July 2025

THE LINK







In this issue:

- hever hot shot
- a perfect pet
- roses are blooming in…
- festive fetes
- the sound of music

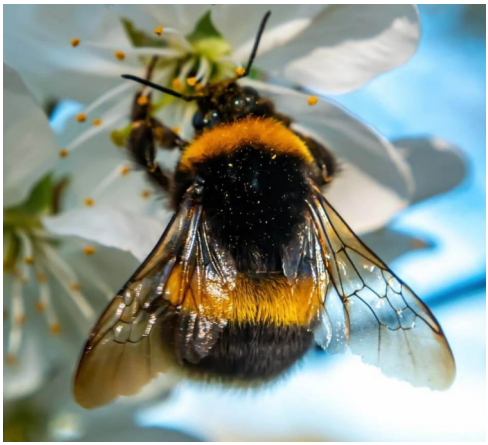
...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the July Link

As my cotoneaster came into bloom, I heard a deep hum every time I passed it. Peering in, I saw that it was alive with small bees; not robust bumblebees, not honeybees but small bumblebees enjoying the nectar in the tight buds. These are short tongued bees called the tree bumblebee, one of the eight most common type types of bumblebee and they love cotoneaster when other forage is short, as it was during this dry spring.



On world bee day in May the bees were celebrating - not only were they grateful to the gardeners who observed "No Mow May" but also the government has just, finally, banned the use of pesticide containing neonicotinoids. This powerful stuff was deeply destructive to pollinators, just one teaspoon was enough to kill a staggering 1.25 billion honeybees according to research for the Soil Association. The Association points out that protecting bees is not just an environmental benefit, the business case is that bee pollination saves British farmers around £1.8 billion a year in crop production. Sadly, it is not all good news, the bumblebee population dropped by nearly a quarter in 2024 and other chemical pest and weed killers are doing great harm. In built-up areas, there has been a 62% reduction in the number of visits to flowers by nocturnal pollinators as a result of artificial street lighting.

Still thinking of flying things, I am watching jackdaws ravaging one of my birdfeeders. They are also powering their way through the food I put out for the hens. The RSPB has advised that we should consider giving up filling bird feeders for the summer as birds can rely on seeds produced by plants. Not only is there the constant risk that a dirty feeder can spread infection, too much feeding artificially boosts the growth of some breeds potentially at the expense of others.

So we hope that all your summer plans are progressing - the adverts in this magazine tell you that so much is happening locally over the next few months I feel spoilt for choice!

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



Make a difference in your community

"I can't survive on my pension."
"My partner doesn't know I'm in debt."
"I can't get the right support for my child. I've got no one to talk to."

Every day people face these challenges alone. Your skills can change lives. At Edenbridge & Westerham Citizens Advice, our volunteers provide the crucial support that transforms lives. With just a few hours of your time each week, you can:

- Guide someone through a financial crisis
- Help a family access essential Benefits
- Empower people to resolve legal difficulties
- Be the listening ear when someone has nowhere else to turn

We provide everything you need to succeed. You don't need specialised knowledge to start. Our comprehensive training program and expert supervisors will equip you with:

- In-depth understanding of the UK's financial systems
- Professional advice-giving skills
- Ongoing support from experienced team members
- Valuable experience that enhances your CV

Join a community that makes a difference. Volunteering with us isn't just about helping others—it's about being part of a dedicated team creating lasting change in your community.

Ready to transform lives? Contact us today: Edenbridge & Westerham Citizens Advice is open Monday to Thursday, 9:30am to 4pm, at The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6BY

Call free on 0808 278 7962 or email training@edenbridge.cabnet.org.uk

Your community needs you. Will you answer the call? Application deadline 24th July 2025. A schedule of six one-day training sessions commences 11th August to end September. Our Autumn training programme begins November 2025.

pet of the month

When I lost my little dog Honey, in February at the age of 15, I hoped that my spaniel, Bailey would settle into life as an only dog. However, after two weeks of high anxiety (both) and an upset tummy worthy of a vet visit (him), the search for a new companion for a stressed-out Cocker began. I found Tilly on a website which puts owners needing to rehome their dogs directly in touch with potential adopters. In Tilly's case, her owner had received a serious diagnosis and no longer felt she could cope with her. We had a meet-up and Bailey and Tilly seemed to hit it off immediately. After careful discussions and a home-check, arrangements were made for Tilly to join us.



