August 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- The Hort's grand finale
- Immortal pets
- Fence posts as art
- Entertaining is child's play
- Tupperware tales

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the August Link

This being the traditional "silly season" for newspapers starved of hard news, we are following suit. Indeed, we were inspired by the press on 4 July when, unable talk election, the news channels showed pictures of dogs at polling stations - a particular hurrah went up when reporters spotted a snake, a horse and then Matilda, a very inquisitive stray pet chicken who was nearly sent for the chop to a local farm. It was a moving story.

Edenbridge is fast approaching Recycling Champion status, not only does Waitrose take flexible plastic, but now you can recycle your blister packs at Boots. You may even get a reward point for doing so! The collection box is beside the pharmacy. More depressingly, bees are under threat both from the very damp summer (see the astronomical figures in the rainfall chart on page 21) and the Asian hornet. There is a government App called Asian Hornet Watch which you can use to identify and report sightings.

More news on plastic - as I struggled with the scissors to cut off a plastic top still clinging to my juice bottle, I heard that manufacturers are now obliged to keep tops attached. This is because small items are difficult to recycle and often get discarded into the gutter. I am now reconciled to the small irritation.

A benefit of producing an August edition is that I finally have the chance to write about Meadowsweet, which is always over by September. Now I can celebrate this prevalent hedgerow plant which is in abundance this year because it loves a bit of damp. Its other names include queen of the meadow, meadow-wort, lady of the meadow, dollof, meadsweet, and bridewort. In the 16th century, when it was customary to strew floors with rushes and herbs (both to give warmth underfoot and to overcome smells and infections), it was a favourite of Elizabeth I of England. Apparently she desired it above all other herbs in her chambers.

We are busy planning the next season of the Film Club starting on 22 November.... see these pages for many more events!

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



THE LINK

pets of the centuries

Our "silly season" pets are immortal for a change! First we have Woody, the mascot of Four Elms Country store with Mahri bareback, supervised by Angie and James.



Woody has some wooden pals in the area, here are Isla and Daisy Walker on John and Christina Hodson's elephant. They say: "Its not often you see an elephant standing next to a beautiful rambling rose in an English garden. It is a reminder of a wonderful holiday our grand parents had in Zambia and Botswana watching families of elephants walking from the bush each morning to the river."



Meanwhile, diving into a sea of grass is a whale from Falconhurst's recent "Stone" exhibition by sculptor Régis Chaperon, an unusual marriage of origami and stone.



And, the most immortal and mythical of all, the griffin at the feet of Thomas Boleyn in St Peter's Hever who died in 1539. The Griffin, or gryphon, is a mythological creature with the body, hind legs, and tail of a lion and the wings, front talons, and head of an eagle. They are considered to be symbolic of power, wealth, courage, and prestige which, remarkably, Thomas seems to have held onto despite the wrath of Henry VIII which had led to the execution of both his daughter and son three years earlier.

Joanna Wade



Brass of Sir Thomas Bullen, in Hever Church.

desert island whisks

I am sure we all remember 'Tupperware', the most useful sealed food containers. The brand is named after Earl Tupper, born in 1907 to a family of farmers in Massachusetts. Earl worked in a plastics factory and eventually bought a moulding machine. With the introduction of polyethylene he made sealed containers and founded his company in 1946 – hence the useful Tupperware we use today.



It was a lady called Brownie Wise who decided to hold the first Tupperware Party, inviting friends and neighbours to see and buy this new product which proved to be more successful for her than door-to-door sales and was a good opportunity for neighbours to meet and catch up on local gossip. No doubt some of you have been to a party - they proved to be great fun, chatting and trying out the items, also spending more 'housekeeping' than necessary. I remember we were taught how to "burp" the lids to get the air out of the container before sealing. After more than 75 years the company is now on the brink of collapse though its website, full of colourful products which Earl Tupper would not have recognised, is still active. But never fear! there are many other brands to buy, although I still refer to them as Tupperware.

