THE LINK

September 2023







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- A Place that's far from Boring

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the September Link

So why does this page feature a tomato can? Because the producers are "Climate neutral" and they, a large Italian farming cooperative, both care about the climate and know that their care is a positive marketing point. They say that "Our commitment to the planet is to reduce emissions through precision farming techniques, the use of renewable energy, rail transport of goods, the valorization of by-products, and the reduction of plastic in packs."

Well done them - and what can our villages do? Well, over to you if any of you would like to join a working party to look at what we can do to protect the environment, please do get in touch at thelink@hever.org. And meanwhile, given that water is such an important issue for the planet, The Link has organised a visit to our local reservoir and water treatment works at Bough Beech at 2pm on Friday 13 October. This is a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes to find out how river and reservoir water, full of fertiliser and other nasties, is made safe to drink. Places (which are free) are limited so please contact us to book yours asap.

Meanwhile the elderberries are an appealing deep purple though apparently poisonous to people but not birds. And those birds are singing. Through my Merlin App I have recently heard robins, blackbirds, thrush, black caps, two types of woodpecker, goldfinch and goldcrest, tree creepers, chiffchaff and great, blue and long tailed tits.

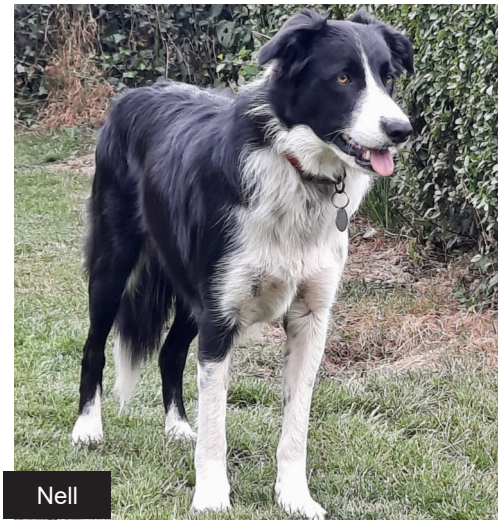
Well done to the Hever festival for surviving the devastating tearing of the theatre roof by a tree and staging a fine performance of The Pirates of Penzance in Hever Church. They are back in the theatre now and still taking bookings for the Last Night of the Hever Proms on Saturday 27 August. And do look out for the Hever Barn Dance and various harvest suppers....

Joanna Wade

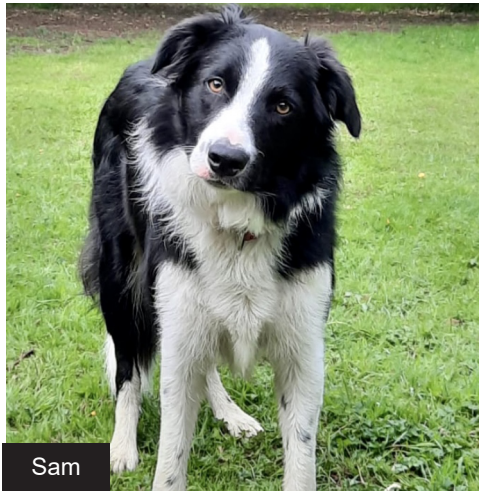


pets of the month

Hello my name is Nell and this is my brother Sam, say hello Sam
Sam: I've got an itch! – stop scratching
Sam: only I know where it itches
Sam: Hello I am Sam. We came to live with our humans in Hever just over a year ago as puppies and we have great fun here
Sam I chase sticks
– yes I know
Sam: balls and Frisby
– yes Sam, and I have to find them for you sometimes.
Sam: Yes but you don't always give them back!


