March 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- A dragon in our midst
- Surgical legends
- A Scot's Scottish shortbread
- How Green Nursery tells us how
- Animal Magic in Hever

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the March Link

Rarely have I witnessed such an exciting Spring.... cold, hurricanes and deluges - and still those delicate green shoots kept going until snowdrops, aconites, croci and tiny daffodils pushed, almost exploded, their way out of the ground. On a sunny day, even in the late morning, the shadows have been long, striping the ground like prison bars, but we are very much on the outside listening to the world waking up - buzzards calling and robins and various tits singing loudly, the latter not particularly tunefully.

I managed to sit still long enough to do Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January. Now known by the RSPB as "a stalwart of citizen science" this event is crucial to the understanding of current trends. Parakeets, Egyptian geese and egrets are all signifiers of the changing climate but many of the old favourites are still the most common in the garden, though sadly thrushes and hedge sparrows are amongst the species in decline. In an article in the RSPB magazine, nature writer Dominic Couzens gives us the perfect excuse to leave the margins of our gardens untidy so that insects can thrive as food for nestlings. He also tells of the humble woodpigeon whose striking yellow eye has an unusual pupil which can both look down for food and outwards to spot danger. They are also the only native bird which can suck rather than scoop up fluid and, very rarely, they feed their young on milk produced in their crop.

Birds gladden the ear and chocolate the appetite ..... the annual Easter egg hunt is on in Hever. Finally, do come to the last Film Club of the season on Friday 15th - Legally Blonde is such an uplifting film, very fitting for this optimistic time of year.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org

THE LINK


January


February

pet of the month



Kumala is a bearded dragon and was brought into our lives by our son. We returned from holiday to find a large, heated vivarium had appeared on our dining room table, inhabited by a most peculiar-looking creature – Kumala. She was rescued when her original owner was going abroad, so we don't know quite how old she is. Our son knew that I couldn't turn away a creature in need of a home, so I had to adapt to looking after a cold-blooded reptile, when warm-blooded furry creatures are my normal creatures of choice.

Kumala (the brand name of a South African wine!) consumes a mix of vegetation and live insects. She enjoys chasing crickets around her vivarium (a bit traumatic for a vegetarian to watch!) and eats a wide variety of greens and fruit. Bearded dragons have an innate desire to explore their environment, and Kumala loves to wander round the kitchen and to watch what's going on in the garden. She needs a little help to be able to peer over the bottom of the door, and happily climbs the dog's teddy to keep an eye on what he's up to. Kumala is surprisingly fleet of foot and her waggling gait across the floor never ceases to amaze me.



One of Kumala's favourite places for a snooze is snuggled up to my neck, slipped underneath the collar of a jumper or shirt. She has certainly established a special place in my heart. Every so often Kumala's naturally calm mood is disrupted by her need to shed her skin. She becomes rather grumpy as the scales start to detach from her body in patches, and she certainly loses her sleek good looks for a while.

One of the most exciting parts of Kumala's life for me, has been her desire to lay eggs, albeit without a mate to fertilise them. Following some research, I installed a box full of sand into her vivarium, and her last egg-laying episode resulted in a clutch of some 20+ eggs.

Hilary Jones

desert island whisks

…which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

This is my shortbread tin, a fixture in my kitchen since I inherited it, and the recipe, from my mother many years ago. From this 28 x18cm (11x7in) tray have emerged hundreds of fingers of shortbread, a great favourite with all the family. Many boxes of it have accompanied our teenagers, returning to University after the holidays. When my children and grandchildren were small, they loved pricking the holes on the top and making a pattern round the edge with the tines of a fork.

Recipe:-
Heat oven to 180C, 160F, Gas 4

6 ozs salted butter (softened)
3 ozs caster sugar 8½ - 9ozs plain flour
1 oz rice flour

Sieve flours together. Cream butter and sugar. Add flours very slowly, a tablespoon at a time, beating thoroughly in between. Towards the end, knead until bowl is clean. Press into a well greased tin and mark with a fork. Turn down heat to 170C, 150F, Gas 3 and bake for approx. 35-40 mins until pale brown. Cut in the tin immediately, sprinkle some caster sugar over the top and leave to cool. It keeps well in an airtight tin.

