June 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- the tin tabernacle
- ...and a new hall for Hever
- insuring the environment
- festival fever
- coming up roses
- schools & churches

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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Welcome to the June Link

Today's walk saw three red kites, behaving just like, well, kites wheeling through the air effortlessly frightening a passing crow. And more kites - "greenwashing" logo of the month is "prevented ocean plastic" - indicating that this plastic has been recycled from an area near the sea which MIGHT otherwise have ended up in the ocean. Hmmmm ..... But having mocked slightly I recognise how important it is that more than the current 10% of the 142 million tonnes of plastic packaging produced every year is effectively recycled, not least because over 20 million informal workers are involved in waste recycling and collection worldwide, often in very unsafe conditions - and so much does end up in the ocean.

Most of us received rather smart orange-topped food recycling bins in April to allow us to recycle food waste - no more holes in bin bags caused by magpies and foxes, but you must remember to lock the new bins. Of course there is a price - a move to big wheelie bins for household waste and recycling with collections on alternate weeks from October. This is in line with national legislation.

A few random observations from me - world bee day on 20 May celebrated how much honey production round the world can benefit poor communities and stingless bees in the Amazon have become the first insects in the world to be granted the legal right to protection - they are responsible for the reproduction of up to 80% of the rainforest's flora and produce honey which acts as a natural antibiotic.

And look out for our cuckoos calling all down the valley - the male call is rather prosaic but do listen out for the bubbling call of the female, described as "like water gurgling down a plug hole". They are laying their eggs, up to 20 per season, in other birds's nests and will soon be ready to migrate. By the time the chicks fly off towards Africa their parents will be long gone, they will have no one to follow and yet many (sadly not all) make it to overwinter in the Congo.

Enjoy your summer and the good things advertised here!

Joanna Wade
thelink@hever.org

THE LINK

PREVENTED OCEAN PLASTIC™

what I do - towards a greener economy

Hello I'm Marie Henniges, my husband Michael Higgs and I are frequent visitors to Hever to see his father Tim and wider family. We live in London where I work for a big insurance brokerage, specialising in helping clients minimise their risks from environmental factors such as global warming and greenhouse gas emissions because, as I will explain, this makes business sense as well as being the right thing to do.



Working in insurance was not on my bingo card when I left university with a degree in plant biology and environmental sciences, but in this job I can make a positive difference which is important to me. The work can take many forms, companies contact me for support and solutions to specific sustainability-related questions. Some ask us to identify the risks that climate change and nature loss poses to their businesses: from floods damaging their property, droughts devastating their harvest, to the risk of legal action and loss of customers for misrepresenting how “green” their business is. Last year, California’s wildfires destroyed thousands of buildings causing the insurance sector losses in the billions of dollars. This is part of a trend of more frequent (from 3 severe events per year in the 1980s to 27 in 2024) and more expensive climate disasters (from $22bn per year in the 1980s to nearly $200bn in 2024). Increasingly insurers refuse cover to properties in wildfire-prone areas. The same pattern holds true for losses associated with flooding, storm damage, and crop losses, to name just a few. Governments are trying to help, but with the frequency and severity of such events only expected to increase, traditional financial security nets alone will soon become insufficient and more fundamental changes are needed.

The two key principles of the insurance sector are accurate assessment of risk and reasonable caution. Insurers are increasingly asking their clients about resilience: using fire retardant materials and allowing for defensible space around buildings to avert building damage during wildfires; well-constructed dams, drainage areas and natural defences such as salt marshes to protect against floods; creating healthy agricultural soils to protect crops from the impact of drought. Sustainability experts work to build that resilience where possible and find affordable insurance solutions for the remaining risks, reducing financial burdens and the chance and severity of catastrophic losses.

Just as importantly, insurance acts as an incubator for innovative projects. Many

solutions to climate change tread novel ground and carry significant risks. New technologies to remove CO_2 from the air, improve energy efficiency or stop emissions altogether may underperform or fail outright; forests planted to sequester CO_2 may burn down. If such risks cannot be insured, few investors would be willing to provide the needed financial backing, hence the need to collaborate with insurers.

