October 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- hedge funds
- kool kittens
- staying alive
- a night at the movies
- gravel gardening
- ann, anne, ann, anne...

and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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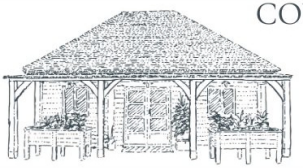
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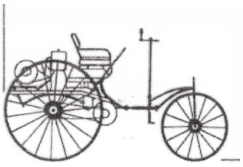
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Welcome to the October Link

So the big news from your news hounds at The Link is that the wheelie bins have ARRIVED and the new regime of alternate waste and recycling collections begins on 12 October - you heard it here first!! Well actually you probably didn't - but we tried hard for a scoop, hey ho, let me talk about bicycles instead...

I recently completed a bike ride round a particularly challenging section of Cornish coastline, in the past I have used a "real" bike, but this year I was power assisted. And what a joy! Electric bikes still require effort but you can choose how much, Eco is quite tough and Turbo almost like a motorbike - I enjoyed the views rather than dreading the hills and got back in time for a cream tea!! Being hooted at by impatient drivers as we glided along made me realise how unfair we drivers can be and also just how over-cautious many are, leading to unnecessary hold ups when overtaking. The other thing I realised is that although using an electric bike may at first blush feel like cheating, they get us out on a ride we might otherwise not do at all *and* we are likely to go further so we still get fit. I am absolutely a convert!

And this month sees the launch of the 2026 "Big Knit", a partnership between Innocent and Age UK which has run since 2003 resulting in mini woolly hats on juice bottles and 30p per decorated bottle for Age UK. Have a look on the Age UK website for how to join in.

A last word on the new rubbish regime - I am sorry that whilst the recycling collections will now include glass, there is still no change on flexible plastic so that I and many others will have to continue burdening the staff in Waitrose with mounds of the stuff, posted through the little slot in their bin next to the door. What a shame!

Joanna Wade,
thelink@hever.org

The innocent Big Knit – get knitting for Age UK



Little hats, big difference

pets of the month

Joanna heard I had kittens and has invited me to introduce them to the village, so in preparation I went to see CATS at Regent's Park theatre yesterday. Great production, all about naming cats as we know. You may recall from a previous article my cats are named after TV chefs, sadly Otto's twin sister Lenghi, had fatal altercation with a car on Hever Road last summer, so I was reduced to 4 cats. Definitely enough to keep the vermin under control. But other people had different ideas. Hot Yoga Viv (HYV) has a ginger lady and she produced 2 litters of adorable kittens in quick succession. I was offered one. I resisted despite friends raving about them to me, as I didn't want to upset the family here. Well the ginger lady had another dalliance with the local tomcat and another round of kittens appeared. HYV persuaded me to come and see them under the guise of a summer afternoon glass of wine. I should have known. Armed with a bottle of rose I went to see HYV and the kittens. I was sold – I chose a tortoiseshell girl and a black and white boy and took delivery of them in June.

All hell broke loose. The mature cats didn't move out. Rick Stein was livid – spitting at anybody who came near him – me, the dogs and the other cats. His whiskers clearly irritated. Nigella, a 14yr old queen, who had kittens in her youth, suddenly became these kittens' mother. She nursed them, carried them around, hid them in the house, called to get them back in check, showed them the garden and taught them the cat flap. She was a benefit to the development of the kittens. Otto suffered them benignly, as did Delia. The newly hung curtains were for climbing practice. The throws on the sofas great for tunnelling and spying on each other. The acrobats all round the house sounded like toddlers tearing around. The fallen leaves were carried in from the garden to chase on the slippery wooden floor. The trees navigated with speed. Butterflies chased, Rick Stein stalked, Otto copied sleeping under a smoke bush, sitting like sphinxes on the old willow stumps, silhouetted in the sunset wondering if the bat could be caught – this was their summer and mine. It was magical, entertaining and time consuming.