In my cupboard there are many containers and lids that do not match. How is this? When bought they each had their own fitting lids, but no longer! I wonder if you waste as much time trying to find a matching pair as I do, by which time the complete basket once containing the 'most useful plastic boxes' is emptied on the worktop in order to find just ONE complete container. And all this effort just to save the excess mashed potatoes in the freezer, probably never to see the light of day again until the freezer is de-frosted! Having managed to match a few bottoms and lids they are carefully put in the cupboard only to find next time that they are, once again, completely disorganised and ready for me to 'chuck' them, probably on the kitchen floor, in the sheer frustration of trying to find a complete set.

An invention we can't do without!

Jan Tolfree

what we do

“How do you make all those children listen to you?” Hello, my name’s Nathaniel and I hear this question every week when entertaining at children’s birthday parties. Parents and adults are amazed to see a large group of kids engaging (and often laughing) with a single entertainer. Children are the greatest audience – if they don’t like what you’re doing then they’ll waste no time in telling you. So, to answer the original question, I always say “if I’m having fun then I know the kids will be too”.



I’ve lived in Edenbridge for a year now and I run Captain Fantastic, the top-rated children’s party company in the UK. I’ve worked with children since I was young, teaching karate from the age of 13 as well as acting at my local Saturday drama school. Also, growing up with four siblings necessitated a talent for communication and fun! At 19, I trained as an actor at Rose Buford College and, alongside my work on screen and stage, I love to entertain children and help make their birthday’s as special as possible. My passion for theatre and performance goes hand in hand with children’s parties which is why, at Captain Fantastic, we only employ trained, professional actors to ensure the highest standard of entertainment.

In 2017, I set up Captain Fantastic with my business partner and fellow actor Kris Saddler. Since then we have entertained more than 60,000 children and won numerous awards. I think that we are a popular choice because we genuinely love what we do and have a range of parties, especially designed for each age group. For example, we offer, Sensory based toddler parties, Magic parties with a range of different themes for 3 to 7-year-olds, Disco and UV Disco parties for children aged over 5, Spy and challenge parties for children aged 7+.

We host parties every week but for each birthday child, it’s their most anticipated event of the year. Therefore, I’m grateful to have the chance to ensure that every child’s birthday is unique and as special for them as possible. If you have any questions or would like help with your child’s party (or any event requiring entertainment) then get in touch on 07443979894 or at kris@captain-fantastic.co.uk.

Nathaniel and Kris, Captain Fantastic



birdwatch

How many varieties of bird do you hear in a day or a month? With the help of her brilliant Merlin app, Chris Duncum up on Stick Hill heard an amazing 38 birds in just a month. Here they are:

Robin
Blackbird
Blue tit
Great tit
Coal tit
Marsh tit
Long tailed tit
Goldfinch
Greenfinch
Blackcap (top)
Dunnock
Tree sparrow
House sparrow
Wren
Firecrest
Song thrush
Mistle thrush (2nd)
Goldcrest (3rd)
Chaffinch
Nuthatch
Treecreeper
Grey wagtail
Siskin
Flycatcher
Barn owl
Wood pigeon
Jackdaw
Carrion crow
Turtle dove
Magpie
Rook
Jay
Moorhen
Green woodpecker
Great spotted woodpecker (last)
Mallard duck
Parakeet
Peregrine falcon



Some such as the goldcrest and treecreeper are hard to see but not endangered. Sparrows are very numerous but declining. Parakeets are new to these parts and the UK's only naturalised parrot. Others, such as the mistle thrush and turtle dove are on the brink, the dove in particular, and if Merlin is right the "sighting" is excellent news. It confirms the RSPB's cautious optimism that they may be breeding in the south east, aided by wilding projects such as those at a Blean and Knepp.

Please let us know if you can add to this list, I can start the ball rolling by saying I heard a Redstart behind Delaware the other day and also a Greater Whitethroat. "Citizen science" in action.

Joanna Wade

concrete jungle

Isn't Google a wonderful thing? Walking around the perimeter of Hever station I became fascinated by the gnarled and overgrown posts along the way, their corroding metal ribs sticking through their decaying concrete bodies.. I typed into Google "history of concrete fence, posts" and, voilà, an article on the Cornwall Railway society website!

