July 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- the queen with no memorial
- tributes to two Four Elms residents
- poppy come home
- stacks of hay
- busy back page diary

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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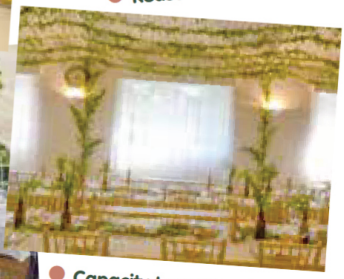


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Welcome to the July Link

It has been such a pleasure to see the swifts wheeling over the grassland this afternoon, particularly as we are saying goodbye to the cuckoos. I also saw a lapwing after a gap of several years. I wanted to record a small culinary victory before turning to archaeology. I have for years been trying to make a crumble as crisp as my mother's, or at least my memory of my mother's decades ago. Mary Berry, Felicity Cloake, Nigel Slater - none of them could help me. Then Trudy Weaver told me that she had heard that margarine might deliver the desired results, and indeed it did! I've no idea why, it seems very strange to me that margarine should work so well and I'm sure my mother never used it, but there you go - please don't be too horrified! And one more thing, I was a bit shocked to find that Waitrose in Edenbridge has stopped selling treacle tart, mixed peel and treacle whilst there's plenty of nduja and gochujang paste to be had - how our tastes have changed!

And so to the archaeologists of the future. You may remember the recent discovery of dinosaur footprints preserved in the mud, well the recent wet weather has provided evidence for the future - dogs, deer and horses roaming together on the same patch, friends maybe or did the deer kill the dogs? Will they ever know?

And finally, I recently enjoyed trying to discover the origins of the term "nosey parker". Some say it is an old phrase arising from the conduct of Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1559-75, who liked to poke his nose into other people's business. Or else it arose from early 20th century slang. Something else we will never know for certain.

As a PS I mark the sad death of Pam Gilchriest, a regular at our film club as well as many other events. We will miss her.

Joanna Wade,
thelink@hever.org







poppy come home

At least two hundred people were involved in searching for Poppy, Geoff and Jean Davis's missing greyhound. She had arrived in Hever at the end of 2025, a racing greyhound, veteran of at least 80 races, who was being rehomed by the Greyhound Trust. She was sweet but nervous and Geoff and Jean, experienced rescuers, were ready to give her the love and attention she needed. Meanwhile they were careful to keep her on the lead. Unfortunately on 16th May things went badly wrong.

As they started walking across the parish field Poppy was spooked by something, pulled away and disappeared, fast, in the direction of Uckfield Lane - she had her retractable lead attached. Within 30 minutes the hunt was on. Geoff and Jean are eternally grateful to their neighbours Sue and Glenn who coordinated a social media campaign whilst people from all over the area, as far as Cowden and Edenbridge, formed search parties, drones took to the skies and night vision cameras were erected.

After four and a half days the Davises were getting pretty desperate. Had her lead got caught in something and tied her down, or worse? How do you find a black dog in the undergrowth? So into the breach steps Chloe, the manager of the Henry VIII. She re-checked her CCTV and spotted Poppy running into the garden of Church Cottage opposite, Geoff had called at the house several times but no one was in. She had ended up at the back of the garden not far at all from where she had started, she wasn't trapped but had obviously decided that the best thing to do was to hunker down in a safe place and wait, which entailed not responding when she heard people calling her name.

The relief was overwhelming, especially as Poppy was none the worse for her experience, indeed she seemed really pleased to be home. Geoff and Jean want to say an enormous thank you to everybody who helped, the community pulled together brilliantly. They also want to emphasise that rescued greyhounds do make fantastic pets: usually calm, friendly and quite lazy. Poppy now wears a tracking device and is more loved than ever.



a tribute to Mary Crowhurst

Mary's funeral service took place in St Paul's Four Elms on 8 June. This is a slightly edited version of her granddaughters' eulogy: "Nan was born at Holmwood Farm Cottages in Four Elms, one of eight children of Frank and Elsie. She liked to spend as much time outside as possible, building dams in the brook and one day she was found sitting with an otter! But her most vivid childhood memory was being evacuated to Devon with her sister Jean during the war. She was very unhappy there.



