April 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Farewell to Mavis Seal
- The hound of Transylvania
- Pastry made perfect
- Kids get arty
- Stand by for D-Day

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the April Link

With Easter behind us, summer is in sight and the larks are flying high in the sky. I didn't hear the tiny but powerful wren over the winter, but now they are bursting out everywhere.

This is a year of anniversaries, notably the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. Also known as D-Day, the historic operation saw the Allied Forces mount a large-scale invasion of Nazi-occupied France that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour.



Gov.uk has details of what is going on nationwide and we have our very own event here in Hever! Thanks to the Castle for inviting locals to enjoy the grounds after they close to the public and to the theatre for hosting a fantastic band playing 1940s music live for us to dance or picnic to - or both! Tickets go on sale from 2 April, see the advert on page 9 for booking details and please book early as space is limited.

Things have changed so much for women in the past decades as chronicled by the excellent exhibition at Tate Britain "Women in Revolt". This is the 49th anniversary of women being allowed to open a bank account in their own name. Lagging slightly behind the trend, it is only the 30th anniversary of ordination of women to the priesthood; there will be a service of celebration at Rochester cathedral on 30 June.

Finally, many thanks to Laura Palmer who has for many years dispatched the "Hever information" local news e-alerts and is now taking a break. Is there anyone out there who would be prepared to take on the role? And if you would like to join this and the Parish Council mailing lists please email clerk@hever.org

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org
(you can find back copies of the Link on this website)

THE LINK

pet of the month

Hello, my name is Margot and this is a picture of me with my first ever certificate! I am really proud of it as I only came to live in the UK 5 months ago. Let me tell you my story – I was born in Romania and had a bit of an unsettled life until a lovely woman and her daughter gave me a home.

They lived in Transylvania, in a house with a big garden where I had a kennel. They were very kind to me. I was given my name, food, shelter and taken on many trips to the vet.



There I had little operation and lots of injections (which I didn't mind at all) and one day they told me that I was going on an adventure. Well, that adventure was a 72 hour road trip across Europe before I arrived (with my passport!) in the UK. Some lovely people from "Hessa's Homeless Hounds" (I found out later that they had paid for all my healthcare and travel), collected me and took me to their home in North London. I rather liked London. The house was full of lots of other animals, there were 3 other dogs, a cat, a huge tortoise and some creepy crawlies in a tank. It was fun and they took me to the beach for runs.

One morning they told me that I was going to have visitors because, as I was such a nice dog, I could move to a permanent home. I liked the visitors and they liked me, so I moved to Hever where I now am part of their family. I have another dog - Otto (the one photo bombing my certificate picture) and a cat called Toby whose head I like to lick. I love the countryside and wonderful walks around here but best of all I love going to my training class and learning new things.

If you ever see me around Hever say hello and ask me for my paw – I will be happy to give it to you.

Jane Rosam

desert island whisks

…which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

Pat Fletcher has recently moved to Edenbridge after 64 years in White Post Cottages, Four Elms. She may have downsized, but she was sure to take her mother's precious rolling pin with her. Pat and her husband Buddy came to White Post when they married in 1961. They had no electricity for the first six years, using paraffin lamps instead. It was so quiet they were surprised if a car went past and they could walk to the shops near the Four Elms crossroads, Allmans the butcher, Crystals and Brownings the general stores, and the Post Office.

When their two sons, Stephen and David, reached their teens, she started working in the National Trust restaurant at Chartwell, selling ice creams before moving into the kitchen and ending up as manager. She learnt a lot of NT recipes, and even created a few herself, at least one of which was published. A high point was being sent to learn how to make eclairs with Mr Porcherot at his french bakery shop in Edenbridge. Choux pastry is still her speciality and Pat passed her skills on to her grandaughter, Rachael, who is an accomplished baker.

Pat says she wasn't as good at sponge as her mother who made excellent cakes, and loved pastry too. She didn't have much in her life, says Pat, so as soon as she could afford it, she bought her mother a Pyrex rolling pin. Good pastry needs cold hands, and this rolling



pin could be filled with cold water for extra effect. Pat treasures it and, as the picture shows, she even has the box. She regularly used it to make mince pies for the Four Elms carol service and only stopped quite recently when her sons put their collective feet down.

Pat also fondly remembers her father. Indeed, an aluminium scoop he made, being a carpenter and excellent with his hands, passed down to her to use in the garden and is now cherished by David. These everyday items can hold great significance!

