

May 2024



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- Born and bred in Markbeeche
- Dancing gulls
- D'ye ken Kenwood
- A very bouncy pet
- D-Day all the way
- Lots of summer action

...and so much more

# THE GLEANER

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeeche

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# Welcome to the May Link

**Rubbish! Well done Sevenoaks for keeping the weekly rubbish collections going when the rest of the country has reduced to fortnightly or worse.** The price is that we have to buy our own black sacks and that recycling will be in a re-useable "sack for life" from September.

And so to a less topical but nonetheless interesting story (at least I think it is!).... Flicking through my RSPB newsletter I see that the founding inspiration for the Society was Victorian ladies' hats! Determined that birds should not die for the sake of fashion, Emily Williamson (1855-1936) joined forces with Eliza Phillips (1853-1916) in 1891 to form the Plumage League, later the "Society for the Protection of Birds". They disapproved of the use of bird feathers in fashion, both due to the reduction of the bird population and to the cruelty of plume hunting and were part of a group of women who pledged not to wear feathers from most birds. Explicit exceptions included birds killed for food and the ostrich, because the harvesting of its tail feathers was not painful.

They were joined by Etta Lemon (1860-1953), an anti-suffrage conservative. Many suffragettes wore plumed hats as a badge of identity and in 1896 a SPB pamphlet (the "Royal" was

added in 1901) noted that the wearing of plumes by women was a good reason to deny the right to vote: "if women are so empty-headed and stupid that they cannot be made to understand the cruelty of which they are guilty in that matter, they certainly prove themselves to be unfit to be voters, and to enter the learned professions on equal terms with men." The photo shows Etta, her hat suffused in feathers - presumably ostrich?

Tickets are selling fast for the D-day picnic so don't delay, please keep your fingers crossed for good weather! And beware the traffic lights on the Henry corner in Hever which will inevitably extend journey times.

**Joanna Wade**  
thelink@hever.org



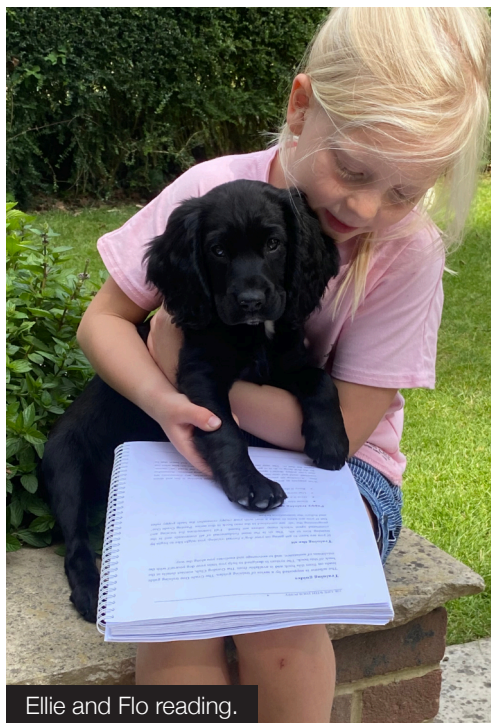
THE LINK

## pet of the month

**I'm going to introduce you to my dog, Flo.** Flo is a Cocker Spaniel. We got her in 2020 when she was just a puppy (it's her birthday soon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April). The man we bought Flo from is called Bert and her mum is called Emma. Bert is a gamekeeper who has very well-trained dogs so when we picked Flo up all the puppies could respond to his whistle. At Bert's house the puppies lived in kennels outside so when we first got home it took us a while to encourage Flo into the house.

During lockdown we spent lots of time training Flo so now we can go on lots of adventures with her. We like to go on bike rides, go to the beach (Flo usually gets a sandy nose when we're at the beach from all the holes she digs) and climbing mountains. Flo always takes a stick with her wherever she goes and she always picks the biggest one she can find!

One of Flo's favourite things to do is to go running, she goes running so often that she knows every footpath in Hever, Markbeece and Chiddingstone.



Ellie and Flo reading.

So much so that when we are out together she shows us the way and likes to be the leader of Daddy's running club. Flo also loves a good cuddle.

When Flo gets excited she doesn't just wag her tail, she wags her entire body.

Lorraine, our cleaner calls her Miss Waggle Bum!!! I love having Flo as she makes me laugh and she gives the best cuddles!

**Ellie Chapman**



## desert island whisks

### ...which kitchen implement would you save from the waves?

When I married, 53 years ago, I received one of my most useful wedding presents, a Kenwood chef. Gosh! I was so thrilled having had some experience using my mother's, which had been given to her by our cousin, a very junior accountant doing the audits for Kenwood.

The surprise of the present was even more appreciated by me because the Kenwood was given to us by my new husband's godfather, who was the most splendid bachelor living in Belgravia, and he was known as Potts (rather apt for this article!). We adored him and he was, apparently, a very good cook.

