April 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- Easter fun
- new dogs on the block
- a brutal achievement
- tribute to Mollie Brudenell
- oiling the wheels

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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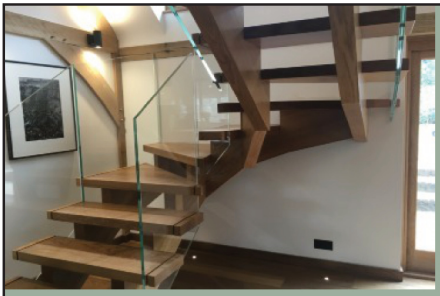
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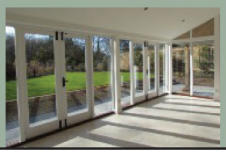
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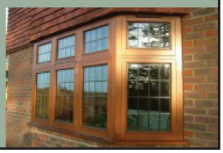
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Welcome to the April Link

It is getting harder and harder to wake with the dawn and when I am finally out-paced by the sun, I will miss opening the door to a robin and a blackbird in a lively duet closely followed by a song thrush and, today, a long tailed tit (according to Merlin!). Last month I reported what must have been the training flights of local larks. This month I see dogfights in the skies above me, two furious hovering shapes intent on supremacy..... The good news is that I've heard them directly over Hever for the first time in my 20 years here.

And so to celebration – as I write it is B Corp month!! What on earth is that I hear you say. Well, "Certified B corporations (B Corps)", are "for-profit companies verified as meeting high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability, balancing profit with purpose for stakeholders who include workers, the community, and the environment". There you have it! An example of a B Corp is Nespresso who George Clooney should be rightly proud of: used pods will be collected by Royal Mail from Hever doorsteps and then the aluminium is separated from the grounds in specialist plants; the aluminum is melted down for new products, while the coffee grounds are composted or used to create renewable energy.

mentioned blood a couple of months ago. Last year 777,461 individuals donated blood, not that many really given that there are 47 million adults in the UK - but there are many barriers, not least that the nearest venue is quite a trek - you have to go all the way to East Grinstead!! Worth doing though.

And finally, welcome to The Caring Fuel Collective a new fuel company combining business with social purpose. Many of us already use the Drake Syndicate which has covered the parish for many years and distributes £7-8,000 a year to local charities.

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org



what I do

Hello. I'm James Mckenzie Robinson of The Caring Fuel Collective, a new local business. We launched our collective in January 2026 with a clear aim: to supply better-priced heating oil for our community and to build meaningful support for local communities into the way we operate. This means that every time we supply heating oil and kerosene to domestic customers, a portion of every order we place contributes to local charities, community groups and essential services.





The idea for The Caring Fuel Collective grew out of experience. Having previously owned and run a local heating oil business, my new partners Nik Manglani, Ben Lambert and I understood both how the market works and where it often falls short. My conversations with local organisations highlighted two recurring challenges: rising household heating costs and shrinking funding for community groups! So we set up to supply heating oil and kerosene to homes, offering 24hr a day ordering with amazing pricing with no haggling, no hidden fees, and fast delivery. And from the outset, we committed to directing part of our trading activity back into the communities we serve.

Since launch, this has already meant supporting a range of local causes - such as The Hospice in the Weald, The Chiddingstone Girls Football Club, Weald gymnastics club, and others, from grassroots sports teams and community initiatives to charities with a wider reach such as the Air Ambulance. What they share is a clear connection to the people and places we supply. We believe that if heating oil is purchased locally and used locally, the benefits of supplying it should stay local, too.

We are also conscious of the negative impact on the environment from fossil fuels and are pleased that the modern heating oil we supply now includes biofuel blends, helping to reduce overall carbon impact. For many rural and semi-rural homes in Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech, maintaining an existing system responsibly remains a practical and cost-effective choice rather than switching to an entirely new system such as air source heat pumps. Looking ahead as we grow, our ability to support local causes grows with us. We intend to remain regionally focused, and to keep offering good prices. You can compare our prices today at www.thecaringfuelcollective.com.