Doreen Beattie

My mother learned to bake shortbread as a teenager, at a Girls' Club in Glasgow, started by an enlightened churchman*, who, having established clubs for boys, believed that girls too should have their own. There was always shortbread in a tin at my family home, in case someone should call in for a cup of tea, and baking went into overdrive round about New Year. Then the shortbread would be supplemented by Christmas cake and another Scottish favourite, Black Bun.

*Rt. Rev. Dr. George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community



what I do

My interest in animal welfare came about through a rather unusual pathway. I had pet rabbits as a child and my extended family had dogs, but I never had the ambition to become a vet or anything like that. It was whilst I was working in the Probation Service that I learnt about the role animals could play in rehabilitation of people and started working with Battersea Dogs and Cats Home on a prison pilot programme about responsible dog ownership. The programme was designed for young people to learn about animal welfare, but it did more than that, it also gave them a chance to train and rehabilitate dogs ready for rehoming. For many of the men we worked with, it was the first time they have ever had something that depended on them and showed them unconditional love. The dogs changed their lives. For the last 6.5 years I was a Board member at Battersea and was fortunate to see their work grow from strength to strength.

After a career in Probation and then the health and social care sector, I recently joined the RSPCA. The charity is huge, and this year celebrates its 200th anniversary. Its work spans not only the rescue and rehabilitation of cats and dogs and small furries but also equines, exotics and wildlife. There is much about the charity that I had no idea about which includes their work in prevention, education, advocacy and campaigning. It is a sad fact that whilst we call ourselves a nation of animal lovers our society is still addressing issues of serious cruelty, abuse and neglect of our animals at the hands of humans.

Rescue is my favourite breed though. I got Lolly, a Staffie, who was dumped with her puppy as she was now 'surplus to requirements'. She completely changed my perceptions about the breed, and was just truly grateful to be fed! She didn't even know how to play when we got her. I then rescued Buddy, a Frenchie X Corgi who was allegedly a stray found on Clapham Common and the microchip number was a dead end. A complex little fella, but again I learnt so much about dog behaviour. Both my experiences have shown how much reward there is in rescuing for both the human and the dog.

Animal cruelty, abuse and neglect is a society wide issue, something the RSPCA cannot fix alone. It requires campaigning for law changes, pro-actively educating the public about good animal welfare and creating strong local communities to champion it. Join our million strong movement here; https://www.rspca.org.uk/200th

Cassie Newman



Hever FesÂval fundraising event

Orlando Jopling Cello concert
St Peter's Church Hever, Friday 26th April at 7.30pm J S Bach suites for solo cello nos 1, 2 and 3. The concert will be 2 hours long including an interval and there will be a bar to purchase wine or soÈ drinks.

Orlando works as music staff and conductor for the Royal Opera House, English NaGonal Ballet, the Royal Ballet, Independent Opera, and many other leading companies. He co-founded Tête à Tête, Stanley Hall Opera, and the Roman River FesGval, before founding Wild Arts in 2022. He is delighted to support the fesGval with this concert.

Tickets available from the Hever FesGval website



07379 488 477

BOXOFFICE@HEVERFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Community litter picks

Four Elms Village Hall – Saturday 23 March 9.30 am

Hever Village Hall – Saturday 23 March 9.30 am

Markbeech Village Hall – Saturday 23 March 1.00 pm

Come and join in! Please bring gloves and wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear. We have Hi visibility vests and litter pickers but bring your own if you can.

Any queries, please contact clerk@hever.org

history of the surgery part 2

In 1968 the Edenbridge practices amalgamated. Dr Morgan retired, and Dr Alan Owen Jones joined the new group. Dr Broadhead was succeeded by Tim Bayley (enthusiasms: sailing, flying microlights) in 1976, and Dr Hughes by Brian Spear (golf, gardening, walking and birding) in 1979, and, on the death of a young Dr Owen Jones, Brian Milner (Lancia cars, gardening) joined. The Russell, Shaw, Milner, Bayley and Spear team were unchanged until 1991 when Dr Shaw retired, replaced briefly by Sandra Williams and then by Mark Ilsley (marathon running, birding). To give you one glimpse of a, hopefully, bygone age I heard recently that on a visit to a sick boy in a large rural house, Dr Shaw spotted a rabbit on the lawn, on asking the mother handed him a shotgun, and John opened the window and dispatched the rabbit. The father ran up the stairs reportedly alarmed that the doctor had decided to put his son out of his misery!

