November 2023

# THE LINK







In this issue:

- Damn fine dam
- Precious peelers
- Paul's popstar years
- We are Siamese if you please
- Christmas beckons
- Trying to write headlines without Paul

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

# Welcome to the November Link

**As the autumn took hold I noticed many busy bumblebees feeding on the nectar of late flowering plants.** They were probably the queens getting ready to hibernate, usually in loose soil, whilst the rest of the brood dies off. The bumblebee conservation trust tells us that of the 24 different species some remain active over winter, feeding on winter flowering plants such as mahonia and viburnum.

Construction industry entrepreneurs have produced just the thing not only for bees but also for swifts - a brick with bespoke nesting holes in it. You might have thought that less brick meant less cost - but no! A single stylish bee brick can set you back £35 and a swift brick £45 whereas a common or garden holey brick from B&Q is 79p. To be slightly fairer, swift-conservation.org promotes these bricks and most are carefully hollowed out so that the swifts can nest inside.

Honey Bees in Africa are rather better value because they make money for people in poor and remote communities where they are also an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. The charity Bees for Development runs projects in Uganda, Zanzibar, Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan, for example training women and blind keepers whose honey sales will help to give them economic independence.



I have slowly recovered from the shock of discovering that there is nowhere to compost so-called biodegradable plastic bags locally and am busy preparing for the concert "Coronation" on 18th November. It celebrates all things regal in this coronation year and aims to be both lighthearted and beautiful - I hope to see you there!

**Joanna Wade**
thelink@hever.org



Swift brick

If there are any tenors out there, please don't be shy and contact me at The Link, we are desperately short of male voices for the choir.

## pets of the month

**May I introduce Flora and Millie ..**

**..** a while ago my enormous black Norwegian Forest Cat, Peter, died. He was desperately missed. My neighbour, knowing my passion for Siamese cats, came up trumps by finding online a request from the RSPCA for someone to adopt two 10 year olds. Sadly their original owner had moved into a care home.



I have been the fortunate owner of Siamese cats since 1964 and so the RSPCA were happy for me to act as a foster mum and then I was able to adopt them so my animal family was complete again. Naturally things took a while to settle though fortunately Gladys, my laid-back Lurcher, wasn't at all interested in the two sisters. The cats had to stay in the spare bedroom for several weeks to make sure they were happy in their new home. They both spent day and night under the duvet, only showing themselves for a quick bite to eat, then whizzed back into hiding. Then the frightening decision to introduce them to the garden, having first smeared butter on their paws (an old wives' tale to make a cat stop to lick its paws before rushing off - I always do this, just in case). They made no attempt to escape, wandered around sniffing and decided to stay!

They both have their own character. Flora's idea of having fun is to use her paw to open a low cupboard door, go inside, look around and then come out – leaving the door open! Millie prefers to drink her water from a glass, drinking during the night from my glass of water by the bed. Yes, they both sleep on my bed, not cold enough to come inside (yet!) along with Gladys, leaving a small space for me!!! Must buy a king size bed next time. When I sit down they are straight on my lap, pinning me down, even whilst I have been typing this!

The RSPCA requires a medical by a local vet. This highlighted the fact that Millie has a renal deficiency (common with Siamese cats). To my surprise and gratitude the RSPCA pay for both her expensive special diet and all vet consultations. I will never be able to thank them enough for giving me two adorable companions.

**Jan Tolfree**

# desert island whisks

**which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?**

The kitchen utensil I can't possibly do without is my humble, well used, potato peeler. Not a day goes by without me using it, whether peeling fruit or vegetables. BUT it has to be a particular one, not one that looks like a catapult and takes off more of my skin than the vegetable, not one without a proper handle and not one that can be used by both right and left handers (with apologies to all you left handers out there).

When we first married, many years ago now, I actually had two of them but one disappeared only to be found about a year later in the compost heap in a very sorry condition. With great regret, it had to be put in the dustbin, but I carried on using the other peeler until the blade began to get very thin and I decided I needed another. Then the fun started we hunted everywhere for a similar peeler until, in despair, I bought one of those catapult ones but, after suffering bleeding knuckles, it was relegated to the back of the kitchen drawer.

