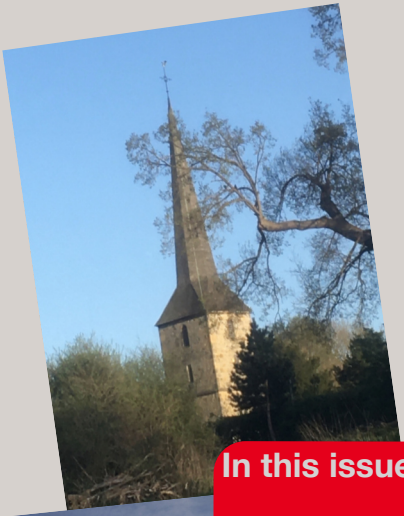
July 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Flying start for Hever Festival
- Gliders over Pegasus
- Jacob meets Marty
- Watch out for the peelers
- Gardening gone mad

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the July Link

We have had a good showing of cuckoos so far this year which is excellent news given how endangered they. They need you to keep your garden a bit untidy as caterpillars and other insects such as beetles and ants form the major part of the cuckoo's diet. Many of the caterpillars are the hairy, brightly coloured and poisonous, but their digestive system is specially adapted to cope with the hairs and toxins. After a brief spell in the UK, many have said "goodbye in July" and started their precarious trip back to the Congo to over-winter. Talking of biodiversity, we welcome a new Bore Place/ Sutton & East Surrey partnership at Bough Beech reservoir. With the help of volunteers, they will carry out conservation work whilst ensuring greater public access to the reservoir and the reopening of a restored Oast House.

The Link has more information from the Practice Manger at the surgery about the problems patients are having getting appointments. She confirms that you cannot get appointments by telephoning or in person, the only approach is to fill out the online form (https://florey.accurx.com/p/G82019 this link can be found if you google Edenbridge Medical Practice). That way, a doctor can review the request and decide what sort of appointment to offer and how urgently. The appointment is issued electronically.

Many are not confident online and are still telephoning for appointments - for them the receptionist will fill out a form which will be passed to the doctor and once an appointment has been allocated the patient will be contacted by telephone. The shock of suddenly having to work online has been unwelcome but the good news is that appointments are efficiently allocated using this system. There is no other way!

Finally, more good news (we hope!) - in a break with tradition The Link will print an August edition and, instead of the summer break, we will produce a combined December/January magazine.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



pet of the month

Hi, I'm Marty and I'm 2 years old. I was born in Ireland and was bred to be a coursing greyhound, but my legs grew way too long! Because my legs are so long it means that I can't always turn very quickly and sometimes crash into things.

I moved from Ireland earlier this year and was adopted by James and Jacob who have a farm with lots of space from me to run around and loads of other animals for me to play with. My best friend Willow is in the picture with me. As well as Willow I also have some retired racing greyhound friends and some lovely horses who I like to have kisses with.



I love to go on walks with James and Jacob and the other dogs but sometimes I get quite scared of fast cars and big noises because until I moved to Hever I never went on proper walks. I really like meeting other dogs on walks and love when new people say hello and give me cuddles. Cuddles are one of my favourite things in the world! Some people might think I'm a bit big and bony to cuddle properly but I'm really good and especially like it when I get to have cuddles on the sofa.

When I'm not out on walks or having cuddles I like to play with my toys in the field. I'm very good at fetching my toys and bringing them to whoever wants to play with me. At the moment my favourite toys are a giant caterpillar and a squeaky broccoli.

This year I would like to learn how to get in the car properly because I find this quite confusing. I've mastered stairs now so I don't think it will be long until I get to go on fun road trips with my friends and explore the world.

If you see me around the village please say hi, you can't miss me, I'm the dog with the longest legs in Hever

Gemma Tisdall on behalf of Jacob

to peel or not to peel

Imagine life without a potato peeler! Quite a few contributors to our regular Desert Island Whisks column cannot, though they will argue ferociously about which type of peeler is "the one". Perhaps not quite as radical in improving the lives of burdened housewives as the washing machine and the refrigerator, this surprisingly recent labour-saving discovery has nonetheless played its part.