Joanna Wade

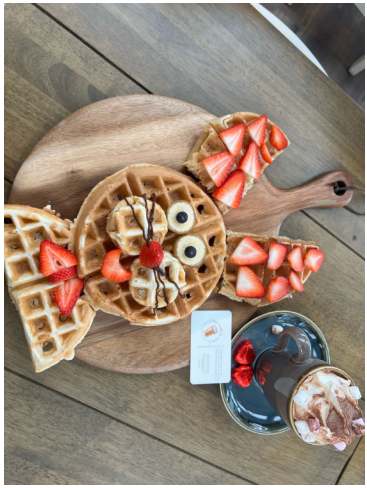
Note: thanks to Lyn Layland at the Eden Valley museum we can tell you that Mr Porcherot's baker's shop at 35 Edenbridge High Street (where Options salon was until recently) was open from 1952 to about 1966. He and his wife lived in Cow Lane and are buried in Markbeech.

what we do

It all began over a cup of coffee and now Rebecca Seed and I are the proud owners of the Garden Café. The café was a regular meeting place for us, we used to dream about owning it and would spend hours chatting about all the ideas we had for the place. We never imagined that our dreams would become a reality. We couldn't believe our luck when it became available. After making changes we hope we have created an inviting and comfortable space, with our own stamp on it.

The Garden Café opened seven weeks ago with new menus, a fresh atmosphere and lots of plans for future events. We strive to make it community focused with good food, a friendly welcome in beautiful surroundings. We welcome all dogs and are happy to provide them with refreshments too. The feedback from our customers and the local community has been amazing! We are delighted to see that people are enjoying coming to our happy place to meet with friends & family to enjoy the relaxed environment we provide. This was our aim, and to make that happen, well we couldn't be happier. We want to provide somewhere to while away some spare time in good company, not just to fill an empty stomach, and we seem to be doing just that.

We will be holding many events over the coming months for you all to enjoy. This Mother's Day we created a delicious 2/3 course menu



and are pleased to say had a full house, it was a lovely atmosphere and a memorable day for everyone. Easter presents another opportunity for us to put on something special, we are hosting a Bunny Breakfast with an Easter Bunny (who will be happy to pose with you for those Easter photos), an egg hunt and Bunny story time. Future plans include outdoor catering, supper evenings, these are just some of the ideas we have for the Garden Café, so keep an eye out. It really is a dream come true for Rebecca and me and we are excited to bring that energy to the local community and visitors from further afield.

Gail Mclaren

Garden Cafe, Bough Beech Road, Four Elms



Mavis Seal

It sounds a grand thing to say but an era has ended in Hever with the death of Mavis on 2 March aged 98. Not only did she live here for many years, she was probably the last of the Astor staff who had helped to run the castle as a family home.

Mavis came to Hever from Beckenham at the end of WW2 to work for what she called "Kent War Ag", billeted at Hever Grange. This involved farm work, although she was deemed too small to do milking. She was unhappy at first as some of the girls were "a bit wild", but she enjoyed pruning apple trees and cycling up to Ide Hill to bale hay. Then one day she met Ken, a local lad working on the Castle farm, and romance blossomed, they married in 1946.

When Ken got bronchitis he went inside to help the butler, in time being promoted to the top job himself. When her children got old enough, Mavis started as a housekeeper in the Castle, she particularly remembered cleaning the teasmades in every room - the height of luxury!
Ken was also the chauffeur and he and Mavis would regularly drive up to Tillypronie, the family's estate in Scotland, with their silver plate in the boot - a must for entertaining guests!

Her friend Amy Davies takes up the story:
"Well, welcome – it only takes 20 years to become a local around here" were the first words we heard from Mavis as she sat in her usual spot with Ken in The Henry. While we may have achieved this, it is most certainly dwarfed by her 80. Since the beginning of the pandemic, as a family we grew closer to Mavis, initially helping her with her weekly food shop alongside Jimmy and co at Allmans and Penny. Always immaculately presented with her scarf, gloves and brooch for our excursions, whether for Covid jabs or coffee and cakes, her small set of steps always came too so she could get in and out of the car – an incredibly petite lady and a great force of nature!

Mavis' amazing memory and wonderful sense of humour really brought the stories she told to life. She lived in several houses in Hever, including ours and the Red House. An avid gardener, she taught me not only about plants but also the history of our garden. She also loved watching local wildlife - only recently we were talking about how 'her birds' were the best fed in Hever, with bird food often



Mavis driving a tractor

topping her shopping list! For as long as she was able, Mavis greatly enjoyed local events including the sadly now disbanded Women's Institute, Hever Hort and the Parish Lunches. Even as she became less mobile, as an avid reader of The Link she managed to keep her finger on the pulse of all that is Hever. The main highlight of course were weekend visits from her children, Glenys and Kevin, who she loved coming to stay with her. It was a privilege to get to know them too and also to hear all about their life growing up in Hever.

Mavis will be sorely missed with many cherished memories both of our time together and the stories she shared."

