THE LINK

July/August 2023







In this issue:

- Farewell to two village legends
- The maternal fork
- A fancy feline
- Summer fetes

...and much more!

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the July/August Link

Summer is upon us and the editors are having a little break! Sheep have been shorn and gooseberries picked and stewed with only a little counter-attacking from nettles and protective thorns. And, along with many others I have just discovered the Merlin birdsong App - it is truly wonderful - just record the singing around you and it will tell you what you are listening to!

One thing that isn't resolving well at all is my attempt to compost so-called compostable starch bags and magazine envelopes. Yet again they have emerged dirty, ragged but stubbornly intact from my lovely dark and crumbly compost. Composting just doesn't work in a domestic bin though it probably does when carried off in the Council's green waste collection. Ironically it is easier to dispose of non-compostable plastic bags and film which go into the Waitrose recycling bin immediately on the right as you walk into the store.

And so to Nature I was so pleased to see a lapwing near Edenbridge recently, the first for a few years. Even more exciting was a trip to the Knepp estate to witness their impressive rewilding project. Those of you who remember the famous "Tamworth two" will be particularly pleased to know how important these pigs, a proxy for the original too-dangerous wild boar, are to the project. A single pig can stop an area of 40 acres from becoming overgrown and can do a lovely job turning over the soil and increasing diversity in plant life. Not to be tried at home.

With best wishes for a lovely summer from the Link team.

Joanna Wade



The Tamworth Two

pet of the month

Benji was a stray cat living in a shed in Horsham for 8 years, he was then taken to a pet rescue centre as he was struggling with being outside and was trying to get in to the lady's house. I was sent information about him and I fell in love but the feeling wasn't mutual. He came to live with us first in Purley and then in 2021 we moved to Hever. He loved my late husband Ed straight away but used to hiss at me, but perseverance paid off and we are now the best of friends and he is the best company for me except when he wakes me at 4am in the morning!!!

He is partial to cooked coley for breakfast and loves his dreamies treats. Could be why is is 8.7kg. He is very happy having his tummy tickled, but when he's had enough you need to move your hand fast!!

He is very vocal and chats away to whoever will listen. He is well known in the neighbourhood and his home is his castle, he will not allow any other cats or dogs in his space. He loves to be in the garden with me and sitting in the sun and bunnies beware !!!!

Fiona Coppard





desert island whisks

Hi, I'm Debbie and the kitchen implement I would save from the waves is my Mum's 'Wooden Mince Fork'. It was given to her as a wedding gift in the 50's, so its getting on a bit! It has certainly stood the test of time.

Growing up I can remember Mum in the kitchen, fork in hand putting our meals together and making gravy as only my Mum could. My job was to stir the gravy with the fork every Christmas. It's hard to think that one wooden fork has lasted 70 years. It is well travelled from London to Surrey to Kent back to Surrey and now lives with me here in How Green. It looks a little battered and worn now, it's no longer straight and leans to one side, the handle is splitting and the prongs are twisting a little but it works as well as it ever did. It's still used for breaking up the mince in the pan, stirring sauces and pasta, scrambling eggs, and much more. My Mum even lent it to my daughter to use for a coloured band craze that the children had for a time called 'Bandz'. She used it as a tool for knitting the elastic bands together to create bracelets. Sadly Mum is no longer with us so now it's my turn to take on the legend of The Fork.

I use this fork every day when I cook, I'll be devastated the day it gives up the ghost! It's a well loved, well used item by us and our grown up children. Other wooden utensils come and go but my Mum's wooden fork just carries on. So thanks Mum, your lovely fork is helping me out every day.

Debbie Fitzgerald



Debbie's Mum



Hever Church of England Primary School

HEVER SCHOOL FÊTE

SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023
11:30 - 15:30

COME & ENJOY THE FUN ON HEVER PARISH FIELD
- ALL WELCOME!

• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • BAR • BOUNCY CASTLE •
• FOOD & DRINK • INFLATABLE ASSAULT COURSE •
• STALLS & GAMES • DOG SHOW • & MUCH MORE! •

FREE ENTRY & PARKING

Four Elms Village Fete

Saturday 8th July 2023
1pm

Children's Coronation Crown Competition 2pm



Fly past
Dog show

Fun & games

Tea tent
Beer tent

Church Meadows, Four Elms

what I do - learning to play the church organ

My love affair with the sound of the church organ began in the mid 60's whilst at boarding school. Like a number of children who were learning the piano at the time, I happened to hear Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor and desperately wanted to play the Toccata, because it seemed easy and sounded great! My weekly lessons in the Congregational Church finished when I left school in 1968. I could play the Toccatta, but not accurately. I could make a lot of sound/noise by pulling out all the stops and impressing my school friends.

