June 2025

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Mooooo!
- House-proud Hugo
- Vivacious Victorian Vicar
- A rose by any other name
- Set in stone

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the June Link

The yellow rape fields have turned to bluey green as the wheat starts to erupt and the sheep have been shorn, much to their relief, emerging from their heavy fleeces like Michelangelo's prisoners. Ours take a while to recognise one another so there is a bit of head butting until the penny drops (I would like to say that they are in many other ways more intelligent than their reputation allows). Unfortunately, the cost of shearing is still higher than the price paid by the Wool Board for each fleece, not their fault, the market is still very low despite heroic efforts by many to expand the use of wool into home insulation et cetera.

The 80th anniversary of VE day was marked with beacon lighting in Hever, the church bells rang and the parish lunch had a VE theme, always remembering the relief that peace brought on that day. It was poignant that Jacob Tisdall, a pupil at the School and several generations away from the war lit the beacon.

This year is also the anniversary of the chocolate digestive biscuit (regularly top of Britain's favourite biscuit list). It has been made by McVitie since 1925 as a follow-up to the plain digestive first manufactured in 1892. It was "discovered" by two Scottish doctors who believed that its sodium bicarbonate would help the digestion. Experts say you should eat the biscuit upside down because that way you get to taste the chocolate more quickly, will this catch on?

And what a sunny time we have had! The rainfall charts are remarkable. Conditions for the London Marathon were ideal and an incredible 57,000 people crossed the start line, making it the biggest in the event's history. The women's elite race saw a new world record and there were 42 new Guinness World Records - including the fastest runners dressed as crustaceans. Well I never

Joanna Wade



what I do - chiddingstone dairy

I had forgotten how delicious whole milk is, thinking that semi skimmed was now the way. I was so wrong and I'm now a regular "subscriber" to the dairy. I like their user-friendly website which lets you order all sorts as well as milk but, crucially, cancel so you can live your life without pressure to make rice puddings when a glut appears. I enjoyed speaking to Paul Vicary and he's written us this piece about his work.



"What I do as co-founder of Chiddingstone Dairy, is more than just farming. My family has farmed in this area for four generations, working land in Cowden, Hever, Four Elms, and Chiddingstone. That deep-rooted history gives us a strong foundation, but since creating the dairy, I've come to see our role differently. We are not just farmers — we are providing our community with exceptional fresh and high-welfare food whilst rebuilding the connection with the farmer who produces it. And I'm immensely proud of that.

We started the dairy with just 20 doorstep deliveries. Today, we are delivering over 1,250 times a week. That growth reflects a hunger for something better—milk that's creamy and fresh, not bland and watery like supermarket alternatives. And our meats? They speak for themselves. Gone are the days of dry, tasteless pork that needed ketchup or apple sauce just to make it edible. Our farm-reared meat is full of real flavour because it's raised with care, attention, and respect.

What I enjoy most, though, is the relationship with our customers. We regularly host farm events —welcoming families and showing people the real work behind the food they eat. That connection is powerful. It's changed both how people see farming, and how I see what we do.

People are often surprised that when they call the dairy, it is me who picks up. I genuinely love that, there's something special about being able to speak to your farmer—to ask about your milk or even just how the cows are doing. And if you'd like to meet us in person, we'll be at the Four Elms Fete—so come and say hi, grab a milkshake, or pick up a pack of our creamy, handmade butter! To learn more or subscribe, visit our website: www.chiddingstonedairy.co.uk

What I do isn't always easy, but it's meaningful. From early starts to late nights, everything we do at Chiddingstone Dairy comes from the heart. We're not just feeding people—we're building trust, community, and a better way of doing food."

Joanna Wade

pet of the month

Hugo-the-handsome, aka Huggy Bear, became part of our family ten years ago, arriving on a snowy day in February. He was rescued from an unwanted litter, with very little known about his parentage. Hugo is definitely part spaniel, he has the ears and coat of a Flatcoated Retriever, and goodness knows who's long, feathered tail. After that, however, there is only uncertainty; we therefore refer to him as a pedigree mongrel, as there must be some pedigree genes in him somewhere!

