THE LINK

September 2024







In this issue:

- peat-free perfection
- the Bernards of Brocas
- otter saves potter pounds
- the dog sleek as chocolate
- fascinating funghi

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the September Link

This is not an original thought I know, but it is nonetheless a joy to see the different pleasures of every month unfolding. This last month has been a riot of green; the oaks just holding onto their deep dark colour and bright green grass springing back after haymaking, as Andrew Marvel says, you can bask in "A green thought in a green shade." This is also the season for spectacular funghi. The other day I came across a puff ball the size of a small moon and some scarlet elf cup so bright that at first I took it to be to be discarded plastic, though happily plastic litter, specifically plastic bag litter, has dropped 80% since the fee for bags was introduced in 2015.

On a more prosaic note, I am meditating on why it is that teaspoons disappear. In 1989 my aunt gave me a set of teaspoons which had been part of her wedding trousseau many years before. I used 14 and kept the rest treasured in the original box. Maybe I'm doing well to be holding onto five of those originals, but 35 years later, I'm going to have to break into the final 14. I can imagine that there are spoons under the chairs, down the cracks in the upholstery, the odd one removed by careless guest, but they are gone! Mind you, I have one from my university days and another recently carried home by mistake from York - so I suppose that the casual churn of teaspoons is inevitable, but my aunt would not have been pleased.

I'm finishing with good news, first we can add buzzards and red kite to the bird tally recorded in the Link last month and secondly Southern are to reinstate the 10.07pm train home from London Bridge in December! Also, look out for the entertainment inspired by Four Elms on 23 November – the cast of the successful concerts in Hever return, this time to St Paul's.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org





THE LINK

pet of the month



Our dog Betsy is a 3-year-old chocolate labrador. My first memory of Betsy is picking her up from the breeder. She was very small and had bright blue eyes and when we got into the car, we kept poking our hands through the gaps to stroke her. She settled in very quickly and became part of the family. She would lie on our laps as a puppy and has always loved rolling on her back to have her tummy scratched. I remember Betsy's first bark at the age of 1. Even though she sounds quite ferocious when she barks, Betsy is not a good guard dog; she just wants attention. She can be a bit cheeky and loves to climb under the strawberry nets and eat all the strawberries in the patch before we get to pick them. Betsy loves ponds, puddles and lakes. She will always find a way to get dirty in a pond on a walk, usually followed by some crazy zoomies. We have to keep as far away as possible so we don't get covered in muddy water. However, she hates to get sprayed by water and never lets us wash her.

In the summer, Betsy will often be found enjoying the warm weather by laying on the patio for hours. In the winter, she loves to sit as close to the fire as possible and always stops anyone getting too close. She can certainly guard that! Betsy is always full of energy and enjoys going on early morning runs with Mum. Whenever we make her dinner, she comes sprinting into the kitchen as soon as she hears the food bag rustle. It's her favourite time of the day. We all love Betsy so much and find it hard to remember a time when she wasn't there.

Sam and Josie Enston





BARN DANCE

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/



what I do


the De Havilland Twin Otter

Whilst participating in the "Art in June" project this year I was asked to put a few lines together for this magazine. As a potter/painter in Wellerstown, Chiddingstone making a few pieces in my beautiful studio (which you are most welcome to visit) I thought I might tell the story of my journey to take up a pottery scholarship at the Banff School of Arts in Alberta, Canada.

On my travels back in the late 1970's I ran out of money to get home from Canada so I took a short placement in a local pottery studio in Canmore, on the fringe of the Banff National Park. I was a good production thrower, making a hundred pots or so a day, piece work was easy for me. I was spotted by the director of the local art school who asked if I would like to study ceramics with them for a year on a full scholarship starting that September. On returning home to England I had to obtain a visa to be able to stay for the year starting in September, consequently incurring more expense.

Always short of money, I was bemoaning the costs in my local pub when a voice piped up and said that he might be able to offer me a free seat on a plane to Canada, a chance in a million. He turned out to be the lead pilot for the British Antarctic Survey team and was returning a DeHavilland Twin Otter aircraft to Canada for the fitting of skiis and a full service before starting the Antarctic summer expedition. Well, as you might guess, I jumped at the chance. So I made the extraordinary journey flying in the co-pilot's seat from Biggin Hill to Toronto via Iceland, Greenland, Goose Bay. This was then followed by a very dull internal flight on to Calgary. I subsequently had an amazing year in Banff.



