May 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Born and bred in Markbeech
- Dancing gulls
- D'ye ken Kenwood
- A very bouncy pet
- D-Day all the way
- Lots of summer action

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the May Link

Rubbish! Well done Sevenoaks for keeping the weekly rubbish collections going when the rest of the country has reduced to fortnightly or worse. The price is that we have to buy our own black sacks and that recycling will be in a re-useable "sack for life" from September.

And so to a less topical but nonetheless interesting story (at least I think it is!).... Flicking through my RSPB newsletter I see that the founding inspiration for the Society was Victorian ladies' hats! Determined that birds should not die for the sake of fashion, Emily Williamson (1855-1936) joined forces with Eliza Phillips (1853-1916) in 1891 to form the Plumage League, later the "Society for the Protection of Birds". They disapproved of the use of bird feathers in fashion, both due to the reduction of the bird population and to the cruelty of plume hunting and were part of a group of women who pledged not to wear feathers from most birds. Explicit exceptions included birds killed for food and the ostrich, because the harvesting of its tail feathers was not painful.

They were joined by Etta Lemon (1860-1953), an anti-suffrage conservative. Many suffragettes wore plumed hats as a badge of identity and in 1896 a SPB pamphlet (the "Royal" was added in 1901) noted that the wearing of plumes by women was a good reason to deny the right to vote: "if women are so empty-headed and stupid that they cannot be made to understand the cruelty of which they are guilty in that matter, they certainly prove themselves to be unfit to be voters, and to enter the learned professions on equal terms with men." The photo shows Etta, her hat suffused in feathers - presumably ostrich?

Tickets are selling fast for the D-day picnic so don't delay, please keep your fingers crossed for good weather! And beware the traffic lights on the Henry corner in Hever which will inevitably extend journey times.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



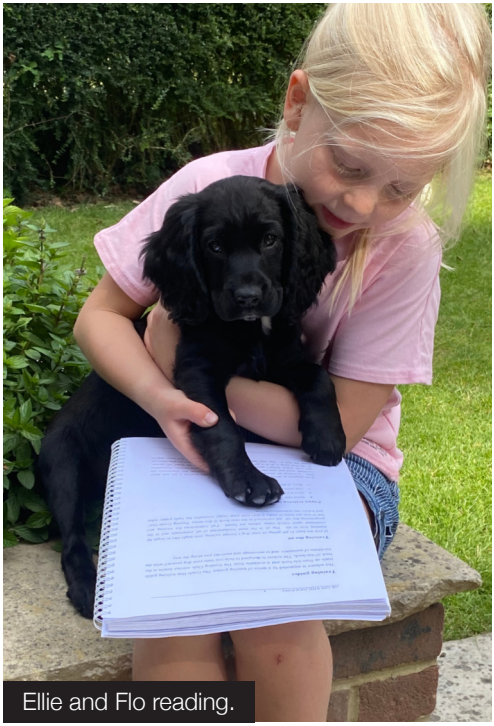
THE LINK

pet of the month

I'm going to introduce you to my dog, Flo. Flo is a Cocker Spaniel. We got her in 2020 when she was just a puppy (it's her birthday soon on 23rd April). The man we bought Flo from is called Bert and her mum is called Emma. Bert is a gamekeeper who has very well-trained dogs so when we picked Flo up all the puppies could respond to his whistle. At Bert's house the puppies lived in kennels outside so when we first got home it took us a while to encourage Flo into the house.

During lockdown we spent lots of time training Flo so now we can go on lots of adventures with her. We like to go on bike rides, go to the beach (Flo usually gets a sandy nose when we're at the beach from all the holes she digs) and climbing mountains. Flo always takes a stick with her wherever she goes and she always picks the biggest one she can find!

One of Flo's favourite things to do is to go running, she goes running so often that she knows every footpath in Hever, Markbeech and Chiddingstone.



Ellie and Flo reading.

So much so that when we are out together she shows us the way and likes to be the leader of Daddy's running club. Flo also loves a good cuddle.

When Flo gets excited she doesn't just wag her tail, she wags her entire body. Lorraine, our cleaner calls her Miss Waggle Bum!!! I love having Flo as she makes me laugh and she gives the best cuddles!