But what are they called? MaryBerry and Carluccio.

Jo Cockerill



what I do

When people ask me what it's like to be a support worker, I always smile and say, "No two days are ever the same!" Most people assume support work is all about helping with practical tasks, and while that is certainly part of the role, there is so much more to it. One moment I might be helping someone prepare lunch, doing domestic chores, or going shopping, and the next I could be listening to fascinating stories about village life from years gone by. One of the best parts of the job is building relationships. Over time, you get to know people really well, from their favourite television programmes to exactly how they like their tea. Trust me, getting someone's tea order wrong can be more serious than you might think!



Of course, there are challenging days. Sometimes the weather is terrible, the schedule is busy, and everything seems to happen at once. But then a client shares a funny story, tells a joke, or simply thanks you for your help, and it reminds you why the job is rewarding. Support work is about helping people maintain their independence, dignity, and connection to the community. A trip to a garden centre or going for a coffee can help lift a person's spirits who may otherwise not get out of the house, or even have any visitors. Often, the most important thing you can offer is not practical assistance, but a friendly chat and a listening ear. I quickly learned that laughter is one of the most valuable tools a support worker can have. Whether it's a misunderstanding caused by a hearing aid, or a tale about a mischievous pet, there is usually plenty to smile about.

Working as a support worker has given me a great appreciation for the resilience, wisdom, and humour of the people I support. Every day brings something different, and every day offers the chance to make a small positive difference to someone's life.

If you know someone that might benefit from a little extra help, or maybe you would like to join the team, then contact Kent Home Help Ltd 07729 697551
or info@kenthomehelpltd.co.uk

Marcus Gillah

An evening with Anne Boleyn and…

So who is the most famous Ann(e) in history? Well probably Anne Boleyn - but there are plenty of runners up ... Ann of Cleeves, Queen Anne, Anne Brontë, Anne of Green Gables, Annie Lennox etc etc! Take your pick! I am putting together a concert featuring many Annes, fictional and otherwise which I and some talented friends will perform. There will be singing and piano, violin, cello and bassoon as well as poetry, mainly light hearted such as AA Milne's collection "Now we are six" dedicated to Ann Darlington.

It has been fun researching the Annes and getting messages from friends such as "how about Anne Elliot from Jane Austen's Persuasion?" - and going a bit off piste for the sake of variety to discover the likes of TelemANN and Flanders and SwANN.

And exciting matching what I have to the performers: retired music professors Adam and Alec will perform Bach written for his wife Anna Magdalena as a piano duet, architect Rick is digging out something Tudor for his bassoon and Judge Holly is rehearsing "Annie's song" on her cello. And then there's "Annie Get your Gun"!

This is the latest in a line of concerts we have put together commemorating WWI and charting the history of St Peter's Hever and St Paul's Four Elms, all happily very well received. Do come along if you can - on Saturday 21st November, see the advert below.

The concert is in aid of the Queen Anne Boleyn memorial appeal, all donations very welcome via www.justgiving.com/campaign/qab-memorial.

Joanna Wade



news from hever village hall

September was a busy month for the Hall, hosting the Hever barn dance, the parish lunch and, shortly, the First Responders' training on defibrillators and CPR. Guests are enjoying the newly sanded floor and painted walls and the kitchen ceiling has been repaired. Thanks to Chloe at the pub for finding time out of her extremely busy schedule to do the decorating. Our hire rates are competitive for the area and if you'd like to hire a Hall please contact Karen Thomas on heverhallbookongs@gmail.com or 07747 867942.

Meanwhile plans for the new hall are progressing although there's a lot to do, such as updating the charity's constitution, liaising with Sevenoaks on the design and circulating a survey to make sure our final plans still suit you. Fundraising is starting gently and we plan a campaign launch soon supported by our MP Tom Tugendhat. Meanwhile we have a JustGiving page which automatically processes gift aid, an important way of boosting donations, here is the QR code, please do consider making a donation.