James Mckenzie Robinson

pets of the month

Hello Hever residents, we shake you warmly by the hand. We humans are, in no particular order: Alison, Ben, Bella, Luca, Gabes (that's actually ordered by age – ha ha) and the hounds by age Molly, Louie and Jasper. After 19 years in Biggin Hill we spent last year looking for a home with a nice garden and we stumbled across Sandfield Farm which has the equivalent of several nice gardens, and so we're looking forward to spending our first summer here mowing and hedge trimming. Gabes is built for that so we're expecting he'll be very busy.

As soon as we viewed Sandfield we were all smitten with it and we've enjoyed learning about the history of the property and in particular we've enjoyed learning about Dr Russell and his family and his long-standing connection to the community. Sandfield is brimming with character which we will definitely retain as that is what makes it special. We were previously well acquainted with Edenbridge and so have settled in very quickly. Helping us along has been the very kind welcome received from Lisa and Will down the lane and Joanna from the Link.



All three of our dogs are rescues. Two of our pups, Molly a whippet-sized Lurcher and Louie, a crazy mix of Saluki/Lurcher, are senior citizens. Molly's favourite activity is repeatedly entering and leaving a room. Louie enjoys yelling at squirrels and rolling in unmentionables in the field. Jasper is a four-year-old greyhound imposter. A DNA test found him to be roughly 50% Saluki and 38% greyhound. He considers himself to be 100% security dog and enjoys loudly interrogating visitors to our driveway, hence the bit of fencing work we'll be having done soon. But a good boy he is and he just needs to get out for a good sprint and he's happy for the rest of the day. They all keep us busy and out of trouble.

Many thanks to Joanna for inviting us to say hello. We'll make a point to keep our driveway gates closed to ensure our wilful pups don't try to wander and apologies in advance if the boys appear at the gate and yell at anyone as they pass. Louie (white and feathery) will always stop fussing once someone says hello but Jasper (tan-coloured, see below) will tend to just yell louder. But a good boy he is!

Ben Tomeo

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!

'ARE WE SINKING?' BY TERE CHAD ARRIVES AT FALCONHURST

Falconhurst is pleased to announce the arrival of *Are We Sinking?*, a powerful outdoor Installation by Chilean artist and curator Tere Chad, opening in late March 2026. The work will be on public display for one year, inviting visitors to pause, reflect and engage with questions of collective uncertainty, vulnerability and resilience. First created in 2020, *Are We Sinking?* presents a striking and poetic scene: three vultures gaze down upon an origami boat as both birds and vessel appear to submerge into, and emerge from, the ground. Suspended in a moment of stillness, the composition captures a paradoxical pause, where motion is implied but fate remains unresolved.



As the birds silently observe, the question lingers in the air: *Are We Sinking?* Chad invites audiences to slow down and reflect alongside the work. The installation mirrors the precarious balance of contemporary life, addressing themes of environmental fragility, collective responsibility and the uncertainty that defines our global present. The artist will be offering a series of workshops and guided tours during the period of the exhibition.





Hever Rose and Horticultural Society
SPRING SHOW

Saturday, 11th April 2026 - Hever Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Refreshments and raffle - all welcome

And the rest of the programme for 2026, all at Hever Village Hall
Sat 9 May 10am Plant sale
Sat 6 June 2-4pm Rose Show
Sat 15 August 2-4.30pm Summer Show
Wed 16 September 8pm Talk: All things Sloe Gin and Chocolate
Wed 14 October 8pm Talk: Bumble Bees, Honey Bees & Solitary Bees
Wed 18 November 8pm Annual General Meeting
full details on the Hever Hort tab of the Hever.org website

Mollie Brudenell - a tribute

Mollie Brudenell, who, with her husband Michael, was an integral part of Hever life for the 27 years they lived here, died aged 90 on 11 February this year. She was born in Audenshaw Manchester in March 1935, one of three sisters to an enlightened father who firmly believed in university education for women. All three sisters graduated, Mollie with a first class degree in chemistry from University College London. When she was 21 and bridesmaid to her older sister her path crossed with that of the stand in usher, one Michael Brudenell. It was not Mollie's intelligence, her practicality, her happy way of putting people at their ease, her wonderful smile and good looks that captured Michael's heart apparently, but rather her sherry trifle, which, to his jaded post war palette was "nectar indeed"! She continued working on her PhD until Tim arrived, shortly followed by Jeremy, Marcus and later, Edward.







