October 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Drama queen
- Gardening with a Chatbot
- Admirable admirals
- Dr Russell's last hurrah

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the October Link

THE LINK

A popular slot on Radio 4's Saturday morning magzine programme "Saturday Live" which has returned for its autumn season, gives listeners the chance say thank you to someone they never managed to thank at the time. Every time autumn arrives and I think of Keats's famous ode "To Autumn" I also think of my fantastic English teacher Miss Macaulay pursing her lips and puffing out her cheeks to demonstrate how deliciously edible the apples on the "mossed cottage trees" sounded. Thank you Miss Macaulay and here is a photo of a mossed cottage apple tree.

I have wondered whether the moss is in fact a sign of decay but the RHS advises that mosses and lichens are not parasitic and do no harm – they are just using the trunks and branches as a surface to grow on. Miss Macaulay would definitely not have approved of my use of artificial intelligence to write this month's gardening article and, apart from the rather good first line, she would have considered it dull and only deserving of a B.

Another Radio 4 gem is the obituary programme "Last Word" - why had I never heard of the prolific Sir Kenneth Grange who died in July? Probably because industrial designers are not given enough credit for what they do, something Kensington's Design Museum is trying to put right. He designed kettles and food mixers for Kenwood, razors for Wilkinson Sword, cameras for Kodak, typewriters for Imperial, clothes irons for Morphy Richards, cigarette lighters for Ronson, pens for Parker, Adshel bus shelters and the iconic conical nose for British Rail's groundbreaking Intercity 125. Quite a record!

We hope you will join us at the various events planned for the autumn and, as the days darken, I leave you with the good news that the lives of many birds are being saved by a new radar system attached to a Dutch wind farm which shuts down the blades when a flock approaches. Hoping this will come to the UK soon.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



pet of the month

Hello my name is Jay and I live in Hever with Geoff and Jean Davis where I am very happy, but my route to happiness has been a bit of a saga

I started life racing in Ireland as Cosmic Outlaw and I competed there for a while before being sent to England to race at Crayford. But when I retired in 2021 aged three and a half, my future was uncertain after six wins I had come last and had ended up, a sad loser, in Last Chance animal rescue. It is well known that retired greyhounds make good pets who, ironically, don't need much exercise but I had never been a pet before or lived in a home, so when Geoff and Jean adopted me and brought me to Hever I was very frightened and stressed. It took two years of patient love before I settled into retirement. Whenever I can, I dash next door to visit my favourite doggy friend Coco and eat her food and she does the same with me. When we get a chance, we love to run together in the fields, but not for too long because I'm basically now quite a lazy dog!





My mornings start gently and I take about two hours to fully wake up, helped by a few good stretches and in-house physio with a good massage of my ears, neck and back legs. Then it is time for a chew stick and a session with my weekly doggy bone which tastes very nice and happens to keep my teeth clean. So, yes, you can say that I am now enjoying my retirement!

Geoff and Jean Davis

what I do

Hi I'm Ella, I founded and run a multi-sensory theatre company called Now in a Minute theatre. We create performances that are accessible and relevant for children and young people with complex sensory needs. This means our audience can follow our stories through all their senses. For example, instead of just seeing a woman sitting under an orange tree on a hot day, our audience will be able to feel the rough tree bark on their hands, taste the citrus fruit tingle on the tongue and feel the warm touch of the sun's rays on their toes. Our audience is often those who have Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) which is sometimes paired with the individual being neurodivergent.

I was first introduced into the sensory world through my drama school, Rose Bruford College, where I was lucky enough to work with Oily Cart, who pioneered this new artform. I was inspired by the subtle and yet immense impact sensory theatre had not only on the audience but also the performers. The name was an easy choice for me. "Now in a Minute" might sound contradictory at first. After all, how can something happen "now" and "in a minute" simultaneously? The phrase is traditionally shouted from the top of the stairs to parental figures 'Yeah Mum, I'm doing it now in a minute!!' This is a classic Welsh phrase that my Nonna (grandmother) would often use, and would always make me smile. She played a huge part in my life as a truly compassionate soul who had nothing but love in her heart for anyone lucky enough to meet her. She was the inspiration for our theatre's name and our core values as a company.



