April 2023

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Richard Bennett local treasure
- Hever village hall as never before
- Easter fun
- A basin full of memories
- A new gardener on the block

...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the April Link

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night...

Thus wrote WH Davies, reminding me of our heroic Link delivery team who cover the parish once a month, rain or shine. Thanks to you all. The team has discovered the quirks of many letterboxes on their travels; some tricky to navigate and others a joy. Here is their "letterbox of the year "! Will and Lisa Cowell's was nominated by Sue Hart, close to the road, a good size, the flap doesn't pinch or drop on your fingers and is clearly labelled with the house name. Congratulations!

Another thing to celebrate is the progress of the new health centre in Edenbridge which held its "topping off" ceremony in February. It is due to open in the autumn consisting of the GP surgery, social prescribing and a wider range of outpatient clinics and children's services.

And finally... the coronation! On 6 May Hever Parish Council and Hever Residents Association are celebrating with a live screening in the Festival Theatre. The theatre is open air in the Castle grounds, with covered seating for about 400 people and space on seats and on the grass for another 500 or so. Tickets may sell fast so don't delay, see the advert on page 6.



Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org

Stop Press: there is a new parking provider at Hever station and a price rise to £3.50 per day.

pet of the month

Road well travelled

Ozzy goes by many names. Fluffy, Puppy and Oz Boz. He is a well-travelled dog. We got Ozzy whilst living in Botswana after finding a litter of Westie puppies at a breeders in Pretoria, South Africa. Ozzy made the journey up to Gaborone in Botswana where he lived for two years. He loved chasing the Vervet Monkeys that regularly trooped through the trees in the garden.

Ozzy then embarked on his second great adventure, travelling to the UK via Cape Town. When he arrived in the UK the temperature had changed from 40 degrees C to the first snow of winter. He loved his first snow day and was soon rolling around and trying to catch snowflakes.





Ozzy loves going for walks and has enjoyed many walks in the Lake District on family holidays. On his walks he is constantly on the lookout for squirrels and shows a great turn of speed when he sees one, which is why he is kept on the lead on his morning walks.

Ozzy loves cuddles, soft toys, chasing birds and barking at people walking in the fields. But don't try to move him from his spot on the sofa, he will be very grumpy!

Niamh Fitzgerald

desert Island whisks

Which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

One of my favourite kitchen implements is my humble spatula "WOW" I can hear you gasp in amazement (I know! I do need to get out more).

It is a very useful piece of kitchen kit and I would be utterly lost without it. They do come in different designs, shapes, sizes and in different types of material but my preference is plastic, it is rigid enough to allow pressure and control but has the flexibility that allows you to have a good scrape out in those hard to get at places in different jars, tins, and basins. It is very good at getting all the chocolate cake mixture out of the basin - much to the disappointment of my grandchildren who are waiting with their spoons and fingers to wipe the basin clean. Ok, I am not that mean, I usually leave some in the basin for them to lick clean, perhaps I should use the spatula to wipe the chocolate off their faces. What good idea!

Next, full steam ahead as my 70 year old 4pt china pudding basin is bubbling away in the steamer cooking a bacon pudding - yummy! This basin has been well used and loved; in the antique world they would say it has patina with its cracks and discolouration - alas worthless in monetary value but priceless to me.

The basin was my mum's and my sister Margery gave it to mum when she came home on leave from the army 70 years ago. A large basin was a must for my big family of 4 girls and 7 boys with hungry mouths and hollow legs to feed. Steamed meat and vegetable puddings were the order of the day, cheap and good fillers for those hungry tummies - and they tasted really good.

I often wonder how many steamed puds, cake and pastry mixtures and numerous other recipes, mixtures and concoctions the basin has played a part in creating over the years, if it could only talk.

Teresa Agate



Profile: Richard Bennett, Four Elms man and boy

Richard, Churchwarden of St Paul's Four Elms, grass cutter, fencing contractor and general good egg was born at White Post Cottage on the corner of Mapleton Road in December 1946.

He attended Four Elms County School, as the primary school was then called, and as an eight your old solemnly recorded in his autobiography "My Story" "in the house we have seven chairs, a wireless and an organ..."