Paddock Wood has a super ironmongers and I found what I thought was a replacement and purchased it without checking properly. It turned out to be the dual right/left handed one and I could not get used to it - so this was also relegated to the back of the kitchen drawer.

And then, eventually we went on holiday to the Scottish Highlands and there in a little cafe/gift shop/general stores we found what I was looking for! I carefully wrapped it, put it in the suitcase and brought it home where it is in daily use. BUT why, oh why, didn't I buy two because I am going to have to start searching for a new one again soon!

Meanwhile, I really must clean out that kitchen drawer, I wonder how many unwanted potato peelers I will find?

Jenny Greenaway



# HEVER
## Christmas Fair

GUTHRIE PAVILION, HEVER CASTLE

**9TH NOVEMBER**

**10.30AM-3.30PM**

ENTRY TO GROUNDS, CASTLE & FAIR

ADULTS/CONCESSION £10
CHILD 5-17 £5
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**£3 OF EACH TICKET WILL BE DONATED TO**

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# 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*

## our visit to Bough Beech water treatment works

**The treatment works are nestled under the grassy dam at Bough Beech.** Over the course of four hours they treat raw reservoir water and pump it out to our homes. Now read on

The reservoir was created in a clay valley capable of retaining water and Sutton and East Surrey Water rely on it for only 15% of customers' needs, the rest coming from boreholes in the chalk hills further north (these are less affected by drought meaning fewer hosepipe bans than in many areas).

Sue Hart remembers the construction: "I spent my childhood on a farm on Yorks Hill, so my 'playground' was directly affected by the works. I recall the removal of two Tudor farmhouses, one of which, "Bayleaf", was amongst the first buildings erected at the Weald & Downland Museum. Digging started in 1967 and as a child construction seemed forever! It closed the road to school adding several minutes to the school run but when the tunnels were being built under the road between the wildlife reserve and the reservoir we had huge fun running through, yelling and getting the echoes down the pipes. My father had permission to fly fish from a rowing boat and long summer evenings were spent on the water fishing for trout, but terrifying my mother because he couldn't swim and she worried we weren't strong enough to rescue him if he fell in! In January 1985 the lake completely froze over. Sadly that excitement only lasted a couple of days before it thawed."

The reservoir is the size of 250 football pitches and holds 10 billion litres of water. It is mainly filled from the Eden, pumped in during the late autumn and winter, which is why it is currently only 55% full. We walked the dam wall and then gantries over fast-flowing waterfalls and ominous looking sludge tanks to understand the fascinating process before being let loose in the children's education centre. SES wants children to grow up understanding that a seven minute shower uses an unacceptably staggering 60 litres of water against the national target for individual usage of 110 litres a day.

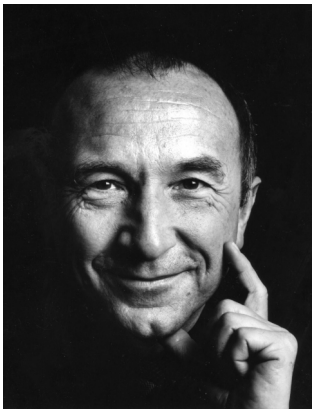
There is lots of information on the SES website. They are working on improving biodiversity round the reservoir and have been rewarded with sightings of otters. The wildlife oast is scheduled to reopen soon.

And so, to the challenge: cut your showering down to four minutes!

**Joanna Wade**



# Thank you Paul Houlton



**Paul stepped back last month as designer-in-chief of The Link and we are very grateful for all his impressive work since 2018.** This may have been his crowning glory but it was most certainly not the only glory .. read on!

Paul was destined to be a designer, born in Croydon he was always doodling and producing abstract drawings based on well known tunes, his other love being music. Someone who lived down the road was a "commercial artist" (ie producing posters and the like) and he thought to himself "what a wonderful way to earn a living. Art with a purpose". Although one art master told his father "your son will never be a commercial artist" the other, Geoffrey Dickinson, who became famous for his covers for Punch magazine, was more supportive.

After school Paul worked an informal apprenticeship in a commercial studio and then became publicity manager for a big company so he got to know what clients wanted as well as how to execute the design work, an important combination of skills. He then went freelance and, aged 19, married his first wife. Their daughter Andrea runs a successful design business in Paris where she lives with her family.

