October 2023

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Tortoise but no hare
- Rubbing shoulders with Turing (almost)
- The makings of pumpkin pie
- Runner bean wars
- The dahlia king

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the October Link

I have been walking under oaks, dark green, and darkening more before they gently surrender to autumn orange; once I start to count how many shades of green I can see, I lose count, there are so many. I am also enjoying crunching over acorns and beech masts and watching fat squirrels running away. Talking of orange, gentle greens and browns were suddenly interrupted by this extraordinary chicken of the woods bracket fungus, which I almost mistook for a Belisha beacon.

Local news includes that Edenbridge post office is still closing on 2 November but there is some hope that another retailer will open up instead. Do book your visit to the water treatment works and please put the "Coronation" concert on 18th November in your diary (see the adverts for details).

Turning to my regular focus, some might say fixation on the environment (and good wine), I read that some producers have decided to stop using foil capsules round their corks because they serve no purpose and are a terrible waste. Also, I have bought a water-saving showerhead which is proving very satisfactory. More troubling is that blister packs from pills don't recycle in ordinary facilities or in chemists (Superdrug used to take them, but have stopped) because they are made from mixed materials which cannot be separated out. Nitrogen has been much in the news with the introduction of the ULEZ zone. A manifestation of its effect round here is that the emissions encourage thug plants such as cow parsley to grow on verges, smothering native species.

And finally, Kent Wildlife Trust are celebrating the first birthday of the first bison to be born wild in the UK for thousands of years. She is part of an award winning project to re-wild an ancient woodland near Canterbury and the results have been astonishing. The bison are a nature-based solution to woodland management and their natural behaviours shape the landscape, making it more resilient to climate change and opening up the thicket to a wide variety of plant and bird species. Very exciting!

Joanna Wade



pet of the month

Hello. My name is Victor (Vic for short) and I am a tortoise. My home is in Penshurst but I am having a little holiday in Hever as my family are away. It is very pleasant here and I am enjoying the change of scenery. Although I have my shell which is a ready-made mobile home, I do like a bit of extra comfort and so I was able to bring my little house along too - so it is home from home. I am being well looked after by Granny who knows how important I am to my family so she makes sure I have all my favourite foods. Dandelion flowers are best but they are not available at this time of year and I'm not so keen on the leaves, also tomatoes - I like the vine ripened ones.



Vic

The scientific name for me is Testudo graeca, my common name is Spur-thighed tortoise. I was hatched on 13 August 2004 in Sussex so I'm am a baby at 19 and I expect to live until I am 150! I'm told that the Guinness book of records has found the world's oldest land-living animal - a tortoise named Jonathan who is 190!! I prefer the name Victor.

Home has been in one or two places, but I am very happy where I live now. I have a large run and two little human friends who visit me several times a day with treats. Maybe I will come to Hever next year if I behave and don't escape. If I do I'm so slow that I won't get far!

Regards,

Vic (and his muse Sue Harvey)

desert island whisks

When Joanna asked if I would write this piece, I considered which kitchen item I find most invaluable. Straight away I thought of Bake-O-Glide, it's definitely not the most exciting of items I have to admit but for me, it is invaluable. For those of you who haven't come across it and put simply, it is a non-stick, reusable sheet. You can buy it in a roll to be cut to your preference or pre-cut in various shapes and sizes to fit a wide variety of tins and trays. It is suitable for all manner of cooking from baking, roasting and frying to microwaving and can be used instead of foil, baking parchment or silicone sheets. It really is completely non-stick! I often roll out fondant icing or pastry for pies on a sheet, thus avoiding the tricky transfer, which would previously have involved pastry precariously being draped over a rolling pin. It is easy to clean with water or popped in the dishwasher. Apparently, Nigella Lawson "couldn't live without it", I wouldn't go that far myself but it really is fantastic stuff.