The family lived in Dulwich, opposite the school for 20 years while Michael pursued his stellar career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Kings College. He had started there as a medical student in 1946 and soon joined his former mentor, boss, and later friend, Sir John Peel. They both worked from time to time for the royal family. Michael and Mollie were also heavily involved in 3 charities based around his work. Mollie in particular focussed on this helping at the hospital shop, sitting on endless committees or organising charity premieres and Royal gala performances of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Throughout she applied the same commitment and high standards, intelligence and generosity of spirit.

Michael's role as president of the Kings Rugby club saw him regularly on the touchline while Mollie was responsible for feeding 15 great hulking chaps from time to time when they would descend like locusts on her beef stroganoff. Mollie found time to edit and produce a series of cookbooks - with titles such as Food for Kings, More Food for Kings, Party Food for Kings and then the compendium edition - inspirationally entitled All the Kings Menus.

As well as his work at Kings and his private practice in Harley Street (ably assisted for 7 years by his highly efficient and empathetic secretary Lynne Rowan) Michael also worked at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, once again following in the footsteps of Sir John Peel, attending there twice a month for 20 years or so from 1970. While conservative at heart he had a strong sense of social justice. He appreciated the income that his private practice gave him, but gave maximum of his time to the NHS which was formed pretty much as his career started. He had driving ambition, a love of his field and an indefatigable appetite for hard work but of course he could not have achieved what he did without Mollie supporting him, running their home, raising their four boys, supporting them through schools and further education, helping with homework and dutifully attending all the parents evenings, and endless school matches.

They moved to the Barn in Hever in 1987, shortly before Michael retired and became heavily involved with the community. They built their much enjoyed tennis court and swimming pool. They were also keen skiers (once Mollie had overcome her bruises and with characteristic determination become pretty accomplished). Mollie co-founded the Hever Christmas Fair and the Grand Hever Quiz. The former is still running some 28 years later as a really valuable fund raiser for St Peter's Hever and Hever Primary School. With skills honed at Kings she effortlessly strong armed local residents into active roles in both events, never taking no for an answer. She also established the Friends of St Peter's Hever to help finance improvements to and maintenance of the fabric of the church which she also supported through her regular appearances in the choir.

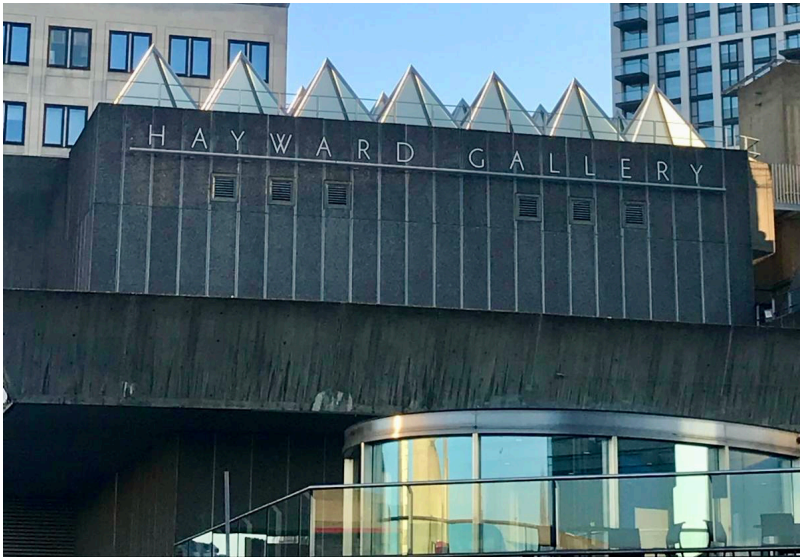
Once the boys left home and started families of their own Mollie quietly but, with a fierce loyalty, presided over this growing dynasty, first as grandma and then as great grandma, supporting them and setting an extraordinary example of love and compassion, generosity and pride.