Both Richard's father and grandfather were born and bred in Four Elms. His mother had moved there from Frant when her father died in WWI to a job at Holmwood as the silver maid, a housemaid entrusted to clean the silver. Her employer, Dr Whitehouse, was a coroner and the family transferred to their London house for two months every year whilst Harrods arrived to decorate two rooms. We do not know how many years it took to paint the whole of the house! Grandmother was the proud bearer of the Mother's Union banner at church and she always helped with the Sunday church teas. Young Richard was in the choir and remembers that the church was always full so that the better off families, including the Williamses at Boons Park, had their own named pews, disapproving rather if an intruder sat in the wrong place. There was also an active chapel where his grandad played the organ.

Richard's parents were caretakers of the village hall and his father became caretaker of Mapleton House where Richard and his brother David grew up. The boys were lucky to meet the Penman family at Oak House Farm just down the road, Ant was a farmer with Barbara who was also a keen local historian. Richard remembers the joy of being allowed to play all over the farm with no regard for health and safety.

David left school to an engineering apprenticeship at Testers and when Richard's time came he didn't doubt for a minute that he would go to Oak House Farm. So on his 15th birthday, as soon as he was legally allowed to work, he walked up Mapleton Road to Ant - who was expecting him. Ant had decided to expand his herd and Richard was to help the other cow man, Eddie Mitchell, who was such an expert that the Germans had him milk their cows when he was a prisoner of war. There was no need for him to go to college - by the time Eddie retired he was milking 90 cows solo. With Richard's help Ant also farmed pigs and then sheep, in partnership with Holmwood as his sister had married Martin Whitehouse. After Oak House

Farm wound down and the Penmans retired Richard worked in Hartfield on huge tractors doing land drainage work and then he started his own business in 1985. He didn't look back, and now mows the grass at 43 places, including all three churches in the parish. He is always careful with the little grave of a child evacuee, who drowned in the Castle moat, outside the east window of Hever church. Her brother has just been buried next to her.



Richard milking 1970

Now 76 and thinking of cutting down on the fencing and hedge laying work a bit, Richard is a little nostalgic about the Four Elms now gone. There were lots of clubs including darts in the pub where he played for the British Legion team for many years, with trophies to prove it. As to shops - Mr Browning sold groceries opposite the pub, Allmans had their butcher's shop and on the crossroads Hanns stores sold groceries and hardware. Heading towards Edenbridge, there was the post office, the garage run by Jack Mitchell and Smith's funeral directors and timber yard, coffins being a sideline of timber production. In their heyday there were Bennetts everywhere in the village - Uncle George helped farm turkeys for the Greenaways and had three kids; one, Henry, was a great cricketer. But it was time to leave, and Richard and his widowed mother moved to Edenbridge in 1989 where he was active in the Edenbridge Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society whose shows used to fill two halls with exhibits in the primary school.

Still very close to Four Elms, Richard became a Churchwarden 2018 where he carefully tends his family's many graves. I asked him if running his own business was hard and he was mystified, he never worries he says. Generous with his time to a fault, he is indeed a good example of how if you treat your customers well, they will reciprocate - he only remembers one potential bad debt, a man who after a few bounced cheques paid up cash when Richard started taking down the fence he had recently erected. The bank was then asked to check to see if the large notes handed over were genuine

Joanna Wade

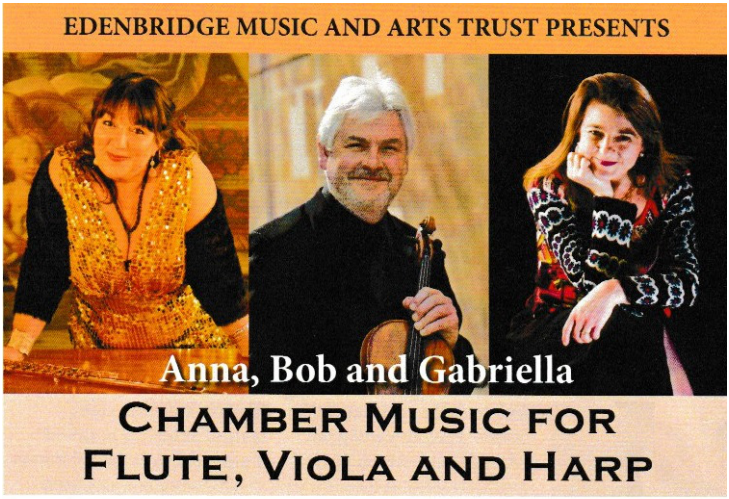
All residents of Hever, Four Elms and Markbeech are welcome to a live screening of the coronation of King Charles III at the open air Festival Theatre in the grounds of Hever Castle on 6th May 2023