There are basically two types of peeler, each with their own ardent supporters. First, according to a rather earnest Wikipedia article (I am clearly not the only person with a strange interest in peelers), there's the straight one



resembling a knife. The Lancashire (which often has a round wooden handle wrapped in string) and the French *Econome* designs contain a fixed blade. The *Econome*, invented in 1928 by Victor Pouzet, entails a unique blade design that features two slits. Then there's the Y-shaped one with a wobbly blade. Switzerland produced not only Nescafé and velcro but also a particularly famous example of a Y potato peeler called the



Zena Rex. It was invented in 1947 by Alfred Neweczerzal from Davos. With its razor- sharp wobbly blade and recognisable red handle it is considered an icon of Swiss design and was



Joe Ades in action

featured on a 2004 Swiss postage stamp.

Across the Atlantic, the stainless steel handled variant, the Zena Star peeler, was the model popularized by legendary New York City street hawker Joe Ades. Through selling his $5 peelers, Joe managed to live through multiple divorces, go to work in $1,000 suits and live on Park Avenue; he was even featured in Vanity Fair.

We have yet to hear from anyone who either loves their electric peeler (see Amazon, £20) or indeed makes do with a paring knife, but do let us know which implement you would save from the waves!

Joanna Wade

what I do

"*I* don't do *weeds*" my neighbour remarked one day as she walked past me in my front garden. At the time I was scrabbling around on my hands and knees, yanking out the latest shoots that had somehow made it through the supposedly weed-proof liner. "I wish I didn't either!" I thought to myself, resenting this as yet another chore to tick off the endless list.

That was quite a few years ago now. Looking back at that time, I see a stressed out thirty-something working mother of two boys, constantly on the go, never believing I had the time to pause and 'smell the flowers'. Eventually I engaged with counselling, which helped me to realise that I had a choice in how I lived my life. Within five years I had moved from a built-up estate near Maidstone to leafy Hartfield, married the love of my life and gone back into education, gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling.



My love of the outdoors and people led me to a Steiner based organisation where I worked as a gardener and mental health support worker. It was here that I learned about biodynamic gardening, which is a way of utilising all the natural resources available within our immediate environment to cultivate healthy, colourful and bountiful plants and crops. I discovered that those persistent weeds I used to dread had a vital role to play on the bio-dynamic compost heaps I built and tended which would ultimately nourish the plants, protect wildlife and encourage sustainability. Inspired by what I have learned about plants and people, I decided to set up my own gardening business, *The Holistic Gardener*. Being self employed means that I have the power of choice in terms of managing my time and workload. As such my life has balance and is no longer a stress-fest of impossibly long 'to-do' lists.

Working holistically means that I consider all aspects of your garden, treating it with no chemicals, just focus, creativity and a good deal of elbow grease. I follow your wishes, keeping your garden's growth sustainably managed and implementing any changes you desire so that your garden sings all year round. I also work alongside my husband Paul who is a National Trust qualified Ranger. Together, we undertake ecologically focused landscaping jobs including tree work, pond installation and cultivation, bespoke gates, fencing, planters and other garden furniture commissions.

Jenny Hudson
07379 184741 or
email jennychudson1980@icloud.com

The D-Day picnic

More than 350 people enjoyed the D-Day picnic at the Castle on 6 June. We were bathed in 1940s music by the London Satin Dollz, and a certain amount of sunshine too, although the slightly unsettled weather apparently replicated conditions on 6 June 1944. The water in the channel would have been very cold for all those soldiers jumping off the landing craft. The music was excellent and the Festival Theatre did us proud, staff and volunteers alike. Thanks to the Castle for welcoming in locals without charging for the venue, to the Scott Partnership for lighting the beacon, to the bell ringers - and to the Parish Council and Hever Residents Association for sponsoring the event.



The Festival is now in full swing and the lovely new roof is not only beautiful but protects all from the weather. Highlights include a Steely Dan tribute on 13 July, the Magic Flute on 3 August and Horrible Histories on 29th. In between, all things Tudor will be explored at the short history festival from 19-22nd August.

You can find full detail on the website www.Hever festival.co.uk.