That all changed in June 2022 when I met Tim Higgs, the Church Organist at St. Peter's. He went to work on trying to correct the many mistakes and bad habits I'd picked up over the past 54 years while trying to play said piece on both piano and keyboard. During the first lockdown in 2021, I'd set myself the task of learning the Fugue in D minor on the keyboard. I managed to learn most of the notes and play them…… almost in the right order!

The big problem came when I sat at the organ in St. Peter's. My feet had not been used for playing since 1968 and it seemed worse than trying to pat your head and rub your tummy at the same time. Coupled with trying to use both heels and toes at the right time and use the prescribed (by Tim) fingering this whole venture seemed a very big challenge. However, I am persevering. Tim has all but given up trying to get me to use the correct feet and finger positions and while I will never become a concert organist, I enjoy what I play.

I am very lucky in being able to practice regularly at St. Peter's. It is a lovely church and the organ is as good or bad as whoever is lucky enough to play it. The church does get a steady trickle of visitors. Whilst most go un-noticed to me while practising, I do get the occasional visitor asking if I am the Vicar, the Church Organist, the Churchwarden or think I'm the Church Historian. I am quite self critical of my playing but when, to my surprise, someone who's been listening at the back says "thank you" for an unexpected bonus during their visit, I do feel perhaps my playing was not quite as bad as I thought.

Bob Turnbull



Bob and Tim at St Peter's

Memories of John Scott

We said goodbye to our friend John Scott in June. John was known by many as an endlessly kind and energetic neighbour, always willing to help out: sitting on the Parish Council, lighting the beacon, rescuing cows and sheep from the river - and even prepared to put on tights for medieval banquets!

Duncan Leslie, CEO of Hever Castle says:
"He will be hugely missed. He was always quick to help with any problems and especially if we needed something moved with his telehandler. Pretty much everything of scale made of oak in the grounds had his hand on it from the many beautiful bridges, the arbour at the end of the Long Border, the pergola outside the Pavilion Restaurant to the Japanese Tea House – either he milled the timber and or helped in its construction and transport. He also kept our biomass boiler topped up each week, and always greeted staff, residents and guests with a warm friendly smile. He had a lovely sense of humour and just a wee bit of cheekiness too – we all enjoyed chatting with him – he was excellent company. I think it fair to say that here at the castle we considered him as part of the family."

Gerry and Jan Ryan say:
""He was a lovely guy, always had a smile, and a great contributor to village affairs. He will be greatly missed by many." This was the spontaneous reaction of our son, Ben, on receipt of the sad news of John's death Ben is a contemporary of Simon, John's son, and met up, (as did we) with the Scott family



– John and Pauline, daughter Caroline and Simon, when they all 'journeyed down the M6 from the Wirral with their herd of Holstein dairy cattle' (John's words!) to Polebrook Farm, in 1982. Polebrook's dairy farming activities were soon augmented to include sheep, and Pauline's included membership of Hever Church choir and the W.I. John added bell-ringing at St Peter's to his extensive list of talents which he continued for his lifetime.

John's dairy ambitions soon turned to bottling and distributing his own farm milk and cream. The installation of the bottling plant at the farm was a masterpiece of ingenuity and persistence – culminating in a temporary local electricity blackout as the new pasteurisation plant kicked in! Due to health reasons, John's massively active workload had to be reduced, so the farm staff was increased – including two 'dairymaids' – Jan Ryan and (neighbour) Sue Hayward, who struggled on


at a Hever Medieval Banquet 2000

throughout unusually severe winter weather to bottle, label and prepare for delivery the 'daily pinta', (fortified by Pauline's mugs of hot chocolate).

In 1987, the weather again seriously impinged on John's career – firstly, severe flooding called for massive efforts to rescue the neighbouring farmer's sheep from the swollen river Eden and secondly the Hurricane in October devastated the local countryside and in particular its tree population. The removal and processing of fallen timber was *de facto* a business opportunity for both John and Simon so "the Scott Partnership" was born and flourishes to this day, gradually and completely replacing the dairy business.