She went to Four Elms Primary and Edenbridge High. She loved school and especially sport. She and her gang of friends played rounders, stoolball, netball and tennis for the school team and she often had to ask for sixpence for travel to the matches which didn't always go down well. Despite loving school, she left at 15 to work in the basket factory in Edenbridge. Her Dad bought her a bike for transport which she had to pay back from earnings of just £5 a week. She married local boy Roy in 1959 in St Paul's. To begin with they lived in a caravan in Edenbridge with daughters Gill and Sallie, surviving the terrible winter of 1963 before moving to Oak Cottages in the village until the late 70s when they moved to Blackham.

For most of her working life she was a cook (her chocolate fudge cake is remembered particularly fondly) and retired from the Nursing Home in Langton Green. Nan and Grandad both played bowls and enjoyed the social side of that too, but Nan's great love was her family, they made trips to Australia and would travel all day by coach to Lancashire to visit family. As the great grandchildren came along she was very proud of her total of 8!! We granddaughters all have special memories of Nan; the worm hospital, cooking with her, her trying to sneak non Heinz beans into Lucy, which didn't work! The thing that we associate with Nan most was...HER LAUGH!! Nan had the hugest belly laugh which was contagious. Latterly she wasn't in the best of health but she had her sport on the TV and would still shout at the athletics as she always had done. Her catalogue shopping became notorious too, we found 12 pairs of unused slippers in her wardrobe! We miss you Nan, the little ones miss your stairlift and your cuddles, but we all hope that you're having a good laugh wherever you are."

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!

EDENBRIDGE & OXTED

AGRICULTURAL SHOW

30-31 August Ardenrun Showground, Lingfield. 8am-6pm
Earlybird and family tickets at www.edenbridge-show.co.uk

Farewell

Rita Buisseret, who passed away on 5th May, came to Roodlands Lane with her husband, Peter, to live near to son Mark at Furnace Farm.

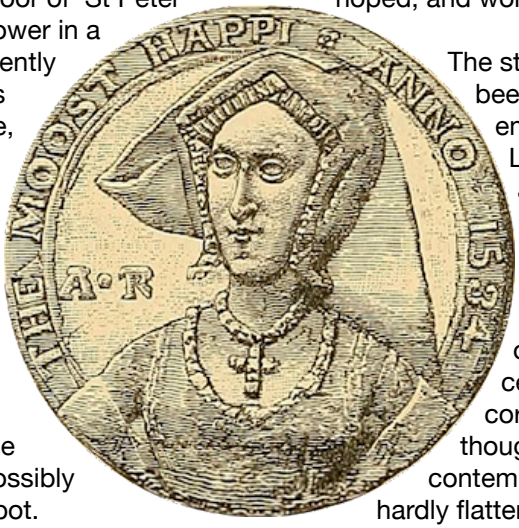
Her passion for gardening and plant culture was ever present having been secretary of Bidborough gardening association in her earlier years and latterly she was typically found in her garden or potting shed.

Always ready to make fresh friends she will be missed by many.



the queen with no memorial

Even the loathed Ann of Cleves, queen for barely six months in 1540, is buried in Westminster Abbey, but Queen Anne Boleyn has no grave and no memorial. She was executed as a traitor so it is not surprising that Henry did nothing for his queen of nearly three years, but more surprising that her daughter Elizabeth I didn't put that right. This may be because she could not find the body, unceremoniously thrown under the floor of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower in a mass grave. Apparently Queen Victoria was Anne's first groupie, obsessed with her tragic and romantic image; she ordered an excavation and believed she had found Anne but historians are not convinced that the simple plaque in the church floor can possibly mark the correct spot.



All this is about to change ….. fundraising has begun to erect a fitting memorial in the Bullen Chapel here in Hever. Originally the brain child of Andrew Izod, the campaign has the support of both Hever Castle and St Peter's - the Castle's Dr Owen Emmerson says: “Anne Boleyn helped shape the future of England, yet she was denied both justice in life and dignity in death. This memorial commemorates her in the place most closely connected to her family and her story”. And this is a story as much about Anne as a key player in the reformation, much of which seems to have been planned at the Castle, as about her meteoric rise and fall. Quite a few well known Tudor historians are also supporting the project, one being Susannah Lipscomb (recently documenting this period in Radio 3's "Key Changes") who says: “What more fitting place for a memorial to Anne than a church in which she once prayed, hoped, and worshipped?”