Michael died in March 2015, two weeks before his 90th birthday. Shortly before his death they sold the Barn and moved to be nearer Jem in Oxfordshire. Amongst other important tasks Jem religiously read the Link to Mollie each month when her health was poor and she was bed ridden.



This appreciation of Mollie and Michael was put together by Bridget from eulogies written by Jem and Mollie's sister Elizabeth Howard some of which were read at Mollie's funeral at St Peter's Hever on March 10th.

Norman Engleback: a celebrated brutalist



The news that the South Bank Centre is to be Grade 2 listed may have passed you by, but there is a concrete connection between the Brutalist architecture to be found there and our parish. Norman Engleback (1927-2015) was the lead architect on the project as an employee of the London County Council and lived for a long time in Hever - specifically in the north wing of How Green House. His work to design new facilities on the site of the Festival of Britain was famously controversial. The extensive use of wooden board-marked concrete, exposed air-conditioning ducts and pyramids of glass on the rooftops led to it being voted 'Britain's ugliest building' by readers of the Daily Mail in the sixties. The Twentieth Century Society has been appealing for the listing of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery since the early nineties and finally celebrated winning the battle last month.

It is also good to see that the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre is being readied for renovation – another example of his work for the Council. He was also well regarded for his work in stained glass – you may have seen some of his work on the South Bank where you can spot the rather elegant sign for the National Film Theatre that was renovated a few years ago.

Although my wife Ellie and I never met him, we certainly feel a connection to Norman through living in How Green House – not least thanks to the plaque attached to our wall. While renovating we found various artefacts from his time, including a book of matches with



(a former employee of the Henry, no less) when we were buying the house. I'm afraid we are yet to maintain the lawn to the standards required for playing croquet as they did. But we both own a pair of socks with his NFT sign stitched into them! As a fan of modern architecture I would always have been delighted to read of the listing decision, but knowing that it means that Norman's glorious work is preserved for future generations makes it even more meaningful.

Nick Pepper

the London County Council crest printed on the side, and when peeling back some wallpaper we found lines drawn to indicate the heights of his growing family. We also were regaled with tales of his family life there when being shown round by his son Luke

thank you

I just wanted to give belated thanks for all the love and kindness shown to me while recovering from being in hospital - thank you for the visits (including Simon's), phone calls and all the lovely flowers, chocolates and other presents - they fair warmed the cockles of my heart and I reflected on the 42 most happy years I have had living in Hever -35 with Peter - and all the wonderful friends from the three villages. It was a happy day when Peter and I found The Coach House.

Penny Mendelssohn



hever village hall update



Plans to build a new Hall at the back of the existing hall paddock are progressing..... unfortunately the planning permission obtained a few years ago has lapsed so a new application needs to be made. As we wait we are planning the fundraising campaign. Meanwhile, a few cheap and simple improvements to the current Hall will hopefully see it through its next few years - the floor has been sanded and varnished and the curtains rehung. Chloe and her team at the pub have kindly agreed to redecorate.

In other news, after many years of loyal service to the Hall, Jan Ryan has stepped down as bookings secretary/ treasurer. We are very grateful for everything she has done. Committee member Karen Pope has taken on the role and she can be contacted on heverhallbooking@gmail.com or 07747 867942. We are also very grateful to Mandy Yarnold for her years as chair of the committee, she is now the secretary and I am the chair. Please save the date for a village hall open afternoon at 3 pm on 13th June. You can see the upgrades we have made and also plans and a model for the new Hall.

