, the pupils ground cocoa nibs to make the hot chocolate and were feeling incredibly hopeful that it would taste as good as it smelt. Sadly, this wasn't the case!

Class Three have also been developing their expertise within History and their learning experience has been focused on the Romans. They recently visited Lullingstone Roman Villa which gave them the perfect opportunity to find out as much as they could about the Romans through the use of experts.

Class Two have recently finished creating an exercise video for their healthy living experience and Class One have been celebrating diversity in their 'All about me' experience. With 'Book Week' and Easter approaching, the children will have even more to enjoy this coming term.

Jess Fermor
Four Elms Head of School

news from Hever primary

Can you help?
Whilst it is hard to believe that I have already completed my first term at Hever School, I am also surprised at how quickly it is has felt like 'home'. I have received such a warm welcome from the whole school community and it has been lovely getting to know everyone, especially the children. At the start of term, we spent time in our daily Worship focusing on our school value of respect; we thought about how we can live our values through the way we learn and play together and

how to look after our ourselves, each other and our environment and we are working together to achieve this.

My vision for Hever Primary is to create a truly inclusive learning environment, where wellbeing and high standards of academic achievement go hand in hand. Our focus in school is on providing rich learning opportunities to ensure high levels of pupil progress and engagement across the curriculum. One of the benefits of our beautiful location is our outstanding Forest School and we have exciting projects underway to further develop our outdoor provision. One group of parents is working collaboratively with our School Council, to plan and provide additional adventurous equipment to our outdoor play areas which will develop collaboration and resilience. Another group is reviving our kitchen garden and will be working with groups of children to plan, plant and nurture a range of produce, providing opportunities to develop a wide range of knowledge and life skills.

I share the commitment of governors and staff to ensure that Hever School is at the heart of our wider community. I am also keen to harness the potential in our local surroundings to enhance our children's learning and I read with interest, the variety of contributions to The Link. I am hoping that, moving forward, we will be able to draw on local knowledge and expertise to enrich the children's learning experiences.

If you would like to see the range of opportunities we can offer your child, please contact the school office to arrange a visit (office@hever.kent.sch.uk). If you have skills or talents you would like to share with us, or simply have a little free time and would like to get involved in supporting our school, we would also love to hear from you.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher Hever CEP School



Hever Parish Council

In last month's article I reported on my first year in role as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and am pleased to now look forward to what the coming year has in store:

- Precept 2023-2024 - First, with some careful budgeting, Hever Parish Council has kept Precept levels the same as last year.
- Bulk Refuse Collections - These, paid for by HPC, are continuing with four dates throughout the year.
- Coronation celebrations for the community – plans are afoot so please watch this space!
- HPC Meetings - Dates for all the HPC meetings are on the website. The Annual Parish Assembly, always well attended by the community, will take place on Thursday 25th May in Markbeech Village Hall.
- Parish Council Elections - This is elections year. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Councillor, please visit https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections . To vote all voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations. Please see the hever.org website for more information.
- Drainage Issues - Despite raising the issue with KCC over past months, with the volume they are dealing with across the county our local highways drainage issues had not been attended to. Thanks to local residents, John Pearce & Terry Berk, who kindly stepped in and did a sterling job clearing ditches and drains in Four Elms that were preventing water from flowing away. Their work has meant water is now running freely, from the surrounding higher ground, along the road drains, then into the ditch on the verge, just as intended.
- Four Elms Crossroads – Unfortunately, there have been ongoing accidents at the crossroads. The Councillors and I are in discussions with KCC Highways as to how safety can be improved at the junction.
- Four Elms Pond – following damage at the caused by an accident, I am pleased to say that repairs are now underway. In the meantime, the bench is now available for use having been kindly repaired by Causeway Joinery.
- Time to get walking again! With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, The website https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/kent has loads of walks of varying lengths and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, so everyone can find a walk to enjoy.
- Litter Pick - Our community Litter Pick is on Saturday 11th March see the advert on page 8.

If there are any issues you would like us to focus our attention on, please do let me know or speak to one of our Councillors.

As always, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings – next on 7 March at 7.30 Hever Village Hall.

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

business directory

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

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
Nadia Mulder art for interiors, murals, paintings etc		07960 610018
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

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

Funeral Services and Burial Grounds

Alex Jones funeral directors & monumental masons		01732 860047
Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground on the Kent/Surrey border		07802 630012

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

Church in March

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/theme	Sunday
5th Mar 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17	2nd in Lent
5th Mar 6pm	Healing service at St.Peter's Hever	Healing	2nd in Lent
12th Mar 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St Peter's Hever	Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42	3rd in Lent
12th Mar 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42	3rd in Lent
12th Mar 3pm	Forest church St.Peter's Hever churchyard	The Cross	3rd in Lent
19th Mar 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	1 Samuel 1:20-28; John 19:25b-27	4th in Lent & Mothering Sunday
19th Mar 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Mothering Sunday	4th in Lent
26th Mar 8am	Said communion St.Peter's Hever	Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:1-54	5th in Lent
26th Mar 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	The Cross	5th in Lent

For the five Mondays in Lent ending on 27th March we are running 'the Lectio Course' see https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-course/ meeting in person, including a meal. Our Zoom Evening Prayer continues on Thursdays at 6pm. If you are interested in joining either of these, please contact Simon. Please also consider coming to our healing service at St.Peter's on 5th March, to be led by Revd.Sheila Perkins, when we will be saying prayers for healing in its broadest sense: physical, emotional and spiritual. It is also an opportunity to pray for those we love who are unwell.