The stone plaque has been designed by eminent sculptors Lucy Churchill and James Elliot (responsible for Richard III's tomb in Leicester cathedral) based on a coin minted to celebrate her coronation which is thought to be the best contemporary portrait. It is hardly flattering but perhaps supports the theory that whilst Anne was not conventionally beautiful, she was immensely charismatic.

The fundraising target is £85,000 and, if you are a tax payer, you can maximise your donation by gift aiding it. Please give generously using this link from 30 June, not before https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/qab-memorial or via the project's website https://anneboleynmemorial.co.uk/ which is full of information about Anne and her links to Hever.

gardening

June 5th brought the Hever Hort Rose Show, the second of our main annual events. With typical perversity, the warm, sunny spell we had been enjoying turned wet and blustery. This did not, however prevent a lovely selection of rose exhibits, as well as many other displays of flowers, photographs, and domestic classes. The quality of them all was complimented by the RHS judges, who examined a total of 146 individual entries which helped, along with the recent redecoration, to make the village hall look splendid. Sue Theobald did very well, winning trophies for roses and sweet peas, and sharing the cup for most points in the flower classes with Pauline Radford, who also won the cup for the domestic exhibits. Jean Mason won the best pot plant award, and the prize for the rose with the best scent. Well done to them all and to everyone who entered. The teas and the wonderful selection of home made cakes were also, of course, a huge hit.

One of the small tasks I carry out is to record the monthly rainfall in Markbeech, which is reported in the Link, along with the levels for Hever and Four Elms. The figure for May was a paltry 19mm, an amount that had more than doubled by early June. I use a standard tapered vase, calibrated in inches and millimetres to take measurements. The Link prints the monthly figures, with annual totals, showing, with some variations, a significant reduction since 2024. The unpredictable and changing rainfall means that the use of water butts to even out the distribution over the year has become more important. We have five large butts scattered around our garden, which are able to store over 1000 litres. Using rainwater is, of course, preferred to tap water, especially for more acid loving plants such as rhododendrums and azaleas.



Many years ago we had a holiday in Madeira and returned with some agapanthus bulbs. These, and their offspring, have flowered sporadically over the years, but there are some tips which can improve the quality of these beautiful, striking flowers. Firstly, feed them throughout the summer and water regularly. Divide in spring if they have become overcrowded and, if growing in pots, replant into larger ones. Finally, deadhead most of the blooms, but leave a few in place to provide some winter interest.



Happy gardening!

Doug Bowern

edenbridge town band

What a wonderful evening was had by all on Saturday 6 June at Hever Golf Club, where members of Edenbridge Town Band celebrated not only 160 years of the band's existence, but also 70 years dedicated service from David Pocock and 50 years in brass banding from Ian Crouthers! The venue was a perfect setting, with a delicious meal, in the company of band members, their guests and the band's President and Vice Presidents. Memorabilia, along with a montage of photos from 1866 to the present day were shown on a screen and a beautiful celebration cake was made in honour of the event.





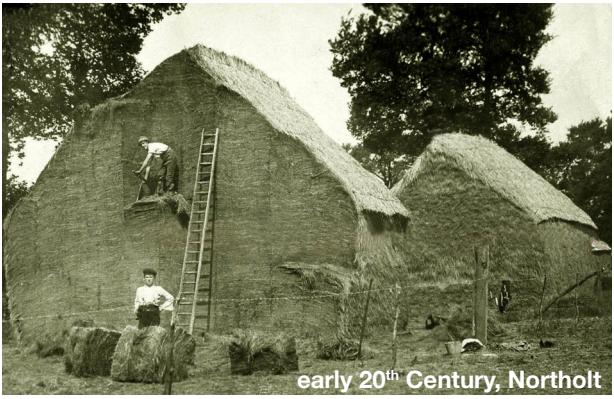
David joined the band at the age of 12 and after being a playing member for nearly 30 years, he took on the role of Musical Director and has remained in that position for the last 41 years and is undoubtedly the backbone of the band. David has taught over 100 learners of all ages to read music and learn to play a brass instrument and is a very well-respected Musical Director within the band, as well as Edenbridge and the surrounding area.