Knowledge of machinery in general and ownership of a great deal of kit made John's assistance popular and invaluable in many village undertakings - none less than in the production, erection, and operation of Hever's Village Beacon – first ceremonially lit to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE Day in May 1995, and fuelled/lit/ maintained whenever needed thereafter by John, Simon & co."

Jane Rosam says:
Sheep were one of Johns specialities. It was only little over a year ago when whilst I was looking after a few sheep for a friend, that unexpectedly one began to lamb. I was on the hotline to John immediately, he came round and a pair of lambs popped out. Marvellous, job done I thought - but John said "go get us a drink because I want to watch her". I did exactly that and ten minutes later John asked me for a rope. Two minutes after that John successfully delivered the triplet. "Gosh that was a long way down" he said. I was in awe. Quite how he knew, is still beyond me but John quietly knew a lot of things and was happy to share them. When Pauline died just over a year ago (her obituary is in the June 2022 Link, see www.Hever.org), John was heartbroken but still twinkled when he told me that their wedding date was set for 1 October 1970 because he reckoned that he would have finished the combining by then. Aged 80, John was still working in the business until the week he died - a real trooper and a good man. He will indeed be sorely missed.

Joanna Wade


Helping to rehang the restored bell 1995

the new look markbeech village hall

During the winter two significant upgrades have been made to Markbeech Village Hall to coincide with its centenary.



First, a brand-new kitchen has been installed with a blend of kitchen units and high performance commercial-standard appliances, in a modern colour scheme, meeting the latest hygiene requirements. Secondly, a major make-over of the garden with a new extended patio with disabled access. The old sheds have been removed, new flower beds created with planting and integral seating, and new fencing to the side entrance. So now the village hall can host catered parties both inside and in a pleasant secure garden.

The works were carried out by local tradespeople, TrueBuild of Edenbridge for the kitchen and Stuart Raeburn, the garden renewal. Additionally, there is a renewed heating system, flooring, redecoration, and several other improvements, making the hall look really attractive. The hall is used for private parties, children's parties, garden parties, weddings, village events, meetings, nursery school, fitness classes and stage productions.



Come along and have a look and book your next event here! Contact Pam Paige 01342 850328 or email her at mbvh1924@gmail.com

John Adkins



Cowden Village Fete

Saturday 8th July

from 1:00pm at the Cowden Recreation Ground

Bring all the family for a great fun filled afternoon

farewell to Anne Cleeve

When Ann Roberts Cleeve asked you to do something, it was almost impossible to say no. I was press ganged onto the Parish Council and Jane became a poppy seller. If you visited Ann's house at poppy time, it resembled the Cabinet War Rooms, with piles of poppies, instructions and collecting boxes, strategically placed ready for action. As well as receiving an MBE, she became President of the Hartfield and District branch of the British Legion - Andrew Izod tells me that she ran poppy day for over 50 years and raised many thousands of pounds.



Ann was also a stalwart of the Conservative Association and during her time as Chairman (not Chair "I don't like to be sat on and I'm as good as any man") she was instrumental in selecting Tom Tugendhat for the constituency. He says: "Ann Cleeve was a remarkable person. When she saw problems, she fixed them and where she saw chaos she brought order to it. From her school in the woods, which made Markbeech a great place for young families like mine, to her commitment to the Royal British Legion, for which she was rightly decorated, she made our community a great place to live and helped so many. Ann was a committed Christian and a regular worshipper at St Lawrence, Edenbridge and will be missed by many. Our community has been lucky to have Ann with us so long, working to the end."

Her crowning glory was of course her nursery school which she founded in 1965, not long after moving to Markbeech with her first husband, Mike. It was originally a temporary project while her sons Mark and Tim were young but, as she told The Link in March 2019 "they wouldn't let me retire!" Many generations of children and adults round here are "my children" and a few years ago she celebrated the school's 50th birthday with a party for 200 pupils past and present. The most recent iteration of Ann's vision for child-centred nursery education is her forest school, run from

a lovely shepherd's hut in her garden - so special is it that it was recently featured in the Daily Express.

One of my scariest ever speaking engagements was with the local women's branch of the British Legion which Ann chaired. As a lawyer, I was asked to talk about legal rights for working mothers and I was subjected to excoriating criticism about the very idea of working mothers - and the fact that Ann was the ultimate entrepreneur, managing to blend work and family cut no ice at all. We remained friends though, not least because Ann was always open to lively debate, loved to be teased and to laugh and giggle. Ann was a force of nature, indefatigably sociable, and always welcoming of visitors.