Nell

– yes, well I like to tease you. We have a field with a lake where we play every day and I swim in the lake
Sam: I can't swim
– yes you can
Sam: I can't
– well I heard the humans say you will soon!! Sometimes our friend Tilly comes and joins us and we chase each other around the lake then go for swim to cool off
Sam: I can't swim
– alright, you paddle but you could swim if you tried.
Sam: I like bones
– yes, I know you do, you usually pinch mine, you lie on one while chewing the other, I have to bark to pretend someone is coming so you run to the gate and I can get my bone back


Sam

Sam: Ooh I will remember that.
Sam used to be car sick but he is better now
Sam: AM I? – yes don't think about it.
We also live with two other dogs, Luna, who is an old lady, sometimes plays with us but usually ignores us though she has taught us how to get treats from the humans, and Isla. She is a springer spaniel puppy - she steals our bones and we have to chase her to get them back, she jumps in and swims long distances in the lake
Sam: I can't swim – you will soon.
Sam: How do you know I will swim soon? – I heard the human say he was going to throw you in
Sam: Noooooooo).

Kevin and Teresa Agate

desert island whisks

– which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

I hope I am not infringing the strict rules stipulated by the Link team by choosing my Smeg espresso maker to rescue from the crashing waves, should I have the misfortune to be shipwrecked on a desert island. This is my second coffee maker, an elegant, retro designed machine which replaced the chunkier Gaggia which expired a few years ago, after many years of faithful service.

For a long time I have loved anything thing to do with 'proper' coffee, to the extent that Carol once bought me a barista course at the London School of Coffee. This dark brown powder, with its wonderful fragrance, has a rich history. Some of it is perhaps apocryphal, but a common account goes back to 11th century Ethiopia, where a goatherd noticed that when his goats ate the berries of a particular bush, they became much friskier, so he tried them himself and the rest, as they say, is history.

Making an espresso for me has a ritualistic element. It forces me to curb the impatient side of my nature, to take time with each of the steps involved, not at all like sticking a spoonful of instant in a mug and pouring boiling water over it. Robert Louis Stevenson put it well when he said, 'To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour'. The labouring is important, but so is the result. I have, on a couple of occasions, roasted raw coffee beans. So, if I am to be castaway, could I request an island with a good supply of Coffea arabica plants?

I notice I have reached my allotted word count so, in the words of the Bob Dylan song, 'One more cup of coffee 'fore I go …'.

Doug Bowern





Four Elms Harvest Supper

Supper & Entertainment
Friday 29th September

Four Elms Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45pm

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

£12 per person £5 for children
Book early and let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan
Email: harvest2021@btinternet.com or 01732 700247



what I do

The first question is which Mark Walker am I talking about - because in M & M Walker there are two? This Mark and that Mark are not related but share the exact same name.

The Mark in the photograph was born in South Godstone; his father was a fireman who was also a skilled painter and decorator and eleven year old Mark learned fast from his example.



But first he joined the army, aged 15. It was something of a family tradition as his brothers also served in the Queen's Own Regiment, formerly the West Kents. Mark loved his time in the army, including bomb disposal service in Northern Ireland and he learned the importance of fairness, discipline and respect. He left after seven years and started in his father's decorating business along with his namesake, known as "little Mark".

Mark and his wife moved to Edenbridge in 1987 "because of squash" - he joined the Edenbridge leisure centre team at the bottom of the local league and ended up at the top! When. Mark took over the business he renamed it "JLM" after his children Jake, Lacie and Molly, then it became M & M Walker. Mark really enjoys his work: he loves problem solving and making sure that everyone is happy; if they can't do a job themselves they know a trusted local person who can. He famously says not to pay him until his solution has been shown to work.

Although Mark advertises in the Link (wise man!) much of his work comes by word of mouth and he is proud to say that he has only had three bad debts since 1993 - his mantra is that if you treat people fairly they will be fair back. His fairness extends to a customer's inevitable "and there's just one more thing" request - if there's time, they will do the extra job, but not at the expense of another customer.

Whilst retired from squash, Mark has no plans to retire from work which he balances with time on the golf course. Another few mantras: "Don't offer what you can't deliver", "don't take on work if it is too cold for the paint to dry" and "you are only as good as your last job". Most importantly of all: "Enjoy it. If you don't like it - don't do it". So true!