Ian began playing in a brass band at the age of 10, coming from a family brass banding tradition, following his father, maternal grandfather and great grandfather. He joined Edenbridge Town Band in 1984, working his way up through the ranks to being the band Principal Cornet player since the early 2000s, plus now also the Band Chairman. Both David and Ian were presented with an award and a Southern Counties Amateur Band Association certificate to mark these amazing achievements.

Edenbridge Town Band have a busy calendar for 2026 details of which can be found at http://www.edenbridgetownband.co.uk/

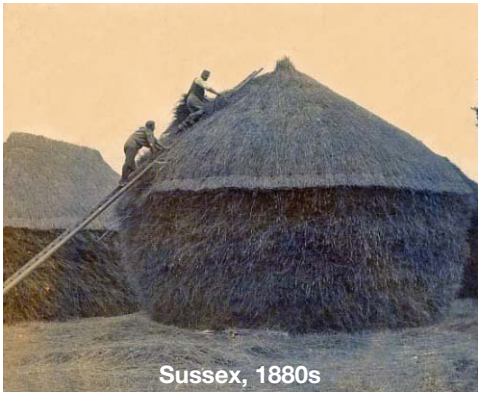
Mrs Lucy Gibb, Hon. Secretary
lucy@edenbridgetownband.co.uk
07766 391766

it's that time of the year....


early 20th Century, Northolt

How much more romantic were the hay ricks of the past, little volcanic islands on the bare field, compared to the solid geometric bales we see today. But Monet's beautiful mounds would be sodden heaps without the thatchers who wove a waterproof hat for each rick so that it could survive on the field.

In "Akenfield" Ronald Blythe's thatcher tells us that thatching ricks was a staple of his summer work - up to 300 a year using reeds or straw: "There used to be special patterns and decorations for the stacks years ago, particularly for the round stacks. There were three kinds of stacks, the round, the boat-shaped and the gable-end. They were very handsome, a way of decorating the village when the harvest was over and great pride went into put them up. They were set where they could be seen from the farmhouse and from the road so that they could be looked at and enjoyed. My dad always set a great sheaf of fine ears at the top of his round stacks and very nice they looked."


Sussex, 1880s

In his autobiography, local Mark Mead who died in 2012 wrote about not only his harrowing experiences as a POW in the war but also his youth working on his father's farm: "...when the grass was thoroughly dry, the horse drawn rake was used to gather it into long rows. This was a job which I enjoyed, sitting on the seat and depressing the foot pedal to release the gathered hay into the rows, ready for the 'sweeps' which were used to take it to the site of the hay rick in one corner of the field. There, the hay was pitch-forked into the hopper of the elevator, which was driven by a small petrol engine, and carried up to where father and two men were building the rick. I still puzzle over how father knew what size the base of the rick needed to be, but I suppose that the acreage of the field was his guide. Within a few days, the rick had to be thatched to keep the rain out until the hay could be

used in the winter. That was another labour intensive task! When required, the hay was cut out of the rick with a hay knife, placed in a baling press, on which the lever was brought down to compress bale which was then tied with two lengths of binder twine..... It is interesting to note that most of the machinery, the cutter, the rakes, the sweeps bore the maker's name, JC Bamford of Uttoxeter, now famous for JCBs."

Another option was to cover the ricks with tarpaulins (canvas coated in tar, hence the name), but these were expensive and labour was cheap. In 'Far from the Madding Crowd', Thomas Hardy describes with great intensity Gabriel Oak battling to cover gentlewoman-farmer Bathsheba's ricks as a rain storm hits, a moment when their eyes met....

Gradually baling became more mechanised and the Mennonite community in Pennsylvania were trailblazers (not literally as hay does not go with fire) - first Abe Zimmerman who founded New Holland machinery in, you guessed it, New Holland in 1895 and then Ed Nolt (1910-1992) from Farmersville whose profile I found in 'Anabaptist News': who in 1936 invented the mobile hay baling machine which could be dragged behind a tractor, compacting and self-knotting the bales into rectangular shapes as it went.

Mark Mead was born in 1920 so all this was too late for him and had his tenant farmer father even afforded machinery, he would have lost it all when the landlords foreclosed during the pre-war depression.