Hugo is a boundless bundle of energy and loves a good game of fetch but he can also sleep for England. His greatest aim is to get as close as possible to a human and to lean on their legs – after all, he only has four of his own and can do with the extra support. This also enables his deep golden-brown eyes to gaze pleadingly "cuddle me/ stroke me/ rub my tummy, or preferably all at once".

Hugo has some very dear canine friends, especially our daughters' dogs, and will happily give up his basket and favourite toys for them – the perfect host. Given the chance to escape – a rare occurrence since the installation of a deer-proof fence very early on in his life – Hugo loves to visit our neighbours, seeking out as many humans as he can, for the aforementioned cuddles, even gate crashing a garden party. Hugo's own humans provide him with plenty of love, but can a dog ever have enough? As you will see from the photo, Hugo is keen to join in with any human activity that might earn him yet more snuggles, including window cleaning.

Even from the deepest slumber, Hugo can recognise the rustle of the carrot bag when it's time to prepare the vegetables for supper, and he appears in an instant. He waits patiently until a piece is lobbed to him across the kitchen, but his favourite game is hunt-the-carrot and he is a very happy chappy when he finds his "orange stick".

It really isn't possible to describe how we feel about having Hugo in our lives. He is always happy to be with us; he listens to every word with rapt attention and is a great comfort when life is a bit tricky. He seems to know when his humans need that extra bit of love and it's always unconditional. I know that every dog wants to be someone's best friend, but I'm so lucky that Hugo is mine.

Hilary Jones



ART IN JUNE

OPEN STUDIOS

6-22 JUNE 2025

A celebration of 80+ artists and makers across Sevenoaks, the Eden Valley, Kent and Surrey border

From solo studios to those exhibiting together, there is nothing more magical than being able to enter the world of an artist. Come meet us. Chat and see us demonstrate and, if you so desire, take part in one of our workshops.

Look out for our FREE guide
or visit our website to learn more about our artists and plan your visits.



artinjune.org

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ArtinJuneKent

stone 25 at falconhurst

Over the past year I have been absorbed with stone. I have visited shows, galleries and studios, meeting sculptors to discuss the stone they choose and their process. I have thought about how and why we love to see not only plants in our gardens but also physical objects and what our relationship is with them. It is now an acknowledged fact that our gardens are good for us. Unlike the wilder aspects of the countryside they offer us a protected space which gives us respite from the outer world and away from the pressures of life. It is here we can allow our inner world space to reflect and rest.

As well as all this deep reflection we need to have joy, love and fun in our lives. The piece of beautifully carved Zimbabwean greenstone that sits in our walled garden is a constant reminder to me of my kind and wonderful family who gave this to me for my 50th birthday.

We have nineteen sculptors this year at Falconhurst bringing you some of the finest stone carving skills in the country. They will be displayed in the garden, and the drawing room. One, that will be difficult to miss, will be placed on the triangle in the middle of Markbeech Village. It is called Ionian Flame III by Dominic Welch.

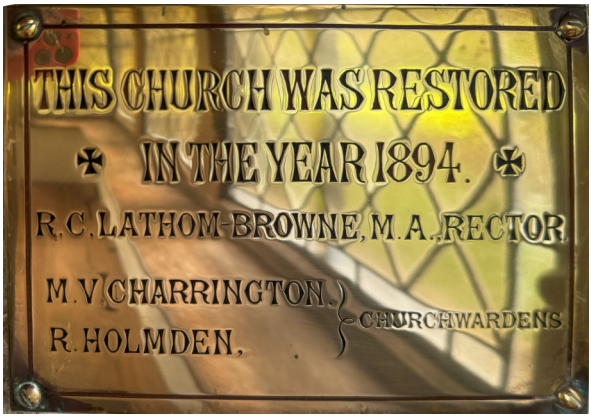
The show opens on Sunday 27th June and runs until Saturday 26th July. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nicki Talbot



remembering a remarkable rector

As you enter the St Peter's through the south porch have you noticed the brass plaque commemorating its replacement and the refurbishment of our church? It proudly bears the name of Revd R.C. Lathom Browne and his team of churchwardens. But who was this gentleman who clearly left such a lasting mark on our parish? Let's take a step back in time and discover more about him.