I am optimistic by nature, but I can't deny that things are not looking good at the moment. We are unlikely to maintain global warming below 1.5 degrees celsius; catastrophic events linked to this change are already piling up in severity and frequency. Biodiversity is declining rapidly and thus eroding many of the buffers that historically offered protection from severe weather events. At the same time, climate change and sustainability have been politicised - activists depressing some and annoying others, and some world leaders dismissing climate change as the "greatest con job ever perpetrated". But climate change and nature loss are not up for debate – they are escalating and causing tangible damage not only to the environment, but to people and the economy. Does that mean we are doomed? Not quite. Businesses around the world, including the insurance sector, have recognised that ultimately, climate and nature risks are business risks which must be addressed. You may not always see what we are doing – but rest assured, we are here, learning together and planning, working towards a greener future for our economy. The only question is whether we will be fast enough.

Marie Henniges

Your Local Art Trail

ART IN JUNE
OPEN STUDIOS
5-21 JUNE 2026

For two weeks in June our area will be filled with art of every kind. Your chance to see a wide range of art, chat to the artists and even join a workshop!

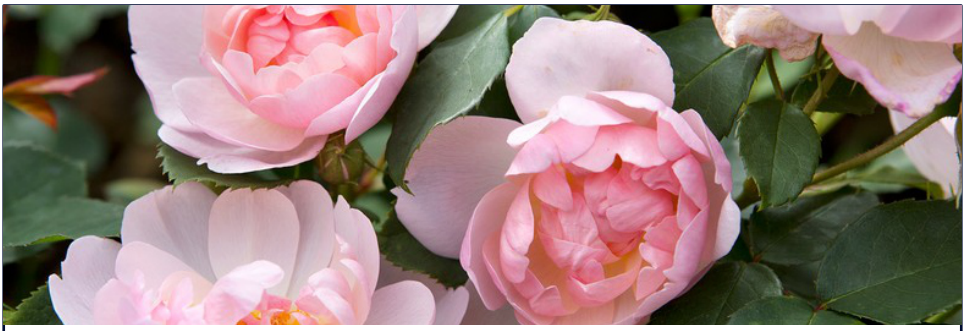
To find out more about our artists and plan your visits, pick up our guide or scan the QR code to download our new FREE App.

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Hever Rose and Horticultural Society
ROSE SHOW
Saturday, 6th June 2026 - Hever Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Refreshments and raffle - all welcome

Please pay your subscription NOW

Many thanks to all those who have already paid or have standing orders in place to pay later in the year. If you haven't, please pay NOW. Almost one quarter of recipients haven't paid yet. Please don't wait to be chased, its so time consuming for us and even though the sub is modest we do need it to help pay for the printing. If you aren't sure please contact Bridget, contact and payment details on page 21.

The annual sub is unchanged at £5 for a hand delivered copy (£18 for postal subscribers). If you no longer want a paper copy you can read the Link online for free at www.hever.org BUT please let us know.



pet of the month



My name is Lola. I'm seven years old and have been with my master and missis for six months. I used to live with ten other labradors and puppies. I have had three litters and my then mistress decided I shouldn't have any more, but I should find a new home.

I lived in Herefordshire and had not seen planes and trains nor many cars or people and I loved running in the fields. My new master and missis came to see me one Friday afternoon with all my friends and we played in the kitchen. Then the next morning they came back to my home and brought me all the way to Kent. It was a long journey and I was frightened by all the traffic. Anyway they took me on walks and played with me and I gradually came to love being here. I adore my master and he takes me on walks each morning and lunchtime except Mondays when I go with my missis and her walking ladies on longer walks around the local area. I have a lot of attention and have plenty of fun in my new home. Master likes playing ball games with me which keeps my mind busy searching for the ball in the grass. I am lucky and receive occasional titbits so I think I will stay here in Edenbridge with my new owners!

Kit Kaberry



Four Elms Village Fete

Saturday 11th July

1pm

Music and entertainment from
Four Elms School
&
Edenbridge Town Band



Fun and Games
in the main ring
including
The ever popular
Dog Show

Lots of stalls
Beer Tent, Tea Tent
and BBQ!

Church Meadows, Four Elms

We'd love to see the village decorated with bunting for the fete –
please decorate your homes and gardens from Saturday 4th July!

