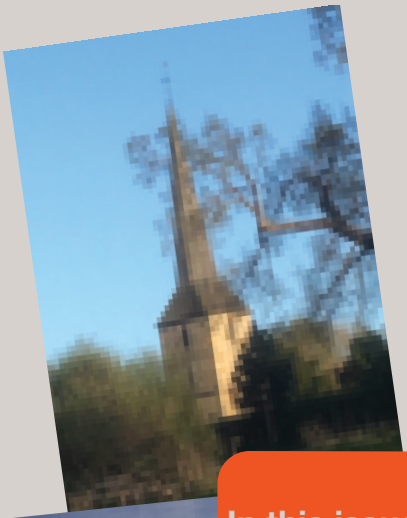
March 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Doris 'n' Dave
- a very grave matter
- what's a social media mentor?
- the sound of music
- litter louts beware

...and so much more

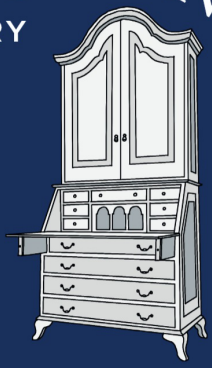
Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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Welcome to the March Link

I have a new puppy and as I walk along with him tucked into my fleece, he's burrowing into the sleeve and starting to sleep; a typical Jack Russell. The sky is very blue, which is a bit of a turn up for the books this month, and I can see two larks high up there singing. I wonder if they are two males fighting for territory, I suppose they are. From down here they seem very civilised.

Talking of civilised, I always enjoy the newsletter of the Eden Valley Museum. Annual membership is £20 - for details see www.evmt.org.uk. The last edition has a fascinating article about prize fighting in Edenbridge - apparently the town was a well known centre, being close to "county lines" so that participants could escape the police. In the 19th century fights were bare knuckle and lasted for hours because a round only ended when one of the fighters fell or was knocked to the ground. The winner was declared when their opponent was unable to "come to the scratch" - which was the middle of the ring, hence the term "not up to scratch" - you learn something every day!

Next, a bit of bad news - don't let their cute looks distract you from the fact that squirrels (grey of course) are causing devastation. When they bark an oak by nibbling right round it, they kill the whole tree by stopping the flow of nutrients and water or making the tree susceptible to infection. Round here you see many oak trees dying because of this. But to end with a couple of good news stories.... first that renewable energy is now greatest source of electricity in the UK, and second that scientists have found some ash trees fighting back against ash dieback and surviving. The disease is not the rout that was dutch elm disease, indeed the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year 2025 is an ash in Glasgow, 170 years old and going strong (and probably blocking out quite a bit of light for its custodians!). It is now competing for European tree of the year.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



what I do



Hello, I am Steph Barclay, a "social media mentor". No two days are ever the same for me - they're filled with business owners, working for a charity, toddler adventures and bellringing at St Peter's Hever and other churches around West Kent. After having my hearing tested by Edward (my 2.5 year old) shrieking "Mummy, I'm awake!" my mornings continue with making sure everyone is set up for their day and ensuring there are sandwiches in Edward's Paddington lunchbox, rather than my credit card or Daddy's car keys.

Edward is endlessly excited about life, and if you asked him to write about what Mummy does, he'd make sure to tell you that I have learnt a great deal from him about different types of aeroplanes, diggers and emergency service vehicles. Edward is keen to have a conversation with Hever resident Phil Lindsay about the A380 that flies over our house just before bedtime – Phil is also a regular spotter of the same plane a few minutes later as it goes over his house!

Once Edward is at the childminder's, I transfer my attention to the day. I work part time as Communications Officer for The Hygiene Bank which began in 2019 in Sevenoaks, supporting people in hygiene poverty who cannot afford toiletries (to find your nearest donation point visit the Bank's website). I also run my own business, High Weald Marketing, mentoring creative businesses to improve their social media confidence and skills. My real passion lies in seeing business owners having that penny-dropping moment when they become confident in running their social media, connecting with their audience in a meaningful way and gaining more brand awareness for their business. I love seeing how clear, creative communication can help a small business or community group thrive.

When I'm not working, you'll often find me up in the bell tower in Hever. The oldest bells in the tower are from 1703, and this centuries-old tradition combines teamwork, focus and a good dose of laughter! There's a real joy in introducing new ringers to the art and hearing the bells ring out during Sunday services or special occasions (beginners please contact Jane Rosam the Tower Captain on 07766 763124).

So that's what I do: a mix of marketing, motherhood and bellringing methods. Life here may be full, but it's full of all the right things: purpose, people and plenty of joyful noise.