A good story for a then penniless potter.

Caroline Bishop
carolinebishop380@yahoo.com

desert island whisks

Never one to do things by halves, Una Higgs's desert island whisk isn't a kitchen implement at all - it is her Aga! Here she is proudly standing next to it.



Una was not at all happy with the induction hob she acquired from a clever salesman when she moved in to Brocas Byre (having lived in other parts of Brocas for over 60 years) and after 16 years of struggle decided to treat herself to an Aga for her 100th birthday. She had always wanted one, but never quite felt she could justify the expense.... until she threw caution to the winds only to discover that the new breed of Aga with adjustable controls is actually quite economical to run!

The icing on the birthday cake was that it turned out that Una's 100th co-incided with the company itself reaching it's century. The joint birthday was much celebrated in the Aga press and Una was given a very generous gift of some pans, baking trays, a large bouquet of flowers and some champagne by the company which was delighted to have found a worthy partner for its celebrations. Una's son Tim now does most of the cooking and they both love their Aga and the tasty meals it serves up.

Joanna Wade



brocas discoveries

How many owners of Hever Castle are buried in Westminster Abbey?
Not any I think. ... but Hever Brocas, a manor house, converted farm buildings and cottages on the western edge of Hever has a splendid example in the Abbey.

The fine tomb in the Chapel of St Edmund, belongs to Sir Bernard Brocas (1330?-1395). His family originally came from Gascony in France, where they fought for the English cause. Brocas was a favourite knight of Edward the "Black Prince", son of Edward III, and was present at the battles of Poitiers and Crecy. He became chamberlain to Richard II's queen, Anne of Bohemia. By contrast, John de Cobham who built the Castle in 1383 is buried beneath the vestry floor of St Peter's Hever (a far, far better place some might say!). In historic architectural terms his three-portcullis castle at Hever is a gem, but he does not appear to have figured on the national stage.

The Brocas family's main "seat" was at "Beaurepair", an estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire, though another branch had established itself at Clewer near Windsor. I was excited to visit a chapel full of more spendid Brocas tombs, this time in the nearby church of St Andrew's, Sherborne St John. The photographs are of the brass of Raulin Brocas, exhibiting gloriously big ears, from 1360 and the tomb of Ralph Pexall and his wife Edith Brocas who died around 1535 and who are both portrayed holding their hearts in their hands.





Following some clever research by Professor Simon Thurley, summarised in the March 2023 edition of the Link, it turns out that not only do the Brocas family have the grander tombs, to the surprise and some chagrin on the part of the Castle, their home was 100 years older! Thurley established that Brocas had been granted a licence to crenellate in 1271, more than 100 years before the Castle's. The professor also established that quite a

few local myths about the history of the village were wrong and that the Hever connection to the Brocas family was brief. The link came about when Margaret, the daughter of the owner of Hever Brocas (obviously not then called by that name) married John Brocas in 1378. When he died without issue the Brocas estate moved on into other hands, but the name stuck.

Though not based in Hever, the Brocas family were on the national stage until, unfortunately, the next Bernard Brocas (presumably the son of the Bernard buried in Westminster) met a sticky end. He was on the wrong side when Richard II was defeated by his cousin Henry IV who siezed the throne in 1399. Lord Fitzwater lists for Henry the traitors who have lost their heads, in Shakespeare's play Richard II:

'*My Lord, I have from Oxford sent to London, The heads of Brocas and Sir Bennet Seely, Two of the dangerous consorted traitors, That sought at Oxford thy dire overthrow.*'

A Bernard Brocas, maybe this one, has a very unusual brass portraying a skeleton in the Brocas chapel in Sherborne St John.... but research is so much harder when families keep using the same first names for their offspring!