After working in both the education and care sectors with disabled children, I have witnessed systems and society mould these brilliant and characterful individuals into the most 'appealing' format. My mission is to ensure all young people have access to be themselves and show that their thoughts and opinions are valued. For many with PMLD this connection is made through sensory exploration. This special communication builds treasured moments between audience, performer and carer and is something I only want to see more of.

We are in the process of moving towards charitable status and are on the lookout for trustees to join our board. If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of our work please let us know. www.nowinaminute.org.uk or email: nowinaminute.theatre@gmail.com.

Ella Rides

desert island whisks

When I am in my kitchen I am often stopped in my humdrum tracks by a sharp memory. This is the story of Ba Mackay-Brown's ladle. I think of her and of my mother whenever I pick it out from the lesser utensils which surround it.

Charlotte Louise Mackay-Brown, née Verity Dalton was for some reason known to us "Ba". She and her family lived in the same Bedfordshire village as my grandmother who, due to some childhood rivalry, always called them the "little Daltons", which Ba's sister Madge certainly was not. Ba could trace her ancestry back to Lady Castlemaine, the mistress of Charles II, but by the time we knew her the family had shrunk, her brother having been killed in the First World War in which she had served as a nurse near Rouen.



Ba and Madge moved into tiny Dalton Cottage a few doors down from my grandmother and she and my mother struck up a profound friendship. When Ba died the village got a new hall but she bequeathed to my mother the brimming contents of the cottage, knowing that they would be distributed conscientiously, which they were. They included a ladle which had arrived in the cottage via another strand of Ba's history, and this was passed on to me. The ladle belonged to Admiral Sir Henry Bayntun (1766-1840), an admiral in Nelson's fleet who fought at the battle of Trafalgar. The ladle carries a crest of a griffin with a Trafalgar medal round its neck sitting above a naval crown.

I sent a copy of his crest to the College of Arms who confirmed impressively speedily that it was granted to him in 1815. By then he was a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath and Rear Admiral of the Fleet and given his naval prowess the Naval Crown was appropriate. This was originally a Roman military award given to the first man who boarded an enemy ship during a naval engagement; in heraldry it appears as a gold crown surmounted with small replicas of the prows of ships.

The ladle is not only beautiful, but it is perfectly balanced, it can accurately pour soup with a small tilt of the wrist. My partner unfortunately found that it was also the ideal instrument for clearing loose stones from the bottom of post holes dug in the field. I put a stop that, but her stainless steel replacement is a poor shadow.

Joanna Wade



Trees, breeze and Liberty's



An entertainment celebrating
Four Elms and St Paul's church

23rd November 2024 7pm,
at St Paul's Four Elms

Tickets £10 from heverbrocas
@gmail.com or on the door.

Knit and natter ....

A knit or craft and natter group is starting up on Tuesday Oct 1st from 3-5pm in Markbeech Village Hall. It will always be on the first Tuesday of the month. A donation of £3 to cover hall hire will include tea and coffee.



Knitting, crochet or indeed any craft - all are welcome, beginners and experts alike - just turn up and have fun!

Carol Bowern and Sue Harvey
(07719858412)

Andrew Russell - a tribute

We said goodbye to Dr Andrew Russell at a packed memorial service in Hever on 9 September.