Ellie Chapman



desert island whisks

…which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

When I married, 53 years ago, I received one of my most useful wedding presents, a Kenwood chef. Gosh! I was so thrilled having had some experience using my mother's, which had been given to her by our cousin, a very junior accountant doing the audits for Kenwood.

The surprise of the present was even more appreciated by me because the Kenwood was given to us by my new husband's godfather, who was the most splendid bachelor living in Belgravia, and he was known as Potts (rather apt for this article!). We adored him and he was, apparently, a very good cook.

The Kenwood had been regularly used for 25 years when my parents-in-law had a lunch party where Potts was invited. Being the polite, charming man he was, he asked after the Kenwood and I replied "exceptionally well, thank you, but perhaps I need to invest in a Magimix to enhance my catering abilities!" A week after the lunch, a large box arrived from Peter Jones and, yes, a Magimix from Potts - wasn't I lucky!

Both Kenwood and Magimix sit together in my larder, being a happy reminder of the generous Potts. And I am now using them to interest the next generation in the joys of cooking - here is my granddaughter Bibi aged 13 in action with the Kenwood.

Richenda Calvocoressi



If anyone else has a desert island whisk they would like to share with their neighbours, please do get in touch with The Link.



what I do



Pilates was always something I used to dip in and out of but it never seemed to click; I fell into the common trap of finding it 'boring.' I was always more interested in high intensity workouts, running and cycling. However I was prone to injuries and my back gave out when my first son was six months old. My chiropractor advised that while I was cardio fit I should try pilates again to improve mobility, stability and inner strength. I finally found a teacher who tailored a pilates programme to suit both my physical and mental needs and my love of pilates began. I was not only able to see the huge benefits to my mind and body but I also developed a keen interest in the variety of pilates exercises, quashing my previous belief that it was boring and encouraging me to become a pilates teacher through Body Control Pilates.

My go to style of pilates is more dynamic and mixes in elements of fitness with classical pilates exercises. Through teaching I have the great satisfaction of seeing the benefits of using pilates in different ways depending on my clients' wants and needs. From the person whose continuous back and joint pain is eased through pilates, those fed up with constantly feeling stiff or like they have bad posture, to the active individual who sees how pilates not only keeps them injury free but also enhances their pre-existing fitness routine.

I also love devising workouts which you can fit in around your day. By dividing workouts into segments of 10 – 20 minutes you can fit in some form of movement, and just as importantly some time to yourself, on even the busiest of days.

I create new workouts for my clients each week incorporating new and innovative exercises. Whether it is in a group fitness environment or 1:1 I ensure each of my clients is getting what they need out of their pilates. Pilates has allowed me to continue exercising to a high level without the risk of injury as I know my body is strong from the inside out. I love seeing how pilates boosts my clients' confidence, enhances their lifestyle and builds their love for movement.

Please get in touch if you would like more information. libertywaters@hotmail.com or 0781 773 9899.

Liberty Greenish

Last month's What We Do Just to clarify, the Garden Cafe which was the subject of the piece is in Four Elms next to The Elms Equestrian on Bough Beech Rd, TN8 6ND

parish litter pick



"Desperados" is the tipple of choice for the litter fiends of Uckfield Lane. At 5.9% and laced with tequila it's hopefully not the cyclists wobbling up the hill who throw these cans in the hedge, along with many other more well-known brands. Cheap wine seems to be out of fashion but a half bottle of dessert wine was consumed near Pigdown Lane - and all that might account for the wing mirrors and cars parts scattered throughout the parish. By the end of the morning, and whilst admiring the kerbside spring flowers, the Hever litter pickers had collected 20 bags and Markbeech added an impressive 40 to the haul, including much builders' fly tipped rubble.

Meanwhile in Four Elms our reporter, Parish Council Chair Angela Haydon, was on the scene: "From toddlers to pensioners, there was a great response from Four Elms residents - 15 volunteers turned up on this sunny morning, the youngest was Teddy aged 2 1/2 who was going to help collect rubbish at the playground. We found quite a few empty cans of Red Bull [Ed: healthier louts in Four Elms then, no Desperados?], four tyres and a wing mirror! Hilary provided home made cookies, rock cakes and flapjacks so everyone was happy."

Thank you to the passing drivers who stopped to thank us for our efforts. Another collection is planned for the autumn, watch this space and do join in... and meanwhile don't be a Desperado, take your litter home with you!