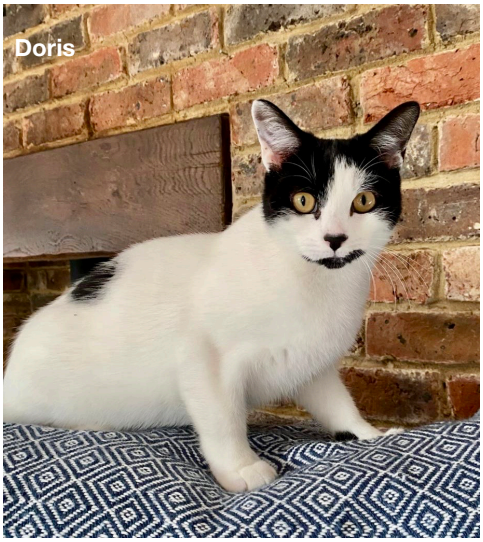
Steph Barclay

Email: hello@highwealdmarketing.co.uk
www.highwealdmarketing.co.uk

pets of the month

Some time ago I told you all a little something about our two cats, Kiara and Ziggy. We were all living a harmonious life together when for reasons which are a little unclear to me now, I decided that we needed more cats to complete the picture. With visions of sleeping cats curled up with cute kittens, a protective paw gently draped over their shoulders, I cheerfully poo-pooed hubby's misgivings and set off to Last Chance. Meet Dave and Doris.


Dave


Doris

We fell in love with them instantly. Kiara and Ziggy did not. Despite following every piece of advice on introducing new cats to your pampered felines, and despite a houseful of calming Feliway diffusers (other brands are available!) it's fair to say that it's been a bumpy road. Almost a year down the line, we are just at the stage where all four can be in the same room at the same time. There is still much staring and growling, and there are daily spats between Ziggy and Dave, but in general an uneasy truce has been reached.

Let me tell you then a bit about Dave and Doris. Dave, or dopey Dave as he is now known, is exactly that. Like Kiara, he hasn't quite figured out the catflap. But he does a very good roly poly when he's excited. He loves a fuss and has claimed a spot on our laps in the evenings. Doris is smart. The catflap holds no mystery for her and, like Ziggy, she is an excellent hunter. She brought in a wood pigeon once – not easy to ram that through a cat flap! Doris was very timid when we brought her home, we couldn't even stroke her. But patience paid off and now she is very affectionate.

They have both added so much to our lives. Mostly cat hair. I haven't yet got my dream of the cats as best buddies, but progress has definitely been made. Maybe this time next year I'll have my greetings card photo……or there's always AI.

Jan Ross

Hever churchyard - so many stories to record....

Your Link editors have a new project! The graveyard at St Peter's, Hever, is full of fascinating graves but there is no map and little is known about many of those buried there. We plan to change that - but we need your help... if you can help us with biographies of people you knew, we would be delighted to hear from you.

One notable grave is that of Sir Derek Burdick Greenaway, 2nd Baronet Greenaway of Coombe, Surrey (1910-1994), businessman and High Sheriff of Kent and his wife Sheila (2013-2003). Sir Derek was the latest in a long line of Greenaways who, with his brother Alan, ran a high-end printing business in the City. It was founded by Daniel Greenaway in 1859 and Sir Derek's father, Sir Percy, was Lord Mayor of London in 1932/3 and was created a hereditary baronet as a result. A former employee recalled that Sir Derek was always seen smoking a cigar - if he used the ashtray on your desk you





didn't empty it so that colleagues could see he had visited you! The Greenaways with their children Ann and John moved to Dunure, Four Elms, opposite what is now the garden centre/café in 1945. It was in a bad way having been an officers' mess during the war and before that a rest home for clergy set up by Theresa, daughter of John Williams of Boons Park. She lived in a house of the same name in Leamington Spa (see the April 2025 Link on hever.org for our article on Boons). They changed the name to "Dunmore". They also extended the garden and bought Four Elms Farm.

I talked to local Mick George, their former chauffeur, about the Greenaways and his own long connection with Four Elms. Mick's father was born in Little Blackmoor on Bull Lane and Mick too grew up in Four Elms. For national service he joined the army to see the world and was disappointed only to get as far as Germany (he nearly made it to Suez and spent hours painting all the army cars yellow to blend in with the



Mick and the Bentley

sand). Already car-mad he was consoled by work driving a brigadier and this, together with the fact that his father was one of Sir Derek's gardeners, was his credential for the post of chauffeur to Sir Derek, starting in 1959. Dressed in a grey suit and a peaked cap, his job was to drive his boss every day to and from the company's office at Old Broad Street (until it moved into the factory at 132 Commercial Road), the drive took an hour and was often repeated in the evening for social engagements, and there were diversions for shopping at Harrods or to deliver parcels. Sir Derek had just bought a Bentley from the Mill Hill garage in Edenbridge for £7,500 and Mick was sent to the Bentley school of motoring to learn how to service and maintain it. Meanwhile Sir Derek, who was not keen on Mick taking holidays, had to extend the garage to house his pride and joy. After six years the Bentley was approaching 100,000 miles so it was sold and replaced by a Mercedes. Eventually Sir Derek had to content himself with a Humber Imperial as a rule was introduced that directors of Greenaways were not allowed to spend more than £4,000 on a car.