This is how to contact Mark and Mark: Email: markwalker006@yahoo.co.uk

Margaret Cooke - a profile

Margaret Cooke retired from the latest in a long line of roles in education at the end of the Summer term when she stood down as co-chair of governors at Hever Primary School.

Through her work, most particularly as a hugely successful head of Chiddingstone Primary, she has been responsible for raising standards and enhancing the lives of very very many people in our district. As so many readers will know she is a true force for good with sidelines in rigour, mischief and humour.



Margaret started life in the Staffordshire potteries, the only child of Doris and Thomas Gilbert. Independence came early as, from the age of 5, she frequently travelled on her own on the bus to visit her grandmother, the conductor being provided with a note to remind her when to get off. Her grandmother ran a general store selling everything from cabbages to nylon stockings and the sweetpeas her grandfather grew to supplement his income as a coal miner. Having attended several grammar schools as the family moved around the country following her father's work, Margaret first planned to be a social worker. A day of work experience proved a real eye opener as she saw the reality of desperate, powerless poverty and she decided that she wanted to try to improve life chances through education instead.

Following a 4 year degree she first taught in Orpington adding to her salary by working in a pub. This proved a most useful move as she met her future husband Paddy, a quantity surveyor, across the bar. Their long connection with this part of Kent started when they found a house to renovate in Lydens Lane. They married in Hever church with their reception in the Henry, in 1975.

Margaret took time out of mainstream education to bring up their three sons, working on Saturdays for the probation service and restoring pine furniture in what we, at the Link, now call a side hustle. With her youngest at primary school Margaret returned to the chalk face working at Speldhurst, Edenbridge Middle School, as deputy head at Langton Green and then to

Chiddingstone as head, in 1993. Chiddingstone only had 50 children in mixed year groups but it was on its way to being a full primary. To attract and keep pupils through to year 6 Margaret and her team offered a rich and varied education for children enhanced by the sorts of activities more usually found in bigger schools like music, choir, tennis, horse riding, bird watching at lunchtime etc.

Chiddingstone soon expanded to 120 pupils. Ofsted's first inspection 3 years later found the school Very Good. The local authority would not enable further expansion to 7 forms while neighbouring schools still had spaces. After 10 years as head Margaret began working with KCC on a 2 year school improvement project to raise standards in 30 schools. When she returned Margaret and the governors decided to expand the school themselves and raised £70k for new classrooms. This seizing of the initiative and making things happen, drawing on the strengths and generosity of staff and parents, is key to Margaret's success. In the last three years at Chiddingstone she became a National Leader in Education and worked with St John's Sevenoaks to bring about its progression from 50 pupils to one form entry. By the time she left Chiddingstone it was graded Outstanding by Ofsted.
Retirement saw a move from Truggers Lane to Salters Green but, very sadly, Paddy died in 2017. In the aftermath of this huge loss, recognising the need to do something to keep herself sane, Margaret agreed to become Chair of Governors at Hever in 2018. After 5 hugely eventful years she has decided to call it quits and focus on her family, 6 grandchildren here and in New York, her terrier Billie, her garden and her myriad friends. There are even more of these now as she's been a really popular part of school life in Hever, as evidenced by the book of children's messages from the school, the olive tree from the PTA and the glass dish from the governors which were presented to her when she retired.

As her co-chair for the last two and a half years I would like to say what a very great pleasure it has been to work with Margaret. I checked the minutes to see when this journey started and am pleased to see that the governors thought I would "compliment" her – how right they were! She's a life enhancer. You can't walk anywhere within a 10 mile radius of Hever without bumping into at least one person she has taught or helped in some way. I look forward to many more walks and lunches. Cheers Margaret.