Joanna Wade

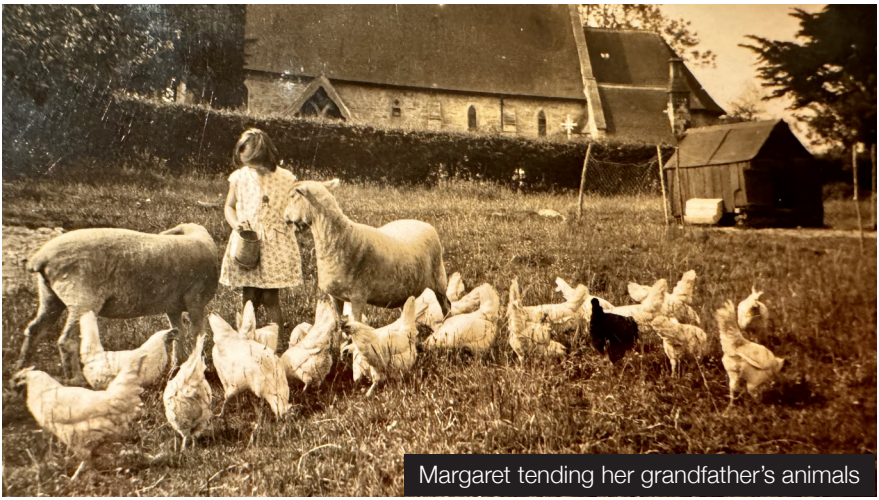


Born and bred in Markbeech

Margaret Reynolds (neé Leppard) was born in the Kentish Horse pub in 1944 where her maternal grandparents, Gladys and Henry Ward, were the landlords. The Kentish was a magnet for car rallies which both her parents, Monty and Cynthia Leppard, enthusiastically attended - the pub still has pictures on the walls to prove it. Monty's father, George, ran Wilderness Farm, indeed the Leppards have been farming Wilderness for 102 years. Monty had two brothers, Wally and John who both had wives called Peggy, and all three brothers worked on the farm. Wally and John maintained and ran the machinery and Monty was in charge of the dairy herd.

As a girl Margaret moved into the farm with her parents to help her grandparents and attended Hever primary school and then secondary at the now-closed Edenbridge. She left aged 16 to help her dad with the cows and says she couldn't get out quickly enough, turning down the services of the career officer who suggested a shop or factory, to which she replied "don't bother, I already have a job on the farm!"

She absolutely loved the outdoors. The farm had approximately 36 cows which Margaret helped milk twice a day, the full churn was then rolled out to the roadside to be collected. Whenever she passes, Margaret always looks at the spot on the bank where they sat waiting for the milk lorry. As well as milking, there was feeding - Monty and Margaret hand cut kale which grew approximately 6 foot high and put it through a shredder; very hard work. During the summer they made hay, building a stack in the field; Wally and John threw sheeting over the stack to protect it. They also grew wheat, Margaret and her cousins going out on the combine and changing the grain sacks as it drove along, also very hard work. Margaret says: "We had chickens too - we would collect their eggs if we could find them, they often laid in the hay bales or hid away to hatch



Margaret tending her grandfather's animals

their chicks, if the cocks fought they went in the pot."

The joy was that every time and every season brought a different job and a different challenge. But Margaret stopped her farm work on her 21st birthday, she had married Melvin Reynolds in 1965 and was pregnant. The story of her going into labour with her first child, Bernard, still makes her laugh - her dad rang the doctor but said "there's no rush - she knows what goes on, she's watched the cows often enough"!! Melvin was in the army and they were posted to Hong Kong when Bernard was two months old; they went on to have two more boys and two girls. When he was discharged the family returned here and lived in one of the Pigdown farm cottages. Melvin worked on the buses, based in the depot in Hever Road on the edge of Edenbridge.

Margaret did cleaning jobs in the area, cycling everywhere, up and down, on her 3-gear bike. In her spare time she played stool ball, a game resembling rounders, reputedly invented by milkmaids who used their stools as bats, which was very popular. Margaret's team was in the Kent league and she herself once played for Kent County. She was also a darts champion and won the Kentish Horse ladies' title six times.