The Kenwood had been regularly used for 25 years when my parents-in-law had a lunch party where Potts was invited. Being the polite, charming man he was, he asked after the Kenwood and I replied "exceptionally well, thank you, but perhaps I need to invest in a Magimix to enhance my catering abilities!" A week after the lunch, a large box arrived from Peter Jones and, yes, a Magimix from Potts - wasn't I lucky!

Both Kenwood and Magimix sit together in my larder, being a happy reminder of the generous Potts. And I am now using them to interest the next generation in the joys of cooking - here is my granddaughter Bibi aged 13 in action with the Kenwood.

**Richenda Calvocoressi**



If anyone else has a desert island whisk they would like to share with their neighbours, please do get in touch with The Link.



## what I do

**Pilates was always something I used to dip in and out of but it never seemed to click; I fell into the common trap of finding it 'boring.'** I was always more interested in high intensity workouts, running and cycling. However I was prone to injuries and my back gave out when my first son was six months old. My chiropractor advised that while I was cardio fit I should try pilates again to improve mobility, stability and inner strength. I finally found a teacher who tailored a pilates programme to suit both my physical and mental needs and my love of pilates began. I was not only able to see the huge benefits to my mind and body but I also developed a keen interest in the variety of pilates exercises, quashing my previous belief that it was boring and encouraging me to become a pilates teacher through Body Control Pilates.

My go to style of pilates is more dynamic and mixes in elements of fitness with classical pilates exercises. Through teaching I have the great satisfaction of seeing the benefits of using pilates in different ways depending on my clients' wants and needs. From the person whose continuous back and joint pain is eased through pilates, those fed up with constantly feeling stiff or like they have bad posture, to the active individual who sees how pilates not only keeps them injury free but also enhances their pre-existing fitness routine.



I also love devising workouts which you can fit in around your day. By dividing workouts into segments of 10 – 20 minutes you can fit in some form of movement, and just as importantly some time to yourself, on even the busiest of days.

I create new workouts for my clients each week incorporating new and innovative exercises. Whether it is in a group fitness environment or 1:1 I ensure each of my clients is getting what they need out of their pilates. Pilates has allowed me to continue exercising to a high level without the risk of injury as I know my body is strong from the inside out. I love seeing how pilates boosts my clients' confidence, enhances their lifestyle and builds their love for movement.

Please get in touch if you would like more information. [libertywaters@hotmail.com](mailto:libertywaters@hotmail.com) or 0781 773 9899.

**Liberty Greenish**

**Last month's What We Do** Just to clarify, the Garden Cafe which was the subject of the piece is in Four Elms next to The Elms Equestrian on Bough Beech Rd, TN8 6ND

## parish litter pick

"Desperados" is the tippie of choice for the litter fiends of Uckfield Lane. At 5.9% and laced with tequila it's hopefully not the cyclists wobbling up the hill who throw these cans in the hedge, along with many other more well-known brands. Cheap wine seems to be out of fashion but a half bottle of dessert wine was consumed near Pigdown Lane - and all that might account for the wing mirrors and cars parts scattered throughout the parish. By the end of the morning, and whilst admiring the kerbside spring flowers, the Hever litter pickers had collected 20 bags and Markbeech added an impressive 40 to the haul, including much builders' fly tipped rubble.

Meanwhile in Four Elms our reporter, Parish Council Chair Angela Haydon, was on the scene: "From toddlers to pensioners, there was a great response from Four Elms residents - 15 volunteers turned up on this sunny morning, the youngest was Teddy aged 2 1/2 who was going to help collect rubbish at the



playground. We found quite a few empty cans of Red Bull [Ed: healthier louts in Four Elms then, no Desperados?], four tyres and a wing mirror! Hilary provided home made cookies, rock cakes and flapjacks so everyone was happy."

Thank you to the passing drivers who stopped to thank us for our efforts. Another collection is planned for the autumn, watch this space and do join in... and meanwhile don't be a Desperado, take your litter home with you!

**Joanna Wade**



## Born and bred in ..... Markbeech

**Margaret Reynolds (néé Leppard) was born in the Kentish Horse pub in 1944 where her maternal grandparents, Gladys and Henry Ward, were the landlords.**

The Kentish was a magnet for car rallies which both her parents, Monty and Cynthia Leppard, enthusiastically attended - the pub still has pictures on the walls to prove it. Monty's father, George, ran Wilderness Farm, indeed the Leppards have been farming Wilderness for 102 years. Monty had two brothers, Wally and John who both had wives called Peggy, and all three brothers worked on the farm. Wally and John maintained and ran the machinery and Monty was in charge of the dairy herd.

As a girl Margaret moved into the farm with her parents to help her grandparents and attended Hever primary school and then secondary at the now-closed Edenbridge. She left aged 16 to help her dad with the cows and says she couldn't get out quickly

enough, turning down the services of the career officer who suggested a shop or factory, to which she replied "don't bother, I already have a job on the farm!"