The last night of the Hever Proms on 1 September concludes the season, so make sure you come along to something before then, it is really worthwhile and we're so lucky to have such a lively festival on our doorstep.





a little more d-day

Joyce Staplehurst's D-day memories and a letter home

Joyce Staplehurst's family had a very lively D-day. On the 6th June 1944, her father, Harry Edwards landed in France by Horsa glider. He was in the 6th Airborne Division and was picked to be part of the operation to capture Pegasus Bridge, flying in the second wave which landed in France at 9 p.m. The mission was immensely dangerous and whilst he was one of the lucky ones and came home to his family, he lost many of his comrades on that night and on the days that followed. The 6th Airborne Division was eventually withdrawn from battle on 27th August, having spent 82 days in the thick of the fighting in Normandy. Since landing on 6th June, the division had suffered 4,457 casualties, of which 821 were killed, 2,709 wounded and 927 missing.

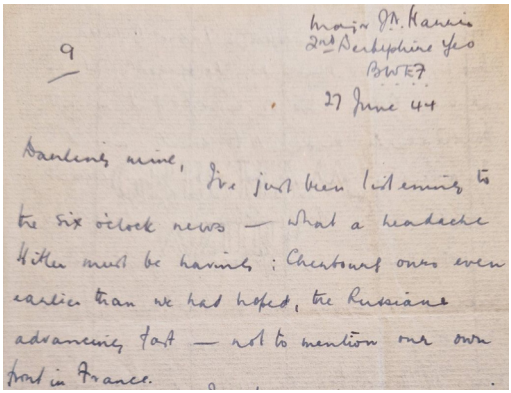
The picture shows Harry, top right, in a plane which, as was traditional, carried the names of wives and children including Joyce's. She was only three when evacuated to Wales and when she saw her father again, she didn't know who he was, although she was pleased that he always came with a bar of chocolate or a balloon.
Not surprisingly, Harry suffered from what was then called "shell shock" but despite the diagnosis he was not allowed to come home and spent the rest of the war as a driver, still in the battlefield. He never got better, and Joyce remembers that for many years she would be woken at night by her father's screams. She is very both proud of what he did and how he endured.



Joyce's father Harry - top right

The family moved to Four Elms when Joyce was 14 because her father got a job as farm manager at Crippenden Manor. Here she met her husband, Dudley, most of whose family worked for the Castle, his father as a thatcher. Dudley's two brothers Obadiah and Stanley who were in the RAF were also active on D-day in Lancaster bombers. Again, despite the peril, they came home safely. They are on the roll of honour in Hever Church.

Last month we mentioned Bridget's father who landed in Normandy on D+4. We now have his letter written on 27th June to describe what had happened…



9

Major J.N. Harris
2nd Derbyshire Yeo
BWEF
27 June 44

Darling mine, I've just been listening to the six o'clock news — What a headache Hitler must be having; Cherbourg over even earlier than we had hoped, the Russians advancing fast — not to mention our own front in France.

"… The ships off those beaches just had to be seen to be believed, almost touching as far as the eye could see. And the whole thing going on as though there were no enemy at all. I think we were three days in all on our boat, then over the side into landing craft and a short run into the coast. - we came in about 8pm on a lovely summer evening – the beaches were no longer under fire then and the moment one had dreamed of for so long was very quiet and uneventful.

We had a couple of quiet days to get organised. Then not nearly so quiet. None of the landing exactly what one expected – all much quieter and the greatest surprise of all the absence of German air. What a target those thousands of ships (let alone the areas we left from the other side!).

I haven't spent much money but I have bought a bit of quite good camembert cheese, some cream once or twice and butter and cabbages. The most difficult job an officer has - to make the chaps realise that spuds and cabbages etc growing in fields belong to the local inhabitants!! but really they're very good and from my limited experience I give the locals full marks for their behaviour towards it all.

Its gone ten o'clock now and the old sun is going down once more….and now it is a race against the daylight to finish and get to bed. I am sitting beside my vehicle under a shelter made by a tarpaulin – the other side I hear the cooker going which means one of the crew will shortly arrive with a final cup of tea (or chocolate – we get a bar a day in our rations at this stage and its very popular as a hot drink). I'll drink that and then into my bed – in a deep hole fully three feet down and so narrow that you can't turn round – still that doesn't matter for it is full protection against shells and mortar bombs. Its not often one can safely turn in quite as soon as this and full advantage must be taken of the nice long night we look like having…."







John Cleeve writes "Re Jo Cockerill's article in June's Link, here's Ann's mouse made by Robert Thompson. Are there any more in the area?"