Joanna Wade



Hever Parish Council

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Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

Kent County Council Public Protection team reported that doorstep criminals have been active in the county pressuring residents into paying for unnecessary or poor-quality roofing, driveway cleaning and odd jobs. Please be alert and warn your vulnerable friends and family to never respond to cold callers as you will pay a high cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work. If you need work done on your home or garden use a safe, local trader from Trading Standards Checked. Report cold callers anonymously to the charity CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 or online here. For further advice call Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. For scam alerts as they are issued please add KCC Public Protection Instagram or Facebook.

Fly tipping – an article in Kent Live reported on the huge fly tipping issue we face across England. Within Sevenoaks alone there were 249 reported incidents in the last year, including 148 large scale incidents of at least a tipper lorry load of rubbish costing £51,400, or the equivalent of £0.42 per resident, to clean up. One of your HPC Councillors recently met with a representative from SDC and KCC to discuss the issue we face in the Parish. Report to follow. Needless to say, with the withdrawal of the Saturday Bulk Refuse Freighter we are actively looking at alternative service options. With regards to roads, please continue to report any highways issues, including potholes and drainage, to Kent County Council Highways through their website or by calling 03000 41 81 81.

As Clerk, I have been busy preparing for the end of year accounts, with the internal audit booked for this month. With changes to regulations, enhanced security requirements and on-line accessibility, an upgraded website will be rolled out soon.

Plans for the new younger years play equipment for Four Elms Playground are being pulled together and these will be ready to share very soon. It is hoped this will provide a much improved experience and play opportunities for younger children…. Watch this space!

Don't forget too, that you can sign up to the HPC WhatsApp group which publishes local information and updates, without volumes of comments.

We have the Parish Assembly on Monday 18th May in Four Elms Village Hall. Do come along and hear updates for your local area. Refreshments will be provided and the chance to meet and chat with neighbours and your Parish Councillors. Please see the hever.org website for more information.

Rachael Turner Clerk and RFO
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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
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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
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Food - Catering and Restaurants

Gorard Dean Catering -	all events undertaken call Melanie Dean	07710 005 635
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Funeral Services and Burial Grounds

Alex Jones funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047
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Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
The Caring Fuel Collective, home heating oil suppliers,		www.caringfuel.com

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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

We have had a wonderful start to the new term at Four Elms, and the children have been working incredibly hard across the school. It has been a busy few weeks filled with learning, adventures and plenty of smiles!

Our younger children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Seal Farm, where they had the chance to hold the chickens, collect eggs and learn all about life on the farm. Meanwhile, our Class 3 children have been making a splash in their swimming lessons, showing great confidence and perseverance in the pool. Our science learning has also taken centre stage this term. Year 5 took part in exciting biology and physics workshops, where they explored scientific concepts through hands-on activities and investigated how the world around them works. They also enjoyed two fantastic science shows, which really sparked their curiosity and inspired lots of questions. Year 3 and 4 were treated to a thrilling liquid nitrogen show, packed with dramatic demonstrations, icy fog and impressive experiments that brought chemistry to life in a fun and memorable way. The children were absolutely captivated!

However, the highlight of this term has undoubtedly been Book Week. Across the school, children immersed themselves in different versions of *Little Red Riding Hood*, exploring themes, characters and storytelling techniques. Their learning culminated in some brilliant performances - from poetry recitals and dramatic acting to a lively courtroom drama where the wolf himself was put on trial! One of the most memorable moments of the week was our book character catwalk, expertly compered by Silly Billy. The children looked amazing in their costumes and had great fun showing them off. A winner from each year group was chosen and received a beautiful book as a special prize.



Families also joined us for Hot Chocolate and Stories, which created a lovely cosy atmosphere around reading. Throughout the week, children took part in book swaps and enjoyed spontaneous moments of Drop Everything and Read, where we paused our day to dive into our favourite books. It has truly been a celebration of reading, imagination and creativity - what a brilliant way to begin the term!