And so to the music. Paul played the clarinet and then moved on to the saxophone - partly because he was passionate about modern jazz and partly because sax players were always in demand. He played in bands produced by Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones, though being a modest man he wouldn't want to exaggerate their success. They had a lot of fun, but gradually Paul fell out of love with the industry and, still in Croydon, set up Grand Design, the design company he ran with his wife, Charlotte Desorgher, for many years.

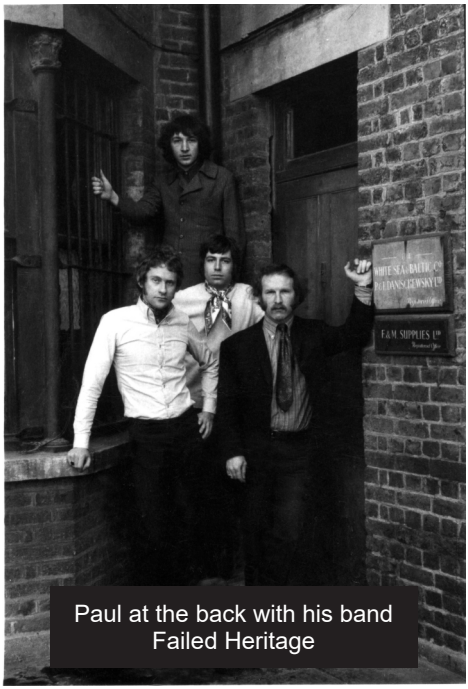
Paul met Charlotte through music. He had asked his friend, pianist and composer Peter Lawson, to teach him the piano and through his friend Simon he met Simon's sister Charlotte. Peter has since dedicated a string quartet to Paul and Charlotte called "the song of the common spotted orchid", a playful reference to Paul's proud proletarian roots.

Grand Design grew rapidly and started to win awards. They specialised in design work for not-for-profit organisations: corporate identities, annual reports and advertising campaigns for many housing associations, and the Alzheimer's Society to name but a few, often illustrated by Paul's own photographs (he also used these skills to teach photography in the One-to-one project on the Spitals Cross estate some years later). Paul credits Charlotte with

keeping up with the changes in technology from pen and ink designs and hot metal typesetting to fully computerised digital design.

Musical fun continued because brother Simon's band performed electro acoustic cabaret - Paul played the spoons in the William Tell overture, scored for motorbikes, dressed as the Lone Ranger and they performed Verdi on Black and Decker workmates. These performance skills proved very transferrable when Paul moved to Markbeech.

The journey south began in a camper van. Living above the shop, as they were, meant working too hard and so weekend trips out to Truggers Lane, hosted by friendly farmer Ted Witchell were a delight, doubly so when they found The Rock at the end of the lane!



Paul at the back with his band Failed Heritage

After a while they left Croydon and rented Ann Greig's oast on Five Fields Lane in Four Elms for five years. They had a ball, often literally, as Ann liked nothing better than to throw a party. And the parties continued with Ann Roberts Cleeve, their new neighbour after they bought Lower Buckhurst in Markbeech 30 years ago

When Ann called to invite them for a drink she explained that Ann Greig had told her to take care of them and that they were very nice. They thought the same of both Anns. Paul says that deciding to buy a house finally spelt maturity for him and Charlotte, but this is debatable - she, a trained dancer, started running belly dancing classes and he wrote and performed songs in village hall fundraisers with his dear friend Andro Linklater. They featured lyrics such as rhyming Gribble (Hever's vicar at the time) with "quibble" and, when many would have been defeated by her surname, "Wendy Izod thought she'd surprise god"!!

Paul and Charlotte have an unwavering design ethos at home as well as at work: black, white and occasionally grey. White walls, black clothes and even black or white cars. Vera the cat wore the corporate colours but fluffy tabby Barney was a notable exception along with the excellent vegetables grown by Paul in his raised beds and the pork pies he made every year for the Christmas fair.

Last year the couple decided it was time for a new chapter - Paul has Parkinson's and their lovely new flat in East Grinstead is just what was wanted

So thanks for everything Paul!