He was an integral part of life in both Hever and Edenbridge for many years as remembered by Kevin Agate:

"I have known Dr Russell (yes always Dr Russell to me) since I was a pupil at Hever Primary school. He treated me for all my ailments until he retired. My wife Teresa and I have special reason to thank him for his prompt diagnosis and action when our youngest son Michael was very ill as a toddler - without Dr Russell's care he would not be with us today. He was always more than a doctor to our family. It was never too much trouble for him to call in after his surgery, or early mornings if necessary if any of us were unwell. I did notice sometimes he had some unusual treatments - I went to him once with a swelling on my hand, he rubbed his chin and walked over to his bookcase and picked up a very large medical book, I was thinking the worst! He sat back down at his desk and whacked the book down onto the lump on my hand, "That should do it" he said, and it did. After his retirement we saw him more socially and he always referred to me as Good Yeoman Stock - I never was sure if it was a compliment or not. Dr Russell was a professional, a friend and a gentlemen, he will be sadly missed."

Andrew loved people and thrived in company, greeting the many who visited him with an affectionate "hello love". His eldest son Jamie takes up the story: "He was born in 1930 in Chipstead, Surrey, and was educated with his older brother at Marlborough College which he remembered as the coldest place on earth. From school he went to Clare College Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, and then to St Thomas' Hospital to finish his medical training. National Service on Malta, as a Medical Officer, became more serious with the Suez crisis, during which he was the doctor on the Admiral's flag ship.

The greatest decision of his life was to marry Elspeth Osborne, a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital, and the daughter of a Scottish GP in Watford. Their marriage was the source of great happiness and they were completely devoted to each other, and to their sons. After leaving the Royal Navy in 1957 Andrew was approached by Dr Ivor Hughes, a GP in Edenbridge, to help out with a few surgeries a week. This was the start of a very happy professional life as an Edenbridge GP, working with partners, Drs: John Shaw, Brian Milner, Tim Bayley, Brian Spear and Simon Morrison, which would last until 1992.



Andrew had a very happy retirement, he was closely involved in the Edenbridge War Memorial Hospital League of Friends and The Bridges Trust, and in recognition of his commitment to the local community he was awarded an MBE. He also became a skilled watercolour painter and furniture maker. The pieces he made for his family and the bishop's chair for the church (replacing one which was stolen), are reminders of the lovely man he was."

Jan Tolfree remembers "a truly remarkable man, always greeting you with a smile and a joke that could brighten even the darkest day. No matter how ill you felt, his quizzical look and reassuring smile as he listened to your concerns made you realize you weren't quite as poorly as you thought! He even took my daughter's tonsils out in Edenbrige hospital! Beyond his medical expertise, he was an enthusiastic and fun-loving jockey at Dyhurst Stud, always interested in the people around him. His favourite greeting to me, not to be forgotten, was 'She's such a tough old bird!' He was the person my daughters and I knew the longest outside of our family. We will miss him."

I was also honoured to join the cohort of Andrew's "TOBs", the chief amongst whom was his much-missed wife, and to be told matter of factly on arrival for a whisky that he was "still above ground".

His former partner Dr Brian Spear pays tribute: "By the time I came to Edenbridge as Andrew's trainee in 1976, he was already senior partner. He was a superb colleague, very thorough, kind, hard working and always approachable. He led the practice harmoniously through several important changes, particularly regarding extensions necessary to West View as the population increased. With Brian Milner, he provided anaesthesia for visiting surgeons for over 25 years at Edenbridge Hospital. He was an excellent role model for a young doctor, clearly much loved by his patients. He represented the very best of what was, for people of a certain age, 'The Golden Age of General Practice'."

Andrew died peacefully, surrounded by his three sons, Jamie, Bruce and Neil, on 14 July 2024. As everyone said at his memorial service, we miss him!

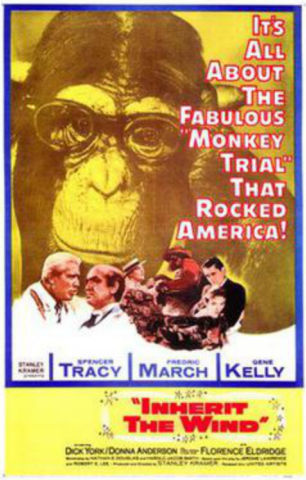
Joanna Wade



village screen film club 2024/25

The film season begins in November at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club. Our first film will be:

Friday 22 November
Inherit the Wind
A classic from 1960 starring Spencer Tracy and Gene Kelly in a courtroom drama about the 1920s trial of a small town teacher arrested for teaching a class on Charles Darwin's theories. This was very relevant in the '50s when McCarthyism had threatened freedom of speech.