Anna Cheddie
Co-Head of School

news from hever primary



We enjoyed a wonderful start to Term 4, with our celebration to unveil our beautiful mosaic made by the whole school in collaboration with The Mosaic Studio. It was lovely to welcome Bishop Simon and have the opportunity to hear a fresh reflection on our school story and values; the children were all really engaged and their reaction to seeing the completed mosaic was memorable! Bishop Simon really enjoyed his visit and said, 'There was such a positive, flourishing atmosphere about the school and the children we met were lovely in their eagerness, curiosity and politeness.'

We went straight from one memorable event to the next, with Young Voices the following day! Year 5 and 6 had a fabulous, if long, day and were a credit to our school. It really is an amazing opportunity for the children, performing at the O2 alongside thousands of other children, as well as watching live performances on stage. There are few other school experiences to match this and every year, Young Voices showcase performers who in previous years have attended with their school, which is really inspiring for the children.



We could not achieve what we do without the commitment of our staff and the wonderful support from our parent community. Feedback in our annual parent survey reflects this, with 100% of respondents reporting that their children are happy and feel safe at Hever Primary and that they would recommend our school to another parent! We really value this partnership.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

church in april

Easter Sunday is 5th April. 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
2nd April 6pm	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Maundy Thursday
3rd April 12 noon	Devotion at the Cross St.Paul's Four Elms	Good Friday
5th April 6am	Easter Sunrise at St.Paul's Four Elms	Easter Sunday
5th April 9.15am	Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter Sunday
5th April 11am	Family Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Easter Sunday
12th April 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter 2
12th April 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Easter 2
19th April 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Easter 3
26th April 8am	Said Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever	Easter 4
26th April 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Easter 4

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simonbraid@icloud.com

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beneficeemail@gmail.com

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

There will be services of Compline or Night Prayer during Holy week at 6pm on Tuesday 31st March at St.Peter's Hever and Wednesday 1st April at Holy Trinity Markbeech. We will be restarting our weekly Home Group on Tuesday 21st April and the 'life group' for young mums will continue on alternate Wednesdays. Our next Men's discussion group hosted by Nick Irens is at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th April on 'Unanswered Prayer' and see below for details of our next Women's meeting. For details of any of these please contact Simon. Please also note that our Annual Parochial church meetings will follow the Sunday morning service at 10am at Holy Trinity Markbeech on 12thApril; St.Peter's Hever on 19th April; and St.Paul's Four Elms on 3rd May.
Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

Our next Women's meeting: *Where is God when things go wrong?* with Christine Perkin at Wedgewood, Uckfield Lane, Hever TN8 7LJ - Zoe Joannou's home. Friday 24 April 10am for coffee; 10.30am talk + Q&A ending at 11.15am For details contact susiebraid@uwclub.net 07702 708232 or fiona@irens.uk 07887 776199

our rector's thoughts

We can but pray that by the time you read this article the bombing of Iran, missile and drone strikes across the Middle East and fighting in Lebanon might have ceased – but I'm not optimistic. People I've spoken to feel a mixture of resignation and anger at yet another war and loss of life. When a vast military force is deployed on both sides, aimed at achieving ambiguous goals, they seem to put the welfare of ordinary people low down the priority list. It is all too easy to despair at the prospects for a real and lasting peace. The language used by some is bellicose, bombastic and brutal, seeming to dehumanise the opposing side. This is notwithstanding the extreme complexities involved. The Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt.Revd. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani, who is Iranian, said she had mixed feelings and that *"While the regime in Iran has done profound harm and is deeply unpopular, and while there will be some renewed hope for change, it is not at all clear where military intervention from the US and Israel will ultimately lead…."* The Christian church in Iran is growing but also suffers persecution - who knows where this might go!

Regrettably, there is a religious element in this war. One wonders where God is in all of this and what does he think? In 2012 Susie and I went on a pilgrimage to Israel and visited Jerusalem. Just outside on the Mount of Olives there is the chapel of 'Dominus Flevit' (The Lord wept), which recalls Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem in Luke 19:41-42. How Jesus must weep over what is happening in the part of the world where he once walked. No one can doubt humanity needs saving from itself.