Thanks as ever for your support.



VILLAGE SCREEN FILM CLUB 2026/2027

The film season begins in November at the usual venue, Hever Castle Golf Club and this year the films have been chosen by our audience members. Our first film will be:

Friday 27 November - The Queen
As controversy continues to dog the royal family, Helen Mirren takes us back to the death of Princess Diana and the dilemmas facing the Queen. Mirren won an Oscar and the rest of the all-star cast includes Martin Sheen as Tony Blair. Unbelievably the film is 20 years old so if you think you remember it - think again!

Save these dates in 2027 for more films:
Friday 22 January - Bringing up Baby
A classic romantic comedy from 1938 starring Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant - and a leopard called Baby. The director was the legendary Howard Hawks and the leopard was real!

Friday 26 February - As Good as it Gets
When the bigoted, compulsive writer Melvin's neighbour is brutally assaulted, he is forced to take care of his dog. He falls in love with a waitress and the three form an unlikely friendship.... a romantic comedy from 1997 starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt.

Friday 26 March - The Great St Trinians Train Robbery
Frankie Howerd, Reg Varney, Dora Bryan and more star in this riotous film from 1966.... do the robbers stand a chance against the girls of St Trinians?!!

The films (all less than two hours long) start at 7.30 and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar - with ice cream in the interval. On the menu for November is scampi and chips or baked potato with cheese and/or beans, price to be advised next month. You can book with Joanna Wade on 07958 919631 or heverbrocas@gmail.com or buy tickets at the door. However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday before the show if you would like to eat and please bring cash if possible.



save a life with first responders

Nellie the elephant, Tom Jones and underwired bras all play their part in Edenbridge First Responders' excellent training on how to help when someone has a cardiac arrest. It is vital to move quickly - the chances of survival from one of 43,000 cardiac arrests a year reduce by 10% for every minute without help. Start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) immediately using a "Nellie the Elephant" rhythm, ring 999 and call for someone to fetch the nearest defibrillator - the 999 call handler will tell you where it is and how to unlock it.

Shave chests like Tom's with the handy razor in the defibrillator bag and don't worry that you might electrocute a woman with an underwired bra - just attach the defibrillator to the skin and go for it as nothing is worse than doing nothing.

Who would have thought that this training could be so much fun? And now you too can do it - at Hever Village hall on 19 October!



what did the hedgerows ever do for us?



Well, time was when very little regard was paid to hedgerows except by artists and poets. Proper farmers saw them as getting in the way of their magnificent plans for wide open fields, and out they came, bonfires of them, to make way for intensive farming… until we discovered that they were actually a vital part of protecting the soil from erosion, but not before much of East Anglia was denuded of topsoil and nutrients. Hedges have been described as the glue that holds the farm together, useful for windbreaks and sheltering farm animals as well as wildlife. But beyond their practical use are the immense environmental benefits that these green wildlife corridors bring to our world.

Hedges are very important for storing carbon, and how amazing that they stayed green and active throughout the recent drought when all around them shrivelled away. The more unkempt they are the better, although some farmers rail at the untidiness of an untrimmed hedge. If you get the chance to see the film "Derek vs Derek, farming vs rewilding - is it all or nothing?" you will see the debate argued out by the Dereks, it is worth trying to catch. One of the Dereks, the one who flail-mows his hedges every year would be very unpopular with the advocacy group Hedgerow Defenders who call this practice "thugging" and urge cutting only every 2-3 years, not least because most flowers and berries only appear on growth that is at least two years old.

Although around half our hedgerows have disappeared since WW2, and yellowhammers and other hedge-dwelling birds are really struggling, England's hedgerows would still stretch almost ten times around the earth if



oasts at whistlers farm



2050, although the Council for the Protection of Rural England complains that plans have stalled due to lack of clear policy and funding for farmers.