After that the family seems to have contented itself with becoming prosperous landowners and enjoying



the landed life. They built Beaurepair in 1777 but sadly it burnt down in 1942. The story is that the owner was met by his driver at the local station only to be told the bad news, whereupon he turned round and caught the next train back to town never to return!

Joanna Wade

new kid on the block

Following the recent article in The Link of June 2024 I have now completed the badger sculpture that Dyer and Butler commissioned on behalf of Network Rail. It has been placed at the bottom of the railway embankment, between Penshurst and Edenbridge stations, where heavy engineering work recently took place to shore-up the railway line.



I was enormously flattered to be asked to create this sculpture - a bit of a challenge actually, as I was uncertain of the quality expected. Luckily, I was given full artistic license to design it as I felt best and had no completion time limit.

I made a pretty significant error right from the outset, as a badger is mostly a horizontal animal, not a vertical (upright) one. Despite trawling the internet for pictures, I had no idea what the underside of a badger actually looks like, so had to guess. The 11 foot high piece of Oak suggested they wanted something tall, that could be seen from a passing train. The end result was more akin to a totem poll - I'm told it's visible from a moving train, but only if you know exactly where to look. Haven't taken the train journey yet to test this out however. Dyer and Butler seem happy with the finished sculpture. It was never going to be a fine work of art, so I believe their expectations were always pretty low.

To me, the greatest accolade though is if you look on Google Maps, there is now a heritage pin location entitled 'Bough Beech Badger'.

Nick Roberts
www.owlscourtwoodcraft.com

Four Elms Harvest Supper

Friday 4th October
Four Elms Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30 pm
EVERYONE VERY WELCOME
£12 per person
Book early and let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan
Email: harvest2021@btinternet.com
Phone: 01732 700247



hever primary news

Despite schools being closed over the summer, they can often be a hive of activity and Hever is no exception! Teachers have been in and out, setting up classrooms and preparing learning ready for September. We try to ensure our school building and beautiful grounds get some TLC during the break and this summer we have painted our hall and transformed an underutilised area into storage, in the process creating an additional learning space for small group work. Perhaps some of you reading this will have contributed to our main excitement as, thanks to the fundraising of our wonderful PTA, our playground is being resurfaced, ready for active play and home matches in the autumn term.



Summer is an important time for resting and refreshing but also a time to look ahead in anticipation of what the new academic year will bring. We look forward to welcoming new families into our school community, alongside younger siblings of current children, confident in the safe, stimulating and engaging environment our Early Years offers. We have a highly experienced and committed team, delivering a vibrant curriculum which includes weekly Forest School (see the photos below). Across the wider school, we have exciting plans to continue to build on this year's successes, evidenced in the Ofsted monitoring visit earlier in the year and our excellent end of key stage two outcomes in the summer.

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, I would welcome the opportunity to show you our school and all it has to offer. Please contact us on office@hever.kent.sch.uk or 01732 862304 to arrange a visit.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



the land of the midnight sun



1am at The North Cape - it never got dark

them, the engineering involved in blasting long tunnels through the mountains (in which I found the occasional roundabout underground!), all made me very glad to have experienced the theatre of exploring Norway. Riding that far in 23 days comes with some discomfort but it was well worth the effort. Photos don't do it justice but give a bit of insight…

Phil Lindsay

Having been a touring motorcyclist most of my adult life I resolved to take on what I hoped would be a rewarding challenge. This meant a round trip of some 6000 miles to get to the most northerly destination in Europe, the North Cape or, as the Norwegians call it, the Nordkapp. It's possible to get there more directly but travelling the scenic coastal route bumps up the mileage significantly. Norway is such a dramatically beautiful country it was about the journey, not just the destination. Getting there by bike isn't easy as there are no direct ferries. The overnight ferry from Harwich to The Hook of Holland was followed by a ride across Holland into Germany, an overnight stay in Hamburg followed by another full day of riding to the top of Denmark and another overnight ferry to Stravanger in the south west of Norway.