The Easter message proclaims that we cannot save ourselves and that it is God who has responded to the mess of this world by coming in the person of Jesus entering our human existence. In the Easter edition of the Times in 2016 various Christian leaders were asked to explain the relevance of Easter. Canon Andrew Wingfield-Digby, the former chaplain to the England cricket team, wrote: *"There are three problems in the world that even the greatest political leaders cannot deal with: evil, suffering and death. The Easter message speaks into all three. Evil flees when faced with the love and power of Jesus. Suffering is made sense of only at the Cross of Jesus. Death is defeated only by the Resurrection of Jesus. If people don't think that is relevant they must be living on a different planet to me.".* If you pray, have a look at this prayer for Iran https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayer-iran

I wish you all a very joyful Easter

Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

Confirmation is an important and memorable day for Christians. Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. And this we do for Phil and Laura, members of the Benefice Community who were confirmed at the end of March at St Peter and St Paul Church Edenbridge.

Easter is, of course, a special festival in our church calendar. A little earlier in the month this year, so our Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday (6am) here in St Paul's may be a little chilly. However, for those who join us on this lovely sunrise morning on Easter Sunday, there are hot drinks and croissants to sustain you after the short service.

Spring is a beautiful time of the year and especially wonderful are the woodland bluebells especially in our village and in the Toys Hill woods. It really does lift the spirit to see the haze of blue accompanied by the white of wild garlic. An article I read in the news, (away all the horrors of war) which gave me great pleasure, was that the large tortoiseshell butterfly, pronounced extinct more than 30 years ago appears to have made a come back. The adults lay their eggs on elm trees and since we have four elms here in Four Elms – opposite the church at the edge of the cricket ground, keep your eyes open for them. They have been seen in Kent.

And finally …. its coming up to village fete time. Any help for church stalls, bric-a-brac, cakes and purchase of Grand Draw tickets would be much appreciated.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

The very popular Easter egg hunt will take place in St Peter's churchyard on Saturday April 4th from 3.30pm, don't be late or they will all have been found!

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Sunday April 19th after the 10am service. You still have time to join 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 have wonderful news! Formal permission and the faculty have been

granted for a new memorial to Queen Anne Boleyn. The design features a stunning replica of the British Museum's "Moost Happi" medal (1534), set within elegant black and white marble. A dedicated website will launch soon to support our fundraising efforts. We look forward to sharing more updates shortly!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Tony Yates for repairing the church noticeboard doors. After they were damaged by last year's strong winds, Tony's efforts have restored them to their former glory, ensuring our community news stays safe and dry.

We also look forward to welcoming you to the next Parish Lunch on Thursday, 9th April, 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

End of March and beginning of April, such a fresh and "yellow" time of year. Of course, in Lent, the churches are not decorated with flowers, but let's hope the cold winds do not stop the daffodils before Easter, although Mothers' Day will, of course, need posies.

On March 8th, there was a well-attended Eucharist at Markbeech, International Woman's Day too, kindly recognised by Simon who preached a Sermon based on the Woman at the Well – John 4: 5-42. We need to ponder upon Jesus saying, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst". A deep thought. Just before this, many of us enjoyed the celebration at the Catholic church, on Friday 6th, of the World Day of Prayer. This year prepared by Christian Women from Nigeria. The theme was "I will give you rest, come." We were all welcomed, warmly, and it was an evening of deep faith and tales of resilience. Some stories were difficult to listen to and certainly made it clear why Nigeria's Christians should be in our prayers. Indeed, may we pray that all religions can live together in peace.

Our Family service is on the 22nd March which is always full of families; Simon and Susie are to be congratulated engaging so many younger people. It is lovely to see them.