**Joanna Wades**

# VILLAGE SCREEN FILM CLUB 2023/24

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 features in many films and television series, including Phantom Thread, The Crown and Mum.

Save these dates in 2024:

**Friday 19 January**
**The Lost King** Sally Hawkins in a drama about the discovery of the remains of Richard III under a car park in Leicester.

**Friday 16 February**
**A Man Called Otto** Tom Hanks meets a cat, what's not to like?!?

**Friday 25 March**
**Legally Blonde** Reece Witherspoon in what is now a golden oldie from 2001, a hilarious romantic comedy with a bit of law thrown in.

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.




# Markbeech Winter Fair

YOUR CHRISTMAS STARTS HERE!

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IN AID OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, MARKBEECH

# Cowden Hall Christmas Fair
## and bric-a-brac sale

Sunday 19th November 12 -3pm, Cowden Hall TN8 7HU

Raffle, refreshments and gifts.

Entry £1.00

For more info or to book a table for £12.00 (craft) please phone Sue on 07929 337556



The Cowden, Hartfield & District Branch of the Royal British Legion is intending to hold its low cost lunch at Cowden Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday following the service at the Church of St Mary Magdalene. The lunch of soup and a ploughmans with drinks available, will start at 1pm. Further details and reservations from the Secretary jamescastle@btinternet.com or the Chairman andrew@izodhome.co.uk



# Hever Parish Council

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

One of our aims as a Parish Council is to engage with the local community and to keep residents informed. Communication is key so why not sign up to the Hever Information email by messaging clerk@hever.org. The website www.hever.org, has an array of information, latest news and links to local groups too. The Hever Parish Council Facebook page is also populated with updates, such as local road closures, help and support available, consultations, community events and other essential information. If there are other items you feel would benefit the community please do let me know.

You will be aware of concerns over the future of pollinating insects. Recently Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) and Buglife conducted a survey and reported a 64% decline in flying insects from 2004-2022, and the decline seems even higher for Kent. The causes could be habitat loss, development and intensive farming; use of pesticides; pollution of soil, air and water and the impact of climate change.

On a local scale what positive measures can we all take?

We can adopt flower-rich grasslands, hedgerows and wooded areas with specific thought for the needs of pollinators, with flowers across the seasons, as well as scrub and rough grassland for nesting and hibernation.

Pledge to put areas of grassland each year into campaigns such as Plantlife's No Mow May and Let it Bloom June. Kent's Plan Bee, through its Facebook page, has run a No Mow May pledge campaign across Kent for the last 2 years with 100s of organisations and individuals responding.

Reduce, or even stop, the use of chemicals and pesticides and adopt alternative approaches to controlling weeds and garden pests.

You should all be aware of the latest Gatwick consultation and I hope many members of the community lodged their comments. Hever PC has objected to the application to create a full time second runway. There is great concern that it will result in a huge increase in air traffic over the parish with all the associated pollution. GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) have useful information on the application and how to add to your comments https://www.gacc.org.uk/

With the schools now back our MP, Tom Tugendhat, is carrying out the Annual School Bus Survey. If you have a child that uses the service, please complete the survey so areas that need improvement can be highlighted including issues such as; overcrowding, timings, delays etc. See https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2023schoolbussurvey

If you would like to help make a difference to your community by volunteering some time why not join our team of Councillors? We have a vacancy so please do contact me for more information.

Our next Hever Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 9th November at 7.30 pm in Markbeech Village Hall to which everyone is welcome.

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

# News from Four Elms Primary

**We have had an incredibly busy first term here at Four Elms.** I would like to welcome our new families who started with us in September. Our new reception cohort have settled in well and are enjoying school life. If you are looking for a school place for your child for the next academic year, please do get in touch to organise a place at one of our open events or a private tour.

Our pupils have been engaging in our outdoor education programme already this year. Key stage 2 have had the opportunity to visit Bore Place. Bore Place received funding to provide the opportunity for local schools to visit six times a year as part of their curriculum and we are fortunate to be one of the schools involved in this. Class three learnt all about milk products during their visit and enjoyed visiting the farm and making/sampling different types of butter. Class Four learnt about a balanced diet and made delicious flapjacks. Their favourite part was visiting the calves and providing them with water!