Despite having watched many a YouTube video in preparation, I was still taken by surprise at the size, scale and stunning beauty of the scenery. Riding the roads following the fjords with steeply sided mountains disappearing into them, the very many fast flowing substantial waterfalls cascading into



Who? Anyone! Pick your own route and distance travelling around Kent churches and chapels and sign in along the way
What? This is a sponsored cycle, run or walk to raise funds for your nominated local Church and the Friends of Kent Churches
When? Saturday 14th September between 10am and 6pm
Why? To raise vital funds to help preserve Kent churches and chapels
How? To find out more information please visit https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/ and contact your church warden

HARVEST LUNCH

MARK BEECH VILLAGE HALL
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Alice in Wonderland



Now in our fourth year growing in peat free compost, we often get asked what mix we use. For us as a commercial grower it's taken nearly 20 years to get where we are with a compost that we are now confident to use. Our journey started with an all expenses paid trip to the Scottish peat bogs courtesy of the then leading peat supplier. They explained that the peat went to a depth of eight metres, but they were only harvesting the top four metres and then handing the land over to English Heritage (in other words, how good were they!). The scene that met us was pure carnage – it looked like a battleground as far as you could see. They may have been handing the land over to fantastic custodians, but certainly not as they had found it. It was from this point we knew we had to make the switch to peat-free.

We trialled extensively with the National Trust (champions of peat-free) using all the available mixes with disastrous results. 50% of our plants grew fine, 25% struggled and 25% losses. More importantly there was a problem with the price point at the till – customers were not willing to pay extra for the increased costs of using peat-free. This was also due to the lack of education regarding the huge environmental impacts harvesting peat has on global warming. There is now an awareness that peatbogs are a carbon sump and if disturbed will release huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. Arit Anderson and her Gardeners' World TV programme certainly helped to highlight the issue.

Peat-free certainly improved as the years went by but another issue arose with the reliance on coir fibre (coconut husk) as the main ingredient – water retention. Coir is a very free draining product. An open, 'airy' soil is good for root production but for holding onto moisture, especially in summer, not efficient. Watering 3-4 times a day proved difficult, plus water is a valuable commodity. Coir also has a high carbon footprint being shipped from Asia. A visit from a rep during lockdown when the site was closed resulted in a conversation from one end of the driveway to another – a bold statement saying they had 'nailed' a peat-free mix! A sample bag was left (and avoided for several weeks due to Covid!)

Curiosity got the better of us and the minute we handled the product our excitement levels grew. The compost had a lovely consistency and held together when squeezed, almost feeling like a sponge. The main ingredient of this product is bark fibre,

a biproduct of the UK forestry industry. The provenance of the bark resonated with us as there is not a reliance on Asian coir. We have two mixes especially made for us. We have a coarse grade of bark for potting in winter that helps drainage, especially with these wet winters we have been experiencing. In spring & summer we have a fine grade of bark fibre which acts like a sponge and retains the moisture. Our water consumption hasn't changed from peat and even on the hottest of days, we are only watering once.

Bark fibre does have one main issue – nutrient 'lockup'. Bark is a fresh, new material and is naturally composting down from day one. As a result, nitrogen especially is not as easy to come by for the plants. To compensate for this, we have a special slow release fertiliser added to our mix. This releases for up to six months. We also use soluble feed on all our plants once a fortnight throughout the growing season – we recommend a nitrogen feed or liquid seaweed (available from garden centres). This is good practice regardless of what compost is being used. We're over the moon with our peat-free compost – the quality of the plants in our opinion is better than when we were using peat, losses are minimal, and our water consumption hasn't increased.

Our bark fibre mix is called 'Sustain Growing CNS General Peat Free' manufactured by ICL. This is a commercial mix but can be purchased through Fargro Home & Garden (www.fargrohomeandgarden.co.uk). Look out for a new peat-free compost produced by Durston Garden Products called 'Gro Fibre peat-free'. A retail product that has outshone all major bark fibre mixes – available from garden centres soon.