SUNDAY 14TH JULY
1 PM -5 PM
CHIDDINGSTONE SPORTS GROUND

CHIDDINGSTONE VILLAGE FETE



FREE ENTRANCE - VILLAGE GAMES - BUCKING BRONCO - LIVE MUSIC - COMPETITIONS - FOOD TRUCKS
ICE CREAMS - CANDY FLOSS - BBQ - BAR - TRACTOR - TEA TENT

LIVE WESTERN STUNT SHOW- GET YOUR TICKETS AT BOOKITBEE.COM/CHIDD-BIG-WEEKEND

CAKE COMPETITION

CLASSES:
6 COWBOY COOKIES (UNDER 6)
6 WILD WEST CUPCAKES (UNDER 14)
FAMILY FAVOURITE (ALL AGES)
RODEO SHOWSTOPPER (ALL AGES)

VILLAGE VEGETABLES

CHILD CATEGORIES:
WONKIEST VEG
LONGEST RUNNER BEAN

CHILD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ANIMAL ART COMPETITION - BRING YOUR CREATION OR MAKE ONE ON THE DAY

ADULT CATEGORIES:
BEST TRUG
ONIONS X 4
POTATOES X 5
MEDIUM TOMATOES X 5
SMALL TOMATOES X 10
RUNNER BEANS X 9

DOG SHOW

CLASSES:
COWDOG FANCY DRESS
BEST TRICK
MUSICAL SITS

ENTRIES TO BE BROUGHT TO THE FETE BY 1:30 PM
£2 PER ENTRY



On Sunday 7th July from 1.00 – 4.00pm with the garden open from 12.30.

Tickets are £15.00 (children free) and must be pre booked from either

Fiona Irens on
07887776199
or
Lennox Cato,
1, The Square,
Edenbridge



Eden Twinning: from strength to strength

Dozens of people – English and French – gathered in Edenbridge for a weekend of fun, food and friendship to mark the relaunch of the twinning association that connects the town to Mont St Aignan. Over three days in mid-May, more than 20 French people, from school-age children to senior citizens, stayed in the homes of members of Eden Twinning and visited Hever Castle, Titsey Place and a local pub while practising their English skills with their hosts.

Eden Twinning is open to new members from Edenbridge and nearby villages. For more information, including how to join the September visit to France, visit the Eden Twinning Facebook page.

Hever Parish Council

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

Thirty-six members of the public attended the recent Parish Assembly. Below is a summary of the Annual Report by Councillor Angela Haydon, Chair of Hever Parish Council:

Over the past year, HPC commented on 53 planning applications, 3 appeals and raised 3 enforcement issues. Comments were submitted on SDC's 2040 Local Plan and the School Bus survey, highlighting issues with overcrowding, timings, delays and reduction of services. HPC objected to the Gatwick Expansion application due to the significant damage and impact it will have on the Parish and beyond. People were encouraged to respond to the Gatwick Night Flight Consultation and to the proposed direct rail link between Tonbridge and Gatwick. The Housing Needs Survey was opened to establish the need for affordable housing. The results will be published once received. The year-end internal audit has been successfully completed, confirming appropriate controls and management are in place.

Grant Applications - £4,453 was awarded to local groups; Eden Valley Museum, the Bridges Centre, We are Beams, Four Elms Parish Rooms, Hever Bell Ringers, Four Elms Cricket Club, Hever and Four Elms School and the Samaritans.

Bulk Refuse Freighter collections were well used and will be funded again by HPC. The free Family Fun Day last summer was a success and another one will be held in August. The Four Elms Pond working party in November had many leaves and debris cleared from the pond and the Monk. The Community Litter Pick took place in March with over 50 bags collected. A great effort from all those who volunteered. A further litter pick and pond tidy will be arranged later in the year. Thanks went to Willerby Landscapes for generously providing the wonderfully decorated Christmas tree at Four Elms and to Hever Countryside Services for kindly installing new lights on the oak tree at Hever, purchased jointly by HRA and HPC.

HPC has welcomed new Councillor, Hilary Jones, and has a vacancy for a further person to join the team. Please contact the Clerk for more information. Sincere thanks to all the Parish Councillors who give their time and commitment freely to help improve our local community and to the Parish Clerk and RFO for support and advice.

The full minutes of the Parish Assembly and other HPC meetings can be found on the website: http://hever.org/ A further word of thanks goes to the Scott Partnership for donating new posts to be placed round the tree in Markbeech.