Born Robert Charles Browne in London in October 1845, he came from a distinguished family. His father was the Venerable Robert William Browne, the Archdeacon of Bath, and his mother was Caroline Bird. Young Robert was educated at Downing College, Cambridge, where he earned his BA in 1869 and later his MA. Interestingly, during his time at university, he also developed a passion for the rather unique sport of real tennis!

Before arriving in Hever, Revd Lathom Browne served in various roles after being ordained in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. He was a curate in Weston-Super-Mare, then ministered at Grosvenor Chapel before becoming the Vicar of North Curry in Somerset for thirteen years. It was during his time in North Curry that a significant family connection unfolded. He married Florence Lathom Chard in October 1879. It would appear that the newlyweds joined her middle name with his surname and they became the Lathom Brownes. Florence had a rather famous brother – Major John Rouse Merriott Chard VC, the hero of Rourke's Drift. In fact, Revd Lathom Browne was heavily involved in the welcoming celebrations when Major Chard returned to North Curry. It must have been a whirlwind week for both families, culminating in the wedding just five days later. They went on to have two children, Millicent and Hardinge.

A pivotal moment for our parish came in 1873 when Revd Lathom Browne's father, the Archdeacon, purchased the living of Hever and, when the previous Rector passed away in 1890, he presented his son to Bishop Benson as the new Rector. Revd Lathom Browne arrived in Hever with a clear vision for improvement. He immediately turned his attention to the local school, adding a much-needed new classroom. When the old building was later deemed unsuitable, he spearheaded an energetic campaign to build a brand new school for the village children. But his dedication didn't stop there. He recognised the need to restore the church and embarked on a significant fundraising effort, successfully raising

well over £1,000 – a considerable sum in those days. By 1894, the church had been transformed with new oak pews and choir stalls, levelled and re-tiled aisles, renovated ceilings in the chancel and nave, a raised floor in the chancel and Bullen chapel, and a brand new font. A vestry was even created in the tower, complete with a mezzanine ringing chamber, and the church roof was re-tiled. Revd Lathom Browne's vision and hard work shaped the church as it looks today.

His commitment to the community spanned three decades. During his thirty years as Rector, he played a prominent role in marking significant national events, including Queen Victoria's jubilee and the coronations of King Edward VII and King George V. He also oversaw the erection of our War Memorial, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made. Beyond his spiritual leadership, Revd Lathom Browne was deeply involved in village life in Hever. When Parish Councils were first established in 1894, he became the first Chairman, a role he held until his retirement in 1920. He was clearly passionate about the well-being of the entire parish.

And his interests extended beyond the church and local government. He was the first president of the Hever Rose and Horticulture Society, demonstrating a love for the beauty of nature and a desire to foster community spirit through shared interests.

Upon retiring in 1920, Revd Lathom Browne and his wife Florence moved to Hove. There, his love for real tennis was rekindled, and he became very involved with the Princes Club in Brighton. Remarkably, for many years until his death at the age of 83 in 1928, he held the distinction of being the oldest active real tennis player in the country. His passion for the sport was such that he even donated a cup for novice players (known as "Jesters"), which is still keenly contested for at the Royal Tennis Court in Surrey.

So, the next time you see the brass plaque in the south porch, take a moment to remember Revd Robert Charles Lathom Browne. He was a man of energy, vision, and deep commitment to our parish, leaving a legacy that continues to enrich the community today. His dedication to the church, the school, and the wider village truly makes him a remarkable Rector to remember.



Lathom Browne on the right playing real tennis

Mandy Yarnold

desert island whisks - Bee and me

Well, imagine my amazement and delight when I opened the paper to read about a new book, a *whole* book, by the respected food writer Bee Wilson all about kitchen objects and their deeply personal meaning in our lives. When I had the idea for the Desert Island Whisks column in The Link I wondered if my deep attachments were a bit peculiar, but it turns out I might even have been a bit ahead of the curve! So now I will introduce one of my most loved treasures....

Orange was the colour of the 70s. Avocado was also popular, hence all those bathroom suites which had to be taken out in horror when the palette turned white. And so my mother had a rather bright orange mixing bowl which she teamed with her large orange Le Creuset casserole, bought after much lustful staring into the kitchen shop window. What bravado!

This melamine "Margrethe" bowl was made by the iconic Danish design company Rosti, now deemed to be "mid century vintage" and highly collectible, according to Google - making me feel rather old! As they say on the Antiques Roadshow "I'll never sell it" because not only do I think of my mother whenever I use it, but also it is deep, light, sleek, nonslip, resilient and altogether satisfying to use. My other ancestral bowl, a cream coloured Mason Cash ceramic is cracked and heavy and I only use it when the orange one is otherwise engaged.



Melamine was first synthesized by a German chemist in 1834 but it was only in the 1930s that it flourished into tableware, laminate flooring, insulation, soundproofing and many other uses. It has had its scandals, notably in 2008 when it was found that companies had added it to baby milk to boost the apparent protein content.

So Bee and I are on the same page but she has added an excellent piece of advice - do treasure your objects but use them too. What is the point of keeping an heirloom (in the sense of significance rather than value) in the cupboard? Use it, enjoy it and if it breaks so be it. Of course I would say that wouldn't I because my chip-proof bowl is still going strong after over 50 years of weekly use.

Joanna Wade

Four Elms Village Fete

Saturday 12th July

1pm

Music and entertainment from
Four Elms School
&
Edenbridge Town Band



Fun and Games
in the main ring
including
The ever popular
Dog Show

Lots of stalls
Beer Tent, Tea Tent
and BBQ!

Church Meadows, Four Elms

We'd love to see the village decorated with bunting for the fete –
please decorate your homes and gardens from Saturday 5th July!





Hever Rose and Horticultural Society Rose Show

Saturday 7 June, Hever Village Hall, 2 - 4pm
refreshments & raffle - all welcome

And the rest of the programme for 2025, all at Hever Village Hall:

Saturday 16 August 2-4.30pm Summer Show
Wednesday 17th September Hardy Geraniums talk Jacqueline Aviolet
Wednesday 15 October Talk: Plant Heritage and National Plant Collection Jude Lawton
Wednesday 19 November Annual General Meeting

full details on the Hever Hort tab of the Hever.org website



Hever Hort plant show making a profit of £500

eden twinning news

Eden Twinning started 2025 in style with an excellent lunch of moules frites at the French Institute brasserie followed by a French film at the Cine Lumiere. Our next event was a game of petanque at Hever Golf Club. Who knew such excellent French facilities existed locally? Many thanks to Hever Golf Club, to Gael and others for raking the surface and to all who came, played and supported.

From 6th to 9th June, we will be hosting our twinning visitors from Mont Saint Aignan. Planned activities include a visit to Rochester Castle and Cathedral on the Saturday and a visit to Chartwell on the Sunday. On the Saturday evening we will be attending the Eden Valley Creation, an A Cappella concert at the Edenbridge Parish Church followed by meal at Rickards Hall. Do come and join us in June.

Eden Twinning is a friendly group of French-loving locals who meet up and host visitors from Mont Saint



Aignan near Rouen. We make a return visit in September. Edenbridge and surrounding villages have been twinned with Mont Saint Aignan for over 50 years. We are always keen to welcome new members, (no need to speak French) please do get in touch.

Louise Howard
Chair Eden Twinning
www.edentwinning.co.uk
info@edentwinning.co.uk
We are on Facebook and Instagram



Petanque at Hever Golf Club

Saturday 14th June

Cowden Village Fête

SPONSORED BY

RH & RW CLUTTON
Property Sales & Lettings

From 12.30pm at the Recreation Ground

New Orleans Echoes Jazz Band • Garland Dancing • Classic Car Display • Farm Vehicles • Bug Stall • Coconut Shy • Childrens Races • Art Class • Tombola • Féte Raffle • Human Fruit Machine • Dog Show • Silent Auction • BBQ & Licensed Bar • Afternoon Tea & Cakes

A huge array of stallholders presenting locally produced crafts, food and other products. Whatever your age or interests there will be something for you. Invite friends and family to make this a truly memorable community event.







June				July			
Sun 8	Westerham	Away	2.00pm	Sun 6	Stonewall Park	Home	1.30pm
Sat 14	Chairman's XI	Home	2.30pm	Sun 13	Crawley Old Skool	Home	1.30pm
Sun 15	Linden Park	Away	1.30pm	Sun 20	Armadillos	Away	1.30pm
Sun 22	Cowden	Home	1.30pm	Sat 26	Presidents XI	Home	1.30pm
Sun 29	Hartfield	Home	1.30pm				



Jacob Tisdall lights the beacon



VE day beacon at hever



Hever Parish Council

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

There is a further opportunity for us all to comment on the Gatwick airport expansion proposals which we would encourage everyone to do. Send comments by email to: gatwickairport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. The deadline is 9th June. You should comment using your own words, but you might want to say some, or all, of the following:

You don't support expansion of Gatwick Airport. There should not be a new runway and there is not a demonstrable need.

Any approval should be subject to strict environmental, noise and other controls.

The proposed noise limits, even as amended, do not achieve the policy requirements that there should be a balance between growth and noise reduction. The policy requirements can only be satisfied by further noise reductions or mandated alternative noise benefits, such as a ban on night flights.

In any event any expansion should include a ban on night flights as mandated for Heathrow.

Noise limits should apply throughout the year for departures and arrivals and ground and plant noise, not just the peak summer period.

There should be a process for reducing noise limits over time.

There should be no approval before 27th October as due process must be followed.

Compensation – Residents should be assured of a robust DCO agreement that is legally binding, that can be appealed against should a resident feel inadequately compensated by the applicant for increase in noise and devaluation of home.

Improvements to roads and public transport to address the increase in passenger numbers should be paid for by the applicant, not the taxpayer. The potential decline in local air quality as a result of increased journeys is not acceptable.

Local infrastructure; including schools, hospitals and GP surgeries, is already under pressure and would need to be reviewed and expanded to meet the additional demands that increased housing would bring to cater for the new jobs.

The annual meeting of the Parish Council was held earlier in May. I am pleased to confirm that Councillor Angela Haydon was re-elected as Chair and Councillor Stephen Lark as Vice Chair, the Planning Committee, with Councillor Nick Roberts as Chair, and the Finance Committee were also appointed. Following the internal audit the AGAR, the statutory reporting form, was signed off and sent to the external auditors for review. A copy of these forms, accounts and other documents for the Parish Council can be found on the website www.hever.org .

Don't forget, the next bulk refuse freighter will be visiting the parish on Saturday 19th July, in time for a good summer clear out! Please visit the website www.hever.org for further information. The next Hever Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 in Four Elms Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The Planning Meeting will commence at 7.00 pm.

Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO 07784912645 clerk@hever.org

At Four Elms Primary School, we believe that the best learning happens when children are inspired, engaged, and given real-life experiences that enrich their understanding of the world around them. Recent activities across the school have provided fantastic opportunities for pupils to develop new skills, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories.

Adventure and Teamwork: Our Year 5 pupils recently returned from an unforgettable residential trip to Carroty Wood Activity Centre, set in 58 acres of beautiful woodland near Tonbridge. Over three days and two nights, the children embraced a wide range of outdoor activities, including archery, pedal karting, abseiling, high ropes, team games, low ropes, and even cooking on open fires. These activities were not only great fun but also invaluable in developing key life skills.

Connecting with Nature: Our Year 4 students enjoyed a fantastic day at The Living Land Show, held at the Kent County Showground in Maidstone. Designed to teach primary school children about farming, agriculture, horticulture, and the countryside. This event was the perfect complement to our ongoing partnership with Seal Primary School Community Farm. Highlights of the day included a sheep dancing show, an imaginary RNLI dinghy ride, interactive activities with WaterAid UK, and a thrilling bird of prey display. This hands-on experience helped our pupils understand the vital connections between nature, farming, and environmental stewardship.

Creative Expression: Our commitment to nurturing the whole child doesn't stop outdoors. Indoors, our youngest pupils have been busy exploring their creative sides through an exciting art project inspired by contemporary artist Jade Fadojutimi. Using her distinctive techniques and vibrant colours as inspiration, the children produced stunning abstract artworks that celebrate self-expression and creativity. These beautiful pieces will soon be showcased in a special online gallery.

Come and Discover Four Elms Primary School. We would love to share more about our wonderful school and the opportunities we offer our pupils. To give families a chance to experience Four Elms, we are holding an Open Morning for Years R–6. Please see the poster below for full details. We look forward to welcoming you!

Jess Fermor, Head of School



news from hever primary

The Ofsted research review series describes how, through history, pupils come to understand their place in the world, and in the long story of human development. The study of history challenges pupils to make sense of the striking similarities and vast differences in human experiences across time and place. This week, we have celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE day, a time for remembrance and celebration, honouring the sacrifices and service of those who fought in the war. Thankfully, for our children, this falls into the 'vast differences in human experience across time and place' but we have a duty to ensure that they come to understand how these events have shaped the world they live in today.

We are fortunate to live and to learn in an area steeped in history, with Hever Castle and St Peter's Church (dating back to the 14th and 12th century respectively) on our doorstep. Both of these striking and historic buildings provide exceptional opportunities to support children to understand their place in the world.

This term the children have also had the opportunity to learn about the history of our school first hand, from Kevin Agate. Kevin is a local resident who attended Hever School back in 1959 and fascinated the children with stories about the caretaker coming in each morning to light the stoves and the pupils having to write lines if they misbehaved! The school has grown from three classes then – two in the hall and one in the Bell Room - to seven classes today. The children went on to connect this information to historical sources, exploring the school archives and local newspaper cuttings. They were particularly surprised to discover that the school uniform used to be red!

Amidst a full curriculum, and a wealth of enhancement activities, it is important that we continue to provide appropriate opportunities for our children to understand their place in the world, developing their understanding of the past as they anticipate all that the future holds.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



VE day celebrations at Hever Primary

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
HJM Plumbing & Heating	general plumbing, heating and maintenance	07908854881
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
Beauty By Molly- Massage, Facials, lash lift & tint, House of Health Hever		07516897225
Flexi Foot Care, Diane Fletcher - home 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

Container Storage, low monthly rates - Gaywood Farm, Edenbridge		07973210361
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 june

Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below and note the slight change to our normal pattern owing to patronal services. Readings and full details are also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/diary/

Date & time	Service details	Sunday
1st June 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter 7
1st June 6pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter 7
8th June 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Pentecost
8th June 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever	Pentecost
15th June 10am	Patronal festival Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity Sunday
22nd June 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Peter' Hever	Trinity 1
22nd June 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 1
29th June 10am	Patronal festival Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 2 St.Peter's Day

Our Bible study meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at various locations thereafter. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. For details of any of these please contact Simon. The next Men's Discussion group is on 17th July.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

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

Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Wardens

Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
01342 850776

Benefice Treasurer
Our current Benefice Treasurer is retiring later this year and we are looking for someone with an accountancy background who might be able to give about 6 to 7 days a year. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Simon for more details.



our rector's thoughts

8th June this year is Pentecost: traditionally the birthday of the church. On this day, fifty days after Easter, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers as he had promised. They were filled with a new power and that day 3,000 people turned to Christ. Despite persecution, the church then spread rapidly through a radically different lifestyle and preaching the gospel such that within three centuries even the mighty Roman Empire had adopted Christianity. The rest, as they say, is history.

Today in the UK and the West we've got used to being told Christianity is in inevitable decline. But it was ever thus; for example, the French writer, Voltaire, at the time of the Enlightenment in the 18th Century, predicted that religion would die in fifty years. In the Three Spires, we've just done our six yearly reissue of our Electoral rolls ie. everyone was asked to sign up afresh. Despite some deaths, people moving away and lapses, we're pretty much holding our own with quite a number of new people especially, but not exclusively, amongst young families, who have been attending our family services.

Nationally there have been reports in the Christian and secular press of a 'Quiet Revival' based on a survey and report by the Bible Society. This looked particularly at 18-24 years olds, known as Generation Z. It reported that church attendance by this group has risen by 50%! Amazingly the largest increase was amongst young men. This follows what seemed like a death-knell after Covid and the 2021 census in which the number ticking the 'Christian' box fell below 50% for the first time. But now even sales of the Bible are up. For details see https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival. I'm not sure whether this has impacted us. But it is true that our last Christmas and Easter congregations were the largest I have seen since my arrival. I am also aware that the secondary schools in the area are experiencing something of this with the recent Alpha course at Bennett Memorial school leading to about sixty teenagers becoming Christians!

So what might this mean for us in the Three Spires? If you're a Christian then do come along and see how you might be part of this 'Quiet Revival'. After all Jesus said: *The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.* (Matthew 9:37-38). If you're not sure, then ask yourself, what might be behind this change? Then come along and find out.

God bless

Simon

Four Elms

It was certainly a spectacle. The late Pope's funeral and the announcement of Pope Leo as the latest Pontiff. All very grand and very colourful and great television. Likewise the VE day events culminating in the Westminster Abbey thanksgiving for those who gave their lives. In contrast, St Paul's church held an evening Healing Service. A small number attended and the service was held in the small intimate setting of the Sanctuary, where one is able to sit quietly in the choir stalls and enjoy contemplation and the beauty of the stained glass windows. Not Rome, not London but a small rural church on a Sunday evening where peace and tranquillity prevailed.

Although the weather is glorious let us give up prayers for farmers who I am sure are praying for rain. While we enjoy the sunshine the unpredictability of weather patterns around the world is not good news. Certainly not for those where floods, fires and drought have a devastating effect on lives. Don't know about you but old habits die hard and it is difficult not to be as free with energy use in our personal lives as was once the case. However, we must all try.

June and July will see the organisation of the Four Elms Village Fete move into top gear. The Fete Committee work extremely hard to put on a great village show and we at St Paul's Church thank them for all their tireless efforts. The Church Stalls at the Fete are an important fund raiser for us and all help and contributions are greatly welcomed. Thank you in advance.

"Enjoy a Cuppa" continues during the summer – we welcome everyone on the second Tuesday of each month.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

On June 25th we will be celebrating our Patronal festival. It's a time for the community to come together in celebration of their special protector. Saint Peter, originally Simon, was a key disciple of Jesus Christ and is recognised by the Catholic Church as the first Pope. Jesus renamed him "Peter," meaning "rock," signifying his foundational role in the early church. After the resurrection, Jesus entrusted Peter with the pastoral care of his followers, saying, "Feed my sheep." Peter played a crucial role in the early Christian community, preaching and performing miracles. The crossed keys, the symbol of St Peter, representing his divinely granted authority, can be found all around our church from the welcome mat to the Bishop's chair carved so lovingly by Andrew Russell.

The ever popular barn dance will be taking place in September once again, watch out for further information.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 12th June, 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

What a year we have had so far! Awesome April, Magical May and now heading for a Joyful June, we hope and pray! As a farmer I sympathise with needing some rain but walking through the woods with the fresh green leaves and the blue sky above is an enormous privilege.

May has been a busy month. I will start by saying Four Elms' Healing Service was intimate, honest and healing. Thank you. Then there were the VE day celebrations – especially by Hever with a brilliantly attended lunch, evening bells and beacon fire. Markbeech modestly joined together in saying Compline which was a special service, with lovely prayers and we raised a glass after it to our parents and grandparents, whose stoicism, bravery and sacrifices have enabled us to live the way we do now. 80 years without involving the whole country in a war, though I admit peace needs to be prayed for now more than ever. Looking at Ukraine and Gaza, one can witness, yet again, how disastrous war is for the ordinary people.

The next morning, in our Village Hall, Christine Perkin's inspired talk on "Forgiveness – is it always possible?" led to quiet discussions and probably painful memories. However, if we can forgive and forgive ourselves, then there is no doubt it can free us from many unhappy thoughts.