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery
How Green Nursery t 01732 700382
e plants@howgreennursery.co.uk
www.howgreennursery.co.uk



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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
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My IT Wizard Ltd	Computer problem solving	07779 285839
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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
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Church in September

Please note the time of our Harvest Family service on 22nd September at 11.30am, which will be followed immediately by a Harvest lunch in the Markbeech Village Hall. 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
1st Sept 10am	All Age Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 14
8th Sept 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 15
8th Sept 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 15
15th Sept 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 16
22nd Sept 8am	Said communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 17
22nd Sept 11.30am	Harvest Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 17
29th Sept 10am	All Age Harvest Holy Communion St.Peter's	Trinity 18

Our weekly Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm and 8.00pm will start on 16th September and our Zoom Evening prayer will now be twice a month on Thursdays at 6.00pm on 5th and 19th September. Our next Men's discussion group is on 26th September at 6.30pm. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' for young mums is on alternate Wednesdays and will restart in September. For details of any of these please contact Simon.

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

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Ana Roxburgh
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Wardens

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028

Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247
Richard Bennett
01732 862971

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
01342 850776

Andrew Russell
A Memorial Service for Andrew will be held at St Peter's Church, Hever on Monday, 9th September at 3pm. All are warmly welcome. A full tribute will appear in the October Link.



our rector's thoughts

The Olympics is now over, a century after Paris last hosted the event. It gives us the opportunity to remember Eric Liddell who won gold in the 400m in 1924, which was sadly not repeated this time by Matthew Hudson-Smith who was pipped to the post by Quincy Hall of the USA.

So why is Eric Liddell still being written about 100 years later and is the subject of the film, Chariots of Fire, at least two TV documentaries and ten biographies? The fact is, he is remembered more for what he did not do than what he did. We know that when he discovered that the heats for the 100m were being run on a Sunday, as a committed Christian, he chose not to compete in his best event and opted for the 400m and 200m. As a result team GB won the bronze in the 100m and not the gold although Liddell went on to win gold in 400m and bronze in 200m.

In 1925 Liddell sailed to China to work as a teacher ending his athletic career. He was later imprisoned by the Japanese during World War 2 and died of an undiagnosed brain tumour, malnourished and over worked in February 1945.

It is hard for us to understand Liddell's strict Sabbatarianism in an age when Sunday sport is totally normal and even at the time some considered him a religious fanatic. However, in the prison camp in China much later, Liddell organised sport for teenagers on a Sunday. One of his biographers writes: 'He would not run on a Sunday for an Olympic gold medal…and all the glory in the world; but he…broke his unbreakable principle, just to keep a handful of imprisoned youngsters at peace with each other.' Maybe he was putting into practice Jesus' statement that *the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath* (Mark 2:27).

Like many Christian sports people, Liddell was very competitive and his achievements have helped Christians competing in sports since then. Liddell 's sister said after his death that he saw athletics 'as a way to show God's power in his life' and compete to the best of his abilities and by doing so give glory to God. I was struck by the courage of the school-girl, Sophie Capewell, a member of team GB's gold winning cycling sprint team, who was recorded afterwards and broadcast to millions of viewers doing just that – giving God the glory.

St.Paul likened life to a race: *'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith'* (2 Timothy 4:7), which can be true of all of us, athletic or not; as it was of our dear Dr. Andrew Russell, whose memorial service is later this month.

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

It has certainly been a summer of sport and during August the Paris Olympics. You may not be a sports fan but the Olympics, in my opinion, offers something for everybody to enjoy albeit, if it's not a major sport, in bite size pieces. You would have to be a little hard hearted not to marvel at Wall Climbing and the Swimming Duet. I mention these as Team GB achieved a gold and a silver medal. After a short break we can cheer for the Paralympics. And cheer we must. Much was made that the Olympic Games brings nations together. There was certainly a great deal of respect between competing athletes and many prayers said by individuals as they prepared for their moment and for winners, prayers at the finish. The three values of Olympism are excellence, respect and friendship with a view to building a better world. Amen to that.
On 1st September we welcome for baptism, Sandy, Gabby and Jade Moore. This will be within our morning Holy Communion service and we hope you will join us to welcome the Moore family to our Christian community.

As we move into early Autumn it is time to think and prepare for harvest. It hasn't been an easy year for farmers with the weather vacillating between incessant rain and high temperatures. By the beginning of September we hope that all will be safely gathered in. In Four Elms we look forward to our Harvest Supper on Friday 4th October. Do please book early. Details are in this edition of the Link and on the threespires website.