When Melvin and Margaret separated 24 years ago she moved back to her birthplace, the centre of Markbeech, where she has been ever since, enjoying her garden and helping people where she can, including at the Hever parish lunch. She fondly remembers Markbeech in "the olden days", including Jack and Ada Seymour who ran the tiny post office in Cow Lane - the post box is still outside what was their house. They sold sweets, tins of fruit, postcards of Markbeech and much more. She is sad that so much has now changed in the village but is still happy to call it home.

Margaret has just turned 80 and has been celebrating with her children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild (another one is in the way). Happy birthday Margaret!

Joanna Wade
If you or someone you know was born and bred in the parish please get in touch as I would love to hear your story - 07958 919631



celebrating Markbeech village hall

As regular readers of The Link will know, Markbeech Village Hall celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its construction last year. 2023 was also the year of our King's Coronation, so I thought this was an excellent excuse to plant a tree to commemorate these two events.

On Sunday 24th March, a group of 20 local residents, all with close links to the Hall, assembled in the garden to witness the planting by our Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain, accompanied by her husband Lord Colgrain. Also in attendance were Sevenoaks District Councillors Margot McArthur, James Barnett and Angela Baker and Hever Parish Councillors Rick Brookes-Smith and Joanna Wade. My fellow Trustee and the Hall's Honorary Secretary, John Adkins was also present as was Committee member Chris St Pierre, who chose the tree, an Acer pseudoplatanus Brilliantissimum.

It was a great honour to have Lady Colgrain carry out the the ceremony. The last time a Lord Lieutenant came to the Hall was in April 1996 when the former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Kingsdown opened the Hall's flat roof extension, invited by my predecessor but one Robin Denison-Pender. I was pleased to have Robin's widow Clare with us at the event on Sunday.

James Calvocoressi
Chairman and Trustee, Markbeech Village Hall





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)

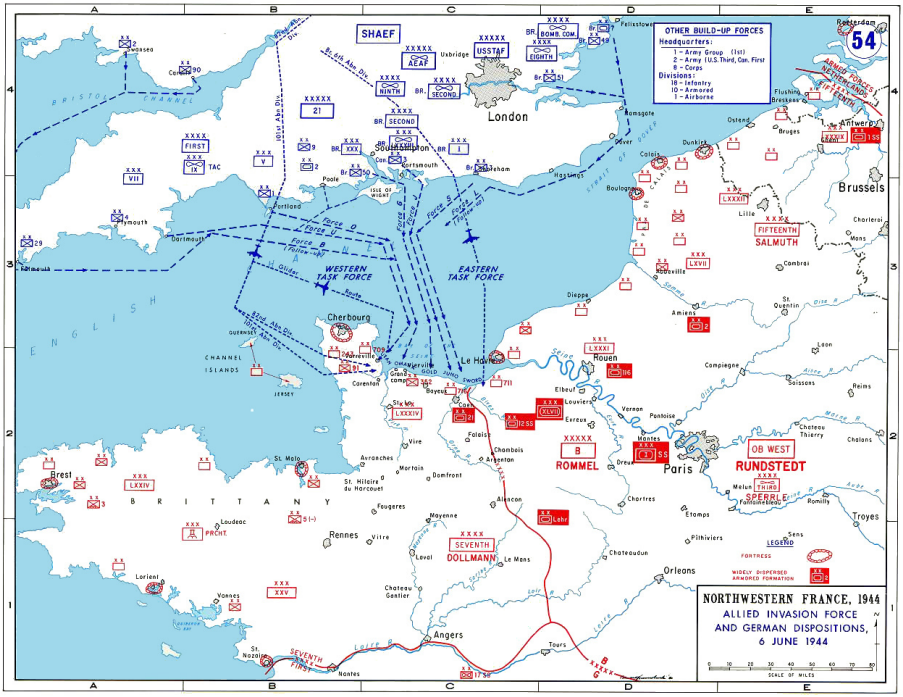
Who: Residents of Hever, Four Elms and Markbeech (limited to six tickets per household)

