

PATRIXBOURNE PARISH MEETING A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at The Barton, Patricxbourne on Wednesday, April 21st. at 7.30 p.m. Plans for the Bridge By-Pass are now in course of preparation and there will be a map available at the meeting showing the approximate route of the by-pass which passes through the parish.

E.P.G.

SOME VILLAGE NOTES

III. Cornelius Jensen If one goes into the chancel of Bridge Church there is a portrait on the left which is attributed to Jensen the Seventeenth Century Court painter; his full name was Cornelius Janssen van Ceulen and his family originally came from Maastricht. He was born in London in 1593 and was baptised at the Dutch church. In 1618 he began practising as a portrait painter in Blackfriars and subsequently in 1636 came to live in Bridge with Sir Arnold Brames and his family who were also partly Dutch and who came from Breda; from Bridge Place he set out to paint the portraits of various County families; locally there were the Aughers of Bridge and Digges from Chilham Castle and further afield the most famous are his family groups of the Rushouts, Lucys and Verneys. He is remembered principally for two reasons, firstly for his famous portrait of Milton the poet aged 10 and secondly for his fluency of painting on Van Dyk. He was certainly extremely successful in his likenesses and his portraits are always characterised by deep and brown shadows. On 10th. October 1643 he left Bridge for Dover and sailed to Flushing and he went to live in Middleburg as the Civil War had broken out. In that city it is recorded he became a member of 'the Guild of St. Luke and many leading citizens from The Hague came to have their portraits painted by him.' He died in Utrecht in 1664. He had married Elizabeth Beke of Colchester in 1622 and they had one son who was also a painter and an example of his work, a portrait of William III may be seen in the National Portrait Gallery. Jensen was one of many who

brought their talents from the Low Countries to East Kent; perhaps the most common were the Dutch craftsmen who showed their influence on vernacular architecture and examples of the Dutch curnivilear style may be seen at Patrixbourne at Hode Farm and Sondes House and one of the gardener's cottages at the entrance to Howletts; *Dutch bricks were often used as at Bridge Place and their size $6\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4" x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " are smaller than the English of the same period $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x $2\frac{1}{4}$ ".

* Quoted from History of English Brickwork, published 1934.

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH MAY FAYRE

Please note that the date of the Bekesbourne Church May Fayre has been changed to 2.30 p.m. on Saturday May 8th. at Bekesbourne Village Hall.

BEKESBOURNE RECITAL

The Recital held at St. Peter's Church Bekesbourne on Sunday March 14th. was a great success. The Choirs sang to a very full church and we are very grateful to the Canterbury Ladies Choir and their very able conductor May Bartlett.

The soloists were Cynthia Seller, Jane Andrews and Janet Cumberland. The organist who rendered this lovely music was Dr. J. Cleobury and very well done it certainly was.

We are all hoping that this choir will visit us again this year, particularly as one or two of its members live in Bekesbourne.

To those friends who attended from Bridge and elsewhere thank you for coming and we all hope that you enjoyed your afternoon at St. Peter's Church.

S. H. Grey.