It has been a difficult six months for Simon and especially for Susie following her gardening accident. Hopefully Susie is on the mend now and we wish her a full recovery very soon. Our thanks and prayers are extended to both Simon and Susie.

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.

The memorial service for Dr Andrew Russell will be on Monday 9th September at 3pm. Please check for timings with me or on the Three Spires website as it may change slightly.

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 12th September, 12.30 for 1pm lunch, £5 per person. 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 numbers, if you can, to let us

know that you are coming or have any special dietary requirements.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

August is a month during which so many households enjoy a break from routine. A chance to see friends and relations further away, to hopefully have time to appreciate a garden or park plus the beautiful countryside we, in the Three Spires, are fortunate to be surrounded by. Who else has watched as much of Wimbledon and then the Olympics as they could? So many jobs allocated for that time have been cast aside in favour of cheering athletes who have persevered, some against all odds, to heights even they might only have dreamed of. What a treat!

On August 11th, Simon led a beautiful, and well attended service at Holy Trinity, Markbeech. The Soul Food we were given left us with many questions.

There is still, as I write, over two weeks left of August! All those awaiting A level and GCSE results, may you be happy with them. And if you do not achieve what you need, pray for the resilience and courage to try again, believe me, there is time.

Ride and Stride in Markbeech is gallantly being represented by Sebastian Stevenson. The Sponsorship Form is in Holy Trinity Church, please be generous for his ride on September 14th. There will also be drinks and biscuits left in the porch. The following weekend, 22nd September, Markbeech's Harvest Festival will be held at 11.30 and then there will be a simple, informal lunch, straight after in the Markbeech Village Hall. All are welcome. Tickets (£10, children under 10 £5) are available from Liz Kaberry: email lizkaberry60@gmail.com or phone 01732 921763.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary



From the register
Weddings:
19th July Hever Hannah Kanish & Robert Hartfield
17th August Markbeech Lydia Dent & Ben McCarthy

Hever Parish Council

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

Gatwick Flightpaths - You may have seen recent national press coverage about the ongoing review of flightpaths into all UK airports named the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS). This is being developed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The general idea is to review flightpaths for UK airports to make them quicker, quieter (for most people), cleaner and to increase capacity. The downside is that it's very likely that there will be a reduction in the number of flightpaths and that this will increase aircraft noise for some people under these concentrated routes as a result.

Councillor Stephen Lark suggests it is likely to still be some years before the results of the AMS are published. Hever Parish Council will keep this under review, and will alert parishioners if there are any further public consultations where people can give their views.

Community Litter Pick - Following the success of the Community Litter Pick in March of this year, and given the amount of litter that has appeared in the area, there will be another Litter Pick on Saturday 28th September, at 9.30 am for Hever and Four Elms and 1.00 pm for Markbeech. So please do come and join our band of volunteers for a couple of hours to make a difference to your community. Good company, refreshments and equipment will be supplied. Please see the website for further information www.hever.org

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 having to drive 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 and then Thursday 7th November in Hever Village Hall. 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



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	64.0					
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	73.5					
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	29	62.0					

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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Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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 **October** edition should reach us no later than **16 September** 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

September 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**
2nd & 4th Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults – free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on

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
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
21 Sept **Bulk Waste Freighter**, Four Elms Village Hall	8.30-9am
21 Sept **Bulk Waste Freighter**, Hever bottle bank	12.15 - 12.45 pm
21 Sept **Bulk Waste Freighter**, Markbeech Village Hall	1-1.30pm
22 Sept **Harvest Lunch**, Markbeech Village Hall, tickets £10, £5 for children from lizkaberry60@gmail.com	12.30pm
28 Sept **Parish Litter Pick**, in Four Elms and Hever at 9.30am and in Markbeech at 1pm	
4 Oct **Harvest Supper**, Four Elms Village Hall, tickets £12 from harvest2021@btinternet.com	7pm for 7.30pm
22 Nov **Film Club, Inherit the Wind,** Hever Castle Golf Club,	7.30pm
23 Nov **Trees, breeze and Liberty's**, St Paul's Four Elms,	7pm

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