Bridget Harris



An Evening of Song on Saturday, 30th September at 7 pm
St Michael & All Angels Church, Withyham, TN7 4BA
Do join us to enjoy a mixed repertory for all tastes featuring Imogen Baker (soprano), Thomas Fesmer (baritone) and Alexander Crowe (keyboard).
Tickets £15 (children under 16 free) Cash only licensed bar.
Tickets available from: withyhamchurchevents@yahoo.com
or by calling 01892 770607

Four Elms cricket club

September fixtures

Date	1st XI	2nd XI		Date	Sunday XI @Home
02/09	Cudham Wyse 13.00 H	Flimwell 13.00 A		03/09	Carlton Sports 13.30 H
09/09	Trinity Midwhitgiftians 13.00 H			10/09	Linden Park 13.00 H
16/09				17/09	New Beckenham 13.00 H
23/09				24/09	Tim Seegar Xl 12.00 H
30/09	Falconhurst 13.00 H			01/10	Linden Park 13.00 H

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, more information can be found at www.fourelmscricketclub.co.uk

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

Willerby LANDSCAPES

canine splendour at Four Elms fete

The Four Elms fete dog show was hotly contested by a wide variety of delightful dogs.

Judge Ellie Heard expertly whittled the entries down to five class winners who then went head to head for the “Best in Show” title. The winner, Milo, a gorgeous young dachshund held aloft by proud owner Geanina, is in the middle of this picture next to Ellie. He won the best puppy class.

From left to right the other finalists are Niko with Emma, winner of the “Dog and owner lookalike” class, Gizmo of the “Waggiest tail” with Chloe, “Best rescue” Murphy with Rosemary and very much last but not least Kizzie within”Best junior handlers” Finlay and Darcie.



Harvest Supper

Book tickets using
QR code or contact
LizKaberry@hotmail.com

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH, 7.30PM MARKBEECH VILLAGE HALL

high speed homes!

Since November last year BT Openreach has been installing fibre cabling to premises in the Hever area with 01342 telephone numbers served by BT's Cowden exchange. But it has taken 2 years and a lot of hard work to get to this point!

In early 2021 Hever resident Amanda Johnson got so fed up with her poor internet connection that she set up a project with BT to get much faster speeds to her house and adjoining properties. Amanda joined forces with fellow neighbour Megan Andrews with additional support from me. Unlike some 'fibre' contracts, which still use the old slower copper cable to the house which limits the available speeds, Full Fibre supplies a fibre cable right into your premises, enabling speeds of up to 1 Gigabyte per second. With more and more services being supplied over the internet, and more people working from home, high speeds are becoming as essential as basic utilities like water and electricity. It is estimated that property prices are improved by such provision.

So, Amanda's project covered approx. 80 properties and almost all are now fully connected and enjoying the benefits. It has been a complex and often frustrating journey recruiting householders to apply for government grants and liaising with Openreach on the roll out. But the main objective seems to have been achieved, much higher internet speeds without costing householders anything for the installation! Well done Amanda and team!

John Adkins



Barley in the high summer.

news from Hever primary

The end of the academic year brings such a mix of emotions – sadness as we say farewells, excitement for our Year 6 leavers as they move on and anticipation as we begin to look ahead to next year. We are so proud of all that our Year 6 pupils have achieved and the way in which they have thrown themselves into everything that Hever School has offered, right up until their final day. It was lovely hearing their favourite memories over the years at the Leavers' Service and the affection with which they spoke about the staff and the friends they have made along the way.



One of their final responsibilities was hosting a 'Thank you' tea party for the parents, governors and other volunteers, and for representatives from trusts and other local groups who have supported the school financially. This year, the school has benefited from new visualisers in the classrooms, our amazing kitchen garden, access to Hever Castle, replacement bark and additions to the trim trail and, of course, our fantastic new playground equipment! We are hugely grateful for all the support from within and beyond our school community that adds so much to the children's learning and well-being. This event also provided the perfect opportunity to say a sad but grateful farewell to Mrs Margaret Cooke, our Co-Chair of Governors, who has shown unfailing commitment to the school and to children's education over many years.