2026

Hever Church of England Primary School

HEVER SCHOOL FÊTE

SATURDAY
20 JUNE 2026

HEVER
PARISH FIELD
11:30 - 15:30

FREE ENTRY & PARKING

festival theatre at hever castle

The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle, now in its 45th season, remains one of Kent's most distinctive summer arts destinations, where live performance and historic landscape combine to striking effect. Set within the purpose-built Two Sisters' Theatre, the 2026 programme offers a lively and accessible mix of music, drama and family entertainment, drawing audiences back for long evenings under open skies.

Highlights include the exuberant *Motown & More with Natalie Williams' Soul Family*, a high-energy celebration of classic soul, alongside *The Ed Sheeran Experience*, a tribute to one of Britain's most recognisable contemporary songbooks. Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe* adds a welcome touch of comic operetta, while *Treasure Island* brings a swashbuckling family adventure capturing the festival's cross-generational appeal. More playful fare such as *The Dusty Show* and *General Medical Emergency Ward 10* further broadens the season's range, blending nostalgia, humour and musical theatre.

What continues to set the Festival Theatre apart is not only its programming, but the experience itself: picnics on the lawn, the glow of the castle at dusk, and the shared anticipation of live performance in an open-air setting. It remains less a conventional theatre season than a cherished summer ritual.
Book tickets here:
www.thefestivaltheatre.org





a history of hever village hall



I had always assumed in a vague sort of way that village halls had been part of village life from the beginnings of time - the time of moot halls and maypoles on the village green. But no. The vast majority are the product of the First World War and a new consciousness about the need for community and education amongst rural people. This was led by the newly created National Council of Social Service (NCSS - now NCVO). At the same time people wanted to make donations in memory of the fallen, often to build memorial halls - this ignited a great outbreak in construction, including Four Elms village hall which displays a list of all those who fought (not just those who died). There are now about 11,000 village halls nationwide of which about 10% are memorial halls.

Hever did not build a memorial hall; theirs came from the Astor family very much at the same time. The hall is what is known as a "tin tabernacle" - a prefab building designed to be erected in areas where the growing population needed access to a church. As far as we know this one was bought by the Astors not as a place of worship but for use by the 1,600 navvies who were brought to Hever between 1903 and 1908 to build the Tudor village and pleasure gardens and dig the lake. Some may have slept in it, although given their numbers it seems too small; if they did, a thick rope was stretched down the length of the hall at night serving as a collective pillow. There is an example of a tin tabernacle in the Weald and Downland Museum. We will never know more about how the Astors used the hall as all records were in the castle basement and lost in the two big floods of 1958 and 1968.



St Anne's Mission near Tenby

Once work on the Castle was complete, the tabernacle probably lay empty years until Lord William Waldorf Astor died in 1919 and his son John Jacob and his wife Lady Violet inherited. John Jacob had seen active service in the war, indeed he had lost a leg, and he was well known for his kindness toward the castle staff, particularly ex-servicemen. It was not surprising therefore that his philanthropy extended to the

village with the gift of the old tabernacle in 1920. The building was moved to its current site as a "Men's Reading Room" - although many women had just been given the vote it seems that the focus was still on improving the men folk, maybe their need was more urgent! The donors of the land were in fact the Meade Waldo family of Stonewall Park who had sold the Castle to the Astors and still owned quite a bit of land locally. The premises comprised a large room, a smaller meeting room and a kitchen. The 'necessarium' was outside, and consisted only of buckets in a lean-to shed! It is extraordinary that what was essentially a disused pre-fab survived the move. By the 1930s the improvement of the men folk must have stalled because the ladies of the W. I. took it over as the Hever Bullen Women's Institute. They eventually found the financial burden too heavy so in 1947, following a public meeting held in the school, it became, for the first time, Hever Village Hall. What this meant was that it belonged to the village, and was administered by a Board of Trustees. In 1984 it became a registered charity.