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


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
Londonderry
Dublin
Cork
Waterford
Rosslare
Fishguard
Milford Haven
Holyhead
Barrow
Heysham
Blackpool
Manchester
Sheffield
Hull
Leeds
Newcastle
Middlesbrough
Edinburgh
Aberdeen
Dundee
Inverness
Stranraer
Ayr
Oban
Kirkwall
Lerwick
Stornoway
Thurso
Wick
Fort William
Perth
Stirling
Carlisle
Lancaster
Norwich
Ipswich
Cambridge
Peterborough
Lincoln
Nottingham
Derby
Stoke
Shrewsbury
Hereford
Gloucester
Bristol
Exeter
Plymouth
Truro
Penzance
Newquay
Taunton
Bournemouth
Southampton
Portsmouth
Brighton
Eastbourne
Hastings
Canterbury
Maidstone
Ashford
Folkestone
Dover
Margate
Ramsgate
Sheerness
Chatham
Gravesend
Tilbury
Southend
Colchester
Harwich
Felixstowe
Aldeburgh
Lowestoft
Great Yarmouth
Cromer
Sheringham
Hunstanton
King's Lynn
Wisbech
Boston
Skegness
Grimsby
Scunthorpe
Doncaster
Barnsley
Wakefield
Bradford
Halifax
Huddersfield
Rochdale
Oldham
Bolton
Wigan
Warrington
Chester
Wrexham
Shrewsbury
Telford
Stafford
Walsall
Wolverhampton
Dudley
Birmingham
Coventry
Leicester
Northampton
Bedford
Luton
Hertford
Watford
Harrow
Ealing
Richmond
Kingston
Croydon
Sutton
Bromley
Dartford
Gravesend
Rochester
Maidstone
Tonbridge
Tunbridge Wells
Crawley
Horsham
Guildford
Woking
Aldershot
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Lyme Regis
Axminster
Honiton
Exmouth
Torquay
Paignton
Totnes
Dartmouth
Kingsbridge
Salcombe
Plymouth
Tavistock
Launceston
Bude
Wadebridge
Camborne
Redruth
Helston
Falmouth
Truro
St Austell
Newquay
Padstow
Bodmin
Liskeard
Looe
Polperro
Fowey
Par
Newquay
Perranporth
St Ives
Hayle
Penzance
Marazion
Mousehole
Lamorna
Porthcurno
Land's End
Sennen
St Just
Pendeen
Morvah
Zennor
Carbis Bay
St Ives
Hayle
Camborne
Redruth
Helston
Falmouth
Truro
St Austell
Newquay
Padstow
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Marazion
Mousehole
Lamorna
Porthcurno
Land's End
Sennen
St Just
Pendeen
Morvah
Zennor
Carbis Bay
St Ives
WESTERN TASK FORCE
EASTERN TASK FORCE
CHANNEL ISLANDS
JERSEY
GUERNSEY
BRITTANY
ENGLISH CHANNEL
BRISTOL CHANNEL
Force O
Force U
Force S
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Force D

Hever Hort Spring Show



Emma Scott with the Mavis Seal salver for most points in the domestic classes in the Spring show.





Emma's prize winning chocolate cake which she donated to the Parish Lunch.

Hever Rose & Horticultural Society

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

11th May Hever Village Hall, 10am



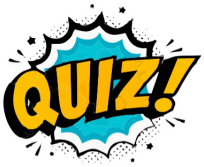
COWDEN MEMORIAL HALL QUIZ NIGHT & RAFFLE

To raise money for the new boiler

FRIDAY 17th MAY - 7.30pm for an 8pm start

£6.00 per person. Mazimum of 6 to a table plus a team name please.

NO PHONES to be used please - just Grey Matter!!!



Please bring your own drinks and nibbles and if you can a donation to the raffle.



CASH PLEASE

To book a table or for any queries please contact Sue Butcher on 07729-337556
You can also turn up on the night and if you aren't part of a team we can find one for you to join.

Hever Parish Council

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

As for many, spring is a busy time for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Many administrative activities take place and the year-end processes have to be completed. The Internal Audit is scheduled and resulting statutory reports will be published shortly.