At 14 months old Tilly was a bundle of excitement and for the first 48 hours, Bailey and I both wondered what on earth we had signed up for! It was rather like having a mini whirlwind in the house. However, she settled quickly and before we knew it neither of us could remember (or imagine) life without her. Tilly came from a studio flat in London to a smallholding in rural Kent – quite a culture shock. For the first couple of weeks, she was positively angelic and I even started to let her off the lead - she stuck to Bailey like glue. Sadly, this was not to continue and after one escape whilst being walked and two escapes from the garden (who knew she could fit through the squares in sheep wire?), drastic action had to be taken. I now have a heavily reinforced garden fence and Tilly is halfway through an intensive training course.

I had been told that Tilly was a Chorkie (Chihuahua x Yorkie) but out of curiosity I bought a doggy DNA kit on-line. After a few weeks the results were in: 46% Yorkie, 24% Cairn, 20% Chihuahua, plus a tiny splash of Jack Russell, Fox Terrier, West Highland White, German Hunting Terrier (whatever that is) and Scottie - a true Heinz 57. Tilly is the sweetest, cuddliest dog you could care to meet but like any youngster she can also be mischievous, demanding & downright naughty at times! She is a work in progress but Bailey and I adore her and are looking forward to sharing our world with her for many years to come.

Jan Ames





Gilbert and Sullivan operas are a bit of a marmite subject as they say. I hated them when I was young, thinking they were ridiculous and then I realised that that was the whole point. In HMS Pinafore the admiral of the fleet "polished up the handle [of the big front door] so carefullee that now he is the ruler of the Queen's Navee" - their take on Victorian life was lighthearted but also pretty libellous in that the admiral of the fleet at that time was a jobsworth who had never gone to sea but knew the right people.

I joined the East Grinstead Choral Society a year ago, wanting to make music. I'm a pretty poor singer but you don't have to audition and you can hide amongst the good members, practice hard and marvel at the collective results. We have sung Vivaldi, Brahms and now Fun with Pinafore, before launching into Bach in the autumn. Singing helps breathing and concentration and brings so much pleasure, it is worth the humiliation of regularly hitting the wrong note (in fact I'm so bad I sometimes don't know if I'm hitting the wrong note, but I sing quietly!).

So I would recommend joining a choral society - but meanwhile please come on 6 July - with professional soloists and a (largely) highly capable choir you will be impressed by the results.

Joanna Wade

world challenge trip to malaysia

Hello, this is Heidi! I live in Four Elms and I'm busy getting ready for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in a three-week expedition to Malaysia with Weald of Kent Grammar school. I'll be travelling with 20 other students from my school, and as well as working on a marine conservation project, we'll also be trekking in the jungle. After arriving in Kuala Lumpa, we'll head off to the Cameron Highlands, a mountainous area in the centre of Peninsula Malaysia. We'll explore this region, including its unique 'Mossy Forest' via a number of short mountain treks.

We'll then travel to Kapas Island, off the East Coast of Malaysia, where, for the highlight of the trip, we'll work with the local community on a coastal habitat restoration project to aid and protect the Green Sea Turtle population that use the island's beaches to lay their eggs. We'll then embark on a five-day jungle trek during which we'll learn how to make a trap and a fire and use a blowpipe. This trek will be through dense, undisturbed jungle in 35-degree heat! After a short opportunity for some sightseeing in Kuala Lumpa, we'll then head home.

An important feature of the expedition is that we (the students) raise as much towards the cost of the trip ourselves. Over the past year, I've been earning money from a weekend job, and my mum and I have been growing and offering cut flowers in exchange for small donations to the fundraising. I've nearly reached my fundraising target, but still have a little way to go to. So, as well as organising my kit and visiting various clinics for the many vaccinations required, we've been busy sowing flower seeds, potting on, planting out and collecting jam jars. To (hopefully!) complete our fundraising, we'll be selling our home-grown flowers at the Hever School Fete on 28th June and the Four Elms Fete on 12th July. Please come and say hello! If you like flowers, you can also follow us on Instagram @the_girls_with_the_flowers or contact us for a bunch any time!

I'll look forward to telling you all about the trip when I get home!

Heidi



what I do... the Hever hotshot

Not many people know the Edenbridge and District Rifle Club in Hever although visitors to the village hall often wonder about the phuts and pings coming from the other side of the hedge. The shooting range is central Hever's best kept secret. The range, originally with garages in front, was built for the Hon JJ Astor in 1922. He had fought in the first world war and wanted some facilities for himself and his many ex-military estate workers. The architect was CW Baker, known for his work for London Underground.