Jan Tolfree, secretary of the Hever Rose and Horticulture Society says: "Mavis was a stalwart member and often entered classes in past shows. She donated the Mavis Seal Salver for the highest number of points in the domestic classes presented at the Spring Show. This year [6 April] will be even more important to the winner."

When the Astors sold Hever in the early 80s they made sure that the Seals were housed for life on the estate - a final gesture of thanks to a couple who had served them so well. Duncan Leslie Castle CEO writes:

"Mavis – a real loss to the Castle, she has been here so long and she was the last of the resident Astor pensioners. She and Ken had retired in 1983 when the current owners bought the estate. While she was small in stature, she was big in personality. She impressed me when I first met her and Ken 17 years ago – they came across as very content and enjoyed telling me all sorts of stories about Hever in the past. Mavis clearly had a sharp mind which Amy who shopped for them confirmed as she always checked the receipts added up properly! She was also entirely able when it came to modern technology – happy with both emails and facetime. We are fortunate to have a recording of her and Ken talking about their memories of their time working for the Astors – currently playing in the Moat Room of the castle. Alas the end of an era."

All are welcome at Mavis's funeral on Wednesday 10 April in the Kent and Sussex Crematorium at 11.30, and for refreshments afterwards at the Castle.



Ken and Mavis

Pat Theobald 1938-2024



Pat Theobald whose funeral was recently held at Markbeech, had been born in Hong Kong where her father was a Major in the British Army. After some years in Africa, the family returned to the UK and Pat was to meet her husband Dick locally (in a cowshed!) as she worked for the Milk Marketing Board. A marriage of nearly 60 years followed, together with children Debbie and Lindsay and a lifelong love of the area and countryside. But whilst in later years she lost her eyesight and some mobility, it seems that Pat never lost her interest in the world around her and local matters in Four Elms. Pat found great enjoyment in her family – Grandsons Aaron and Jordan and Great Grandchildren Grace, Georgie and Theo. Pat had a long and good life in a place she loved, surrounded by her family and close friends.

Jane Rosam



Penshurst Primary School are looking for a caretaker. The role is flexible as to hours/timings and includes site security and safety and general maintenance. We look forward to hearing from someone who can work independently, use their initiative and enjoy the varied nature of this work! Please contact us on 01892 870446 or office@penshurst.kent.sch.uk to discuss further.

Saturday 27th April 7.30pm
Edenbridge WI Hall

The Great History Quiz

WHO?

Where?

WHAT?



WHY?

HOW?

WHEN?

£15 per person

or £110 per table (max 8 people)

If you want to come but cannot make up a full team,
let us know and we will put you on a table with others.

Price includes fish and chip supper with dessert.
Bring your own drinks and glasses.

You don't need to be a history expert to join in.
The questions will be at varied levels, on varied topics, and ***fun*****!**

Evening includes a raffle with great prizes.

To book, contact curator@evmt.org.uk, call into the museum,
or phone 01732 868102 by Sat 20th April.

All proceeds towards the upkeep and development of the Eden Valley Museum

D-DAY80 D-Day anniversary picnic

When: Thursday 6 June 2024, 6.30 (doors open) 6.45-9.30pm

Where: Hever Castle, the Festival Theatre (covered with dance floor)

Who: Residents of Hever, Four Elms and Markbeech (limited to six tickets per household)

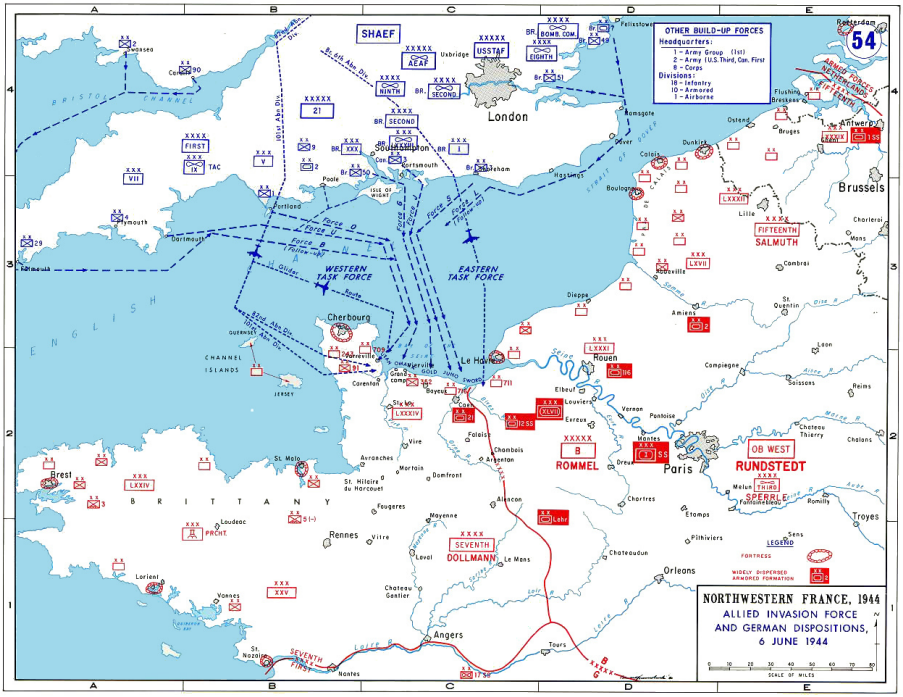
Tickets: £2 from box office @heverfestival.co.uk 07379 488 477 (children under 16 free)