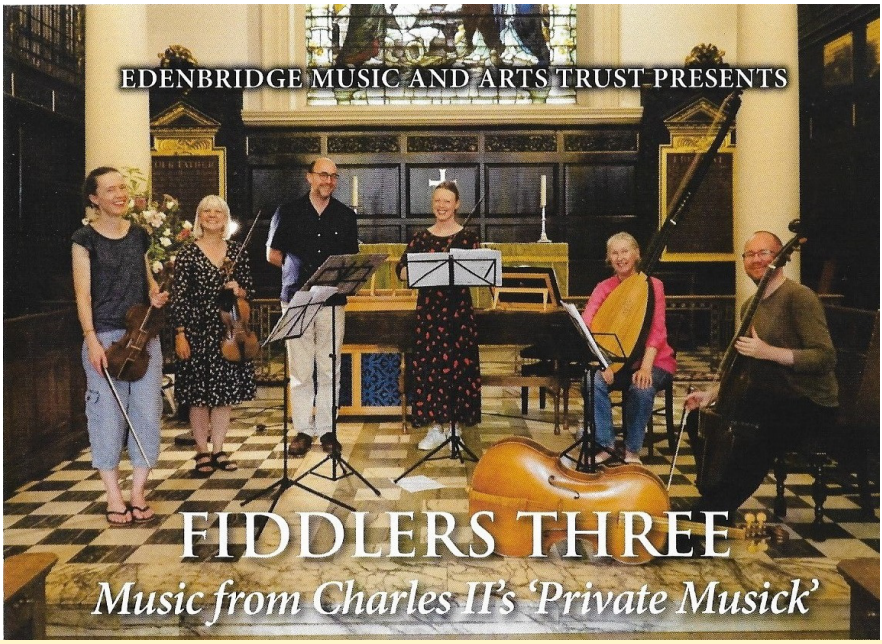
Parish Councillor Vacancy – We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, Four Elms Ward. So if you would like to help make a difference to your community representing the interests of those living and working in the Parish, please do contact me at clerk@hever.org for more information.

Parish Assembly - The Parish Assembly will be held at 7pm on Monday 20th May 2024 in Four Elms Village Hall. Do come and join us for this free event. It will be an interesting and informative evening with speakers from a variety of areas. Refreshments will be provided and a good chance to meet your Councillors and neighbours from across the Parish.

Next Meeting: Monday 8th July 2024 in Four Elms Village Hall. Planning Meeting 7pm and full council meeting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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





including works by Purcell, John Jenkins & Nicola Matteis

Saturday 18th May 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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Just £30 per annum

Building & Design Services

Andy Sayers Electrical Services	maintenance and repairs	07836 256 146
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 and Storage

Gaywood Farm, Edenbridge –	container storage, low monthly rates	07973 210361
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 May

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
5th May 10am	Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms followed by rogation walk	Rogation Sunday
9th May 7pm	Deanery Ascension Day Choral Evensong St.Paul's Four Elms	Ascension Day
12th May 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Sunday after Ascension
12th May 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Sunday after Ascension
12th May 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Sunday after Ascension
19th May 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Pentecost
19th May 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Pentecost
26th May 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity Sunday
26th May 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity Sunday

Our weekly Zoom and in person Bible studies continue on Mondays at 6pm and 8pm and Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6pm. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' for young mums is on alternate Wednesdays. Our next Men's discussion group hosted by Nick Irens will be on Secularism which was postponed from April; it's at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21st May. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page. Note that our service on 5th May will be followed by a short Rogation walk starting at 11.15am.

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


Easter egg hunt Hever Churchyard

our rector's thoughts

With Easter having been early this year, we have two lesser but important festivals in May: Ascension and Pentecost, also known as Whitsun.

Some of us might be old enough to remember the Beatles' song 'Goodbye' released in 1969. Life is full of goodbyes: saying goodbye to those we meet each day; the harrowing goodbyes when soldiers go off to war; lovers parted for whatever reason and ultimately we all face saying goodbye to loved ones when their time comes.

Ascension marks a big goodbye: the end of Jesus' ministry on earth. The risen Jesus is hid by a cloud and returns to his Father in heaven. His followers are left staring into the sky. One can only wonder what they might have felt as the one who had led them over the past three years, who had faced crucifixion and then had appeared to them risen from the dead, was now leaving them. It must have been a confusing and painful goodbye.

Here's an imaginary story set in heaven just after the Ascension. The angels ask Jesus, "Did you accomplish your task?". "Yes. All is finished." He says." So has the whole world heard of you?" "No," says Jesus, "not yet." "Then what is your plan?". "I have left eleven men and some other followers to carry the message to the whole world." says Jesus. The angels looked at one another "What is your Plan B?" Jesus replies "There is no Plan B". Jesus' last words to his followers were these: *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1:8. They were the plan; there was no Plan B!