Save these dates in 2025 for more films:
Friday 17 January - Rye Lane
A critically acclaimed film from 2023 described as "a primary-coloured romance bursting with wit, grit and charm". It is set in Peckham in south London and has been referred to as south London's response to "Notting Hill".

Friday 21 February - The Holdovers
This award winning comedy drama from 2023 follows a curmudgeonly classics teacher (Paul Giamatti) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the students with nowhere to go. Eventually he forms an unlikely bond with one of them and with the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (Da'Vine Joy Randolph).

Friday 21 March - The Great Escaper
Tour de force by Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson in her last film. In the summer of 2014, encouraged by his wife, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Chaos ensues

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval.

Tickets are a suggested donation of £2 for the film or £16 to include the meal - scampi and chips or baked potato with beans and/or cheese, both with salad. You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@gmail.com or buy tickets at the door. However, please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat.



What's on at Bore Place

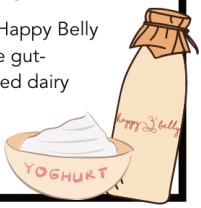
Workshops, walks and talks to connect with food, farming and nature at our beautiful 500-acre estate in the Kent countryside

happy belly

Fermented Dairy Product Workshops

Join Rachna Jhala from Happy Belly Foods and learn to make gut-health-boosting fermented dairy products at home

Yoghurt making
Sunday 20 October



CAROLS IN THE COWSHED



Saturday 07 December

Mulled wine & mince pies
Local community choirs
See the calves and cows

Harvest Chutney Cooking Workshop



A cooking experience taking organic veggies from farm, to kitchen, to jar, to table!

Sunday 03 November

Astronomy at Bore Place

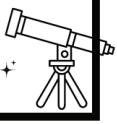
with the Edenbridge and District Astronomers!

Saturn talk
Thurs 10 Oct

Mars talk
Thurs 16 Jan 2025

Choosing a telescope
Thurs 07 Nov

How to use your Telescope
Thurs 30 Jan 2025



FREE

BOUGH BEECH APPLE DAY



Sunday 13 October

Fun for all the family in the ancient apple orchards!

Rustic Christmas Wreath Making

Make a gorgeous, fully compostable wreath using foraged foliage from the Bore Place estate.



Sun 24 November

For tickets and more info, visit: **www.boreplace.org**

Commonwork Trust is a registered charity, no. 1160725
Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7AR

Kent ride and stride
On a sunny autumn day the Hever bikers (Jane and Joanna) raised approx £500 for Kent churches, half of which comes back to St Peter's. John and Christina Hodson and John Southworth rode for Four Elms and Sebastian Stevenson for Markbeech. Thanks very much indeed to all who sponsored us!



Eden Christian Trust
is in great need of a couple of mentors for our ONE to ONE group. Each session is an hour long on a Tuesday evening, during term time. It involves working with young people who need a little extra support and encouragement and doing a craft or activity with them.

Session times are: First: 5pm – 6pm, Second: 6pm – 7pm
For more information, please speak to Anthony Shipwright 07738232296
ect.youthworker@gmail.com



hever primary news

As the start of the new academic year, September is the time when we revisit our core purpose. Whilst this may seem obvious - after all we all know what schools do - as a village school and moreover as a Church of England village school, our role is about much more than simply providing an education. Our aim is 'Building the confidence and resilience to flourish' and whilst a key part of this is ensuring our pupils access an ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all our children, they need more than this to prepare them to play their part as responsible citizens in our diverse society. This is where our school values come in: Belonging, Courage, Perseverance, Compassion and Trust. These are drawn from our Christian vision based on the story of Jesus walking on the water (Matthew 14: 23-33) and we continually remind one another that, 'if you want to walk on water, you have to step out of the boat'. This encourages us all, staff and children, to challenge and to support one another to step out of our comfort zone and to be the best we can, in a safe and trusting environment.