The club was founded after the second war by former members of the Home Guard and at first they rented the range from the Astor family. When the Hever estate went up for sale in 1983, they wanted to buy but the notorious armed robber George Davis, who was purchasing the pub, made a higher bid as he wanted his London mates to hone their skills. Happily that prospect triggered a quick sale to the club at an affordable price! Since then it has been going strong - they have over 50 members (mainly men, a few women) aged from 16 to 80 who regularly practice on the four week nights when the club is open. Their guns have changed to air pistols and air rifles because cartridge pistols with live ammunition have been banned, but the level of skill needed is just the same. Of course, members need a firearms certificate which is apparently pretty hard to obtain and the club only admits those who they consider responsible and safe, it is tea and coffee only in the club house.

The chair is Trevor Budgen, a keen and successful sportsman and self-confessed competitor (to the extent that his wife will not even play him at cards!). Now in his late 70s, Trevor started life as a cyclist but his successful racing career was finally brought to an end by a car which ploughed into him and left him with only one leg, the other being a high tech artificial limb. He found himself full of competitive energy but unable to play most sports, until one day a friend took him to a rifle club. Trevor decided the sport was not for him, making holes in paper targets seemed pretty pathetic compared to life in the cycle fast lane but, just as he was leaving to go home, two men arrived boasting that the were the best in the club. He asked them how often they practised and they said they didn't need to bother. "Right" thought Trevor - he stayed, he practised, and after a year he was the best in the club. Of course practice is always the key when paired with skill.

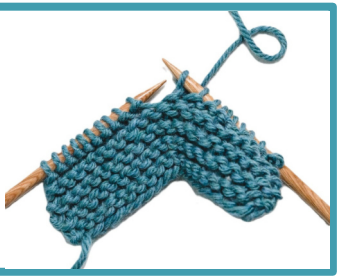


Since then he has shot for Britain and came second in the pistol world championships in 1994. He was also an early supporter of para sports and has competed with both pistols and rifles all over Europe and the South East. Trevor enjoys helping new members reach their potential - shooting is an ideal sport for disabled people and if you are shortsighted you can wear shooting specs. It teaches concentration and how to keep calm (it's no good having a nervous wobble), the fitter you are physically the better, but it's not a requirement. He has also learnt a thing or two about competing over the years: you need to be determined to reach perfection but able to face the risk of losing and to know when you are outclassed. You should not be an overly triumphant winner or an angry loser. These life lessons apply to all sports. I was impressed by Trevor's thoughfulness and the way he turned an early disaster into a fulfilling way of life.

New members are welcome, the club (edenbridgerifleclub.org.uk) has plenty of equipment for loan and the annual fee is £40 for seniors and £30 for juniors and OAPS. You pay £2 for an evening's session. There are four ranges, all indoors, where members learn to shoot to the international standard - ie a very long way!

Joanna Wade

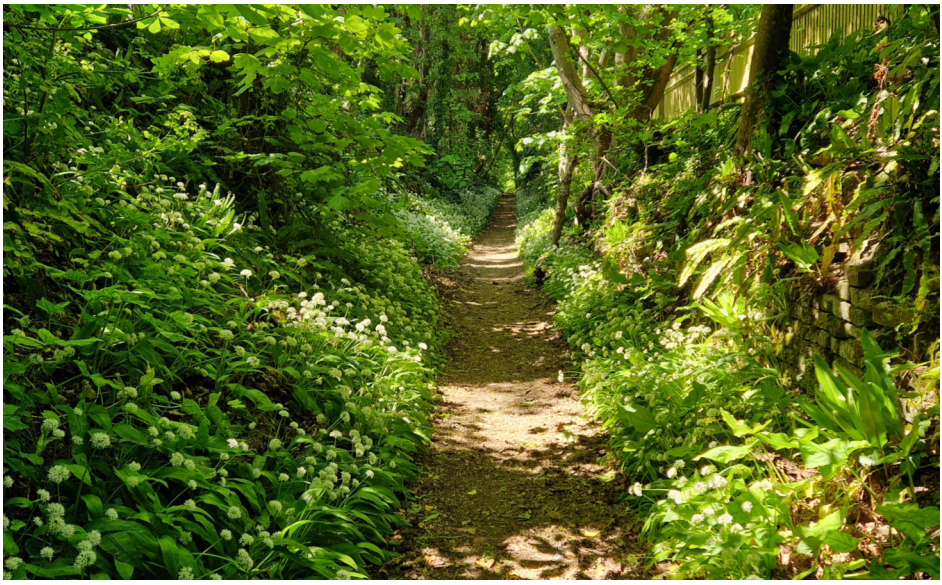
Knit and Natter in Markbeech Village Hall is taking a break for the summer.
The next session is on 7th October at 2.30 – 4.30.



Falconhurst Cricket Club early summer fixtures



July				August			
Sun 6	Stonewall Park	Home	1.30pm	Sun 3	Grannies	Home	1.30pm
Sun 13	Crawley Old Skool	Home	1.30pm	Sat 9	Tots	Home	1.30pm
Sun 20	Armadillos	Away	1.30pm	Sun 17	Penshurst	Home	1.30pm
Sat 26	Presidents XI	Home	1.30pm	Sat 23	Rustall	Away	1.30pm
				Sun 31	Ardingly Old Boys	Home	1.30pm



what a fraud

Fraud makes up 42% of reported crimes and so Kent Police have started to focus on prevention, employing civilian Emily Jenner as a Fraud Prevention Officer whose job it is to spread the word - which she did very effectively at the recent Parish Assembly. Her main message: it is NOT your fault, don't be ashamed to report it.... there are at least 54 types of scam around at the moment which mainly involve an unsolicited contact from an apparently official source trying to worry and then push the victim into sending them money or bank details or both. There is smishing (scam texts), phishing (emails) and vishing (phone calls). This fraud is a massive industry, for example 3.4 billion phishing emails are sent out every day worldwide. Luckily there's now quite a bit we can do to protect ourselves.



A really common fraud in fashion today is "courier fraud" - the criminal convinces the victim that they are the police and to send them their money whilst they investigate a fraud at their bank. This sounds improbable, but I have some very switched-on friends who lost thousands that way. The national body "Action Fraud" has set up a system allowing us to check the story directly and quickly with the bank's fraud department - all we need do is stop, hang up, ensure we have a dialling tone and call "159". A suspect text can be sent to 7726, together with your number, to ensure that the scamster is stopped in their tracks. And all fraud should be reported online to actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040.

The good news is that our mightily distressed friends got most of their money back from the bank under UK rules which protect victims unless they have been grossly negligent. They are now diligently using the "ABC method" with any suspicious contact:
A - never Assume
B - never Believe
C - always Confirm.

Locally, "My community voice", Kent police's revamped Neighbourhood Watch system will send out alerts about fashionable scams in the area, do sign up. So don't be too English, don't worry about being thought rude or hurting the fraudster's feelings - they are very bad and destructive people!

Joanna Wade

Gardening

Maybe, as far as gardening is concerned, 2025 should be called the year of the rose! It has certainly been glorious for many. In our garden, last year was not good, with black spot particularly prevalent from early in the season, a feature of our changing weather patterns. This year is a lot better, as attested by the success of the Hever Hort Rose show, reported by Pauline. In a happy coincidence, The RHS magazine, 'The Garden', has, in its June issue, a couple of major features on the future of the rose under changing climatic conditions. So I have picked out a few highlights from the articles. If you would like to borrow the magazine, please let me know.


"Peace"

One of the first messages is 'right plant, right place'. Different varieties require different growing conditions, so always check first. An example is 'Wedding Day', which has been sold in its millions but is totally unsuitable for most people's gardens. One recommendation for consideration is 'Rosa WB Yeats', which is known for its outstanding disease resistance and repeat flowering. Another group is the 'Rosa persica' hybrids. This is a group of around 30 suitable varieties and has roots (literally!) which originated in the middle east, so is potentially a rose for the future, adapted to drier, hotter summers.

Here are some top tips for making the most of your roses. Do not have dedicated rose beds, as this encourages the spread of disease. It is better to mix roses with other plants, to inhibit this spread. Break up the soil below to the depth of the roots, to encourage their growth, particularly to help them penetrate deeply. Mulch heavily but do not overfeed.

My mother's favourite rose was, probably like many people of her generation, 'Peace'. it has an interesting history, with cuttings sent from France to Germany, Italy and America in 1939. The original hybridisation goes back to 1935, but it was in 1945 that Robert Pyle, a leading American horticulturalist, gave it the name by which it is now known and loved. He sent a bloom to each delegate at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations, as a gesture of hope for the future. It is a sentiment we could do with today.

Happy, and peaceful, gardening.

Doug Bowern
HRHS Chair
doug.bowern@gmail.com

The Hever Rose and Horticultural Society Rose Show

This Spring has been glorious, but heavy rain and winds the week before threatened our potential exhibits. The forecast for the day was for heavy rain with thunderstorms. Our hearts sank. Fortunately, the bad weather was late, and we just had a fine intermittent mizzle and our annual Rose Show was a success!

We had the highest number of entries ever for this show, a total of 209 class entries comprising: nine classes of roses; fifteen classes of flowers and plants including lilies, a fine display of allium, sweet peas (how does Doug manage to get them to bloom so early?), potted foliage, flowering plants and alpines. In the fruit and vegetable classes a range of strawberries, gooseberries, courgettes, potatoes and asparagus were tabled; floral arrangements in small containers on trays, roses in unusual containers, and my favourite, exhibits entitled “The Green Man”. Domestic classes included jars of apple and mint jelly, rhubarb and custard cake, lemon meringue pie and challah. The photographers competed in classes entitled ‘A Bug’s Life’ and ‘Wheels’.



People were offered a fine range of refreshments. Home made lemon drizzle cake, carrot cake, coffee drizzle cake, Victoria sponge and chocolate muffins were washed down with freshly brewed cups of tea and coffee. And of course there was a raffle! At the end of the day the trophies were presented: the Astor Rose Bowl for the best rose exhibit, Perpetual Challenge Cup for sweet peas, Woollett Family Challenge Cup for the most points gained in the rose classes, Ridgewell Challenge Cup for the most points in the domestic classes and the Collins Perpetual Challenge Cup for the best pot plant in show.



A great time was had by all. We can’t wait for the August Summer Show on 16 August. New members are always welcome, no entry too small or too embarrassing [ed: you should have seen my burnt offering which the judge kindly remarked was "slightly overdone!!]. You can find dates and details in the Hort section on www.hever.org.

Pauline Radford
Show Secretary

Hever Parish Council

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

The Parish Assembly, held on 20th May, was well attended and the Chair of Hever Parish Council, Councillor Angela Haydon, welcomed those present. Below is a summary of her report:

Key highlights over the year were:

• Free Family Fun Day in August, enjoyed by children of all ages. The next Family Fun Day: 18th August on Four Elms Field.

• The two Community Litter Picks were well attended with 70 sacks of rubbish, old road signage, car parts and traffic cones collected. Thanks to the Councillors, the volunteers and to SDC for collecting it afterwards. Next Litter Pick: September.

• Four Elms Pond Maintenance Day. Thanks to Councillor Roberts and the volunteers who cleared debris and leaves from the pond meaning the pond outlet could remain free flowing.

• Affordable Housing Survey identified the need in the parish for 8 units. RACE reported a proposal would not be moving forward at this stage as no suitable sites identified.

• Thanks were given to Willerby Landscapes for providing, installing and decorating the wonderful Christmas tree at Four Elms.

• HPC awarded grants of £3937.30 to local groups; Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge Community First Responders, Hever and Four Elms Primary Schools, Hever Village Hall and We are Beams.

• Saturday Bulk Refuse Freighter 19th July and 22nd November - HPC continue to fund the four collections annually.

• Internal audit has taken place and was successfully completed.

• Planning - HPC commented on 26 planning applications and 3 appeals. Also reported suspected planning breaches, resulting in Enforcement Notices being issued on Land West of Hever Road. HPC have met with residents who were concerned about the unauthorised development and have attended the subsequent Appeal Hearing.

• Highways. Again HPC have highlighted safety issues at Four Elms Crossroads and also through Hever. Please continue to report potholes and drainage issues on the KCC website.

• Flytipping has been an issue in the Parish. Covert mobile CCTV cameras are now being used. Please report suspicious activity. Offenders caught will be prosecuted.

• Gatwick Expansion - HPC submitted objections to the continued expansion plans.

Councillor Haydon gave sincere thanks to all Parish Councillors who give their time and commitment freely to help improve our local community. Thanks were also given to the Parish Clerk, Rachael. Refreshments and presentations from a variety of speakers followed. For minutes of the meeting please visit www.hever.org

Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO
07784912645
clerk@hever.org

news from hever primary

Belonging is one of our school values and we have been thinking about journeying as a community, all different, all equally valued. We have thought about the different skills and talents each of us brings and how working together supports and strengthens these. We saw a lovely example of this last weekend, when the school choir took part in a performance with the Edenbridge A Cappella plus group in Edenbridge Parish Church.



The first part of the performance was a mixture of songs and music inspired by nature, where our school choir performed a traditional song from Congo in three parts. The second half of the performance was based on the creation story and featured numerous original pieces composed and written by members of A Capella group. Our choir had been practising two special songs with tricky two-part harmonies over the past term which were at the climax of the whole piece. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing with an adult choir and hearing how their parts combined with the whole piece.

Another great example was on Sports Day, when the children compete in their houses. Every pupil gave their all in each activity and race, showing true determination and team spirit. There was plenty of healthy competition (including in the parents' races!), and we saw some brilliant personal bests, especially in the longer distance events. Our Year 6 children, did an amazing job helping to set up and run the event, particularly during the morning when they supported Reception and Key Stage 1. It was a truly wonderful day filled with encouragement, enthusiasm, and support for one another.

Next week, we start our transition events, when we welcome our new children and families who will be joining us in September. One of the wonderful things about being a village primary school, is the strong sense of community and I know our older children are very excited about meeting their new buddies, and take the responsibility of helping them to settle in very seriously. Whilst we are full for September 2025, do get in touch in the autumn term if you have a child due to start the following year and would like to come and see all that Hever has to offer. (Contact the school office at office@hever.kent.sch.uk or 01732 862304.)

Helene Bligh
Headteacher



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 july

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 July 10am	Pet service at St.Paul's Four Elms followed by baptism and Holy Communion	Trinity 3
6th July 6pm	Contemporary service St.Peter's Hever with Cabin Worship	Trinity 3
13th July 8am	Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 4
13th July 10am	Holy Communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 4
13th July 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Trinity 4
20th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 5
27th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter' Hever with baptism	Trinity 6

Our Bible study/home group 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 entitled: 'How can we hear God's voice?'. We will also be holding an event in collaboration with St.Stephen's church Tonbridge for youth (secondary school) on Friday 11th July; for details 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

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.


Red Kite over Hever, Geoff Davis

our rector's thoughts

12th July is the Four Elms fete, which I consider the best village fete I've ever attended. I'm sure this one won't disappoint. The concept of a village fete as a community gathering with stalls and activities, likely evolved from fairs and celebrations dating back to the Middle Ages. By the 19th century, village fetes became more recognizable as what we see today. The word 'fete' comes from the French for party or feast. In the church calendar we have festival days on which great saints of the past are remembered. This includes St.Swithin's day on 15th July. He was an Anglo Saxon Bishop, but is most remembered for the tradition that if it rains on St.Swithin's day then we're in for forty days of rain – well, we'll see!

Perhaps more important is the festival of Mary Magdalene on 22nd July. Mary Magdalene features in all four gospels and was a prominent follower of Jesus who was believed to have been healed by him, supported his ministry financially, and was present at his crucifixion and burial. In John 20 she is recorded as going to the tomb early on Easter morning and then encountering the risen Jesus, whom she first mistakes as the gardener. She then goes to tell Jesus' disciples and thus earns the title 'the apostle to the apostles'. In an age when the testimony of a woman was regarded as of little worth; for me, this is one of the facts that gives the whole story the ring of truth. On the other hand, the Da Vinci Code suggests she was Jesus' wife, but mainstream historians and scholars overwhelmingly reject these ideas due to lack of historical evidence.

Another festival is that of Mary, Martha and Lazarus on 29th July. They were Jesus' friends. John 11 records Jesus hearing Lazarus is sick and seemingly delaying his arrival until after Lazarus has died. When he arrives, the gospel records the shortest verse in the Bible: 'Jesus wept'; but then Jesus goes on to raise Lazarus after Martha has uttered words of faith and Jesus has declared: 'I am the resurrection and the life..'

Yet another festival is for William Wilberforce, social reformer and slave trade abolitionist on 30th July.

There's value in learning from the past and reminding ourselves that the same God who empowered these great saints in the past can also inspire us today. We may be ordinary people, but we follow an extraordinary God. So do come to the fete: I plan to be on the 'bowl a pig' which was dear Richard Bennett's speciality, it will be great fun. Also consider coming to church and hearing again the stories of what God has done in the past and is doing in lives today.

God bless

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

However much we enjoy the warm sunny dry days of late spring/early summer there is a lot to be said for the heavy rain showers which we have had in June giving us the most glorious spring in the garden. So plenty to be happy with the weather. During June, churchwardens are required to take the oath of service to the Parish. The three churchwardens in our Benefice take our role very seriously, giving our best to serve our community and maintain the church building and graveyard as well as we can. Which concentrates the mind.

Here in St Paul's churchyard we are aware, especially in the new Quiet Garden, how rutted the ground is. Having once been a grazing field the grassed area bears little resemblance to the beautifully manicured lawns of Wimbledon tennis courts. However, it is maintained, although we like to let the wildflowers flourish. But, being acutely aware of the uneven ground, notices have been put up advising visitors of the situation and we urge you to take care. Of course, we do attempt to address the ruts but it is a near impossible task as the undersoil is clay which reacts badly to excessive rain followed by hot sunshine. But please enjoy the quiet space and listen to the birds. The Quiet Garden, despite its uneven ground, is there for you to sit and relax as well as visiting loved ones. In July we have our annual Pet Service. Pets bring great comfort and joy so please bring them to St Paul's on 6th July. Our usual monthly Tuesday "Enjoy a cuppa" will be a bit different. It will take place in the garden of Little Chittenden, from 2.30pm for afternoon tea. If you require a lift please let me know on 01732 700247. Saturday 12th July is the Annual Village Fete. We would welcome cakes for the Tea Tent, any Bric a Brac and maybe you would like to enter the Grand Draw with a first prize of £250. Most of all we look forward to your company.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Following the recent APCM discussions, the PCC will shortly be submitting a faculty to Rochester to significantly improve the accessibility and hospitality at St Peter's church. It is hoped that we will be able to provide a ramped entrance to the church, install an accessible Kazuba toilet, install handrails to the chancel steps and create a convenient servery at the rear of the North Aisle. These changes will make our beautiful church more welcoming and comfortable for everyone. Recently we have had a couple of visiting bell ringing teams ringing our bells which makes a great addition to the regular ringing by our own amazing team of bell ringers. We are grateful to have these talented people taking such a, literally, active role in our church.

Hever Barn Dance is galloping our way on Saturday, 13th September! Get ready for a delicious BBQ, lively music, and fantastic fun for all ages. Every penny raised will support our

vital church outreach programmes, helping us make a real difference in the community. Look out for great deals, including **FREE entry for primary school-aged children** with a family ticket, plus discounts for early bookers. Tickets will be available soon from BookItBee.com – don't miss out!

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

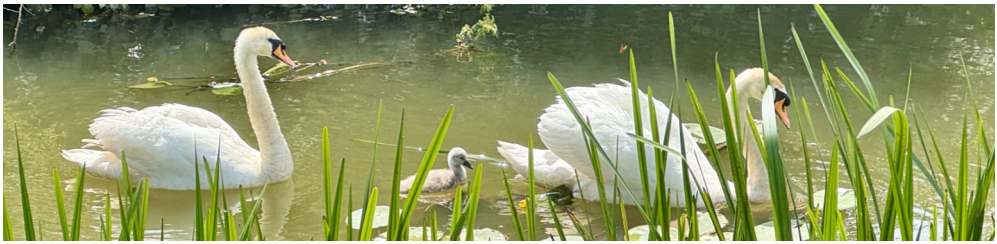
Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

As I write the sun is shining but my old laptop tells me there is shortly to be a thunderstorm! The hot sheep on the farm, shortly to be shorn, will probably not mind but those of us with washing out, will! Going back to May, there was a family service in Markbeech and rogation walk – safely around Falconhurst's green and pleasant fields – we are so fortunate – thank you, Talbots. And even more thanks to them for allowing the Church to gain financially from the proceeds of the delicious teas served during their garden opening on Bank Holiday Monday. Always a happy day for all concerned. The next one is on July 16th, please come! Another date for your diary is our Parish Lunch on July 20th – held in a beautiful garden near the Kentish Horse. Please join us, it is open to all for a modest sum.

June 1st was our Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity at 6pm. It was delightfully well attended, though we were kept on tenterhooks, especially our Churchwarden, because the kind Revd. Kitley went to Four Elms first – luckily arriving just after the chimes of 6pm. The Choir had been practising, wonderfully joined by Withyham choir members, and David Kitley generously praised the singing, which was much appreciated. The Church witnessed a lovely wedding on June 7th, with some glorious flowers arranged by Clare; we are so fortunate that she enjoys arranging flowers as we always have some to appreciate during our services. On Sunday we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival Eucharist and hope to be joined by the children's choir, always a treat. The popular Family Service is on June 22nd, before the schools break up and I hope I can report, next Month, that it was successfully busy!