With the summer holidays approaching, Eden Valley Museum are running some free children's activities and also offering historic guided walks. We hope to see you at the Family Fun Day on Monday 19th August on Four Elms Field.

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



The fete is raising money for resurfacing the school playground amongst other things. This is a massive project and will cost in the region of £32k which as you can imagine is a huge amount for a small primary school. If you can't make it to the fete but would like to donate to this project you can do with this QR code. All donations gratefully received and although we cannot contact you to thank you personally, we will keep the Link updated with our progress!

ECT Youth Club News

On 8 May the Eden Church held a church members meeting to decide either to retain the Old Baptist Chapel/Riverside building or to sell it. They voted to sell and close the building due to their concerns around safety.

So ECT now need:1. A new long term venue. 2. An office for Anthony to work from. 3. Storage for our static games equipment.

If you can help please contact Tim Hill ECT Chair
07951 956749 t.hill.thatchers@talktalk.net

hever primary news

Appreciating the great outdoors at Hever

No matter what kind of start I have to my day, I never fail to appreciate how fortunate we are to learn and play in such beautiful surroundings. Whatever the season, and despite the unpredictability of the weather, there is always something to wonder at as I walk around the school each morning.

Needless to say, we make the most of the great outdoors to support children's wider personal development and their well-being, building the confidence and resilience to flourish. Our Year 6 pupils had an amazing time at their recent residential in the New Forest, embodying our school values by supporting each other to have the courage to try and the determination to persevere, in a range of exciting outdoor challenges. Forest School is an integral part of our curriculum with our Reception children accessing this weekly and the rest of the school, a term each year. This week, children are foraging for wild garlic to make garlic bread and nettles to make nettle tea on the camp fire! Children relish learning outdoors, challenging themselves and understanding how to assess and take risks safely and to respect and care for our environment.



Children also participate in a variety of sporting activities and we were very impressed by our key stage two cross-country team, who secured first place in both the Year 5 and 6 girl's event and the Year 5 and 6 boy's event and were runners-up overall in the recent inter-school, cross country challenge.



Whilst our curriculum does not stretch to horse riding, we were also very proud of Poppy in Year 5, who represented our school in a recent NSEA show jumping competition – if you look closely you can see our school logo on Pops' saddle cloth! Poppy and Pops did incredibly well, coming 2nd in the 60cm and 3rd in the 70cm, qualifying for a show at Hickstead towards the end of the summer.

We still have a small number of places available in our September 2024 Reception intake and in a few of the classes across the school. We would love to show you all that Hever School has to offer if you are looking for a place for your child for this September, or if you are planning ahead for September 2025. Please contact the school office on 01732 862304 (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

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 July

As we go into the summer holiday season, please note that on the six Sundays from 28th July till 1st September we have just one service on each Sunday – more details in next month's Link. 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 July 10am	Pet service St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 6
7th July 6pm	Contemporary service at St.Peter's Hever with Cabin Worship	Trinity 6
14th July 8am	BCP Said Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 7
14h July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech with baptism	Trinity 7
14th July 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 7
21st July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 8
21st July 4pm	Four Elms at 4 Family service	Trinity 8
28th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 9

Our weekly Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm and 8.00pm continue until 8th July and our Zoom Evening prayer until 19th July. Our next Men's discussion group hosted by Nick Irens will be on the Bible and will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd July. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' for young mums is on alternate Wednesdays. For details of all these please contact Simon, 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
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

our rector's thoughts

The big event of July will be the General Election on 4th July. I do sense a weariness about the whole thing and it has been suggested that the turnout will be even worse than 2019 when about a third declined to vote.

The former conservative MP and Minister, Rory Stewart, who now co-hosts the podcast: 'the Rest is Politics' describes being Prime Minister as 'the most unpleasant job imaginable'. Public scandal and broken promises mean politicians seem to have the lowest reputation ever. I read that over 3,000 offensive online messages are sent to members of parliament each day! Yet people still step forward and campaign for our votes.

To vote is to have a say in the future. It is one of the ways we express our participation in society. When we pray 'Thy kingdom come' we are guided by what we understand to be God's purpose for our country and the world – and our vote is an expression of this. A few years ago I attended a Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in the Houses of Parliament and was amazed to see representatives of the then three main parties joining each other to pray for our country. St.Paul writes: *I urge…that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.* (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Each week at our Zoom evening prayer we have the traditional prayer for the Royal family but always include prayers for our MP, the government and all in authority.