Entry by pre-booked ticket only (limited to 5 per applicant): £2 per adult, children under 16 free, from boxoffice@heverfestival.co.uk or ring 07379 488 477

Doors open one hour before the ceremony begins. Bring a picnic or buy light refreshments in the grounds

With thanks to Hever Residents Association, Hever Parish Council, Hever Castle and Hever Festival Theatre

The Coronation



Debussy, Bax, Prokofiev and Piazzolla

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 7pm
Edenbridge Parish Church, SS Peter & Paul

Tickets: £15.00, available from: Lennox Cato, 1 the Square, Church Street, Edenbridge, on the door or via the website edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk

volunteering makes a difference

Volunteering has played a big part in our community lives over the years from First Aid volunteers at events and volunteer driving, to helping out in local village groups and societies. Volunteering is a selfless way of supporting your community. It can give a sense of purpose, enable you to meet new friends, teach you new skills or you can share your expertise and knowledge with other volunteers. It can improve your self-esteem and bring new interests into your life. Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

The concept and celebration of volunteering will be a big part of the Coronation celebrations with the whole of Bank Holiday Monday dedicated to the “Big Help Out” event. There are many such opportunities within the Parish of Hever and its three villages to offer your time and skills to, from being on a local group’s committee, to helping at a local fundraising event, from washing up at an event, to helping at the village litter picks.

As time moves on, people move away or wish to step back after long periods of volunteering and we need new people to step forward and make themselves known so that we can spread the load for those who already doing several volunteer jobs. Different people have different amounts of time to spare but the results of local volunteering make our villages a much more pleasant place to live for which we are very grateful.

Mandy Yarnold



Rubbish and recycling from the Parish-wide litter-pick

goings on at Falconhurst

Life is very busy here! So many exciting things going on, with something for everyone. My new Garden Workshop course starts on 29th March: Learn to garden from the beginning. I am very excited about this. I will tell you about my journey in gardening and show you how to look after your garden, revitalise and renew and most of all to enjoy it.

In the Farm Shop, Charlie is baking more than ever. There's always a delicious cake to be enjoyed with your coffee. We have new shop opening hours starting on 4th April: Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm; Saturday 9am – 3pm; Sunday closed. The shop will be closed on 3rd April for stock taking.

George has lined up some great chefs for supper clubs as well as a master in English cheeses, Angus Birditt, who is coming to do a talk about his latest book and we will be trying different cheeses with best wine pairings. I have a great love of Indian food, so am really looking forward to Hardeep Singh coming on 12/13 May.

Then, for the more cultured amongst you, we have arranged for Orlando Jopling to bring his amazing Opera group to Falconhurst again on Friday 21st July. Those of you who came last year will remember what a treat this was. So, we have covered most of our favourite things, please let us know what we are missing of yours?

Nicki Talbot

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 village hall - latest news

Plans to rebuild a bigger, better but still distinctive hall are progressing well. There is planning permission and so now a fundraising campaign is about to begin. Thanks to Ivan Furness for building this excellent model of the new hall.

The model and plans will be on show at a "meet the village" open day on 3 June and the village hall committee will be running a survey to find out exactly how locals would like to use the new hall.



If anyone is running a village organisation / small business or is interested in starting a village group and you would like a stall to promote what you do, then please contact Lisa Cowell on 07917 307 452.

We hope everyone will come along and see what the community does – and perhaps even get involved in something new!



Hever castle lake

what's new at the Eden Valley Museum?

There are plenty of new things to see at the Eden Valley's own social history museum, with two new displays this month, plus a Craft Fair on Saturday 29th April.

The first display celebrates 50 years of the town's Twinning relationship with Mont St Aignan in France, timed to coincide with a group visit from our French counterparts in May. Over the years there has been a rich variety of visits, with sports tours, gardening groups, and walking groups and even a cycle trip between the two towns. These events have generated a diversity of artefacts, gifts and photos, which will be on display until 1st July.