Outside work, Sir Derek was High Sheriff of Kent, in which capacity he met many notable people including the Duke of Edinburgh and Master of the Stationers' Company. He was a keen horseman and Master of the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt (he suffered a head injury after being thrown from his horse but recovered) and the Greenaways were enthusiastic hosts, including to Princess Hilda of Bavaria who had been imprisoned in Auschwitz during the war. Locally he was a generous benefactor. He gave land for the Four Elms graveyard extension to the village (we wonder why he ended up being buried in Hever) and paid for mains water to be connected to the cricket club.

After Sir Derek died Mick stopped chauffeuring and worked in the garden for Sir Derek's son. But he still loved cars and built up quite a collection of veteran cars which he restored and generously showed every year at the



Mick & Barbara and the Triumph Roadster

Four Elms Fete. He met Barbara, his wife of 65 years, at a dance in Four Elms village hall and courted her by giving her lifts to work in his first car, a Rover 14 sports saloon (*with* a sun roof!!). Mick and Barbara have always lived in the village but escaped regularly in various cars which he restored - the picture is taken in their 1947 Triumph roadster on the way to Italy. What style!

Joanna Wade

drink-a-pinta-milk-a-day!



11th January was National Milk Day. It celebrates the first time milk was sold in a sterilised bottle with a wax seal in 1878, thus making it far more hygienic and transportable. The milk was raw at that time which meant there was a danger of drink being infected by tuberculosis and though Louis Pasteur invented the pasteurisation process in the 1860s, pasteurised milk was not widely sold in the UK until 1922.

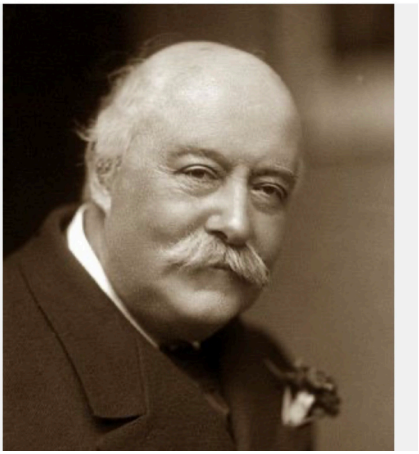
Recently, raw milk has become popular again, and given how strictly cattle are monitored infection risk is very low. It can be found locally at Park Farm, just off the A25 between Brasted and Westerham. There is a coin-operated vending machine there and they also sell pasturised milk and excellent ice cream. Raw milk is very popular with Muslim communities because it is believed that the Quran stipulates that milk should be pure, fresh and unprocessed.

It is only lawful to sell raw milk direct from a farm, companies which deliver must pasteurise it. Our local Chiddingstone Dairy (see The Link June 2025) delivers as do Milk and More, currently owned by a national dairy business called Freshways. Sadly at the moment Bore Place are not producing milk.

Roll on World Milk Day on 1 June!

Joanna Wade

eminent victorians

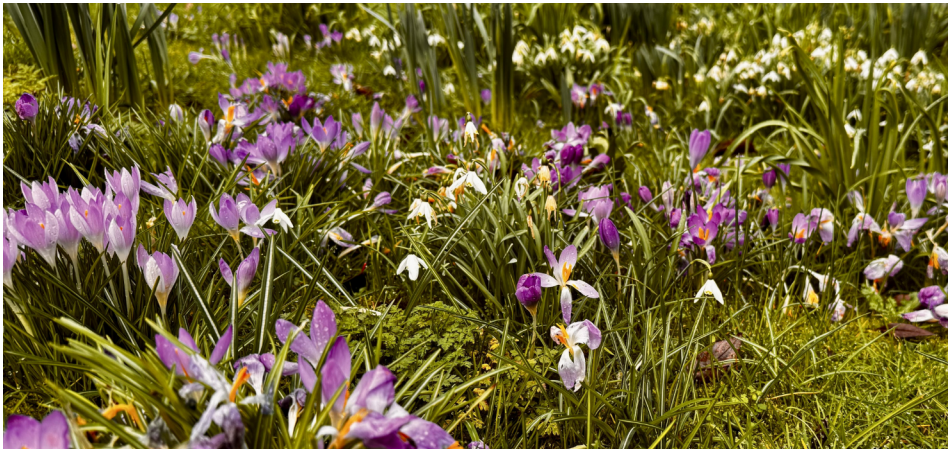


The composer Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918) is an excellent example of why we should not judge a book by its cover. Here he is, apparently a typically fusty Victorian gentleman who came from a wealthy and conventional background - BUT he did remarkable and unconventional things, as I've discovered when starting to practice his "Songs of Farewell" for the East Grinstead Choral Society's next concert.