Given that rather mundane choice, Joanna conceded that I could select a second item for which I have a nostalgic fondness, my late mother's Mouli Baby. Now vintage, it hangs in my kitchen above the Rayburn. The red wooden handle is faded and cracked but brings back childhood memories of my mother's kitchen. Oddly I do not remember her using it and I only use it myself at this time of year, to make pumpkin pie. Not a dessert I had growing up but my sister-in-Law is American so I make one for her every year, around Thanksgiving, to remind her of home. The Mouli puree's the cooked flesh of the squash into a perfect velvety texture. For this recipe I would always use a Kabocha, Acorn, Crown Prince or Butternut squash, as they are far more flavoursome than the 'Halloween' variety.

Emma Scott

<u>Pastry Crust</u>
170g Plain Four
½ Teaspoon salt
3 Tablespoons Cold Water
115g Butter

<u>Filling:</u>
450g Mashed Pumpkin/Squash
1 (12 fl oz) can Evaporated Milk
2 Large Eggs, beaten
250g Brown Sugar
½ tsp each of Ground Cinnamon, Ginger, Nutmeg and salt





Coronation

An entertaining mixture of words and music from Mozart to AA Milne and back again.....

7pm Saturday 18 November
at St Peter's Church, Hever

Tickets £10 from
heverbrocas@gmail.com or on the door

Visit to Bough Beech water treatment works

If you would like to visit our local reservoir and water treatment works you can join the tour 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 very limited so please get in touch to book yours asap.

Meanwhile... if any of you would like to join a working party to look at what we can do to protect the environment, please get in touch.

Contact thelink@hever.org.



what I do

I have been painting ever since I can remember, challenging and spontaneously changing the perception of what I see. My style of painting over the years has developed from traditional roots using watercolour and now I work in all mediums depending on the subject and how I feel at the time. I am passionate about combining classical themes and the abstract. My work is a continuous development of finding a way to capture and reproduce a theme using colour, shape and pattern.

I see colour and pattern in everything. I sometimes put a colour in my paintings purely because I would like the subject to have that colour - I question whether through my enthusiasm I actually see the other colour but don't care. Although I am keen to start my painting I do spend a long time looking and making sketches and colour mixes. I have continuous joy in developing my unique style and capturing all that I see.

I have been influenced not only by the amazing light, varying textures, patterns and colours in the landscapes of Zimbabwe and the Netherlands where I grew up but also by great painters such as Henri Matisse, Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, David Hockney and of course Vincent van Gogh. After having studied at Kingston University I had 10 wonderful creative years in advertising, both in agencies and in production companies. I never stopped painting and drawing.

I believe anyone can paint or draw and because of this I have taught in schools and I now hold painting courses and have organised holidays in various locations in England and across Europe and Africa. Currently I have a regular group in Hever Village Hall and also teach in Bessels Green, Sevenoaks.

I am always available for commissions. I exhibit in London and the South East and I now live in Kent with my husband and have three children.

Virginia Griffith-Jones



STOP PRESS
I have an Exhibition on
17-21 October at:
54 The Gallery, Shepherd Market, London W1J 7QX
Tuesday to Friday 11- 7pm, Saturday 11 – 2pm. All welcome

Margaret Bates and Bletchley Park

Margaret Bates's story of growing up in Bletchley, near Milton Keynes, during the second world war is one of a bucolic life playing tennis on the family tennis court with her sisters, interwoven with a growing awareness that SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT was happening just yards down the road.



Margaret and her twin Liz as VADs

Margaret was 12 when the war started and she had lived in Bletchley all of her short life. She remembers Neville Chamberlain announcing on the radio that "we are at war with Germany" and the family immediately expected German planes and bombs overhead. Instead of an air-raid shelter, they had a cellar with basement half-windows and so hung blankets over them to protect against gas and reinforced the ceiling. But soon the three sisters realised they were more frightened of the frogs in the basement than of potential bombs - and as the war wore on they did not go downstairs much.

Whilst they carried gas masks everywhere, their tranquility was mainly undisturbed. Only once was there a brush with the law.... the family was in the habit of making cocoa at 10pm every night which involved opening their larder and turning on the light which then shone out through the ventilation grille into the darkness. A local reported a spy signalling to the enemy every night on the dot of 10 - and the police arrived as Margaret's father knew them well (for entirely lawful reasons) no one was arrested and in future the cocoa was reached for in the dark.