Local farmer David Woollett was the Chairman and leading light for most of the post war years. He did a huge amount of work for the hall, including (with the help of Antony Penman and others) laying the floor and keeping it in good repair. It was famously painted red and green because there was spare tractor paint available at the time, red is the Massey Ferguson colour and green John Deere. The paddock at the rear was acquired in 1983 when, after 80 years of occupation, the Astors sold the Castle and Estate, and moved away. Gerry Ryan took over from David in 2000 with his wife Jan as treasurer and bookings secretary and they were also massively hard working in its interests. For those who wonder about the splendid art deco wall lights, these were donated and installed some years ago by the then Vice-Chair Geoff Vodden. Mandy Yarnold became Chair in 2021 and I took over this year.

The many who have worked hard to maintain our hall deserve much gratitude, but as with all pre-fabs it's time is sadly up. Now that a new hall is being planned, the support of the community is needed as never before. **Do come to the hall on Saturday 13 June to look at a model, give us your comments and ideas and enjoy cake and plenty of side-shows!**

Joanna Wade



The Mission church Woodmancote

Hever Village Hall open day!
Saturday, 13th June 3- 5.30pm





Comment on plans for your new hall,
meet Mr. Tumble and Simon the donkeys
and prize winning Dexter cattle,
tea and cakes, games, craft stalls, raffle and
dog with the waggiest tail competition



Hever Parish Council

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

The annual meeting of the Parish Council was held earlier in May. I am pleased to confirm that Councillor Angela Haydon was re-elected as Chair and Councillor Stephen Lark as Vice Chair, the Planning Committee, with Councillor Nick Roberts as Chair, and the Finance Committee were also appointed. On the Finance front, following the internal audit the AGAR, the statutory reporting form, was signed off and is on the way to the external auditors, Forvis Mazars, for review. A copy of these forms, accounts and other documents for the Parish Council can be found on the website.

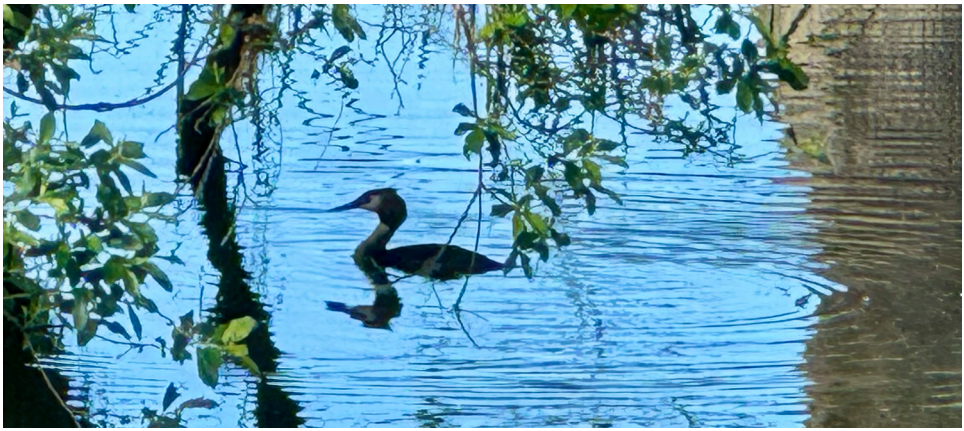
I am also pleased to announce that the new Parish Council website is now live and is compliant with current accessibility standards. The new address is: https://heverparishcouncil.gov.uk/. HPC are currently in the process of looking into an alternative website for our local parish community organisations to use which will be funded by HPC.

After Sevenoaks District Council withdrawing the service, I am also looking into bulk refuse freighter options that will be funded by HPC and hope to have more information on this later in the summer. We are aware that it is a valued service for residents.

Would you like to join HPC and become a Parish Councillor? We have a vacancy (Markbeech Ward) for a Councillor to represent the interests of those living and working in Hever Parish. For an informal chat, please contact any of our existing Councillors or myself. Closing date for applications is 18th June 2026.

The next Hever Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st July 2026 in Four Elms Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The Planning Meeting will commence at 7.00 pm.

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



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Accommodation

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

Building & Design Services

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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
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

It has been another incredibly busy and exciting few weeks at Four Elms Primary School, with a real buzz for learning across the whole school. Our youngest learners in Class 1 have had a truly memorable start to their new topic. They began by releasing their butterflies and watching them soar into the sky – a magical experience that brought their learning about life cycles to life. They have also been enjoying their Drawing Club sessions, exploring *Hansel and Gretel* and sharing wonderfully imaginative ideas for tricks and treats to add to the witch's pot.

