November 2024

THE LINK







In this issue:

- **Beauty & the beast?**
- **Singing in the rain**
- **Jan Tolfree Hort heroine**
- **Embracing winter in the garden**

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the November Link

And the winner is Scrumpy Jack! The drinking habits of the discarders on Uckfield Lane have changed from the Desperado lager fest of the spring litter pick to a summery cider, though I'm told that How Green heavily features gin. You can draw your own conclusions.... The parish council will continue to organise two litter picks a year as sadly they are needed, see Rachael Turner, the Parish Clerk's report.

In other news - apparently 40% of the population now lead a largely cashless life and 79% of young "Generation Z" people use "digital wallets" on their phones rather than the leather variety. As a result, for the first year ever, the Treasury has not ordered any new coins from the Royal Mint. I was at the Edinburgh Festival this year and was impressed by the buskers displaying QR codes and card readers (some nattily framed in tartan) alongside hats and guitar cases. Moving with the times....

Also in Edinburgh, at the National Museum of Scotland in their ceramics section, I came across a small and elegant cylinder produced by a network of local potters in Central America under the guidance of "Potters for peace" (now less alliteratively called Good Foundations International). This device works effectively as a water filter removing most pathogens and creating safe drinking water in a low tech way. What a clever invention!

And so to nature, two random Durham snippets - the cathedral has a bat colony which is the second largest in the UK. It also encourages swifts to return to its tower from sub-Saharan Africa by playing a tape of tweeting fellow swifts; apparently it works and the real things return home every year.

Late Autumn events include the new season of the film club starting on 22 November and the concert in Four Elms on 23rd and the various concerts and fairs advertised in this edition. And then of course there is Christmas any day now!

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



THE LINK

Remembering my family in WW1

Coming up to Remembrance Sunday, just a couple of notes on three names on the Four Elms War Memorial. These men were my great uncles and fought in the First World War.

Harold Gray Everest, Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery. He died unexpectedly in barracks on 20 February 1919 aged 25 years 246 days. Occupation: Bricklayer, single, enlisted 4 January 1916

Sidney Burchett, Private, Royal Sussex Regiment
Born in East Grinstead, lived with cousins in Westerham by 1911 after which he became a Four Elms/Brasted resident. He was killed in action on 8th August 1917 on the Western Front. His name is on the Menin Gate Memorial. Awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal

Edward Hatt, Private, Royal West Surrey Regiment
Killed in November 1916 just at the end of the Somme campaign. Left the trenches on patrol one night and that was the last time he was seen. Remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme

Nick Lynch



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CROCKHAM HILL
SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER at 4pm

EDENBRIDGE MUSIC & ARTS TRUST PRESENTS

"A SEASONAL ROUND" READINGS AND MUSIC FOR THE SEASONS OF THE YEAR with
THE SAINT MARTIN SINGERS and READERS
DIRECTOR: CHARLES TALBOT

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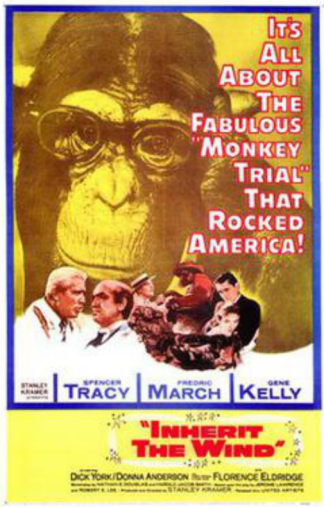
Tickets: £15.00 (free for under-12s accompanied by an adult) to include drinks and nibbles.
From Alec Crowe (Secretary) 07821 683482, Mandy Maple, 01732 863144,
on the door or via the website: www.edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk

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 on 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.



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.



Jan Tolfree - queen of the hever hort

We celebrate Jan Tolfree, doyenne of the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society, as she steps down as Show Secretary after several decades and also turns 90. I felt tired just listing all she has done, though as she is a modest person I had to work hard for permission to write any of this!

Jan was born in Essex in 1934, the youngest of three children. She remembers as a siren-suited toddler sheltering from the blitz in a cramped and damp Anderson shelter which her dad had decorated as best he could. Apparently during one raid he had to return to the house for her mother's lost knitting needle; disaster did not ensue and more socks were produced for the war effort. After school, Jan trained as a secretary but when her mother died her father very nobly set her free from any obligation to stay at home and she went out to join her married sister in Kenya. Jan worked as a PA to the Commissioner of Customs & Excise, the job was boring but the hours and pay were good and Jan had plenty of time for amateur dramatics. She was on stage as a dancer and actor at the Mombasa Little Theatre Club (still going strong), back stage was Geoff Dean who did sound and lighting - they married in 1960. Sadly their happy life was cut short when Geoff died very suddenly of meningitis; daughters Melanie and Nikki were only aged 4 and 6, too young to remember him clearly.

Jan and the children had to leave Geoff's tied company accommodation and so they returned to the UK. She set about organising a new life in Hartfield and remembers being shoked that even the simplest things, such as hiring a television, required her husband's signature. As she pointed out, this was difficult because she no longer had one but she had to find another man to guarantee her creditworthiness. She started work as the Headmaster's secretary at Edenbridge secondary school and in between raising her daughters, sang with the Forge Singers (founded by Una and Douglas Higgs) and became Brown Owl of the First Edenbridge Brownies. She also found time to marry the headteacher of the primary school, Philip Tolfree.



Jan and Geoff in Nairobi

Because of her marriage Jan's boss thought it inappropriate for her to continue at the school so she found other work, notably as the sales director's secretary at Ling's cards in Chiddingstone. It was a big organisation, occupying the modern office buildings on

the right as you come into Chiddingstone Causeway, now being turned into homes. The children thrived and after college Nikki went to Italy to teach English as a foreign language. She married an Italian and Jan regularly heads for her holiday destination in southern Italy, returning with quantities of Parmesan. Melanie runs Gorard Dean catering which advertises in this magazine and lives near Uckfield. Jan is very proud of her daughters and four grandchildren Alfonso and Frederica, Phoebe and Hattie.



WI member Jan Tolfree holds up a ration book and a newspaper of the day at an exhibition next to Hever village hall on VE Monday Photo number 97680/29

Philip died in 1984 leaving Jan a widow for the second time and when Ling's closed she worked in various organisations until she retired. Meanwhile, she also packed in a two-year weekend course in aromatherapy and practiced part time at a local clinic. Jan moved to Pigdown Lane in 1987 (the year of the great storm) and, already a keen gardener, became involved in the Hever Rose and Horticultural society. Her garden is her pride and joy, always beautiful and the source of many entries in shows over the years. She soon became Show Secretary, responsible for processing hundreds of entries and recording the winners. These are tasks which require great precision and tact as keyed up entrants can get quite exercised if they aren't able to show that perfect daffodil as a result of an alleged administrative glitch - of course this didn't happen under Jan's watch.

Jan also played an active part in other village activities, singing in the church choir, organising the flower rota, and active in the Women's Institute and baking fantastic Victoria sponges on demand. Dogs and cats have also been a constant feature in Jan's life and her current rescue lurcher, Gladys, is a favourite on Pigdown Lane. She and rescued Siamese Flora have featured here as pets of the month as Jan kindly contributes to The Link whenever we ask her to.

Hever has benefited hugely from Jan's energy and commitment to the village, long may this continue, as indeed it does because she still organises talks and events for the Hort. As a poem prominently displayed at her 90th birthday party says…

"Old! Who's old?
I'm sorry but I can't agree
As long as I've got breath in me
I'm going to live my life ungracefully!
Vivaciousty!!
Outrageously!!!
Three cheers for immortality.
To hell with growing old!"

Joanna Wade


HEVER
Christmas Fair
GUTHRIE PAVILION, HEVER CASTLE
7 TH NOVEMBER
10.30AM-3.30PM
ENTRY TO GROUNDS, CASTLE & FAIR
ADULTS/CONCESSION £10
CHILD 5-17 £5
MEMBERS £3
£3 OF EACH TICKET WILL BE DONATED TO
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Hever Family Christmas Carols
14th December
4.30pm at the Henry
for mulled wine and mince pies
5.30pm St Peter's Church



Cowden Hall Christmas Fair

and bric-a-brac sale

Sunday 17th November 12 -3pm, Cowden Hall TN8 7HU

Raffle, refreshments and gifts.

Entry £1.00

Please bring cash

For more info please phone Sue on 07929 337556

Trees, breeze and Liberty's St Paul's and St Peter's - beauty and the beast?

I have greatly enjoyed putting together the entertainment in words and music called "Trees breeze and Liberty's" which we are performing in Saint Paul's Four Elms on 23rd November. I have organised several concerts before, always in Hever, and I thought that this time it would be interesting to find new inspiration. I found that inspiration in spades - words and music relating to the title: trees as it is Four Elms, breeze because there is always breeze in trees and Liberty's - please read on to see the connection.

In 1881 a fine new church was completed in Four Elms. It was an Arts and Crafts gem, designed by the architect Edwin Hall who built the iconic Liberty's on Regent Street, and it was also the first church to be made from concrete in the country. Of course the Egyptians and Romans knew lots about concrete, but then the art was lost until it re-emerged in the mid nineteenth century.

Just over ten years later in 1894, 130 years ago, the Reverend RC Lathom-Browne presided over a wholesale "Victorianisation" of Hever church, stripping away almost all traces of the older church. Brass plaques in the church record the restoration, the installation of the new east window, donation of the organ and addition of a sixth bell in the tower. A new porch was donated "to replace the modern brick excrescence" currently in place, with no recognition that the new excrescence would be even newer!

The churchwarden and main benefactor was Mr. Charrington, of the brewing family, who lived in How Green House. They stripped out the old box pews, replaced the floor and raised it in the chancel, leading to countless visitors asking why Thomas Bullen's tomb is in a hole, and replaced the ceilings in the nave and chancel. Then there was the new font, and to crown it all the wrought



iron screen at the back of the nave. So there was very little left of the interior apart from the north aisle's 13th century arches and some features in the Bullen chapel. I would say, rather cattily, that these were too structural to touch but the church was probably much deteriorated with no "ruling family" in the castle to fund the upkeep after the Meade-Waldos had removed to Stonewall Park, which they preferred.

By contrast, Saint Paul's is all of a piece and retains most of its original features, notably the fine brass rail up to the

pulpit (which was so fine it was recently stolen so in fact the current one is a replica) and the reredos behind the altar. This is a marble carving (see photo) of the journey of the magi designed by William Lethaby (1857-1931) who was an architect and designer much influenced by William Morris and and Ruskin. He was a founder member of the Art Workers Guild; the arts and crafts movement focussing not only on craftsmanship and simple designs but also on social reform. He was later surveyor to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey.

It is controversial to argue that St Paul's Four Elms is beauty to Hever's beast but I would say it punches above its weight (and that's without mentioning General Sir Henry Sclater and his wife Dame (in her own right for her war work) Edith of Holmwood memorialised in the nave). Do come along to the concert and see for yourselves!

Joanna Wade





this is not a desert island

“Yes, yes let’s talk about the weather” sing the chorus of sisters in Pirates of Penzance as they turn a blind eye to their sister Mabel’s canoodlings …… well, there was plenty to occupy them in September.

It started with a worried request from Bridget, who curates the Link rain gauge in Hever but was on holiday, to check it as it might be rather full. Disaster! It was overflowing as never before and so our data was corrupted! Doug Bowern was on site up the road to empty the Markbeech gauge mid month so didn’t suffer the same fate and he recorded 186 mm or 7.3 inches, dramatically more than in previous years. In 2023 the combined average for the three villages was 48 mm or 1.9 inches and in 2022 it was 81 or 3.1 inches.

The Met Office Average for September in Kent is just under 50 mm so, yes, the rainfall in September was phenomenal, the wettest on record according to Dr Stephen Burt, meteorologist at the University of Reading. He also records that the year-to-date total has now exceeded our annual average rainfall of 655 mm (25.8 inches). Since 1908, only two years have been wetter at this point - in 1928 (665 mm) and 1951 (664 mm).


Symons rain gauge

Then I consulted my friend Wikipedia about the origins of rain gauges - of course there was an entry. Never to be outdone, the ancient greeks were the first known to make rainfall records from about 500 BCE. Rulers needed a reliable way to measure rain as this indicated how fertile land would be and thus how valuable. It is said that the first standardized rain gauge was introduced by King Sejong in Korea in 1441, measuring rainfall amounts to determine land tax rates.

Christopher Wren created a gauge and in 1695 Robert Hooke designed the funnel gauge many of us use today. Eminent naturalists such as Gilbert White measured rainfall, the main conclusion was that there was little discernible pattern, but it was the meteorologist George James Symons whose life’s work became the investigation of rainfall.

From 1860 Symons produced an annual analysis using readings from thousands of volunteers across the country. His experiments led to the adoption of the standard gauge, still used by the UK Meteorological Office today, measuring precipitation in millimetres in height, equivalent to litres per square metre.

Happily, assisted by readings from my garden gauge, Bridget and Ivan cleverly constructed an accurate Hever reading - so The Link delivers the data come hell or high water.

Joanna Wade

Hever Parish Council

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

Unauthorised Development

As many of you may be aware, there has been unauthorised development taking place in the parish at land west of Hever Road opposite Lodgewood Cottages. Since last year Hever Parish Council, and local residents, have regularly raised concerns about this with Sevenoaks District Council.

Unfortunately, the development continued without Planning Permission and finally, in the summer, the Enforcement Team issued a Temporary Stop Notice and subsequently an Enforcement Notice.
The landowner has now appealed (reference Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/G2245/C/24/3352309 SDC Ref: 24/00052/ENF) against the Enforcement Notice which requires the removal of the unauthorised residential building, decking and mobile homes, ceasing using the land as a residential caravan/ mobile home site, and removing the unauthorised hardstanding and access roads and security camera. They are also required to remove materials from the land and return the land to its former grassed condition.

As residents we would encourage you to object to the appeal and insist the land is restored to its original state as a Green Belt field. Comments must be submitted by 11th November via http://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate . There will be an Appeal Hearing, the date of which is yet to be confirmed. Please do keep an eye on the website www.hever.org for any updates.

Community Litter Pick

Both the Hever and Four Elms Community Litter Picks, organised and run by your Parish Councillors, were well attended and rather productive! There were approximately 32 sacks of rubbish collected, plus some old roadwork signage and a few cones that had seen better days, so well done and thank you to all those who stepped in to help to keep our verges and communal areas clear of other peoples waste.



Did you know the High Weald National Landscape has some of the darkest skies in the South East? For all the stargazers out there, the Wild About Dark Skies festival 2024 is running from 28 October to 10 November. There are several events on including stargazing, workshops, and fun family activities. Please see: Wild About Dark Skies Festival - High Weald National Landscape The festival is your chance to experience breath-taking views and join the fight against light pollution.

Finally, the next Hever Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 7th November in Hever Village Hall with Planning at 7.00 pm and full Council at 7.30 pm.

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

If you were out and about on a sunny Saturday morning at the start of October you may have seen staff and families from Hever Primary joining in the Hever Parish litter picking. Apart from playing our part in taking care of our local environment, this links into one of the key priorities on our School Development Plan this year. You may remember me writing last year about introducing our Christian vision and values (Belonging, Courage, Perseverance, Compassion and Trust) which are now firmly embedded within our school community. This year we will be developing this work in the wider community, to support our pupils to become responsible, respectful and active citizens and enable them to impact positively and reciprocally on other people's lives. This will start within our local community, through participating in activities such as litter picking and supporting at the Parish lunch and extend to building links with a village in Malawi, through The Umoyo Project. If you participate in any community projects or activities that you think our children could get involved in, please contact the school office (office@hever.kent.sch.uk)

We have welcomed many prospective families over the past few weeks to show them all that our school and our community have to offer here at Hever. If you are looking for a place for your little one for September 2025, please contact the school office (01732 862304 or email office@hever.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a tour or to join one of our Open Mornings on Thursday 21st November at 9.15am and Wednesday 11th December at 9.15am.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



news from four elms primary

Term 1 has been busy for us all at Four Elms. Our new RecepĀon cohort have seBled in really well and have made friends with their Year 6 buddies. Each class has had a day out to our Trust farm in Seal, where they have been able to get up close to the different animals that reside there.

Key stage two have spent two days at Bore Place as our collaboraĀve outdoor project conĀnues with them. The children thoroughly enjoy their days spent at Bore Place which oF en involves spending lots of Āme in nature, meeĀng the calves and cooking.

We now also have a sports specialist working with us for one day a week. She has been delivering a session a week with each class, which has been well received. Furthermore, class 3 and 4 have been working with a choreographer fortnightly and are preparing for a dance showcase in May. We are very proud of the opportuniĀes we provide for personal development as we feel this helps to develop the children's character (one of our curriculum values).

If you have a child who is due to start RecepĀon next year, we invite you to aBend our open mornings so that you can find out more about what we have to offer.

Jess Fermor
Head of School



Tuesday 22nd October 2024
Wednesday 6th November 2024

Contact the school office to book your place
01732 700274
secretary@inspiream.org.uk

STOP PRESS: Christmas card competition

see page16 for details.

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 November

Please let Ana Roxburgh beneficeemail@gmail.com have the names of any of your loved ones who have died – whether recently or in the past – so we can read them out at our All Souls ('Commemoration of the Faithful Departed') Choral Evensong at St.Paul's Four Elms on Sunday 3rd November at 6pm. Watch out for any late changes to services below. Readings and full details are also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/diary/

Date & time	Service details	Sunday
3rd Nov 10am	All Age Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	All Saints day
3rd Nov 6pm	Choral Evensong including Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at St.Paul's Four Elms	All Saints day
10th Nov 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever & Act of Remembrance at 10.45am	Remembrance
10th November 10.45am	Service of Remembrance at St.Paul's Four Elms	Remembrance
10th Nov 3pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Remembrance
11th Nov 10.45am	Hever School Act of Remembrance	Remembrance
11th Nov 12 noon	Act of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Remembrance
17th Nov 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	2nd before Advent
24th Nov 8am	BCP said communion St.Peter's Hever	Sunday before Advent
24th Nov 10am	Family service at Holy Trinity Markbeech (Christingle)	Sunday before Advent

Our Bible studies are on Mondays at 6pm and 8pm and Zoom Evening prayer is on Thursday at 6pm on 7 and 21 Nov. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. Our next men's discussion group is 26 Nov 6.30pm. For details of these please contact Simon. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone or any other help.

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
7802 809849
simonbraid@icloud.com
Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

We are looking for a great design showing the true meaning of Christmas for our 2024 Christmas Card. So, clean your brushes, sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw, paint or create a collage, then take a picture of it or scan it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.
We'll select the best creation, and we'll use it to print our 2024 Christmas card, which will go out into our parish and beyond. The winner will receive the Real Advent Calendar. The deadline for submitting your creations is **Monday 11th November** at midnight!

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

In 2022, Kate Winslet featured in L'Oreal's advertising campaign 'You're worth it'. It rather epitomizes the extreme individualism of Western society in which we live and which subconsciously shapes all of us. But what is a life worth? Stalin said famously: *'the death of one man is a tragedy, the death of millions is a statistic.'* We know how this played out during the second world war when it is estimated over 20 million Russians died. It makes the D Day landings – 80 years ago this year – at about 9,000 on all sides sound rather modest as do even the numbers in the Middle East and Ukraine. But each death is surely a personal tragedy.

As we come to Remembrance again this year, we may hear many statistics. I was moved by the BBC's 'D Day: the unheard tapes' which used actors to uncover authentic moments as told on tape by those who fought on Normandy's beaches. Each one an individual personal story. So what is a life worth? In fact war does not increase death. But it does bring death in a violent manner and earlier than would be normal. Ultimately it is something we will all face. So is it the end? In our men's discussion group a while ago we discussed 'What happens when we die?' It's a big question. The entertainer, Eddie Izzard lost his mother 2017. It had a big impact on him and he said: *I have a very strong sense that we are only on this planet for a short length of time…. Religious people…think it goes on after death. My feeling is that…it would be nice if just one person came back and let us know it was all fine... Of all the billions of people who have died, if just one of them could come through the clouds and say, you know, 'It's me Jeanine, it's brilliant…, that would be great."*

The Christian gospel declares that there is someone who has come back and that is Jesus Christ. Before he died, he promised his followers that he was going to prepare a place for them and that he would come back so that *'you also may be where I am'* (John 14:3). If heaven – the after-life – is with Jesus, then it makes sense to get to know him in this life. Because in Jesus' eyes we are worth it and every life matters.

Let's remember this as we commemorate those who've gone before us on 3rd November and those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom at Remembrance. Let's also hold in our prayers the situation in the Middle East, as we pray for peace in the world.

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

Harvest celebrations in Four Elms are worthy of mention in one of Thomas Hardy's earlier lighter novels. The delightful Primary School harvest service in St Paul's raised the roof with joyful harvest hymns and songs. The Harvest Supper was another fitting celebration where the village friends and neighbours came together to eat, drink and chat with one another. Sunday All Age harvest Holy Communion was a culmination of the celebrations and to give thanks for all we have. A huge thank you to all who made the services and harvest supper so enjoyable and, of course, to all who gave so generously with boxes of harvest gifts. With the exception of a few boxes which will be distributed in the village, all are passed on to the Edenbridge Food Bank.

After Harvest we come to the November services of Remembrance. All Souls Service is a Choral Evensong where we remember and give thanks to all those who have departed this life. For loss of a loved one, the immediate days and months are busy and filled with friends, neighbours offering condolences but as the months turn to years that loss and pain still exists while life moves on. All Soul's Service is a time for contemplation and reflection and hopefully some solace and comfort. Do please join our service at 6pm on Sunday 3rd November for peaceful prayer and reflection. The service is open to all, not just those who attend our church.

10th November we have our short Act of Remembrance service at the War Memorial in the Churchyard. During a period of such horrific conflict in the world at the moment it is fitting we pay our respects to all who have fallen during wars.

To look forward to, our "Trees, breeze and Liberty's" music and words concert in our beautiful church on Saturday 23rd November. As well as entertaining it will give you a potted history of our village and church. Book early.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Thank you to everyone who made donations of food for the Edenbridge Food Bank. These have been delivered to them by Hever CEP School.

The Hever Christmas Fair will take place at Hever Castle on Thursday 7th November, do come along and get your present shopping under way with a selection of beautiful items from independent stall holders.

We will have a variety of different Christmas services and celebrations across the Benefice watch out for more details on the website and in next month's Link.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 14th November, 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 20 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

The beautiful Harvest Festival Services are over for another year. They always have some of my favourite hymns and in these rural parishes, we have every reason to be grateful and thankful. People were very generous with gifts for the foodbanks which are, sadly, still necessary. Our Harvest lunch was very well and loyally attended. We had delicious home-made soups and popular sausages, however not enough vegetarian and vegan food so we must make a note for next year! We were delightfully entertained by a children's pantomime, and I think the children enjoyed it as much as we did. Thanks must go to Gemma for producing and organising it all.

On 27th October Holy Trinity are having their popular Family Service at 10. The choir are also beginning to practise for Choral Evensong including All Souls at St. Paul's, Four Elms on November 3rd at 6pm. Such a special heart felt service, so please include your loved ones in the list that will be read out and perhaps light a candle in remembrance. A week later, is Remembrance Sunday, this year in Four Elms. There will be an Act of Remembrance at Markbeech on the 11th, at midday.

Christingle Service will be held at Holy Trinity at 10am on the 24th November, a joyful family service where the children are much involved. The Markbeech Christmas Fair in the Barn of Falconhurst is on 23rd, thanks to Talbots, between 10 and 3, so many opportunities to purchase presents, enjoy lunches, mulled wine and so much more. Please come and support us but more importantly, start accumulating items for an exciting Christmas!

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the register:
Weddings:
7 Sep Hever Nicole Clements & Charles Lindsay
14 Sept Markbeech Katie Erica Payne & Captain Thomas Anthony Bushell
14 Sept Hever Clare Brewer and James Hill

Baptisms:
14 July Markbeech Michael O'Donnell
1 Sept Four Elms Sandra, Gabriella & Jade Moore
20 Oct Hever Florence Elizabeth Smith

Funerals:
27 August Hever Stephen Way
2 Sept Four Elms Ethel Bruce
9 Sept Hever Dr Andrew Russell
15 Oct Four Elms Ashes of David William Miles

gardening

What a wonderful garden year it has been. I have never seen my garden looking so lush and healthy and everything has thrived apart from the roses.

Hopefully we are heading for a magnificent autumn, but then the leaf fall. Do not compost any diseased leaves e.g. black spot from roses and scab from fruit trees. It will make your life a lot easier if you first cut off any perennials that have no benefits for wildlife but do leave anything with seed heads or berries and grasses too as these are fantastic homes for many insects and mammals.

November is the month I prune my redcurrants/ blackcurrants and blueberries and any other soft fruits. I also cut back to half my Buddleja, Lavatera and bush roses to save damage from wind rock. It's a good time to prune deciduous trees/shrubs but NOT cherries or plums. Evergreens leave until spring. Climbing roses would normally have been done by now but if not do them too. When cutting back use sharp tools and make the cut sloping down away from the bud so water can run off and prevent disease. This is also a good time to do hardwood cuttings and to move any shrubs or plant new ones, bare root or container grown. Likewise roses but not where they were grown before. Remove leaves now from Hellebores ready for the beautiful flowers also clear any debris from places you know snowdrops and



crocus are growing. Who said this is a quiet month?

Outside sowing can be done for broad beans, spinach and garlic also autumn sown onions. Take advantage of any runner strawberries and either pot them up or plant straight back into the ground. In the greenhouse I sow spring onions, salad leaves, peas and sweet peas (do protect the last two from mice). On wet days I'm in the greenhouses cutting back my Fuchsias and Pelargoniums and stripping off the leaves to stop any botrytis. If you haven't done already get in tender plants to overwinter and protect not only from cold but wet too before the temperature plummets.

My wildlife was the most successful this year – numerous small birds, two barn owl babies, three kestrels and two lots of kingfishers five young in each brood, three red spotted woodpeckers and two green woodpeckers, three fox cubs, and one fawn. Going into winter don't dread it but embrace it, the garden and woodlands can look starkly magnificent.

Lorraine Harrington – Blunts Brook

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FOUR ELMS												
2022	22	55	27	7	58	12	7.0	36	79	75	201	86
2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0	23	39	152	122	109
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27	64.0	28	165			
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	183			
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	186			

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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Copy for the **December/January** edition should reach us no later than **15 November** 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

November diary

Until Dec 21st **Exhibition of Edenbridge crested china,** Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge
Until Spring 2025 **Exhibition The Story of Bough Beech reservoir**,
Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge
2nd & 4th Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults
– free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on

26 and 27 Oct **Exhibition of paintings by Ray Atkin**s,
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**, Hever Village Hall planning 7pm, full council 7.30pm
9 Nov **A Seasonal Round of readings and music**, EMAT, Crockham Hill Church 4pm
9 Nov **Fauré Requiem**, Penshurst Church,
tickets online penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk 6.30pm
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
17 Nov **Cowden Christmas Fair**, Cowden Hall 12-3pm
20 Nov **Hever Hort AGM**, Hever Village Hall 8pm
22 Nov **Film Club, Inherit the Wind,** Hever Castle Golf Club 7.30pm
23 Nov **Markbeech Winter Fair**, Falconhurst Barn, 10-3pm
23 Nov **Trees, breeze and Liberty's**, St Paul's Four Elms 7pm
24 Nov **Rustic Christmas Wreath Making**, Bore Place adults £60 10am - 1pm
1 Dec **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop**, Falconhurst, £75 11 – 12.30 or 1.30 - 3pm
7 Dec **Carols in the Cowshed**, Bore Place, adults £5.50 children £3.5 3-5pm
8 Dec **Bird ringing demonstrations at Bough Beech nature reserve**,
tickets free pre booked only from Bore Place 10am-12 noon
10 Dec **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
12 Dec **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
14 Dec **Hever Village Carol**s, in the Henry from 4.30, carols in St Peter's 5.30pm
17 Jan **Film Club, Rye Lane**, Hever Castle Golf Club 7.30pm

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