We always say how lucky we are to be in such a beautiful location, with such wonderful grounds, but ultimately schools are about the people within them and what each person contributes. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a caring and supportive community and greatly look forward to continuing to build on everything we have achieved this year. If you are starting to think about a school place for your little one for September 2024, do please arrange a visit to see everything that Hever School has to offer (contact us on office@hever.kent.sch.uk or 01732 862304).

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

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

Dog Training

Claire Cook, Positive Reinforcement Dog Trainer in Edenbridge	07818 070672

Education

Chiddingstone Nursery School for children 2-5 years	01892 871315

Fitness

Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Gyrotonics at the barn with Stephanie Bates		07803 876816
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

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 September

In September the theme of our services will be welcome and hospitality. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
3rd Sept 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28	Trinity 13
10th Sept 8am	BCP Said Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Romans 12:1-13; Luke 10:38-42	Trinity 14
10th Sept 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	1 Kings 19:1-8; Psalm 65; Romans 12:1-13; Luke 10:38-42	Trinity 14
10th Sept 3pm*	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever with baptism	John 4:1-13 & Isaiah 55:1-2	Trinity 14
17th Sept 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Acts 16:25-34; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Trinity 15
17th Sept 4pm	Four Elms at Four	Luke 7:33-50	Trinity 15
17th Sept 6pm	Confirmation service at St.Peter and St.Paul, Edenbridge	Romans 14:1-2 & Matthew 18:21-35	Trinity 15
24th Sept 8am	BCP Said Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Hebrews 13:1-3 & Luke 24:13-35	Trinity 16
24th Sept 10am	Harvest Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Luke 12:13-21	Trinity 16

* Note different time owing to baptism

Our weekly Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm and 8.00pm will start on 11th September and our Zoom Evening prayer is on Thursdays at 6.00pm from 7th September. Our next Men's discussion group is on 3rd October at 6pm. For details of any of these please contact Simon.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

PS. We have two members of our congregations who will be confirmed by the Bishop of Rochester at St.Peter and St.Paul Edenbridge on Sunday 17th September at 6pm – do come and support them if you can.

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

I hope you've all been able to enjoy the summer holidays. Nearly forty years ago, Susie and I went on holiday to Turkey. We stayed in a rather run down hotel where we met a young married Turkish couple and struck up a friendship despite a considerable language barrier. The couple invited us to stay overnight in their flat in Istanbul, took us on a memorable tour of the city including a slap up meal refusing all our offers to pay. It was an unforgettable example of Eastern hospitality.

Susie and I have always enjoyed giving and receiving hospitality. We love eating with our friends and neighbours and more recently in the Three Spires. There is something very special about sharing a meal with others – we all eat and drink and there is something almost sacramental about eating together. It is no surprise that our chief act of worship is a symbolic meal, the Holy Communion, when we remember the events of Easter each Sunday.

Jesus had many meals, often with those who were not welcome. Hence his being referred to as a glutton, drunkard and friend of sinners (Matthew 11:19). Mindful of this, I will be preaching on the meals Jesus had throughout September and October, building up to Sunday 29th October, which will be designated 'Hospitality Sunday'. On that day, we'll have a simple said communion and I'll invite us all to use this Sunday to offer hospitality to someone. We may then repeat this on other fifth Sundays in future.

Of course, not all of us have the wherewithal, facilities, skills and energy to 'entertain'. But hospitality and welcome is not the same as entertaining, which often has a lot to do with reciprocating invitations. I remember once visiting an old lady who was close to death. But she rallied and the next time I saw her she asked me – from her bed – to join her in a glass of Rose with cheese crackers. It was a wonderful example of hospitality offered by someone facing huge challenges. All of us can invite someone over for a cup of tea, join someone for a dog walk or visit a coffee shop.