Meanwhile the enigma-code-breaking Bletchley Park House was there in the village, hiding it's work in plain sight. There were no road blocks, no barbed wire and no marching soldiers, just huts in which sister Joan worked but would not say what she was up to. As the war went on, though, more and more radio masts appeared and the operatives started to complain about being interrupted by the church bells.

In addition, Margaret's family had to make space in their home for billeted personnel, including a Major-General who helped to get Joan her job, but who never spilt any beans about his work. The billets were known as Guinea-pigs as the government paid a guinea's rent on their behalf. The large family struggled to feed their guests (and their wayward dog Mick) and were grateful to their chickens

for eggs and to neighbours for un-rationed honey and rabbits. They also had to cope without their much-loved maid Eileen who left to work in a munitions factory and never returned.

And Alan Turing was just a hop down the road, busy breaking codes. The Enigma was a type of enciphering machine used by the German armed forces to send messages securely. Although Polish mathematicians had worked out how to read Enigma messages, the Germans increased its security at the outbreak of war by changing the cipher system daily making the task of understanding the code even more difficult. Turing and his fellow code-breaker Gordon Welchman built a machine known as the Bombe which helped to significantly reduce the work of the code-breakers. From mid-1940, a number of German Air Force codes were being read at Bletchley and the intelligence gained from them was helping the war effort. Had they known, the family would have been pleased because tragedy struck when their much-loved only cousin and hero, Leslie, a flight engineer was shot down over the channel. He had escaped France once at Dunkirk but this time he was buried there, aged just 21 and only recently engaged to be married.

Margaret and her twin, Liz, left school aged 17 in 1944. They were not allowed to join the services until the age of seventeen-and-a-half and so joined the Red Cross as volunteers (VADs) in a slightly chaotic convalescent home (a former finishing school). Some of their patients were former prisoners of war who had become ill from being over-fed too suddenly when released. This, and a motivational visit from Douglas Bader, inspired Margaret to take up a career in nursing.

Bletchley Park is now a museum worthy of the code-breakers to whom it pays tribute - it is open daily and you can find out more from its excellent website – www.bletchleypark.org.uk. There are plenty of films and books about the goings-on there, notably "The Imitation Game" and Betty Webb's recent book "No more secrets", the true story of the only woman to have worked during the Second World War as a code-breaker at both Bletchley Park and the Pentagon. All testament to the important and mysterious activities which Margaret witnessed so near - but yet so far.

Joanna Wade



Code-breakers at work



Village screen film

The film season begins in November at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club. Our first film will be:



Friday 17 November

Mrs Harris goes to Paris

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own. After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook -- but the very future of the House of Dior.

The film, based on the much loved Paul Gallico book, stars Lesley Manville well know from many films and television series, including Phantom Thread, The Crown and Mum.

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval. Tickets are a suggested donation of £2 for the film or £15.50 to include the meal - scampi and chips or vegetarian quiche. You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@ gmail.com or buy tickets at the door. However please pre- book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat.

news from Hever primary

It has been lovely seeing the children's excitement returning to school, clearly happy to see their friends but also full of enthusiasm for their learning in the first few days. Walking round the school, there is a lovely buzz in the classrooms and the children are enjoying the late sunshine and our new play equipment at break and lunchtimes. We are very proud of our Year 6 pupils who took the Kent Test in the first week of term. It was a full and challenging day which they approached calmly and confidently.

We have much to celebrate this month with a 'double scoop' for our Gardening Club who achieved the RHS School Gardening Level 2 award and won the 'Ready, Steady, Grow' Edenbridge Town Council Gardening Competition!



We are excited to welcome 28 children to Acorn Class. Following home visits, they are quickly settling into the school routines. Our Year 6 children play a key role as 'buddies' to our new Reception children, providing positive role models and a caring older 'friend'.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

Looking for a school space for your child starting school in September 2024?

Come and meet our experienced and enthusiastic Early Years team and see our spacious and well-equipped Reception classroom, opening onto a large, stimulating outdoor learning environment.

