June 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Bells and beacon
- Ways with wood
- A dynamic duo
- A bed of roses
- Our schools are busy

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the June Link

The lark descending.... the skylark's dive is said to have inspired the design of German dive bombers - namely the Stuka, used during WW2 in the Battle of Britain. It would dive screaming from on high, and its aerodynamics were very similar to those of the little brown bird. The tuneful ascent is also very celebrated of course, appropriated by Vaughan Williams rather than by German engineers, and it is sad that the species is so endangered, not entirely surprising given that, perversely, they nest on the ground.

Turning to humans, The Link asked the Edenbridge Medical Practice about rumours that it was impossible to get an appointment. The response was useful: Kent Online has rated Edenbridge the 9th best surgery out of 6,000 in Kent for availability of appointments. The report said that just 3.8% of patients waited over 22 days for an appointment in February. Additionally, a whopping 79.3% per cent of patients were able to secure an appointment on the same day. The best way to book is via the Edenbridge Medical Practice website. Those who cannot do so can telephone and the reception staff will complete a booking form on their behalf - it is said that getting through is very hard. Two other concerns are that the minor injuries unit is often closed and that half of the building is empty. The practice says that unit operates during surgery opening times only - from 8.30 - 6.30, Monday to Friday and it has only been closed twice during those hours.

It is true that some of the building is currently empty; this is the part owned not by the practice but by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. They currently have clinics for minor surgery, podiatry and midwifery and are looking to have an ultrasound department and more.

Bells, beacon and brilliant music in Hever on 6th - see the advert on page 9.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org

PS The Henry apologises for the traffic disruption in Hever central.





pets of the month



Meet Ginger and Coco, a dynamic duo of guinea pigs, captivated our hearts when we first met them in the pet shop; from the minute we spotted them there was no way we were letting our mum leave without taking them home with us!

As you can probably guess they were named for their distinctive fur colours. Ginger is a long-haired guinea pig which gives us lots of opportunities to play with her hair and practise our hairdressing skills; she will let us put a bow in but a full plait is a step too far. Ginger is the more adventurous of the pair. She's always the first to explore new toys or to find out who is coming to visit. Coco, on the other hand with her soft short brown curly coat is the gentle and affectionate one. She loves nothing more than cuddling up in my lap for a cozy nap.

Ginger and Coco thrive on a balanced diet of hay, fresh vegetables and pellets supplemented with the occasional treat. Their favourite treat are pea flakes- they can hear the bag being opened from a distance and immediately start to squeak and popcorn with excitement. Popcorning is the term used to describe the happy little jumps that guinea pigs give when they are full of joy! They have a big two storey hutch which has hideaways, tunnels and chew toys so they don't get bored. Guinea pigs are social animals which is why you can only buy them in pairs. Ginger and Coco delight in each other's company often engaging in playful chases around the hutch or outside on the grass.

The one job they (and I) don't enjoy is toenail trimming- we have special nail scissors, but it isn't an easy job as they don't like to stay still and Coco's nails are black so it is quite hard to see where the blood vessel is. I would thoroughly recommend having guinea pigs for pets, they maybe small in size but have big personalities and hearts and bring lots of happiness and joy!

Mia Crooks





desert island whisks

…which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?



I was academic at school, science lessons consumed my brain. I never went to a Home Economics class at St Michael's School for Girls, but I knew where the kitchens were – in the basement, by the changing rooms. The classes were designed to teach girls how to be good wives, I suspect, a Victoria sponge and apple crumble were staple lessons. How did I get interested in cooking – well it was really that I started following chefs and eating lunch (prix fixe) so I knew I was only going to spend a specific amount – oh we forgot we had wine! Alastair Little, Gordon Ramsay, Andrew Edmunds and Marco Pierre White, their food and presentation was lovely and I began to cook – and much as I love a big special lunch or supper – I enjoy making cakes.

