

THE PARISH OF BRIDGE

BOURNE PARK ROAD	Bridge Place
BRIDGE HILL	Flats 1, 2 and 3 (East Bridge House), Netherbury.
THE CLOSE	See Union Road
HIGH STREET	2 (Sunnyside), 8, 10, 12, 14 (Beresford Lodge), 16, 16a, 18(Wayside), 22 and 24 (Rosedale Villas), 30 (Gordon Mouse), 32, 34, Alexandra House, 40 and 42 (Formerly listed as 1-4 Primrose Row), 48 (Dover Lodge), 52 (Watling House), 82 (Riverdale House), 84 (Kent Mouse), The Plough and Harrow Public House, 88-96 (even), Church Cottage, Church of St Peter, Wall to the Churchyard of Church of St Peter, 13 (Wych Elm), 15, 17, 19 (Albany), 21 (Albany House), 33 (Bartters), 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 45a, 49 (Lime Cottage now known as The Old Forge), The White Horse Inn, 61, 63 (Ty-Guyn), 65, River House, 69 (Ann's House formerly listed as Ann's Pantry), 73, 75 (The Red Lion Public House), Lynton House.
HIGHAM LANE(OFF)	Bridge Hill House.
MILL LANE	Bridgeford House, Little Bridge Place.
PETT BOTTOM ROAD	Middle Pett Farmhouse, Barn to Middle Pett Farmhouse.
PETT HILL	Great Pett Farmhouse.
PRIMROSE ROW	See High Street.
UNION ROAD	The Close.

Dering Road

Dering Road in Bridge commemorates Colonel Cholmeley Dering, a younger brother of Sir Edward Dering of Surrenden Dering, the seventh baronet. He is well known in Kentish annals as commander of the New Romney Fencible Cavalry (Duke of York's Own), which he raised in East Kent in 1794 and with which he served in Ireland for three years, receiving the thanks of the Lord Lieutenant and both Houses of Parliament in that country for his eminent services during the rebellion of 1798. The regiment was disbanded in October, 1800, on its return from Ireland. One year before, probably in anticipation of the event, Colonel Dering had bought Howletts [in Ickham] (?) from its builder, Isaac Baugh, and was in consequence the second owner of that most distinguished house, one of the best of its size and style in England. On the death of his elder brother in 1811 he became guardian of the infant eighth Dering baronet and had to remove to Surrenden from Howletts, which he sold about 1816 to George Gipps Esq., son and heir of one of the founders of the Canterbury Bank. In 1817 he was returned as MP for New Romney. He died in 1836 and was buried at Pluckley. Howletts remained in the Gipps family until about forty years ago.

Another local Irish connection!

Howletts (or Owlets, as it was formerly called) was formerly the inheritance of Isaac family, but they lost it before the reign of Elizabeth I. In 1558 it belonged to John Dorante (a benefactor to Littlebourne) whose descendants alienated it to Sir Henry Palmer who resided here and died in 1611, and by his will gave it to Sir Isaac Sidley, his son-in-law, who conveyed his right to his brother-in-law Sir Henry Palmer, and he about 1620 alienated it to Sir Charles Hales of Thanington, but afterwards of Howletts, who died in 1623. His grandson Sir Robert Hales was created baronet 1660 during the time of whose grandson Sir Thomas this seat fell down and the family removed to another house nearer the church in this parish (Bekesbourne), where they afterwards resided. At length his descendant Sir Philip Hales in 1787 alienated the scite of it, with the gardens and offices remaining, and belonging to it, to Isaac Baugh who... has lately built for his residence a mansion on these grounds at a small distance north-westward from the scite of the ancient house. . . (Ed. Hasted, vol 3 p 716)

ophiane
Widdowes (Dorset)

BRIDGE: Items in Canterbury Library Local Studies Room

Extracted from Z Cozens *History of Kent*, 2 vols. c.1798

p.199 Bridge, which once constituted the Deanery Town, is now but a small village of about twenty houses, situated in a narrow valley, through which runs the small stream called the Little Stour, over which there is a handsome stone bridge of one arch.

Document for Reference

**Bridge as portrayed in Historical Sources prior to 1939:
S214: Aspects of the Economic and Social History of Kent. Group Research
Project 1978**

University of Kent at Canterbury

Old England's Hole

This is most probably an old quarry, cut into the side of the old road to Dover out of Bridge at about the lowest practicable point of the hill where chalk is available. It is however also a source of much romantic speculation. The theory that it is the site of an encounter between Britons and Romans is of relatively recent (early 19th century) origin. The following account is almost wholly fanciful (Caesar died of course in 44 BC. His second British expedition was in 54 BC. Nero was Emperor in AD 56).

'At the summit of the... rise out of Bridge, the road, running exactly on the site of the Roman Watling Street, comes to that bleak and elevated table-land known as Barham Downs, the scene of Caesar's great battle with the Britons on July 23rd, AD 56. Twenty-seven thousand Roman soldiers, horse and foot, met the wild rush of the Britons, who, with the usual undisciplined and untaught courage of uncivilised races, flung themselves upon the invaders and were thrown back by the impenetrable wall of the serried phalanxes. Recoiling dismayed from this reception, they were instantly pursued by the Roman cavalry and cut up into isolated bands, who fought courageously all that fatal day in the dense woodlands. Protected by mounds and trenches defended with palisades of stakes cunningly interwoven with brushwood, they prolonged the hopeless contest until nightfall, and then fell back. Caesar, describing these woodland forts as *oppida*, gives especial attention to one troublesome stronghold. "Being repulsed," he writes, "they withdrew themselves into the woods and reached a place which they had prepared before, having closed all approaches to it by felled timber." This retreat was captured by soldiers of the Seventh Legion, who, throwing up a mound against it, advanced, holding their shields over their heads in the military formation known as "the tortoise," and drove out the defenders at the sword's point.

This, the last place to hold out, is, despite the eighteen and a half centuries that have passed, still to be seen in Bourne Park, on the summit of Bridge Hill, and is familiarly known in the neighbourhood as "Old England's Hole." "Never forget," the old countryfolk have been wont to impress their children - "never forget that this is Old England's Hole, and that on this spot a last stand for freedom was made by your British forefathers."

Every one in the neighbourhood knows Old England's Hole. It is seen beside the road, on the right hand, just where the cutting through the crest of the hill, made in 1829, to ease the pull-up for the coach-horses, begins. At that same time the course of the road was very slightly diverted, and, instead of actually impinging on this ancient historic landmark, as before, was made to run a few feet away. Now the spot is seen across the fence of the park, the old course of the road still traceable beside it as a slightly depressed green track, plentifully dotted with thistles. The stronghold consists of a crater-like hollow, encircled by earthen banks, still high and steep. A great number of ash-trees and thorns, some very old, gnarled and decayed, grow on these banks, and cast a dense shade upon the interior.'

(CG Harper: The Ingoldsby Country, 1904, pp63-6)

In 1846, during excavation for a lake in Bourne Park, Samian pottery and other articles were found at a depth of 10-13ft. Also, nearby, Roman interments, including a large urn containing ashes at the same depth. Also three skeletons with large nails near the shoulders, hands and feet. A few Roman coins. Faussett in 1771 mentions over 100 tumuli on Hanging Hill, in front of and between Bourne Place, Bishopsbourne and the Roman road; others had been ploughed down. These were Saxon. (Wright).