In Class 2, the children have been fully engaged in their learning. They have been exploring measurement using non-standard units and have particularly enjoyed taking their maths outdoors, investigating length and height in practical and fun ways. Their experience learning on the Titanic has captured their interest and they had a great Titanic Day to launch their learning.

Class 3 have had an exceptionally busy few weeks. In the classroom, they have been delving into Tudor history, learning about Henry VIII and comparing the lifestyles of the rich and poor. Beyond the classroom, they put on a fantastic performance at The Stag Theatre – their confidence and enthusiasm on stage made us incredibly proud. They also enjoyed a wonderful trip to Hever Castle, bringing their historical learning to life.

Our Class 4 pupils have been working extremely hard on their writing, producing thoughtful and engaging negative reviews of *High School Musical*, focusing on how to effectively convey mood and emotion. Alongside this, they have been developing their spelling skills in creative ways, even using their bodies to form silent letters.

Across the school, children have benefited from a range of enrichment opportunities. Some pupils attended a poetry workshop at Radnor House, returning full of pride and enthusiasm. We were also delighted to welcome Russell Kane, who shared his new story with us – a lively and entertaining visit that the children thoroughly enjoyed. In addition, *Young Carers* led an assembly to raise awareness of the vital roles young carers play and we were pleased to welcome NEDRA back to present books and celebrate the winners of our recent poster competition. Our choir had a fantastic opportunity to perform at Sevenoaks School, impressing the audience with their enthusiasm and beautiful singing. We are also incredibly proud of our Young Enterprise group, who raised an impressive £184.50 this week – a wonderful achievement.

Another fantastic few weeks at Four Elms – we are very proud of all our children and the enthusiasm they show for their learning every day.

Anna Cheddie
Head of School

Earlier in the year, we shared our beautiful mosaic which linked to the work we have been doing on strengthening and embedding a whole school approach to resilience and emotional wellbeing. I am pleased to say that this focus has resulted in Hever receiving the Kent Award for Resilience and Wellbeing. Feedback from the awarding panel was that we 'presented a very impressive application, identifying the wonderful practice that is currently taking place at Hever Primary School.' They went on to say that there were many outstanding features including: supportive and informative engagement opportunities with parents and carers; effective partnership collaborations with multiple agencies; strategic, varied and far-reaching targeted support and interventions with wide ranging programmes to provide support for identified areas of need. This work is at the heart of our commitment to provide a learning environment where wellbeing and high standards of academic achievement go hand in hand, enabling every child to build the confidence and resilience to flourish.

We have certainly seen great examples of confidence and resilience from our Year 6 pupils this week as they approached their end of key stage two statutory assessments (SATs) with maturity and diligence. We are proud of the effort they have put in, and of their support for one another, as they move into their final term at Hever.

At the opposite end of the school, we enjoyed very positive feedback on our Early Years provision from the Local Authority School Improvement Advisor this week. As a current Ofsted Inspector, trained under the revised Ofsted framework, it was good to receive this validation, including recognition of the impact of our focused work on children' communication and language development. Amongst other positives, the report noted adults engaging children in sustained, high-quality talk, acting as strong language role models and extending children's thinking through purposeful questioning and commentary.



Whilst we are full for this September, we know that parents and carers will be starting to think about looking at schools for the following year and hope you will consider coming to see all that Hever Primary has to offer.