Music: Live 1940s music

Food: Bring a picnic to eat in the grounds

Thanks to: Hever Castle, Hever Festival Theatre, the Parish Council and the HRA

Tickets are on sale from 2nd April


SHAEF
OTHER BUILD-UP FORCES
Headquarters:
1 – Army Group (1st)
2 – Army (U.S. Third, Can. First
8 – Corps
Divisions:
18 – Infantry
10 – Armored
1 – Airborne
London
Southampton
Portland
Cherbourg
Le Havre
Rouen
Paris
Brussels
Antwerp
Rotterdam
Amiens
Dieppe
Boulogne
Calais
Dunkirk
Ostend
Bruges
Flushing
Dover
Ramsgate
Hastings
Portsmouth
Poole
Dartmouth
Falmouth
Swansea
Cardiff
Liverpool
Birkenhead
Preston
Glasgow
Belfast
Dublin
Felixstowe
Harwich
Lille
Arras
Cambrai
Mons
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Leeuwarden
Emden
Oldenburg
Osnabruck
Munster
Duisburg
Essen
Dusseldorf
Wuppertal
Cologne
Aachen
Trier
Metz
Nancy
Strasbourg
Colmar
Basel
Zurich
Bern
Geneva
Lyon
Grenoble
Marseille
Toulon
Nice
Monaco
Genoa
Milan
Turin
Verona
Venice
Trieste
Zagreb
Belgrade
Sofia
Bucharest
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Krakow
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Radom
Siedlce
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Khmelnytskyi
Vinnytsia
Zhytomyr
Chernihiv
Sumy
Kharkiv
Poltava
Dnipro
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Bratsk
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Tayshet
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Taishet
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Rasshua
Ushishir
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Chirpoy
Raikoke
Harumkotan
Shiashkotan
Broughton
Urup
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Suihua
Heihe
Hailar
Manzhouli
Erenhot
Zamyn-Uud
Choibalsan
Ulaanbaatar
Darkhan
Erdenet
Bayankhongor
Altai
Khovd
Ulaangom
Olgiy
Tsetserleg
Arvayheer
Dalanzadgad
Sainshand
Baruun-Urt
Mandalgovi
Dzamyn-Uud
Sukhbaatar
Zuunmod
Nalaikh
Baganuur
Bayanhongor
Uliast

EDENBRIDGE TOWN BAND

SPRINGTIME CONCERT

AT ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

ON

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024

COMMENCING AT 2PM

REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE & RETIRING COLLECTION

Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have standing orders or other arrangements in place to pay your sub in the course of the year. If you haven't, please pay now. We had to chase up a lot of subs last year, please don't wait to be chased again. If you aren't sure of your position please contact Bridget by phone or email, contact and payment details on page 25.

The annual sub is unchanged at a modest £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at hever.org BUT please let us know.

Many thanks



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





Alice in Wonderland

A small group of children from the villages have been practising their dramatic skills and will be putting on a short production of Alice in Wonderland on Saturday 27th April at 5pm in Markbeech Village Hall. No charge for tickets but there will be refreshments afterwards in aid of UNICEF. Do come and watch!

Gemma Wilkinson



World Book Day Delights at Four Elms Primary School

At Four Elms, World Book Day was more than just a single day celebration – it was a week-long extravaganza dedicated to fostering a love for reading and creativity among students. Throughout the week, a visiting poet inspired students with their words, encouraging them to explore their own creative potential. A book swapping event allowed students to exchange stories promoting a sense of community and shared enthusiasm for reading. In addition to this, our youngest EYFS pupils had the opportunity to bring their favourite books to life through a hands-on craft and dance workshop, whilst Key Stage 1 took part in a drama workshop.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the costume catwalk, where students transformed into their favourite book characters and paraded their costumes for all to see. Guided by the playful antics of Silly Billy from Stag Theatre, the catwalk was a fun celebration of books. The week culminated in a poetry slam finale, where students showcased the poems that they had been creating throughout the week. During the week, pupils also took part in a sponsored read, with the aim of raising more funds to further develop our reading areas within school.