Dr Russell retired in 1992, succeeded by me (Royal Army Medical Corps, running, gardening). Dr Russell's outstanding commitment to the practice, the Hospital and its League of Friends, and the community was recognised by the award of the MBE in 2009. In 1997, Dr Milner (the family planning specialist who had five children) retired, replaced by Kristina Kelly, the first long-term female doctor in the practice.

Edenbridge Hospital remained a significant commitment, although this was reduced in 1988 when the operating lists were stopped. The GPs continued to admit, manage and discharge the ward patients, who were all local, and to be responsible for the Minor Injuries Unit. This was never a lucrative role, for many years earning the practice £1 per bed per day. We finally deemed it unsafe for us to manage these hospital patients, many from out of area alongside our own increasingly busy GP work, and we withdrew in 2010 (being replaced by a full-time doctor, presumably on more than £16 per day).

The reduced Hospital commitment enabled some GPs to pursue other medical roles including GP training. Dr Bayley also did a weekly minor surgery session at EBH, handing this on to Dr Ilsley. Dr Spear took on a role performing endoscopies at the Kent and Sussex Hospital. After a long battle, Drs Bayley and Spear established the Dispensary in 1991, an important part of the practice ever since.

One of the joys of a modern practice is that it is a team delivering health care, and every

Back row: Drs Russell, Bayley, Shaw & Milner
Front row: Practice Manager Nancy Talbot & Dr Spear



single person contributes. For some eg nurses, that is obvious; the receptionists (toughest job in primary care?), dispensers and the practice manager are prominent too, but the secretaries and the rest of the backroom staff are crucial, as indeed are the cleaners. Over the years there have been so many team members that it is difficult to single anyone out, but Nancy Talbot was a legend as practice manager for about 30 years from the start of the 60s ("Janet from Dr Finlay's Casebook", I am told); Eileen Connell was a much loved receptionist, famed for her warmth and kindness - less well known for winning Miss Telephone 1958, a London-wide GPO competition testing efficiency and elocution!

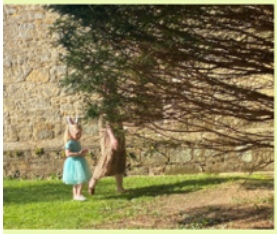
In the 70s and 80s every GP wanted to be a partner (ie own a share of the business). In the 90s, this was changing, perhaps because more young GPs were female and, still usually bearing the brunt of childcare etc, did not want the open-ended commitment that comes with partnership. When Dr Shaw retired, there were about 100 applicants for the post; six years later, only about a dozen applied for Dr Milner's place. As the decade wore on, general practice was a decreasingly popular career choice, linked to the onerous 24/7, 365 days a year on call commitment. Incidentally my most undeserving request for a night visit was a 4am invitation to check over the newly delivered babies of a pet gerbil! A "Co-op" system developed grouping practices which resulted in a smaller number of GPs on call covering a wider area and significantly reduced the number of nights worked. Edenbridge was one of the last practices in Kent to join, in about 2000 (and Dr Bayley opted out, continuing the 1/5 night rota for the practice's patients). In 2004 a new contract allowed GPs to opt out of night and week-end care of their patients completely. This meant that GPs no longer had to live in the practice area to be available for night calls and increasingly they were no longer so embedded in the fabric of the community (which has good and bad points).

Drs Tara Garret, Kate Griffiths and Sophie Bagley came, and Drs Spear and Bayley retired in 2009 and 2011. They had both been GP trainers, as had Drs Russell and Shaw, and were collectively responsible for training over 30 young GPs. Their departure was emblematic of the change from most GPs being full-time and male, to a majority of younger GPs being part-time and female. This trend was further illustrated by the retirement in 2019-20 of full-timers Drs Morrison, Ilsley and Kelly. The profession has benefitted dramatically from the wider involvement of women in the workforce, as have the patients. The move towards part-time working has perhaps meant fresher doctors, with more ideas, but at some cost to continuity of care which many patients regret.

The surgery building at West View seemed increasingly inadequate to cope with the actual and planned population increase in the town. The Hospital was becoming dysfunctional with the few remaining in-patient beds under threat, and mostly occupied by out of area patients. In 2016, the GPs' warning that they might be unable to take on patients in the new St John's Way development sparked a discussion about the future of the surgery and the Hospital, leading ultimately to the new Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre, combining the GP services with most of the Hospital services, which opened on 27.11.23.