The second display, 'Royal Celebrations in the Eden Valley' is timed to coincide with the Coronation, with a collection of memorabilia and photos celebrating Royal events right back to Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The past inhabitants of Edenbridge certainly knew how to put on a show, with processions, floats, fancy dress and every shop decked out with Union Jacks. The display also features a fascinating window into the 1950s with invoices detailing the planning for Hever village's 1953 celebration, complete with hire of 12 inch television for the villagers to watch.

Also new this year is a display telling the curious story of an interaction between Clementine Churchill and a communist vicar of Crockham Hill.

The Craft Fair in the museum courtyard will feature folk music and ploughmans lunches as well as a variety of stalls. Look out for ads giving more details.
For more info contact

Hilary Brand 01732 500554



The 'Twin' plaque commemorating 20 years of twinning between Edenbridge and Mont St Aignan. It depicts Henry II and Thomas Becket. In 1176 the king built a church dedicated to Becket in Mont St Aignan in penance for his unwitting role in his murder.



The Hon Patrick Bowes Lyon and family, then resident at Skeynes Manor. In June 1911 they led the Edenbridge coronation procession. They could never have imagined that 112 years later would see the second descendant of their family become monarch. In I923 Patrick's niece, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, married Albert, Duke of York, later to become George VI. Their daughter succeeded him and the rest is history!



Entering the polling station next month you'll notice two breaks from tradition.

The first is that you'll be asked to present photographic identification. A passport, photographic driving licence, biometric immigration document or some concessionary travel passes will suffice. Whilst a move not without its critics, it does seem somewhat bizarre that the process of collecting a parcel has hitherto carried a greater degree of security than that of electing one's representatives. Should you not possess any of those forms of ID, a voter card – called a Voter Authority Certificate – may be requested free of charge by contacting Sevenoaks District Council by 25 April on 01732 227000.

The second change is that you will not find my name on the ballot paper. After some twelve happy years I shall be standing down from the District Council. It has been a privilege and pleasure to represent the finest four villages in the District. We all know it is the most beautiful corner of Kent but it is not views, location or amenities which make a community but people and in that I cannot believe that any of my colleagues have ever been as fortunate. I have been immensely supported by a brilliant raft of wonderful fellow volunteers committing their knowledge, time and enthusiasm to improving the lives of others. To you all: thank you.

Thank you too to those who offered their support in countless other ways too many to name, including you, dear reader, for your devoted study of these pages.

And, finally, to Bridget, Joanna, and Ana before them, for their unstinting patience awaiting the submission of some thirty-seven or so editions of this column at the eleventh hour.

With an election in the offing I reflect once again on what a precious inheritance it is to live in a country in which the peaceful transfer of power, whether great or small, is treated as a given. Yet the smoothness of transition should not be mistaken as an invitation to take for granted the duties it confers.

So, to my successor I wish the best of luck and the humblest of advice born of experience: cherish this community and it will show you great warmth and kindness in return.

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

From the editors: Bridget and Joanna are likewise grateful to Matthew for all his splendid columns and wish him well for the future.

Hever Parish Council

Your Hever Parish Council
PROUDLY REPRESENTING HEVER, MARKBEECH & FOUR ELMS
Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

The recent Community Litter Pick, kindly run by some of your Councillors, saw a beautiful sunny start to the day and each village had a great turnout of volunteers. A big thank you to all who helped, including District Councillor Matthew Dickins. See page 7 for an illustration of what was collected.

This year we have Parish Council Elections. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Councillor, please visit https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections . Please see the SDC website for more information on the 2023 Elections. Nominations close on 4th April with elections on 4th May. To vote everyone will need to show photo ID at polling stations. See Matthew's piece on page 12 for more.

County Councillor McArthur reported at the recent meeting that KCC had received some 8,000 queries regarding potholes, which is double the usual amount for this time of year. There had been 1,000 complaints regarding drainage problems since December, which is a considerable challenge for KCC. There have been accidents again at the Four Elms Crossroads. HPC have raised safety concerns with Kent Highways and await their plan of action. Speed limits throughout the parish have also been raised as a safety concern with KCC and are being looked into.

For those in receipt of the free travel passes, these are due for renewal soon and as they are all due to be renewed at the same time, holders are encouraged to renew these as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Doorstep crime in Kent is on the rise with multiple reports to Trading Standards. Reports included pushy doorstep callers, poor quality and expensive work. If you need work on your home and garden use Trading Standards Checked. To report doorstep criminals, counterfeit, fake or illegal goods call the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Never agree to cold callers. Report to Kent Police on 101 - if they are aggressive dial 999.