Each class have also had the opportunity this term to visit the farm at Seal CE Primary School, an Academy within the Trust, where they were able to meet the animals, learn about the five freedoms and understand more about the biology of particular animals.

Elsewhere in the school, the children have been engaged in their first learning experiences of the year. Class 3 have just finished their Viking experience which ended with them joining up with other schools in the Academy for a quiz. The event was made even more enjoyable by being dressed as Vikings! Class 2 have been inspired by the book 'Dear Earth' and have created letters about how climate change is affecting food chains. Class 1's first experience has been about learning school rules and their rights as a child – we are so proud of them!

Class 4 have begun a new experience which is focusing on the Ancient Greeks and democracy. They are making comparisons between democracies back in Ancient Greece compared to now, which has provoked many debates!

**Jess Fermor**

Head of School



# News from Hever Primary

**It has been a productive first term, with happy and engaged children learning and playing together from Reception through to Year 6.**

October 10th was World Mental Health Day and we have been focusing on building resilience, supporting our commitment to enable every child to 'build the confidence and resilience to flourish'.

As it is Black History month, this has been linked to examples of inspiring people who have shown great resilience, such as Nelson Mandela and Harriet Tubman. Our curriculum includes teaching the children about Black History with our older children currently learning about Maafa, from the transportation of enslaved African people in 1441 through to the passing of the Equality Act in 2010. It includes a focus on the many black Britons who have achieved amazing things, instigating change and empowering others. Further down the school, children have been fascinated to learn about the lives of other significant people, including Katherine Johnson, Mae Jemison and Rosa Parks.

We aim to provide an ambitious and vibrant curriculum that builds a strong foundation and fosters a love of learning, within a safe and stimulating environment.

If you are looking for a school space for your child starting school in September 2024, we invite you to 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.

**Helene Bligh**
Headteacher



# 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 November

Please note Forest Church moves to 3pm for the winter and 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5th Nov 10am | Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms | Micah 3:5-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 24:1-14 | All Saints |
| 5th Nov 6pm | Choral Evensong including Commemoration of the Faithful departed Holy Trinity Markbeech | Psalm 148; Isaiah 65:17-25; Hebrews 11:32-12:2 | All Saints |
| 11th Nov 10.45am | Act of Remembrance Holy Trinity Markbeech | Matthew 5:43-48 | Remembrance day |
| 12th Nov 10am | Holy Communion followed by Act of Remembrance St.Paul's Four Elms | Amos 5:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 15:9-17 | Remembrance Sunday |
| 12th Nov 10.45am | Act of Remembrance St.Peter's Hever | John 15:9-17 | Remembrance Sunday |
| 12th Nov 3pm | Forest Church St.Peter's Hever | Remembrance theme | Remembrance Sunday |
| 19th Nov 10am | Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30 | 2nd before Advent |
| 19th Nov 4pm | Four Elms at Four | Matthew 3:1-17 | 2nd before Advent |
| 26th Nov 8am | Said Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms | Jeremiah 23:5-8; John 6:5-14 | Christ the King |
| 26th Nov 10am | Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech | Christingle | Christ the King |

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 7th November at 6pm and Zoe Joannou is hosting a prayer group for young mums on alternate 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

We will be sending out our Christmas card with details of services up to and including Christmas at the end of November.

## our rector's thoughts

**I'm writing this article as we see the situation in Gaza and Israel going from worse to worse and await a probable invasion of this crowded enclave that has suffered so much.** Thousands have been killed and wounded on both sides.

Across the world and even on our own streets there have been pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which in some cases appear to be rejoicing at the deaths and abductions of Jewish civilians. There have even been murders of Jews outside of Israel. Small wonder that the UK Israeli ambassador, Tzipi Hotovely, has said that Jews are 'facing things the world hasn't seen since the Second World War.'

We read repeated reports of terrorist assailants shouting *'Allahu akbar'* (God is great) as they carry out murderous atrocities, as if to claim God's support for what they are doing. Most world religions proclaim that God is great, as do Christians and we sing songs and hymns about this. It makes sense because, if there is a God, then by definition, he, she or it is great. But Christians also proclaim that *'God is love'* (1 John 4:16).