It has been lovely hearing about how confidently our summer leavers have started out on their journey at secondary school and we feel pride in the part we have played in preparing them for this. At the same time, we are excited to welcome our new little 'Acorns' and their families into Reception, full of enthusiasm and anticipation. Already they are settling into their new routines, ably supported by their Year 6 buddies, working alongside our experienced Early Years team.

Choosing the right setting for your child is an important decision. Here at Hever Primary, we have a committed teaching team who are passionate about education and ensuring the very best for our children. We offer a rich curriculum, including Forest School, with a range of enhancement opportunities, including trips and workshops and a wide range of clubs.

We are proud of our school and our children and would love to meet you and share all that Hever Primary has to offer. If you are looking for a place for September 2025, please contact the school office (01732 862304 or email office@hever.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a tour with our Headteacher, or to join our Open Morning on Thursday 21st November at 9.15am.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



Starting school

Hever Parish Council

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

At the recent Parish Council (HPC) meeting the idea of providing the community with a regular drop in social session was discussed. We would like to gauge interest in weekly or bi-weekly sessions held in a parish village hall for a couple of hours, with either a craft or a knit and natter type session offered and refreshments provided. These sessions may well be funded by HPC and be free for those who would like to attend. They will be an ideal opportunity for parish residents to enjoy some company, and perhaps some creative activity, in a warm space free of charge. If this is something you might interested in, please do let me know by emailing clerk@hever.org

The next Community Litter Pick is fast approaching! This time Four Elms and Hever will be holding them on Saturday 28th September. It is good fun, with free refreshments and great exercise. If possible, please bring your own gloves and wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear. Hi visibility vests and litter pickers can be provided, however if you have your own please do bring them. Four Elms Village Hall and Hever Field at 9.30 am

The next full Hever Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th November in Hever Village Hall. All are welcome to attend. Please do visit the website www.hever.org for information. The Councillors are all listed on the website; please feel free to contact them should you have anything you would like to bring to their attention.

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



hever hort report

August 17th saw the last big event of the Hever Hort Calendar; the Flower and Vegetable Summer Show. We had one of the highest number of individual entries, about 150, and Hever Village Hall, plus the marquee, looked splendid. The judges were very complimentary about the standard of entries. The eleven cups and trophies awared by our President, Wendy Izod, went to eight different winners, with Jean Mason, Jane Rosam and Norman Greenaway doing particularly well. Thanks to all who helped make it such a splendid community occasion.

The last talk of this year is on **Wednesday, 16th October, 8pm, Hever Village Hall,** and is called, 'The Green Man in the Garden', by Mick Lynn, who has given occasional talks for the Hort. There will be refreshments and a raffle, and everyone is welcome.

Our final activity is the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 20th November, again at HVH, 8pm. This is where we celebrate our year, listing all the trophy winners, and present the President's trophy for the person gaining the highest number of points over the three shows. We also 'launch' the Show schedule and programme of events for 2025, as well as, of course, collecting the (very reasonable) annual subscriptions.

I have heard it said that people's favourite season is the one in which they were born. In my case that would be winter but I think I actually prefer autumn. The leaves have already started to turn, presaging the glorious colours we will see all around us, and which make me want to shout, 'Eat your heart out, New England!'

Happy autumnal gardening!