Have I inherited any culinary items? No I haven't – I have eyed some potential items though. I moved my godmother from Droitwich to Edenbridge and spotted a Kenwood mixer – I didn't want to look greedy so when offered it I said no – big regret as I watch BakeOff wishing I had one. She does have lovely wooden spoons all polished and smooth from making endless sauces, meringues and fruit cakes – so I am looking forward to enjoying them. I do have a gift from my parents, a cheeseboard. It was made by the Mouseman of Kilburn, Yorkshire. Robert Thompson, born 1876, was a renowned furniture maker using naturally seasoned oak – he carved a mouse on nearly every item he made. This I treasure and present at parties – only a cheese knife can be used gently on it.

I have a penchant for a cookery class, my favourite one so far was Rick Stein's Classic Fish cooking day in Padstow. A real treat for a foodie. Closer to home I have attended the Ashdown Manna cookery school, Blackham. In lockdown, my new housemate and I thrown completely together, did an online course with them, learning to make gnocchi – an ice breaker. About a month ago I joined their breadmaking course – I want to make bread now! At a Pampered Chef (PC) networking event in Edenbridge, I purchased the most useful tool in my kitchen a PC CuttingEdge Food Chopper – garlic, ginger, nuts, herbs a joy to chop, joy which may be surpassed when I wield a knife on a knife skills course in Borough Market.

Happy cooking.

Jo Cockerill



what I do

I left my London career in 2017 and have subsequently focused on hobbies that interest me. I always had a desire to create things so taught myself woodcraft. I built myself a workshop and kitted it out with high spec machinery. Over the years I have developed strong relationships with local tree surgeons and woodyards to source good quality wood. I'm always on the lookout for rare or unusual species.

I focus on making tables & bowls and have also carved a few sculptures. I believe that a spectacular piece of wood can create a fine quality item, as a craftsman, I merely bring to the fore the characteristics of that wood. It is common for me to make mistakes and some creations have ended up as firewood. I like to make big items - the heaviest bowl I made weighed 24kg, the largest table was fourteen feet long and the biggest sculpture was 12 tonnes.



My latest project is to make an effigy of a badger for Network Rail. It will be located, next to the footpath, near the railway engineering works that have recently taken place to shore-up the embankment between Penshurst and Edenbridge stations. Dyer and Butler, the construction firm undertaking the work, approached me with this unusual request as their environmental survey had discovered a badger set nearby and they wanted a symbolic reminder of the location. The badger will be sculpted from a large Oak tree that was growing on the verge of the railway-line that had to be felled to make way for the engineering. They requested that two bee houses be built into the sculpture as a nod to insect preservation. On completion, a QR code will be attached to the base of the carving that will give details of the engineering work undertaken to the public. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, project Badger has not been completed so no badger picture, but you will soon be able to see it in situ, once installed.



Nick Roberts

For more examples of my work, see www.owlscourtwoodcraft.com



Coming soon to Sevenoaks, surrounding areas and the Eden Valley villages of Hever, Penshurst and Chiddingstone....
Starting Saturday 1st June until Saturday 16th June. Don't miss it!
ART IN JUNE Open Studios www.artinjune.org

In our area, you can make an easy tour of the local artistic venues: Jessops Farm and Chequers Cottages at Bough Beech; Brook Cottage in Wellers Town, Pigdown Lane in Hever, the Barn at Falconhurst is in its fourth year in Markbeech and Anna Clark in Cowden . There are two venues in Edenbridge in Commerce Way and 1 Riverside. In Penshurst we have a fabulous new venue at Penhurst Village Hall plus work shown at the The Old Diary. Just visit our website: artinjune.org for all details, opening times, contact details and a taste of the art on show from each artist.

twin town assoc relaunch

Boules, baguettes, bonhomie and new beginnings were shared by dozens of Francophiles who met at the end of April to relaunch Edenbridge's town twinning community. Around 25 people of all ages met on 27th April to play pétanque and share a homemade French picnic including speciality cheeses, pissaladière, quiches and apple tart to mark the first event of Eden Twinning.

When Edenbridge's original twinning organisation closed in 2023 after an incredible 50 years, the new association also celebrates friendship with the people of Mont Saint Aignan in Normandy through exchange visits and events. Local resident Lois Raeburn said: "This was a little bit of French entertainment



to brighten a cold grey day, especially as the ladies won!"