A date for your diary – The Parish Assembly will be held at 7pm on Thursday 25th May 2023 in Markbeech Village Hall. Do come and join us for this free event. It will be an interesting and informative evening with speakers from a variety of areas. Refreshments will be provided and a good chance to meet your Councillors and neighbours from across the Parish. A free Family Fun Day has been arranged for Tuesday 15th August on Four Elms Field.

Finally, we would like to give our thanks and say farewell to our District Councillor, Matthew Dickins, who is moving on to pastures new soon.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th May – Annual Meeting - Four Elms Village Hall - 7 pm full meeting and Planning at 8.15 pm

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
MindArk	psychotherapeutic counselling for individuals & couples	07557 472580
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



Church in April

Easter Sunday is 9th April. 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
2nd Apr 10am	Palm Sunday procession around the church from 9.45am Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Zechariah 9:9-12; Matthew 21:1-11	Palm Sunday
6th Apr 6pm	Chrism Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Isaiah 61:1-9; Psalm 116:9-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Maundy Thursday
7th Apr 12 noon	Devotion at the Cross St.Peter's Hever	Jesus' seven words from the Cross	Good Friday
9th Apr 6am	Easter Sunrise at St.Paul's Four Elms	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 24:1-12	Easter Sunday
9th Apr 9.15am	Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8	Easter Sunday
9th Apr 11am	Family Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8	Easter Sunday
16th Apr 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Exodus 14:10-31; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31	2nd of Easter
16th Apr 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	The resurrection	2nd of Easter
23rd Apr 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	1 Peter 2:11-17; John 16:16-22	3rd of Easter
23rd Apr 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	The resurrection	3rd of Easter
30th Apr 10am	Morning prayer at St.Paul's Four Elms followed by Communion	1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10	4th of Easter

There will be services of Compline or Night Prayer during Holy week at 6pm on Monday 3rdth at Holy Trinity Markbeech; Tuesday 4th at St.Peter's Hever.and Wednesday 5th at St.Paul's Four Elms. We will be restarting our weekly Zoom and in person Bible studies on Monday 17th April. Zoom Evening prayer continues on Thursdays at 6pm. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help. Note: this year the St.Peter's Hever annual meeting will be at 11.15am on Sunday 16th April immediately following the service. This is open to everyone and anyone on the electoral roll is entitled to vote.

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 – Lynnie Rowan 01342 850776 & Marielou Linklater 01342 850579

Administrator: Ana Roxburgh beneficeemail@gmail.com

our rector's thoughts

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently mentioned that he had been invited to do 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 for Good Friday some years ago, but his plan to talk about the crucifixion met with resistance: 'There's a bit too much Jesus in this' he was told by the BBC!

Unlike Christmas and Harvest, Easter can be difficult as at the centre is the cross, the symbol of the Christian faith. It might seem odd that an instrument of torture, which even the Romans eventually decided was too cruel and abolished it in the fourth century, has now become an item of jewellery or a cross on currant buns – now available all the year round!

Some years ago, I went to an artistic exhibition entilted 'Cross Purposes' at Mascalls Gallery near Paddock Wood. It included work by a number of well-known modern artists like Chagall, Spencer and Tracey Emin. Some of the works used the crucifixion to depict the horrors of human suffering during warfare and this has been brought home to us in the Ukraine war. At a more personal level, there are Chagall's windows at All Saints Church, Tudeley, which I visited last year. The central window was commissioned by Lady d'Avigdor Goldsmid in memory of her daughter, Sarah, who died in a boating accident and shows Sarah rising above the waves and ascending to Christ on the cross.

The thought of God in Christ suffering for the world is perhaps the most powerful response to the challenges Christians face when we see examples of terrible suffering so vividly brought into our living rooms each night on TV. Whilst modern artistic interpretations of the cross seem to focus on the suffering of the cross, the earliest Christian artists focused more on the victory and the triumph of the cross over evil. In the Mascalls Gallery exhibition, I was drawn to a rather different painting entitled 'Golden Crucifixion' in which behind the cross emerge the wings of a butterfly, the symbol of resurrection.