So now you see mainly big round bales in the field which can be made, collected and stored by just one farmer on chunky electronically operated machinery which can even test the moisture content in the hay before the process begins. Damp hay can conflagrate or go mouldy though if you see bales wrapped in green plastic that will be haylage, left intentionally slightly damp so that it ferments in the wrapping. The black wrap on silage bales absorbs minced up grass and is even more fermented by the time the cows devour it.



taken by Fox Talbot in Wiltshire 1840s

So - happy hay making and don't panic if you see a storm cloud, you have until September to get the right kind of hay done!

Joanna Wade

new lawnmowers at hever village hall's open day



Mr Tumble and Simon the donkeys conscientiously made their way round their temporary paddock enjoying the grass, washed down by carrots supplied by visiting children - an experience they and their companions, the Newlands Herd dexters, would happily repeat. Happily none of the fine plants on the Horticultural Society's stall were consumed. Inside the hall, locals also enjoyed.. not grass but home made cake, craft stalls and raffle. Star of the show was a model (beautifully made by Link team member Ivan) of the proposed new hall, to be built on the current paddock, which met with approval although the exact location needs to be revisited.

We also need to decide how to refresh the outside of the current hall without too much expenditure as the new hall is several years away.

All agreed that the spruced up interior is looking lovely and we hope more people will now hire it: heverhallbookings@gmail.com. Thanks to all who came along - we even raised some money although the main fundraising push has yet to begin.…

Joanna Wade



discover, learn and connect with edenbridge u3a

Edenbridge U3a (University of the Third Age) offers a vibrant programme of activities for people in their "third age" – typically those no longer in full-time work and who want to stay active, curious and connected. The website (www.edenbridgeu3a.co.uk) provides full details of the interest groups and outings on offer. These range from garden visits and historic house tours to art appreciation, theatre trips, music events and food-themed outings. Members can also join walking groups, games groups (both board and card), explore science and history topics, or enjoy lively current-affairs discussions.

The membership is wonderfully diverse, with people joining from all backgrounds and ages – from those in their 50's through to those in their 90's! If you'd like to know more, please come along as a visitor to one of our monthly meetings at Crockham Hill Village Hall on the last Wednesday of each month – doors open at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. This is a friendly, relaxed opportunity to meet members, enjoy the presentation from our monthly speaker and to have a chat over tea and biscuits afterwards. Lifts to Crockham Hill can be arranged if needed.

The annual membership year runs from July, full details on the website or contact our Membership Secretary on 07303 165257, if you have any queries.



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Greyhound at Hever, Restaurant with rooms, open to non-residents		01732 862221

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Falconhurst Weddings	01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall	01342 850328



a fun-packed weekend with guets from our French twin town

In May, residents in Edenbridge and the local area welcomed a delegation from twin town, Mont Saint Aignan, for a four-day cultural exchange, continuing the 50-plus years of the town's twinning partnership. Highlights of the packed itinerary were a drinks reception and dinner hosted by Edenbridge Town Council and Eden Twinning and trips to the British Museum and Tudeley Church to see the stained-glass windows by modernist artist, Marc Chagall.

Eden Twinning organizes French-themed social activities such as boules, French cinema trips and exchanges throughout the year. The group is always open to new members. To find out more visit **www.edentwinning.com**, call Gael on 07713 256038 or email edentwinning@gmail.com





the Plough in Leigh



news from four elms primary

Four Elms Primary School is a warm and welcoming village school where every child is known, valued and inspired to thrive. Our small size allows us to truly understand each child as an individual, nurturing confidence, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

This term has been filled with memorable experiences, including our Year 6 residential visit to Dorset. Our enthusiastic pupils embraced a range of watersport activities with energy and excitement. Learning to sail was a particular highlight, although rigging and de-rigging the boats proved quite a challenge! Out on the water, the windy conditions tested both balance and determination, leading to plenty of laughter and a few excited screams. Despite the mixed weather, the children showed resilience, positivity and teamwork throughout, making us incredibly proud.



At Four Elms, we are committed to providing a rich and engaging curriculum—*The Curriculum to Inspire*—where learning extends far beyond the classroom. Through opportunities such as visits to our Trust farm, outdoor learning and performances, we aim to create memorable experiences that deepen understanding and spark imagination. This term has been no exception. Our choir recently entertained residents at a local care home in a truly heart-warming visit, while our Year 5 and 6 pupils are busy preparing for their end-of-year production of *High School Musical* at The Stag Theatre, an event we are all eagerly anticipating.