Eden Twinning's next event is a French exchange visit to Edenbridge and barbecue in May, with a return visit planned for September. For more information and to join, visit the Eden Twinning page on Facebook.

Jenny Chettle

d-day remembered

On a recent visit to Bletchley Park I learned of the crucial role played by the cryptologists in the run up to D-Day. The code breakers worked out much of what the Germans expected of the coming invasion having cracked a cipher called Lorenz, code named Fish, keeping themselves amused by giving each of its links a pescatarian name - Berlin's traffic with Rome was "bream" and Paris's "jellyfish".



Alan Turing's office, Bletchley Park.

Thanks to the Eden Valley museum for Helen Long's book of local reminiscences "Westerham and Crockham Hill in the War". As 6 June 1944 approached Kent had been full of troops but Felicity Gladstone recalled that "what was so amazing about D-Day was that everybody disappeared. They positively disappeared. And then we heard that they had all been ordered to go up north. Not in convoy but separately. They were there all to scatter and to make their way down separately, to rendezvous in the south, clearly in the Portsmouth/Southampton area. They weren't allowed to travel in convoy in case they should be spotted from the air heading for the ports of departure."

Jane Rosam's great aunt who lived on the south coast secured large consignments of cigarettes from her spivvy boyfriend and cycled up the convoys waiting to embark, throwing them into the trucks.

Bridget Harris's father John, who many remember as a Sevenoaks District councillor, was directly involved in Operation Overlord. She says: "My father returned from the Middle East in January 1944 to get ready for D-Day. His armoured car regiment, 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry (2DY) were to become the reconnaissance unit to the 51st Highland Division. They travelled to Tilbury on the morning of 6 June and having crossed the channel on D+4 waited two days off the coast. They were among a mass of shipping; as far as the eye could see, ships of all sorts and sizes, were at anchor as if gathered for the biggest regatta of all time.

Eventually and presumably much relieved, they drove ashore from their "Landing Ship Tanks" in fairly shallow water (ages had been spent in waterproofing the vehicles) without loss or opposition. But they were on the wrong beach and it was to the eternal credit of my father's navigator that they managed to proceed to a map reference rendezvous in the Normandy countryside.

Next morning, by astonishing coincidence, Dad's brother Mike, a Gunner Major in 11th Armoured Division,

apparently heard that Dad was in the area and joined him for a drink. Things seemed cushy - till teatime when orders arrived to cross Pegasus Bridge over the Orne and relieve troops holding Escoville, one of several key villages on the perimeter of the bridgehead. This bridgehead was considered vital by high command and the orders were quite clear: "You must hold Escoville at all costs."

The Germans were shelling from positions in the lush six foot tall corn and then creeping forward to attack. My father's troop held the village, enduring continuous shelling and close quarter battle for 2 days and 3 nights and several of the officers and men, including Dad were awarded for their bravery. 2DY had landed in France some 700 all ranks strong: by the end of August when they were finally able to break out of the bridgehead and proceed towards Holland, their casualties were 190 killed, wounded and missing."

For Kent, the aftermath of D-Day was harsh. Just a week later the first of 3,000 doodle bugs crossed the channel and headed for London. They were also known as the V1 which stood for "vergeltungswaffe 1" or "vengeance weapon 1". Una Higgs, who was 23, remembers jumping off her bike into a ditch when she heard a doodlebug overhead. When was the engine going to cut out so that it fell and exploded? She was taking no chances.

The defensive forces leapt into action but disaster struck when the anti-aircraft battery at Four Elms triumphantly shot



Weald House

down a V1, only to find that it had crashed into Weald House, a children's home at Crockham Hill. Twenty-two of the 30 children there, all aged under five, and eight of the 11 nurses were killed. This was Kent's most tragic incident of the war.

All this was a year before WW2 actually ended but it was the major turning point for the allies and there was hope at last. Maureen Burdock was only a child but remembers thinking "my Daddy will be home, he will stick up for me! This was because for most of the war I was the eldest of between 8 and 10 children in our house. My mother and siblings were evacuated from London and over the the years we were joined by various cousins and evacuees, so you can imagine whose fault it was when things went wrong. Hence my delight at the thought of his return!"