Dr Simon Morrison

EASTER EGG HUNT







SATURDAY 30 MARCH

3.30 PM

ST PETER'S HEVER

Children great and small are welcome to the hunt in St Peter's churchyard (inside the church if wet).... with pebble painting and games - and coffee and cake for the adults!

The hunt is sponsored by the Hever Residents Association and St Peter's Hever - entry is free with a collection for the refurbishment of the Hever Village Hall



village screen film 2024

Friday 15 March - Legally Blonde
Reece Witherspoon in what is now a golden oldie from 2001, a hilarious romantic comedy with a bit of law and a dog thrown in.

The film (96 minutes) starts 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. Please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show. Contact Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@gmail.com. If you aren't eating you can buy tickets on the door.





A note on the Whibley family whose gravestone featured last month
When the More family lived at New House Farm they had a letter from some Whibley descendants in Australia enquiring about the ancestors. Bryan and Jane sent them a video of the house which they were very pleased to receive. Its good to know that the family established itself in Australia, hopefully free from further tragedy.

The Song of Quoodle

We celebrate this month a pet of the month which is not a dog, but we can't leave dogs out of these pages entirely so here is a poem by GK Chesterton written on behalf of his much loved dog Quoodle.

They haven't got no noses,
The fallen sons of Eve;
Even the smell of roses
Is not what they supposes;
But more than mind discloses
And more than men believe.

They haven't got no noses,
They cannot even tell
When door and darkness closes
The park a Jew encloses,
Where even the law of Moses
Will let you steal a smell.

The brilliant smell of water,
The brave smell of a stone,
The smell of dew and thunder,
The old bones buried under,
Are things in which they blunder
And err, if left alone.

The wind from winter forests,
The scent of scentless flowers,
The breath of brides' adorning,
The smell of snare and warning,
The smell of Sunday morning,
God gave to us for ours

* * * * *

And Quoodle here discloses
All things that Quoodle can,
They haven't got no noses,
They haven't got no noses,
And goodness only knowses
The Noselessness of Man.



Hever Parish Council

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

Hever Parish Council are assisting the Rural and Community Housing Enabling service (RACE), and Sevenoaks District Council, to establish whether there is a local need for affordable housing and the type required. This could include housing for older residents who wish to downsize and stay in the area, or for local people to enable them to stay close to their work, education or family. In order to do this, shortly each household will receive a postcard with details on how to complete the survey should they have a need for affordable housing. It is widely recognised that people living on low or even average incomes can face real difficulties trying to find a secure and affordable home in the area where they live and/or work. The survey is designed to see if such housing is needed in the parish for people with strong local connections.

The findings of the survey will be produced in a report by RACE and published on the Hever Parish Council website: www.hever.org. If the need for affordable housing in the parish is established, a call for potential sites would be made followed by a formal planning application which would be subject to the usual consultation, enabling anyone who wishes to state their view to do so.

The Bulk Refuse freighter that came last month was well used, even if it was behind schedule and arrived late for some of you. I understand the staff were helpful with loading items which was appreciated. The next visit is scheduled for Saturday 22nd June 2024.

This year sees the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on the five Beaches in Normandy, France, which took place on 6th June 1944. There will be a series of events and celebrations across the UK, and within the Parish an event is being planned, so watch this space!

Our community Litter Pick is on Saturday 23rd March so save the date!

Whilst some road repairs have been carried out around the parish by Highways, please do continue to report any road and pothole issues direct to KCC via their website: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem or call 03000 418181

As always, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. The next HPC Meeting is on Tuesday 5th March 2024 in Hever Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The Planning Meeting is at 7.00 pm. If there are any issues you would like us to focus our attention on, please do let me know or speak to one of our Councillors.

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

Four Elms Cricket Club

founded 1868

Life has been busy up at the club during the closed season. The pitch has been spiked, scarified, re-loamed, re-seeded and had its first cut of the year, and we are looking forward to the Spring when the rolling starts. Nets got underway at Tonbridge School, and the first session was a great success. Games will start on the 20th April. The 1st XI start the league season on the 11th May @ 1pm at home against Bearstead. Do come and support them and enjoy a nice cold drink in the process. The 2nd XI league get underway on the same day @ 1pm with an away match against Leigh.

We are delighted to announce that Willerby Landscapes will continue to sponsor our club for another year. It is great to have support from a local company that is also integral to the village. If there are any local businesses who would also like to support us, please do get in touch.

Willerby LANDSCAPES

We are looking for new players, at any level, to come and join our club for the coming season.