Whoever wins on 4th July – and if the polls are to be believed, we pretty much know who that will be – they will doubtless be elated. But there is no such thing as a perfect government and the years ahead will challenge the government about implementing the ideas in their manifesto, avoiding errors, developing policy and responding to unforeseen events. Unquestioning obedience is not due to any elected government. However, we do owe them respect, compassion and prayer. Our government will be led by real people with their own joys and struggles who offer their own gifts in public service.

Here's a traditional prayer for all those in authority which we could pray for all those elected to the House of Commons on 4th July: *God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. Amen.*

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Hever

Brush up your do-si do techniques, dust off your Western outfit and pop this date in your diary for the Hever Barn Dance! Saturday 7th September at the Hever village hall. Details on how to purchase your tickets will be available shortly.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 11th July, 12.30 for 1pm lunch. Please don't drive or park on the grass at the hall during the wet weather. We normally have around 24 people and serve sandwiches, 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

Four Elms

The commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D Day was very moving. In Hever Castle Gardens residents of Hever and surrounding villages enjoyed a very jolly evening entertainment but, I feel, without disregarding the serious enormity of the beach landings. The incredibility was the working together of different nations, different services with one objective and with most of the personnel being conscripts. Many query whether we still have the same ability to serve without question for the greater good. I believe we do. However, we all pray with humility that this will never be the case.

For the first time in its 150 years, Chelsea Flower Show, the doyen of all flower shows (I think and with apologies to Hever Horticultural Society) had an exhibit from St James Church, Piccadilly, which drew a large audience. There have been exhibits from all manner of institutions over the years and it is surprising that this is a first from the Church of England. Apart from the garden design I was fascinated to see on its impressive fake wall the words of William Temple, Rector St. James Piccadilly (1914-1917) "The Church exists primarily for the benefit of those who do not belong to it." This sentiment resonates with me here in Four Elms, for St Paul's belongs to the whole community.

To prove the point we have our annual pet service on Sunday 7th July, welcoming everyone and all pets. Pets who give love and happiness without asking for too much. And finally, we look forward to our village fete on 13th July (contributions of bric a brac, home bakes and volunteers please) but do come and enjoy the afternoon.

As we move into (slightly) warmer days, its lovely to take our post service refreshments



All the Benefice churchwardens and Simon at the recent Visitation Service at Penshurst church. At this service The Venerable Sharon Copestake, Archdeacon of Tonbridge admitted the Church-wardens as legally entitled to hold office.

in the churchyard for a chat with our friends. We can almost close our ears to the passing traffic and listen to the birdsong. It is also a great pleasure to see the sun shining through the stained glass windows. The craftsmanship of over a hundred years ago is still to be marvelled at – particularly as the church stands in a very small village. Four Elms is blessed to have this beautiful Arts and Crafts Church. Please enjoy St. Paul's.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Since I last wrote the Bank Holiday managed to bring some mixed weather and fortunes for us all. However, the Family Service on the 26th May was very well attended and had a happy atmosphere. Families are very good at taking responsibility for some beautiful readings and prayers. They are to be praised and congratulated because, though the schools are busy, the parents are probably even busier!

Bank Holiday Monday gave us mixed sunshine and showers, well quite heavy rain, but the teas at Falconhurst, Markbeech are legendary, and brave people arrived during the day which was cheering. Now we have a Summer of rather special statues, music, dinners and yet another tea to be enjoyed in that beautiful garden.

The Healing Service was indeed special. Very well attended by representatives from all the Benefices and we left feeling positive and happy on a lovely Sunday evening.

Last week's 10am Eucharist Service at Markbeech was encouragingly well attended. Really good to hear the banns read for couples planning weddings in the Benefice. We are indeed much blessed with the glorious, green countryside and the knowledge that Forest Church in the afternoon at Hever was going to be treated to sunshine and a successful, welcoming Baptism.