At the centre of her life were her friends and especially her family. She married John Cleeve in 2011 and they had nearly 12 very happy years together, travelling the world, erecting a marquee for a party at every conceivable opportunity and enjoying their collective brood of six sons and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Charlotte Desorgher remembers:
"It was the day after we'd moved into Markbeech. A ring on the doorbell and an impressive-looking woman standing on the step. "Ann Greig tells me you've moved here from Four Elms and I've got to look after you! Would you like to come for drinks this evening and meet some of your other neighbours?". And so began a 28-year deep and trusting friendship.

I think we may have seen a different side of Ann from some others. She was definitely formidable and could sometimes catch people on the wrong side, but I can tell you from the bottom of my heart that Ann's warmth, her generosity, her thoughtfulness and her love of people and parties knew no bounds. Ann relished a party like nobody else - from small dinners to celebrations of big life events. We enjoyed so many intimate supper parties around her table. And there was never a shortage of wine!

When Paul and I were on holiday we always knew that everything was safe. The cats were fed and stroked, the lights switched on and off, the curtains pulled and the post taken in. We never had to ask, it was just what she did, without question. Other memories? Ann with her donkeys; Ann planning and planting the vegetable plots with Paul; Ann in wellington boots, Barbour hat and jacket - but never without lipstick. Ann holding a baby and gazing at it with total love and adoration. She was the best neighbour we could ever have had and her passing will leave an enormous hole in our lives. Party on in heaven Ann!"

Ann died in 6 June aged 87. There will be a thanksgiving service in September to celebrate her and, as her family say, it is so sad that the ultimate party person won't be there to join in!

Joanna Wade

four elms cricket club

The earliest records available indicate that cricket was played at Four Elms from 1864 with the club officially forming in 1868. The original ground was on Lord Bramwell's fields, Holmwood, adjoining the cabbage field on the site that is now Boons Estate. It moved, via Four Elms Farm "near the nurse's cottage", to its present site in April 1890 when the current pavilion was built opposite St Paul's Church and close to the Four Elms Pub. The first game was held on Wednesday 23 April 1890 played by club members.

The following appeared in the Sussex Agricultural Express on Saturday 26 April 1890.

The members of the Four Elms Cricket Club opened their new ground on Wednesday last, when a good game was played by the members, sides being chosen by Messrs. Goodwin and L. Tillman. At the conclusion of the game the members sat down to an excellent supper, under the chairmanship of the captain, Hogben, Esq., - when a very agreeable evening was spent - Hearty votes of thanks were carried unanimously to H. Williams Esq., for his generosity in giving use of the new ground, and also in fencing it in, and to Major C.S. Williams, for supplying turf, and also to the general subscribers.

FECC has gone from strength to strength. Our 1st XI, captained by Kevin Allman, is in Division 1 of the Kent County village league, and our 2nd XI, captained by Philip Crowhurst, is in Division 6. We also have a Sunday side, captained by Andy Hills. Due to bad weather we had a delayed start to the season and 2 of our league matches were lost. The 1st XI have tied 1, won 2 & are currently 5th in the league. The 2nd XI have won 2, lost 1, conceded 1 and cancelled 1. Currently 6th in the division. Our Sunday side have won all 3 of their games, with P Gammage scoring an impressive 111 n/o against Meopham last Sunday.

If you are interested in joining our lovely team, Social membership, hiring Four Elms for an afternoon or evening Cricket match or use our pavilion for a social event, please contact the club secretary lorna_galbraith@hotmail.com, for information see www.fourelmscricketclub.co.uk

Date	1st XI	2nd XI
1/7	Cudham Wyse A	Flimwell H
8/7	Bearstead H	Pembury A
15/7	Marden A	Marden H
22/7	Farningham H	Weald A
29/	Limpsfield A	Farningham H
5/8	Speldhurst A	Stonehouse H
12/8	Eynsford H	Speldhurst A
19/8	Bidborough H	Groombridge A
26/8	Outwood A	Eynsford H

Date	Sunday XI @Home
2/7	Lamorbey Park
9/7	Sanderstead
16/7	Bardhill
23/7	London New Zealand
30/7	Selsdon
6/8	Knockers
13/8	Chessmen
20/8	Hayes
27/8	Beckenham Wizards

We would like to thank Willerby Landscapes for sponsoring us this year and for their continued support.