Helene Bligh
Headteacher

church in june

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
7th June 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	First after Trinity
7th June 6pm	Contemporary service at St.Peter's Hever	First after Trinity
14th June 10am	Holy Communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	Second after Trinity
14th June 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever	Second after Trinity
21st June 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever (Patronal and with baptism)	Third after Trinity
28th June 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Peter' Hever	Fourth after Trinity
28th June 10am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Fourth after Trinity

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
07802 809849
simonbraid@icloud.com
Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Our weekly Home Group continues on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and the 'life group' for young mums will on alternate Wednesdays. Please contact Simon for details. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

Wardens

Four Elms
vacancy

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
07976 281613

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
07881 482154

Nicki Talbot
01342 850526

THANK YOU

I was overwhelmed to receive such a wonderful gift of garden vouchers as my retirement was marked at the end of the service. As I wrote in my Link column last month, it has been a privilege to be churchwarden at St Paul's. While I loved receiving the gift it was quite unnecessary as I have very much enjoyed the role serving my community. However, I am not moving out of the village so you will see me around as usual in the foreseeable future.
With very many humble thanks
Christina Hodson

our rector's thoughts

As I write following the May local elections, there are calls for the Prime Minister to resign. The continued cost of living crisis is being exacerbated by increases in energy costs due to the war and this is putting pressure on all of us, especially those already living on the edge. Some people complain that the church is always asking for money. I did preach on the subject back in 2022 but have held off saying more given the challenges above. But I make no apology for talking about money, possessions and anxiety because Jesus did so: eleven of his thirty nine parables are on the subject!

I also continue to see wonderful examples of generosity across our community and as a church treasurer myself many years ago I was humbled by the amazing generosity particularly from people of modest means. Just to be clear, local churches like ours get no special state or central church funding. We are entirely reliant on the generosity of our congregations and communities together with fundraising activities. Sadly, regular giving in our churches has been in slow decline as many faithful givers have moved away or died. We manage to 'wash our face' financially partly because I have been in the fortunate position of offering my ministry on a voluntary basis. But with my retirement at Easter next year, we will need to increase our income if we are to afford to even pay for a part time Rector. Happily, there are increasing numbers attending our family services. If that includes you, please consider giving regularly by standing order. Of course, this applies to everyone including those who may not attend regularly but appreciate the continuity of the churches in our community. See https://threespires.wordpress.com/giving/ for details of how to give.

Most importantly though, generosity and giving is good for us. Jesus said: *'it is more blessed to give than to receive'* (Acts 20:35). Giving helps us to break the power of money on our lives. Jesus also said: *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you* (Luke 6:38). So please think and pray about what God might be calling you to do with your treasure, time and talents whether you are a regular church goer or not. The prophet Malachi declared…. *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse… Test me in this," says the LORD "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing…"*

Go on, put God to the test!

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

The month of May saw the winds of change at work in Four Elms. We give thanks for all the hard work Christina Hodson has put in as churchwarden over the last six years. She retired at the end of our APCM meeting on 3rd May but we'll be seeing her around, of course, especially as she will continue to oversee the care of the churchyard and graveyard.

A final goodbye was said this month to two wonderful local women: there was the funeral of Mary Crowhurst and the interment of the ashes of Gill Lambert. At Pentecost the sound like "a rushing mighty wind" denotes a massive change and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. We are invited to celebrate the birth of the Church and to go out and share the good news that is the Gospel. At St Paul's we were overjoyed to welcome Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge to join us for this service, held on 24th May.

St Paul's steeple is sadly without its cockerel since a violent storm brought him tumbling down earlier in the year. It will take some fundraising to have him reinstated – a church without a crowing cock is a sad thing indeed! Do come and join us to 'Enjoy a Cuppa' in the church every 2nd Tuesday of the month. The next one will be held on 9th June. We are awaiting the appointment of a new warden and would like to hear from you if you are interested in taking on this role. Any offer of assistance to keep our services running smoothly would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Simon if you would like to volunteer. The Four Elms Fete will be held on 11th July, so all hands on deck to make it a roaring success once more!

Nadia Mulder

Hever

We are expecting the faculty application for our accessibility project to be presented to the Diocesan Architectural Committee at their next meeting. This will allow us to make the church more accessible through a ramped entrance through the South Porch door, a community area will be created at the rear of the North Aisle with a kitchenette area for serving teas and coffees. Handrails will be added to the chancel steps. A separate planning application will be submitted to SDC, in due course, for an accessible toilet in the churchyard to replace the current portaloo.

We are looking forward to hosting some talks during the Hever Festival's history week at St Peter's from Wednesday 5th August until Saturday 8th August. Tickets can be purchased from the Hever Festival theatre's website. The Hever BBQ and barn dance this year will take place on Saturday 13th September. Tickets will be available to purchase nearer the time through the bookitbee website.

