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JANUARY 6

RIVER swamps two villages **THE FLOODS ARE BACK**

Fight to save homes from rising river

Boardwal

THE little Kentish villages of Barham and Bridge fought their wettest battle of the century on Tuesday night when flood waters swamped their homes.

The flood-swollen Nailbourne stream broke its banks and the 2,000 inhabitants of the two villages, which lie between Canterbury and Dover, were hit harder than anyone can remember.

Wednesday was a day for many to remember—a day of bathing—as one woman did—in a neighbour's house because of flooded drains in her own home; of blockading doors with sandbags, and watching floodwater rise through the floodboards; of relying on others for hot meals when cooking became impossible.

But Kent County Council worker 58-year-old Mr. Charles Kennett will remember Tuesday night as the one when he was kept out of a warm bed to operate emergency traffic lights which were posted on each side of the swirling floodwater in the main street of Bridge.

Mr. Kennett's own home at 1, Belle Vue-terr. was unharmed. But all through Tuesday night he had to keep a lonely vigil in a bus shelter on a hard wooden chair, while red and green lights flicked monotonously on and off.

In Bridge's Brewery-lane, where a number of old people live, no house was left untouched.

But, like Mrs. E. G. Minter, who lives at Number Four, they took early precautions born of past experiences.

Water first appeared in Mrs. Minter's house on Monday. "I prepared for it to flood the night before, so none of my furniture is damaged," she said.

Water, water

And like many people, Mrs. Minter was loth to leave her home in spite of the floods.

May."

But the major and his wife are not going to endure living at Friends-cottage until then.

After living there for 13 months, they are now looking for another home.

"We can't live here now. It won't dry out until the river goes down," Major Austin said.

The major's car had to be salvaged from the garage, which was under three feet of water.

Sandbags—two thousand of them kept for such occasions—were hastily being stacked around houses in other parts of Barham.

And the Nailbourne's only master



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And like many people, Mrs. Minter was loth to leave her home in spite of the floods.

"My two sons begged me to move," she said. "But I wouldn't."

On Wednesday, however, she was preparing to move to her daughter's home. "I can't stay in this, much as I want to," she had to admit.

Problem for Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Clark, proprietors of the chemist shop in the High-st., was whether the water would reach the soap.

Eyeing the stacks of soap, Mrs. Clark said: "The only things on the floor were bottles and the water did not hurt them."

Mr. Ernest Dunkling, licensee of the Red Lion, at Bridge—which on Wednesday afternoon was accessible by only one door—watched a miniature river being made through his car park on Wednesday morning.

Men with pneumatic drills tore up the tarmac to divert some of the water into nearby fields. For Mr. Dunkling it meant more water in his pub. Then the level dropped.

Hand pump

Two miles away, at Barham, the only outward sign of flood fighting in the main street was a man struggling with a hand pump outside a house near the post office.

Later, the fire brigade helped to lower the level of water inside the house with an electric pump.

At the home of Maj. and Mrs. I. C. Austin, of Friends-cottage, water was nine inches deep in all the ground floor rooms.

"Tradition has it," the major said, "that the Nailbourne never rises before Boxing Day, but this year it rose well before then. It never goes down before April or

May."

But the major and his wife are not going to endure living at Friends-cottage until then.

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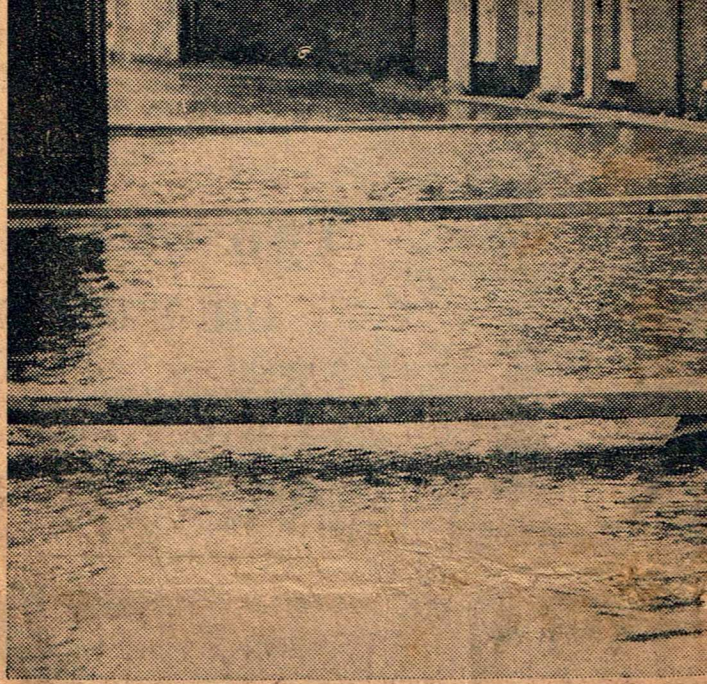
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And the Nailbourne's only master was the tidal River Stour, into which the stream flows.