So, before the second war, before that destruction which is happily now some way to being reversed, two of my favourite artists, John Nash and Eric Ravilious used hedgerows in many of their works. It is said that when John Nash returned traumatised from the first war he used hedges as linear anchors in his work, taming the chaos of nature and helping him find peace. If this last bit is a bit too "art critic" for you, do enjoy this Ravilious print of a hedge being razed almost to the ground, and don't tell Hedgerow Defenders!

lined up end to end. That is according to a new map created using aerial laser scanning by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. The scan reveals a total of 242,000 miles of hedges, with the most in the South West and the least in Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire (interestingly not East Anglia). The Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 put hedges on its priority list, promising to create or restore 45,000 miles of hedgerows by

Joanna Wade

Four Elms Harvest Supper

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Four Elms Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

£15 per person/cash bar

Book early and let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan

Email: harvest2021@btinternet.com

Phone: 01732 700247



every camera tells a story

My dad was an enthusiastic and pretty competent amateur photographer. It was his ideal pastime, appealing to both his technical and aesthetic interests and he created, over many years, about 2,000 negatives. He loved the whole process, from picture taking, developing the film, then printing the final photograph. When we lived in our flat in New Cross, he converted a broom cupboard into a darkroom, complete with a home made enlarger and all the paraphernalia associated with photography. He taught me the basics when I was about 10, and the memory of standing in that tiny space with just the dim, red safe light, watching the photographic alchemy as the latent images emerged, first the negative, then the final print, has always stayed with me.



Nikon Model F



Zeiss Ikon Nettar

When our parents died, I inherited all dad's photographic equipment, including half a dozen cameras which he had acquired over the years, and these form the basis of my collection, of which there are 15 on display. The camera we children remember most is a Zeiss Ikon Nettar, from about 1940, which dad almost always carried with him. The collection ranges from an ancient wooden plate camera, a Brownie box, some decent amateur ones, to a few of the best ever made. One is a Rolleicord twin lens reflex, given to me by a good friend. His father was a wedding photographer and this type of camera was very popular for weddings, as the viewfinder was good for framing photographs of lots of people milling around! The Rolleicord is also famous as the first camera owned by Sir Don McCullin, one of our most renowned photographers. I have also been given a 1934 Leica series III, one of the most iconic cameras ever made.

There are two Nikons in my collection. One was given to me by Paul Houlton, a photographer and designer who lived in Markbeech for many years (and who also designed

this iteration of the Link). It is a model ‘F’, very heavy and was used by NASA for their space programme. It was popular with photojournalists working in areas of conflict, as it was so robust and resilient to the slings, arrows, and occasional bullets that flesh is heir to, that it acquired the nickname the ‘hockey puck’. My Nikon is less robust, although, standing at a bus stop in Florence, waiting to go to Feisole, it slipped from my shoulder and bounced on the pavement. I thought that was it, but it has continued to work perfectly ever since.


Nikon

Technology moves on, and smart phones have taken over the role of capturing our precious memories. This was once the role of these historic pieces of technology, but it is quite unusual now to see a ‘proper’ camera, even a digital one. It seems to me that something has been lost in not having to take the time to think about shutter speed, aperture and focus. Those variables, which were part and parcel of film photography, give a sense of deferred pleasure, rather than the immediate results obtained by our new instamatics.

Doug Bowern



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There has been a slight change to the Community Litter Pick for Hever due to the triathlon event. The Hever litter pick will now be held on Saturday 3rd October at 9.30am and the Markbeech litter pick will be at 1pm. Do come along and join in! Equipment is provided and its a great opportunity to meet and chat with your neighbours.