We have a committed teaching team at Hever Primary who are passionate about education and ensuring the very best for our children. You can be confident of a warm 'Hever welcome' from a supportive and pro-active parent community. We offer a rich curriculum, including Forest School, with a range of enhancement opportunities including trips and workshops and a wide range of clubs.

Contact the school office (01732 862304 or email office@hever.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a tour with our Headteacher, or to join our Open Morning on Friday 17th November at 9.30am. We are proud of our school and our children and would love to meet you and share all that Hever Primary has to offer.

I trust you all enjoyed your summer holidays and I imagine many of you jetted away to somewhere exotic and with Gatwick Airport on our doorstep its a bit easier to do so. However Gatwick can be somewhat of a double edged sword for a lot of us, with the majority of flights arriving directly above our little rural ward.

There is an application currently being considered to bring the northern runway into regular use so that flight numbers can be increased. Clearly this will have a significant impact on the Ward and the District Council will be asked to make representations to the Inspectorate in November/December. You can make your own comments too and I would encourage you to do so! https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/gatwick-airport-northern-runway/ . Please visit the inspectorate's website and register to comment. You can do this until the 29th October. I will also be registering as the ward councillor as well as contributing to Sevenoaks District Council's official response.

On a lighter note, I was delighted to see everyone's competition entries to the Hever Horticultural show. I was most impressed by the blooms and produce grown by all of you. It was a wonderfully well organised event, we are very fortunate to have such an active and friendly community.

Should any community groups wish to submit applications for funding, Sevenoaks District Council are providing grants of up to £5000 for charities and community/voluntary groups so please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communitygrants before 2nd November should you wish to apply. I hope this is helpful and if you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Cllr James Barnett, Sevenoaks District Councillor Cowden & Hever Ward
Cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Tel: 07831 112901



Hever hort show



Hever Parish Council

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

The Gatwick expansion consultation is currently open for comment and will close on 29th October. If the expansion were to go ahead, it would have a sizeable impact on living in the area. Hever Parish Council will be lodging an objection to the application and the significant damage and impact it will have on the Parish and beyond. The objection will focus on the impact, namely noise and pollutants, on HPC residents and on the immediate environment around us being AONB, the potential impact on housing, employment and infrastructure as well as the wider environmental considerations. All residents are also able to register and comment on the application and we would actively encourage you to do so via this link:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR020005/register/register-have-your-say/

Over the summer the free Family Fun Day, held at the Four Elms Field, was well attended. The sun shone and the event was enjoyed by families with children of all ages. Lots of fun was had with a range of activities including a bouncy castle, archery, ball games and a craft tent, drumming and even pottery was on offer! I was pleased to be able to attend this year and handed out refreshments to families attending. As well as some HPC Councillors popping in, Sevenoaks District Council's Chairman, Cllr Alan Layland also called by and enjoyed some of the activities too!

Another hot topic at the moment is electric vehicles. A resident recently commented there were no EV charging facilities in the Parish. I am pleased to confirm we are currently exploring possible options for public electric vehicle charging points to be installed here in the Parish.

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to volunteer a bit of your time to make a difference to the community, please do let me know. We have a friendly and supportive bunch of Councillors and no prior experience is necessary.

The next Hever Parish Council meeting is Thursday 9th November in Markbeech Village Hall.

Finally, we have the Bulk Refuse Freighter visiting again the morning of Saturday 30th September.

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

business directory

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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
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 341415
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
Singing lessons and workshops in Hever	contact Jane	07970 594601

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 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 715037