She absolutely loved the outdoors. The farm had approximately 36 cows which Margaret helped milk twice a day, the full churn was then rolled out to the roadside to be collected. Whenever she passes, Margaret always looks at the spot on the bank where they sat waiting for the milk lorry. As well as milking, there was feeding - Monty and Margaret hand cut kale which grew approximately 6 foot high and put it through a shredder; very hard work. During the summer they made hay, building a stack in the field; Wally and John threw sheeting over the stack to protect it. They also grew wheat, Margaret and her cousins going out on the combine and changing the grain sacks as it drove along, also very hard work. Margaret says: "We had chickens too - we would collect their eggs if we could find them, they often laid in the hay bales or hid away to hatch



Margaret tending her grandfather's animals



their chicks, if the cocks fought they went in the pot."

The joy was that every time and every season brought a different job and a different challenge. But Margaret stopped her farm work on her 21st birthday, she had married Melvin Reynolds in 1965 and was pregnant. The story of her going into labour with her first child, Bernard, still makes her laugh - her dad rang the doctor but said "there's no rush - she knows what goes on, she's watched the cows often enough"!! Melvin was in the army and they were posted to Hong Kong when Bernard was two months old; they went on to have two more boys and two girls. When he was discharged the family returned here and lived in one of the Pigdown farm cottages. Melvin worked on the buses, based in the depot in Hever Road on the edge of Edenbridge.

Margaret did cleaning jobs in the area, cycling everywhere, up and down, on her 3-gear bike. In her spare time she played stool ball, a game resembling rounders, reputedly invented by milkmaids who used their stools as bats, which was very popular. Margaret's team was in the Kent league and she herself once played for Kent County. She was also a darts champion and won the Kentish Horse ladies' title six times.

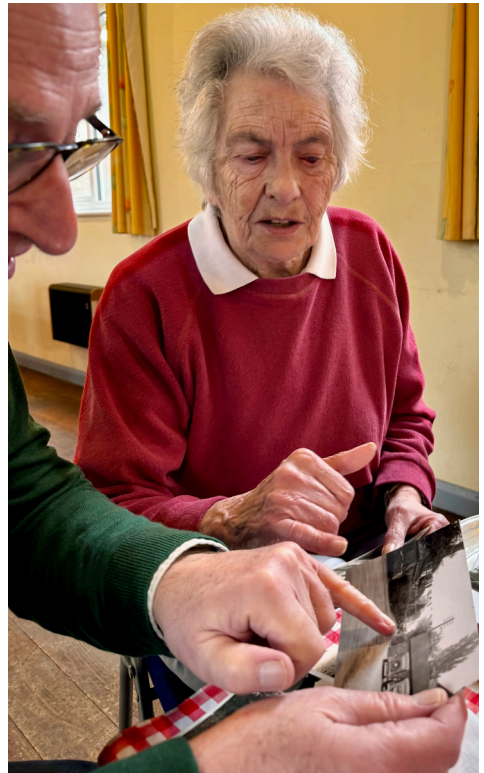
When Melvin and Margaret separated 24 years ago she moved back to her birthplace, the centre of Markbeece, where she has been ever since, enjoying her garden and helping people where she can, including at the Hever parish lunch. She fondly remembers Markbeece in "the olden days",

including Jack and Ada Seymour who ran the tiny post office in Cow Lane - the post box is still outside what was their house. They sold sweets, tins of fruit, postcards of Markbeece and much more. She is sad that so much has now changed in the village but is still happy to call it home.

Margaret has just turned 80 and has been celebrating with her children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild (another one is in the way). Happy birthday Margaret!

### **Joanna Wade**

If you or someone you know was born and bred in the parish please get in touch as I would love to hear your story - 07958 919631



## celebrating Markbeech village hall

**As regular readers of The Link will know, Markbeech Village Hall celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its construction last year.** 2023 was also the year of our King's Coronation, so I thought this was an excellent excuse to plant a tree to commemorate these two events.

On Sunday 24th March, a group of 20 local residents, all with close links to the Hall, assembled in the garden to witness the planting by our Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain, accompanied by her husband Lord Colgrain. Also in attendance were Sevenoaks District Councillors Margot McArthur, James Barnett and Angela Baker and Hever Parish Councillors Rick Brookes-Smith and Joanna Wade. My fellow Trustee and the Hall's Honorary Secretary, John Adkins was also present as was Committee member Chris St Pierre, who chose the tree, an Acer pseudoplatanus Brilliantissimum.

It was a great honour to have Lady Colgrain carry out the ceremony. The last time a Lord Lieutenant came to the Hall was in April 1996 when the former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Kingsdown opened the Hall's flat roof extension, invited by my predecessor but one Robin Denison-Pender. I was pleased to have Robin's widow Clare with us at the event on Sunday.