At the HPC meeting in September, it was confirmed the Local Government Review has been paused so news on that is awaited. The ongoing safety concerns at Four Elms crossroads were mentioned and KCC Highways will be asked again to investigate any viable options for safety improvements. It was reported that one navigation service actually now shows the crossroads as a junction and we are hoping other services will follow suit. With new management arrangements, the Four Elms pond was a hot topic again, with administrative arrangements being finalised for residents of Hever Parish to obtain free fishing permits, CCTV and security services to assist with anti-social behaviour and monitoring of unauthorised fishing. Further quotes are being sought for reduction of fish in the pond, so they can be removed and relocated to another pond. The empty former garage site in Four Elms was also raised as a concern, as people had been seen breaking through the security fencing and going around the back of the building to fish. We will be raising these safety concerns, as well as the poor visual appearance of the site, with the authorities who may prompt the owner to act.

With the schools returning, issues with bus services have been raised. Please do report these and also respond to the Annual Bus Survey that Tom Tugendhat, MP, is running: School Bus Survey .

Funding for improvements to the Four Elms play area has been applied for and we are awaiting the outcome, so hope to have more news of that for the next edition…

The next Hever Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November in Hever Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The Planning Meeting will commence at 7.00 pm.

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



church in october

We have two Harvest services this month at Four Elms and Hever. Please bring gifts but see the guidance from the Edenbridge foodbank on p.17. Do also come to our Contemporary service on 4th October with Cabin Worship and our All Souls service of 'Commemoration of the faithful departed' is on 1st November at 6pm at St.Paul's Four Elms. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below. Readings & full details are at https://threespires.wordpress.com/diary/

Date & time	Service details	Sunday
4th Oct 10am	All Age Holy Communion and Harvest festival St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 18
4th Oct 6pm	Contemporary service with Cabin Worship at St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 18
11th Oct 10am	Family communion with baptism at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 19
11th Oct 4pm	Harvest Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 19
18th Oct 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 20
25th Oct 8am	Said communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 21
25th Oct 11am	Family service Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 21

Our Home Group meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at various locations and Zoe Joannou's 'life group' is on alternate Wednesdays. The next Men's Discussion group is at 6.30pm at Saxby's Mead on 5th November on 'Is there a future for the established church?'. For more details please contact Simon. 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
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

From the register:

Weddings
1 Aug Markbeech Anna St Pierre & Jack Firth
15 Aug Markbeech George Talbot & Katy Ellwood
29 Aug Hever Catherine Michelle Donnaldson & Stuart James Walker
30 Aug Hever Holly Taylor & Ben Turner
5 Sep Hever Teresa Dimmock & Kevin Swann

Baptisms
16 Aug Hever Louis Neil Kenneth Forshaw
6 Sept Four Elms Maximus David Quinn
13 Sept Hever Jessica Amy House & Evelyn Jean Luck

Funerals
8th Sept Hever James Alexander Ross

our rector's thoughts

As we enter the harvest season my thoughts went to the hugely successful Amazon Prime series: 'Clarkson's Farm'. This might be a rather surprising subject for your Rector, given it is packed with profanity and blasphemy. Clarkson is a notoriously Marmite character. But there are a few things to reflect on the series, which I think has become far more than just a celebrity vanity project.

First, it is story of a man finding treasure in his fields (Jesus told a parable about this in Matthew 13). Each series has Clarkson attempting to conquer another element of farming life – trying to understand arable crops, lambing and pig rearing, plus trying to create a sustainable, modern, 'farm to fork' business by establishing a farm shop and an ill-fated restaurant and gastro-pub! The blunders are hilarious but, as I watched, it reminded me of the beauty and wonder of the English countryside: from the fields ripe for harvest and the wonder of the birth of piglets. It really is a creation story and we too are so fortunate to live in such lovely rural parishes. Everything that grows and flourishes for the hapless Clarkson points to the creator.