Doug Bowern



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 October

Please let me have any hymn or song choices for our Songs of Praise on Sunday evening 6th October and 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
6th Oct 10am	Harvest All Age Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 19
6th Oct 6pm	Songs of Praise at St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 19
13th Oct 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 20
13th Oct 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 20
13th Oct 4pm	Harvest Forest Church Hever	Trinity 20
20th Oct 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Trinity 21
27th Oct 8am	Said communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 22
27th Oct 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 22

Our weekly Bible studies on Mondays at 6.00pm and 8.00pm continue and Zoom Evening prayer is on Thursday at 6.00pm on 3rd and 17th October. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. For details of any of these please contact Simon. Looking forward, please note that our All Souls choral evensong will this year be on 3rd November at 6pm in St.Paul' Four Elms. This is an opportunity to light candles and pray as we remember those loved ones who are no longer with us.

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
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

Our Harvest Festival at St.Paul's Four Elms is on 6th October and this follows various Harvest celebrations at our other two churches in late September and at both of our schools. Thank you all for bringing gifts of food and produce which are going to the Edenbridge foodbank. We live in beautiful rural parishes with farmland all around. But very few work on the land and nationwide barely one per cent of the workforce works in farming and the UK produces only a bit more than half of the food it needs. But it is a great opportunity to be thankful that, for the vast majority of us, we have the wherewithal to purchase the food and other goods and services we need to live. For centuries the Jewish people have had the practice of reciting one hundred blessings each day, which they do especially before and after a meal. Saying grace before a meal is a great opportunity to pause and give thanks for what we have.

We've been through Covid, a cost of living and energy crisis and are awaiting what might be a challenging – even taxing (pardon the pun!) - Autumn Budget on 30th October. It's tempting to think we have it tough and many are having to work harder and harder just to stand still. Surely it's only reasonable to think that what we have results from our own efforts? The Bible records that everything we have comes from God. When the first temple was built by King Solomon thousands of years ago and financed by the generous offerings of the people, the King prayed to God with these words: *Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.* (1 Chronicles 29:14).

If we think for a moment, we are fortunate to live in a relatively prosperous part of a relatively rich country. We live in a peaceful democracy where we enjoy many freedoms not experienced in other countries so often featured in the News. And whilst we may have worked hard, many of the abilities we have were in us from birth or circumstances and were simply unlocked by education and experience. In the New Testament, Paul encourages the Christians in Thessaloniki to *give thanks in all circumstances* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Of course, that same 'attitude of gratitude' was born out of being overwhelmingly thankful for all that God had done in sending Jesus. Christians celebrate Jesus' death, resurrection and presence with us by his Spirit in the Holy Communion service, which is also called the Eucharist - a Greek word which means thanksgiving.

Do join with us in thanking God this Harvest season.

God bless

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

Despite feeling a little sad at the end of the summer, autumn mornings do have a special charm. The muted colour palette is a delight following on from the beautiful rich summer glories.

During September we said farewell to two much loved and valued members of our community. Dr Andrew Russell and Ethel Bruce. Andrew's obituary by his son Bruce was a fitting farewell to a dear much respected man. Ethel, who has not lived in Four Elms for some years, was nevertheless remembered and respected. Ethel's beginnings were not as fortunate as Andrew's but she did her best in difficult circumstances and finally found home and love with the Allans. Here she blossomed and we will all remember her giving her time and 'elbow grease' to St Paul's Church. She will also be kindly and lovingly remembered as Brown Owl with the Four Elms Brownies. Andrew and Ethel were an inspiration to us, giving freely and willingly to their church and wider community. May they rest in peace, good and faithful servants.

As we approach Harvest Festival time, let us spare a thought and prayers for the farmers of our land. This year has been particularly difficult. The unseasonal weather has meant a disaster to crops and for farmers who moved out of livestock into agriculture for financial reasons it has been and is extremely difficult. May we give our heartfelt prayers to all those who till the land to provide the food on our table.

Our All Age Harvest Festival Service is on Sunday 6th October. It is a time to give praise and thanks and there is no place more worthy of praise on an autumn morning than St Paul's Church with the sun shining through the beautiful stained glass windows. Do join us and bring harvest gifts which will be passed on to the Edenbridge Food Bank and also to some local residents. Friday 4th October is the annual village harvest supper. Please make sure you have booked for this event.