Whilst being famous for writing music for the church, such as the tune for "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", he was a humanist and against organised religion. He also supported women's suffrage and was delighted to allow his most famous work, the tune to "Jerusalem", originally written in 1916 in support of the war, to be used as the movement's anthem. It later transferred to the Women's Institute.

His other achievement was to nurture a specifically english style of classical music which was sorely lacking before he came on the scene. He was a founder member of the Royal College of Music and mentor to Elgar, Vaughan-Williams and Holst amongst others. Another of the works we are singing is Fauré's Requiem, a beautiful work but very much in the european classical style.

So do come along and meet Sir Hubert in all his glory - the concert is on Saturday 21st March in East Grinstead, you can buy tickets from the website EGCS.co.uk.



village screen film club 2026



The film season closes at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club.

Friday 20 March - Paddington in Peru
Mrs Brown has morphed from Sally Hawkins into Emily Mortimer but otherwise the brilliant cast returns (some disguised as bears) supported by Olivia Colman as a Reverend Mother leading to high jinx in the jungle.

The film (1hr 46m long) starts 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) – cottage pie 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.

EASTER EGG HUNT



SATURDAY 4 APRIL

3.30 PM

ST PETER'S HEVER

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

The hunt is sponsored by the Hever Residents Association and St Peter's Hever.
Entry is free but donations are welcome!

a new tree for Hever village

As you are likely aware, during the summer the Turkey Oak (seen here) in the centre of Hever village had to be removed for safety reasons due to disease. This is a great loss for the village as there has been a tree there for generations and it was particularly missed this Christmas when it usually takes pride of place in our festive celebrations with its sparkling lights. During February half term works will begin to plant a new tree as a legacy for the future enjoyment of the village. The selected tree is a well-formed 12 ft English Oak.



As a village, we would like to extend huge thanks to the following: Duncan Leslie of Hever Castle & Gardens for kindly donating a tree selected by Allan Agate of Hever Countryside Services alongside the Castle Golf Club Head Groundsman, Rob Peers. Allan Agate for managing the stump grinding and preparation of the site for planting. Hever Residents' Association, the Parish Council and Hever Parochial Church Council for their generous donations making this project possible. The Hever School community for committing to the important aftercare of the tree.

This project is a great example of the strength of our community coming together for a common aim of preserving the green spaces in our beautiful village.

Amy Davies

Penshurst Choral Society

Dvorak Mass in D accompanied by a Wind Quintet

and Janáček Otčenáš conducted by Joe Tobin

Saturday 21st March at 6.30pm

St John the Baptist Church Penshurst TN11 8BN

Tickets from penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk or on the door

Adults £15 children £5

citizens advice Edenbridge & Westerham

Do you want to make a difference? Edenbridge & Westerham Citizens Advice is recruiting!

We're a charity providing free, confidential and independent advice to help people overcome life's challenges. Our volunteers receive full training, ongoing support, and find the role both enjoyable and rewarding. Volunteering can boost your confidence, build valuable skills, and support your career development. If you can spare **a day or two a week**, we'd love to hear from you.

We are at the Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6BY. Visit our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk and/or contact our training officer on training@edenbridge.cabnet.org.uk

Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust presents
The World of Gilbert & Sullivan performed by
The Wandering Minstrels



Saturday 14th March 7pm
(doors open at 6.15pm)

Markbeech Village Hall TN8 5NR

Tickets £20 available from Hennessy's Shop 77 High Street Edenbridge or via edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk

The government has launched consultation on its draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF guides what gets built and where. There are concerns over weakened Green Belt protections and also potential development eating into our countryside. Consultation is the chance to collectively influence national planning policy so do have your say. Details can be found at: National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK. Campaign to Protect Rural England has some information and advice on their website too. Consultation is open until 10th March 2026.

There will be a community Litter Pick for anyone to come and join. These will be held on: Saturday 28th March – 9.00 am Four Elms, 9.30 am Hever and 1.00 pm Markbeech. The Litter Picks are run by your Councillors. The litter picks are a great opportunity to meet some of your neighbours, get some fresh air and help the environment too.