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

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 read an article recently in the Times, which suggested we British need to learn to brag better in order to get on at work. This is from Meredith Fineman's book: 'Brag better – master the art of self-promotion' in which she says: The ideal employee should be able to brag with the confidence of Muhammad Ali but the grace of Darcey Bussell. So, has the old Christian virtue of humility had its day? Isn't humility low self-esteem and doesn't that lead to a raft of mental health issues?

C S Lewis summed it up well when he said: Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Indeed, to counter Fineman, there is plenty of literature on leadership extolling the virtues of humility. John Adair in his book 'Great Leaders' writes this 'We are not accustomed to thinking of leaders as servants. We tend to emphasise position rather than responsibility. Leaders in our society are paid more than others…leadership stands for power and dominance over others. That is not unlike the pattern of leadership that Jesus saw…in his day…Jesus… altered for all time the moral climate of leadership.'

St.Paul quotes an ancient Christian hymn when he urges us to have the same mindset as Christ, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant…And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8).

If we think about it, the leaders we really respect and admire are often the most humble. Our dear late Queen was described as 'the epitome of humility and service' built on her strong and consistent Christian faith. As we look forward to the coronation of our King on 6th May, we are reminded that this takes place in the form of a service of Christian worship. During the service, and hopefully away from the TV cameras, the King will be stripped of his regalia and anointed by the Archbishop. It is a sign that he is a servant under God – the servant King, who serves a greater King.

This Lent, let's reflect on these words of Christ: whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant…For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43 & 45)

God bless

Simon



Markbeech

People may well feel jaded when thinking about our government and the state of politics in Britain, but we live in a democracy and must be sure to maintain our freedoms. Our little Parish is of course a democracy too and all those in the village have a right to be on the electoral roll and to be involved in the decisions about who runs Holy Trinity Church.

When I first lived here the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was a well attended event and the election of members of the Parish Church Council, of the Churchwardens, the treasurer, chairman, secretary etc a serious activity endorsed by a wide selection of the community. We would love that community involvement to return. Not everyone has time or commitment to serve on the PCC but attending this one meeting to endorse the selection of those who do, is important, and gives an insight into the work that is done to make sure the doors of our church keep opening for not only services of worship, but also for all weddings, baptisms and funerals that are provided for the wider community.

Please don't miss this year's APCM at Markbeech Village Hall on March 30th at 7.30. All are very welcome and there will even be a glass of wine to welcome you!

For me a great sadness of this year's meeting will be that Nicki Talbot is resigning as churchwarden after more than 10 years. I joined her as the other churchwarden, taking the job on from my husband Andro after he died. But Nicki has always been the important one, coming up with interesting and exciting plans, but also keeping on top of the paperwork and remembering what needs to be done. She'll still be around helping but she is stepping down from that very active role that she has played so well and I will miss her dreadfully.

We have lots of other things happening in March, as we go through Lent in the lead up to Easter. All are detailed elsewhere in the magazine and on the website so please look them up and join us as often as you can. We are always happy to welcome new visitors and families to our congregation and activities, please contact me if you need more information.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Hever

Following the earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey, it was decided to donate all the money from this month's parish lunch to the DEC appeal. We managed to double the total by donating it through The Big Give, a match-funding charity. We are able to donate £340 towards this appeal, a truly superb sum.

From the register

Funerals

27 February at Hever
Valerie Tanner

Susie Braid organised a flower arranging demonstration which was well attended and we thank Claire Denison-Pender for giving up her time to do this.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 9th March 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

Four Elms

It would be remiss not to offer our prayers and condolences to the people of Turkey and Syria after the catastrophic earthquake. The conflict in Ukraine moves into its second year with no prospect of a peaceful conclusion. It is difficult not to feel overburdened with dreadful news, accompanied by tragic pictures of the victims of disaster.

As we move into Lent it is a time of reflection and contemplation. The dark days during the Lenten period are followed by light and hope and surely we should carry this hope with us. For the world and for ourselves.

So, let's be positive. Despite cold days the sun shines and the beautiful early spring bulbs, especially snowdrops, are a wonderful sign of the coming springtime. The days are lengthening, sunset is now around 5pm and at the end of this month the clocks "spring forward".

Our "Enjoy a cuppa" here in St Paul's has proved popular and we will continue serving a cuppa on the second Tuesday of the month for the foreseeable future. Next date is 14th March, opened from 10.45am. Everybody is very welcome to call in.