Since then, learning experiences have resumed. Class One have been delving into Van Gogh's art, learning how to use the technique of impasto to create their art work. Class Two finished their previous experience with an enjoyable visit to Emmetts garden. Now, they are busy learning about the Great Storm of 1987. Class three are sampling a taste of Italy in their experience where they are learning more about countries in Europe. Class four recently enjoyed their experience on Polar Explorers which had a focus on diary entries.



Jess Fermor
Head of School

hever primary news

‘Things have improved significantly over the last year.’ Ofsted Letter (February 2024)

I am pleased to be able to share some of the positive feedback from our Ofsted monitoring inspection on 1st February 2024 which acknowledges the impact of the actions taken and the progress made at Hever School over the past year. You can read the full letter on our website: https://www.hever.kent.sch.uk/ofsted-reports/. It is a little frustrating that a monitoring visit cannot change the current judgment since this requires a full inspection; however, it is a very positive read which captures the journey we are on and the significant progress made.

Highlights include positive statements such as:

- ‘Leaders have brought in clear principles for effective teaching and learning’
- ‘Teachers have the knowledge of strategies to effectively support pupils with special education needs and/or disabilities’
- ‘Pupils are becoming more confident and capable in mathematics due to increased opportunities to practice and because they are taught to explain how they arrive at their answers’

Understandably, the letter does not include all of the feedback given to senior leaders, governors, and representatives from the Local Authority and the Diocese on the day. I was particularly proud of the feedback on our



Early Years Foundation Stage provision where the Inspector noted that there is an appropriate mix of directed and continuous provision in Reception, that activities are purposeful and children engage in meaningful play. As a result, pupils are well-engaged, happy and safe. Across the wider school, the inspector commented on the adaptations in place to make the curriculum more challenging and noted that pupils complete tasks with confidence and discuss their learning in a knowledgeable way.

At Hever, we are committed to ensuring the children access a rich curriculum which extends beyond the National Curriculum requirements. This term this has included a number of exciting events including an inspiring Arts Week (see the next page for examples), a wealth of activities to celebrate and promote reading on World Book Day and a visit to the Science Observatory at Herstmonceux for our Key Stage 2 pupils. Next week we are looking forward to our annual Poetry Recitation Competition which develops children’s oratory skills whist promoting an appreciation of poetry.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

















Hever Parish Council

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

By now everyone in the parish should have received a postcard through the door regarding the housing needs survey. The survey aims to gauge the need for affordable housing across all age groups, including older homeowners who need to downsize or require more suitable housing. Your input shapes housing solutions for everyone. Let's ensure affordability for all stages of life! You can use this link to complete the survey online https://online1.snapsurveys.com/hever or contact the Clerk for a paper copy. The deadline for completing the survey is 3rd April.

I recently read an article by Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum. Members raise issues and concerns that affect them and work together in the interests of people aged 50+**.** They have over 1200 members across the Sevenoaks District and voice concerns at District and at County level. Recently they have focussed on topics including fraud awareness, health watch and bus services. For more information, please visit their website: https://www.sdsaf.org.uk/about/about-us/

With Spring upon us, there are some caretaking works happening around the Parish; the bus stops will be receiving a much needed clean and tidy, some repairs will be carried out on equipment at the Four Elms and Hever fields and the notice boards will be receiving some care and attention. The War Memorials at both St Peter's and St Paul's are scheduled to be cleaned too.

The area around the back of Four Elms Pond will have some tree pruning. I am pleased to confirm that the free Family Fun Day will go ahead this year on Monday 19th August on the Four Elms field from 10.30 am – 1.30 pm. I am hoping the sun will shine on the day as it did last year and as much fun will be had!