The message of Easter is one of hope, redemption and transformation - the possibility of a living relationship with Jesus who is alive and has conquered death. This has been the experience of Christians ever since that first Easter Sunday morning. So I'm looking forward to Easter Sunday morning and the traditional greeting: "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Finally, I want to thank Nicki Talbot for her long service as Church Warden at Holy Trinity Markbeech over ten years! I have much appreciated Nicki's good counsel over the past three years of my time in the Three Spires. Nicki is being succeeded by Lynnie Rowan.

God bless you all this Easter

Simon

Markbeech

This will be my last piece written as Churchwarden of Holy Trinity. I am hanging up my boots or whatever the equivalent is for a CW at the end of March. I took over as CW from my dear sister in law, Joanna Smith, ten years ago and spent the first year working with Andro Linklater which was a complete delight. For Markbeech to lose these two much loved and admired people, both dying far too young, was a very sad time.

Jane Weeks had just been appointed as Rector of the Benefice. Jane had a flair that was not universally appreciated but was marvellous with the children and wedding couples. The Benefice was feeling vulnerable with talks of 'reorganisation of rural parishes' abounding in the Diocese. Many, many lengthy meetings ensued. These continued during the period of Wendy Izod's tenure. Explosive and volatile Benefice meetings were common as we felt weak and vulnerable during a period of an unknown future. Wendy was a calming presence and held us together.

The Diocese arranged for Simon Braid to write a report on the Benefice. (Clearly seen by them as a troublesome trio of churches.) Amazingly he put himself forward as a candidate for Priest in Charge of the Benefice and was taken on. He even offered to do this on a non-stipendary basis (that means free!). No sooner had he started work than the pandemic started. Arranging zoom/ outdoor services and reaching people during this time was challenging.

However, it was the one thing that brought the three parishes closer and out of that, and Simon's adept management, I believe we have managed to work together better than ever before. Each church has its own tradition and I remain convinced of the importance of retaining individual styles of worship. We have been grateful that Simon is prepared to work with this as well as introduce us to new styles of worship.

I am looking forward now to 'going to church' rather than organising the church; singing in the choir and helping with the children's choir in family services. I'll miss working with Marielou – always a fun time to be had over a coffee arranging events – and welcome Lynnie Rowan who has been generous enough to take over as Churchwarden. Thank you all for your tremendous support over the years!

Nicki Talbot

Hever

St Peter's Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will take place on Sunday April 16th at 11.15 following the 10am service. We hope that the congregation will stay to hear about the work the PCC have done over the year. If you would like to be added to the St Peter's Church Electoral Roll then please contact me by email heverpcc@gmail.com.

We are planning to re-write and update the church's visitor guide in the near future and will look to include new photos taken by residents and visitors to the

church. Christian Aid week in mid-May aims to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. This year St Peter's will be holding a Big Breakfast on Tuesday 16th May, hopefully outside in the sun, please do come and support us.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 13th April 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

Our APCM took place in St Paul's Church in March, where we considered how we did, as a Church ministry and also financially. Thanks to the hard work of Simon we have a selection of services to suit all tastes. For those who think all churches are financed by the central body of the Church of England, nothing could be further from the truth. We, St. Paul's Church, have to cover our costs and contribute to the running costs of the Diocese of Rochester. The village fete makes a huge difference to our annual finances so a big thank you to the committee for all their work. And thank you to everyone who supports our beautiful church in whatever capacity.

To adhere to safety regulations here in St Paul's, we had a demonstration on the use of the fire extinguishers and the methods of evacuation and managing the (unlikely) outbreak of a fire. I hope this makes you all feel safer!!

As the King's Coronation beckons, and doesn't it seem strange to say the King, it will be the turn of St. Paul's Four Elms to have the 10am service on Sunday 7th May. We are delighted that the wonderful Markbeech Choir will be singing and there will be a celebratory drink after the service to toast the King and Queen.

It is interesting to note the Four Elms Village Fete had its inception post the Coronation in 1953, held in the vicarage garden (now a private house). It has been continuing each year with only the outbreak of Foot & Mouth and the Covid Pandemic stopping it. It will go ahead again this year on July 8th. We need as many willing hands as well as the usual contributions to make church stalls the very best. "Enjoy a cuppa" at the church continues and we are pleased we have a regular band of friends and neighbours dropping in.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

WINNER OF THE EASTER CARD COMPETITION 2023

Thank you all for the wonderful designs! The judges, local artists, have really enjoyed looking at all the cards and said that there has obviously been care and thought put into them.