A note for your diary. St. Paul's Church APCM will take place Tuesday 7th March at 7pm in the Parish Rooms. Do please join us. Everyone is welcome if you have any interest in our beautiful church and its ministry. The Annual Review and Financial Statement will be available for reading at the end of February. It will be on the church notice board, inside the church. Do read it to see our activities during 2022.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden



gardening

Saturday 1st April is not only April Fool's Day but also the Hever Horticultural Society's Spring Show held in Hever Village Hall.

So now we are in the season of Spring and soon the daylight will be longer and we will be able to tend our gardens until late. Then roll into bed exhausted! But not yet, a few more months to go! We can look forward to plants and trees coming back to life after having had their roots immersed in cold, wet soil and having the blossom torn by the winds. Isn't Nature miraculous? How insects, animals and plants hibernate and know when to come to 'life' when the weather is less brutal. We then see small green leaves appear and start to take over and then the glorious blossom. What perfect colours. It is amazing how even the smallest of bulbs produce a lovely flower of perfect size and colour. How many of us really appreciate what nature is achieving deep underground.



Now is the time to think about an improvements in the layout of your garden. Should there be a new bush in that corner or make the patio more colourful with a theme of colour. Whatever you decide to do enjoy creating! Patio pots may need a little TLC after the winter weather. Just use a damp cloth with a little detergent to clean the outside of your containers and then rinse off the soap. I have found having a gravel area in my garden is a great asset, except weed seedlings appear from nowhere. Just pull them out – easier now we have had rain – and then rake the gravel level to enhance the appearance of your container display

It won't be too long before we see golden daffodils and bluebells in some fields and gardens. Not sure in my case. As I write this there are still a good number of daffodil bulbs in a paper carrier bag waiting to be planted! They will certainly be "late developers" By now I am sure you have a list of 'must have' plants to enhance your garden. Amazing how we can find space for just a few extra.

The Spring Show is a highlight in the Horticultural Society's calendar. It is wonderful to see so many different types of daffodils being shown. The hall is so colourful and the scent far better than any expensive exotic perfume on sale in the shops! Hopefully you will have to time to visit and enjoy what can be achieved in our 'cottage gardens'. Enjoy gardening in this glorious season when, hopefully, it will be warm enough to discard the thermals.

I wish you a happy and successful Spring season.

Jan Tolfree

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					FOUR ELMS							
2021	134	46	30	6	56	79	45	54	41	121	21	78
2022	22	55	27	7	58	12	7	36	79	75	201	86
2023	60											
					HEVER							
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	80
2023	80											
					MARKBEECH							
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	114
2023	90											

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
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Clerk@hever.org”

The Link Team

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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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

Copy for the **April** edition should reach us no later than **15 March** 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

March diary

Until 10 November	**Exhibition: Catherine and Anne: Queens, Rivals, Mothers**, Hever Castle	
3 Mar	**Wildlife gardening club** – Birds and Spring, Bore Place	10-1pm
7 Mar	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever Village Hall	7.30pm
7 Mar	**St Paul's Church APCM,** Four Elms Parish Rooms	7pm
9 Mar	**Hever Parish lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
10 Mar	**Hever Film Club – The Duke,** Hever Golf Club	7.30pm
11 Mar	**Community Litter pick**, Four Elms Village Hall	9.30am
11 Mar	**Community Litter pick,** Hever Village Hall	9.30am
11 Mar	**Foraging Walk**, Bore Place, adults £40	10-1pm
11 Mar	**Community Litter pick,** Markbeech Village Hall	1pm
12 Mar	**Penshurst Point to Point,** Bookers Farm, Chiddingstone Hoath	
13 Mar	**Hever Festival** booking office opens www.heverfestival.co.uk	
14 Mar	**Enjoy a Cuppa** St Paul's Four Elms,	from 10.45am
15 Mar	**Hever Hort talk by Everett Leeds**, Clematis through the ages, Hever Village Hall	8pm
22 Mar	**Drama Club** – Games for Life, free for all, Bore Place	
24 Mar	**Bat Walk,** Bore Place adult £9 child £7,	6 – 7.30pm
25 Mar	Eden Valley Museum **Great History Quiz**, Edenbridge WI Hall	7.30pm
30 Mar	**Holy Trinity Church APCM,** Markbeech Village Hall	7.30pm
1 Apr	**Hever Hort Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall	2 – 4pm
1 Apr	**Penshurst Point to Point**, Bookers Farm, Chiddingstone Hoath	
8 Apr	**Easter Egg hunt**, St Peter's churchyard Hever	3.30pm
13 Apr	**Hever Parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
22 April	**Chamber music concert**, Edenbridge Parish Church	7 pm
13 May	**Hever Hort Plant Sale,** Hever Village Hall	10am
16 May	**Hever Parish Council AGM,** Four Elms Village Hall	7pm