Secondly, it is a story of friendship. While Clarkson is the unashamed centrepiece, he is surrounded by a menagerie of characters from his partner Lisa, farm manager cheerful Charlie, incomprehensible Gerald and his side kick Kaleb, who actually knows what he is doing! Clarkson and Kaleb's relationship models what is called 'reverse mentoring' where a younger person mentors his elder. The former Archbishop, Justin Welby, was reverse mentored by a young black woman, Debra Nelson, based on her experience of youth culture. Amid the banter, Clarkson actually displays humility, as he listens to, empowers and eventually gives leadership roles to Kaleb. Something we can all learn from. It's also lovely how the episodes so often end with the diverse support cast sitting round a table over a meal reflecting on their shared endeavours notwithstanding the frustrations of modern farming. The series even has an element of redemption as, through his interactions with his manager Charlie, Clarkson becomes increasingly indignant about the challenges farmers face and is now seen as an advocate for farmers and rural communities.

We haven't heard much since the series ended last June on a more sombre note with Clarkson in a hospital bed undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. Maybe it's all a reminder that we are not in complete control of all that happens in this world. And that might make us reflect on the bigger things of life as we give thanks to God for another harvest.

God bless you all

Simon

examples of harvest gifts suitable for the Edenbridge Foodbank

Only non-perishable food in date.

Tinned vegetables, fruit, potatoes, fish, chopped tomatoes, soup, pasta; UHT long-life milk; pasta sauce; dried pasta; pulses (beans, tinned or dried); spreads (jam, nut butter, honey); cereals; baked beans; coffee; tea and biscuits

news from the pews

Four Elms

It is said that green is the colour of hope and we have been amazed and relieved at how quickly the meadows have returned to their original colour after a record breaking summer. We witnessed frantic activity in the fields and on the roads as tractors brought in the very early and rushed harvest. Yields are low however and we can't but feel for those having to make a living off the land in these extreme conditions.

In Four Elms the harvest season is celebrated by the community with a Harvest Supper at Four Elms Village Hall on the 3rd of October, starting at 7 for 7.30pm. This is followed by the All Age Harvest Holy Communion on Sunday 4th at 10am, where you may bring donations of food to be distributed locally. These should include only items which are in date and unopened. Fresh produce is not accepted, sadly. Another date for your social calendar is the 'Enjoy a Cuppa' morning, held at St Paul's every second Tuesday of the month and this month that will be Tuesday 13th from 10.45am.

The observant among you may have noticed that there is some work going on to improve the front door at St Paul's. We are anticipating the instalment of a new glass fronted entrance, made possible by generous bequests. Our church is open every day until late afternoon. If you were to come and have a look around you might notice that almost every window is punctuated by exquisite depictions of plant-life. This may remind us of the astonishing beauty and resilience of the Creation and prompt us to pay more attention to what grows beneath our feet, whatever else might be on our minds.

Nadia Mulder

Hever

A fantastic time was had by everyone at the recent Hever Barn Dance, which successfully raised a significant sum for the church. Sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to organise, contributed to, and ran the event, ensuring such a wonderful community evening. A huge thank you goes to Jane Rosam, who completed the Ride and Stride on 12th September and then went straight on to run the bar at the barn dance later that evening! She was generously sponsored by many local people, raising over £600, and we are deeply grateful to them as well for their support. Half of the sponsorship money raised will directly benefit St Peter's Church, with the other half supporting the Friends of Kent Churches

On the property front, a structural survey has now been carried out at the church regarding the crack in the southeast corner. The survey has provided us with a clear set of recommendations. These include trimming back the canopy in the closed section of the graveyard, digging a trial pit to explore the foundations and drainage channel in the affected area, and repointing the render. We will keep the parish updated as we move forward with these essential maintenance works.

Donations will be collected for the Edenbridge Foodbank from 7th until 20th October. To help those facing hardship in our wider community, the foodbank has requested non-perishable goods such as pasta sauces, cooking oil, cereals, and tinned fruit or vegetables. A dedicated collection box will be placed in front of the altar for your contributions, and every item given makes a meaningful difference to families in need.