Willerby LANDSCAPES

Noise nuisance

🎵🎸🎺🎺🐓 News about a new App for reporting noise nuisance from Hever PC

Noise nuisance has been raised as an issue by residents several times recently and it can be troubling to the point that of interfering with our rights to quiet enjoyment of our homes. Noise nuisance is any loud or persistent noise that causes ongoing concern or affects quality of life. Sevenoaks District Council should be the first contact for reporting problems. SDC has a helpful page on this - search 'Noise and other Nuisance' on sevenoaks.gov.uk - the out of hours number to call as 01732 227000.

An App is also now available enabling users to record noise nuisance, report it directly to an officer and create a personal diary of recordings. This is not an instant intervention but is helpful in bringing noise nuisance to the attention of SDC and could be an effective deterrent if a number of residents report the same incident.

Once a report is logged via the App a letter is sent to the subject advising them of the complaint, and requests they make contact. They are not told who has made the complaint. A letter is also sent to the complainant. After 3 weeks the noise App recordings are assessed to see whether the advice given in the letter has been taken. If sufficient evidence of nuisance is obtained an Abatement Notice can then be served as a final written warning. Any further incidents would then be a breach of the Notice and an offence for which the culprit could be prosecuted.

Noise nuisance is usually assessed in terms of how occupiers/ residents are affected in their homes based on what is reasonable, and the frequency, the duration and the intensity of the activity.

Phil Lindsay



This will be the first of my bi-monthly updates here in the Link. So here we go! First, I would like to express my thanks to all of you who supported my election in May of this year. It was the toughest climate that your local Conservative team had ever faced and after my last election back in 2019 I hardly thought that possible! I would also like to say I don't take your support for granted. Winning the election with 54% of the vote was heart-warming so thank you once again for your votes of confidence. Unfortunately, our Leader of the Sevenoaks District Council did not fair so well losing his seat after 18 years which was quite the shock. However, I was happy to propose Cllr Perry Cole as his replacement and after a short vote he was installed as deputy leader with Cllr Julia Thornton winning the lead role.

One of my first duties was to give a speech at the Annual Parish Assembly which I was delighted to see so well attended. We have a wonderful team at the Parish Council and the team organised the event with great success. They have a huge wealth of expertise and a passion for the community that exceeds what I have experienced before. I am particularly impressed by their openness to exploring new ideas suggested by you, the residents. I believe that is what local government should really be about and has always been my "modus operandi". I enjoyed meeting some of you during the election process and look forward to meeting more of you over the term. Should you have anything you wish me to look into on your behalf, please feel free to contact me.

James Barnett
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
Cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07831 112 901



Annual Report

The Chair reported it had been a busy year, with some highlights being:

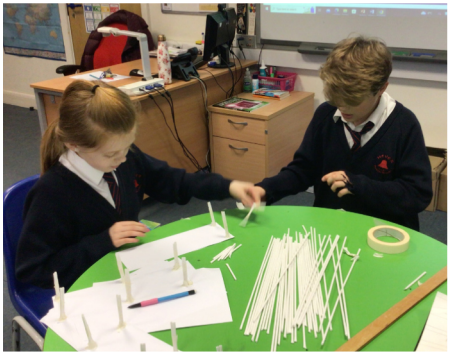
- Two wonderful community celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III Coronation that HPC helped to sponsor
- Awarding Grants totalling £8,638.83 to local groups including Eden Valley Museum, Hever Film Club, all three village halls, Four Elms and Hever schools, Air Ambulance, Samaritans, Home-Start South West Kent, Edenbridge Foodbank. Some funding is still available so applications are welcome.
- The state of some of the public footpaths was raised. A Councillor is carrying out a survey of the 52 footpaths in the parish. HPC will look at ways to help contribute to their repair. Please raise any issues you are aware of.
- Continued funding of the Bulk Refuse Freighter. Next collection is July 22nd.
- Family fun day took place in August at Four Elms field. Another one arranged for Tuesday 15th August 2023.
- Volunteers helped clear debris from the pond drains and spruced-up the Four Elms pond area. Thanks to all who gave their time.
- Concerns were raised with Police and Kent Highways regarding accidents at Four Elms crossroads and traffic speed throughout the parish. HPC has submitted the annual Highway Improvement Plan and several meetings have taken place with Highways and speed surveys carried out. The outcome and plan of action are awaited.
- Volunteers from the parish participated in the annual Community Litter Pick collecting more than 50 bags of rubbish from around the parish. Thanks to all who took part.
- The internal audit reported that HPC is compliant with both financial and regulatory frameworks.
- Elections – HPC had an uncontested election, with nine councillors re-elected. The annual meeting has taken place and key roles appointed. One councillor seat is vacant.
- District Councillors –Cllr James Barnett is our new District Councillor who was welcomed.
- HPC, a consultee on all planning applications within the parish, commented on 27 different Planning Applications, 9 Appeals and 1 Licencing Application. The Planning Committee volunteer their time to investigate, consider and formulate a view for the Planning Authority, Sevenoaks District Council.
- During the year Stephen Sadler, stepped down. Stephen was Chair of the Planning Committee. Thanks for his contribution and commitment to the residents of Hever Parish. Mark Thomas was co-opted as Councillor.