If you are interested in joining our lovely team, Social membership, hiring Four Elms CC 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





including works by Fauré, Bizet and Florence Price
Saturday 6th April 2024 at 7pm Edenbridge Parish Church
Tickets: £15 available from Lennox Cato, 1 the Square, Edenbridge, on the door , via the website: edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk or from Alexander Crowe 07821 683 482



business directory

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Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01892 836777
APH Electrical & Property Maintenance		07816 291713
Beauproperty	house design and building	01892 249000
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
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559

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 700771
Gyrotonics at the barn with Stephanie Bates		07803 876816
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Smart Nutrition and Fitness	personal training for midlife women and beyond	0771 8588847
Tennis by Nature	kids tennis coaching by Gary Markham	07802 842554

Food - Catering and Restaurants

Gorard Dean Catering -	all events undertaken call Melanie Dean	07710 005 635
Greyhound at Hever,	Restaurant with rooms, open to non-residents	01732 862221

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
MCF Garden Maintenance	local, reliable, catering for all garden needs	079307 29059
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
Liberty Greenish Pilates	bespoke small group and 1 to 1 classes	0781 773 9899
Paul Marro	cognitive hypnotherapy www.htherapy.co.uk	01732 808211

Home Services

Daren Wood	chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
Pegrum	fuels, boilers, plumbing, solar panels, water/oil tanks	01732 463256
Stuff and Buttons,	traditional and modern upholstery services	07791 689346
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
Easy Cab Taxi Services	based in Hever	07359 759 784
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800

Venue Hire and Weddings

Falconhurst Weddings	01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall	01342 850328

Greyhound Hever
Uckfield Lane, Hever, Kent, TN8 7LJ



Licensed Restaurant With En Suite Guest Rooms.
Restaurant Open to Non Residents.
Open in the evenings only Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
{Closed Thursday and Sunday}
Kitchen serving hours 6pm to 8pm.
Restaurant closes at 10:30pm.
Please ring 01732 862221 to reserve a table

Church in March

Easter Sunday is 31st March; the Sunday the clocks go forward. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below. Readings and full details are also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/diary/

Date & time	Service details	Sunday
3rd March 10am	Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lent 3
3rd March 6pm	Choral Evensong at St.Peter's Hever	Lent 3
10th March 8am	BCP said Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever (lay led)	Lent 4 & mothering Sunday
10th March 10am	Eucharist for Mothering Sunday at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Lent 4 & mothering Sunday
10th March 3pm	Mothering Sunday Forest Church at St Peter's Hever	Lent 4 & mothering Sunday
17th March 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Lent 5 Passion Sunday
17th March 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Lent 5 Passion Sunday
24th March 8am	Said BCP Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Palm Sunday
24th March 10am	Palm Sunday procession around the church from 9.45am Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Palm Sunday
28th March 6pm	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Maundy Thursday
29th March 12 noon	Devotion at the cross St.Paul's Four Elms	Good Friday
31st March 6am	Easter Sunrise at St.Peter's Hever	Easter Sunday
31st March 9.15am	Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter Sunday
31st March 11am	Family Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter Sunday

There will be services of Compline or Night Prayer during Holy week at 6pm on Monday 25th at Holy Trinity Markbeech; Tuesday 26th at St.Peter's Hever.and Wednesday 27th at St.Paul's Four Elms

Our Lent course continues on Mondays with the final session on 18th March. For details please contact Simon.

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

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

This year is a year of elections across the globe with an estimate that nearly half the world's population will be voting. It includes the General Election in the UK and the presidential election in the USA. In that connection, I was listening to a podcast by Dr.David Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary and one of the SDP Gang of Four, based on his 2018 book: 'Hubris: the Road to Donald Trump – power, populism and narcissism'. Hubris is defined as over confidence. The Titanic is a symbol for hubris: the arrogance and pride that goes before a fall. It is said that the designer of the Titanic claimed, 'not even God can sink it'!

An early Christian hymn, recorded by St.Paul in his letter to the Philippians, talks of Jesus as '*being in the very nature God…but made himself nothing…And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!'*

Easter is early this year on 31st March – also the day the clocks go forward. On Good Friday (29th March), we celebrate the fact that God in Christ, humbled himself and, through dying a terrible death on a cross, opened up the way for us to share in a new relationship with Him. All we have to do is to be humble enough to acknowledge that we do not have it all sorted and that we need him in our lives.

