

## Jack Friend

We record with regret the death, which occurred rather suddenly on Saturday, of Councillor John Friend. By his passing the village of Bridge loses one of its most indefatigable workers. Known affectionately as 'Jack', Mr Friend was only 48 years old and had been ill for only a few days. The only son of Mr Richard Friend and of the late Mrs Friend, he leaves a widow and one son, Mr JE Friend, while a very large number of friends in the district will also sincerely mourn his death.

Mr Friend, who was an old Langtonian, filled a remarkable and enviable position in the life of the village, for there was scarcely any activity for the benefit of the community with which he was not closely connected. Since 1930 he had been a member of the Bridge-Blean RDC, he was Chairman of the Folkestone and District PAC (Divisions 23 and 24), member of the Folkestone and District Guardians Committee, of the Bridge Parish Council for many years and of the local Old Age Pensions Committee. He acted as Chairman of the village's Jubilee Committee and as Hon. Secretary of the fete in aid of the Bridge Quota for the new Kent and Canterbury Hospital. For 29 years he was a member of the Fire Brigade and in recent years was Second officer.

It will be as a thorough all-round sportsman, however, that Mr Friend will be best remembered. He played the game in every sense. In earlier years he was a clever footballer and he continued his interest in the winter sport by taking on the duties of a referee, becoming a KCFA Class 2 official and on two occasions visiting France with representative teams as referee-linesman. On numerous occasions he has officiated at Wincheap Grove.

Also a keen cricketer, he was a forcing bat, on several occasions topping the century, and was a useful performer behind the stumps. He was captain and Hon. Secretary of the former Bridge Football and Cricket Club and played for a number of teams in the district, including Lower Hardres. He was an enthusiastic member of the Kent County Cricket Club for many years and regularly attended the Canterbury Weeks. In addition he was captain of the Bridge Bowling Club, a supporter of the local school sports teams, was a keen tennis player and an excellent shot with a sporting gun.

Other organisations with which he was associated include the Bridge Reading Room Committee, the Bridge Horticultural Society, whose cup for the highest number of points at the annual show he twice won, the Bridge Boys' Club, of which he was the first secretary, and the East Kent and Canterbury Conservative Club, of which he was a member.

Upon leaving school, Mr Friend assisted in his father's coal merchant's business and in 1909 married Miss Louie Brice, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs W Brice, of Bridge. From 1912 to 1918 he was licensee of the Red Lion.

His cheery personality will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The funeral took place at Bridge Church on Wednesday afternoon when the coffin, which rested among a profusion of floral tributes, was carried to the Church on the tender of the Bridge Fire Brigade, members of the Brigade acting as bearers.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. H Knight) assisted by Canon Ashton Gwatkin (former Rector of Bishopsbourne) and Canon WF Burnside (Rector of Bishopsbourne).

[those present included] WH Wass (Relieving officer), Mr and Mrs PW Honney (Master and Matron, Poor Law Institution)