As the academic year draws to a close, I am immensely proud of how hard children across the school have worked. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils develop not only in knowledge and confidence, but also in character. Our strong academic outcomes reflect this commitment, with pupils making good progress and achieving highly.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please contact **secretary@inspiream.org.uk** to arrange a visit. We would be delighted to welcome you.

Jess Fermor
Head of School

church in july

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
5th July 10am	Pet service at St.Paul's Four Elms followed by Holy Communion	5th after Trinity
12th July 8am	Morning Prayer St.Peter's Hever	6th after Trinity
12th July 10am	Holy Communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	6th after Trinity
12th July 4pm	Forest Church St.Peter's Hever with baptism	6th after Trinity
19th July 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	7th after Trinity
26th July 10am	Holy Communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	8th after Trinity

Our weekly Home Group will finish for the summer Tuesday 7th July at 7.30pm. The next Men's Discussion group is on 9th July at 6pm entitled: 'What is faith?' and meets at Saxbys Mead. For details of any of these please contact Simon.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone.

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

Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

Wardens

Four Elms
vacancy

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
07976 281613

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
07881 482154

Nicki Talbot
01342 850526



our rector's thoughts

The holiday season is nearly upon us and, if we're lucky enough to be going abroad, one thing we need to sort out is our passport. We all need one to travel, but until we do, it often just sits in a drawer as a form of identification, unused until the moment we need it. The Christian faith can sometimes seem to be a bit like that. We may identify as Christians, have been baptised and have a certificate to prove it. Our faith may be something we only turn to for the "big moments" — like a passport waiting in a drawer for a special journey. What exactly is faith anyway? We'll be discussing this at our Men's Discussion Group this month. Is it just an intellectual assent to a set of beliefs, rather like reciting the Creed in church or is there more to it?

We've got a number of baptisms coming up. In the baptism service, I ask the parents and godparents: 'Do you believe and trust in God the Father…God the Son…God the Holy Spirit?' and the response is: 'I believe and trust in him.' What is the difference between belief and trust? Charles Blondin was a French acrobat in the 19th century who drew large crowds to watch him cross the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. On one occasion a royal party watched him perform. He started with his simple crossing and ended by wheeling a wheelbarrow from one side to the other as the crowd cheered. He then put a sack of potatoes into the wheelbarrow and wheeled that across. Finally, he approached the royal party and asked the Duke of Newcastle, *'Do you believe that I could take a man across the tightrope in this wheelbarrow?' 'Yes, I do,'* said the Duke. *'Hop in!'* replied Blondin. Needless to say, the Duke declined the challenge. It's said that eventually an old woman stepped out of the crowd and climbed into the wheelbarrow. Blondin wheeled her all the way across and all the way back. The old woman was Blondin's mother - the only person willing to put her life in his hands.

That is the difference between belief and trust. True faith is about trusting God with every part of our lives. Just as the first thing you show when entering another country is your passport, the first thing God desires from us is that we come to Him. Jesus said: "*… seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" (Matthew 6:33). Everything else is secondary.

We may have the passport but are we ready to travel?

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

The first half of July will be packed with social events here in Four Elms. There will be a Pet Service at St Paul's on Sunday July 5th, where your beloved pet will be blessed. Cats, I'm sure, will be too busy to attend. Do let us know if you plan to bring along any unusual animals. Four Elms Fete will take place on Saturday July 11th. Amongst many of the stalls and fun activities there will be the popular bric-a-brac stall. The more interesting little knick-knacks you could donate, the better. No broken or dirty items though, please. If you are an accomplished baker of cakes, you may be interested to know that the creations we receive will be entered in a best-in-show competition, judged by the most discerning cake judge in the parish.

A special 'Enjoy a Cuppa' will be held on the 14th July from 2.30pm at the Hodson's house 'Little Chittenden', where you can also appreciate their beautiful garden. If you would like to come but need a lift, please call Christina on 01732 700247.

When all the gazebos and games have been put away for another year and our calendars begin to look a bit less crowded, it might be time to take stock and enjoy some quiet moments in nature. This may take the form of a little meander through the meadows which surround Four Elms: there are many paths regularly used by the people of the village which afford some great views towards Toys Hill and the Chart. Just behind St Paul's there is a garden of contemplation, next to the graveyard, and the church itself is open daily to visitors. We are proud of the amazing Arts and Crafts windows and tiles which decorate our church and there is one particularly lovely image of Jesus as the shepherd holding a lamb, which can be seen towards the pulpit on the wall to the left.