Joanna Wade



Cowden Village Fête

Saturday 15th June

From 1pm
at the Cowden
Recreation Ground

D-DAY80

1940s theme to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D Day
a Period Dress competition with Children's and Adult prizes

Lindyhoppers & School Maypole Dancers • Period Vehicles • Farm Vehicles • Coconut Shy
Egg & Spoon & Sack Races • Art Class • Tombola • Fête Raffle • Human Fruit Machine
Dog Show • Silent Auction • BBQ & Licensed Bar • Afternoon Tea & Cakes

A huge array of Stallholders presenting locally produced crafts, food and other products.
Whatever your age or interests there will be something for you.
Invite friends and family to make this a truly memorable community event.

SPONSORED BY
RH & RW CLUTTON

Bring all the family for a great fun filled afternoon.

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



featuring London Satin Dollz performing 1940s songs

D-DAY80 COMMEMORATION EVENTS on 6 JUNE

12- 10.30pm Henry VIII open

6.30 Bell ringing at Hever Church

6.45 D-day picnic and music at Hever Castle

9.30 Beacon lighting on Hever Parish Field



four elms cricket club

Willerby LANDSCAPES

Date	1st XI Saturday	2nd XI Saturday
1/6	Farningham A	Horsmonden H
8/6	Penshurst Park A	Lenham H
15/6	Speldhurst H	Hartley country club A
22/6	Outwood H	Locksbottom A
29/6	Eynsford A	Bidborough H
6/7	Marden H	Bidborough A
13/7	Bearstead A	Flimwell H
20/7	Shoreham & Otford H	Flimwell A
27/7	Bidborough A	Leigh H

Date	Sunday XI @Home
2/6	Meopham
9/6	Caterham
16/6	Langton Green
23/	
30/6	Lamorbey Park
7/7	Sanderstead
14/7	Bardhill
21/7	London New Zealand
28/7	Selsdon

We would like to thank Willerby Landscapes for sponsoring us and a big thank you to Hever Parish Council for their very welcome donation to enable us to replace our cricket nets. This will enable us to make the ground accessible for the school to practice on.

If you are interested in joining our lovely team, social membership, hiring Four Elms for an afternoon or evening Cricket match or use our pavilion for a social event, please contact the club secretary Lorna Galbraith at info@fourelmscricketclub.co.uk. More information can be found at www.fourelmscricketclub.co.uk

Hever Parish Council

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

Footpaths - A number of concerns have been raised over footpaths in the area. One of these is the path leading to Hever Station (across the bridge) that is extremely muddy and slippery. Some fencing is also broken. I have managed to track down who is responsible and they are now looking into the repairs that are required. Another path that is need of repair is the SR575 footpath that runs past Chippens Bank. The Public Rights of Way team have been contacted again and quotes for the repairs are being sought. Whilst public footpaths are not the responsibility of Hever Parish Council, where possible we will help facilitate repairs and escalate reported issues to keep the network of paths in the Parish useable.

The Bulk Refuse freighter is next in the parish on Saturday 22nd June see the Diary on the back for details.

Maintenance
In addition to the usual maintenance, I am delighted to confirm there is a flurry of activity taking place around the Parish including:

War Memorials at both St Peter's Church, Hever, and St Paul's, Four Elms, are having their long awaited clean.

The annual safety inspection of the play equipment at Four Elms playground and the fitness equipment on Hever Field will take place over the summer.

New fencing will be installed on the boundary of the Four Elms Field and the Cricket Club. The gates to the playground and the field entrance will also be replaced.

There is a campaign being run by Tom Tugendhat, MP, for a direct rail link to Gatwick Airport from Tonbridge, calling at Leigh, Penshurst and Edenbridge stations. The rail link would open up new opportunities to reach Surrey and Sussex more easily and reduce road usage. Please do complete the online survey to show your support of this: https://www.tomtugendhat.org/tonbridgetogatwick.

Community Grants
Each year Hever Parish Council have a small amount of funding in order to provide financial assistance to a range of organisations, projects, and activities, which provide services for local residents. The Grant Application form can be found on the hever.org website http://hever.org/parish-council/hever-parish-council-community-support-grants or contact me for more information.
Please visit the hever.org website to view more detailed information such as; Agendas, Minutes, Planning, Financial and Audit information.