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 October

We will be continuing with the theme of welcome and hospitality in our services culminating on Hospitality Sunday on 29th. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
1st Oct 10am	Holy Communion & Harvest festival St.Paul's Four Elms	Exodus 16:1-5,13-18 & John 6:1-35	Trinity 17
8th Oct 8am	Said Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Genesis 18:1-14 & Hebrews 13:1-3	Trinity 18
8th Oct 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Genesis 18:1-14; Psalm 19:7-14; Hebrews 13:1-3; Luke 24:13-35	Trinity 18
8th Oct 4pm	Harvest Forest Church St.Peter's Hever	Luke 15:11-32	Trinity 18
8th Oct 6pm	Songs of praise St.Paul's Four Elms	Luke 4:1-24	Trinity18
15th Oct 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Exodus 12:1-13, 29-32; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34a; Luke 22:14-27	Trinity 19
15th Oct 4pm	Four Elms at Four	Genesis 18:1-14	Trinity 19
22nd Oct 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Hebrews 13:1-3 & Luke 19:1-10	Trinity 20
22nd Oct 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Luke 19:1-10	Trinity 20
29th Oct 8am	**Hospitality Sunday** Said Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Revelation 3:14-20 & Mark 9:36-37	Trinity 21

Our weekly Bible studies continue on Mondays at 6.00pm on Zoom and in person at 8.00pm and our Zoom Evening prayer is on Thursdays at 6.00pm. Our Men's discussion group is on 3rd October at 6pm and Zoe Joannou is hosting a prayer group for young mums on Wednesdays. For details of any of these 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

There's an old story about a church family who had invited the vicar for a meal. Wanting to impress their guest, they asked their young child to say grace. But the child steadfastly refused repeated requests. So the mother said: 'Just say what Daddy said at breakfast this morning'. With a mischievous smirk, the child said: 'O Lord, we've got the awful vicar coming for dinner!'

It's the season of Harvest festivals and the focus is rightly on giving thanks for our food and all the many good things we enjoy. But what about the old tradition of saying grace before a meal? When Susie and I got married and set up home, we agreed that we would always give thanks before every meal including regardless of who was with us. I remember the time we did this when we invited my boss over for a meal – it wasn't a problem!

The Bible is full of injunctions to give thanks. St.Paul writes: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and our chief act of worship is a symbolic meal, the Holy Communion, also known as 'The Eucharist', the Greek word for thanksgiving.

The writer GK Chesterton was a literary and literal heavyweight! He enjoyed his food, but also celebrated so much more in his life; he said: 'You say grace before meals. I say grace before the concert and the opera…before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming….' etc! It is said that having an attitude of gratitude is good for our own well-being. Quite rightly we encourage our children and grandchildren to 'say the magic word' – Thank you!

As mentioned last month, I'll be continuing to preach on Welcome and Hospitality building up to 'Hospitality Sunday' on 29th October when we'll have a very simple said communion at 8am and then do something hospitable. Here are some suggestions:

- Host a meal with friends or invite someone you haven't invited before or a newcomer to our community
- Do the same but over tea and coffee and cake!
- Agree to meet up for coffee or a drink
- Visit someone who is housebound – take them something to eat or drink
- Invite someone for a dog walk
- If you've got a nice garden, invite some families over who lack space
- Come to church early to be on the door to welcome people

When we do any of these, let's pause for a moment and maybe use King David's prayer from thousands of years ago: Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand (1 Chronicles 29:14).

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Markbeech

I am writing this is on 4th September and the first day of the new term for many children. Many are starting nursery or going up a year and lots of young are starting their secondary school and those who have left school are embarking on the next stage of their lives. All very exciting, but as a parent or grandparent one can only wish them an easy passage into adult life and hope they make the most of their time at school. It seems rather unfair as children return to school, English summer has arrived. However there is a little hint of autumn with an early dew in the morning and now daylight seems to be somewhat shorter.

As we head towards Harvest Festival, the hedgerows abound with blackberries, branches on the plum, apple and damson trees are weighed down with fruit. The combine harvesters have been busy on the farms. By the time this goes to print the trees will be starting their vivid autumn display before we head into winter. At Markbeech we have a Family Harvest Service at Holy Trinity on 24th September at 10am and then the Harvest Supper will be in the Markbeech Village Hall on Friday 6th October at 7.30pm.

Lynne Rowan
Churchwarden

Four Elms

Despite the Indian summer, autumn beckons and we look forward to our Harvest celebrations. The Harvest Supper is on Friday 29th September (book now as we will not have tickets on the door).