Of course I wanted to know a little bit more - which is that according to the Prefab Museum (yes there is one!) concrete reinforced by an internal steel frame was first developed in the early 1900s and became popular after the First World War when steel was plentiful and bricks

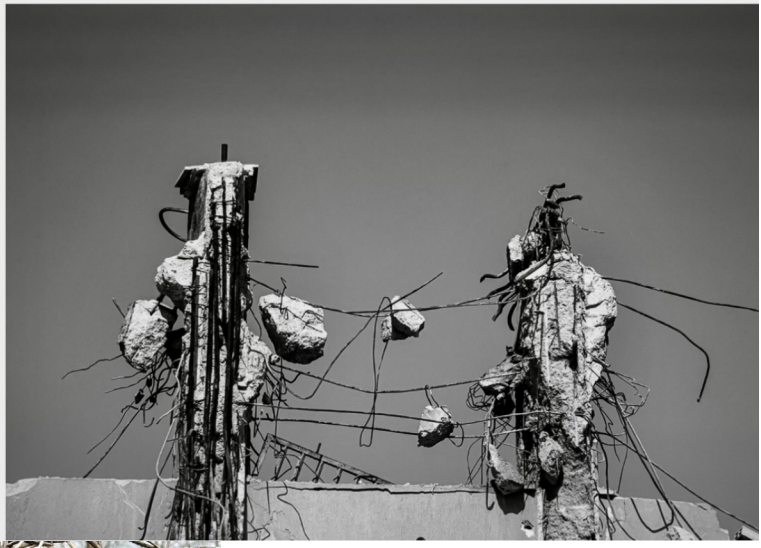




and brick layers were in short supply. Pre fab houses ("Homes for Heroes") were churned out but weren't very successful and there was a return to traditional building methods from the 30s. Then, following the Transport Act 1947, the railways were nationalised and the new British

Francesco Domilici

473 - WONDERWALL





Railways started to use pre-fabricated concrete posts to fence their property. This system continued through the 60s but seems to have petered out after that. Google wouldn't tell me when!

I hope you like my photos, especially as there is now precedent for them as art as seen in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition! As I wandered through I was struck by two photographs by Francesco Domicili, a photographer obviously also drawn to this subject. It was very affirming though as they were not for sale I do not know what such a print is worth. I can only dream!

Joanna Wade



Dr Andrew Russell very sadly passed away, aged 94, on Sunday, 14th July 2024 surrounded by his sons Jamie, Bruce and Neil. His marriage to Elspeth was the cornerstone of what was an extraordinarily happy and fulfilled life as husband, father, friend and physician. There will be a memorial service at Hever church, the date of which will be announced in due course.



hever fete report

Blessed by beautiful weather and the support of a wonderful community, Hever School ran their annual fete on the 29 June. The day was filled with fun and entertainment, with so many local people and businesses supporting and helping us raise money for our fabulous school. Highlights included the 'Sausage Eating Contest' won by Henry a black Labrador, Gymspires' cheer performance, Hever Maypole Dancers, Ski Races with House of Health at Hever and not forgetting the children beating the Strong men and women of Hever in a hard-fought tug of war. Thank you to Hever Parish as always for allowing us to host the event on the Parish Field and The Henry VIII Pub and Hever Village Hall for supporting our parking. We are delighted to announce we raised £4.1k profit, our highest ever, which is being put towards resurfacing our school playground! We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Hever PTA