The Christian gospel was extraordinarily radical when it first appeared in a Roman world that valued strength and honour. Maybe we've become immunised by familiarity into how radical it was and is even today with the contemporary focus on success, fame and popularity. The modern martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who died at the hands of the Nazis near the end of World War 2, said: 'The figure of the crucified invalidates all thought which takes success for its standard' – a warning to all of us, especially to those in a position of leadership. The Jesus paradox is that it is in laying our lives aside – and that may mean for us a host of small things - that true fullness of life and abundance is achieved.

The ancient hymn goes on, '…*Therefore God has exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow….'* Easter proclaims that Jesus overcame death, rose again and now invites us to join his risen life.

So why not take time this Easter to seek the one who '*has died, has risen and will come again'*?

I wish you all a very enjoyable Easter.

Simon



Poppy & Mia Joannou of Hever getting ready for one of the two Mothering Sunday services on 10th March

news from the pews

Four Elms

The Deanery Synod meeting on Saturday 3 March coincides with our Sunday Patronal Service. St Paul's church is aptly named after the saint as it was an outreach church in the late 19th century. As the community of Four Elms became more than just a farming "cross roads" village, with the introduction of railways and better roads it enabled more people to move from urban and suburban areas and the then curate of Hever, Rev Klamborowski, recognised the need for a church and a cemetery in the village. In 1881 the cornerstone of the church was installed and when built a year later Rev Klamborowski became the first Vicar of Four Elms. And where does St Paul and the Deanery Synod fit it? St. Paul was a Christian convert and made it his mission to spread the words of Jesus to everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike. The Deanery Synod address is a contemporary message, not just to convert but to go out to our own community and seek out our neighbours who may have needs.

On that note, we hope you feel our church is always open to you, whether a regular churchgoer or not. The building is open for quiet contemplation and, of course, the quiet garden offers a place to sit and enjoy the birdsong. And for those in need of spiritual care our Rector is available. Similarly, please come to "Enjoy a cuppa" on the second Tuesday morning of the month. We welcome everybody. Perhaps we aren't up to St Paul's lofty achievements but we are trying.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

St Peter's will be re-opening on a daily basis from Wednesday 7th February. I would like to give a huge thank you to the volunteers who open, clean and close the church for our visitors through the year. The donations visitors make are a vital part of the church's income.

Do you love flowers? Our beautiful church thrives on the vibrant touch of fresh flowers, and we're seeking volunteers to occasionally help us maintain that splendour and witness the joy and inspiration that floral contributions bring to our church family. We are looking for more people to join our flower rota, and gentlemen that includes you too! You can do a flower arrangement, put some flowers from your garden in a vase, a bunch of flowers from the shop or order a box of flowers pre-selected for arrangements from an online shop. Please contact Susie Braid, if you are able to join our team, on 01892 871453.

The monthly 8am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) service held on the second Sunday of the month is now Lay lead.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 14th March, 12.30 for 1pm lunch. Please don't drive or park on the grass at the hall during the wet winter months. 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

Women's World Day of Prayer now open to all!
Please join us at the United Reform Church in Marsh Green on 1st March at 7pm.
The theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love".

From the register

Baptism
21st January St Peter's Hever
Mia Elora Joannou

Calling all artists and designers, big or small!



Easter is coming and we are looking to create a new Easter Card for our church. So dust down your brushes, sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw, paint or create a collage, then take a picture of it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.
We are looking for a card that will show the true meaning of Easter, the love of Jesus and His rising from the tomb.
We'll select the best creation and use it as our 2024 Easter card which will go out into our parish.
The winner will receive a real chocolate Easter egg from us.
The DEADLINE for submitting your creations is Sunday 3rd March at midnight! Get creative!

gardening

We, here at How Green, love the month of March, it really signifies the start of Spring! Lambs are bouncing around the fields, days are noticeably lengthening and our gardens are really starting to wake up.

It's a very busy month at the nursery with thousands of plants to pot up and growing starts in earnest for the Chelsea Flower Show. We're fully subscribed for 2024 and have three gardens confirmed. All of the gardens are in the relatively new category called 'All About the Plants'. As the title suggests, there's no hiding as far as the plant quality goes! The gardens themselves may not be massive, but the focus and stars of the show are the plants!
The three gardens we are growing for are:
- **The Sue Ryder Grief Kind Garden** designed by Katherine Holland
- **The Panathlon Joy Garden** designed by Penelope Walker
- **The Pulp Friction Growing Skills Garden** designed by Will Dutch & Tin-Tin Azure Marxen

We often get asked for a sneaky insight into plant trends for Chelsea – we can categorically say the plant selection for all three gardens is noticeably different! This could be a good thing with variation the spice of life for a change!