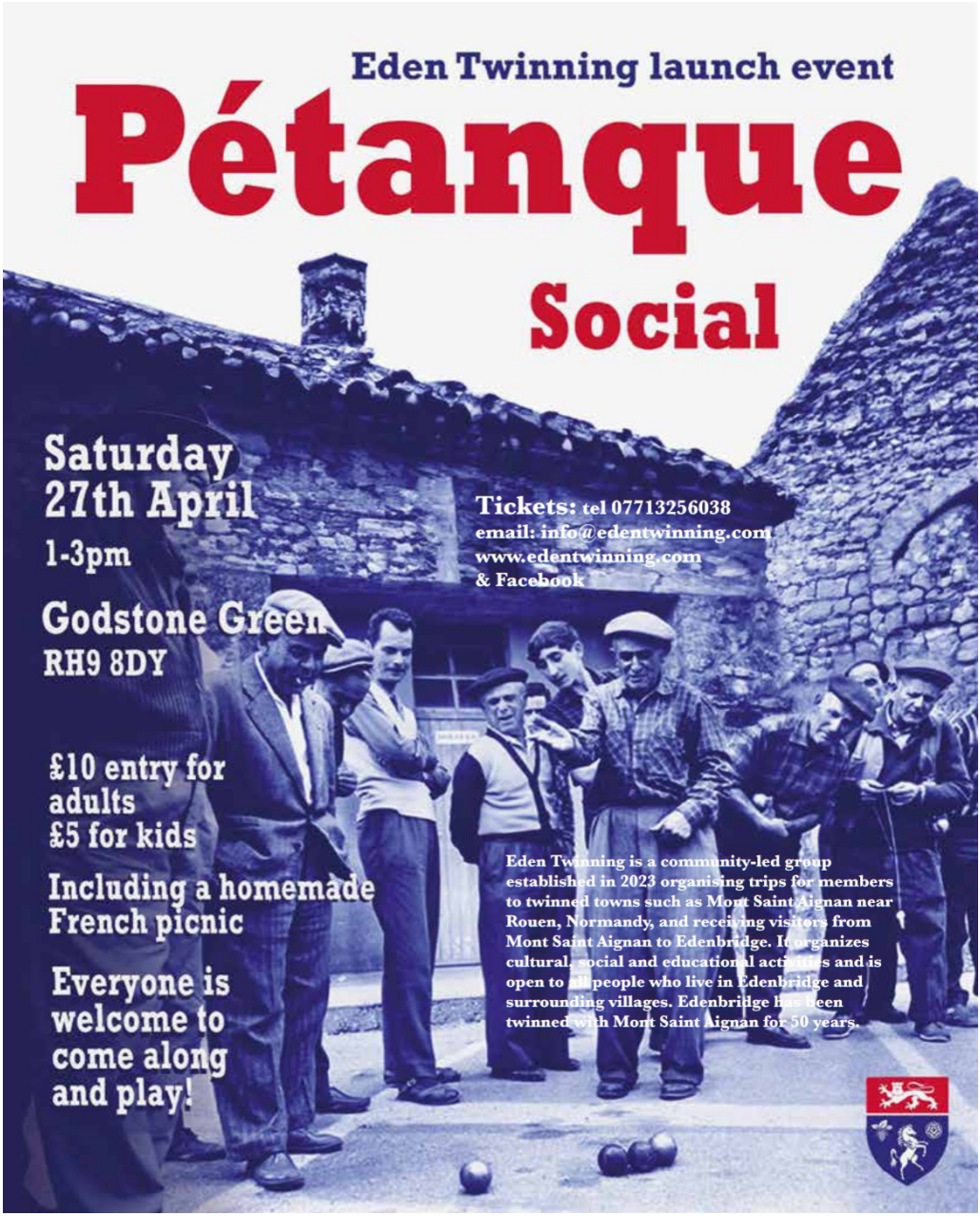
Plans for the 80th D-Day event in June are underway and is being supported by Hever Parish Council.

Would you would like to help make a difference to your community representing the interests of those living and working in the Parish? If so, why not join our team of Councillors? We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor so please do contact me for more information.

As always, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. The next HPC Meeting is the Annual Meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2024 in Hever Village Hall at 7.00 pm. The Planning Meeting is at 8.15 pm. The Parish Assembly, to which a variety of speakers have been invited, will be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 20th May in Four Elms Village Hall.

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


Eden Twinning launch event
Pétanque
Social
Saturday
27th April
1-3pm
Godstone Green
RH9 8DY
£10 entry for
adults
£5 for kids
Including a homemade
French picnic
Everyone is
welcome to
come along
and play!
Tickets: tel 07713256038
email: info@edentwinning.com
www.edentwinning.com
& Facebook
Eden Twinning is a community-led group established in 2023 organising trips for members to twinned towns such as Mont Saint Aignan near Rouen, Normandy, and receiving visitors from Mont Saint Aignan to Edenbridge. It organizes cultural, social and educational activities and is open to all people who live in Edenbridge and surrounding villages. Edenbridge has been twinned with Mont Saint Aignan for 50 years.

business directory

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Building & Design Services

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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



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Church in April

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
7th April 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter 2
14th April 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Easter 3
14th April 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech with baptism	Easter 3
14th April 4pm	Forest church Hever churchyard	Easter 3
21st April 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Easter 4
21st April 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Easter 4
28th April 8am	Said communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter 5
28th April 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter 5

We will be restarting our weekly Zoom and in person Bible studies on Monday 15th April. Zoom Evening prayer continues on Thursdays at 6.00pm. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' for young mums is on alternate Wednesdays. Our Men's discussion group hosted by Nick Irens is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 9th April on the subject of secularisation. For details of any of these please contact Simon.