Hever

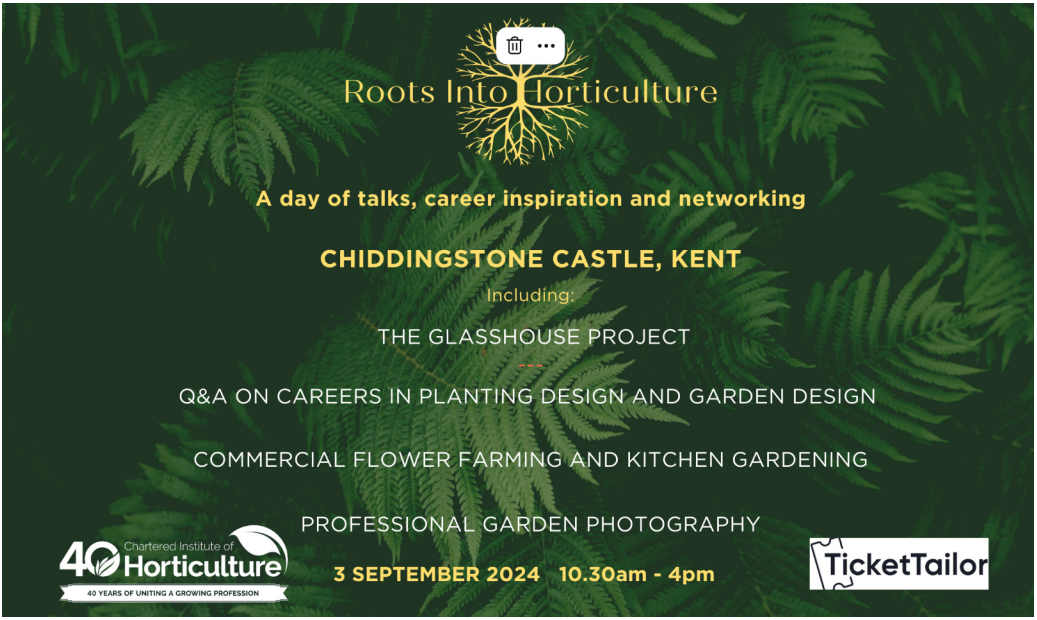
Village Hall

Saturday 7th September from 7pm

A great family night out, barn dancing, BBQ, local beer and fancy dress competition

https://events.liveit.io/hever/hever-barn-dance-2024/

BARN DANCE



four elms fete report

Another year, with an increased (and younger) Fete Committee, produced a very enjoyable day, despite the extremely heavy rainfall at 4pm, causing the Dog Show contestants to run for cover. Fortunately there is always the Beer Tent and the Tea Tent to offer shelter. The theme for the year was the Four Elms mini Olympics. The Four Elms School, led by the Head Teacher Ms Jess Fermor, carrying a Four Elms version of an Olympic torch opened the Fete and participants of all ages were encouraged to take part in the mini games. There is always something for everyone at the Fete and this year was no exception. For the Primary school and St Paul's Church it is an opportunity to do some fundraising and I know that we all thank our generous and vivacious friends and family for allowing us to raise substantial amounts. Thank you for helping, donating and just being at Four Elms Fete 2024.



Ms Fermor leads the way to the Four Elms Fete Mini Olympics 2024

Hever Parish Council

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

Litter pick - following the success of the Community Litter Pick earlier this year, it has been decided to hold another one to keep our Parish looking presentable and to help the environment too. This will be held on Saturday 28th September. Please see the website, social media and September's Link for more information. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Infrared camera – HPC will soon be purchasing an infrared camera for residents to borrow to identify areas of heat loss in their homes. Not only could this help residents to reduce utility bills it also helps the environment through reducing resources used. Information on how to book this equipment will be published on the website later in the summer.

Green recycling bags – In the autumn Sevenoaks District Council will be delivering green recycling bags to all households to use for their recycling rather than using plastic bags. This will clearly reduce waste and households will retain the empty bags to refill with recycling for each collection.

Family fun day- HPC are back on the Four Elms Field for the summer Family Fun Day on Monday 19th August from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. It is free for all with lots of fun activities for the children to participate in. Why not bring a picnic and enjoy some time outdoors. Who knows, the sun may even make an appearance!

Bulk waste refuse – The freighters that HPC arrange to visit the parish are generally well used and are an excellent and convenient way for residents to dispose of items, big and small, and saves trips to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. The freighters will next be in the Parish on Saturday 21st September.

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th September 2024 in Markbeech Village Hall 7.00 pm Planning Meeting and full council at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Please do visit the website www.hever.org for information on Hever Parish Council, agendas, minutes of meetings and a host of other useful information.

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



four elms primary news



We have concluded the academic year on a high note here at Four Elms. Our Year 6 students enjoyed a memorable trip to the Isle of Wight, creating lasting memories. Upon their return, Years 5 and 6 worked diligently to perform 'Grease' at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. This fantastic opportunity allowed the children to showcase their talents confidently on stage before an audience of family and friends.

Throughout the rest of the school, Classes 2 and 3 dedicated their efforts to preparing for their dance performances, supported by a choreographer. Meanwhile, our choir rehearsed songs that were later performed at the Four Elms Village Fete. We extend our gratitude to everyone who attended and supported this community event—it was a remarkable turnout, and the PTA successfully raised significant funds for our school.