The next Parish Lunch will be on Thursday 8th October 12.30 for 1pm lunch. We normally have around 24 people and serve soup, cheese, bread, fruit and a delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the Parish is warmly invited 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

So much to celebrate – the grass is green again and the roses are blooming, not to mention the chrysanthemums and dahlias (always tricky to spell). We also had three energetic visitors for Ride and Stride, which was lovely. Holy Trinity, Markbeech had an enormous treat last night, 13th Sept, in the form of a Choral Mass at 6pm brought to us by the superb singers from King Charles the Martyr, a beautiful church in Tunbridge Wells, where our choir master, Charles, also sings. He persuaded them to have this wonderful and inspiring service in our little church. The Rev. Father Laurence Powell intoned the service mellifluously, and it was shared with Simon who also preached to us on what the Cross means to each individual and gave us a lot to think about. It was not only a service with incense and bells and symbolism, but it was also a service that does not happen often.

The King Charles Singers not only joined in with the Markbeech Choir and greatly enhanced us, but their Sanctus and the Agnus Dei will stay with many of us for a long time. However, what was so encouraging for all of us, was that the congregation was big, and from many other Parishes: Withyham, Crockham Hill and Marsh Green plus of course King Charles the Martyr. A real morale booster and felt like a warm hug. Sadly, if our Benefice would like a Priest after Simon departs at Easter, we will need more than a hug, we'll need more money. It is never a good time to ask, but we all need to decide if we can increase our covenanting or, indeed, start to do so. I will not go on about it as sadly I think we are all feeling besieged with requests for funds, but please think about it.

Finally, for October, can I remind you of the popular Winter Fair at Falconhurst Barn? Please find your diaries and put December 5th in big letters, a terrific opportunity to shop for Christmas, plus a visit to Father Christmas and delicious food and drink. Also remember that the clocks go back on Sunday 25th – otherwise you will be an hour early for church.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

gardening

This summer has been particularly challenging for us growers with the record prolonged heat and the incredibly dry weather. We cannot remember a summer like it. We've been continuously watering just to keep our stocks alive. The knock on has led to hosepipe bans in most areas and in turn made it really tough for gardens and gardeners. The countryside around Hever has noticeably suffered, with mature trees and hedges being lost. It's heartbreaking to see fully mature Sweet Chestnut trees in total collapse. The true extent of the damage to the countryside and gardens won't be felt until next spring.

The million dollar question we're being asked is what plants can tolerate these extreme temperatures and drought as well as the very wet winters? The answer we gave is not a huge amount! We are still prone to frosts in the south, so that rules out many exotics and succulents grown in arid countries. We were struggling with this question until a visit from the respected author and designer Jeff Epping from America who recently launched his book 'The Gravel Garden' to much acclaim. His answer not only lies in plant selection but more importantly the planting substrate used. Gravel gardening is not a new concept, but our perception of this is often minimal planting in small spaces such as a front garden. Jeff has elevated this style and we're now working closely with Jeff on a big project near Bristol, growing many plants for his scheme. The planting is far from minimalistic with huge swathes of perennials and grasses hiding the gravel on maturity. The word gravel is used in its loosest form – this could include crushed concrete/ brick or sand. The idea is to add around 300mm of substrate above the soil and planting into this, with the plants rooting into the soil below. The crown of the plant is immersed in a free draining media, coping better with winter wet and this also acts as a mulch, retaining more moisture in the ground for the summer months. There are many examples of thriving gardens in this country that adopt this principle, with the Dry Garden at Beth Chatto's, the Delos Garden at Sissinghurst and the Rewilded Walled Garden at Knepp. These are all large gardens, but this idea can easily be scaled down.