Next Meeting: Monday 8th July 2024 in Four Elms Village Hall 7.00 pm Planning Meeting and full council at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

Building confidence through our Key Stage 2 Residential Programme at Four Elms Primary School, we believe in nurturing not just academic excellence but also character development too. One of the ways we achieve this is through our Key Stage 2 Residential Programme, designed to instil confidence and resilience in our students as they embark on exciting adventures away from home. Terms 4, 5 and 6 are always busy with these opportunities.



In year 3, we ease the children into the experience of a sleepover right here at school. This took place last week and we had a great time playing games outside until late and enjoying a film in the school hall. They found it quite a novelty going to sleep next door to their exercise books!

Year 4 spend the night away in an unfamiliar setting, which this year was a soft play centre. This opportunity enables the children to adapt to new surroundings and build independence. The children spent the evening playing before settling down next to the ball pit to sleep.

In year 5, the children spend two nights away at Carroty Wood, an activity centre in the woods. This trip took place this month and our students immersed themselves in outdoor activities like abseiling, archery, pedal karting, and a high ropes course. It was a chance for them to challenge themselves, conquer fears, and discover the joys of the great outdoors.

As our students approach the end of their primary school journey in year 6, we take them to the Isle of Wight. They engage in fossil hunting, explore water parks, visit farms, play laser tag and go on a boat trip. It's a fitting culmination of their time at Four Elms packed with fun, learning, and lifelong memories. Our year 6 pupils are looking forward to attending this residential in June.

If you are interested in hearing more about our school, please do contact the office to arrange a tour: secretary@inspiream.org.uk

Jess Fermor
Head of School



hever primary news



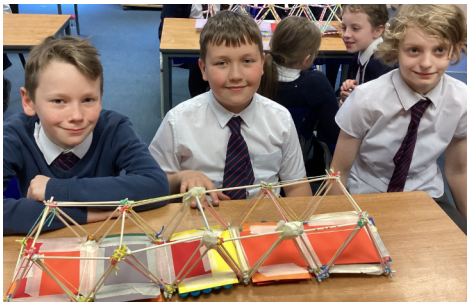
As I write this, Year 6 pupils up and down the country are completing their statutory end of key stage two assessments. This is a big undertaking for 10 and 11-year-old children so I have been really pleased to see both the camaraderie among our children as they have enjoyed a pre-test breakfast in class together, and how well they have supported and encouraged each other throughout the week. Next week, this will be behind them and they will be enjoying their much-anticipated residential trip in the beautiful surroundings of the New Forest!

This is one of the many opportunities that children experience during their time at Hever Primary School, to enhance the curriculum, extend their cultural capital and support their personal development. Already this year, we have had two trips to London, one to enjoy the West End production of Matilda and another to participate in Young Voices at the O2; children have been to the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux and the Wildlife Centre at Sevenoaks. Closer to home, children have experienced a wide variety of activities at the Environmental Education Centre at Bore Place and a range of curriculum workshops at Hever Castle. We have also had several school-based workshops ranging from the creative, including Divali Dance and Earth Day Art, through to STEM activities, such as engineering (bridge building), geology and computer animation. Our youngest children have enjoyed visits from a police officer, a local vet and the National Centre for Reptile Welfare – complete with snakes and lizards!

Whilst it probably still seems a long way off, if you have started thinking about schools for your child for September 2025, we would love to meet you and share all that Hever School has to offer. Please contact the school office (01732 862304 or email office@hever.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a tour.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher





business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
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 June

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
2nd June 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 1
2nd June 6pm	Healing service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 1
9th June 8am	BCP Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 2
9th June 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 2
9th June 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Trinity 2
16th June 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 3
16th June 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Trinity 3
23rd June 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 4
23rd June 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 4
30th June 10am	Family Holy Communion & patronal festival St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 5

A reminder that the Healing service is for all of us to pray for all types of healing – physical, emotional, spiritual for family and friends as well as ourselves and also for the healing of the nations. 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. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page.