The painting 'The Light of the World' by the pre-Raphaelite painter, Holman Hunt hangs in Keble College Oxford and depicts Jesus knocking on a door surrounded by thorns. Underneath are the words of Jesus from Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me". It's about welcoming Jesus into lives and has the picture of a meal. So when we offer hospitality, we might even encounter Jesus, who can be the unseen guest at any meal.

God bless you all

Simon

Markbeech

At this end of the summer, farmers are thinking about the harvest and in our rural communities it matters to us all. And in all my thirty plus years of living in Markbeech there has been a harvest supper every year, apart from during the pandemic. It has changed and evolved over time but it is one of the bits of glue that holds our community together and we who organise it, do our best to make sure it is a special and inclusive celebration. And this year it's on October 6th. Make sure to book your tickets early - we hope to see you all young and old! There's a QR code on the poster to pay direct or contact Liz Kaberry on LizKaberry@hotmail.com.

August tends to be a quiet month in the village with people away but September looks busier with children back to school and perhaps a sense of new beginnings for many of us. The church too gears up for an important autumn, with lots of things happening and we welcome you to all of them! As ever check the diary and announcements.

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Four Elms

In many ways September always feels like the start of a new year. A new academic year, (new school shoes) and a time to work in the garden dividing herbaceous plants and thinking of more spring bulbs. Can you ever have enough daffodils? Also, this year a time to reminisce on the unprecedented global weather there has been. The hottest summer in Europe brought forest fires in Greece Italy, Hawaii and excessive floods in China. If this isn't the signal we all need to be conscious of climate change I am not sure what else is needed.

St Paul's biggest annual fundraiser, the village Fete didn't disappoint. Despite an hour of rain at the start, our church stalls, along with all the very generous donations supporting them, raised £3,900. These funds contribute to maintaining the ministry and also the fabric of our beautiful church building and churchyard. We thank you all and



In memory of Dennis and Ann Greig. A gift from the Greig family August 2023

especially the Fete Committee for putting on the show enabling us to participate so easily.

The end of September is Harvest Time. Harvest Festival in church and schools and here in Four Elms, the annual jolly harvest supper. Both the school and

the church present harvest gifts with thanks at our service and the produce is mainly sent to the Edenbridge Food Bank, though we do distribute some small boxes to our neighbours. If you know of any household who would welcome a small box, please let me know.

The harvest supper will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 29th September, 7.30 for 7.45pm Ticket price is £12 adult and £5 children. Please book early – see the poster in this edition of the Link. Our "Enjoy a cuppa" in St. Paul's continues. The next one is Tuesday 12th September. Do join us.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Hever Barn Dance on Saturday 9th September. This brings vital funds to St. Peter's church. Tickets can now be booked, look out for the special discounts for families and large groups of friends https://events.liveit.io/hever/hever-barn-dance-2023



Majestic conifer at the Castle.

Thank you to Joanna Wade for swiftly updating the laminated, visitor information sheets in the church to replace those which have mysteriously disappeared.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 14th September. The lunch served will be soup, cheese, side salad, bread, fruit and home made cake. Everyone is welcome, it would be helpful to know if you are coming.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptism

9 July Hever Jody Robert Gibson

Weddings

24 June Markbeech Katja Jalfin & Charlie Hallam

1 July Markbeech Lisa Jenkins & Thomas Jones

Funerals

15 June Hever cremation Arthur John Scott age 80

21 July Hever ashes burial Katie Theresa Warren

24 July Four Elms ashes burial Kathleen Gardiner age 93

Hever Parish Council

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

Following the elections in May, we have a vacancy for a Councillor, Four Elms Ward, to represent the interests of those living or working in the Parish. If you would like to know more about this volunteer vacancy, please contact the Clerk (clerk@hever.org or call 077849 12645). The closing date for applications is 4th September 2023.