Additionally, this term featured our annual sports presentation event, celebrating the numerous sporting achievements of our students throughout the year. The talent we have in our school is overwhelming and we are grateful to our parents who help to support our sport clubs and nurture this talent.

Sadly, the weather put a dampener on our Sports Day this year and we had to cancel our outdoor events. Instead, we hosted our first every 'soggy sports day' where the children worked in their house groups to win points. They had the opportunity to also earn points for demonstrating our values throughout the day. Despite it not being what we had planned, we still enjoyed community day.



As the term comes to a close, we are enjoying various leavers' events, including a party, service, and shirt signing.

From all of us at Four Elms, we wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to sharing more news in the autumn.

Jess Fermor
Head of School

hever primary news

The end of the academic year is rapidly approaching and we prepare ourselves, once again, to say sad but proud farewells to another group of Year 6 pupils. When I look back over the last twelve months and reflect on how they have grown – socially and academically – but especially in confidence and resilience, I know they are ready to embark on the next stage in their education. Much like parenting, we know we have done a good job, when our children no longer need us and are eager to move on to new opportunities and new experiences. We are confident that our school values have prepared them to have the courage to embrace new challenges and the perseverance to succeed.

It is also a time to reflect on our achievements as a school and our sustained progress in our school development journey. All the external progress measures reflect our continued strides forward, including the Ofsted monitoring visit back in February and our end of year outcomes, which are above national in all four subjects: reading,





writing, maths and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling). For us as a school, the most important indicator is the feedback from our recent parent survey, showing that there is shared agreement amongst parents that children are happy, feel safe and have someone they can go to if they have a problem at Hever School. We know that these are essential prerequisites for children to learn and thrive.

We end our year as always with our Year 6 pupils hosting a 'thank you' tea party for everyone who has supported our school this year. We are grateful for the continued enthusiasm and impact of our PTA, for the commitment of our governors and especially for the support we receive from the wider community which extends and enhances our children's learning, particularly Hever Castle and Bore Place.

We still have a few remaining places for September 2024 or if you are starting to think about a school place for your little one for September 2025, please arrange a visit to see everything that Hever School has to offer. (Contact us on office@hever.kent.sch.uk or 01732 862304.)

Helene Bligh Headteacher

business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
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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



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Church in August

During the summer, the six Sundays from 28th July till 1st September will have just one service on each Sunday. The service on 1st September will be an All Age communion with baptism and going forward a number of the St.Paul's Four Elms communion services will now be 'All Age'. This reflects the fact that we will be reducing Four Elms at Four to one a term. 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
4th Aug 10am	Holy communion Four Elms	Trinity 10
11th Aug 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 11
18th Aug 10am	Holy Communion St. Peter's Hever	Trinity 12
25th Aug 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 13
1st Sept 10am	All Age Holy Communion with baptism St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 14

Our weekly Bible studies and Evening prayer are suspended during August and will resume in September – details in next month's Link.

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



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simonbraid@icloud.com

Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Wardens
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Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028

Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247
Richard Bennett
01732 862971

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
01342 850776

our rector's thoughts

In July we have had Wimbledon and the Euros and from 26th July to 11th August we have the Olympic games in Paris. If talking was an Olympic sport, we probably might be able to think of a few people who might win a medal!

The ability to communicate in words is a part of what it means to be human and differentiates us from animals. Through words we can describe and create meaning, recall the past and imagine the future. Furthermore, it is said that communication with others is vital to our physical and mental health as well as meeting our social and practical needs. Maybe speech is part of what comes from the Christian belief that we are 'made in the image of God' (Genesis 1:27).

So how should we use this God given capacity? Christians worship a God who communicates: first through humans, about whom we read in the Bible, down the ages and even today. But supremely it is through Jesus who is described as 'the Word made flesh' (John 1:14). So in speaking God invites us to join him. There is a time to speak. When I was a child, my mother used to say: '*sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me'*. We know that the old proverb is just not true. Words can build up, encourage, bring joy and inspire us or knock down and destroy us. James, the brother of Jesus, makes this clear in his letter likening the tongue to a spark which lights a forest fire. (James 3:5). There is a time to speak and a time to remain silent.