**James Calvoceossi**

Chairman and Trustee, Markbeech Village Hall



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
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The Friends of Hever School Present  
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*All Welcome!*

**£15<sup>pp</sup>**  
QUIZ ENTRY &  
FRESHLY COOKED  
MEAL

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Teams of up to 8

**FRIDAY 10 MAY 2024**  
DOORS OPEN - 6:30PM  
QUIZ STARTS - 7:30PM  
WI HALL, STATION ROAD,  
EDENBRIDGE, TN8 5LX

Ticket includes;  
fish/sausage/halloumi &  
chips  
(vegan option available)

Drinks can be purchased  
at the bar

# D·DAY80

# D-Day anniversary picnic

**When:** Thursday 6 June 2024,  
6.30 (doors open) 6.45-9.30pm

**Where:** Hever Castle,  
the Festival Theatre  
(covered with dance floor)

**Who:** Residents of Hever, Four  
Elms and Markbeech  
(limited to six tickets per household)

**Tickets:** £2 from box office

@heverfestival.co.uk 07379 488 477

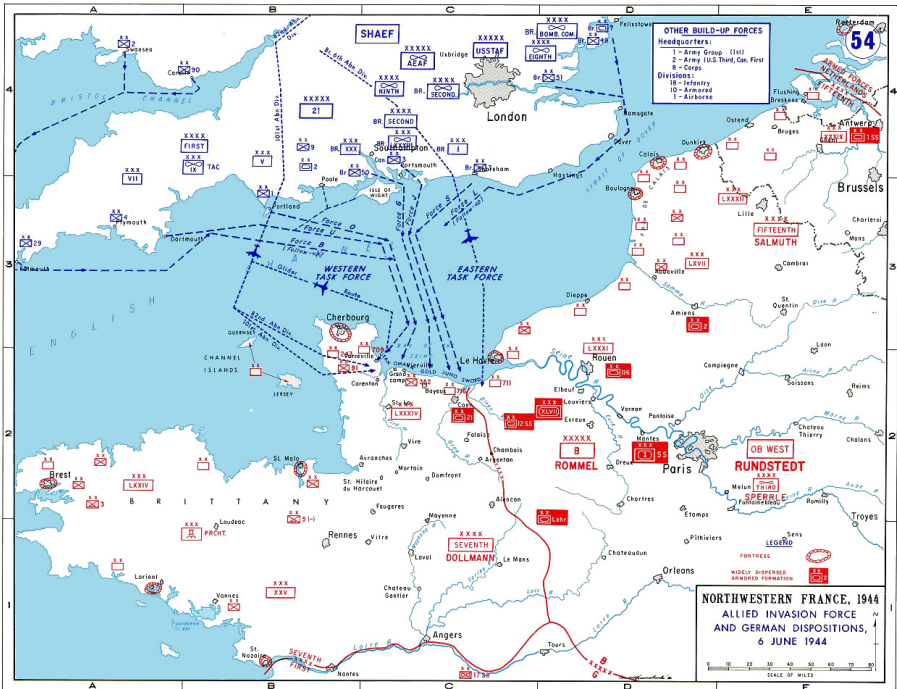
(children under 16 free)

**Music:** Live 1940s music

**Food:** Bring a picnic

to eat in the grounds

**Thanks to:** Hever Castle, Hever Festival  
Theatre, the Parish Council and the HRA



## Hever Hort Spring Show



Emma Scott with the Mavis Seal salver for most points in the domestic classes in the Spring show.



Emma's prize winning chocolate cake which she donated to the Parish Lunch.



**Hever Rose & Horticultural Society**

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**11<sup>th</sup> May Hever Village Hall, 10am**



CHIDDINGSTONE NURSERY PTA PRESENTS

# COLOUR OBSTACLE RUN

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12TH MAY  
11-3PM

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CHIDDINGSTONE SPORTS GROUND  
CHILDREN AGED 2-11 YEARS

## COWDEN MEMORIAL HALL QUIZ NIGHT & RAFFLE To raise money for the new boiler

FRIDAY 17th MAY - 7.30pm for an 8pm start

£6.00 per person. Mazimum of 6 to a table plus a team name please.

NO PHONES to be used please - just Grey Matter!!!



Please bring your own  
drinks and nibbles  
and if you can a donation  
to the raffle.



CASH PLEASE

*To book a table or for any queries please contact Sue Butcher on 07729-337556  
You can also turn up on the night and if you aren't part of a team  
we can find one for you to join.*

As for many, spring is a busy time for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Many administrative activities take place and the year-end processes have to be completed. The Internal Audit is scheduled and resulting statutory reports will be published shortly.

Meeting 7pm and full council meeting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Mrs Rachael Turner** Clerk and RFO  
077849 12645 [clerk@hever.org](mailto:clerk@hever.org)