We are approaching the season of Remembrance when we look back at the horrors of two World Wars and the many conflicts since as well as those happening today. How can we make sense of a God who is both great and loving faced with so much human suffering, especially of the innocents?

One of the traditional hymns sung at Remembrance 'O valiant hearts' is based on a war poem by Sir Stanhope Arkwright and has these words:

*Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,*
*Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,*
*While in the frailty of our human clay,*
*Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.*

*Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,*
*Like some bright star above the dark abyss;*
*Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes*
*Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.*

Someone said: *Suffering is not a question that demands an answer; it is not a problem that demands a solution; it is a mystery which demands a presence.* The Christian message is that God shows his love for us in Christ; God himself suffered on the cross for us and so knows our pain. Christ weeps over the present situation as he wept over Jerusalem recorded in Luke 19:41-47 and we weep too.

As we remember and grieve for the situation in Gaza and Israel, let's pray for peace in the world and especially in the land where our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, once walked.

God bless you all

**Simon**

# news from the pews

**Hever**

The Barn Dance held in September raised a magnificent £1,268.00 for St Peter's Church. The ever popular Hever Christmas Fair will be on Thursday 9th November between 10:30am and 3:30pm at Hever Castle, funds raised are split between St Peter's Church and Hever CEP School. There will be an Act of Remembrance by the War memorial on 12th November starting at 10.45am.

Don't forget to book your tickets for the Coronation concert, being organised by Joanna Wade, which will be held on Saturday November 18th.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 9th November, 12.30 for 1pm lunch. 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**
17th September Hever Frederick Arthur James Stirrat born 17th March 2023

**Funeral**
3rd October Four Elms Elsie Dawes aged 87

**Four Elms**

October has been a wonderful month. We have enjoyed an Indian summer which is enhanced by the beautiful autumnal leaves developing into their russet hues. Hardly surprising that the Romantic poets found the season so inspiring.

Here at St. Paul's our annual Harvest Supper was enjoyed by a full house in the Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this possible. A truly village effort enjoyed by the village community. St. Paul's church always lends itself to the harvest decorations and this year was no different. Our harvest service, taken by Rev. Sheila Perkins, allowed us to present our harvest gifts, followed on Tuesday by the Four Elms Primary School harvest service. What a delightful service and what truly generous harvest contributions by the families of the pupils. At a difficult time for everyone be assured your gifts are greatly appreciated and we all give thanks to God for the generosity of our friends and neighbours. The Edenbridge Food Bank, which does a remarkable job, sends their thanks for your donations.



While a small congregation for Songs of Praise, it was a joyful evening. There is something about singing yours and others' favourite hymns and hearing the reason why they have been chosen. For the traditional hymns, unsurprisingly, it was for the memories they evoked of school and church choirs. Thank you to all who selected hymns.

Finally, a sunny October morning brought friends and neighbours for "Enjoy a Cuppa". It is a pleasure to invite everyone to this informal morning. The Remembrance service will be on Sunday 12th November, with a Holy Communion at 10 am followed by a short Remembrance Service at 10.45 am at the Memorial.

**Christina Hodson**
Churchwarden

**Markbeech**

Suddenly it's cold, the blissful Indian Summer we couldn't help but enjoy is tainted now by the recognition of climate change, so in a way these first sharp cold,days are a relief. And it has been amazingly beautiful. This is the last autumn I'll spend at Old Farm so the last of these spectacular sunsets. It's not just that it's cold but all around us we are confronted with signs that Christmas is in the air. At Markbeech we are working towards our Winter Fair on the 18th of November at the Barn at Falconhurst. This will be the third one we have held there and we are learning from our experience to build an even better event. There will be lots of stalls in the main barn - make sure you don't miss the best homemade cakes and preserves, toys, ceramics, jewellery and decorations (plus much more) all in a glowing Christmas atmosphere. There will be a bar area where you can tuck into a delicious locally sourced lunch with spiced Swedish glögg or beer or wine. And there will be lots for the children to do. Don't miss it!

