

Archbishop backs GP's initiative

ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has agreed to become patron of a remarkable health project in India, founded by Bridge and Littlebourne GP surgeries.

Dr Williams told trustees he was delighted to have been asked, and wants to be kept informed of developments.

Health For All was founded in the 1990s when Dr Mark Jones returned from a visit to Bihar, one of the poorest states in India.

Dr Jones, fellow GPs, nurses and other staff founded the project to build a health centre in Kanjiar, and recruit a qualified nurse and a village health team.

Daily surgeries are now held in Kanjiar and other villages.

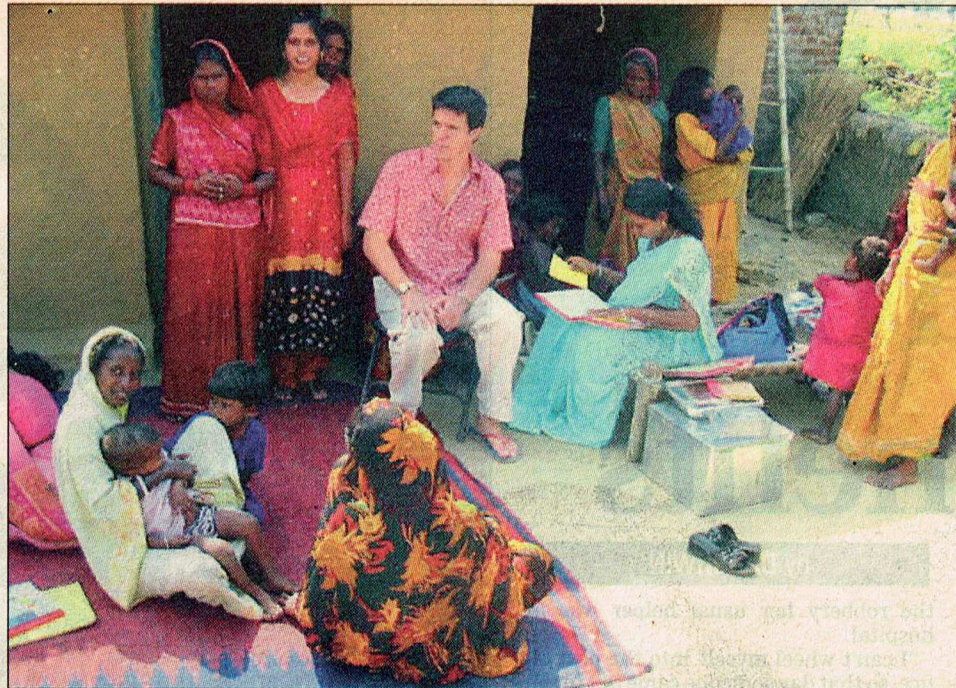
Health For All is concerned with child malnutrition, creating women's self health groups and the installation of water pumps and electricity.

Everyone involved in the project works on a voluntary basis and administrative expenses are kept to a minimum.

The communities of Bridge, Littlebourne and other areas have backed Health For All with numerous fundraising activities and now hope to form Friends of Health For All.

Trustee Vicky Talbot-Rosner, 45, is taking part in the London Marathon on April 17, on behalf of the project.

Anyone who would like to support the project can contact Sue or Sharon at the Bridge and Littlebourne surgeries on 01227 832901.



Dr Mark Jones at a Health For All women's clinic in Dadpur, India

Villagers divided over estate plans

LOW cost housing is to be provided for villagers in Wingham.

by JAN THOM

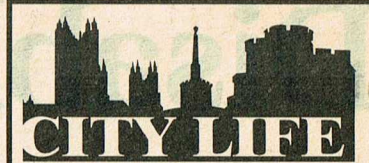
The plans for a new housing estate have been approved by district council.

Orchard Close, with an entrance near the fire station.

The homes will be for rent and shared ownership for local people. There will be...

WHY are the Westgate Gardens closed so early? I had an hour to kill the other day so decided to grab something to eat and take it to the gardens.

A sign on the locked gate informed me that they closed at 6.30pm.



COMPARE and contrast. In New York, former mayor Rudi Giuliani clamped down on crime by encouraging tougher sentences for offenders, introducing a three-strikes and you're out rule and putting police on the streets.

No more telling an illustration of the failure of the authorities to deal with low-level crime here came than when a friend visited Canterbury on Saturday night.

As he walked through the High Street, he passed a woman who had to literally shield her child's ears from the relentless screeching and swearing from the marauding gangs of drunks.

Meanwhile all around the city, graffiti is appearing on buildings and signs at an alarming rate.

And how do our authorities respond to all this mayhem and mess? They bombard the district with leaflets and beer mats trumpeting their dedication to community safety and organise public meetings to find out how safe everyone feels.

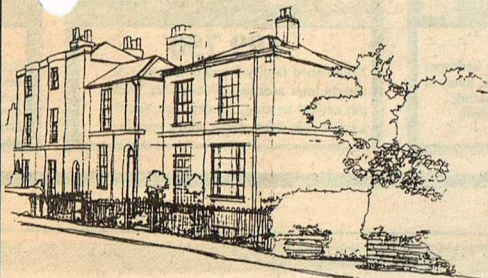
ON FILE

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Years: On Wednesday last Col Hudson's Regiment of Foot march'd from this City for Dover; the same Day at Noon came in here from Dover, the first Battalion of the Welch Fuzileers; and Yesterday Morning the said Battalion march'd from hence, in order to go for the Isle of Wight; and the same Day at Noon came in the second Battalion of Welch Fuzileers, attended with a grand Band of Musick.

The Kentish Post, May 3-6, 1758

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MP aims to help volunteers

THE threat of litigation and the growth of red tape are making it harder for volunteers to offer their services, especially to young people, says MP Julian Brazier.

Mr Brazier, who represents Canterbury and Whitstable, made these comments when he spoke on the first reading on Tuesday of his Private Member's Bill.

If successful the bill would establish a certificate of recognition of inherent risk to help protect volunteers and organisations from unreasonable litigation where sensible safety standards had been kept.

It would also try to reduce the costs of insurance through a pooling system and transfer certain civil liabilities from vol-

unteers working for Government, local government or other bodies to those organisations.

On bureaucracy it would try to remove the charges incurred by voluntary organisations for registering with the Criminal Records Bureau and for processing their paid staff.

This would not reduce protection for children but would lighten the burden for voluntary organisations.

It would also establish a register of employers who encourage volunteering.

Mr Brazier said volunteering had always been a crucial part of the British way of life and today 10 million people took part in such work each week and 22 million were involved

each year. Threats of litigation were leading many organisations to lose volunteers.

As an example, Mr Brazier said, 50,000 children in Britain are on a waiting list to join the Girl Guides but can't because of a shortage of instructors.

Mr Brazier said he was delighted to be sponsoring a bill on volunteering, which was promoted by a cross-party group of MPs.

"Whenever I talk to volunteers they tell me that more and more of that time is absorbed in red tape, detracting from the essential work their organisations exist to provide," Mr Brazier said.

The Bill's second reading is expected to be on March 5.

Launch event singled out for success

BUSINESSWOMEN Sarah Banks and Laura Savage are hoping for a good response to their grand launch event in Canterbury next week.

Following an article in this paper they received many calls about Viva Elite, a venture aimed at organising social events for single people.

Said Sarah: "We had an encouraging response to the story and are expecting our launch

evening to be a great success."

She added that they still have some places left for the dine and dance event at Howfield Manor, Chartham Hatch, on Saturday, January 17, and would like to hear from anyone interested, particularly men.

For more information about the event contact Sarah or Laura on 01304 374374.

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