Happy Easter to you all.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

From the register
5th March Interment of ashes
Markbeech
Erica Wightmann

gardening



'*What did the Romans ever do for us?'* I hear you cry. Well, apart from long, straight roads, central heating, and many other things, they introduced daffodils. During the Roman invasion of Britain, soldiers brought them from Spain and Portugal and planted them in memory of fallen comrades, as well as believing, largely falsely, in their medicinal properties. Now, the UK is the largest grower of daffodils, and there are over 30,000 named cultivars, categorised into 13 main divisions. In spite of the huge number of varieties of this wonderful harbinger of Spring, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is concerned that some have become very rare, especially certain pink daffodils, and is inviting the public to become involved in trying to locate them. There are three specific varieties which are of particular concern, **Mrs R.O. Backhouse**, **Mrs William Copeland** and **Sussex Bonfire.** The RHS website has a 'Daffodil diaries' page, where people can enter details of different varieties they have come across. So, if you are interested, why not have a look?



Mrs R.O. Backhouse

The first big event of the Hever Hort year is our Spring Show, at Hever Village Hall on 11th April 2 – 4pm, all welcome. Daffodils always feature prominently at the show, and the changing climate gives us some anxieties, but, so far, we have always managed to create a wonderful display. Of the 13 main divisions, five are explicitly included, generally the more well known types such as trumpet and large cupped, but dwarf daffodils, such as the ever popular tête à tête, are also represented in the miscellaneous, division 12. Although many other different flowers and plants are exhibited, there is something special about seeing the village hall replete with a 'host of golden daffodils'. Let us hope there are enough left in April to do justice to this splendid local tradition.

There will be a variety of home made cakes and a raffle, and we would love to see you. If you would like more information, the Hever Hort Schedule and Programme of events can be found on the hever.org website, or you can contact our Show Secretary, Pauline, at paulineradford@yahoo.co.uk.

Happy gardening.

Doug Bowern

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											252
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											274.5
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	92											275

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Hever – Karen Thomas 07747 867942 or heverhallbooking@gmail.com
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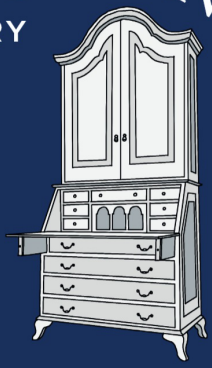
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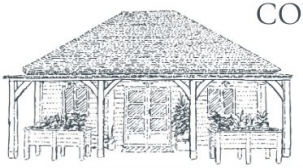
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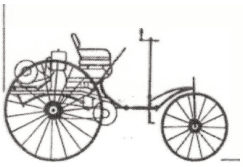
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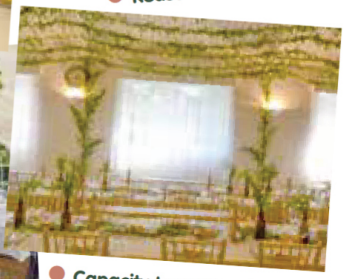


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28 Mar–11 Apr **Easter Trail in Falconhurst Gardens**, adult £8.50, children free 9–4pm
28 Mar **"Are We Sinking?" Tere Chad installation** opens at Falconhurst 12-8pm
4 Apr **Easter Egg Hunt**, St Peter's Churchyard, Hever 3.30pm
9 Apr **Hever Parish 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
16 Apr **Fermentation Fundamentals**, Bore Place, adults £63 10am-2pm
6 May **Hever Parish Council meeting**, Markbeech VH, planning 7pm full council 7.30pm
10 May **Early Summer Foraging Walk**, Bore Place, adults £37 2-4.30pm
11 May **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
14 May **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
16 May **A Buzz about Bees Workshop**, The Barn Falconhurst adults £80 10–3.30pm
18 May **Annual Parish Assembly**, Four Elms Village Hall 7pm
17 May **Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place adult £80 10- 4pm
7 June **Introduction to Kefir and Fermented Drinks**, Bore Place, Adult £40 10am-1.30pm
27–28 June **Chiddingstone Big Weekend**

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