Now we all have plans for the Summer:- please include some superb Jazz in the welcoming garden of the Irens on July 7th and the Village of Markbeech lunch in the Village Hall on July 21st. We have also Art in June to celebrate, so much talent all on our doorsteps. Enjoy it all and best wishes from Markbeech.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the register

Baptisms:
19th May
Lockie Tardivel at Hever
Maddison Sedlačíková at Four Elms
9th June
Freddie Irens at Hever

Funerals:
31st May Burial of ashes Brenda May Eunice Webster at Four Elms

gardening



WOW.. how fabulous the garden looks, so green and lush and the blossom and flowers are excelling this year. Think back to last year at this time we were praying for rain. How the years differ.

My vegetable plot is bulging but is needing continuous weeding. I continue to do sowings of lettuce – radish – rocket – spring onion. I sow spinach – swiss chard – swede – kale now and there's still time to do runner beans and carrot. In the flower department I sow my wallflowers, pansy and foxgloves now too and take soft wood cuttings of everything. I'm currently inundated with peas, mangetout, broccoli, watercress, lettuce, strawberries and slugs. Plenty of greenhouse jobs on the odd rainy day (haha) potting on peppers, chili, aubergine and it's a full-time job tying in cucumbers and loofahs and pinching out the side shoots of tomatoes. Feed all with a high potash feed. IF we do get very hot days remember to damp down in there to stop red spider mite.

Who said June/July are restful months. Prune any shrubs that have finished flowering and continue to tie in climbers. Continually pick sweet peas and deadhead roses. Now is also the time for the Chelsea chop on geraniums and delphiniums. As penstemon flowers fade cut the flowering stem back for continuous flowering. You can prune plum and cherry trees and you can summer prune apples although I do this in winter. Remember to feed container grown fruits i.e. blueberries, lemon trees. Strawberries are sending out lots of runners now so for more plants peg these down. Normally I would be pulling my garlic now but who knows this year. Keep hanging baskets fed and watered also and any new plantings as you can't assume showers will do it. Keep bird baths clean and topped up. Any plants in pots that are not performing check as vine weevil is active now.

Wildlife at Blunts. Some real highs and some low lows. First ever a pair of barn owls who have two owlets. Were three but they ate runty. Kestrel had five chicks, but dad disappeared, and when mum left them to hunt for food, magpie came in and one by one took them. But… kingfishers were successful 5 young which I watched to fledging. Wonderful tearful moment. Now kestrel has a new partner and sitting on four eggs. Sadly, tawny owl continues to kill every stock dove nesting. Red spotted woodpecker had two young plus numerous robins, great tits, blue tits, coal tits, dunnocks, goldfinch, chaffinch, nuthatch and tree creepers. And endless pigeon nests….

I continue to be out in the garden from 6am until 9pm – my choice - my passion and definitely not a chore. Its such a short window so ENJOY.

Lorraine – Blunts Brook

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	49							
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	48.5							
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	61							

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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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

July 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**
From 30 Jun to 27 July **Stone, Exhibition of Sculpture at Falconhurst,** tickets from Falconhurst farm shop 10-4pm weekdays, 11-4pm weekends
29 Jun **Hever School Fete**, Parish Field, Hever 11.30 – 3.30pm
7 Jul **Citizen Science**: How to survey dragon/damselflies, Bore Place, free 10am- 1pm
7 Jul **Jazz al Fresco**, Saxbys' Mead, £15 pre booked tickets only (children free) 1-4pm
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
13 Jul **Live Music from Ell Marzella** and food, Garden Cafe, Four Elms 5-8pm
13 Jul **Chiddingstone Fete Hoedown**, Chiddingstone Sports Ground, adults £10 children £5 7pm – 1am
14 Jul **Chiddingstone Village Fete**, Chiddingstone Sports Ground 1-5pm
19 Jul **Bat Walk**, Bore Place, Adult £10 child £7 8.30-10pm
21 Jul **Markbeech Parish Lunch**, MB Village Hall, tickets £10 from Liz Kaberry 01732 921763 12.30pm
24 Jul **Family Dragonfly Safari**, Bough Beech Reservoir, tickets free from Bore Place 10-11.30am
3 Aug **Hever Festival Theatre**, Mozart: the Magic Flute, Hever Castle 8pm
4 Aug **Citizen Science:** How to conduct a butterfly survey, Bore Place, free 10am - 1pm
6 Aug **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
8 Aug **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm
17 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall 2 – 4.30pm
7 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall
18 Sept **Hever Hort talk**, The Art of Pruning, Hever Village Hall 8pm

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