The winner this year is Freddie Chapman. Well done Freddie! Super design!

gardening

I didn't even have a garden until I was 25. I grew up in South London in the top floors of a shared house. As kids we were only allowed in the tiny yard to help our mum hang up the washing. So my first garden as a newlywed didn't interest me much at all. I hung my washing in it. When the kids were growing up gardening mainly consisted of moving the paddling pool so it wouldn't kill the grass.

As they got older I progressed to a few pots of summer bedding. This was not without its problems as I have an absolute horror of worms and slugs, just thinking about them makes me nauseous. (I just looked that up and discovered it's called Scoleciophobia. Who knew?).

But the move to Hever and the change of lifestyle meant I wanted to give gardening a go and face my fears. Where to start? As the living embodiment of 'all the gear and no idea' I started a multi pronged approach tackling all areas of the garden at the same time. For about 5 minutes, because that was obviously never going to work. So I picked a bit and got going. It was pretty overgrown so I pulled up what I guessed were weeds, dug out roots and generally chopped things down. All the time surrounded by the dreaded worms and slugs who slowed me down somewhat as each wriggly appearance meant I had to back away & wait till the offending creature hid itself away again. I kid you not. Five years on, I still have to cover them immediately so I can't see them but I can at least carry on working. Progress!

I have found gardening to be really rather satisfying. One of the most rewarding things was clearing out the little stream and rockery which had become all but buried. It's beautiful now - my happy place. Gardening for me is all about the pleasure it gives me when I stand back and take in the beauty of nature, helped in a tiny way by me. I've pored over gardening books and carefully filled in a gardening diary. But that's not for me. I much prefer winging it - at least for now.

So this is what have I learned so far : Gardening is immensely satisfying and unlike most things in life, you get out much more than you put in. Gardening is immensely frustrating, nature will always win and weeds will grow anywhere. There is always something that needs doing.

I now dread Autumn, no longer admiring all the beautiful colours as the leaves change. Because that just means they will soon fall - in their millions - and it's an uphill battle to clear them up. And don't get me started on acorns. Ah but Spring. I love Spring. Seeing the garden come to life, things I've planted actually growing is just so rewarding. But the most important thing of all is that there are no rights and wrongs. If it makes you happy, plant it!

Jan Ross



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	9										
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	2										
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	4										

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 **May** edition should reach us no later than **17 April** 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

April diary

Until 10 Nov **Exhibition: Catherine and Anne: Queens, Rivals, Mothers**, Hever Castle

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

29 Mar **Garden Workshop**, Falconhurst 10am - 1pm

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

14 Apr **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, Adult £9 child £7, 7 – 8.30pm

16 Apr **St Peter's Hever APCM** at St Peter's 11.15am

22 Apr **Chamber music concert**, Edenbridge Parish Church 7pm

26 Apr **Garden Workshop**, Falconhurst 10am - 1pm

28 Apr **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, Adult £9 child £7, 7 – 9pm

30 Apr **Stonewall Park** NGS Open Garden 2 - 5pm

30 Apr **Yoghurt Making Workshop**, Bore Place, Adults £28, 10.30am – 1pm

6 May **Coronation live streaming**, Hever Castle Festival Theatre

11 May **Hever Parish lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30pm

12 + 13 May **Hardeep Singh Supper Club**, Falconhurst Barn 7.30pm

12 May **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, Adult £9 child £7, 8 – 9.30pm

13 May **Hever Hort Plant Sale**, Hever Village Hall 10am

13 May **Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place Adults £61, 10am – 4pm

16 May **Big Breakfast**, St Peter's Hever

16 May **Hever Parish Council AGM**, Four Elms Village Hall 7pm

19 + 20 May **Wild Seasoning Supper Club**, Falconhurst Barn 7.30pm

20 May **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Four Elms Village Hall 9.15 – 10am

20 May **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Hever Bottle Bank 10.15 – 11am

20 May **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Markbeech Village Hall 11.15 – 12noon

24 May **Garden Workshop**, Falconhurst 10am - 1pm

25 May **Parish Assembly**, Markbeech Village Hall 7pm

29 May **Falconhurst** NGS Open Garden 11am - 5pm

8 July **Four Elms Village Fete**

15 Aug **Family Fun Day**, Four Elms Field