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

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
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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



our rector's thoughts

The dictionary definition of HOPE is *to want something to happen or to be true*. We say: 'hope for the best' and refer to situations as 'hopeless' or 'losing hope' – such as when facing a chronic illness.

In the Old Testament prophets often spoke words of hope: *For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'* (Jeremiah 29:11). The New Testament speaks of *'a sure and certain hope'* resulting from the coming of Christ, his death and resurrection

Christians believe that the coming of Christ marked the start of a New Age – the Kingdom of God. The trouble is that as we look at ourselves, the state of the world and even the state of the church we're seeking to build, it's easy to lose hope.

6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings in Normandy. Many events are planned including the anniversary picnic in Hever Castle. D Day is a wonderful picture of hope and the courage of those who went ashore, establishing a bridgehead against amazing odds. Although it was probably hard to see it at the time, the success of the D Day landings from the Western Allies point of view, marked the deciding factor in achieving victory in Europe. However, in June 1944 there still remained nearly a year of fierce fighting with many casualties before the war in Europe ended on May 7th 1945.

Theologians have used D Day and the Second World War as an analogy of the in-between nature of the age in which we live following the coming of Christ but before the end of time. The victory has been won over evil by Jesus' death and resurrection but there are many struggles before the final coming of the Kingdom in all its fulness. It's a hard concept to grasp but I think Eugene Peterson's paraphrase puts it well: *All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.* (Romans 8:22-25)

God bless you all and I hope we all enjoy the summer!

Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

There is no doubt that St Paul's Church has wonderful acoustics. These were amplified (literally) on Ascension Day evening choral service, with thanks to the beautiful voices of the Markbeech choir under the direction of Charles Talbot. The Deanery Service was attended by the Archdeacon, Sharon Copestake and members of the Deanery Synod. A truly uplifting service.

I make no apologies for mentioning again the Four Elms Village Fete on Saturday 13th July. It is a day for the village to get together and for St Paul's to have its biggest fundraiser of the year. To this end we are in need of volunteer helpers on the day. We are also seeking bric a brac (your discarded objects become someone's treasure) and home baked cakes please and also support for the Grand Draw. But most of all help on the stalls during the afternoon. If you can spare an hour or two please contact me. The theme this year is Olympic Games, so if you have any winners' medals from previous games do please wear them!!!

Enjoy a cuppa is on Tuesday 11th June and if the weather is good we shall be in Fenham House garden (the old vicarage), which will be a real treat.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

St Peter's Forest Church continues to be very popular and, for those who have not been before, this is an informal, family friendly service. At May's service, when the theme was PRAYER, beetles were created to represent the different aspects of prayer. You can join in at Forest Church on the second Sunday of every month. It is held in the churchyard. Refreshments are served afterwards by one of the families.

The War Memorial has been scheduled to be cleaned on behalf of Hever Parish Council and we are grateful to them for carrying out this work.

We are looking to rewrite the church visitor's brochure in the near future. We are going to include some photos and information on the items that the general public do not normally have access to. Bryan Ellis and Phillip Smithies, from the Tonbridge Camera Club, have visited St Peter's and taken some photos for us to use and we are very thankful to them.





We recently hosted a team of bell ringers who rang a full peal at St Peter's and in June we hope to have another team to ring a quarter peal. Our own team of bell ringers goes from strength to strength.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 13th June 12.30 for 1pm lunch. Please don't drive or park on the grass at the hall if the ground is wet. 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

Mid-April witnessed a baptism service at Holy Trinity, taken beautifully by the Revd Sheila Perkins and we welcomed Rafael, who was the star of the show and surrounded by family and Godparents. The Family Service on the 28th April was joyous and well attended.

The beginning of May was a busy time for our choir rehearsing for the Deanery Ascension Day Choral Evensong which took place in St Paul's, Four Elms. Tim was wonderful on the organ; Charles skilfully conducted the choir (which included several singers from the Churches in the area) and special soloists. There were many in the congregation and Four Elms were very welcoming. We all enjoyed a drink afterwards courtesy of their generous hospitality. May 12th, the Sunday after Ascension, the Eucharist Service had some especially lovely hymns and an interesting sermon on discipleship.