Unfortunately there have been several fly-tipping incidents in the area, on public highways and also on private property. The impact of this illegal offence, on individuals, wildlife, the environment and road users as well as the financial cost is wholly unacceptable. Please do be vigilant and if you witness a fly-tip in progress call the Police on 101. If you discover a fly-tip, please report it promptly to Sevenoaks District Council (SDC). This can be done via the website. They will clear it if it is on public highway, footways, verges and laybys. If it is on a private road or private land then the land owner is left to clear it up. There are covert mobile cameras installed in the parish so we are hoping they will be able to aid the police with potential prosecution of offenders. At this time there is no news on whether the Saturday Bulk Refuse Freighter service will be reinstated. HPC will continue to enquire and hope it returns at some point!

SDC will be implementing the new weekly food waste collection service for most households from 27th April 2026. Households will soon be provided with a small indoor food waste caddy and a larger caddy for outdoors. These will be delivered with a leaflet explaining how to use the new service. See the SDC site for more information.

Finally, the next Hever Parish Council meetings will be held on Tuesday 24th March in Four Elms Village Hall, Wednesday 6th May in Markbeech Village Hall and Monday 18th May for the Parish Assembly in Four Elms Village Hall. Please see the website http://hever.org/parish-council for more information.

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

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to add your company email the Editors.
Just £30 per annum

Accommodation

Greyhound at Hever, Bed & Breakfast, restaurant for residents.		01732 862221

Building & Design Services

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
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
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

As another fantastic term comes to an end at Four Elms Primary School, we take a moment to reflect on the wonderful learning experiences, opportunities and memories our children have enjoyed. It has been a term rich with discovery, creativity and personal growth, with pupils embracing every challenge and experience with enthusiasm.

Across the school, children have immersed themselves in a diverse range of exciting topics. From stepping back in time to explore *The Great Fire of London*, to diving into the science behind *Electricity*, to studying the vibrant work of *Vincent van Gogh*, the curriculum has inspired curiosity and creativity. Our older pupils have also been developing their understanding of global issues through their learning on *COP29*, considering how they can play their part in protecting our planet. This term has also been filled with memorable trips and hands-on experiences. Classes have enjoyed enriching visits to Bore Place, an inspiring day at the O2 for Young Voices, and, most recently, an unforgettable residential at Carroty Wood. These opportunities have helped bring learning to life, build confidence and allow children to connect with the world beyond the classroom.

We are particularly proud of our pupils who took part in the Young Enterprise Scheme. They demonstrated incredible creativity and determination as they planned, pitched, produced and sold their own products after school to raise money for the school. Their teamwork, entrepreneurial spirit and commitment shone through every step of the process. We cannot wait to see what products will be made and sold next term! We concluded the term with our Year 5 residential to Carroty Wood, which was a tremendous success. The children took part in abseiling, high ropes, archery, pedal karting and swimming, showing remarkable perseverance and aspiration. Many pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, taking positive risks and encouraging one another every step of the way. Their teamwork, independence and resilience were outstanding and we are immensely proud of each and every one of them.

As we look ahead to the next term, we do so with excitement and pride. This has been a term filled with joy, growth and achievement and we can't wait to see what our pupils will accomplish next.

Anna Cheddie
Co-Head of School



I am writing this during Children's Mental Health Week, which was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and raise awareness of their mental health. Our staff team at Hever have accessed a range of training to enable us to support children's mental health and well-being and to build a mentally healthy culture within our school. This year's theme 'This is My Place', aims to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong; this means feeling accepted, feeling included, feeling like your voice matters and feeling you belong even when you're different.



There is a lot of overlap between our focus on promoting children's emotional health and well-being and our work on developing a spiritually supportive school. At its heart, spirituality is about flourishing — as individuals and as a community — through awareness, connection, reflection, and the courage to explore the depths of our own experiences and those of the world around us. This work recently inspired a wonderful whole-school project, working with The Mosaic Studio to create a stunning mosaic for our school hall. Our brief was to create something that embodies our school community and that reflects spirituality in its broadest sense, including elements of faith and of nature within our community. The project created a real buzz of excitement but at the same time a sense of calm and focus, as the children worked on the mosaic. We learned about how the position and the direction of the tiles can be used, for example, to draw the eye to create movement and the older children learned the techniques of cutting the tiles and working with glass. The completed mosaic will be installed during half term, so there will be great excitement returning to school for the unveiling!

It promises to be a busy start to Term 4, as we are also looking forward to taking our Year 5 and Year 6 children to the O2, to participate alongside thousands of other school children in the 30th anniversary of Young Voices. We could not access these amazing opportunities without the help of our wider community and are very grateful to everyone who supports us, both practically and financially, to provide these wonderful experiences to enhance our children's learning and personal development.