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Simon Sutcliffe

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	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	42	1.0	28					366
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	55.5	0.0	30					404
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	51	0.0						376

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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
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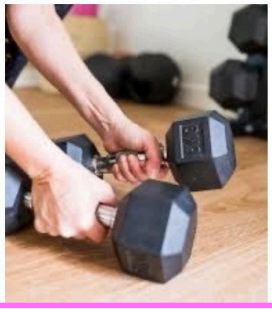
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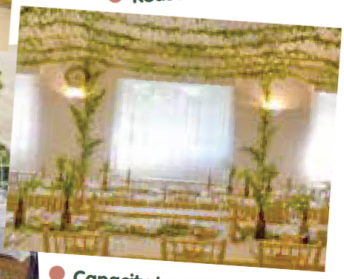


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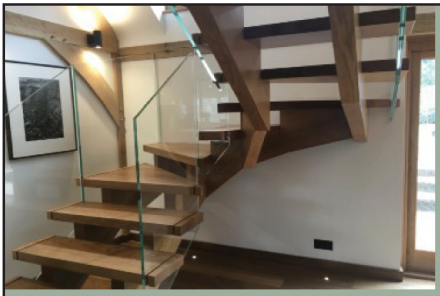
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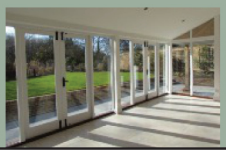
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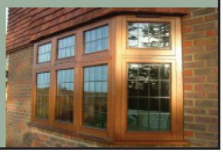
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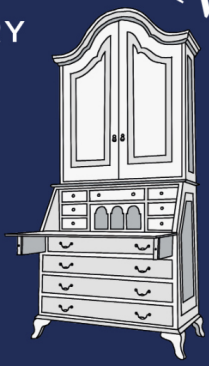




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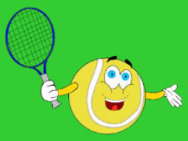
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Women's Fitness Class Mondays at 10.30am and Weds at 6pm Markbeech VH
Falconhurst Street Food at the Barn, 1st Friday and Saturday each month 12 noon – 8pm

25 Sept	**Markbeech Harvest Supper**, MB Village Hall, tickets £20 each	7pm
3 Oct	**Community Litter Pick** Hever	9.30am
3 Oct	**Community Litter Pick** Markbeech	1pm
3 Oct	**Four Elms Harvest Supper**, FE VH, £15 call 01732 700247	7 for 7.30pm
4 Oct	**Bread Making Course**, Bore Place, tickets £100.80	10-4pm
8 Oct	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
8 Oct	**Mindful Stargazing**, Bore Place, tickets £35	7-9.30pm
11 Oct	**Autumn Foraging Walk**, Bore Place, free	10-12pm
13 Oct	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
16-17 Oct	**Penshurst Music Festival**	
17 Oct	**EMAT Concert - Asaka Quartet,** Edenbridge Church tickets £18	7pm
19 Oct	**CPR and Defibrillator Training**, Hever Village Hall	7pm
26 Oct	**Family Bat Safari,** Bore Place, adult £15 child £8	6-7.30pm
3 Nov	**Hever Parish Council meeting**, Hever VH planning 7pm full meeting	7.30pm
6 Nov	**Hever Christmas Fair,** Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle	10.30-3.30pm
8 Nov	**Winter Foraging Walk**, Bore Place, tickets £37	10.30am-1pm
10 Nov	**Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms	from 10.45am
12 Nov	**Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall	12.30 for 1pm
19 Nov	**Stargazing Walk**, Bore Place, adult £15 child £8	7-8.30pm
21 Nov	**An evening with Anne Boleyn and her many namesakes**, St Peter's Hever	6.30pm
27 Nov	**Hever Film Club**, The Queen, Hever Golf club supper	6.30, film 7.30pm
5 Dec	**Winter Fair at Falconhurst Barn**	11-4pm
12 Dec	**Hever Community Carols**, St Peter's Hever	
22 Jan	**Hever Film Club**, Bringing up Baby, Hever Golf club supper	6.30, film 7.30pm
30 Jan	**Bread Making Course**, Bore Place, tickets £126	10-4pm

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