Please visit Hever.org for information, meeting agendas and minutes, planning information as well as links to topics of interest. Do let us know if there are areas you would like to bring to our attention. My sincere thanks to the Parish Councillors, all are volunteers who give their time and commitment to help improve our local community and to the support and guidance given by Rachael, Parish Clerk RFO.

Councillor Angela Haydon, Chair, Hever Parish Council



This term, as we head towards the end of the year, all the children are learning about coping positively with change in their PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum. In Year 5, this has included children learning to be Anti-bullying Ambassadors, in readiness for taking their place at the top of the school in September. In our collective worship today, Year 5 shared their learning with the rest of the school, and with their parents. The children committed to being a positive role



model of our school values of love and respect, and to supporting the rest of the school in their play and interactions. This will include playing a key role in welcoming our new starters in September, as buddies to our Reception children.

As my first cohort of Reception children since joining Hever School, I am particularly excited to meet our new entrants and to be part of their journey as they start their formal education. Having spent many years teaching and leading in an infant school, I am passionate about early education and believe that building a firm foundation across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is vital. If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2024, please come and visit Hever School to meet our new team and see the changes we have made and all we have to offer. (Contact the school office: office@hever.kent.sch.uk or 01732 862304 to arrange a tour.)

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



Our year 6 class had a fantastic week in the Isle of Wight at the start of June. On the first day, they enjoyed a boat trip which took us to look at the needles at Alum Bay. We were lucky enough to see dolphins playing in the bay, which was a new experience for many of our children.



Throughout the week, the year 6's also had the opportunity to hunt for fossils, supported by experts. They also visited a farm, an aqua park and let off steam in a game of laser tag. We were lucky to experience warm evenings, so we were able to spend time at the beach. We are incredibly proud of how the children represented Four Elms throughout the trip.

The year 6's have more to look forward to this term with the end of year production and parties.

Elsewhere in the school, the other children have been enjoying their learning experiences. Class 1 are becoming expert gardeners and have created care instructions for how to look after plants. Class 2 have been creating wonderful pieces of art work in the style of Oscar Murillo (do have a look at his abstract pieces!) and Class 3 are busy being carpenters, making pencil cases from wood.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception intake for September in the coming weeks as they visit us for their transition days.

Jess Fermor

Head of School



Business directory

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

Building & Design Services

Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01892 836777
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	07722 497657
Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315

Fitness

Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Chiddingstones' Tennis Club		07434 841421
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Pilates by Lorna at Four Elms and Ide Hill village halls		07747 628993
Smart Nutrition and Fitness	personal training for midlife women and beyond	0771 8588847
Tennis by Nature kids	tennis coaching by Gary Markham	07802 842554

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

BDHL private & group health insurance and corporate wellbeing		01892 891900
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

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Church in July and August

As we go into the summer holiday season, please note that on the six Sundays from 30th July till 3rd September we have just one service on each Sunday. 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 July 10am 11:15am	Pet service St.Paul's Four Elms followed by Said Holy Communion	Psalm 148; Genesis 1 (abridged)	Trinity 4
2nd July 6pm	Contemporary service at Holy Trinity Markbeech with Cabin Worship	Ezekiel 37:1-10	Trinity 4
9th July 8am	BCP Said Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Trinity 5
9h July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Trinity 5
9th July 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Mark 10:13-16	Trinity 5
16th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Acts 16:25-34; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Trinity 6
16th July 4pm	Pool service at Petresfield, Penshurst	Luke 5:1-11	Trinity 6
23rd July 8am	BCP Said Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Romans 6:19-23; Mark 8:1-9	Trinity 7
23rd July 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Luke 15:1-7	Trinity 7
30th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Trinity 8
6th Aug 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28-36	Trinity 9
13th Aug 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33	Trinity 10
20th Aug 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Colossians 2:6-12; Matthew 15:21-28	Trinity 11
27th Aug 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20	Trinity 12
3rd Sept 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 6:21-28	Trinity 13