Our Family Service on the 26th of May is also the patronal festival (Trinity). As it is the beginning of a week off for the schools, I hope not too many are away, especially as Falconhurst are opening their beautiful gardens on the Monday (27th) and the Talbots have generously allowed our Church to do the delicious teas as a fundraiser.

The Healing Service this year will be held on the 2nd June at 6pm in Markbeech. Simon reminds us that the Healing Service is when we pray for all types of healing – physical, emotional, spiritual for family and friends as well as ourselves and for the healing of the nations. I shall be coming back from the Hay Literary Festival (an annual treat) and will try to return in time. This year, more than ever before, nations need healing, and it would be special if many of us could gather in prayer.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

“Roses are red …….” Not only red, which is a special colour for a rose as it can depict that ‘special moment’, but many other hues with varying tinges. Several of these special flowers will be seen at the **Hever Rose and Horticultural Society's Rose show on Saturday 8th June** in the Hever Village Hall. Every year, the array of roses, all shapes and sizes, and of course scent, are grown by members. These and all the other exhibits can be viewed at the show between 2 and 4pm and are judged by a professional judge to award the several cups to the growers of the year. Roses are known to have originated in China and then spread over the whole of the northern hemisphere between 60 to 70 million years ago. Nothing defines an English garden like a rose. In surveys, it always tops the charts as the most popular plant to grow and they are the largest group of plants available to gardeners.

A couple of years ago I treated myself to a rose called ‘Janet’. I bought it purely for the name, not knowing what a beautiful large pink bloom it would produce. In other respects, it lives up to its name! Unruly, scratchy thorns, spreads where she wants to with no respect for the other plants nearby, but the pale pink and large blooms are a delight to see. My ‘Janet‘ now has a large metal frame to climb onto so I am hoping she will look spectacular when in bloom.

Looking to prepare for the 2025 Rose Show? The Hever Hort’s programme this year has a talk “The Art of Pruning Roses” by Caroline Halfpenny on 18th September. If you are interested we would be pleased to welcome you to Hever Village Hall at 8.00pm. If you'd like to join the Society and exhibit at the show you will find details, on the Hort tab of the Hever.org, of classes for a range of plants, cookery and photography. You may worry that standards are too high for you - they are not!



Safe and happy gardening.

Jan Tolfree

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	61								
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	57.5								
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	71								

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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Copy for the **July** edition should reach us no later than **15 June** 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

June 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.

From 25 May to 2 Sept **The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle**	
20 May **Parish Assembly**, Four Elms Village Hall	7pm
1 Jun **Hever Festival Theatre**, HMS Pinafore, Hever Castle	2pm and 8pm
6 Jun **D Day anniversary picnic**, Hever Castle, entry by 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	7pm
11 Jun **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
13 Jun **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
15 Jun **Cowden Summer Fete**, Cowden Recreation Ground	1pm
15 Jun **Penshurst Choral Society, Summer Concert**, Penshurst Church	6.30pm
22 Jun **Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Four Elms Village Hall	8.30 - 9am
22 Jun **Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Hever Bottle Bank behind the Henry Pub	12.15–12.45pm
22 Jun **Bulk Refuse Freighter**, Markbeech Village Hall	1-1.30pm
26 Jun **Hever Hort Supper Meeting**, How Green Nursery	7pm
29 Jun **Hever School Fete**, Parish Field, Hever	11.30 – 3.30pm
From 30 Jun to 27 July **Stone, Exhibition of Sculpture at Falconhurst,** tickets from Falconhurst farm shop	10-4pm weekdays, 11-4pm weekends
7 Jul **Citizen Science**: How to survey dragon/damselflies Bore Place, free	10am- 1pm
8 Jul **Hever Parish Council meetin**g, Four Elms Village Hall	7.30pm
9 Jul **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
11 Jul **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
13 Jul **Four Elms Village Fete**	1pm
19 Jul **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, Adult £10 child £7	8.30-10pm
3 Aug **Hever Festival Theatre**, Mozart: the Magic Flute, Hever Castle	8pm
17 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall	2 – 4.30pm
18 Sept **Hever Hort talk**, The Art of Pruning, Hever Village Hall	8pm

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