Words can also point to what we believe in. For Christians we want our lives to point to Jesus although we often fail. But down the ages the good news of the gospel has spread through people who are prepared to share it with others and this means in words. As a sixteen year old, I was invited to a Youth club where I heard the Good News preached and then read about it in a book. It literally changed the direction of my life. There is a time to speak.

And finally, it is in words that we worship God. We can address our praise to him, bring him our needs, ask for forgiveness and even wait silently for him to speak. There is a time to speak and a time to remain silent.

I wish you all a great summer and hopefully when you're on holiday why not take time to reflect on the importance of words and even to hear the Word praised and preached.

God bless you all

Simon

Four Elms

It hasn't been the summer we have wished for, rain, rain and a bit more rain. Certainly, very good for slugs this year as they chomp away at the delphiniums, hostas and every other plant that takes their fancy. While remembering our Pet Service, where we pray for all pets and indeed all living creatures who make up the necessary complexities of our life, I did wonder and cogitate about slugs. There are very many saints, the most remembered ones of course being the Apostles of Jesus, but I always have had a special liking for St. Francis. Would he have been forgiving about slugs? Possibly.

July is Pet Service and Village Fete month. Both had rain to a lesser or greater degree. For the Fete a greater degree. The deluge this year came at the end session of the Fete, even interrupting the stalwart Dog Show entries and organisers but the Link trophy for Best in Show was nonetheless awarded. Well done Jo and her lovely dog. On behalf of the church stalls the PCC thanks everyone for their loyal support, in whatever capacity. At the time of writing the figures indicate that around £3,700 was taken on the day – but with some adjustments to be made. A wonderful result and we thank you all.

After the summer, we have the autumn season and for the church it is an All Age Harvest Festival on October 6th and the ever popular Harvest Village Supper on Friday October 4th (and its never too early to book your tickets!).

While in the Churchyard, a shout from the cricket pitch captured attention and so did two outfielders running across the road, finally finding the cricket ball in the rhododendrons. Not a bad hitting for six !!!



Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The Hever Barn Dance will take place on Saturday 7th September at the Hever village hall. Tickets will be available to buy from BookitBee.com/Hever

We were sad to hear of the death of Dr Andrew Russell. His passing brings to an end a long period of service to our village as the Churchwarden and to the community as the local doctor. An obituary will be published in a forthcoming edition of The Link.

We recently had a visit to the church from Tim Treml who through his maternal side is related to John Barlow who was Rector at St Peter's in the time of Henry VIII and carried divorce correspondence for the King. Tim has left some booklets on his ancestor inside the church, suggested donation £5, with the funds being donated to the church.

The sponsored Ride and Stride event in aid of Friends of Kent Churches will take place on Saturday 14th September. We are looking for volunteers to take part and help raise funds for our church. please get in touch. The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 8th August, 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

Markbeech

Always an exciting time of year; the schools are on, or nearly on, holiday. Both teachers and pupils need a change and a rest, and many will be heading for new schools in September. A mixture of happiness and apprehension, mixed with sadness at saying "goodbye" to some friends.

Two apologies: One should be from the atrocious weather on July 7th, which forced the Irens into cancelling their very special Jazz afternoon. It is entirely outside, and the thunderstorm that appeared later proved them correct on erring on the side of safety. The second one is rather sad: the village lunch on July 21 had very little interest and we could not justify the cost of the hall. Next year, we must find a garden and tents! There is always the Harvest Festival Supper to come to, please, in the Autumn.

On a much more cheerful note: the Church has witnessed two lovely weddings, on the 6th and 13th July and Holy Trinity was again colourful and full, on July 14th for the Holy Baptism of Michael Alan O'Donnell. A really handsome chap who was joining in with enthusiasm.

I hope you all managed to glimpse the incredible Four Elms Fete before the rain appeared much later in the afternoon. So much work had gone into it all and we loved listening to the Edenbridge Town Band and enjoyed Years 2, 3 and 4 from Four Elms School, dancing to Grease.

On July 21st some of our choir will be joining Withyham, at their kind invitation, for Evensong. Lovely opportunity for all who are available on that evening.