Look out for all our church services in the diary, we always love to welcome you all, old and new members of the community, and hope you feel at home with us in our beautiful little church. The heating will be on and candles lit.

**Marielou Linklater**
Churchwarden



# gardening

**As we enter November the nights draw in and there's a nip in the air.**
Bonfire night and Autumn walks crunching through the fallen leaves. All this hardly conjures up images of spending time in the garden! Truth is Autumn is one of the best times to be planting in the garden. The ground is still warm and with moisture in the soil after another dry Summer all makes for great root production. As plants become dormant above ground, beneath the soil growth continues. The principle of getting down a full healthy root system in the Autumn will be advantageous come the Spring when the plants come out of dormancy. The plants will have the ability to take up optimum nutrients & water thus leading to strong healthy growth.

The urge to 'impulse' buy plants in full flower is probably installed in all of us – I'm also guilty of this when visiting plant fairs! Autumn is a great time to plant loose bulbs such as Alliums, Tulips, Narcissus and a huge variety of other flowering bulbs – this is a much more cost-effective way of achieving an amazing Spring display – just look out for the squirrels!

If you are thinking of planting trees, large shrubs or hedging, Autumn is also the best time to plant. Nurseries offer field grown root-ball and bare-root plants that can be a fraction of the price to containerised examples. It's worth considering adding mycorrhizal fungi to the hole dug for the plant – this can aid the plant in establishing quickly & boost healthy growth. You may think there's not many plants that give much interest in November – you'll be wrong!
Here's some of the winners our garden designer customers turn to:

- Nandina domestica 'Obsessed' – a compact, evergreen shrub. Foliage turns bright red in cooler weather.
- Mahonia 'Soft Caress' & 'Volcano' – recent introductions with spike-less foliage. Very tactile with a blaze of yellow or burnt orange flowers.
- Cornus (Dogwoods) – In cold weather the bark of these plants turn amazing colours - recommended varieties are 'Midwinter Fire' (orange) & 'Baton Rouge' (red)
- Skimmia japonica – great in the border or container with flowers that last for months – try 'Rubella' (red), 'Kew Green' or 'Nymans' (female & produces berries)

Nursery news – we're currently very busy supplying our garden design customers for their Autumn projects. We also have three confirmed gardens to grow for Chelsea 2024!

We're delighted to announce our annual Christmas pop-up shop will run during these dates:
Monday 11th – Friday 15th & Monday 18th – Thursday 21st December.
Potted arrangements, Hellebores, potted bulbs, Winter shrubs, Snowdrops + local artists.

**Simon Sutcliffe**
How Green Nursery



## 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 | 39 | | | |
| **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 | 59 | | | |
| **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 | 48 | | | |

## 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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Copy for the **December** edition should reach us no later than **15 November**
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

# November diary

Until 10 November

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 29 Oct | **Halloween singing workshop**, as above, Markbeech Village Hall | 9.30 – 10.30am |
| 31 Oct | **Pumpkin Party**, Hever Village Hall | 3.30 - 6pm |
| 4 Nov | **Wet Felting Workshop**, tickets £75, Bore Place | 10am - 4pm |
| 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 Christmas Fair**, Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle | 10:30am - 3:30pm |
| 9 Nov | **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, | 12.30pm |
| 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 | **Markbeech Winter Fair**, The Barn, Falconhurst, entry £3, | 12 - 5pm |
| 18 Nov | **"Coronation"** – a concert of words and music on a regal theme, Hever Church, | 7pm |
| 19 Nov | **Cowden Hall Christmas Fair and bric-a-brac sale**, entry £1, | 12- 3pm |
| 26 Nov | **Gin Foraging Experience**, Wild Botanical Infusions, tickets £75, Bore Place | 10am – 3pm |
| 1 Dec | **Hever Parish Postbox opens** | |
| 9 Dec | **Carols in the Cowshed,** Bore Place, tickets adults £5, children £2.50 | 3 – 5pm |
| 11 – 15 Dec | **How Green Nursery Christmas pop up shop**, How Green Lane | 9 - 5pm |
| 14 Dec | **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, | 12.30pm |
| 18 – 21 Dec | **How Green Nursery Christmas pop up shop**, How Green Lane | 9 - 5pm |
| 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 |