October commences with our Harvest Festival service, led by the Rev. Sheila Perkins. Please read the Benefice notice on page 17 concerning the harvest gifts which are going to the Edenbridge Food Bank. On the 8th October we have "Songs of Praise" here in St. Paul's at 6pm. If you have a favourite hymn please let the Benefice Office know (or me) and have it included in the service, with the reason why it is special to you. The hymn may be traditional or modern. Whatever you wish. Please join us and enjoy the singing of your favourite hymns.

Despite searing heat, we had brave souls representing St. Paul's who did an amazing bike ride around local churches for Kent Churches Ride & Stride, raising a fantastic £290. Our beautiful small rural churches throughout Kent are a wonderful heritage and it is good that a charity such as Kent Churches is there to support them. Well done to our intrepid cyclists.

By the beginning of October there will be many freshers making their way to college and university, leaving home for the first time. For some an exciting prospect but for others with trepidation. We wish you all a happy and successful time wherever and whatever your courses. For parents whose offspring leave home for the first time, don't fret, they will be home soon, with a bag of washing and ready to raid the fridge!

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

We were delighted to see so many friends and families at the recent Barn Dance and BBQ, the first we have been able to hold since 2019. We had a new band and caller who got everyone up and dancing and in between we were treated to Country and Western singing from Helen. A huge thank you to the team of volunteers that made sure the event ran smoothly and the cooks who supplied us with delicious homemade desserts.

Amber Dane has stepped down as the Chair of The Friends of St Peter's Church. We greatly appreciate all the work she has done in her many years of carrying out this role so marvellously.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 12th October starting at 12.30. 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.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptism

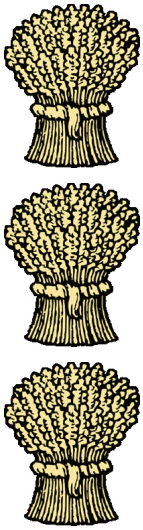
10 September Hever Josiah John Pepper

Weddings

19 August Hever Nicola Goscomb & Matteo Bettoni
2 September Markbeech Ally Pixley & Scott Beech
9 September Elizabeth Sinclair and Jay Peterson

Funerals

8 August Markbeech Ashes burial Lesley & Mary Theobold
8 September Ashes burial Four Elms Naha Davis
11 September Ashes burial Markbeech Beryl & David Beaumont



Harvest Festival Food Donations

The three churches in the Benefice will act as collection points for long-life food for the Edenbridge Food Bank. Please drop your donation off to St Peter's church in Hever, St Paul's church in Four Elms or Holy Trinity, Mark Beech. Please make your donation by October 10th.

Sandra Taekema, from the Edenbridge Food Bank, has the following advice on suitable food products for donation: "We would be very happy with the usual products like pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cooking sauces, cereal, long-life milk, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned potatoes, instant mash, instant coffee, hot chocolate, tea bags, jam, puddings, biscuits etc. Of course all within date. Decorated boxes appreciated"

Norman Greenaway is our local dahlia and vegetable champion. Over the years he has won many prizes and from 1986 he has carried off the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society's Russell cup for dahlias in an incredible run, broken only three times in nearly forty years! The cup was donated to the Society by Alan Russell, father of Dr Andrew of Sandfield Farm.



Norman was born in Marsh Green to a family of gardeners who ran several allotments in order to feed their six sons. Gardening was in his blood, reinforced by a spell working in Hever Castle's "Pleasure Gardens" after he left school and later, after a time in the engineering firm Flexible Drive and Tool on Hever Road, as Groundsman for Edenbridge Council. When he married Jenny in 1970 and they moved to their present home in Pigdown Lane, her parents gave him some dahlia tubers. This was the beginning of his special skill although Norman's showing career only began years later when he had to give up an early passion for cricket when his knees started to let him down. In fact his brother David had already shown dahlias in competitions when he worked for Fred Groombridge at Hever Warren; he won the Russell cup for Fred twice, in 1969 and 1970. But Norman's prowess soon put that record in the shade.