And a date for your diary. There will be a concert in St Paul's Church on Saturday evening 23rd November, celebrating Four Elms and St Paul's Church. Not to be missed.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Thank you to everyone who helped at or supported the Hever Barn Dance especially Helen Hoggins who sang for us whilst the band were having their supper.



We would also like to thank the Hever Parish Council for arranging to and funding the cleaning of the war memorial in St Peter's churchyard. As you can see

from the photo, it's looking fantastic once more.

We will be collecting food for the Edenbridge Food Bank at our service on September 29th and there will be a box by the altar in which to leave donations up until Tuesday 8th October. The food bank have requested that all food donations must be unopened and within date. They are particularly in need of any tinned goods, uht milk, cereal, pasta, biscuits, hot chocolate, rice sauces and pasta sauces.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 10th October, 12.30 for 1pm lunch, £5 per person. Please don't drive or park on the grass at the hall during wet weather. We normally have around 24 people and serve sandwiches or soup, 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

As I write, the sun is shining, the wind is soft and the fact that Harvest Festival is next weekend in Markbeech, seems the right time to celebrate. We must pray that the land dries out enough to gather the harvest, if not already gathered, plus plough and reseed. Last year was so wet!

However, before this Festival, all the Churches in the Benefice are preparing for Ride and Stride. As well as Seb, mentioned last month, we have Molly and David being gallantly accompanied by Ricky and probably more I do not know about. Thank you, the Church needs funds, and we are all very grateful. Please sponsor them in retrospect if needs be!

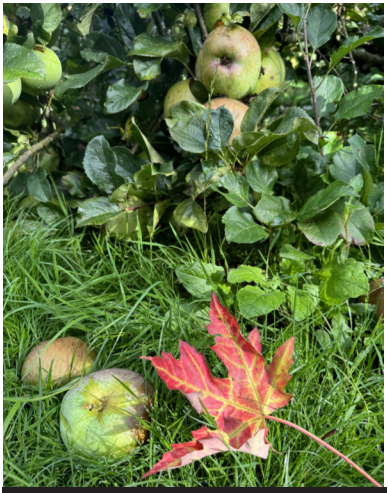
At the beginning of this month, Simon returned from a small break, to take the service on September 8th. The theme was about accepting everyone equally, not always an easy thing to do but one we know Jesus urges us all to do. On the 16th of September the generous Braids are welcoming those who want to study the Bible with a meal. These sessions, one on zoom at 6pm and one in person at 8pm on a Monday, are very interesting, even if one just wants to listen and learn. I am sure Simon would welcome anyone who would like to join us. In October, Markbeech has two services, one on the 13th is a Eucharist at 10am and the one at the end of the month, 27th of October, is the very popular Family Service also at 10.

Enjoy the colours of October, we have been away for a few days and noticed some trees are beginning to change. I know we are not as famous as New England but personally, I love autumn with its delicious fruit, smells and crisp mornings.

Janey Cooper

gardening

Artificial intelligence- a force for good or evil? I thought I'd give it a go and so I downloaded the ChatGPT app and instructed "Informal magazine article 400 words about jobs to do in the garden in Kent in October". It instantly produced the article below and rather than pass it off as my own work I am 'fessing up - the American spellings might anyway have given me away. If I'd asked it to do the same in rhyming couplets it would have done that too! What do you think?



Artificially arranged garden

"October is a bustling month for gardeners, with plenty of tasks to keep you busy as you prepare your garden for the colder months ahead. From planting bulbs to tidying up your flower beds, there's no shortage of jobs to do in the garden this month.

