November 2025

THE LINK







In this issue:

- an 'appy app user
- swarming athletes
- the meadow's last mow
- sparks fly
- remember, remember

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the November Link

A few days ago, I was lying under a chandelier in a ballroom - I was giving blood! Such a good way to feel like a useful member of society. I nearly failed, though, because the initial iron test, that little blob of blood that sinks or doesn't sink in a test tube on arrival, declared my iron count too low. What more could I have done? I even ate a steak this week. Anyway, they have now developed a more sophisticated test where they take a little blood from a vein and that passed muster - so I was in! A nice rest followed by some ginger nuts and orange squash and I was free to go. If you'd like to give blood, they are desperate, www.blood.co.uk

Today there are robins absolutely everywhere, singing their way into the autumn with the odd little intercession from a black cap and a loud interruption from a jackdaw. Plus a few aeroplanes. Nature has invented a new sport - skating over mast-year acorns with a wobble and a crunch - this is a record year with the trees recovering remarkably from the summer drought and producing their fruits in profusion. Acorns figure in Anne Glenconner's book "Lady in waiting"; she explains that the many holm oaks on her ancestral estate at Holkham Hall in Norfolk grew from acorns used as packaging by her ancestors who, before bubble wrap, needed to protect priceless statuary being imported from Italy. The wonderful trees are as wide as they are tall.

I recently saw a "recycle your corks here" bin at a local-ish venue famous for luxurious picnics and thought it was probably a gimmick - now I know that recycled cork is a real thing. The Birkenstock family have been making shoes across eight unbroken generations since the 1770s and, now worth £5.6bn, the brand continues to grow. The shoe is said to be a fashion paradox - so unconcerned with style that it has become a style statement worn by the likes of Kate Moss. Much of the manufacturing is still by hand - the soles made from a mix of PVA and cork granules, made from recycled cork!

We hope you enjoy your month - we are already working on producing the bumper December/ January issue.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



What I do at RAF Biggin Hill Museum & Chapel

"It's not about the medals, it's not about the thank yous … but it's nice to be remembered ...". So said Squadron Leader Geoffrey Wellum, one of the youngest RAF fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain, when Britain fought alone against Nazi invasion.

I'm a volunteer at RAF Biggin Hill Museum & Chapel, on the site of the famous airfield, where we share the many stories of those who fought, worked and lived locally, and remember those who gave their lives in the conflict. My father worked in the aircraft industry, and I've always been interested in WW2, so this was a natural volunteering activity for me when I retired. Biggin Hill was the foremost of those fighter stations who defended Britain against Luftwaffe bombing raids. It earned its iconic status by being located under the "Kent bombers corridor" en route to London; scrambled into combat several times a day, it was the most bombed airfield in the battle. Our stories span the lifetime of the airfield, from its beginnings in WW1 as a site for testing the new technology of wireless radio, through its starring role in WW2, to the post war jet age and its eventual closedown in 1992. If you visit the museum on a Thursday, you'll probably find me there, welcoming you at the reception desk, and giving an entertaining talk. These shine a spotlight on various people and groups, including the brave pilots who defended our country, the squadrons who served there, and the local people who had extraordinary experiences and displayed extraordinary courage in the most awful of circumstances. These include the fighter ace with nine lives, the always-hungry Air Commodore William de Goat, the daily life of a squadron viewed through the lens of its wartime diary, and the young WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) officer who planted flags in the ground marking the position of unexploded bombs - in the middle of a bombing raid! Those who just lived locally were also on the front line, including the six year old boy with free access to the airfield, and the young mother who carried unexploded bombs in her bicycle basket for disposal.



So, please come along and pay us a visit, or we can present at your premises, if you belong to a club that welcomes travelling speakers. You can find us at https://bigginhillmuseum.com/.

Aden Lane

pet of the month

Sparky was 1½ years old when he came into my life in 2001. At the time, we took in rescue horses and he was an unclaimed stray. His breeding is unknown - he might be a Welsh cob but only his mother knows. The plan at the time was to let him grow, teach him how to be ridden and sell him on when he was 4 or 5, but he captured my heart and is still with me at the age of 25!

Sparky's temperament has always been second to none. He loves a cuddle and will walk over to you in the field and ask for a face-rub. There is nothing he enjoys more than spending time with people, whether going on a ride or just enjoying a good grooming session. Sparky was a joy to ride right from the start. He loved to please and, although not the most talented of horses, he would try his absolute best in anything you asked of him. Like me, he found dressage rather boring but muddled through. Showjumping was much more fun, but cross-country was his (and my) absolute favourite thing.

In middle-age, Sparky had problems with one of his eyes and eventually had to have it removed. It didn't affect his activities, though and somehow made him even more endearing! Later in his life, a series of minor leg injuries meant that he could no longer go jumping. For a while we just went for little rides from home but we both soon got bored with that, so I decided to give endurance riding a go. We thoroughly enjoyed the new challenge of completing 10-20 mile competitive rides – mostly on the glorious South Downs, the challenge being to match your speed and pace with the fitness of your horse and finish the ride within a set time with a happy horse still eager for more. We loved it!

For the past few years, Sparky has been retired with his best friend, Max (aged 31). I am very lucky to have him at home – his paddocks are at the bottom of my garden. He still enjoys a bit of light hacking and we are lucky enough to have permission to ride on the farm adjacent to us rather than on the busy roads. Life has taken a much more leisurely pace for us both now.

Jan Ames





Thank you for shaping our village hall's future!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out for our Village Hall Open Meeting on Saturday 4th October. The turnout and level of engagement were fantastic! The committee sincerely appreciates the excellent questions and diverse views shared during the session. Your input is crucial as we move forward to decide on the best path. The committee will meet at the end of October to discuss all the feedback and determine the critical next steps.

For those who couldn't make it, all the documents circulated at the meeting will be available soon on the dedicated Village Hall section of the Hever.org website.

We promise to share our recommendations and latest thoughts with you through a variety of channels, including The Link magazine, the Hever.org website, and the Hever Village Hall Facebook Group. In the meantime, if you have any further questions or comments, please reach out to the committee directly via email at: hever.village.hall@gmail.com.

We look forward to sharing our next update with you soon!
Mandy Yarnold, Chair of the village hall management commitee.

trillions of triathletes



Around 560 locals joined a throng of 7,000 athletes and their supporters at the Hever Castle triathlon at the end of September. There were races for great and small, young and older and fast and slightly slower… The weekend started with a sprint triathlon which is basically relatively short and ramped up via the Olympic standard to the Gauntlet (half the Iron distance) of a 1.9k swim round the castle lake, a bike ride of 90k and a run of 21.1k. There were runners and riders seething everywhere on the roads and footpaths, returning to cheers and live entertainment in the castle grounds. 80 competed for the Alzheimer's Society and raised £4,000.

Local Brian Adcock, Race Director for the 17th year, has kept up interest in this event by expanding the number of challenges people can take on as well as emphasising the health benefits of taking part. There are various lengths of triathlon, a duathlon, aquathlon and a marathon..... supported events for disabled people, not to mention races for children. Almost anyone who likes lycra and wearing a number on their back can find a race to fit.....



And then in October there followed the Commando events, racing and sliding through the castle woods covered in mud - it takes all sorts! I hazard to say that whilst locals are regularly frustrated by the cyclists, they have come to know, if not love, the triathlons and their buzz .. .. maybe?

Joanna Wade

Don’t let the b******s get you down

"B" stands for bureaucrats of course.... On the cusp of older age I'm proud to have mastered "Apps", multi-purpose computer programmes opened by pressing a colourful button on your telephone or laptop - and the blue NHS app in particular. The app (there's one for giving blood too) is becoming more and more important for accessing information and communicating with the NHS, but it does defeat many, confused by the likes of passwords and fear that doing it wrong might result in your whole life history being wiped out.



Edenbridge surgery, keen that patients use the NHS app, has brought in some human help. Volunteer Vicky is there on Wednesday and Thursday mornings specifically to help people use the app, and she has all the patience in the world. Do go along if you are curious about what it can do for you, including ordering repeat prescriptions and viewing your health record and appointments - or you might be just plain angry and terrified!

What the app can't do is book an appointment. This has to be done via the Edenbridge medical practice website (https://edenbridgemedicalpractice.nhs.uk/appointments/), which is a shame because that means being able to navigate both a website and an app, but Vicky can help there too! Try her!

Joanna Wade



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We are asking children from our parish and beyond to send us their festive creations!

We are looking for a great artwork showing the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus’s birth and joy this brought. for our Christmas Card 2025. So, raise your brushes, sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw, paint or create a collage, then photograph or scan it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.

We’ll select the best creation as our 2025 Christmas card, which will go out into our parish and beyond. The winner will receive the Real Advent Calendar from us.

The deadline for submissions is 9th November at midnight! Get creative!

village screen film club



Friday 21 November, Hever Castle Golf Club.
Rye Lane
A critically acclaimed film from 2023 described as "a primary-coloured romance bursting with wit, grit and charm". It is set in Peckham in South London and has been feted as South London's response to "Notting Hill".

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval. Tickets are a suggested donation of £2 for the film or £16.00 to include the meal (the same price as last year) - scampi and chips or baked potato with cheese and/or beans. You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@gmail.com or buy tickets at the door. However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat and please bring cash if possible.



OPEN STUDIO – Brook Cottage, Wellerstown, Chiddingstone
29 – 30 Nov 10.30-4pm, pottery and paintings
DO COME!



COWDEN VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
AND BRIC-A-BRAC SALE
SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER 12 – 3 pm

It's back again this year with Stalls, Gifts, Teas, Cakes & Snacks, Raffles & Hampers

ENTRY £1

Stalls already booked include Homemade Crafts, Xmas Gifts, Homemade Pottery, Dried Flowers, Terrariums, Wood Burning Art, Costume Jewelry, Jams, Preserves & Bird Food, Animal Portraits, Candles, Bags & Notebooks etc., Totally Steamed Woodwork, Antiques & Quirky Bits, Chocolate, Plants & Wooden Planters, Mohair Bears and Local Honey

CASH IS PREFERABLE BUT SOME STALLS WILL HAVE CARD FACILITIES

ALL PROCEEDS TO COWDEN VILLAGE HALL

Thank you all for your support!

Hever Rose and Horticultural Society AGM

All are welcome at the AGM in Hever Village Hall at 8 pm on Wednesday 19th November.

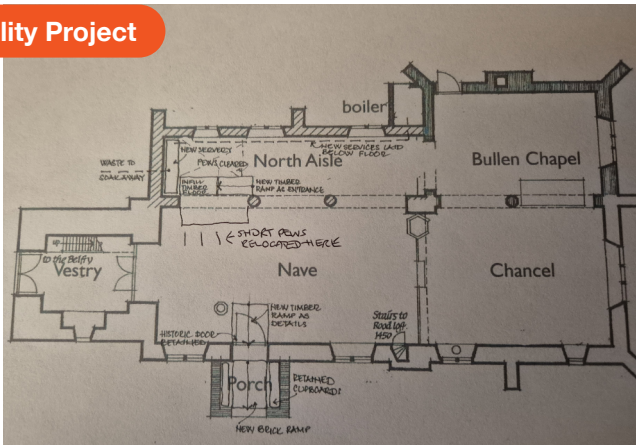
This is your chance to pick up your prospectus for 2026 and hear a round up of 2025.




Father Christmas Visit !!
MARKBEECH
WINTER FAIR
at THE BARN, FALCONHURST
Saturday 22nd November 11 - 4. £3 Entry - Church Fundraising
Local Foods
Festive Crafts
Tombola
Face Painting
Raffle
Hot Food & Drink
Follow Socials @falconhurstestate


CHRISTMAS
AT THE
FESTIVAL THEATRE
JACK and the BEANSTALK
THE WEST END JERSEYS
AT CHRISTMAS
FRI 5 DEC 7PM
Fine dining experience and Twilight Entry
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
A GIANT DINNER-PANTO ADVENTURE
WED 26 & THURS 27NOV
12PM & 7PM
A CHRISTMAS CABARET WITH
SARAH BOO
FRI 12 DEC 7PM
Fine dining experience and Twilight Entry
CHRISTMAS REVELRY WITH THE FESTIVAL THEATRE AT HEVER CASTLE
5TH & 12TH DEC EVENTS ALSO INCLUDE ENTRY INTO
TWILIGHT – HEVER CASTLE'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EXTRAVAGANZA
WWW.HEVERFESTIVAL.CO.UK

St. Peter's Church Accessibility Project



Hever PCC has been looking into improving the facilities and welcome to our Church can give to worshippers and visitors for nearly four years. Alternatives were presented the 2024 Annual Parochial Church meetings by our church architect, Paul Sharrock. These included extending the church to the west of the vestry or creating inside toilet facilities. In the light of increased building costs the idea of an extension was ruled out and a simplified plan is now in place.

The plan improves the disabled access by providing a ramped entrance through the south porch and handrails on the Chancel steps. The area at the rear of the north aisle would be redesigned, to allow for a servery and an area for the congregation to circulate, by removing a few of the rear pews. The area would be ramped to allow wheelchair users to sit in the main aisle by replacing the long pews with the shorter pews from the north aisle. An eco-friendly Kazuba accessible toilet would be installed in the churchyard with a path leading to it.



This would be available to the congregation whilst services and events are taking place but locked at other times, as we do currently. In the same area, a wooden shed, designed by Scott Timbers, would be erected to store items not needed on a daily basis such as the contents of the flower cupboard, fold up chairs and tables.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee members visited the church in the summer and were full of praise for the proposed improvements. The formal Faculty application for the internal reordering will be submitted to Rochester for their December meeting and a planning application will be submitted to the Sevenoaks District Council for the outside items. The Three Spires website will have details of the project and fundraising information as it becomes available. There will be a further presentation at the 2026 APCM once the Faculty and planning permissions have been granted.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Hever Parish Council

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

A team of local residents joined some of our Councillors for the Community Litter Pick recently. Thirty three sacks were cleared from our area, including a mattress in Markbeech, a refrigerator unit in Four Elms and some discarded underpants in Hever! Unfortunately, there was an increase of disposable coffee cups discarded into our countryside. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to help keep our parish looking good. Our next litter pick will be in the Spring.

The Four Elms Pond is now looked after by EDAC (Edenbridge & District Angling Club) who are already making a difference to the pond and the wildlife there. Anyone wishing to fish at the pond must have a valid EDAC membership (which is free to residents of Hever Parish) along with an in date Environmental Agency rod and line licence. To find out more please contact membership.edac@gmail.com

MP, Tom Tugendhat, is running his Annual School Bus Survey to help identify which services are running well and which need improvement. If you have any comments about the service please do complete the survey via this link 2025 School Bus Survey

In the news recently was the confirmation that Gatwick Northern Runway application has been approved. Campaign groups are planning action. More information can be found here: https://www.gacc.org.uk/ and https://cagne.org/

The next stage of the Sevenoaks Local Plan consultation will soon be upon us. It will reveal plans for a significant number of additional homes in the district, including some within our parish. Many of these planned homes will be on 'grey belt' land. CPRE, the countryside charity, has raised concern that the new grey belt policy will have a huge impact on our green belt countryside as much of our green belt will now be classified as grey belt and could be lost to development. CPRE have a petition running so people can make their views felt: https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/725558 CPRE also have a wealth of information on their website.

Finally, should you wish to receive updates from Hever Parish Council via WhatsApp, the link is: https://chat.whatsapp.com/ENLRuMm92qj8LCTjpUO7i5?mode=ems_copy_c or the QR code is below.

The next Hever Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th November in Hever Village Hall. For all information relating to your Parish Council, please visit www.hever.org . Agendas for meetings and the associated documents (including financial information) can be found http://hever.org/parish-council/agendas

Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO
07784912645
clerk@hever.org

news from four elms primary

As we come to the end of our first term at Four Elms Primary School, we celebrate a term filled with joyful learning, exciting experiences, and a strong sense of community. From outdoor adventures to musical milestones, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Our Reception children in Class 1 have settled beautifully into school life. It's been a delight to see them exploring the outdoor area with such joy and confidence. Their budding friendships with their Year 6 buddies have added a special warmth to the playground, creating a nurturing environment where everyone feels supported. Class 2's experience has centred around retelling the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, linked to their Design and Technology learning, bringing the tale to life in a creative and collaborative way. Class 3 enjoyed a memorable trip to Bough Beech Reservoir, where they deepened their understanding of the water cycle through hands-on learning. This has sparked a passion for environmental stewardship. Class 4 have explored the wonders of Ancient Egypt, delving into the culture, achievements, and mysteries of this fascinating civilization.

We came together as a school community to celebrate our Harvest Festival at the local church. The generosity of our families was truly heartwarming, with donations supporting those in need within our local area. It was a beautiful reminder of the values we hold dear at Four Elms - compassion and community.

We were thrilled to welcome potential new families at our first open morning. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the fantastic learning, creativity, and community spirit that make Four Elms so special. We're looking forward to welcoming more families next term.



Looking ahead, we are excited to take part in the Edenbridge Bonfire Night procession. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together and showcase the spirit of Four Elms beyond the school gates.

Anna Cheddie
Co-Head of School

news from hever primary



We already have a strong commitment at Hever Primary to make the best use of our locality to personalise and enhance our curriculum. This continues to be embedded through our Climate Action Plan, a pledge to reduce our carbon footprint over the coming years through a wide range of practical and strategic actions.

This term, our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 classes have each had their first visit of the year to Bore Place. Our Year 6 class will be our first cohort to complete the 3-year learning programme, planned by the Bore Place education team in collaboration with the school, connecting curriculum learning with real-world sustainability. Our youngest children (reception) have been out and about a little closer to home, completing an



autumn walk within Hever village and you may have spotted our Year 2 children completing a traffic survey near to the castle, as part of their geography fieldwork. Year 3 have had the opportunity to handle prehistoric weapons and tools and discover the skills people needed to survive, in their Stone Age to Iron Age day at the beautiful Knole House, Sevenoaks.

Last week, we had two wonderful Harvest celebrations, both ably led by our Year 6 pupils. The first involved Oak class supporting their Acorn buddies in their first visit to the church for their own mini-thanksgiving service and the second was the rest of the school, joining together for our Harvest celebration. This was made extra special by the choir singing the beautiful 'Seeds of Friendship' and by the clear and confident delivery of our readings, prayers and a Harvest poem by Year 6.

If you are looking for a place for your little one for September 2026 and would like to know more about our school, please contact the school office (01732 862304 or email office@hever.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a tour with our Headteacher, or to join our next Open Morning on Wednesday 19th November at 9.15am; we would love to meet you and share all that Hever Primary has to offer. Our current reception class is full but we do have a few spaces further up the school if you are looking for a place for an older child. Please contact the office for more information.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
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Building & Design Services

Andy Sayers Electrical Services	maintenance and repairs	07836 256 146
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
Jade Johnson language tuition in German, French & English online or in person	07761 287517

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	boilers, heating, plumbing & 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

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church in november

Our All Souls choral evensong on 2nd November is an opportunity to light candles and pray as we remember those loved ones who are no longer with us and we have acts of Remembrance at all our churches with the main service at Markbeech 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
2 Nov 10am	All Age Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	All Saints
2 Nov 6pm	Choral Evensong including All Souls at St.Peter's Hever	All Saints
9 Nov 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech followed by Act of Remembrance	Remembrance Sunday
9 Nov 10.45am	Acts of Remembrance at Hever and Four Elms	Remembrance Sunday
9 Nov 3pm	Harvest Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Remembrance Sunday
16 Nov 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	2nd before Advent
23 Nov 8am	Said communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Christ the King
23 Nov 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Christ the King
30 Nov 10am	Christingle at St.Paul's Four Elms	Advent Sunday

Our Home Group meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at various locations and Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. The next Men's Discussion group is at 6.30pm at Saxby's Mead on 23rd October on 'Poverty and generosity'. For details of these please contact Simon. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone or any other help.

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
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
07881 482154

You are invited to a women's evening *Faith and the Family* with Sally Munro & Vicky Goldring
at Markbeech Village Hall TN8 5NR 12th November 7.30pm for refreshments; 8pm talk + Q&A ending by 9pm Tickets £5
For details & tickets contact susiebraid@uwclub.net 07702 708232 or fiona@irens.uk 07887 776199

our rector's thoughts

November is the season of remembering: we have our All Souls service on 2nd November when we remember those we love but see no longer; there's 'remember, remember the fifth of November' and then Remembrance Day. Remembering is at the heart of Christian worship in the Holy Communion when we gather to *'do this in remembrance of me'* as we re-enact the events of the Last Supper. We also long to be remembered. One of the thieves on the cross says to Jesus: '*…remember me when you come into your kingdom'* (Luke 23:42) and I'm always struck by military graves where the fallen are not known but have the inscription: *'A soldier…known unto God'.*

November 2nd is also the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Christians are still the most persecuted religious group in the world and there are countries where it is dangerous to convert or even be known as a follower of Christ. For example, in China, official government policy prohibits children from attending a Sunday school! Personally, I pray regularly for three Christians who are imprisoned for their faith in China, Iran and Nigeria. It is a way of remembering that they are not forgotten. For more details see https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/ St.Paul too was imprisoned and some of his letters that make up the New Testament were written from a prison cell.

Of course, it isn't just Christians who are imprisoned unjustly. As I write, we have just had the Gaza ceasefire and the start of the return of the hostages. Please God, bring peace to the Middle East and healing of this troubled land.

Central to the Old Testament story is the rescue of the people of Israel from Egypt under Moses and their eventual settling in 'the Promised land' described as a 'land flowing with milk and honey' (eg: Deuteronomy 6:9). It is then that God says to them: *'Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice... Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there.'* (Deuteronomy 24:17-18). Without getting into the political challenge of mass migration today, it's still a surprisingly contemporary reminder to remember our good fortune. Let's not forget that we have been born into a safe and secure country with all the benefits we enjoy, thanks, in part, to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice whom we remember each year at this time.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

God bless you all
Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

At the beginning of October there were celebrations for 200 years of the railways. What a change railways brought to the lives of Victorians, both town and country folk. The long arduous trek from town to town by horse drawn stage coach was replaced by the speedy steam engine with its long line of carriages. And with the trains came the railway stations, palaces of a new age of industrialisation with facades like ancient temples and the highly decorative interiors displaying colourful designs.

Which brings me to our own special Victorian gem, here in Four Elms. Our beautiful St Paul's Church. It isn't a monolithic palace but a small well proportioned building, financed by local philanthropists using the finest craftsmen of the day, for the community of Four Elms to worship in and enjoy. The pinnacle of the church was the rooster on the spire. Sadly the rooster has, after professional consultation for reasons of safety, been removed. The elements have taken their toll on the supporting timbers. The Diocese of Rochester have informed the PCC that the rooster is an integral and important part of our Arts and Crafts Church architecture and must be replaced. All that may be said of this is watch this space over the coming years for more information and progress.

If it needed to be emphasised that the church plays an important role in our small village then none more so than for the Harvest Thanksgiving services. It was such a pleasure to see the generosity of Four Elms Primary school giving their gifts in beautifully decorated boxes followed by gifts at the All Age Sunday Service. All were taken to the Edenbridge Food Bank. Thank you to all who donated.

Our annual Act of Remembrance will take place at 10:45 on the 9th November in the churchyard.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden



Armistice service at Four Elms probably taken in the interwar years

Hever

A big thank you to everyone who generously donated food to the Edenbridge Foodbank recently. We especially want to acknowledge Hever School for arranging the successful delivery of all the collected items. Your kindness makes a real difference!

Please join us for a short but important Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 9th. We will gather by the War Memorial at 10:45 am to honour the fallen from our Parish in World Wars I and II.

We are busy planning our Christmas services. Our popular Carol Supper will follow the Nine Lessons and Carols service on Friday, December 19th, and will be held at the Village Hall. Please book your places as soon as possible. Tickets are available from me and cost £12 per person or £8 per child (Year 6 and below).

Don't miss our next Parish Lunch on Thursday, November 13th, starting at 12:30 pm for a 1pm meal. This is a wonderful, informal chance to catch up with neighbours. We typically host around 24 people for soup, cheese, bread, fruit, and a delicious homemade cake. Everyone in the Parish is warmly invited! To help us with catering and any special dietary needs, please let Joanna Wade or Jane Rosam know if you plan on attending. Finally, please avoid parking on the paddock if the ground is wet. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Since last writing, the Harvest Festival at Markbeech was very special. At the later time, with the Church looking bountiful and beautiful, the Service led seamlessly into the lunch.What fun it was, full tables, a recipe provided by Marielou and Lynnie had organised everything to perfection! Tables decorated beautifully by Clare DP and we laughed and enjoyed each other's company. The bar, run delightfully by the Stevenson family, did a great trade. Gemma and her young cast of actors, put on great entertainment and it was an enormous success.

Our Choir Master is busy practising for Choral Evensong on November 2nd. It includes All Souls and last year was a small but beautiful service at Four Elms. This year, on the 9th November, Markbeech has the honour of the Act of Remembrance towards the end of the service at 10.45.am. It means so much to us older members of the congregation, but it should be attended, remembered and understood by even the very young. War is a disaster for ordinary people, just look at the devastation of Gaza. However, let's celebrate, at this time of writing, with the peace in the near East. We must pray it lasts and develops.

At the end of November – the 23rd, there will be another Family Service plus a Baptism, such an optimistic confirmation of the future. Of course, the day before, the 22nd November is the Markbeech Christmas Fair, complete with Father Christmas of course. Plus, wonderful stalls and fun for all. Please join us. The Link has the details on page 9.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary



The Hever Christmas postbox opens on 1st December at Brocas

gardening

Hever Castle garden is a mosaic of autumn colour, spun together with cobwebs, and Head Gardener Neil Miller is loving it.



Looking at the hostas turning from green to yellow, and the almost transparent "mops" on the hydrangeas, he says don't just treat these perennials as "over", they have their own beauty and left alone provide a good habitat for overwintering insects. The same goes for fallen leaves; in the right spot they are key pieces in the mosaic and provide insulation for plants in the cold soil.

Ever mindful of the changing climate, he warns against pruning too early - pruning before it gets really cold encourages new shoots which will then be damaged by the frost, letting in disease. An annual is just that, at the end of the year it is no good leaving it in the bed, it will start to rot and spread bugs and disease; it has a much better future as a vigorous component of compost. Now is the right time to be planting daffodils, snowdrops, narcissi and croci, but leave tulips until it is very cold. Planting in clumps helps when mowing as the leaves shouldn't be cut until they are fully dead. And so to Neil's favourite - roses..... bushes should be gently pruned in early November, reducing their size by about a third, and ramblers should be cut back to the frame. Then in the spring the Castle gardeners cut them down to about 15cms.

As for the grass.... bad news for bald patches - the ground is probably already too cold to germinate new seed successfully, and it is best to wait for spring. The Castle uses a ground thermometer (available in garden centres) and when the temperature falls below 10 degrees they know not to try. The surviving grass just keeps on growing, gone are the days of the final cut in early November - Neil says keep on cutting as long as you can, then concentrate on doing the edges which make the whole lawn look neat.

And muddy lawns and beds are a sign to step back, literally. Walking on mud is no fun and can compact the soil which encourages moss and is bad for the plants struggling to break through in spring. It is also bad for us because, above all it is important to love what you are doing and enjoy the beauty.

Joanna Wade

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	28	57.0	38	49				375
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	31	71.5	27	52				409.5
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	4	25	21	33	52.0	22	71				413

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

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a) 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.
b) If you can't send by bank transfer then please send a five pound note with your name and address to 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or
c) Send a cheque payable to the Link to the above address for **£5.50** as we now have to pay bank charges of 50p per cheque
A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

november diary

Eden Valley Museum celebrating 25 years with two exhibitions 'Discover History through 25 Objects' and 'Explore Change in the Eden Valley'
2nd & 4th Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults – free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on
Women's Fitness Class Mondays at 10.30am and Weds at 6pm Markbeech VH

28 Oct **Biofluorescent Night Walk**, Bore Place, adult £15, child £8 6.30 – 7.30pm
29 Oct **Stargazing Walk**, Bore Place, adult £12, child £8 6.30 – 8pm
30 Oct **Meet the Animals Activity for Children**, Falconhurst 10-11am & 11.30-12.30pm
30 Oct **Owl Walk**, Bore Place, adult £15, child £9 7 – 9pm
31 Oct & 1 Nov **Art & Home Sale**, Hever Village Hall 10-4pm
4 Nov **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever VH planning 7pm full council 7.30pm
8 Nov **Fresh Pasta without a machine**, Bore Place, Adults £60 10am – 2pm
6 Nov **Hever Christmas Fair,** Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle 10.30-3.30pm
11 Nov **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
13 Nov **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
16 Nov **Cowden Christmas Fair & Bric-a-brac**, Cowden Village Hall 12-3pm
19 Nov **Hever Hort AGM**, Hever Village Hall 8pm
21 Nov **Hever Village Film Club – Rye Lane**, Hever Golf Club 7.30pm
22 Nov **Markbeech Winter Fair**, Falconhurst Barn 11 – 4pm
23 Nov **Family Stir-up Sunday Christmas pudding workshop,** Bore Place
adult+child £65, extra child £10 10-12noon
26 & 27 Nov **Jack & the Beanstalk**, Dinner/Panto Guthrie Pavilion 12pm and 7pm
29 and 30 Nov **Open Studio**, Brook Cottage, Chiddingstone 10.30 - 4pm
30 Nov **Wreath making workshop**, Falconhurst
1 Dec **Hever Christmas postbox opens at Brocas**
5 Dec **The West End Jerseys at Christmas**, Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle 7pm
6 Dec **Christmas Wreath making with lunch +,** Bore Place adult £67.50 10–1.30pm
6 Dec **Bach's Christmas Oratorio**, St Swinthun's, East Grinstead 7pm
7 Dec **Carols in the Barn at Bore Place** campfire & mulled wine
adult £7, child £4.50 3-5pm
8 Dec **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
11 Dec **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
12 Dec **Christmas Cabaret with Sarah Boo**, Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle 7pm
13 Dec **Hever Village Carols**, drinks at the Henry 4:30 carols St Peter's at 5.30pm
19 Dec **Service of 9 lessons and carols at St Peter's Hever**
followed by Carol Supper in the Village Hall
16 Jan **Hever Village Film Club – Widow Cliquot**, Hever Golf Club 7.30pm
29 Jan **Get to know your Telescope** at Bore Place, adult £10 child £5 6.30-8.30pm