Planks span the floodwater, sandbags lie against front doors . . . street scene in Brewery-lane, Bridge, this week



at Bre

on the second

CLIFF falls threaten town AGAIN IN EAST KENT

time in *Spur* Bridge



Ashford schoolgirl attacked by driver

A 15-year-old Ashford Technical College girl was attacked on Tuesday evening by a car driver as she cycled to her home in Great Chart.

The girl told police that she was stopped by the driver of a stationary car on the main Ashford-Tenterden road at Buxford Bridge.

The driver asked her the way to Worten and if she would accompany him there in his car.

STRUCK ON HEAD

When she refused he reached into the car and drew out a wooden instrument with which he struck her on the head.

At that moment a lorry approached from Great Chart. The car driver hastily apologised to the girl—and drove off.

The girl gave police descriptions of the driver and car including a registration number.

She said there was a red-armed monkey mascot hanging in the back of the car.

LATE NEWS

JAILED

Bert Gluyas, 59, Upper Stone-st., Maidstone, jailed for 28 days for maliciously damaging windows and strip lighting at Maidstone and District bus station.

FINED

Refuse collector Brian Tomkin, Chart Sutton, Maidstone, fined £1 at Maidstone yesterday for depositing broken glass on the highway in Hereford-rd., Maidstone.

Homes of fear under
the white cliffs

Strike hits

EXPRESS, JANUARY 6, 1961

FLOOD WATERS



Twins Peter and David Wells, aged 9, and Katrina Wooldridge, aged 10, make their way down Barham main street



Major I. C. Austin in his flooded Barham home . . . the water rose through the floor, sweeping away the parquet flooring

**PROBATION FOR YOUNG EGERTON WIFE WHO
TOOK FRIEND'S BABY**

The dream world

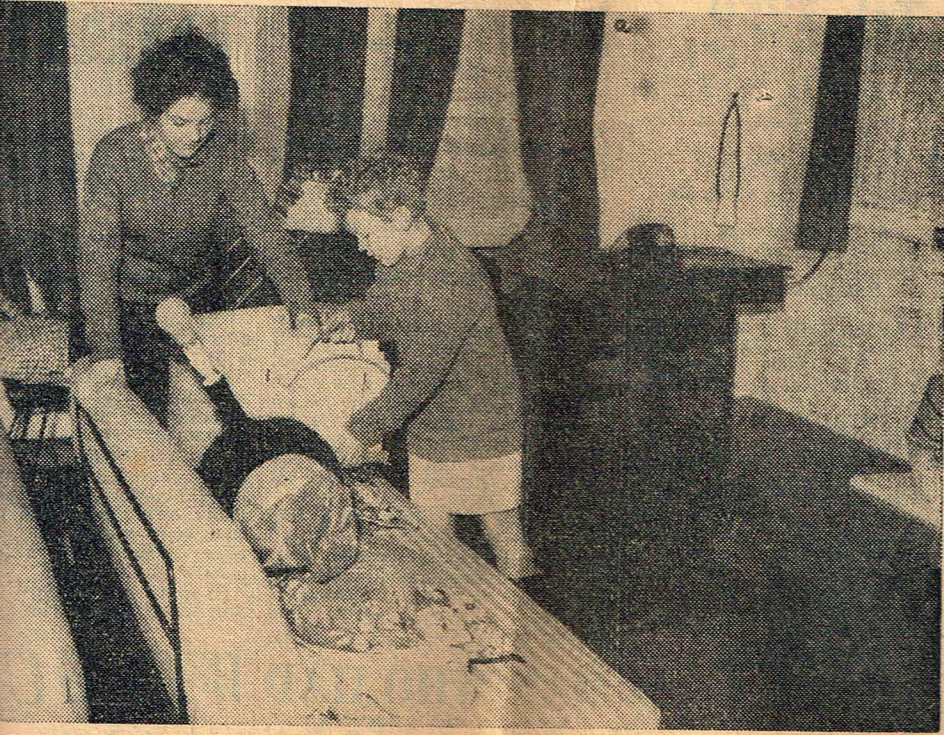
SWEEP INTO



Mr. A. Moores tries to keep the river away from the door of his new shop in Bridge



TWO VILLAGES



lounge in Anne's house, Bridge, is flooded for the fifth time . . . Cherry, aged 14, and Toby, aged 7, Hunter get on with the salvage work