Nadia Mulder

Hever

We shared a wonderful communion service recently, bursting with reasons to celebrate! We marked Father's Day, honoured St Peter through our patronal festival, and shared the immense joy of a baptism. A warm, heartfelt welcome to Wilfred as he joins our church family. Thank you to everyone who made this beautiful, triple-celebration Sunday so memorable

Following our recent Quinquennial Inspection, we have some excellent news: a specialist survey confirmed there is no asbestos in our church building! Regarding the crack in the southeast wall, a structural surveyor and architect recently visited St Peter's. Their initial assessment suggests the movement could be a combination of the soakaway drainage by the buttress, roof movement, and last year's exceptionally dry summer. To find the exact cause, we will be carrying out further investigations into both the roof and the soil. Once we have those results, the structural engineer will design the best solution to secure the wall for the future

We have some fantastic events coming up at St Peter's, and we would love for you to join us. Hever Festival History Week is being held from Wednesday 5th August – Saturday 8th August We are delighted to be hosting a series of fascinating history talks right here at St Peter's. The full programme of speakers and ticket bookings are available now via the Hever Festival Theatre website. The annual Hever BBQ & Barn Dance will take place on Saturday 12th September get ready to dust off your dancing shoes We are thrilled to welcome back Bernard as our caller, with a special interval performance by singer Helen Hoggins. There will be a delicious BBQ and a fabulous raffle. Tickets will be available to purchase through the Bookitbee website closer to the day.

The next Parish Lunch on Thursday, 9th July at 12:30 PM for a 1:00 PM start. We typically host around 24-30 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

Isn't June a glorious month? Rather wet at the beginning, but when it mattered, on the 13th and 14th, it was perfect. For the village of Markbeech, Henrietta (Talbot) made a very special bride in her beautiful dress, walked up the aisle through a canopy of roses round the porch and more superb flowers, especially around the pulpit.

To add to the joy, the cricket pitch was busy with the Chairman's brilliant lunch generously and deliciously given to so many of us by his wife, followed by a nail-biting match played with great good humour. The following day the congregation of Markbeech appreciated the flowers during a lovely communion service.

Since the last Link, the Benefice have been honoured by a visit from The Bishop of Tonbridge to Four Elms. Well attended and deeply appreciated by all who met him. The end of half term, on the 31st, the family service was busy despite many of us still being away. Now we can look forward to our Parish lunch on the 28th June in Clare DP's pretty garden. Always a joy. Please contact Lynne Rowan 07881482154. This lunch will be after our Family service so we hope some families will join us in the garden.

Next month, July, we have two services in Markbeech on July 12th and July 26th. Wishing you all a very happy Summer.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary



Hever Parish Council

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At this year's Parish Assembly HPC Chair, Angela Haydon, reflected on a busy year for Hever Parish Council. Highlights included a successful free Family Fun Day at Four Elms Field, kindly sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council. Work at Four Elms pond has been a focus. Councillor Nick Roberts organised a volunteer maintenance day to help prevent blockages and reduce flood risk. The Council also responded to anti-social behaviour, damage to wildlife and illegal drug use around the pond. Edenbridge and District Angling Club now manages and maintains the pond, and efforts are under way to remove misleading online claims that it can be fished for free. While challenges remain, the situation has improved significantly. Two community litter picks were held in September and March, both were well supported by volunteers. Grants of £4,500 were awarded to local organisations including the Hever Parish lunch, CAGNE, Edenbridge Voluntary Transport, Hever Primary School and Hever bellringers.

As a statutory consultee on local planning applications, HPC commented on 13 applications and one appeal and also reported several suspected planning breaches. The continued development at Hever Stud remains a significant concern. The Council has monitored the site closely, reporting new structures and access works, and is maintaining regular contact with Sevenoaks District Council's Planning and Enforcement teams. Residents will be informed when the expected retrospective planning application is submitted. Over recent months, there has been an increase in fly-tipping. There are some mobile CCTV cameras operating and additional signage to hopefully deter potential fly-tippers. Please report suspicious activity. SDC have a target of collecting within 5 days and are currently averaging 2.5 days which is great news. A new parish council website has been launched, offering improved accessibility, security and regulatory compliance, please do visit https://heverparishcouncil.gov.uk/. The recent internal audit confirmed that the Council remains compliant with financial and regulatory requirements and continues to demonstrate good practice. Thank you to Rachael, our Clerk.