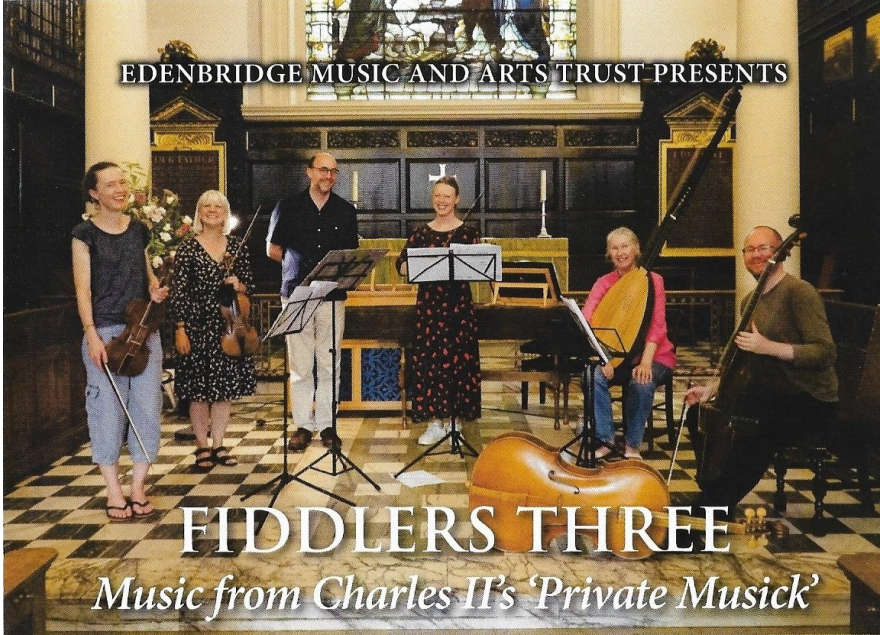
## Parish Councillor Vacancy

– We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, Four Elms Ward. So if you would like to help make a difference to your community representing the interests of those living and working in the Parish, please do contact me at [clerk@hever.org](mailto:clerk@hever.org) for more information.

**Parish Assembly** - The Parish Assembly will be held at 7pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in Four Elms Village Hall. Do come and join us for this free event. It will be an interesting and informative evening with speakers from a variety of areas. Refreshments will be provided and a good chance to meet your Councillors and neighbours from across the Parish.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Four Elms Village Hall. Planning





including works by Purcell, John Jenkins & Nicola Matteis  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm Edenbridge Parish Church**  
Tickets: £15 available from Lennox Cato, 1 the Square, Edenbridge, on the door, via the website: [edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk](http://edenbridgemusicandartstrust.org.uk) or from Alexander Crowe 07821 683 482



### Building & Design Services

Andy Sayers Electrical Services	maintenance and repairs	07836 256 146
Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01892 836777
APH Electrical & Property Maintenance		07816 291713
Beauproperty	house design and building	01892 249000
Causeway Joinery	bespoke joinery for the public and trade	01342 850170
Clare Elizabeth	painting and decorating	0777 5328781
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
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559

### Cleaning

Housecleans	cleaning, ironing	01959 532 223
Rockport Cleaning	dry carpet & upholstery cleaners	01732 387 046

### Commercial Property and Storage

Gaywood Farm, Edenbridge	– container storage, low monthly rates	07973 210361
Hever Business Centre Office Suites	- Karrison Property	01959 563800

### Dog Training

Claire Cook, Positive Reinforcement Dog Trainer	in Edenbridge	07818 070672
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### Education

Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315
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### Fitness

Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 700771
Gyrotonics at the barn	with Stephanie Bates	07803 876816
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Smart Nutrition and Fitness	personal training for midlife women and 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
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## 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
MCF Garden Maintenance	local, reliable, catering for all garden needs	079307 29059
R. Bennett	hedges, fencing, grass cutting	01732 862971
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815

## Health

BDHL private & group health insurance and corporate wellbeing		01892 891900
Liberty Greenish Pilates	bespoke small group and 1 to 1 classes	0781 773 9899
Paul Marro	cognitive hypnotherapy <a href="http://www.htherapy.co.uk">www.htherapy.co.uk</a>	01732 808211

## Home Services

Daren Wood	chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
Pegrum	fuels, boilers, plumbing, solar panels, water/oil tanks	01732 463256
Stuff and Buttons,	traditional and modern upholstery services	07791 689346
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206

## 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

## Travel, Taxis and bike hire

Country Hire and Go,	electric bike hire and local taxi service	07723054863
Easy Cab Taxi Services	based in Hever	07359 759 784
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800

## Venue Hire and Weddings

Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

## Greyhound Hever Uckfield Lane, Hever, Kent, TN8 7LJ



Licensed Restaurant With En Suite Guest Rooms.  
Restaurant Open to Non Residents.  
Open in the evenings only Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday  
{Closed Thursday and Sunday}  
Kitchen serving hours 6pm to 8pm.  
Restaurant closes at 10:30pm.  
Please ring 01732 862221 to reserve a table

## Church in May

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
5 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	Holy Communion at St.Paul's Four Elms followed by rogation walk	Rogation Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	Deanery Ascension Day Choral Evensong St.Paul's Four Elms	Ascension Day
12 <sup>th</sup> May 8am	BCP Morning Prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Sunday after Ascension
12 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeeche	Sunday after Ascension
12 <sup>th</sup> May 4pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Sunday after Ascension
19 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	Holy Communion at St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Pentecost
19 <sup>th</sup> May 4pm	Four Elms at Four Family service	Pentecost
26 <sup>th</sup> May 8am	Said Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity Sunday
26 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	Family Service at Holy Trinity Markbeeche	Trinity Sunday

Our weekly Zoom and in person Bible studies continue on Mondays at 6pm and 8pm and Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6pm. Zoe Joannou's 'life group' for young mums is on alternate Wednesdays. Our next Men's discussion group hosted by Nick Irens will be on Secularism which was postponed from April; it's at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page. Note that our service on 5<sup>th</sup> May will be followed by a short Rogation walk starting at 11.15am.