We also look forward to welcoming you to the next Parish Lunch on Thursday, 11th June, at 12.30 for a 1pm start. We typically host around 24 people for a simple meal, 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.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Yesterday was our Rogation walk after the Communion Service (which was also dog friendly). Despite the slightly unencouraging weather, there were 3 dogs and a nice group of people who walked the beautiful Falconhurst fields and bluebell wood, praying for fields and farmers. It must have worked as today, and yesterday, we had some rain! Charles and the choir enhanced by some Withyham choir members and also one from Marsh Green, worked very hard to sing Stanford's Te Deum Laudamus, so beautiful but quite a challenge. We began Evensong on May 3 with a spirited anthem, "He is Risen" by Cecil Cope. It was a lovely service followed by happy conversations over a glass of wine.

Not only are we delighted to welcome back Nicki who is joining Lynnie as churchwarden, but the PCC has been enhanced by Flora and Sam representing a younger generation! Please come and join them (and us), it is not too onerous with many of us to do the jobs.

Our Patronal Service is now the 31st May at 10am. Sadly many of us are still away. But it is the popular Family Service so I hope it will be well attended. There are three weddings in the church in June, traditionally the month! One will be Henrietta Talbot's and let's hope it is a glorious day. Hopefully some of the flowers will remain on the 14th June when we have a Communion Service at 10. The others will be on the 20th and 27th June, so let's hope for some more lovely flowers at the family service on 28th June. And, after that will be our Parish Lunch, in the village hall. Do join us, it is a happy time to get together with the village and friends and family. And talking of happy times, Haddy Walker recently put on a murder/mystery evening in the village hall, and not only was it a sell-out, but it was enormous fun and very successful with many local "stars". Thanks to all of you…now if we could just persuade you to help with fundraising for the church too, please, you were terrific!

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

From the register

8th May Four Elms Mary Constance Crowhurst Funeral & Burial

9th May Four Elms Gillian Margaret Lambert Burial of ashes

10th May Hever Gillian Averil Bean Burial of ashes

14th May Four Elms Ivan George Elliott Funeral & Burial

22nd May Markbeech Timothy Boyle Burial of ashes

gardening


Rosa Leonardo da Vinci

It's all coming up roses.... If you pruned your roses in January/ February, mulched in March, fed in April and watered in May (simple, of course you did!!) the bushes should be full of leaf and the buds beginning to burst - all ready for the Hever Rose and Horticultural Society Rose Show on 6 June. It is always worth entering a lovely rose - there are so many classes yours is bound to fit one - but you do need to join the Society first (see hever.org for details). If you don't want to exhibit just come to the hall to inhale the scent and eat cake! There is a photography competition too.

The name David Austin is pretty synonymous with roses. From his farm in Shropshire David Austin senior started breeding roses and launched his first, the mid pink fragrant climber Constance Spry, for sale in 1961. Having bred more than 200 new roses he passed his secateurs to his son, also David, in 1979. Since then the firm has filled its catalogues with hundreds of new breeds, releasing new ones every year. The annual process of creation entails the staff cross-pollinating around 40,000 roses by hand, extracting seeds from the resulting hips and waiting for the seedlings to sprout in the spring. Around 150,000 are selected for further trialling and from them 10 bushes are garden trialled for about five years, disease resistance being an important factor as well as scent and look. And finally just three or four are marketed each year. The rose garden at Hever Castle is well worth a visit in the next few months - and you will notice that, as with all traditional rose gardens, there is no ground cover in the beds. Sometimes this makes a rose garden look rather arid but the reasons for this style are to ensure air circulation to avoid black spot, to enable thorough watering at their roots and to avoid competition for nutrients.

Jan Tolfree's current top picks are a floribunda bush rose called Rosa Hot Chocolate, a dark red beauty which can be delivered to your door by Waitrose or RHS plants. She also loves the Leonardo da Vinci, a vigourous vivid pink and prolific bush. So as June passes it is time to deadhead. The marvel of hybrid tea roses is that if you prune, they bloom - again and again.....