A beautiful wooden bench has been kindly donated by the family of Ray and Daisy Hayes to be enjoyed by all. The bench can be found on the verge near the parking area for the Four Elms playground, just opposite the pub.



The Bulk Refuse Freighter will next be in the parish the morning of Saturday 30th September. The next Hever Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14th September in Hever Village Hall

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

Edenbridge Community First Responders

Edenbridge CFR group was founded a number of years ago, in conjunction with South East Coast Ambulance service, to provide Basic Life Support first aid to members of the community. We are a registered charity made up of volunteers, that have been trained by Secamb to provide support to the local ambulance service. Edenbridge and surrounding villages are in somewhat of a black-spot in terms of distance from the nearest Hospital A&E, it is therefore important to be able to provide time-critical life saving treatment to people who suddenly fall ill.

When a 999 call is received if an ambulance crew is nearby they will be directed immediately to the patient, however, sometimes the NHS & Ambulance services are enormously stretched and there are not always resources in the vicinity. In this situation a CFR member will be dispatched to the patient in order to provide crucial first aid in advance of the ambulance arrival. Examples of conditions that are considered time-critical include; Cardiac Arrest, Anaphylactic shock, Strokes & Choking. Without immediate trained medical intervention, these can all be fatal.

The CFR group have installed, and currently maintain, 11 defibs in Edenbridge & surrounding villages. In most cases, we have raised funds to finance the purchase of these defibrillators and the temperature controlled boxes that house them. For donations to this valuable community resource: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/EdenbridgeCFR

Nick Roberts

our wildlife garden

As I write, the females from the Common Pipistrelle maternity bat roost will be searching out the male bats for mating and then moving on to their winter roost. We have a colony of about 130 females, most of these will have one baby each so it becomes very busy in August. They fly out at dusk to catch 3,000 midges a night each, mainly using our wood to hunt in. We are lucky to stand and watch their aerial displays. We keep records of our bird, insect and mammal sightings. These are sent weekly to the British Trust for Ornithology Garden Birdwatch and we therefore have a good record of our garden wildlife trends, and know that the bats return almost on the same date every year, give or take a day.

Part of our garden consists of lawn, which is left unmown providing an important year-round habitat for insects, butterflies, ants' nests, crickets, grasshoppers and a rough layer of bottom grass as cover for the field voles who are predated on by the tawny owls.

Our woodland area is managed for wildlife by having cut paths to walk through, but all other areas have a good understory of leaves, ivy, brambles and vegetation. We always recycle any cut wood by making log piles, stick piles and general compost piles. The stick piles are loved by the wrens who use them every year to nest in. We keep the rides wide and natural by the hedgerow and this provides nettles for the butterflies to lay eggs upon. We often see damselflies and dragonflies hunting this area. Our pond has been a great success, great crested newts, smooth newts and dragonfly larvae call this home; we even had a kingfisher visit to see what he could catch for lunch.

We have made an extra effort when it comes to bees because they are in decline due to changes in land use, habitat loss, disease, pesticides, farming practices, pollution, climate change and invasive non-native plants and animal species. We have around twenty-five solitary bee nest boxes, these provide a safe environment for them to thrive in. These friendly bees are safe around children and pets as they are non-swarming and rarely sting. Nearly all of the nest holes are full of laid eggs which will hatch next spring. The adults and their offspring will use the



Comma Butterfly.

same nest again thus building up the numbers of solitary bees visiting our garden each year. The boxes need to be placed in a sheltered site which catches the full sun. For the bumble bees and honeybees, we leave patches of clover growing on the lawn and only choose bee friendly plants though they have plenty of wild plants to forage too. We also have a tree bumblebee nest in a lacewing box this year, they can be aggressive if you venture too close to them, so we respect their space.