This year, as well as winning at Hever for dahlias and other classes, Norman won firsts at the Edenbridge and Oxted show for his basket of dahlias and also for tomatoes and beetroot. The Hartfield show saw him triumph again, winning a silver salver for his dahlias and a medal for the most points in the show. One of the joys of dahlias is that they come in so many sizes, shapes and colours. Those with spiky petals are "cacti", the puff ball is a "ball", when they are more open they are "decorative" and, my favourite, those with broader petals are "water lily"; the urge to grow more types can be hard to resist.

And behind the razzmatazz of the shows Norman really loves his garden which he tends with a precious 50 year old hoe and his grandfather's 100 year old spade. With the support of Jenny, they love to have vases of dahlias in the

house, beetroot ready for their son when he calls (he works at How Green Nursery) and, most of all, lashings of runner beans melting in the mouth straight from the garden. Jenny freezes their tomatoes uncooked and makes soup and other tomato dishes successfully when needed.

Over the years Norman has learnt that growing dahlias needn't be that labour intensive. Generally, although it it good to cut the plants back as they die off, the tubers, do not need mulching to protect them from frost unless it is very cold. If there are two shoots on a tuber it is good to divide them, but it is not vital; with a little benign neglect one can still grow to the size of a dinner plate. And compost does pretty well even if you do not turn it. Norman's maxims are: "Learn from your mistakes" and "There's always a job in the garden". How true! Good luck for next year Norman!

Joanna Wade



Hever hort summer show 2023

Although not the last event of the Hever Hort calender, the Summer Show is certainly our biggest. It was held on 19th August and the variable weather turned out fine for the day. There were 175 entries from 27 different members and the hall looked splendid, with a proliferation of flowers, flower arrangements, arts and crafts, photographs and domestic offerings. The fruit and vegetable classes were displayed in our marquee and, although the number of entries was down, the quality was of a high standard.

The longest bean class used to be quite light-hearted, but this year seems to have been taken a tad too seriously, with Jane Rosam and Mick George crossing, if not swords, then certainly runner beans. Jane was overheard saying, 'Gadzooks Sir, methinks thou hast fed thy beans with eye of newt and toe of frog'. Hopefully, all will be sweetness and light next year.

Thirteen trophies were awarded to seven lucky recipients. Norman Greenaway won three, two for Dahlias as well as the master gardener's tray. He also shared a cup with Jane Rosam. Jane also won for her vegetables and shared a cup with Jean Mason for most points in the flower classes. Sue Harvey won two cups for her flower arrangements and best flower display. Other





winners were Sue Eldridge (pot plant), Tony Yates (woodwork), Pauline Radford (photography), and me (domestic classes). Well done to all of us, to all who entered and to the army of helpers who helped make it a lovely community event.

Our last talk of the year will be on Wednesday, 18th October, at Hever Village hall, and is called, 'Which came first? The Bee or the Flower?' by Mick Lynn. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments and a raffle.

There have been a number of media articles focussing on the impact of climate change on butterfly populations. A recent article had a 'five easy tips' to encourage these lovely creatures, which I repeat here. Leave patches of lawn to grow wild, grow scented flowers such as foxgloves and delphiniums, grow native shrubs such as buckthorn, install a butterfly house and finally, cut back on pesticides.

Happy gardening!

Doug Bowern

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	23				
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	23.5				
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	32				

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

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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 **November** edition should reach us no later than **16 October**
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

October diary

Until 10 November

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

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

7 Oct **Four Elms Cricket Club Party** tickets £12 adults £5 under 16s 7pm

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

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

18 Oct **Hever Hort talk, Which came first the bee or the flower,** Hever Village Hall 8pm

21 Oct **Wind Quintet, The Ormonde Ensemble,** Edenbridge Parish Church – 7pm

22 Oct **Halloween Singing workshops for children**, bookings call Jane 07970594601 Markbeech Village Hall 9.30 – 10.30am

29 Oct **Halloween singing workshop,** as above, Markbeech Village Hall 9.30 – 10.30am

4 Nov **Poppy Appeal Recital**, Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row 2pm

5 Nov **Halloween singing workshop,** as above, Markbeech Village Hall 9.30 – 10.30am

9 Nov **Hever Parish Council Meeting**, Markbeech Village Hall. 7.30pm

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 - Legally Blonde,** Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm