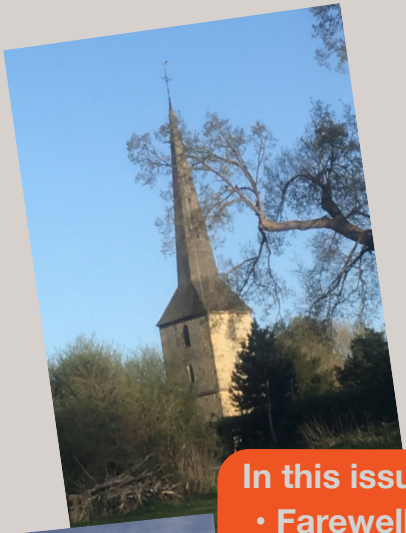
November 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Farewell Norman
- All creatures great and small
- Lovebirds are go
- Composting crazy
- Are you a Christmas shopaholic?

and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

Welcome to the November Link

Dark, dark, dark they all go into the dark - as BST ends, how true, but if you need an antidote to TS Eliot, I was very uplifted by this extract from a Lemn Sissay poem published by the Guardian:
"If the phone won't ring, make the call
If the mountain won't move, shift it
If the birds won't sing, sing to them all,
And if the Sun won't rise, lift it."

Still with poetry, I am in awe of this Ozymandias of oak trees near Chiddingstone Hoath. This magnificent skeleton has stood near the path for years, defying gravity and challenging its thriving neighbour to blink first. But now it has fallen, still I feel shouting "no surrender". And yet more poetry.... which has apparently been rising in popularity even before the "Odyssey effect". Once the film was released, sales of the poem became stratospheric, rising by 1,400%.

Some local news - Kent Wildlife Trust's Sevenoaks Wildlife reserve has a transformed visitor centre overlooking a lake with the chance to view all three species of woodpecker - green and greater and lesser spotted - and eat homemade cake (not sure whose home it is made in, but hey - cake is cake).

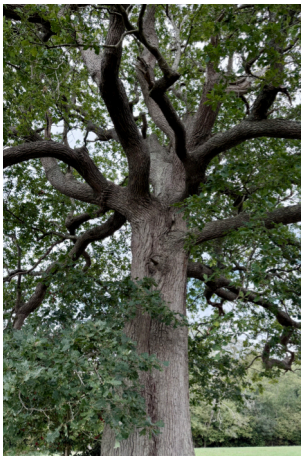
In Edenbridge, £10.3m is to be invested in Spitals Cross to build 23 affordable homes - 19 to rent and 4 shared ownership plus a shop and a community centre, replacing the existing facilities built with the estate in the 1960s by London County Council.

And a few bubbles... Nyetimber winery in West Sussex has won the top trophy at the International Wine Challenge for its Blanc de Blancs, making history as the first-ever non-Champagne producer to claim the title. Unsurprisingly, this year's harvest started earlier than ever before and they expect to produce 1.8 million bottles of sparkling wine. Cheers!

And remember that the RSPB advises that we can safely feed seed to garden birds again from 1 November.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org





pet of the month

The middle of Lidl is well known for providing many unexpected treasures and so it proved when, it yielded my cat Henry. To be precise, it was in the middle aisle that I bumped into my vet's wife, who told me of a young cat in need of rehoming. As she showed me his photo, I was hooked! The next day I made a home visit to see him and four days later he arrived - and it has been love ever since.





Henry was rescued as a tiny kitten along with his brother. They had multiple health issues from being so young, and at the time, he weighed only 350 grams. Luckily, they both survived but living in a family with three children under 7, a resident big Tom called Atlas who thought a white fluffy rather beneath him, made rehoming necessary, despite being much loved.

Henry arrived as a rather nervous young indoor cat. Nearly two years later, he is far more confident, uses the cat flap and loves the garden. He is friendly with the dogs and plays with the puppy. He certainly is not your usual country puss, his long white fur attracts debris and leaves and happily prevents any success for him as he stakes out the bird feeders! But he continues to try! Several times I have returned home after dark and the car headlights have illuminated a white cat marching along the roof ridge tiles. He happily wears two small collars. One is a gentle paws calming collar and the other a tracker - after he once got locked in an outhouse for a couple of days. Pros and cons of a white fluffy cat? Well, he is a fussy feeder, needs daily grooming, has furballs and leaves debris on my bed but all this is far outweighed by being a gentle, happy, purry house companion and family member.

Jane Rosam

what we do

From dusty barn to creative studio: The story of Lovebird Studios Pottery and Art School

When Lotte and I opened the doors of Lovebird Studios in August 2024, it marked a new chapter for both our working lives and our growing family. The idea took shape at a turning point. With a newborn at home, I left my job in London to spend more time with the family. Rather than look for another role and another long commute, we decided to build something together, combining our very different skills into one shared venture.

These skills fit together perfectly. Lotte is an experienced ceramicist with ten years of teaching behind her, bringing deep knowledge of clay and a real gift for helping others discover it. I came from a construction background, and have the ability to see potential where others might only see a project. That potential was hidden in the derelict loft of an old barn. Dusty and long forgotten, it didn't look like much at first. But together we renovated it by hand, transforming it into the beautiful, light





and airy studio it is today: a space designed to feel bright, calm and inspiring the moment you walk in.

Since opening, Lovebird Studios has grown steadily, mostly through word of mouth and the people who keep coming back. The studio now has 20 members, runs four weekly courses and houses eight pottery wheels, giving everyone from complete beginners to seasoned potters room to learn, experiment and create at their own pace. What makes it special, though, is the atmosphere. This is a family-run studio in every sense. On a typical day you might be greeted by the yard dog, and every so often one of our two toddlers will pop their head in to see what everyone is making. It's relaxed, welcoming and unmistakably a home as well as a workplace. At Lovebird Studios, clay, community and family come together under one barn roof, and the door is always open to new faces.

Raphael Vraets
Contact us on WhatsApp
Tel: 07375817393
Web: www.lovebirdstudios.uk

An evening
with Anne Boleyn and her many namesakes



words + music from me and many more Annes across the centuries

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Saturday 21st November St Peter's Hever 6.30pm

raising funds for my memorial www.anneboleynmemorial.co.uk

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6 NOVEMBER

10.30AM-3.30PM

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AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

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01883 712000

@HEVEREVENTS

a tribute to Norman Greenaway



In October we said goodbye to Norman Greenaway, stalwart of the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society and long time resident of Pigdown Lane who died aged 87. Norman was born in Marsh Green in 1939, one of six brothers. His early years were dominated by the war and the family was evacuated to Cornwall. He left school to work in the gardens at Hever Castle, and the excellent gardener that he became was born!

At 21 Norman was one of the very last men called up to do national service, which ended in December 1960. He was posted to Cyprus which the Turkish/Greek conflict made quite dangerous and this earned him his active service medal. However, he was in luck because the Commander in Chief needed a gardener and his green fingers did him proud - Norman reported home that he usually had time for a swim in the afternoon! After national service Norman worked in a factory which he hated but eventually found his niche with Edenbridge Town Council as their first Groundsman, looking after all their green spaces and driving the tractor round town.

In 1970 he married Jenny, who was born in Edenbridge, and they moved to their present house in Pigdown Lane where their son Paul was born. "We haven't moved far!" says Jenny. Although Norman came from a family of gardeners, it was Jenny's parents who gave him the dahlia tubers which began his career as a prize grower. He won prizes at a number of local competitions and from 1986 carried off the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society's Russell cup for dahlias, starting an incredible run, broken only three times in nearly forty years! Norman, with Jenny's support, was also excellent all round gardener. He tended his spacious plot with a precious 50 year old hoe and his grandfather's 100 year old spade, and the resulting vegetables were legendary as evidenced by his 17 Hort wins for his "Master Gardener" trays.

Norman also played cricket to a high standard until knee trouble put paid to that after which he remained a keen sports fan. More importantly, he was a proud husband, father and grandfather, the gardening genes emerging again in Paul who works for How Green Nursery. When I interviewed him for the gardening column a few years ago his advice was: "Learn from your mistakes" and "There's always a job in the garden". How wise!

Joanna Wade

VILLAGE SCREEN FILM CLUB 2026/2027

The film season begins in November at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club and this year the films have been chosen by our audience members. Our first film will be:



Friday 27 November - The Queen
As controversy continues to dog the royal family, Helen Mirren takes us back to the death of Princess Diana and the dilemmas facing the Queen. Mirren won an Oscar and the rest of the all-star cast includes Martin Sheen as Tony Blair. Unbelievably the film is 20 years old so if you think you remember it - think again!

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval. Tickets are a suggested donation of £2 for the film or £16 to include the meal - on the menu for November is 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.

Hever family Christmas Carols



Saturday 12th December

4.30pm at the Henry
for mulled wine and mince pies

5.30pm at St Peter's Church
for Christmas Carols and Songs



tortoises, bats and birds....

Being an optimist (or blinkered and seriously in denial), I can't help picking up good news stories about nature. So three cheers for the giant tortoises in the Seychelles whose numbers have risen from a worrying few thousand to 180,000 at the last count. Also, butterflies have had their second best summer in 16 years - and bats are having a fine old time on the wilded Knepp estate in Sussex. Knepp hosts 14 of the 18 breeds of bat known in the UK, including the rare Bechstein's, Alcathoe and barbastelle varieties. They thrive there because they can nest in the old trees and feed on the great variety of insects which thrive in the varied habitat. In particular, both bat and prey love the new beaver-created wetlands along the river. A perfect example, says Knepp "of how the restoration of one creature can dramatically improve the fortunes of another". Kent Wildlife's reserve at Blean also hosts beavers alongside their buffalo, busy providing free woodland management, lack of management being a major reason for species decline.



And then I fell in love..... with a lapwing chick and had to face a very bad news nature story. When I was first in Hever I loved to watch lapwings swooping around the edge of the Eden, but then they disappeared and the RSPB newsletter reports that numbers decreased by 56% between 1995 and 2024. This is because, as ground nesting birds, their chicks are very vulnerable to predators and loss of habitat due to changing farming practices. The RSPB is fundraising to improve its reserves, for example by thinning out scrub to create chick feeding areas near nesting sites. I so hope they turn the tide!

So, to end with a few migration stories, the most extraordinary to my mind concerning the apparently unremarkable chaffinch. Their Latin name is Fringilla Coelebs, christened by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus who observed that whilst the females migrated south, the males stayed put, hence the Latin tag "Coelebs" meaning batchelor or celibate. This partial migration is less common in warmer climates like the UK and so our males are decreasingly likely to be left on their own.

And to round us off, I am so pleased to hear from the BTO that many of their fully-migrating tagged British cuckoos are now comfortably established for the winter in the dense rain forests of Africa, albeit several thousand miles apart, ranged from Nigeria to Sudan.

Joanna Wade

All welcome at the

Hever Village Hall AGM

on Tuesday 8 December at 6:30 pm

CHRISTMAS FAIR & BRIC-A-BRAC SALE

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER

12.00pm - 3.00pm in the Cowden Village Hall

Entrance £1 - Refreshments available



what did the plastics ever do for us?

Bizarrely, the strongest memory I have of a visit to Great Dixter Garden nearly 20 years ago is of a line of old plastic bags pegged up on Christopher Lloyd's private washing line. I was delighted both to see something so mundane in amongst the magical and to witness a Great Man taking the same eccentric steps as me to avoid the single use of plastic. It is so easy to see plastic as a bad thing but I find myself wondering where plastic came from .....



The Science Museum tells us that naturally occurring plastics have been used since antiquity: horn, tortoiseshell, and rubber are flexible when heated and had many uses, but as natural materials became scarcer, inventors started to look at how to produce synthetic equivalents. In 1862 Alexander Parkes from Birmingham patented Parkesine, considered to be the first manufactured plastic which made items like combs and billiard balls much more affordable. Celluloid followed on and as the film industry grew and 1920s movie stars made short hair popular, the comb industry faltered, but sunglasses took their place. The 20th century saw a revolution in plastic production when Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland invented the first fully synthetic plastic in 1907 (I am not enough of a chemist to understand why earlier versions were not synthetic). He called his combination of formaldehyde and phenol bonded together under heat pressure Bakelite, the wood-like appearance was very attractive and it could be mass produced, making it possible for ordinary people to buy luxury goods such as telephones, radios and ornaments.

Then came Perspex when oil companies realised that they could use ethylene gas, a waste product, to make it. Next, following a failed experiment at one of their plants, scientists at ICI found a white waxy substance in a test tube which they called a polymer of ethylene - it was polythene! Nylon was a worldwide sensation in the 1930s and Teflon has done a great deal for cooking and for politicians alike. Plastic is now widely used in life-saving surgery but not in "plastic surgery"; the term instead comes from the Greek "plastikos" meaning to mould a shape.

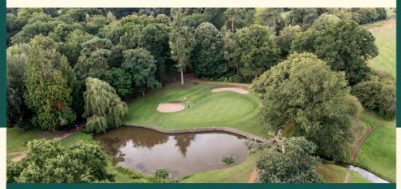
So it is important to remember the amazing chemists who discovered this material and democratised access to so many day-to-day items ... for more information you can find the Plastics Historical Society online and it's Museum of Design in Plastics at the Arts University, Bournemouth - sounds like it may be worth a visit.

Joanna Wade



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St John the Baptist Church, Penshurst TN11 8BL

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www.penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk
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Adults £15 | Children £5

Hever Parish Council

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Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

First, I am very excited to bring the news that the application we recently submitted for National Lottery funding towards the younger years play equipment and new fencing for the Four Elms Play area has been successful! The plans for this will be shared shortly.

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) is inviting residents to participate in a survey to support their aim of an age friendly community where people can enjoy a good quality of life and retain independence for longer. The survey will help provide valuable insight into the experiences, needs and priorities of local people and help to shape future services. To complete the survey please visit: SDC Age Friendly Community Survey or contact 01732 227000 for a paper copy.

The SDC new wheelie bin collections are now underway and each household should have a bin with a green lid for dry recycling, including glass bottles and jars, and are black bin for general waste. Residents should have received a card informing them of the collection dates, but these can be checked at Check your waste day and report a missed collection | Sevenoaks District Council On the subject of rubbish, it has been noted the litter bin has been removed from Hever Station which unfortunately has resulted in litter being dropped along the road. Govia Thameslink Railway have no plans to replace it as bins are available on the trains. I have followed up with SDC to see if they can assist with placing a bin in the vicinity. The Autumn Community Litter picks were held recently and a good haul was had. A big thank you to all the councillors and volunteers who helped, freely giving up their Saturday to help keep the parish looking good.

As a reminder, should you wish to receive updates from Hever Parish Council via WhatsApp, the link is: Hever Parish WhattsApp join invite or this QR code.

The next Hever Parish Council Meeting will be in January, please view the website www.heverparishcouncil.gov.uk for confirmation of the date and venue. All information on the Parish Council, Agendas for meetings and the associated documents (including financial information) can also be found on there.

Rachael Turner Clerk and RFO
077849 12645
clerk@heverparishcouncil.gov.uk

CHAPS Chiddingstone Amateur Players

Philip King's farce See How They Run, 20 and 21 Nov
Chidd Causeway VH 6.45 for 7.30pm start
tickets available online and local shops
https://events.liveit.io/chaps/chaps-presents-see-how-they-run/



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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
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
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
Richard James Landscaping,	all aspects of both hard and soft landscaping	richard@richardjamesland.co.uk
SA Landscaping	landscaping, garden maintenance, fencing, driveways and more	01732 671146
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815

Home Services

Daren Wood	chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
MOLE CATCHER, Peter King		Mob:07432 813614 or 01892 520287
Pegrum	boilers, heating, plumbing & oil tanks	01732 463256
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
The Caring Fuel Collective, home heating oil suppliers,		www.caringfuel.com

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

Taxis

Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800

Venue Hire and Weddings

Falconhurst Weddings	01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall	01342 850328



news from four elms primary

It has been a very busy and exciting few weeks at Four Elms Primary School, with lots of opportunities for our children to learn, celebrate and support their local community. A huge thank you goes to our fantastic PTA, who have organised some wonderful fundraising events this term. Our annual Jogathon was once again a great success, with children challenging themselves to complete as many laps of the school field as possible while raising money through sponsorship. The PTA also hosted a brilliant Halloween Disco, where pupils came dressed in a variety of costumes and enjoyed an afternoon filled with games, dancing and fun.

We have also loved welcoming prospective families to Four Elms, giving them the opportunity to see our school in action and experience the warm, nurturing environment that makes our school such a special place to learn.

Supporting our wider community continues to be an important part of life at Four Elms. Our recent Macmillan Coffee Afternoon raised an amazing £138 for Macmillan Cancer Support, and it was lovely to see families come together to enjoy tea, cake and conversation whilst supporting such an important cause. Earlier this term, pupils also visited the church to celebrate Harvest, and families generously donated food items for Edenbridge Food Bank, demonstrating the kindness and generosity that we are so proud to see in our school community.

Across the school, pupils have been fully immersed in their learning. Class 1 have been exploring the school environment and developing their creativity through Drawing Club. Class 2 have been learning about Four Elms and the local area, creating maps and writing about the different features of the village. Class 3 have been investigating magnets and using their scientific knowledge to create their own games, while Class 4 have been studying the fascinating Benin Kingdom and producing artwork that will soon be displayed at Sevenoaks Library.

Anna Cheddie
Head of School



news from hever primary

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of Term 1, although so much has happened this term. Our little Acorns are so well settled, thanks to our wonderful Early Years team, ably supported by our Year 6 buddies. Last week, this included our Year 6 pupils accompanying our reception children in their first visit to the church for our Harvest celebrations; Year 6 were great role models, giving the younger children the confidence to participate with great enthusiasm. Afterwards our newly appointed head girl and head boy took our Harvest gifts to the Edenbridge food bank, building children's gratitude for what we have and the importance of sharing this with our wider community.





Our big excitement this term has been the installation of our stunning wooden outdoor shelter. We are hugely grateful to our amazing PTA for their support in raising money and securing grants to enable us to complete this project in an incredibly short timeframe. Following the loss of our oak tree last summer, we were looking for ways of creating additional shade and have successfully combined this with another ambition, to create a calm space away from the busy play areas, for children who want some quiet time at break and lunch time. Additionally, this will provide an outdoor learning space, large enough to seat a class, for staff to use throughout the day. All in all, this will be a great addition to support both the well-being and learning of current and future children.

Our head boy and head girl gave a wonderful presentation to the prospective parents who joined us for our first open morning last week, providing a child's view of what it's like to be part of our school community and all the exciting opportunities on offer. Our next open morning is already fully booked but if you are looking for a school for your little one for next September, please contact the school office to arrange a tour (office@hever.kent.sch.uk /01732 862304); we would love to show you our school.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

church in november

Our All Souls choral evensong on 1st November is an opportunity to light candles and pray as we remember those loved ones who are no longer with us. We have acts of Remembrance at all our churches with the main service at Hever 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
1st Nov 10am	All Age Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	All Saints
1st Nov 6pm	Choral Evensong including All Souls at St.Paul's Four Elms	All Saints
8th Nov 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever and Act of Remembrance at 10.45am	3rd before Advent
8th Nov 10.45am	Service of Remembrance at St.Paul's Four Elms	3rd before Advent
8th Nov 3pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	3rd before Advent
11th Nov 12pm	Act of Remembrance at Markbeech	Remembrance
15th Nov 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	2nd before Advent
22nd Nov 8.00am	Said communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Sunday before Advent
22nd Nov 10.00am	Family service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Sunday before Advent
29th Nov 10.00am	All Age communion and Christingle at St.Peter's Hever	Advent 1

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 5th November on 'Is there a future for the established church?'. For more details 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
vacancy

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
07976 281613

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
07881 482154

Nicki Talbot
01342 850526

our rector's thoughts

November is the season of remembering with All Souls on 1st November, 'remember, remember the fifth of November' and Remembrance Day. Back in 1964 I remember seeing the first of ITV's documentary 'SevenUp', which brought together fourteen seven year olds from very differing backgrounds, to be interviewed every seven years quoting the Jesuit motto "Give me the child for the first seven years and I will give you the man". I watched all the episodes over the years. The original interviewer, Michael Apted, died in 2021, two years after completing 63 Up. But when one of the participants, Nick, who grew up to be a nuclear scientist, asked for one last interview following a terminal cancer diagnosis, a final episode was commissioned.

Looking back, it seemed the series was designed as a critique on England's class ridden society. In the first episode, three prep schoolboys talked about their privileged futures; Tony, the self-described "Artful Dodger" wanted to be a jockey but ended up as a cab driver and Symon, the sad-eyed boy from a children's home, grew up to foster more than 100 children with his wife in Australia. He looked much happier now in contrast to Neil, a bright Liverpudlian schoolboy, who dreamed of Oxford, but struggled with depression and homelessness all his life.

I found the whole thing very moving. The final episode was more reflective than in previous years. Lynn, who spent most of her life as a devoted children's librarian died in 2013. Almost everyone is retired. Everyone is looking back. It reminded me of the tributes I hear at funerals. People may have had a very full life, have achieved a lot like having an amazing CV, but at the end what will our legacy be? How will we want to be remembered? In Charlie Mackesy's endearing story, the Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, the mole asks the boy: 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' 'Kind' said the boy.

We all need to be remembered. One of the thieves on the cross says to Jesus: '*…remember me when you come into your kingdom'* (Luke 23:42). I'm always struck by military graves where the fallen are not known but have the inscription: *'A soldier…known unto God'.* So when it comes to being remembered, I hope I'll be remembered for my character. But most of all I want to be remembered by Jesus and, when the time comes, to be welcomed with the words: *Today you will be with me in paradise.*

God bless you all

Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

As misty mornings give way to gentle sunshine and the first redwings arrive to strip hawthorn berries from our hedgerows, we remember that autumn is a time when Four Elms church plays host to the marking of the community's milestones. Harvest Festival in October saw St Paul's beautifully decorated and the many gifts of food brought to the church taken to the Edenbridge Food Bank. The evening before, we had gathered in the village hall for a delicious Harvest Supper, kindly prepared once more by Ren Whiting and her team of helpers.
After an all-age service on Sunday, November 1st at 10 am, at 6 pm St Paul's will host an All Saints service, at which people from all over the benefice will gather to remember loved ones who have died over the years. Markbeech choir will lead our singing. If you would like someone's name read out at the service, email Ana Roxburgh, the benefice's administrator, at beneficeemail@gmail.com or add the name to the list as you enter the church.

Again, whether you are a regular attender at our village churches or almost never set foot in them, do think about joining the Act of Remembrance at St Paul's on November 8th, at 10.45. After this short service, held beside the war memorial or inside the church if the weather is inclement, we invite villagers to join us for coffee (generously provided by Mark Rogers from the Four Elms Inn) to share stories of our own, our families' and our local area's experience of war.
And finally, don't forget to drop by at Four Elms church for our regular, informal 'enjoy a cuppa' on the second Tuesday of the month (November 10th) from 10.45 until 12.

Marion Cox

Hever

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who generously donated food to the Edenbridge Foodbank. Special thanks are also due to the Hever School families who contributed so wonderfully to the collection and kindly arranged for it to be delivered safely to the foodbank.
For those looking forward to an entertaining autumn evening, tickets to "An evening with Anne Boleyn and her many namesakes" concert are still available to buy from Joanna Wade. The concert will take place on Saturday 21st November at 6.30 and will raise vital funds for the Queen Anne Boleyn memorial project.
As we look ahead to the winter season, Advent begins on Sunday 29th November, and our 10am service that morning will also include Christingle. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and get into the festive mood for Christmas.

On the church maintenance and development front, we have received a letter from the Diocesan Advisory Committee requesting additional changes to our interior designs for the church, which are intended to improve access and provide a servery. Following this, the Church Council has agreed to split the project into two phases and move forward first with the

external project that will provide an accessible Portaloo. A planning application for this has now been submitted to Sevenoaks District Council

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 12th November 12.30 for 1pm lunch. We normally have around 24 people and serve soup, cheese, bread, 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

At Markbeech we ended September joyously with a delicious Harvest Supper in the village hall. The evening was a sell-out, not really because of the reputation of the catering but because the evening was enhanced by the legendary Murder Mystery players! An enormous thank you to Haddy Cosh and Angus Irens and their wonderful cast for their hard work and such an enjoyable and successful evening. I must also thank Kit and Liz Kaberry without whom a Markbeech event does not happen! The Harvest Festival Service was also very well attended, the church was beautifully arranged with pumpkins and flowers. Lots of non-perishable produce brought in for the food bank, and children enjoyed modelling vegetables from coloured clay.

On Sunday 11th October, we had a beautiful Holy Communion and Baptism Service; The Whitewood family brought Seren to be baptised and now 7 years old, she joined in the service confidently. We are all going to miss Simon and Susie so much, they are particularly good with young families. On Remembrance Day – Markbeech will meet on the triangle outside the church on the 11th November at 12 noon to remember local people who were killed in the War. This year the main Benefice Service is at Hever on the 8th November. There is a Family service on the 22nd November.

Saturday 5th December, 11-4 at The Barn, Falconhurst – The Christmas Fair, Entry £3; children free. Father Christmas will be there £5 per child, lots of interesting stalls, including Markbeech cakes and pies and Children's lunch boxes. Then on Sunday 13th December the Kentish Horse Carols at 5.30, our Carol Service in the Church will be 20th December, 6pm. On Christmas Day our Family Communion service will be at 10am. BUT, before the above, please enjoy the Autumn, it is even beginning to rain!

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

From the Register:

Baptism
8th October Markbeech Seren Lyla Whitewood

Funerals
8th September Hever James Alexander Ross
13th October Four Elms Janet Samson Memorial Service

a simple compost guide

Why compost? Let us be honest, why pay for expensive bags of compost when we can make our own, especially when we don't know what those bags contain? I swear, I have new weeds in my flower beds and containers that have never been there before! Why pay for the council to take away garden and household organic matter that you can use to make your own?

Compost adds valuable organic matter to the soil; improves soil structure and moisture retention; adds drainage to our heavy clay; improves biodiversity which in turn provides food for other animals such as birds, hedgehogs and toads. Home-made compost can be used as a mulch to hold moisture in the soil by slowing down evaporation. It can be used as potting compost when mixed with soil, grit and Pearlite.

Composters. A compost heap will work but can be messy especially if garden visitors get involved. Plastic 'Dalek' bins are available, but home built pens will work just as well. Mine is made from pallets, recycled wood, and a conservatory roof! The larger the more efficient it is. Leaf mould can be made by putting leaves into strong plastic bags, piercing them, and stacking behind a fence for a couple of years.

Place the pen on bare earth, in a shady and easy to reach area. It should have some warmth, but not in full sun or it will dry out. Ideally combine 20-50% green material with 50-75% brown. Green material includes fruit and veg peelings, grass cuttings, crushed eggshells and manure from herbivores. The brown carbon rich materials can be dead leaves, ripped cardboard(easier when wet), shredded paper, chopped hedge clippings and the like and straw. Distribute these evenly. I make compost lasagna layering wet and dry materials. Any time of the year is okay to start, but autumn is good as there is so much material available. Do not use meat, dairy, or cooked foods as this can attract rodents. Also diseased or pest-ridden materials, and pet waste.

Turn with a fork or transfer to an adjacent bin a few times a year to aerate the pile and combine the ingredients. Take care as I have found toads and slow worms in residence! Last year a family of foxes burrowed underneath taking advantage of free warmth. The compost is ready to use when it is brown, crumbly, and has the lovely smell of woodland.

Pauline Radford



benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
FOUR ELMS													
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	85	66	87	613
2026	162	90	25	4	14	42	1.0	28	29				395
HEVER													
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	103	61	107	680
2026	187	88	22	2	20	55.5	0.0	30	28				432
MARKBEECH													
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	115	63	116	707
2026	183	92	28	3	19	51	0.0	30	34				440

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Hever – Karen Thomas 07747 867942 or heverhallbooking@gmail.com
Markbeech – Mrs Paige 01342 850328

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Kent County Councillor	**Sevenoaks District:**	**Hever Parish:**
Robert Mayall	James Barnett 07831 112901	Rachael Turner 077849 12645
Robert.Mayall@kent.gov.uk	cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk	clerk@heverparishcouncil.gov.uk

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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Copy for the **December/January** edition should reach us no later than **16th November**. Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer and £18 if sent by post.

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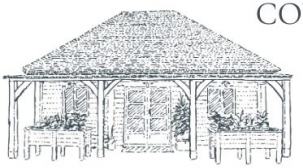
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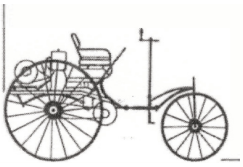
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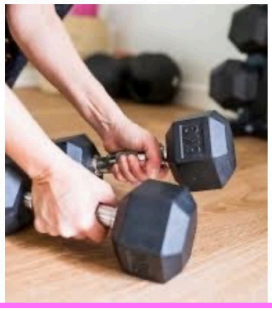
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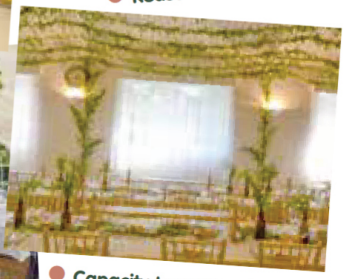


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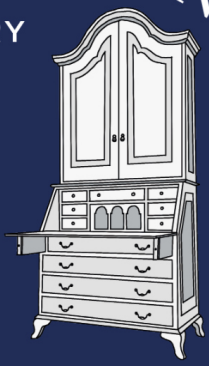




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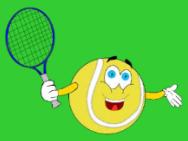
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Eden Valley Museum new local heroes exhibition
2nd Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults – free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on
Women's Fitness Class Mondays at 10.30am and Weds at 6pm Markbeech VH
Falconhurst Street Food at the Barn, 1st Friday and Saturday each month 12 noon – 8pm

3 Nov **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever VH planning 7pm full meeting 7.30pm
6 Nov **Hever Christmas Fair,** Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle 10.30-3.30pm
8 Nov **Winter Foraging Walk**, Bore Place, tickets £37 10.30am-1pm
10 Nov **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms 10.45 – 12 noon
12 Nov **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
15 Nov **Cowden Christmas Fair**, Cowden Village Hall 12-3pm
20 & 21 Nov **CHAPS See How They Run**, Chidd Causeway VH, 6.45 for 7.30pm
21 Nov **An evening with Anne Boleyn and her many namesakes**, St Peter's Hever 6.30pm
27 Nov **Hever Film Club**, The Queen, Hever Golf club supper 6.30, film 7.30pm
2 Dec **Festival Theatre and Fine Dining**, see p8 Hever Castle 7.30pm
3 Dec **Festival Theatre and Fine Dining,** see p8 Hever Castle 7.30pm
4 Dec **Festival Theatre and Fine Dining,** see p8 Hever Castle 7.30pm
5 Dec **Winter Fair at Falconhurst Barn,** adults £3 children free 11-4pm
6 Dec **Carols on the Farm** + mulled wine, Bore Place, adult £7 child £4.50 3-5pm
8 Dec **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms 10.45-12 noon
8 Dec **Hever Village Hall AGM**, Hever Village Hall 6.30pm
10 Dec **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
12 Dec **Hever Family Carols**, mulled wine+mince pies The Henry 4.30, carols St Peter's 5.30pm
13 Dec **Kentish Horse Carols**, Markbeech 5.30pm
18 Dec **Hever Carol Supper,** Hever VH after 9 lessons & carol service at St Peter's
19 Dec **Penshurst Choral Soc Christmas Concert**, Penshurst Church, £15 child £5 6.30pm
22 Jan **Hever Film Club**, Bringing up Baby, Hever Golf club supper 6.30, film 7.30pm
30 Jan **Bread Making Course**, Bore Place, tickets £126 10-4pm
17 Feb **Space Rocks**, interactive talk for children, Bore Place, adult £10 child £5 10.30-11.30am
26 Feb **Hever Film Club**, As Good as it Gets, Hever Golf club supper 6.30, film 7.30pm
26 Mar **Hever Film Club**, The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery, as above