Please also note and if you can come to our Annual Parochial church meetings which are as follows and are in each of our churches:

Holy Trinity Markbeech Monday 8th April 7pm
St.Paul's Four Elms Tuesday 16th April 7.30pm
St.Peter's Hever Sunday 21st April 11.15am following the service.

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

Life is very fragile. This was brought home to me recently when, following a tiny gardening cut on her finger, my wife, Susie contracted Sepsis and needed to be in hospital for multiple operations on her left hand to remove infected material. She has now returned home from East Grinstead following reconstructive plastic surgery and is predicted to need six months to recover! We're so grateful for all the wishes of support and prayers from the community – thank you.

The fragility of life is reflected in the challenge of being three churches in a small rural community. For example, social and demographic changes such as later retirement dates and the cost of childcare mean a reducing pool of people with the time to volunteer. Nevertheless, there are benefits to volunteering: it reduces loneliness, connects us with the community, improves mental health and gives us meaning and purpose. But when it comes to the church, we're told that we live in a culture that dislikes organised religion.

Jesus' disciples were a motley crew of very different people: Matthew, a tax collector who collaborated with the Romans, Simon the zealot, who was part of a terrorist group, Peter, the impetuous fisherman and Thomas the doubter. They weren't guaranteed to get along and from time to time they didn't! Yet it was through this potentially dysfunctional community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that God turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

We live in a highly individualistic world which is arguably opposed to this kind of community. We may say we're too busy and have enough friends so don't need to be part of a church. But the friends we choose can be of the same age or social group. They do not challenge us in the way we are challenged by the diverse mishmash of people, which is called the church. Sharing our lives with others can be part of the solution to such individualism. This is because it's in doing life together that we wrench our selfish eyes away from ourselves onto serving others. So do give some thought to joining us…and if you did feel able to volunteer in any way at all, do get in touch.

Finally, April is the month for our annual meetings of our three churches. At Holy Trinity Markbeech, MarieLou Linklater is retiring as church warden after ten years in the post. We're very grateful for all that MarieLou has done; I am particularly thankful for her hard work editing and producing such excellent video recordings of services each week during the Covid period in addition to regular church warden duties. We all wish MarieLou a good break and a successful house move in due course.

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

I think we were all very shocked and upset to hear the news of Susie's gardening accident and it goes without saying that we send our love and prayers to Susie for a complete recovery. For all the many gardeners in the Parish the realisation that something as small as a cut on the finger can be so devasting is sobering. It is something which could, and does, happen to anybody who gardens but not usually with such devasting consequences. Get well soon Susie.

Notwithstanding, it is still a joy and a pleasure to see the spring bulbs looking so wonderful even if we have to trudge through rain soaked gardens. The obvious changing weather patterns force us to realise that we have to adapt our gardens accordingly. As humans I believe we are able to change our habits, albeit very hard. We can do our very best to be less wasteful with perhaps a make do and mend mentality.

The end of March brings an early Easter. We will have a Family Service on Palm Sunday with a lovely donkey procession in the churchyard and a Family Service followed by Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. During Holy Week Compline will be on Wednesday at 6pm in Four Elms and Good Friday devotion at 12 noon. April brings our APCM, on Tuesday 16th April at 7.30 pm in St Paul's Church, which is open for everyone to attend to see how well (or badly) we have worked during 2023. Please join us if you can. Enjoy a cuppa on the second Tuesday of the month continues and everyone, whether you attend church or not, is very welcome.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St Peter's will take place after the 10am service on Sunday 21st April. We invite everyone to attend and receive the reports on changes to the electoral roll, general parish activities and the financial report for 2023. The APCM also elects new members to the PCC and to deanery synod.

St Peter's will be hosting the cello concert being given by Orlando Jopling on Friday 26th April. Tickets can be purchased from the Hever Festival website. Mark Jennings will be playing his classical guitar on Saturday May 4th. Ticket information will be available on the Three Spires website shortly.

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 11th April 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

Markbeech

March 1st witnessed a very special Service for the World Day of Prayer held, this year, at the United Reform Church in Marsh Green who made us so welcome. Many churches were represented, and we heard about the lives of three Palestinian Christian women who had to live their lives with the theme of the service, "I beg you, bear with one another in love". It would be lovely if our Benefice gets the opportunity to host this Service one year.

After several rehearsals, the Benefice choir, with two wonderful soloists, enjoyed Choral Evensong at St. Peter's Hever. It would be nice if more people felt they could join the congregation in the future but hopefully when the weather improves and it is lighter in the evenings, Evensong will become more popular.