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

### Rector

Revd.Simon Braid  
07802 809849 and  
[simonbraid@icloud.com](mailto:simonbraid@icloud.com)

### Administrator

Ana Roxburgh  
beneficeemail@gmail.com

### Wardens Hever

Mandy Yarnold  
01342 850028

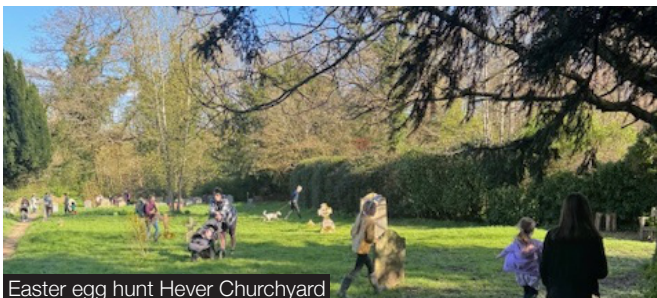
### Four Elms

Christina Hodson  
01732 700247

Richard Bennett  
01732 862971

### Markbeeche

Lynn Rowan  
01342 850776



Easter egg hunt Hever Churchyard

## our rector's thoughts

**With Easter having been early this year, we have two lesser but important festivals in May: Ascension and Pentecost, also known as Whitsun.**

Some of us might be old enough to remember the Beatles' song 'Goodbye' released in 1969. Life is full of goodbyes: saying goodbye to those we meet each day; the harrowing goodbyes when soldiers go off to war; lovers parted for whatever reason and ultimately we all face saying goodbye to loved ones when their time comes.

Ascension marks a big goodbye: the end of Jesus' ministry on earth. The risen Jesus is hid by a cloud and returns to his Father in heaven. His followers are left staring into the sky. One can only wonder what they might have felt as the one who had led them over the past three years, who had faced crucifixion and then had appeared to them risen from the dead, was now leaving them. It must have been a confusing and painful goodbye.

Here's an imaginary story set in heaven just after the Ascension. The angels ask Jesus, "Did you accomplish your task?". "Yes. All is finished." He says. "So has the whole world heard of you?" "No," says Jesus, "not yet." "Then what is your plan?". "I have left eleven men and some other followers to carry the message to the whole world."

says Jesus. The angels looked at one another "What is your Plan B?" Jesus replies "There is no Plan B". Jesus' last words to his followers were these: *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1:8. They were the plan; there was no Plan B!

This is where Pentecost comes in. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples and other Christians were transformed such that they '*turned the world upside down*' (Acts 17:6). And the rest is history.

But how does that relate to us 2,000 years later in our rural parishes? Sometimes we can get rather obsessed with maintaining what we have – which is good, of course – but neglect the mission to which we are called. After Pentecost, the new church grew at an amazing rate and there are parts of the world where this is happening today. So why not in the Three Spires? I plan to preach on this subject during May and June and encourage you to come along, as, with the help and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we seek to build the church of the future? We are the plan – there is no Plan B!

God bless you all

Simon

### Four Elms

Easter was a busy time for services at St. Paul's. The Palm Sunday service, Wednesday compline, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Such a pleasure to see the church being fully occupied during this season.

As the saying goes, never perform with children and animals. This probably means that there is a degree of unpredictability to any event involving either and certainly with both!! However, this could not be said for the Palm Sunday service at St Paul's. Two well behaved donkeys led the palm procession impeccably. They didn't put a hoof wrong. And a Palm Sunday story read by younger members of the congregation was word perfect.

The Deanery Ascension Day service will be held in St Paul's on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. This will be a choral evening song and we are delighted the wonderful Markbeech choir will be joining us. As we move towards the summer, the Four Elms Village Fete Committee moves into action with its planning for the summer event on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>. For St Paul's Church it is our big fundraiser of the year. I hope we might have our usual fantastic support from everyone to make it another great year. (Weather permitting!)

April has been a busy time in the garden and we can now enjoy the beautiful spring, what a joy the bluebells are, and wait for the arrival of the swallows and the call of the cuckoo. That is always a sign that the summer is on the way. "Enjoy a Cuppa" continues and hopefully we might have a

garden cuppa visit in May and June. Watch out for the notices.

**Christina Hodson**  
Churchwarden

### Hever

Thank you to the flower arrangers whose Easter flower baskets and arrangements made the church look so welcoming to our visitors and thank you to the pupils of Hever CEP school who decorated the Bullen chapel altar with charming cards, featuring a cross against stained glass.