Rosa Constance Spry

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									281
						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									298.5
						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	28	3									306

HALL BOOKINGS

Four Elms – Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Hever – Karen Thomas 07747 867942 or heverhallbooking@gmail.com
Markbeech – Mrs Paige 01342 850328

COUNCILS

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Robert Mayall
Robert.Mayall@kent.gov.uk

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

Hever Parish:
Rachael Turner 077849 12645

the link team

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

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A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

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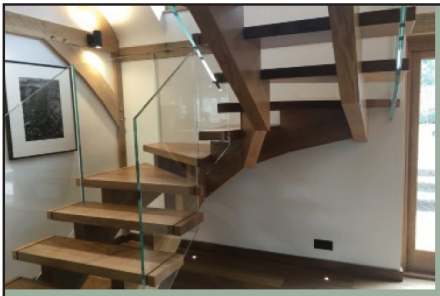
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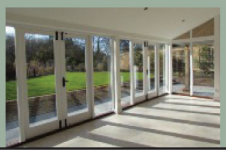
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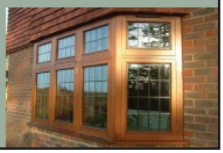
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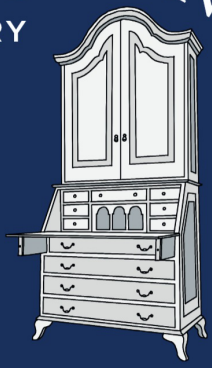




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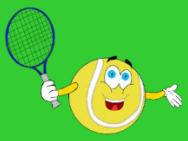
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Wednesday
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6pm to 7pm - Green ball

Thursday
4.15pm to 5.15pm – Red ball

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6.15 to 7.15 – Yellow ball

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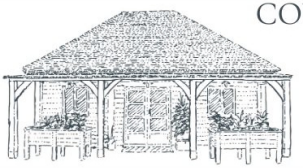
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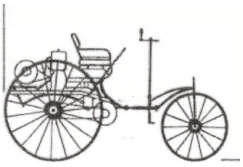
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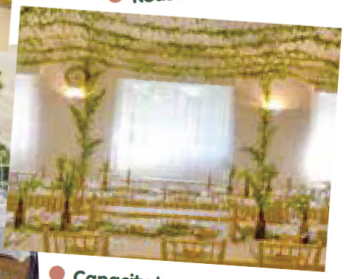


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june diary

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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 12–8pm

30 May **EMAT Concert**, London Flute Quintet, Edenbridge Parish Church 7pm
5 to 21 June **Art in June - open studios** see advert on page 3
6 June **Hever Hort Rose Show**, Hever Village Hall 2-4pm
6 June **Music for a Summer Evening**, Holy Trinity Forest Row 7pm
7 June **Introduction to Kefir & Fermented Drinks**, Bore Place, Adult £40 10-1.30pm
8 June **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
11 June **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
13 June **Hever Village Hall Open Day**, 3-5.30pm
14 June **Chiddingstone Open Garden Tour**
20 June **Hever School Fete**, Parish Field, Hever 11.30-3.30pm
20 June **An Afternoon of Opera,** St John the Baptist, Penshurst adults £15, child £5 2pm
27 June **Concert – Make a Joyful Noise**, St Swithun's Church, East Grinstead 7pm
27–28 June **Chiddingstone Big Weekend**
28 June **Markbeech Parish Lunch**, Markbeech Village Hall 12.30pm
5 July **EMAT Jazz al fresco** (see page 10), The Red House, Crockham Hill 12.30-4pm
9 July **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
11 July **Four Elms Fete** 1pm
14 July **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
21 July **Hever Parish Council meeting,** Four Elms VH, planning 7pm, full meeting 7.30pm
23 July **Bore Place Spotter Trail**, ideal for young families, child £5 acc adults free 10.30-1.30pm
13 Aug **Family Pasta workshop**, Bore Place, adult + child £55, extra child £10 10-12.30pm
20 Aug **Pizza and Pipistrelles Night**, Bore Place £65 for 2 adults 7-9pm
13 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall
10 Oct **An evening with Anne Boleyn and her many namesakes**, St Peters Church, Hever 6.30pm

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