This is where Pentecost comes in. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples and other Christians were transformed such that they *'turned the world upside down'* (Acts 17:6). And the rest is history.

But how does that relate to us 2,000 years later in our rural parishes? Sometimes we can get rather obsessed with maintaining what we have – which is good, of course – but neglect the mission to which we are called. After Pentecost, the new church grew at an amazing rate and there are parts of the world where this is happening today. So why not in the Three Spires? I plan to preach on this subject during May and June and encourage you to come along, as, with the help and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we seek to build the church of the future? We are the plan – there is no Plan B!

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

Easter was a busy time for services at St. Paul's. The Palm Sunday service, Wednesday compline, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Such a pleasure to see the church being fully occupied during this season.

As the saying goes, never perform with children and animals. This probably means that there is a degree of unpredictability to any event involving either and certainly with both!! However, this could not be said for the Palm Sunday service at St Paul's. Two well behaved donkeys led the palm procession impeccably. They didn't put a hoof wrong. And a Palm Sunday story read by younger members of the congregation was word perfect.

The Deanery Ascension Day service will be held in St Paul's on Thursday 9th May at 7pm. This will be a choral evening song and we are delighted the wonderful Markbeech choir will be joining us. As we move towards the summer, the Four Elms Village Fete Committee moves into action with its planning for the summer event on Saturday July 13th. For St Paul's Church it is our big fundraiser of the year. I hope we might have our usual fantastic support from everyone to make it another great year. (Weather permitting!)

April has been a busy time in the garden and we can now enjoy the beautiful spring, what a joy the bluebells are, and wait for the arrival of the swallows and the call of the cuckoo. That is always a sign that the summer is on the way. "Enjoy a Cuppa" continues and hopefully we might have a garden cuppa visit in May and June. Watch out for the notices.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Thank you to the flower arrangers whose Easter flower baskets and arrangements made the church look so welcoming to our visitors and thank you to the pupils of Hever CEP school who decorated the Bullen chapel altar with charming cards, featuring a cross against stained glass.



Join us for an evening of music and philanthropy at the Mark Jennings Classical Guitar Concert, in aid of St Peter's church on 4th May 7pm. This event is not only a celebration of classical guitar music, but also a fundraiser for a great cause. Immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies of renowned guitarist Mark Jennings as he takes you on a journey through his repertoire of classical pieces. With his exceptional talent and passion for music, Jennings is sure to captivate your heart and soul. Tickets are £15 per adult, children aged 11 and under go free. They can be purchased from the Book-it-Bee website, through me or, if tickets are still available, on the door.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 9th May 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

As I write, the sun is out, encouraging the blossom and the bulbs, not to mention the grass. Could we dare hope the fields are drying out? A goose is nesting on an island and the ducks certainly think it is Spring.

The Maundy Thursday Service at Markbeech was beautiful but such a sad service marking the time when Jesus was let down by his close friends. By contrast, Easter Day was a celebration. Even though it was "early" (clocks going forward) and Simon had already greeted the dawn at 6am at Hever, the Church was bursting with young families which gave us all an enormous hope for the future of the Benefice.

On April 8th our APCM took place, and we welcomed friends not on the PCC, yet! Two useful, friendly meetings but sadly we are "allowing" Marielou Linklater to retire. She has been churchwarden for Markbeech for over 10 years. And a wonderful one she has been too, always taking on duties with willingness and cheerfulness. Her technical knowledge has been a terrific bonus; never more so than during lockdown when she steered Simon through Zoom recordings which were so appreciated by us all. Her photographic and artistic skills are so admired and her culinary abilities, especially when turning a few simple ingredients into a feast for the village, are greatly admired. Luckily, she is not lost to us, but stepping down while she and Milly, her beloved dog and companion, are taking a huge step in moving house. We are all so glad and grateful that she has agreed to stay on as a deputy churchwarden and wish her so much luck with the house move.

Finally, a date for your 2025 diary. World Day of Prayer Service on March 7th at 7pm. We will be contacting you early next year in the hope you will want to be involved.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the register:

Baptism
14th April Holy Trinity Markbeech Rafael George Kunhardt

Wedding
6th April St Peter's Hever Emily Prior-Willeard and Lee Smith

Funeral
10th April Mavis Seal Cremation in Tunbridge Wells

gardening

As the stark winter skeletons of the trees become blurred with new growth, in a break from tradition, this article is about gardening from the perspective of gulls and Radio 4 listeners.