Join us for an evening of music and philanthropy at the Mark Jennings Classical Guitar Concert, in aid of St Peter's church on 4<sup>th</sup> May 7pm. This event is not only a celebration of classical guitar music, but also a fundraiser for a great cause. Immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies of renowned guitarist Mark Jennings as he takes you on a journey through his repertoire of classical pieces. With his exceptional talent and passion for music, Jennings is sure to captivate your heart and soul. Tickets are £15 per adult, children aged 11 and under go free. They can be purchased from the Book-it-Bee website, through me or, if tickets are still available, on the door.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 12.30 for 1pm lunch. Please don't drive or park on the grass at the hall during the wet winter months. We normally have around 24 people and serve soup, fruit and a delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the Parish is very welcome but it would be helpful for catering, if you can, to let us know that you are coming or have any special dietary requirements.

### **Mandy Yarnold**

Churchwarden

### **Markbeech**

As I write, the sun is out, encouraging the blossom and the bulbs, not to mention the grass. Could we dare hope the fields are drying out? A goose is nesting on an island and the ducks certainly think it is Spring.

The Maundy Thursday Service at Markbeech was beautiful but such a sad service marking the time when Jesus was let down by his close friends. By contrast, Easter Day was a celebration. Even though it was "early" (clocks going forward) and Simon had already greeted the dawn at 6am at Hever, the Church was bursting with young families which gave us all an enormous hope for the future of the Benefice.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> our APCM took place, and we welcomed friends not on the PCC, yet! Two useful, friendly meetings but sadly we are "allowing" Marielou Linklater to retire. She has been churchwarden for Markbeech for over 10 years. And a wonderful one she has been too, always taking on duties with willingness and cheerfulness. Her technical knowledge has been a terrific bonus; never more so than during lockdown when she steered Simon through Zoom recordings which were so appreciated by us all. Her photographic and artistic skills are so admired and her culinary abilities, especially when turning a few simple ingredients into a feast for the village, are greatly admired. Luckily, she is not lost to us, but stepping down while she and Milly, her beloved dog and companion, are taking a huge step in moving house. We are all so glad and grateful that she has agreed to stay on as a deputy churchwarden and wish her so much luck with the house move.

Finally, a date for your 2025 diary. World Day of Prayer Service on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will be contacting you early next year in the hope you will want to be involved.

**Janey Cooper**  
PCC secretary

#### **From the register:**

Baptism

14th April Holy Trinity Markbeech Rafael George Kunhardt

Wedding

6th April St Peter's Hever Emily Prior-Willeard and Lee Smith

Funeral

10th April Mavis Seal Cremation in Tunbridge Wells

## gardening

**As the stark winter skeletons of the trees become blurred with new growth, in a break from tradition, this article is about gardening from the perspective of gulls and Radio 4 listeners.**

First to gulls - do search YouTube for videos of the "Seagull Riverdance". Like the best Irish dancers, gulls hop rhythmically on the grass stimulating worms to emerge. Amongst people, "worm charming" is a competitive sport; they patter the ground with their hands and up they come! The world record is a remarkable 567 in half an hour; hard to believe. Apparently the worms think that the sound is rain, they come up to enjoy a drink and meet their fate as a tasty snack (for gulls, not people).

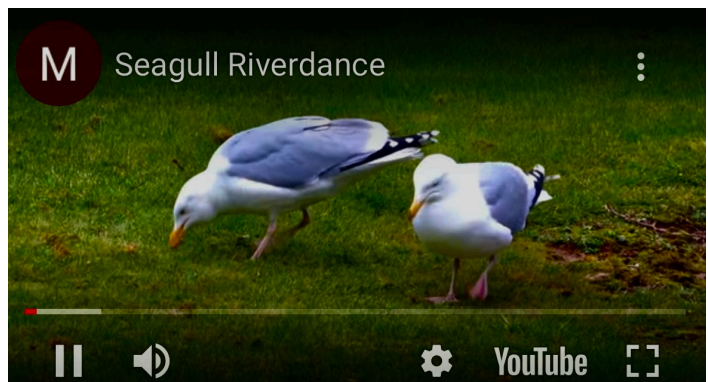
Many gardeners complain about worm casts on their lawns. They are produced by a species of worm which excretes above ground level. But they aren't all bad; these same worms are aerating the soil and recycling nutrients such as dead leaves. The RHS says this is all part of a healthy garden ecosystem. Indeed there are companies now producing compost out of worm casts because they are so full of nutritious micro organisms. Darwin, who knew a thing or two, was fascinated by them and wrote a whole book on the subject after 40 years of study.

Back to the soil - in a previous Link we

reported on geosmin, a lovely smell generated after the rain, now bottled as an expensive perfume, but that is just the tip of the health molehill. In Radio 4's "Just one thing", Michael Mosley noted not only the obvious physical profit of gardening, helping to reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes etc, but also benefits to the brain. Exposure to bacteria in soil can boost the gut microbiome and generate serotonin which relieves stress. Research suggests that 20 minutes in the garden improves BDNF (brain derived neurotrophic factor), literally fertilising learning and memory. Meanwhile the VEGF protein (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) boosts blood supply to the brain.