March is a great time to sow seeds both for edibles and ornamentals. Sow tomatoes,sweet peppers, salad crops and winter brassicas under protection – they can be planted out later in Spring. Some vegetables such as carrots, swiss chard, spinach & spring onions can be sown direct outside. Ornamentals annuals such as Cosmos, Zinnia, Nicotiana (to name a few) can be sown under protection. Hardy annuals such as Ammi majus, Orlaya grandiflora and Daucus carrota can be direct sown outside.

There are plenty of hardy herbaceous perennials & shrubs that give fantastic interest in March. Here's some of our favourites:
- **Primula vulgaris** – The Common Primrose never fails to put a smile on your face!
- **Pulmonaria** – we recommend 'Raspberry Splash' & 'Trevi Fountain'
- **Dicentra** (Bleeding Heart) – lots to choose from – we rate 'Valentine', 'spectabilis Alba'
- **Brunnera macrophylla** – new cultivars such as 'Seaheart' & 'Mr Morse'
- **Epimedium** – Great groundcover plant – 'Pink Elf' & 'Niveum'
- **Narcissus** – Daffodils are a Spring favourite try 'Arctic Bells' & 'Rip Van Winkle'
- **Chaenomeles** (flowering Quince) – 'Jet Trail' & 'Geisha Girl'

Happy gardening!

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery t 01732 700382 | e plants@howgreennursery.co.uk | www.howgreennursery.co.uk


Chaenomeles 'Geisha Girl'

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FOUR ELMS												
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	152	122	109
2024	58											
HEVER												
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	152	131	110
2024	73											
MARKBEECH												
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	161	142	106
2024	80											

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
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James Barnett 07831 112901
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The Link Team

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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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

Copy for the **April** edition should reach us no later than **15 March**
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

February diary

25 Feb **Astrophotography for Beginners**, Bore Place, tickets £10 adults, 5 – 7pm
28 Feb **u3a talk "The World of Art Nouveau"**, Crockham Hill VH 07741 460500 for details, 2pm
1 Mar **Women's World Day of Prayer service**, United Reform Church, Marsh Green 7pm
3 Mar **Cream Tea with the Six Wives**, Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle 2pm
5 Mar **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever Village Hall 7.30pm
12 Mar **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
14 Mar **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm
15 Mar **Film - Legally Blonde**, Hever Castle Golf Club, 7.30pm
17 Mar **Children's songwriting workshop**, Markbeech Village Hall 07970 594601 for details 10-11am
23 Mar **Community Litter pick,** from Four Elms Village Hall and Hever Village Hall 9:30am
from Markbeech Village Hall 1:00pm
24 Mar **Children's songwriting workshop**, Markbeech Village Hall 07970 594601 for details 10-11am
24 Mar **Citizen Science – how to conduct an earthworm count**, Bore Place, free 10 - 1pm
27 Mar **u3a talk " Where do novelists get their ideas?"**,
Crockham Hill Village Hall, 07741 460500 for details, 2pm
30 Mar **Easter Egg Hunt**, Hever Churchyard 3.30pm
6 Apr **EMAT Concert by Connaught Brass**, St Peter and St Paul Church, Edenbridg 7pm
9 Apr **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
11 Apr **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm
13 Apr **Citizen Science – how to conduct a bird survey**, Bore Place, free 6 - 9am
14 Apr **Dawn Chorus Bird Walk**, Bore Place, adult £10, child £7, 6 – 8am
18 Apr **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, adult £10, child £7, 7.30 – 9pm
21 Apr **Yoghurt Making Workshop**, Bore Place, adult £32, 10.30 am – 1pm
26 Apr **Concert of Bach cello suites**, Orlando Jopling, St Peter's Hever 7.30pm
27 Apr **Great History Quiz**, WI Hall Edenbridge, tickets 01732 868102 or at the museum 7.30pm
11 May **Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place, adult £63, 10am – 4pm
18 May **EMAT Concert Fiddlers Three**, St Peter and St Paul Church, Edenbridge 7pm
9 Jun **Learn to make Kefir**, Bore Place, adult £32, 10.30am - 1pm

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