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary



PIRATES OF THE CHIDING STONE

BIG WEEKEND

SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH JULY 2025
CHIDDINGSTONE SPORTS GROUND

TOUCH RUGBY

SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM

JOIN US FOR THE THE TOUCH RUGBY TOURNAMENT FROM NOON. ALL ABILITIES WELCOME, 8 PLAYERS ON THE PITCH, MINIMUM 2 WOMEN. CONTACT JAMES.WATSON@ME.COM TO ENTER
SPECTATORS WELCOME

FETE DANCE

SATURDAY 7PM - LATE

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF DANCIN', DRINKIN' & PIRATE MISCHIEF AT THE FETE DANCE – PIRATE NIGHT! LIVE BAND, DJ, AND GROG GALORE – GRAB YER CREW AND PARTY LIKE A TRUE BUCCANEER. ONE UNFORGETTABLE SUMMERNIGHT AWAITS!

VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY 1PM - 5PM

THERE BE NOTHIN' MORE HEARTILY ENGLISH THAN A VILLAGE FETE – BUT THIS ONE'S GOT A PIRATE TWIST!
GATHER THE CREW FOR A DAY OF JOLLY JAPES & COMMUNITY CHEER: FROM CAPTAIN JACK SHOWS, VILLAGE GAMES AND DARING PERFORMERS, TO DOG SHOWS, TREASURE-WORTHY VEG AND CAKE CONTESTS, PUNCH & JUDY & BUSTLING MARKET STALLS. A FABULOUS AFTERNOON FOR ALL AGES



ONE DAY, ONE LEGEND.
CAPTAIN JACK'S BACK

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	13								203
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	14								228
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	21								235

HALL BOOKINGS

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

COUNCILS

Kent County Councillor
Robert Mayall
Robert.Mayall@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks District:
James Barnett 07831 112901
cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Hever Parish:
Rachael Turner 077849 12645

the link team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade and Ivan Furness
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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

Copy for the **August** edition should reach us no later than **18th July.** 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

july diary

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

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	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Four Elms VH , Planning 7pm, meeting 7.30 pm.	
5 and 6 Jul	**Stone Carving Workshop**, Falconhurst	10am-4pm
6 Jul	**East Grinstead Choral Soc**, HMS Pinafore,Chequer Mead Theatre, EG	5pm
8 Jul	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at Little Chittenden, Four Elms	2.30pm
10 Jul	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
12 Jul	**Four Elms Fete**, Church Field, Four Elms	from 1pm
12 Jul	**Chiddingstone Fete Dance**, Chiddingstone Sports Ground	7pm to late
13 Jul	**Chiddingstone Village Fete**, Chiddingstone Sports Ground	1-5pm
16 Jul	**NGS Garden Ope**n 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
20 Jul	**Markbeech Parish Lunch**, 2 School Cottages, Markbeech, tickets £12	
12 Aug	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
14 Aug	**Hever Parish Lunch,** Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
16 Aug	**Hever Hort Flower and Vegetable Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall	2-4.30pm
18 Aug	**Free Family Fun Day**, Four Elms Field	
21 Aug	**Butterfly Hunt & Baking**, Bore Place, 3yrs+ £20 adults free	10am-12.30pm
28 Aug	**Teddy Bears' Picnic Adventure**, Bore Place 3yrs+ £20 adults free	10am-12.30pm
28 Aug	**Pizza & Pipistrelles Night**, Bore Place, £65 ticket for 2	7–9.30pm
7 Sept	**Cream Cheese and Paneer Workshop**, Bore Place tickets £42	10.30–1.30pm
13 Sept	**Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall	

The Danewood Press Ltd
Print • Design • Quality
Your local Printer for
Litho • Digital • Wide Format Print
Letterheads • Compliment Slips • Business Cards • Leaflets
Tickets • Swing Tags • Invites • Post Cards • Envelopes
Wedding Stationery • Plain Paper • Brochures • Booklets
Greeting Cards • Large Posters • PVC Banners • Roll up Banners
Canvas Prints • Outdoor Signage Boards • Vinyl Labels
T: 01825 740302 E: sales@danewoodpress.com
www.danewoodpress.com
Isle of Thorns, Chelwood Gate, West Sussex RH17 7LA