So the advice is not actually to eat soil, but to glory in getting your hands so dirty that you will inevitably inhale some, yet more evidence of the benefits of a non-sterile environment, although wash well afterwards, of course. And if you get a bit sweaty, you can always apply one of the "Top 10 earthy fragrances", also to be found on YouTube!!

**Joanna Wade**



## Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

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2023	60	9	105	83	27	27	41.0	23	39	152	122	109
2024	58	122	94									

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2022	16.5	44	22.5	2	62	19	15.0	39	85.5	58	195	80
2023	80	2	111	93.5	37	33.5	58.5	23.5	59	152	131	110
2024	73	136	81.5									

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2023	90	4	123	105	31	34	56.0	32	48	161	142	106
2024	80	139	95									

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Rachael Turner 077849 12645

clerk@hever.org

## The Link Team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Ivan Furness and Paul Houlton

email: thelink@hever.org

Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)

Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL

**Benefice website** threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the **June** edition should reach us no later than **16 May**

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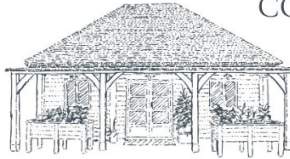


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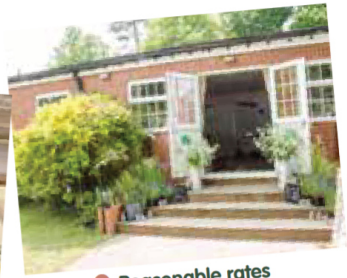
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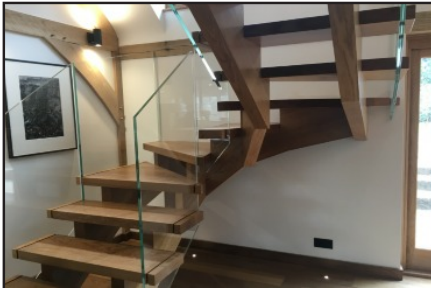
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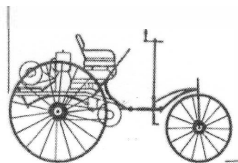
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# Everyone for tennis!

*Inclusive friendly coaching - that's all about fun*



## Cardio Tennis

Wednesday  
8.30am - 9.30am  
Crockham Hill Tennis Club  
10.30am - 11.30am  
Godstone Tennis Club

Friday  
11.15am - 12.15pm  
Crockham Hill Tennis Club



## Adult Groups

Monday  
7.30pm - 9pm  
Oxted Tennis Club

Wednesday  
7pm - 8.30pm  
Godstone Tennis Club

Friday  
9.15am - 10.45am  
Godstone Tennis Club



## Junior Groups

Mondays and Wednesdays  
Godstone Tennis Club  
5-6pm Red /Orange Ball (age 5-10)  
6-7pm Yellow Ball (age 11+)

*I'm Gary Markham. I'm an LTA accredited level 3 tennis coach and my passion is to bring tennis to everyone in our community, from age 3 to 83 (and up!).*



Visit [www.tennisbynature.com](http://www.tennisbynature.com). Call or message 07802 842554  
Follow [instagram.com/tennisbynature/](https://www.instagram.com/tennisbynature/)



## May diary

From 2 Mar **Exhibition Health Care in our Town**, Eden Valley Museum  
**Exhibition celebrating 75 years of the Edenbridge Players**,  
Eden Valley Museum, Edenbridge.

- 26 Apr **Concert of Bach cello suites**, Orlando Jopling, St Peter's Hever 7.30pm  
27 Apr **Alice in Wonderland**, children's drama group, Markbeech VH 5pm  
27 Apr **Great History Quiz**, WI Hall Edenbridge, call 01732 868102  
or at the museum for tickets 7.30pm  
1 May **Hever Parish Council Annual Meeting**, Hever Village Hall 7pm  
4 May **Classical guitar concert**, Mark Jennings, St Peters Hever 7pm  
7 May **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am  
9 May **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm  
10 May **Hever PTA Quiz Night**, WI Hall Edenbridge 7.30pm  
11 May **Introduction to Beekeeping**, Bore Place, adult £63, 10am – 4pm  
11 May **Hever Hort Annual Plant Sale**, Hever Village Hall 10am  
12 May **Colour Obstacle Run**, Chiddingstone sports ground 11-3pm  
17 May **Cowden Memorial Hall Quiz Night and Raffle** 7.30 for 8pm  
18 May **EMAT Concert Fiddlers Three**, Edenbridge Parish Church, 7pm  
20 May **Parish Assembly**, Four Elms Village Hall 7pm  
6 Jun **D Day anniversary picnic**, Hever Castle, pre booked tickets only 6.30-9.30pm  
8 Jun **Hever Hort Rose Show**, Hever Village Hall 2-4pm  
8 Jun **Music for a Summer Evening**, Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row 7.30pm  
9 Jun **Learn to make Kefir**, Bore Place, adult £32, 10.30am – 1pm  
11 Jun **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am  
13 June **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm  
15 Jun **Cowden Summer Fete**, Cowden Recreation Ground 1pm  
13 Jul **Four Elms Village Fete** 1pm

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