Helene Bligh Headteacher

church in march

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
1 March 10am	All Age Holy communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lent 2
1 March 6pm	Healing service at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lent 2
8 March 8am	BCP Morning prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Lent 3
8 March 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Lent 3
8 March 3pm	Forest church at St.Peter's Hever	Lent 3
15 March 10am	Mothering Sunday All Age Holy communion at St.Peter's Hever	Lent 4
22 March 8am	BCP said Holy communion at St.Paul's Four Elms	Lent 5
22 March 10am	Family service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Lent 5
22 March 4pm	Confirmation Service at St.Peter & St.Paul Edenbridge	Lent 5
29 March 10am	Family service and Palm Sunday procession St.Paul's Four Elms	Palm Sunday
31 March 6pm	Compline at St.Peter's Hever	Tuesday in Holy Week

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

Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Wardens
Four Elms
Christina Hodson
07799 062427
Hever
Mandy Yarnold
07976 281613
Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
07881 482154

Our Lent Course 'Unanswered prayer' continues on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. Our next Men's discussion group will be on 16th April at 6pm at Saxby's Mead on 'Unanswered prayer?'. For details of any of these please contact Simon.

We have three adult candidates for the Confirmation Service in Edenbridge on 22nd March. The clocks change on Sunday 29th March and Holy week starts on 30th March with Easter Sunday on 5th April. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

From the register
Funerals:
17th January Hever Revd Wendy Izod

our rector's thoughts

One of the signs that Spring is on the way is the early morning birdsong. It's lovely but I struggle to identify birds other than the most obvious like a cuckoo. My wife has an app on her phone called 'ChirpOmatic' where you can record the birdsong and it will give you an instant analysis. There is a similarity between listening to birdsong and hearing God's voice because both seem difficult but can be learned. Many will say that claiming to hear God's voice is a sign of madness. But I make that claim, as do millions of Christians today and throughout history. The Bible is full of God speaking. In St.Peter's Hever we have the beautiful Good Shepherd window. In the Bible passage from which this comes, Jesus says: *'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me…'* John 10:27. I took an act of worship at Hever school just over a year ago on this passage and afterwards a six-year-old told me she had heard God speaking!

So how can one learn to hear God's voice? In the Old Testament there is a beautiful story of the prophet Samuel, who as a boy, hears a gentle voice in the temple and thinks it is the priest Eli speaking. Eli realises it is God and tells Samuel to say ' *Speak Lord, your servant is listening'*, which he does and thus begins his prophetic ministry (1 Samuel 3:7-11). So the starting point is prayer, which is far more than bringing God our latest shopping list. A key part of prayer is seeking and asking God to speak and then being silent and listening.

God then speaks in many ways: a strong sense or feeling; a picture in our imagination; dreams (I've had a few!) and reading Christian books and most importantly the Bible. The ancient monastic practice of Lectio Divina is all about listening to what God is saying through scripture and there is an app https://lectio365.com/ that can help you do this. And, of course, there is worship and even listening to sermons!

There's a story about a country visitor to the city, who walks down a busy street with her city dwelling friend. She remarks on the birdsong she can hear and her friend dismisses it as unheard in the urban noise. Just then the visitor drops a coin onto the pavement and people spin round to look as they hear it hit the ground. The visitor says: 'the trouble is, you're listening to the wrong tune'! So which tune are you listening to; why not try tuning in to God this Spring?

God bless you all

Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

Our beautiful church has the Patronal name of St Paul. This is very apt as St. Paul founded several early Christian communities during his much travelled missionary work. Our church, here in Four Elms, was founded by a curate of St Peter's Hever, so you can see the connection. While there are not many images of St Paul, his Epistles speak volumes. One which catches the eye is "Do not be proud, but accept humble duties". Here in St Paul's we are always seeking willing hands to do "humble/ simple" duties. Likewise as the Village Fete in the summer moves closer there are always earnest cries for help and assistance both before and on the day. Please contact me if you wish to offer your services in any capacity (with a promise there is not an AI robot taking your call!!).

This year we celebrate Palm Sunday at St Paul's. There is a lovely walk around the graveyard and churchyard with donkeys leading the way, replicating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, with the distribution of palm crosses during the service. Following this, we have the Good Friday devotions at midday and on Easter Sunday the Sunrise Service. This is a lovely outdoor service as the sun rises. We offer a light breakfast afterwards. Do please join us, it is a very special service.

With huge thanks to an extremely generous member of the village, we may enjoy a beautiful new Altar Frontal. A replacement was needed as the green silk had turned brown. You may wonder why there are different coloured themes in churches. Please see a folder on top of the oak chest at the back of the church for a full explanation.