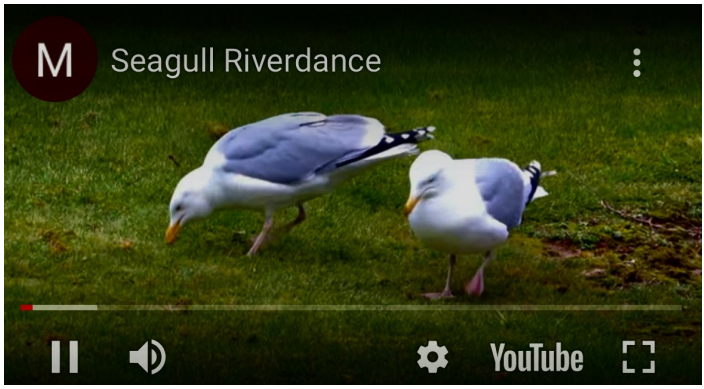
First to gulls - do search YouTube for videos of the "Seagull Riverdance". Like the best Irish dancers, gulls hop rhythmically on the grass stimulating worms to emerge. Amongst people, "worm charming" is a competitive sport; they patter the ground with their hands and up they come! The world record is a remarkable 567 in half an hour; hard to believe. Apparently the worms think that the sound is rain, they come up to enjoy a drink and meet their fate as a tasty snack (for gulls, not people).

Many gardeners complain about worm casts on their lawns. They are produced by a species of worm which excretes above ground level. But they aren't all bad; these same worms are aerating the soil and recycling nutrients such as dead leaves. The RHS says this is all part of a healthy garden ecosystem. Indeed there are companies now producing compost out of worm casts because they are so full of nutritious micro organisms. Darwin, who knew a thing or two, was fascinated by them and wrote a whole book on the subject after 40 years of study.

Back to the soil - in a previous Link we reported on geosmin, a lovely smell generated after the rain, now bottled as an expensive perfume, but that is just the tip of the health molehill. In Radio 4's "Just one thing", Michael Mosley noted not only the obvious physical profit of gardening, helping to reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes etc, but also benefits to the brain. Exposure to bacteria in soil can boost the gut microbiome and generate seratonin which relieves stress. Research suggests that 20 minutes in the garden improves BDNF (brain derived neurotrophic factor), literally fertilising learning and memory. Meanwhile the VEGF protein (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) boosts blood supply to the brain.

So the advice is not actually to eat soil, but to glory in getting your hands so dirty that you will inevitably inhale some, yet more evidence of the benefits of a non-sterile environment, although wash well afterwards, of course. And if you get a bit sweaty, you can always apply one of the "Top 10 earthy fragrances", also to be found on YouTube!!

Joanna Wade



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	94									
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	81.5									
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	95									

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

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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

May diary

From 2 Mar **Exhibition Health Care in our Town,** Eden Valley Museum
Exhibition celebrating 75 years of the Edenbridge Players, Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge.

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 VH	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
4 May	**Classical guitar concert**, Mark Jennings, St Peters Hever	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
10 May	**Hever PTA Quiz Night**, WI Hall Edenbridge	7.30pm
11 May	**Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place, adult £63,	10am – 4pm
11 May	**Hever Hort Annual Plant Sale**, Hever Village Hall	10am
12 May	**Colour Obstacle Run**, Chiddingstone sports ground	11-3pm
17 May	**Cowden Memorial Hall Quiz Night and Raffle**	7.30 for 8pm
18 May	**EMAT Concert Fiddlers Three**, Edenbridge Parish Church,	7pm
20 May	**Parish Assembly**, Four Elms Village Hall	7pm
6 Jun	**D Day anniversary picnic**, Hever Castle, pre booked tickets only	6.30-9.30pm
8 Jun	**Hever Hort Rose Show**, Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
8 Jun	**Music for a Summer Evening**, Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row	7.30pm
9 Jun	**Learn to make Kefir**, Bore Place, adult £32,	10.30am – 1pm
11 Jun	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
13 June	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
15 Jun	**Cowden Summer Fete**, Cowden Recreation Ground	1pm
13 Jul	**Four Elms Village Fete**	1pm

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