At the Eucharist Service on the 11th, wedding bans were read which reminded us that traditionally June is a romantic month. After the Rogation Walk, hopefully through some of Falconhurst's fields, we are rehearsing for Choral Evensong at 6pm on June 1st. The music chosen is lovely and the choir will do their best to do it justice. Our Patronal festival is on the 15th June and the following Sunday the very popular, Family Service.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary



gardening

How does one describe a smell? Is it a perfume or a smell? A summer garden holds numerous. Sometimes hard to distinguish which plants exude which perfume. To visit summer gardens that someone else has grown and tended, the typical summer plants that are admired and envied, is one of the joys of our tradition as gardeners. Some people are born gardeners, keeping the traditions handed down from one generation to the next, whilst others aren't interested in growing but admire the talent of growers. Whichever one you are, enjoy the summer plants.


Eustacia Vye rose

My favourite plants are roses. So many colours, shapes, sizes and types. Whether you choose to grow a shrub rose, climber, or if you have space, a rambler which will take over the lovely view of colour spreading into 'eternity'. My 'Janet', a shrub rose, which has been mentioned in past Links, is beginning to grow as unruly as ever, but hopefully the blooms will look magnificent later in the season. I have been very fortunate receiving several presents of rose bushes. The latest "Eustacia Vye", is a shrub rose with soft apricot pink ruffled petals. I do hope the one in my garden will be as beautiful and spectacular as shown in the brochure – can't wait to see it!

You will be able to see a large variety of roses at **Hever Hort's Rose Show on Saturday 7th June 2025 in Hever Village Hall from 2.00pm**.This will include all the different classes of roses, including for the first time, a bi-colour rose.

Although it is "rose season" there are numerous other plants that give colourful pleasure to the eye. Although annuals only stay a season, they are so vibrant in colour and when planted closely together in a tub or window box give the inevitable "WOW factor". The different types and colours of Cosmos are great spreading plants as also Love-in-a-mist. They grow everywhere, including in a garden path! Perennial geraniums are a good buy and flower every year – a true perennial. Whatever your choice of plants is, enjoy them.

Isn't nature wonderful?

Jan Tolfree

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	4	36									190
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	4	29.5									214
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	4	25									214

HALL BOOKINGS

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

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

Copy for the **July** edition should reach us no later than **16 June.** 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

june diary

Until 30 June 2025 **Exhibition: The Canterbury Collection**, plates depicting Edenbridge, 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

From 29 June to 26 July **Stone 25 at Falconhurst**

3 June	**Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall	2.30pm
7 June	**Beekeeping workshop**, Falconhurst	
7 June	**Music for a Summer Evening**, Holy Trinity, Forest Row	7pm
10 June	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
12 June	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
14 June	**Cowden Village Fete**, Cowden Rec, BBQ, jazz, teas, games	from 12.30pm
21 June	**Songs of the Sea**, tickets from Penshurst Choral Society, St John the Baptist Church, Penshurst	6,30pm
22 June	**Kefir making workshop**, Bore Place £35	10.30am – 1pm
27 June	**Wild Arts Opera**, Falconhurst	5 – 9.30pm
28 June	**Hever School Fete**, Hever Parish Field	11.30 – 3.30pm
28 June	**Summer Foraging Walk**, Bore Place £35	2 – 4.30pm
1 Jul	**Knit and Natter**, Markbeech Village Hall	2.30pm
1 Jul	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Four Elms VH	Planning 7pm, meeting 7.30 pm
5 - 6 Jul	**Stone Carving Workshop**, Falconhurst	10am - 4pm
6 Jul	**Introduction to Rag Rugging**, Bore Place £60	10am – 4pm
8 Jul	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from	10.45am
10 Jul	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
12 Jul	**Four Elms Fete**, Church Field, Four Elms	from 1pm
16 Jul	**NGS Garden Open** at Falconhurst	10am - 4pm
19 Jul	**Bulk Waste Freighter**, Four Elms Village Hall	8.30-9am
19 Jul	**Bulk Waste Freighter**, Hever bottle bank	12.15 – 12.45 pm
19 Jul	**Bulk Waste Freighter**, Markbeech Village Hall	1-1.30pm
19 Jul	**Stone Garden Supper Club**, Falconhurst	5 – 9.30pm
21 Aug	**Butterfly Hunt & Baking**, Bore Place, child 3yrs+ £20 adults free	10am – 12.30pm
28 Aug	**Pizza & Pipistrelles Night**, Bore Place, £65 ticket for 2	7 – 9.30pm

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