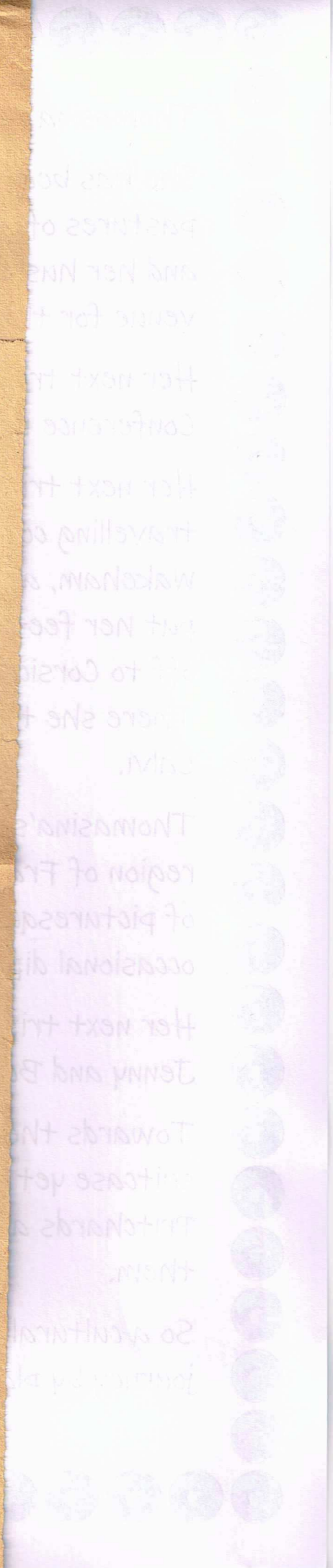


with the pneumatic drill is digging a channel at Bridge to help the water to escape . . . Background is a buoy to mark the way for motorists

Would rubber bollards make roads safer?

County Road Safety Committee, at their meeting Tuesday at Maidstone, decided to ask the Ministry for its views on rubber or plastic road

Walmer



January 27 1964

East Kent Diary

BY GAZETTEER

The Bridge Flood



When Brewery Lane was flooded 30 years ago.

WITH reference to the recent flooding at Bridge, Mr. V. G. Stockwell, formerly the village chemist and Bridge-Blean councillor, and now living in retirement at 12 Compton Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, tells me that when he arrived at Bridge over 30 years ago, he noticed that a drain, outside the cottage that once stood on the corner opposite the Red Lion, did not fulfil its function and he was told that the water never did run away.

Then came the floods, that of which Mr. Stockwell encloses photographs, and by which his premises were saved from flooding only by the use of railway sleepers. After some agitation, the County and Divisional surveyors arrived, and the latter, says Mr. Stockwell, denied that there was a drain, whereupon he produced the man who had put it in.

It ran from the church field under the main road, past the Boys' Club hut and emptied into the Nailbourne. It was found that the drain was completely blocked, and it was cleared and a manhole built near the Club hut, after which there was no further trouble.

Later, when Mr. Stockwell, at a Council meeting, raised the question of keeping the Nailbourne course clear, he was told that it was the responsibility of the landowners, and that in any case the Water Board was taking away so much water that the Nailbourne would never flow again! When he pointed out that the Nailbourne water came from a different source—a geological fact—he was told he did not know what he was talking about.

Acting on that statement, a Barham farmer planted a crop across the Nailbourne course and put up a fence. In due course, the Nailbourne flowed and swept away crop and fence. Referring to the recent flood, Mr. Stockwell suggests that, while not implying that the aforementioned drain has not been cleared, it might be worth investigation. "What I do say," he adds, "is that the whole course of the Nailbourne from Bishopsbourne to Bekesbourne should be dredged. That would at least avoid some of the trouble... The floods prove that what I said and tried to have done all those years ago was right."

Smith School, Canterbury. When his father moved to Dover—where, for 50 years, he had a photographic business—he was a pupil at Dover County Grammar School. He took a Double First at Cambridge.

He joined the Administrative Civil Service and was later assistant principal at the Home Office before transferring to the Admiralty. During the war he was principal private secretary to the First Lord, Lord Alexander of Hillsborough.

Aged 51 and married, with three children, he resides at Chislehurst. He has been awarded the K.B.E. and the C.B.

"I was interested to read your paragraph on the Langton badge. Until I gave it to the School last year, I, also, had kept my silver and enamel cap badge, number 701, and, like your correspondent's, issued in September, 1910. I was still wearing mine in 1921.

"The age-group of the '700's' suggests that many of these badges with lower numbers still exist, and, doubtless, several City Fathers yet display them to their grandchildren on high days and holidays—and get a nostalgic 'kick' in doing so!"

F.N.
THE reference to F.N. motor-

Secretary of the Ad...

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ED THE CANTERBURY PRESS, THE DOVER STANDARD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1961

Continued on page 11

Member To The Rescue

For a whole week Mr. A. R. Clarke was marooned in his Bridge chemist's shop. The premises were freezing cold and business was almost at a standstill.

On Sunday morning he decided that he had taken just about as much as he could stand and so he rang his M.P. Mr. Leslie Thomas quickly arrived, and, led by Mr. G. Baker, began visiting stricken families and viewing badly hit property.

Mr. Clark told the "Kentish Gazette," "I did not think that enough was being done so I rang Mr. Thomas. I have been marooned for more than a week because a bad leg prevents me from wearing rubber boots."

Bridge villagers heaved sighs of relief on Tuesday when workmen began pumping flood water from the main road back into the Nailbourne.

The Elham Valley road at Barham was closed to traffic early on Friday morning because of the flooded Nailbourne, but was reopened after Canterbury firemen spent two hours pumping water back into the stream.

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