Welcoming our new Archbishop, Dame Sarah Mullally, much has been made of the fact she is the first female incumbent. Perhaps stressing her gender takes away from the fact that she was the best candidate for the job. We pray for her in this challenging role.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mollie Brudenell, a dedicated member of our church and village. A full obituary will follow in a future issue of the Link.

During the recent General Synod meeting, Archbishop Sarah Mullally in conversation with Jane Rosam fondly remembered Revd Wendy Izod as "one of the special ones," praising her kindness and gentle spirit while reflecting on their shared training days.

With our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) approaching, now is the time to ensure you are on the Electoral Roll. Being on the roll formally recognises your connection to St Peter's, allowing you to vote at the annual meeting and stand for election to the PCC. It is a vital way to demonstrate our church's strength. If you wish to be included, please email

our officer, Sam Joannou, at samjoannou@hotmail.com for a form, or simply pick one up from the church.

We are making significant progress with the petition to erect a memorial to Queen Anne Boleyn. Public notices have been displayed for the required 30 days, and plans remain available at the rear of the church. We hope to receive formal permission shortly to complete this historic project. Mark your calendars with the following dates - August 5th–8th the Hever Festival Theatre will host a fascinating series of history talks right here in the church. Also on Saturday, October 10th there will be another of Joanna Wade's spectacular concerts, raising funds for the Anne Boleyn memorial. We look forward to seeing you there!

We also look forward to welcoming you to the next Parish Lunch on Thursday, 12th March, at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. We typically host around 24 people for a simple, warm meal of soup, fruit, and delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the parish is very welcome! To help us with catering, please let us know if you plan to attend or have specific dietary requirements. Finally, a small reminder to please avoid driving or parking on the grass at the hall during these wet winter months.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Since I last wrote we have enjoyed a beautiful Choral evensong held at Markbeech during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. We were so pleased to welcome many attending from the Edenbridge churches. The meeting with the Archdeacon was well attended and I believe we all went away knowing that life in the three churches would be very different after Simon's departure. The Ven. Nick Cornell encouraged us all to pray – and some of us to look at lay leadership training – please consider it.

By the time you read this, we will be in Lent and there are many special services being offered. I love the Palm Sunday procession and family service, this year at Four Elms. We are looking for a donkey who would like to take part in this service please. Very big honour and, of course, carrots. Actually, on Easter Day there are two Family services: Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech at 9.15 and Family Communion at St Peter's Hever at 11. We are so grateful in Markbeech to have two new members of our PCC and welcome them so warmly. There is room for more, so please come forward. We do have work to do, and probably will have more, but as long as it is shared, it is a pleasure and often good fun.

A new personal trainer has arrived with us in the form of a rescue labrador. Zeus is young and fit and I am neither, however he is encouraging the search for signs of Spring, and there are many in spite of the rain. For those who were given the magazine, Together, from the Diocese of Rochester, there is a beautiful prayer at the back for the season of Lent. I am sure there are copies in all three churches, and this prayer needs to be prayed.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

gardening

As we enter March, we have seen one of the wettest starts to a year ever! Not the most conducive weather to be out in the garden. Hopefully, we'll see the sun in a month that usually sees the start of the gardening season in earnest.

March is a busy month at the nursery with plenty of potting up of bare root perennials, roses and shrubs. We also receive summer patio plant plugs that we like to pot up early, Dahlia tubers and summer flowering bulbs. It's also a great time for us to sow perennial and annual seeds. This will keep our workforce busy, now bolstered to 26 after another three new staff joined us recently. We'll be full steam ahead with our Chelsea growing. We are growing for three gardens this year: 'A Garden for Every Parkinson's Journey' (main avenue), designed by BBC presenter Arit Anderson. 'The Plant Heritage Missing Collector Garden' designed by the Planting Design Collective and 'Young Minds Garden' designed by Charlie Chase.

From a business perspective, March is (hopefully!) the start of our busy spring sales season. Here are some plants that we are growing that are great for March interest:

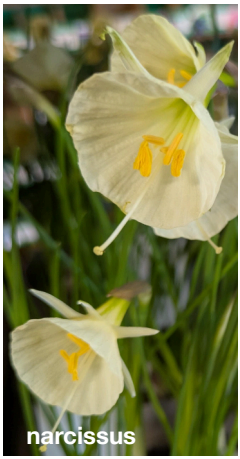
Narcissus bulbocodium 'Arctic Bells' – A recent miniature Daffodil introduction, with a profusion of bell-shaped cream-yellow flowers, maturing to ivory-white. Plant in the border or container. Stunning!