European hornets are large social wasps; at present we have a nest being built in the wall cavity which we will not destroy as hornets are not very common in the UK and are a protected species in Germany. Many pest control websites state how dangerous they are if they sting but we have lived alongside hornet nests for years now without threat and have watched their full life cycle from nest building to break down at the end, when they will remove partly formed larvae from the nest and drop them outside to die once the food source has depleted. They catch wasps, spiders and the queens may supplement their diet with tree sap and windfall fruit. Gentle giants compared to wasps who will sting you at every given opportunity.

We have also undertaken dormice surveying by placing twenty numbered boxes around the wood and checking on them occasionally for any signs such as nest building or eaten hazelnuts. Unfortunately, we have never found any signs, but we live in hope as it would be fantastic to give these declining small mammals a safe home with us. Meanwhile some of our other more unusual visitors include a short-eared owl, woodcock, a deer that slept on the doorstep during the snowy weather, a weasel and a family of pygmy shrews who ran along in a line holding on to each other's tails to ensure that the smaller ones didn't get lost.

We feel that it is important to preserve and respect the wildlife that we live alongside as our gardens and land are their final safe havens.

Sarah Bissex



The bug hotel

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	45.0	54	41	121	21	78
2022	22	55	27	7	58	12	7.0	36	79	75	201	86
2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0					
HEVER												
2021	127	42	41.5	5	65.5	84	61.0	73	41	139	14.5	87.5
2022	16.5	44	22.5	2	62	19	15.0	39	85.5	58	195	80
2023	80	2	111	93.5	37	33.5	58.5					
MARKBEECH												
2021	120	40	51	4	55.5	38.5	48.0	0	39	141	11.5	86
2022	21	80	23	12	55.5	21	3.0	0	82	76	226	114
2023	90	4	123	105	31	34	56.0					

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Parish Rooms
– John Southworth 01732 700670
Hever
– Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech
– Mrs Paige 01342 850328

Councils

Kent County Councillor
Margot McArthur 03000 414817
Margot.McArthur@kent.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
Rachael Turner
07784 912645
Clerk@hever.org”

The Link Team

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

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

Copy for the **October** edition should reach us no later than **15 September**
Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer and £18 if sent by post.
For payment there are 2 options:
a) Send a cheque payable to ‘The Link’ with your address to 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or
b) Make a bank transfer or set up a standing order payment to ‘The Link’ at Lloyds a/c 01057697 sort 30-92-92 with postcode and surname as reference.

A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

September diary

Until 10 November

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

9 Sept **Hever Barn Dance, Hever Village Hall,** 6.30pm

10 Sept **Edenbridge Motor Show**, Gabriel's Showground – 10am-5pm

10 Sept **Yoghurt Making Workshop,** Bore Place £28pp 10.30 - 1pm

14 Sept **Hever Parish Lunch,** Hever Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

22 Sept **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, £9 adult £7 child 6.30 – 8pm

23 Sept **Wet Felting Workshop**, Bore Place £75pp 10 – 4pm

24 Sept **Labneh and Paneer Making,** Bore Place £28pp 10.30 - 1pm

30 Sept **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Four Elms Village Hall 9.15 – 10am

30 Sept **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Hever Bottle Bank 10.15 – 11am

30 Sept **Bulk Refuse Freighter,** Markbeech Village Hall 11.15 – 12noon

30 Sept **Recital of vocal solos and duets,** Withyham Parish Church - 7pm

6 Oct **Markbeech Harvest Supper,** Markbeech Village Hall – 7.30pm

7 Oct **Free Open Day at Bore Place,** local produce, BBQ etc 12 – 4pm

12 Oct H**ever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30pm

13 Oct **Visit to Bough Beech Water treatment works**, 2pm

21 Oct **Wind Quintet, The Ormonde Ensemble**,

Edenbridge Parish Church – 7pm

17 Nov **Film Mrs Harris Goes to Paris**, Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm

18 Nov "**Coronation" – a concert of words and music on a regal theme,** Hever Church, 7pm

19 Jan Film – **The Lost King,** Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm

16 Feb Film - A **Man Called Otto,** Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm

15 Mar Film - L**egally Blonde,** Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm