April 2025

THE LINK







In this issue:

- a tale of two houses
- puppy love
- tributes to two Four Elms residents
- because the lady loves.... crisps
- easter bunny hunt
- how green is my garden

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the April Link

My dog Margot chased some deer today and as the gap between them lengthened, the deer taunted her, cantering nonchalantly in balletic swoops, kicking back their heels and showing off their fluffy tails. Why do they have those white targets as tails? I'm told they are warning beacons, opening up when there's danger but folding to almost nothing when the deer feels safe.

It may be rather bad taste to move on to talk about venison, but it is commonly accepted that the exploding deer population in the South East is a problem, not least because, despite tasty pickings in our gardens, the food supply is not infinite. Wild venison is lean and sustainable meat, Waitrose stocks it and there are a couple of specialist producers around here. Kieron sells venison (Kieron's Game 07811 182435), much of it from the Hever estate, at Penshurst farmers market on the first Saturday of every month and there is also sometimes a stall at the Edenbridge Thursday market - it is easy to cook; if doubtful start with a slow casserole and go from there.

And now for an animal returning from extinction.... .having been killed off in the UK 400 years ago, beavers are back! Nature groups will be allowed to apply for licences to start release schemes within the year and will join the several hundred already in the wild following illegal releases. The evidence of the miraculous effects beavers can have on the environment seems incontrovertible. They recently saved the Czech government £1m by building a dam, and their hydrocological skills reduce both flooding and drought as Banksy and Brooke, the beavers at Knepp, our local wilding project, have demonstrated. Please will they come and help with flooding on the River Eden? And will they make it to the international space station where the astronauts apparently suffer from an environment which is too clean. Devoid of the microbes found in soil and water, they seem particularly susceptible to immune related problems such as shingles. Meanwhile I've been watching the lark ascending and the planets aligning, luckily I won't have to wait till 2040 to hear the next lark, at least I hope not!

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



THE LINK

what I do

I have always enjoyed reading and as a child was lucky enough to have encouragement to engage in this rewarding hobby. When I saw a plea in the parish magazine for volunteer readers at the local school, I wanted to share my love of books.

My involvement with Hever School began about 20 years ago, initially as a volunteer reader, then subsequently as a Governor. After a break, I volunteered again to help with reading in the school and have so enjoyed watching the pupils progress with their learning. Over time I have worked with different year groups, first with the year 5s and 6s, where I was fascinated by their interpretations of stories and their choice of books, which was varied and wide. Last year I helped with years 2 and 3, group reading with year 3 and individuals in year 2. To experience the development of reading skills in these particular age groups is special. Taking a child at the beginning of the academic year who perhaps is struggling to focus on the words, sentences and comprehension of a book, and then to listen to them read fluently and with real engagement, is a complete pleasure.



This year my contribution has been with reading with years 1 and 2. Although it is only part way through the academic year, I am impressed at the progress of both groups. This is through regular daily reading, practising their skills at whatever level they are and building on their knowledge through books. The books offered to children these days are so much more engaging and structured to their learning. Gone are the days of "Janet and John" books, if anyone remembers those, where teaching was by constant repetition of the same words and one learned to read by memorising words! It has therefore been a learning curve for me in the way reading is now taught through the use of phonics.

Sometimes when I go into school to help with reading, the class timetable has altered and I might be involved as a general assistant, helping with crafts, other subject learning - whatever I can do to be useful to the class teacher. I have a very rewarding opportunity to help at Hever School and I so look forward to going into the classrooms each week and having this chance to share my passion for reading with a new generation.

Sue Hart

If you are interested in volunteering locally please contact Four Elms Primary School – secretary@inspiream.org.uk 01732 700274 or Hever Primary School – office@hever.kent.sch.uk 01732 862304

pets of the month

Here is a poem I wrote about my dog, Tikka and her 8 puppies that were born in January. I love having a dog and I can't imagine life any other way! Tikka is 3 and she loves walks, cuddles and food (as long as its not her boring biscuits!) She loved being a mum but she is very ready for her puppies to leave now! They are all going to lovely homes - 5 nearby - so maybe you will see them around!

The Puppies



Tikka was named after my parent's favourite food
Really disgusting actually not to be rude!
She's so good on a family walk,
Until she hears a bird squawk squawk
She runs and runs,
Having so much fun.
This is how it used to be,
Before the puppies came to be.



They wriggle, squeak and sneeze
But never seem to freeze
Until it's time to snooze
For Tikka, it's great news.
We're excited to see them grow
But how will we let them go?
The time goes so fast
How can we make it last?
We'll treasure each day
To avoid our dismay.



Whether they receive a girl or boy
They will bring so much joy
The best families, we will find
Cause these puppies are one of a kind!

Phoebe Armitstead
aged 11

Kathleen Beeney - a tribute

Nan was born on 9th August 1922 at 18 Sylvan Grove in London. She spent her childhood there, visiting grandparents in Sussex, where she loved to go hop picking with her mum, her sisters, Peg and Pat and her aunties. Nan enjoyed sports, games and ballroom dancing whilst at school, but was less keen on the academic side of school life! She also enjoyed knitting and needlecraft and used to make her own uniform for school. She was very close to her father and used to go to work with him, he said she ought to have been a boy and called her Bill. He would often take her to the Speedway track at New Cross and to Millwall Football ground. Sadly, he died when she was just 14. Nan left school at 14 and went to work at a printing factory in London, starting the day after her 14th birthday. The family moved to Burwash in Sussex after their house was bombed out in the raids of WWII. During the war, nan took on voluntary roles as a Fire Guard and a Red Cross nurse, as well as taking employment as a Postwoman.



Nan met grandad while working in the hop gardens and they moved to Stonegate after they were married. They had three children: Roy, Sue & Andrew. Nan devoted her time to raising the family and helping out on the various farms where they lived, helping with haymaking which was done by hand and working in the hop gardens. Nan was a wonderful cook and her roast dinners, stews, cakes and chocolate buns always tasted delicious. We've never been able to make ours taste the same. She was very resourceful at making produce last and would make dandelion wine, marmalade, jams and even butter. She would always make pickled onions for Christmas, which were eagerly devoured. Even up until the last two years or so, she cooked her own meals, which were always meat and two veg, or salad.

Nan was passionate about animals and could never turn away a stray cat or dog. There were always cats around the farm and even the sheep dogs were given a hot meal at the end of the day! In later life, she adopted a budgie who she called Joey and would spend many hours talking to him. Even though she used to complain that he cheeped too much, she always worried if he was too quiet!

When granddad retired in 1983, they moved to Four Elms. Nan was always

extremely proud of her beloved family. She loved to spend time with the grandchildren and often had us to stay. She would feed us up constantly and always had treats for us. One of their favourite card games was Newmarket, which we all enjoyed playing, using 1p & 2p coins. Nan would always insist that the winnings were shared between the grandchildren afterwards.

Freed from the confines of farming life, nan and grandad were able to indulge in their passion for gardening. Their beautiful garden in Four Elms was their pride and joy and looked absolutely stunning in its heyday. After grandad died, nan continued to live independently for the rest of her life. She would regularly catch the bus into Edenbridge, where she would collect her pension and buy her weekly shopping. She was shrewd and knew how to make the most of what she had.

Nan was very stubborn and feisty. She would always argue her point and would never back down in an argument, even if she knew she was in the wrong! That said, she was also caring and loyal and was never afraid to stick up for what she believed in. Nan was generous to a fault. She would give you her last penny and would always ensure that the family did not go without. She loved to give to others and was never worried about having anything for herself.

Nan remained fiercely independent, even towards the end of her life and struggled to accept the challenges of growing old. We think that this is what enabled her to keep going for so long. She passed peacefully away at the age of 102 at her home in Four Elms on Wednesday 30th October surrounded by members of her family and carers. She has left a gaping hole in our lives and is very much loved. We are happy that she is now at peace and with grandad.

Michelle Holland



Chris Ames - a tribute

On 20th February, it was standing room only at Four Elms church for the funeral of Chris Ames. The size of the congregation reflected the number of people whose lives Chris had touched. Chris and his wife, Jan moved to Prettymans Lane in the mid-1990's. Chris quickly established himself as a regular at the Four Elms Inn and remained a loyal and frequent supporter through several changes in landlord. It was the obvious choice of venue to continue the celebration of his life after the church service.

Chris was very much a part of the Prettymans Lane community and was regularly seen on patrol with his bucket and litter-picking stick. This could sometimes take half the day as he had to stop for a chat with every neighbour he saw! Chris's love of the countryside led to many friendships within the local farming community. Jan still cannot fathom how he became involved in the Tonbridge Young Farmers when he was neither young, nor a farmer! He also ran a regular clay pigeon shoot in Bidborough.

Chris started his working life in London but took to a more rural career with ease. He and Jan lived and worked at Sackville School in Hildenborough for many years. Starting as school estate manager, Chris later became transport manager for the company that purchased Sackville and, based back at home in Prettymans Lane, he travelled the country running minibus fleets for over 50 schools.

Chris was diagnosed with cancer in January 2024 at the age of 62. Right up until November he led a full and active life. However, when things came to a head, he was admitted to the Hospice in the Weald where he spent the last eight weeks of his life. The support that both he and Jan received there was second to none, including huge efforts being made to get him home briefly for Christmas. To date, donations in lieu of funeral flowers have raised £5,500 for the hospice.

Chris's passing has left a big hole in many people's lives. He was everyone's friend and was always the first to step up when someone needed a job done (especially if it involved driving a tractor or using any sort of machinery!). He was a naturally sociable person and his dry wit and good humour will certainly be missed by the regulars at the Four Elms Inn.

Jan Ames





Hever Rose and Horticultural Society
SPRING SHOW

Saturday, 5th April 2025 - Hever Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Refreshments and raffle
All welcome

And the rest of the programme for 2025, all at Hever Village Hall
Sat 10 May 10am Plant sale
Sat 7 June 2-4pm Rose Show
Sat 16 August 2-4.30pm Summer Show
Wed 17th September 8pm Talk: Hardy Geraniums Jacqueline Aviolet
Wed 15 October 8pm Talk: Plant Heritage and National Plant Collection Jude Lawton
Wed 19 November 8pm Annual General Meeting
full details on the Hever Hort tab of the Hever.org website



mystery and tragedy - the lost houses of the eden valley

"The Stately Homes of England,
How beautiful they stand,
To prove the upper classes
Have still the upper hand;
Though the fact that they have to be rebuilt
And frequently mortgaged to the hilt
Is inclined to take the gilt
Off the gingerbread...."



Weardale Manor

Thus wrote Noel Coward in 1938. And where are they now? An estimated one in six of English country houses, many of architectural merit, were pulled down during the 20th century after upkeep became prohibitive and servants impossible to find. The Eden Valley was no exception and two examples stand out: Weardale Manor and Boons Park.

Every time I puff my way up the hill from the Toys Hill crossroads, the éclat of the view and the romantic ruin that was Weardale never fails to remove the little breath I have left. With true Victorian imperialist grandeur Philip James Stanhope, Lord Weardale (also of the Stanhope Arms in Brasted) chose the most prominent spot on the hillside to plant his flag - a mansion with 145 rooms completed in 1906. A politician and trustee of the new National Portrait Gallery he was married to Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, a Russian noblewoman and they spent their summers in luxury on the hill surrounded by landscaped terraces and lawns and served by a large cohort of staff. But it is ultimately a sad story as the romance of the site soon faded after Lord Weardale died in 1923 - his widow found the place lonely and returned to live permanently in London. When she died in 1934 without issue the already dilapidated house was further neglected by her nephew and the manor was pulled down in 1939, two German bombs finishing off most of what was left. All you can see now is the terrace looking out over four counties and, if you search hard, the tennis court.

What did Octavia Hill (1939-1912), busy preserving open countryside on Toys Hill for the National Trust, think of Weardale? Luckily the other family in our saga, the Williamses, were in the business of giving the Trust what it wanted. If you go into Four Elms church the names of four generations of Williamses dominate the stained glass windows and the plaques on the walls, and some lie in a hedged off



Boons Park
www.mikeharrisphoto.co.uk

section of the churchyard. They built a large mansion at Boons Park in about 1896 which has now been pulled down and is to be redeveloped.

The story is tantalising however because the Williams family were wealthy local benefactors long before their mansion was built. Co-editor Bridget and I have spent hours trying to work out why they were so strongly associated with Four Elms and became major benefactors when the church was built in 1881, 14 years or so before the mansion was completed and whilst mainly living in London.

The family connection with the area seems to have begun with a John Williams who built the Congregational chapel in 1831, the first place of worship in Four Elms. The Williamses seem already to have been considerable landowners in the area, at the centre of their estate was a farmhouse at Boons (also spelt Boones) where their bailiff lived and where they possibly stayed too. The family fortunes came from running tanneries in Greenwich and Deptford and John's sons John (1800-1886) and Samuel (1801-1858) evidently became wealthy. John junior had moved from his humble roots to live at 98 Eaton Square, but never down here as far as we can work out. Samuel's son Charles (1849-1927) was born in Greenwich, but is recorded as living in Dalston in London in the 1880s and subsequently, Speldhurst. He was a local worthy, territorial army colonel, JP and the rest and when back in Kent in later life lived not at Boons but in Ivy House, also known as Bough Beech Place on the Boons estate. His home was itself a ruin by the 1960s and was pulled down to make way for the reservoir.

As far as we can tell, the first Williams to live at Boons for any length of time was John junior's son Herbert (1855 – 1906) who is credited with



In memory of John Williams

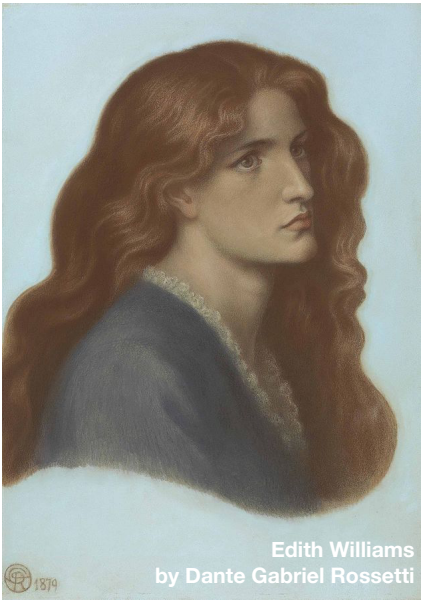


Mr and Mrs Hastie-Kennedy of Boons Park, Four Elms, c.1899. © EVMT EDEVT: P2008.1566

building the mansion and assisting with the setting up of the school and ensuring a pure water supply for the village. He seems to have been in no rush to take up residence and the new house was let out to the Vardon Browns who left in 1903 for Beaumonts on Five Fields Lane which was designed for them by the well-known architect Robert Schultz, also architect of How Green House.

Herbert died in 1906 while visiting Great Yarmouth after years of heavy drinking culminating in downing a bottle of whisky a day for the last six weeks of his life. His brother Arthur (educated at Harrow) inherited but he was an invalid and Boons was let to his cousin Charles's son Sidney (born in Hackney in 1872) in about 1909. The census of 1911 found Sidney and his wife Juana at Boons where they probably remained until he died in 1954 and she in 1963. The dynasty had ended tragically when Sidney's only beloved son, John, died age 33 in 1940.

Two other members of the Williams family are worth a mention. First, John's daughter Theresa Stansfeld Hastie Kennedy (1850-1939) who lived in Dunure in Leamington Spa. In 1935 she gave 19 acres at Toys Hill to the National Trust, playing fields in Four Elms to the community and built a house, also called Dunure, as a rest home for clergy (we think that the house is now called Dunmore opposite The Elms). She made annual gifts of beef and groceries to the cottagers of Four Elms and Toys Hill on her brother Arthur's behalf and also set up a Trust for children to receive an orange, a bun and sixpence every Christmas, this continued until the 1960s according to the Eden Valley museum who have kindly helped with this research.



Edith Williams
by Dante Gabriel Rossetti

We don't think Theresa ever lived round here but she treated Boons as home. She died aged nearly 90, her funeral was in Four Elms and she is buried in the churchyard.

And then there is Samuel's daughter Edith Sarah (1851- 1919). She is buried in Speldhurst but has a memorial in Four Elms church. Remarkably she was painted by Rossetti in 1879 - when her portrait was up for sale in 2000 it had a reserve of £725k. She married Sir Arthur Sackville Griffith-Boscawen MP for Tunbridge Wells in 1892 when he was 26 and she 40.

The Guthrie's, who now own Hever Castle, bought the greater part of the Boons estate in 1965. The house was a care home for 20 years or so and in 1982 a drugs rehab unit for the Kenward Trust for about 25 years. The site was derelict by 2008 and all the buildings had been pulled down by 2014 - by developers whose projects didn't get off the ground; signs are that work is now underway to build 8 houses.

There is a novel in all this perhaps, but understanding and piecing together history, even such recent history, is very hard!

Joanna Wade



EASTER EGG HUNT





SATURDAY 19 APRIL

3.30 PM

ST PETER'S HEVER

Children great and small are welcome to the hunt in St Peter's churchyard (inside the church if wet).... with pebble painting and games - and coffee and cake for the adults!

The hunt is sponsored by the Hever Residents Association and St Peter's Hever - entry is free with a collection for the refurbishment of the Hever Village Hall

Easter card competition

We only had 3 entries for our Easter Card competition this year, but they are all so beautiful that we'd like to share them with you. So much thought and love has gone into the artwork, thank you for your entries Poppy Joannou, Albie Ralph and Sarah Mills. We have been delighted to receive your creations and we will print an equal number of each.



Albie



Sarah



Poppy

Falconhurst Cricket Club early summer fixtures



April				**June**			
Sat 26	Chiddingstone	Home	12.30pm	Sun 8	Westerham	Away	2.00pm
May				Sat 14	Chairman's XI	Home	2.30pm
Sun 4	Chessmen	Home	1.30pm	Sun 15	Linden Park	Away	1.30pm
Sun 11	Fletching	Home	1.30pm	Sun 22	Cowden	Home	1.30pm
Sat 17	Refreshers	Home	1.30pm	Sun 29	Hartfield	Home	1.30pm
Sun 25	Outwood	Away	1.30pm				
Sat 31	Chelsfield CC	Home	1.30pm				

Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have standing orders or other arrangements in place to pay your sub in the course of the year. If you haven't, please pay now. We had to chase up lots of subs last year, please don't wait to be chased again. If you aren't sure of your position please contact Bridget, contact and payment details on page 25.

The annual sub is unchanged at a modest £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at www.hever.org BUT please let us know. Many thanks

desert island crisps

Our regular desert island whisks column features kitchen implements which we cannot do without. When contemplating this subject I realised that crisps, almost universally loved, are one of those rare treats which cannot successfully be made at home. True addicts could invest in an industrial piece of kit called a continuous fryer - this moves the crisps, sliced thinly and evenly, with starch and moisture removed, on a conveyor belt through consistently hot oil, but they cost thousands of pounds.



Crisps are loved worldwide and, predictably, there is a Museum of Crisps which tells me that there are at least 1,300 different flavours of crisp in the world ranging from salmon sushi to mustard mayonnaise and, of course, marmite. £25 will buy you a "crisp bouquet" for an addicted dear one in lieu of flowers. It is a crowded market. Frank Smith started his crisp factory in Cricklewood behind a pub in 1919, Golden Wonder was born in an Edinburgh bakery on 1947 and Walker's in a Leicester butcher's in 1948; it is now owned by PepsiCo. From the 1950s food scientists began to perfect the production of imitative food flavouring and cheese and onion, the nation's favourite, was born.

But then some producers turned their backs on industrial production and "hand cooked", posh or "premium"crisps arrived along with attractive variations in colouring, the odd burnt bit at the bottom of the bag - and oyster flavouring. Posh crisps are "hand cooked" according to potatopro.com. The first on the scene were Kettle Chips UK which arrived in Norwich from Oregon in 1987 (presumably that's why the product is called chips not crisps). They are still the market leader but competitors include Torres "artisanal" crisps from Spain with their flagship black truffle flavour. Kent Crisps (eg sea salt with Biddenden cider) were founded in 2011 using local potatoes grown sustainably. Kent are a rare example of an independent company working hard for a market share, one worth fighting for as every year the nation eats the equivalent weight of one of the world's largest container ships (186,000 tonnes) and spends nearly £1bn on crisps and snacks.

I have oil and a mandolin, and I could try hand cooking, but I still have fingers and I hope to keep it that way so I'm off to Waitrose to browse and buy.

Joanna Wade



Hever Parish Council

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

Our Parish has been victim of fly-tipping (illegal dumping of rubbish) over recent months. We now have covert CCTV which is moved to different locations and signs have been put up, with the hope of deterring potential fly-tips. Some offenders have also been taken to court. We urge residents to do what they can to discourage this:

Vigilance – be aware of suspicious vehicles, note of registration number and make/model of vehicle.

Report – If you witness a fly-tip as it is happening please call 101, the Police non-emergency number, to report the incident. If you discover a fly-tip and it is not on private property please contact Sevenoaks District Council via their website or call 01732 227000.

Waste licence checks. There may be a time when you need to use a private company to remove household, garden or construction waste. Under the Household Waste Duty of Care Regulations, individuals have a legal duty to only give household waste to a person who is authorised to accept that waste. You could be fined if you don't use a person with a waste licence if they dump the waste which may be traced back to you. To check if the person you are using is authorised to remove waste please check the register: https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers

Register your CCTV or doorbell camera with Kent Police. The Kent and Essex CCTV registry is a secure platform where you can register your CCTV and doorbell cameras. By registering, you can help police identify potential CCTV or video evidence following an incident. Register today and help keep your community safe. Please note, the police will not have access to your cameras and will only be able to view the location of registered cameras. They will look at locations only if there's been an incident nearby and footage could help support investigations and would then contact the camera owner to request footage. To register please visit https://cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk/.

With the ever-increasing cost of keeping homes warm, HPC have invested in an infrared camera for local residents to borrow, free of charge, to help identify areas of heat loss in their homes. If you would like to borrow the camera to do this, please email the clerk@hever.org

With the Easter Holidays approaching, Eden Valley Museum is offering a free Easter themed Children's Activity Session which is on Tuesday 15th April, from 10 am to midday. Interested parties should contact the museum to book a place.

On a final note, we have the Annual Parish Assembly coming up on Tuesday 20th May in Hever Village Hall. The evening will start at 7.00 pm with refreshments being served, some interesting local speakers followed by the chance to meet other residents from the Parish and of course to talk to your Parish Councillors. All residents are welcome to join us.

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

work of hever primary pupils inspired by henri rousseau





above: years 1 & 2
centre: years 3 & 4
below: years 5 & 6







news from four elms primary

At Four Elms Primary School we believe that every child has the right to feel safe, valued, and heard. As a Rights Respecting School, we are committed to creating an environment where children understand their rights and responsibilities, empowering them to become confident, respectful, and engaged members of society. By embedding the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into our school ethos, we ensure that children not only learn about their rights but also experience them in action every day.

A Rights Respecting School This month, I would like to share with you what we do as a Rights Respecting School. We are proud to hold the Gold Award for Rights Respecting. The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured, and they are able to thrive. There are four key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting School: wellbeing, participation, relationships, and self-esteem.

Children are healthier and happier
Children feel safe
Children have better relationships
Children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

Teaching and Learning About Rights We teach the children about the rights of a child (from the UNCRC) through things such as the curriculum, assemblies, and displays. By embedding these rights into everyday learning, we ensure that children understand their own rights and the rights of others.

Teaching and Learning Through Rights We reinforce a rights-respecting culture by modelling rights-respecting language and attitudes. One key initiative is our Justice League, a group of students who help others use the restorative approach to solve minor problems and disputes on the playground. Both children and staff model rights-respecting language, and our behaviour policy is grounded in a rights-respecting approach. Through this, we aim to create a culture where mutual respect is consistently demonstrated and upheld.

Being Ambassadors for the Rights of Others As a Rights Respecting School, we encourage our students to develop as global citizens by learning about global issues and the lives of other children around the world. We inspire them to take action through both local and global campaigns. A recent example of this was our climate change initiative, launched this term with a 'Switch Off' day. On this day, we reduced energy consumption as much as possible throughout the school, raising awareness of energy saving. Now, in their classes, students are exploring further ways they can make a difference in tackling climate change. Through these initiatives, we empower our students to be proactive, socially responsible citizens who contribute to a better world.

If you would like to find out more about what we do, or feel you can contribute to our work in any way, please do contact secretary@inspiream.org.uk.

Jess Fermor, Head of School

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
Eden Valley Builders	extensions, conversions and general building	07778431470
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
Michael Beall	bespoke carpentry and joinery	07796 175140
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559

Dog Training

Claire Cook, Positive Reinforcement Dog Trainer in Edenbridge		07818 070672

Education

Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315

Fitness and Health

BDHL private & group health insurance and corporate wellbeing		01892 891900
Flexi Foot Care Home – Diane Fletcher	visiting podiatrist/chiropodist	0790 3293533
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 700771
Step by Step, Michelle Hogan,	mobile foot care practice	07786 038149
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Paul Marro Cognitive Hypnotherapy	www.htherapy.co.uk	01732 808211
Realign, osteopathy and personal training	www.realign-osteo.co.uk	07841 776591
Smart Nutrition and Fitness	personal training for midlife women & 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
SA Landscaping	landscaping, garden maintenance, fencing, driveways and more	01732 671146
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815

Home Services

Daren Wood	chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
MOLE CATCHER, Peter King		Mob:07432 813614 or 01892 520287
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

Restaurants

Greyhound at Hever	restaurant with rooms, open to non-residents	01732 862221

Taxis

Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800

Venue Hire and Weddings

Falconhurst Weddings	01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall	01342 850328



Church in April

Easter Sunday is 20th April this year. 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
6th April 10am	All Age Holy communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lent 5
13th April 8am	BCP Morning prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Palm Sunday
13th April 10am	Palm Sunday Family service with donkeys at Holy Trinity Markbeech followed by Holy Communion (see below)	Palm Sunday
17th April 6pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Maundy Thursday
18th April 12 noon	Devotion at the Cross St.Peter's Hever	Good Friday
20th April 9.15am	Family Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Easter Sunday
20th April 11am	Family Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter Sunday
27th April 8am	BCP said Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Easter 1
27th April 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter 1

There will be a donkey procession on Palm Sunday at Holy Trinity Markbeech. To join the procession through the woods, please meet at Falconhurst at 9.45am. There will be services of Compline or Night Prayer during Holy week at 6pm on Monday 15th at St.Peter's Hever and Tuesday 16th at St.Paul's Four Elms. Our Lent course finishes on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm at Idling Four Elms. For details please contact Simon. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
07802 809849
simonbraid@icloud.com

Wardens

Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
01342 850776

Administrator Ana Roxburgh beneficeemail@gmail.com



Palm Sunday 2024 St.Paul's Four Elms

our rector's thoughts

As I get older, it seems that I am more likely to lose things, which I hate. A few years ago I read the amazing story of a Swedish woman, who lost her wedding ring when she took it off to do some baking. She then found it 16 years later when she dug up a carrot, which had grown right through the middle of the ring! We all lose things: our car keys, mobile phones, wallet or wedding rings. We might even lose our grip on reality, lose the plot, lose our freedom or just feel lost in a world, which seems increasingly at odds with what we were used to. I once lost a paperback book and always wondered where it had gone. It then turned up at a Jumble Sale and I found myself having to buy it back!

Jesus talked a lot about losing things and finding them again. In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables about a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son ('the prodigal son') to describe God's love for us and longing for us to return to him. Easter is the culmination of God's rescue mission to humanity achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection. Indeed, when the early Church sought to interpret what God had done in Christ's death on the cross, it often used words like 'bought' or 'purchased'. Jesus himself said he had come 'to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mark 10:45). That's why John Newton, the 18th Century slave trader, described his conversion in the hymn 'Amazing Grace' as follows: 'I once was lost, but now am found…'

Jesus also talked about losing ourselves: 'Whoever finds his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39). The idea of 'losing our lives' sounds incredibly negative and we even use this very term for death. But so often Jesus takes something familiar and turns it around. In giving up ourselves and placing our trust in him, it is then that we find true life and joy. If we lose ourselves for Jesus's sake, then paradoxically we find ourselves becoming more of who we are.

Why not join one of our Easter services and reflect on what Jesus has done? Two final thoughts: look after your wedding ring and check your carrots carefully!

God bless you all.

Simon



News from the pews

Four Elms

Oh what joy to finally enjoy the warmth of an early spring day, to see the host of snowdrops and crocus and the daffodils just about to burst into life with their golden heads. Its hardly surprising Wordsworth was moved to dedicate a poem to the daffodil.

The last of winter seems endless but suddenly it seems we have arrived at spring, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and, of course, the period of Lent, a time of reflection and renewal. In the middle we have Mothering Sunday. The tradition of Mothering Sunday in the UK began when young people (usually girls) had left home to work in service and a Sunday in Lent was to allow them to return to their mothers and their mother church. These days we celebrate Mothering Sunday for all who have cared for us and offer a small posy of flowers at our service to be given to someone special to you. Do please join us for our All Age Mothering Sunday Service.

As I write, candidates are preparing for their confirmation at St Peter's Hever on 14th March. We send our love and prayers to them all. Speaking of celebrations, thank you Holy Trinity Markbeech for the wonderful World Day of Prayer, this year written and adapted by the people of the Cook Islands.

On a more secular note, our first meeting of the Village Fete committee takes place to put the wheels in motion for the 2025 event. We always welcome willing hands. If you are able to help during the Fete weekend do please make contact. And don't forget we have our "Enjoy a Cuppa" on Tuesday 8th April. Enjoy the springtime and let us give praise for our beautiful countryside at this time of the year.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

We had a busy time in mid-March welcoming Holly Ruthven into the church family at her baptism. This was followed by a confirmation service led by Bishop Jonathan for 15 candidates, 12 people from our Benefice churches and 3 from St Mary's, Leigh. It is heart-warming to see more people affirming their Christian faith.

Our Annual Parochial Church Council (APCM) meeting will follow the 10am service on May 18th. There will be an Electoral Roll form available shortly on the Three Spires website, please download, complete it and return it to Sam Joannou our Electoral Roll Officer.

We have a variety of services in Holy Week starting at Hever with Compline, a service of quiet contemplation and reflection, on Tuesday at 6pm. Details of all the Easter services will be on our website and on the Benefice Easter card. Our very popular Easter egg hunt supported by the Hever Residents

Association will take place in St. Peter's churchyard on 19th April at 3.30pm.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 10th April, 12.30 for 1pm lunch. We normally have around 24 people and serve soup, fruit and a delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the Parish is very welcome but it would be helpful for catering, if you can, to let us know that you are coming or have any special dietary requirements.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

The end of February reminded us how good Spring can make us feel. In Markbeech we celebrated Orlando's Christening with great joy and the beginning of March saw the "team" preparing the Church (although Lent, Simon kindly allowed garlands, flowers, shells, a canoe and a Parrot in the Pulpit) for the World Day of Prayer. This was to remind us that the service this year came from the Cook Islands and was a joyful evening of prayer and unity. Thanks to the ECC, and especially Simon and Nicki, all the local churches were involved, and our very talented choir master really made the organ swing, and the music added to the atmosphere. My sincere thanks to all, Liz for producing delicious tropical juice amongst so many other things; Doreen for reminding us about and producing cheese and pineapple, Lynnie for her delicious cheese biscuits. And all the ladies of Markbeech for returning the church to being fit for a Lent Family service on the Sunday.

By the time you read this, the Confirmation Service will have taken place at Hever – a very special day for the Benefice. Followed by the popular Family Service at Holy Trinity on the 23rd March and at Four Elms, Mothering Sunday on the 30th with flowers for all who care for children and a welcome to all.

Markbeech has a family Service on Palm Sunday, 13th April – meeting in the drive of Falconhurst at 9.45 – thank you Talbots, (though please park in usual way at the Church and walk down the Church path). Donkeys (with many thanks to Sal Hamlyn) will accompany our journey back to Holy Trinity where we will meet with all who cannot, or do not want to walk. There will be a short Communion at the end of the Service.

Janey Cooper
PCC secretary

From the register:

Baptisms

2nd February Markbeech Orlando Calvocoressi

16th March Hever Holly Elizabeth Ruthven

Funerals

20th February Four Elms Christopher Ames

25th February Four Elms Kathleen Beeney

gardening

Well, what a winter we have had with constant frosts and wet weather keeping many of us out of the garden. Thank goodness for the mimosa and witch hazel which have at least given some winter colour to the patio pots. Now is my favourite time of the year with the spread of spring flowers from snowdrops and daffodils on to tulips, and waiting for the electric blue of the ceanothus and variety of colours from the rhododendrons.

Assuming that we can now get into the garden it is an ideal time to identify daffodils that haven't produced so that you can take action, this might include giving them a potash feed or even digging them up once the foliage has died back and splitting into individual bulbs for replanting in the autumn. It is also a good idea to identify areas that might benefit from the planting of bulbs in the autumn for next year's flowers as often we forget where the blooms have been.

Garden centres and nurseries are full of lovely annuals but do be aware that we can still have late frosts so don't be too keen to get them planted as you may risk losing them. The Hever Horticultural Society have a plant sale at 10am 10th May at Hever Village Hall and you will be able to purchase a wide variety of annuals, perennials and other plants kindly supplied by both members and George Payne a local nurseryman.

Why not put the date in your diary and pop along.

For those of us with a vegetable plot it still isn't too late to turn the soil over, removing any stones and weeds before planting out seeds and plants. If you are adding organic matter, such as manure and compost, you should really leave it to settle for a period before planting out. You can get seeds going in either a greenhouse if you are lucky enough to have one or in trays on a window sill if you don't. Once we are free of frost and the soil temperature has warmed you can then plant them out in the vegetable patch.

Whatever it is that you enjoy in the garden you can do as much or as little as you want, and sometimes gradually adding plants and shrubs year by year can be really rewarding and not too expensive.

Wishing you all Happy Gardening

David Dutton



benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
FOUR ELMS													
2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0	23	39	152	122	109	797
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27	64.0	28	165	86	77	78	909
2025	89	61											150
HEVER													
2023	80	2	111	93.5	37	33.5	58.5	23.5	59	152	131	110	890.5
2024	73	136	81.5	57.5	48.5	25	73.5	31.5	183	82.5	62	52	906
2025	126	54.5											180.5
MARKBEECH													
2023	90	4	123	105	31	34	56.0	32	48	161	142	106	932
2024	80	139	95	71	61	29	62.0	44	186	77	79	60	983
2025	114	71											185

HALL BOOKINGS

Four Elms – Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Hever – Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech – Mrs Paige 01342 850328

COUNCILS

Kent County Councillor
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Margot.McArthur@kent.gov.uk

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Copy for the **May** edition should reach us no later than **18 April** Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer and £18 if sent by post.
To pay you can send a cheque payable to 'The Link' with your address to 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or 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

april diary

Until 31 May 2025 **Exhibitions: The Story of Bough Beech reservoir and Healthcare in our Town**, 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

From June 5 to July 13 **Grange Park Opera festival**, West Horsley, Surrey for more: grangeparkopera.co.uk

29 Mar	**Community Litter pick,** Four Elms	9am
29 Mar	**The Crucifix Stainer**, Penshurst Choral Soc, Penshurst Church tickets £15 child £5	6.30pm
1 Apr	**Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall	2.30-4.30pm
5 Apr	**Hever Rose & Horticultural Society Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall	2 – 4pm
8 Apr	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
10 Apr	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
12 Apr	**The ABBA Reunion**, Hever Festival Theatre, tickets heverfestival.co.uk	7.30pm
13 Apr	**Birdsong walk**, Bore Place, tickets adult £20, child £11	9 – 11.30am
13 Apr	**Shoe Baby, Longnose puppets**, Hever Festival Theatre, tickets heverfestival.co.uk	2pm
16 Apr	**The Knave, Raleigh**, Hever Festival Theatre, tickets see above	7.30pm
19 Apr	**Easter Egg Hunt,** Hever Churchyard	3.30pm
26 Apr	**Spring foraging walk**, Bore Place, tickets £35	2 – 4.30pm
6 May	**Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall	2.30-4.30pm
8 May	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
10 May	**Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place, £80	10am – 4pm
10 May	**Hever Hort plant sale**, Hever Village Hall	10am
12 May	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
15 May	**Bat Walk**, Bore Place tickets £12.50	8.15 – 9.45pm
20 May	**Annual Parish Assembly**, Hever Village Hall	7pm
7 June	**Hever Hort Rose Show**, Hever Village Hall	10am
12 June	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
22 June	**Kefir making workshop**, Bore Place £35	10.30am – 1pm
28 June	**Summer Foraging Walk**, Bore Place £35	2 – 4.30pm
6 Jul	**Introduction to Rag Rugging**, Bore Place £60	10am - 4pm

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