One of the most important tasks to tackle in October is planting spring-flowering bulbs. Daffodils, tulips, crocuses, and snowdrops can all be planted now to ensure a vibrant display of color come spring. Make sure to plant them at the correct depth and spacing for healthy growth. This is also the perfect time to divide and replant any overcrowded perennials. Lift the plants carefully, divide the clumps, and replant them in well-prepared soil with plenty of compost. This will help rejuvenate them and ensure they continue to thrive next year.

As the leaves start to fall, it's important to keep on top of leaf clearance. Rake up fallen leaves from your lawn and borders, as they can smother plants and grass if left to accumulate. You can add them to your compost heap or use them as mulch to protect your plants from the cold. October is also a good time to give your lawn some TLC. Aerate the soil to improve drainage, and apply a top dressing of compost to nourish the grass. You can also sow grass seed in any bare patches to help fill them in before winter sets in.

Don't forget to give your garden tools some attention this month too. Clean and sharpen your tools to keep them in good condition, and oil any wooden handles to prevent them from drying out. With so many jobs to do in the garden in October, there's no time to waste. Whether you're planting bulbs, dividing perennials, or tidying up fallen leaves, there's plenty to keep you busy as you prepare your garden for the winter months. So grab your gloves and get out there – your garden will thank you for it!"

Joanna Wade

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FOUR ELMS												
2022	22	55	27	7	58	12	7.0	36	79	75	201	86
2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0	23	39	152	122	109
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27	64.0	28				
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	31.5				
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	44				

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

Kent County Councillor
Margot McArthur 03000 414817
Margot.McArthur@kent.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District:
James Barnett 07831 112901
cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Hever Parish:
Rachael Turner 077849 12645
clerk@hever.org

The Link Team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Ivan Furness and Paul Houlton
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
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 **November** edition should reach us no later than **16 October** 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

October diary

From 2 Mar **Exhibition Health Care in our Town,** Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge
Exhibition celebrating 75 years of the Edenbridge Players, Eden Valley Museum
2nd & 4th Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults – free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on

28 Sept **Parish Litter Pick**, in Four Elms and Hever	9.30am
1 Oct **Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall,	3-5pm
4 Oct **Harvest Supper**, Four Elms Village Hall, tickets £12 from harvest2021@btinternet.com	7pm for 7.30
8 Oct **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
10 Oct **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
10 Oct **Astronomy at Bore Place** – talk on Saturn, tickets £10	6.30-8pm
16 Oct **Hever Hort talk** 'The Green Man in the Garden' Mick Lynn, Hever Village Hall	8pm
20 Oct **Yoghurt making workshop**, Bore Place tickets £32	10.30-1pm
26 and 27 Oct **Exhibition of paintings by Ray Atkins**, Sovereign Barn, Crockham Hill	2-6pm
2 Nov **Festival of Remembrance**, Freshfield Hall, Forest Row	4pm
3 Nov **Harvest Chutney cooking workshop**, Bore Place, tickets £65	9.30-1.30pm
5 Nov **Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall,	3-5pm
7 Nov **Astronomy at Bore Place** – choosing a telescope, tickets £10	6.30-8pm
7 Nov **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever Village Hall	7.30pm
11 Nov **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
14 Nov **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
20 Nov **Hever Hort AGM**, Hevr Village Hall	8pm
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
8 Dec **Bird ringing demonstrations at Bough Beech nature reserve**, tickets free pre booked only from Bore Place	10am-12 noon
17 Jan **Film Club, Rye Lane**, Hever Castle Golf Club	7.30pm

The Danewood Press Ltd
Print • Design • Quality

Your local Printer for
Litho • Digital • Wide Format Print

Letterheads • Compliment Slips • Business Cards • Leaflets
Tickets • Swing Tags • Invites • Post Cards • Envelopes
Wedding Stationery • Plain Paper • Brochures • Booklets
Greeting Cards • Large Posters • PVC Banners • Roll up Banners
Canvas Prints • Outdoor Signage Boards • Vinyl Labels

T: 01825 740302 E: sales@danewoodpress.com
www.danewoodpress.com
Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gate, West Sussex RH17 7LA