Looking ahead, the Council plans to install additional playground equipment at Four Elms for children under six, migrate the community content of Hever.org to a faster platform, and carry out a survey to help shape future projects and spending priorities. Willerby Landscapes were thanked for providing and decorating the Four Elms Christmas tree. Councillors who give their time freely and volunteers were thanked. It was confirmed there is a current vacancy for a councillor. Information on how to apply is on the website.

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

benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
						FOUR ELMS							
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27	64.0	28	165	86	77	78	909
2025	89	61	4	36	13	28	57.0	38	49	85	66	87	613
2026	162	90	25	4	14								295
						HEVER							
2024	73	136	81.5	57.5	48.5	25	73.5	31.5	183	82.5	62	52	906
2025	126	54.5	4	29.5	14	31	71.5	27	52	103	61	107	680
2026	187	88	22	2	20								318.5
						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	19								325

HALL BOOKINGS

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

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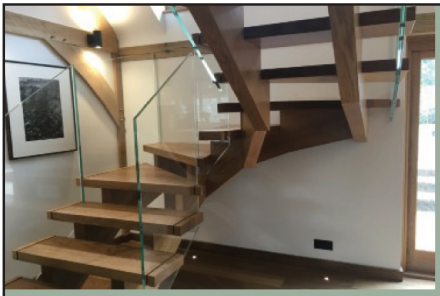
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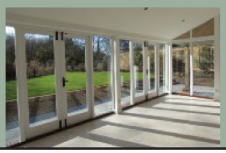
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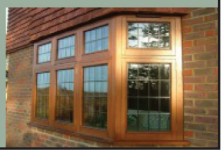
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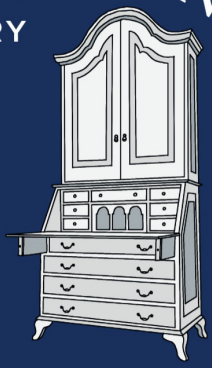




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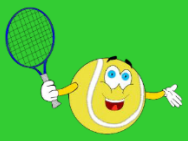
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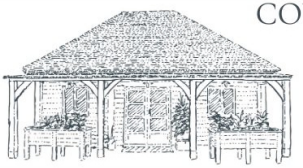
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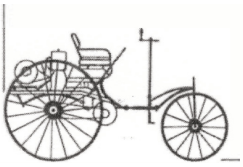
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july diary

Eden Valley Museum celebrating 25 years with two exhibitions 'Discover History through 25 Objects' and 'Explore Change in the Eden Valley'

2nd & 4th Wed each month **Bore Place 'Wilder Wellbeing'** nature sessions for adults – free, book online www.boreplace.org/whats-on
Women's Fitness Class Mondays at 10.30am and Weds at 6pm Markbeech Village Hall
Falconhurst Street Food at the Barn, 1st Friday and Saturday each month 12 noon – 8pm

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
3 July **Painting in the Garden**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
4 July **Children's Art Workshop**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
5 July **EMAT Jazz al fresco** (see p14), 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 Little Chittenden, Four Elms from 2.30pm
21 July **Hever Parish Council,** Four Elms VH, planning 7pm, full meeting 7.30pm
23 July **Bore Place Birthday Spotter Trail**, perfect for young families, child £5 acc adults free 10.30-1.30pm
25 July **Beekeeping Workshop**, Falconhurst 10-3.30pm
5-8 Aug **Hever History Festival**, talks at St Peter's Hever, thefestivaltheatre.org for details
7 Aug **Painting in the Garden**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
11 Aug **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
13 Aug **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
13 Aug **Family Pasta workshop**, Bore Place, adult+child £55, extra child £10 10-12.30pm
15 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall 2-4.30pm
20 Aug **Pizza and Pipistrelles Night**, Bore Place £65 for 2 adults 7-9pm
22 Aug **Children's Art Workshop**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
30-31 Aug **Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show**, Ardenrun Showground, Lingfield. 8am-6pm
12 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall 6.30pm

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