Our weekly Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm and 8.00pm continue until 10th July and our Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm until 27th July. For details of both please contact Simon. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

Rector: Revd.Simon Braid 07802 809849 and simonbraid@icloud.com

Administrator: Ana Roxburgh beneficeemail@gmail.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

our rector's thoughts

Have a look at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_tOiQOG_g4 and see the former Archbishop of York, Rt.Revd. John Sentamu, conducting outdoor full immersion baptisms on Easter day in York! This year we are conducting an outdoor baptism (more commonly known as 'christening') at our July Forest church. Hopefully it will be a lot warmer than York at Easter!
This is one of three baptisms we have over the summer. Baptism isn't exclusively for small infants plus I am delighted we have two young women preparing for confirmation in September. Confirmation is a way of saying 'yes' to the promises made on our behalf when and if we were baptised as infants.

Baptism is the service of initiation into the Christian faith. It's welcoming the person baptised into the worshipping community, which is why we conduct baptisms in our mainstream services. This enables our congregation to welcome the person being baptised and promise to support and pray for them and their family in their pilgrimage of faith. Baptism is rich in symbolism and is the one rite recognised across all Christian denominations. This includes the idea of being washed clean and of receiving the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the water is poured over the head. Particularly, if by full immersion, it symbolises being united with Christ in his death and resurrection - a bit like being 'born again'. My earliest memory was my own baptism when I was just three years old. The one thing I remember was the priest signing my forehead with the sign of the cross. When this is done, the priest says: ***Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross***. But I didn't actually go on to attend church nor consider myself a Christian as I grew up. But it was when I did 'turn to Christ', as the service says, when I was sixteen that I was in due course confirmed. Looking back, I do feel that I had always belonged to Christ; it just took me thirteen years to realise it.

Please do get in touch with me for a confidential chat whether you are parents of a small or older child you would like christened or if you would like to consider baptism and/or confirmation for yourself.

Please note that our Pool service at our home in Penshurst this year will be on 16th July in place of our normal Four Elms at Four Family service. Do also consider coming to our contemporary service at Markbeech on 2nd July at 6pm when we have a live worship band, Cabin Worship, playing.

Have a great summer and God bless you all

Simon

Hever

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 13th July starting at 12.30. Our August Parish lunch will be on Thursday 10th. We normally have around 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.

Tickets for the Barn Dance being held on Saturday 9th September will shortly be on sale through the bookitbee website. A great evening out for all ages- watch out for early bird offers. We are looking for volunteers to help with running, setting up and taking down of our Barn Dance and BBQ, can you help? Please contact me or Ana Roxburgh for more information.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Four Elms

What a joy to see the return of swifts and swallows. We are thrilled that we have a family of blue tits in the bird box in the churchyard. Small things give such great pleasure. We were delighted to welcome Noah and his family at his baptism. A lovely little boy who seemed to enjoy his very special moment. Our churchyard in the summer is proving to be an extra room to our lovely church. We had our "Enjoy a cuppa" outside in the sunshine which was a great treat. Thank you to all who support us each month – we shall continue on the second Tuesday of each month. 11th July and 8th August for anyone who cares to drop in.

A change for Four Elms@4, normally held in St Paul's at 4pm on the third Sunday of the month. In July (16th) it will be held at the lovely home of the Rector and Susie and as Simon says morphed into a Pool Service. I am sure it will be very enjoyable.

There is always such upsetting world news but what a delight to read that 4 indigenous children were rescued alive from the Colombian rain forest after five weeks, following a plane crash which killed their mother. As their grandfather said "We thank God for their return to us". A truly extraordinary story.

Our Village Fete is on Saturday 8th July in the Church Meadow. If you have bric-a-brac either bring on Friday/Saturday or contact me to drop off at Little Chittenden. The PCC of St Paul's Church thanks the Fete Committee for all the hard work putting together the Fete to enable the Church stalls (and others) aid their fundraising. It is greatly appreciated.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

From the register:

Baptism:
11 June Four Elms
Noah Andrew Twinam 14 August 2022

Funeral:
15 June Hever Arthur John Scott age 81



A great family night out, barn dancing, BBQ, local beer, fancy dress competition and much more! For more information and bookings please go to events.bookitbee.com/hever



Summer above Whistlers Farm

gardening

The Hever Hort reached a significant milestone at the recent 'meet the village' event when we 'recruited' our 100th member, probably the highest membership in the long history of our society. We held our annual Rose show on the 10th June and it was a bit worrying as the strange weather meant that entries were initially down on previous years but a late flurry of exhibits ensured an excellent show, with Hever village hall looking very colourful.