Fritillaria persica 'Ivory Bells' – a dramatic, architectural spring bulb – one of the tallest fritillaries > 1m. Ivory-white, pendulous blooms that are great as a cut flower. Try the straight species Fritillaria persica with it's brooding plum-coloured blooms.

Pulmonaria 'Shrimps on the Barbie' – a crazily named new cultivar, but a great addition to the spring border. A clump forming perennial with clusters of shrimp-pink flowers over heavily spotted foliage.

Brunnera macrophylla 'Silver Spear' – a fabulous new perennial Forget-Me-Not. Similar to the popular 'Jack Frost' variety, but more vigorous and reliable with elongated silver foliage. Sprays of beautiful blue flowers for weeks. Plant in part shade.

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery


narcissus


fritillaria


pulmonaria

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												162
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												186.5
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												183

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Hever – Mrs Ryan 01732 864168 or heverhallbooking@gmail.com
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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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I'm Gary Markam, an LTA accredited level 3 coach. I'm passionate about bringing tennis into the community

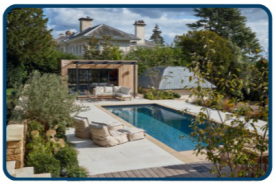
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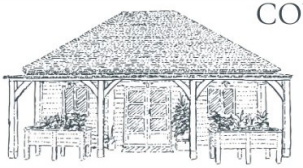
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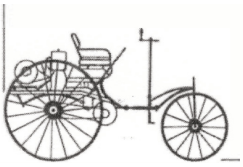
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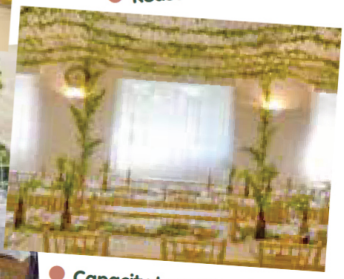


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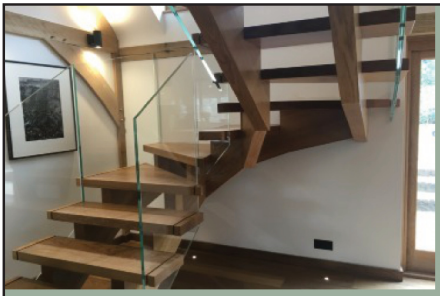
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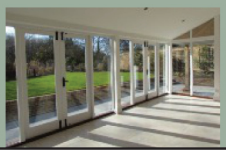
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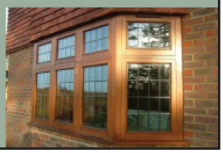
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march diary

Eden Valley Museum two new exhibitions-a Millitary Medal Display and the Story of Subbuteo
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 Village Hall

3-4 Mar	**Italy on Wheels Street Food**, Falconhurst	12-8pm
5 Mar	**Evening of Mindful Stargazing**, Bore Place adult £5	6.30-9pm
6-7 Mar	**Ditch Brisket Street Food**, Falconhurst	12-8pm
7 Mar	**Introduction to Rag Rugging**, Bore Place, adult £60	10-4pm
10 Mar	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
12 Mar	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
14 Mar	**Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan by the Wandering Minstrels**, Markbeech VH	7pm
15 Mar	**Spring Foraging Walk**, Bore Place adult £37	2-4.30pm
18 Mar	**Hever Hort talk** The World Garden Tom Hart Dyke, Hever Village Hall	8pm
20 Mar	**Hever Village Film Club** – Paddington in Peru, Hever Golf Club	7.30pm
21 Mar	**Penshurst Choral Soc**, Spring Concert Dvorák and Janáček, Penshurst Church	6.30pm
24 Mar	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Four Elms VH, planning 7pm full council	7.30pm
28 Mar	**Community Litter Picks**, Four Elms 9am, Hever 9.30am and Markbeech 1pm	
28 Mar–11 Apr	**Easter Trail in Falconhurst Gardens**, adult £8.50 children free	9-4pm
28 Mar	**"Are We Sinking?"** Tere Chad installation opens at Falconhurst	12-8pm
4 Apr	**Easter Egg Hunt**, St Peter's Churchyard, Hever	3.30pm
9 Apr	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
11 Apr	**Hever Hort Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
14 Apr	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
6 May	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Markbeech VH, planning 7pm full council	7.30pm
9 May	**Fermentation Fundamentals**, Bore Place adult £63	10-2pm
16 May	**A Buzz about Bees Workshop**, The Barn Falconhurst adults £80	10–3.30pm
17 May	**Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place adult £80	10-4pm
27–28 June	**Chiddingstone Big Weekend**	

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