Despite Susie having such a tough time with sepsis, Simon celebrated Mothering Sunday in Markbeech, pretty little posies were handed out, heartfelt prayers were said, and some beautiful hymns were sung. As I write, we look forward to Palm Sunday in Four Elms complete with donkeys. Easter and the Easter holidays are on the horizon – heralded by glorious daffodils, primroses, crocuses and blossom. We are so blessed in this Benefice.

On Monday April 8th, the APCM of Markbeech will be held at 7pm in the Church. This meeting is open to everyone and all will be made very welcome.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the Register:

Baptism:
18th February St Peter's Hever
Evie Annabelle Walker

Funerals:
20th February St Paul's Four Elms Nicholas Derek Rich
1st March Holy Trinity Markbeech
Patricia Deidre Theobald



gardening



On my playlist I have a song called 'Running to stand still' by U2. It could be my musical accompaniment for this time of year in our garden since, as I get older and slower, everything in our garden seems to grow more quickly. So I am still playing catchup with jobs that should have been completed before now, mainly just basic clearing up, cutting back and shaping some of our shrubs. Of course, the extraordinary rainfall we have recently had has played its part in preventing progress with these tasks, 139mm recorded for February in Markbeech, compared with just 4mm last year!

I have tried to follow Simon Sutcliffe's advice in last month's Link, i.e. time to get your seeds going! So far, culinary seeds started include broad beans (Witkein Manita), potatoes (2nd early, Kestrel) and tomatoes (Cocktail crush). Sweet peas were started in January and are doing well so far. This year it will be two varieties, 'Old fashioned Mix' and 'Miss Wilmott', plus a mixture of seeds saved from last year. There are about 60 growing, so hopefully there will be some available for sale at our **Annual Plant Sale, on 11th May, 10am, at Hever Village Hall.**

There is a proliferation of advice in the gardening sections of newspapers and magazines for jobs to do in Spring, so here are a couple of seasonal tasks to consider. No-dig beds are becoming more popular as we think more about climate change, and they are quite easy to make. Remove any perennial weeds from the bed and chop down any other vegetation. Put a layer of cardboard over and cover with about 7cm of compost. Then just make a hole in the cardboard to take each plant. Secondly, once tulips are growing well, water every couple of weeks with liquid seaweed at the base of the plant. When flowering is complete remove the flower head but keep the leaves on so that energy goes into the bulb.

The Hever Hort year is well under way, with talks on the Ashdown Forest and the Gardens of Sissinghurst Castle under our horticultural belts. Our next event will be the **Spring Show on 7th April, at Hever Village Hall, 2pm.** As usual, we worry about whether the currently resplendent host of daffodils will still be available for the show. Let's hope so!

Happy gardening and may the weather be with you!

Doug Bowern



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	122										
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	136										
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	139										

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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James Barnett 07831 112901
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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the **May** edition should reach us no later than **15 April**
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For payment there are 2 options:
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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

April diary

From 2 Mar **Exhibition Health Care in our Town,** Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge	
Exhibition celebrating 75 years of the Edenbridge Players, Eden Valley Museum	
27 Mar **u3a talk " Where do novelists get their ideas?"**,	
Crockham Hill VH, 07741 460500 for details,	2pm
30 Mar **Easter Egg Hunt**, Hever Churchyard	3.30pm
7 Apr **Hever Hort Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall ***NEW DATE***	2pm
8 Apr **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, Holy Trinity Markbeech	7pm
6 Apr **EMAT Concert by Connaught Brass**, St Peter and St Paul Church, Edenbridge	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
16 Apr **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, St Paul's Four Elms	7.30pm
18 Apr **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, adult £10, child £7,	7.30 – 9pm
21 Apr **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, St Peter's Hever after the service at 10am	
21 Apr **Yoghurt Making Workshop**, Bore Place, adult £32,	10.30 am – 1pm
21 Apr **Springtime Concert**, Edenbridge Town Band, Edenbridge Church, free entry	2pm
26 Apr **Concert of Bach cello suites**, Orlando Jopling, St Peter's Hever	7.30pm
27 Apr **Alice in Wonderland**, children's drama group, Markbeech Village Hall	5pm
27 Apr **Great History Quiz**, WI Hall Edenbridge,	
call 01732 868102 or at the museum for tickets	7.30pm
1 May **Hever Parish Council Annual Meeting**, Hever Village Hall	7pm
7 May **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
9 May **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
11 May **Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place, adult £63,	10am – 4pm
11 May **Hever Hort Annual Plant Sale**, Hever Village Hall	10am
18 May **EMAT Concert Fiddlers Three**, St Peter and St Paul Church, Edenbridge	7pm
20 May **Parish Assembly**, Four Elms Village Hall	7pm

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