The three prize-winners were; Sue Theobald for the best bowl of roses, Mary Peacock for the best exhibit of sweet peas, and Jane Rosam for the most points in the flowering classes. Well done to them, to all who entered, and all those who helped to make the show a big success. Just a special mention to Mary for her sweet peas, which were the most wonderful we have seen for some time. We now have a bit of a breather before the **Summer show on 19th August, 2pm**.

The June RHS Garden magazine had an article on clay soil, rock hard in summer and sticking to our spades in winter, and predominant in this area. Although notoriously hard to work, it is rich in nutrients and can be made easier to dig by the addition of compost or fine wood chips. I have even added some pea shingle to improve its workability. The article suggests a number of plants suitable for growing in clay, so I have just picked out a few. Geranium magnificum is recommended which has a profusion of purple flowers and, if trimmed in early summer, gives a second flush of flowers later in the season. Pulmonaria 'Trevi Fountain' is another recommendation with beautiful blue flowers in spring, and can also provide colour to a shaded area. We have peonies which do well in our garden, even though they are quite short lived, and Paeonia 'Coral Charm' is commended for its ability to thrive on clay and has a lovely combination of peach and coral flowers. All these recommended flowers are agm (award of garden merit), which means they have been given a seal of approval by the RHS that the plant will perform well in the garden.

Happy gardening!

Doug Bowern



Sue Theobald, cup winner

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	105	83	27							
					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	111	93.5	37							
					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	123	105	31							

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

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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 **September** edition should reach us no later than **16 August**

Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer, £18 by post. For payment there are two options:
a) Send a cheque payable to ‘The Link’ with your address to
1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or
b) Make a bank transfer or set up a standing order payment to ‘The Link’ at Lloyds a/c 01057697
sort 30-92-92 with postcode and surname as reference.
A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

July and August diary

Until 10 November

Exhibition: Catherine and Anne: Queens, Rivals, Mothers, Hever Castle

24 June **Dinner Jazz**, Hever Castle Golf Club 7.30pm
1 July **Hever School Fete**, Parish Field Hever 11.30 – 3.30pm
4 July **Hever Festival**, Titipu Tea (Afternoon Tea with Gilbert & Sullivan) 2.30pm
7 July **Wildlife Gardening Club**, Camera Trapping, Bore Place, free 10-1pm
8 July **Four Elms Village Fete**, Church Meadows Four Elms from 1pm
8 July **Cowden Village Fete**, Cowden Recreation Ground 1pm
9 July **1st Country Show** at Lockskinners, Chiddingstone 10am – 5pm
11 July **Enjoy a Cuppa**, St Paul's Church Four Elms
11 July **Hever Parish council meeting**, Four Elms Village Hall 7.30pm
13 July **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30pm
18 July **Hever Festival**, Titipu Tea(Afternoon Tea with Gilbert & Sullivan) 2.30pm
21 July **Wild Arts Opera**, Falconhurst Gardens from 5.30pm
22 July **Hever Festival**, The Pirates of Penzance Sing Along with Charles Court Opera 8pm
22 July **Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Four Elms Village Hall 9.15 – 10am
22 July **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Hever Bottle Bank 10.15 – 11am
22 July **Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Markbeech Village Hall 11.15 – 12noon
23 July **Hever Festival**, The Best of Baroque with Guildhall Strings 8pm
25 July **Hever Festival**, The Wizard of oz Immersion Theatre 2pm
27 July **Hever Festival**, ELO Again 8pm
28 July **Hever Festival**, Beyond the Barricade 8pm
29 July **Hever Festival**,1974 ABBA The Ultimate ABBA Experience 8pm
30 July **Hever Festival**, Swinging at the Cotton Club 8pm
30 July **The Grimm Sisters** Family Show at Chiddingstone Castle 2pm
8 Aug **Enjoy a Cuppa**, St Paul's Church Four Elms
10 Aug **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30pm
15 Aug **Family Fun Day**, Four Elms Field
19 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall, 2pm
9 Sept **Barn Dance Hever**
30 Sept **Recital of vocal solos and duets**, Withyham Parish Church 7pm
21 Oct **Wind Quintet**, The Ormonde Ensemble,Edenbridge Parish Church 7pm