Enjoy August, the only month of the year that there is no school. Safe holidays to all.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the register
Baptisms:
7th July Hever Archie Edward James Richardson
14th July Markbeech Michael Alan O'Donnell

Weddings:
6th July Markbeech Olivia Burbridge & David Pullinger
13th July Markbeech Rosie Crouch & Patrick Ramson

Funerals:
14th June Four Elms Interment of ashes of Anthony John and Berle Diana Bettsworth

gardening

Timing, they say, is everything. Certainly for the Hever Hort, it is pretty important and leads to the committee indulging in an annual metaphorical navel-gazing exercise as we decide whether to change the dates of our shows, to try and anticipate the changing weather patterns. At our Rose Show in June, I had just enough sweet peas for a couple of modest displays. A couple of weeks later and I had a proliferation of these gorgeous, scented flowers in a multitude of colours.
C'est la vie!!



For many years we have stuck pretty much to the same show dates each year, and this applies to our next show, the Flower and Vegetable show on **17th August, 2 - 4.30pm at Hever Village Hall.** Everyone is welcome to come along, see some wonderful exhibits, and indulge in home-made cakes and a cuppa. Although August is by no means the end of the Hever Hort year, it is the culmination in the sense that this is our main event, when not only flowers and vegetables, but works of art and craft, flower arranging and photographs, will be on display. You do not have to be a member to enter any of the classes so, if you are tempted but are a bit unsure of how to go about it, please get in touch and we will try to advise you. The schedule showing all the classes is on the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society section of the hever.org website, where there are also many photographs of exhibits.

On the theme of our changing climate, there are frequent articles with suggestions for plants which will cope well with both drought and rainy conditions. Here are just a few to think about; Geranium 'Anne Thomson', Alchemilla mollis and Crocosmia 'Lucifer'.
One final point; the physical benefits of gardening are well documented and seem obvious. But an Edinburgh University study which tracked hundreds of people has shown that gardening helps to support brain function as we age, including helping as a protection against the onset of dementia. So….



Happy and healthy gardening!

Doug Bowern

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FOUR ELMS												
2022	22	55	27	7	58	12	7.0	36	79	75	201	86
2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0	23	39	152	122	109
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27						
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	25						
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	29						

HALL BOOKINGS

Four Elms:
Village Hall – Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Parish Rooms – John Southworth 01732 700670
Hever – Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech – Mrs Paige 01342 850328

COUNCILS

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

Copy for the **September** edition should reach us no later than **16 August** 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

August 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**

2 Aug **Hever Festival Theatre**, The Taylor Swift Tribute Show, Hever Castle	8pm
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
7 – 8 Aug **HM Creative Kids Dance Workshops**, Penshurst Village Hall 07887 653276	9.30 – 4.30pm
8 Aug **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
8 Aug **Hever Festival Theatre**, The Top Secret Magic of Science, Hever Castle	2pm
13 Aug **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
17 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall	2 – 4.30pm
19 Aug **Family Fun Day**, Four Elms Field	10.30 – 1.30pm
19-22 Aug **Hever History Festival**, Hever Castle For events see Hever festival.co.uk	
22 Aug **Bat Walk at Bore Place**, adults £10, children £7	7.30 – 9pm
29 Aug **Annual Bat Emergence Survey**, Bore Place tickets free but must be pre-booked	6.30 - 9pm
29 Aug **Hever Festival Theatre**, Horrible Histories, Rotten Royals	2 and 7.30pm
1 Sept **Hever Festival Theatre**, Last Night of the Hever Proms	8pm
3 Sept **Roots in Horticulture**, Chiddingstone Castle	10.30 - 4pm
7 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall	7pm
8 Sept **Learn to make Labneh and Paneer**, Bore Place, tickets £42	10.30 - 1pm
10 Sept **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
12 Sept **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall,	12.30 for 1pm
12 Sept **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Markbeech Village Hall	7.30pm
14 Sept **Ride and Stride** in aid of Kent Churches	
15 Sept **Bore Place Open Day** Adults £3, children free but must be pre-booked	1-5pm
18 Sept **Bat Walk at Bore Place**, adults £10, children £7	6.30 - 8pm
18 Sept **Hever Hort talk**, The Art of Pruning, Hever Village Hall	8pm
19 Sept **Harvest Moon Walk**, Bore Place, adults £10, children £7	7 – 8.30pm

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