

Bridge village study

Girl has kicked

A study of Bridge to show how the village would like to develop is to be undertaken by the Parish Council.

The council gave the study the go-ahead at its last meeting. Cllrs Mrs Young and John Hill had studied material from an earlier questionnaire and one organised by the City Council and decided that much of it needed updating and did not go far enough.

Cllr Hill said they felt a record of the existing village was needed and that the study would take stock of Bridge and enable the council to show the authorities how it would like the village to develop.

It was agreed that work on the study needed to go ahead soon and that some outline should be presented at the annual parish meeting in March.

An estimate was accepted for repair work to the village hall roof and sent to the agents of the Marquis of Conyngham for his approval.

Cllr Chapman reported the hall committee's intention to build an internal porch, incorporating new entrance doors, to the hall.

An estimate from Wealden Woodlands was accepted for tree planting along the new extension to the recreation ground. A letter had been received from the City Council offering lottery funds for tree planting in villages, it was decided to apply for money for this purpose.

A letter had been received from the Chief Exe-

cutive of the County's Social Services praising the village's attitude toward the old people's home, The Close, and giving an assurance that the new home would be built in Bridge under the 1981/2 programme.

The site next to the primary school was considered more suitable by the county as it was "most economic."

The new home would also include a day care centre for 30 elderly and a centre for the meals-on-wheels service.

The chairman, Cllr Peter Lawrence, said the council was not against building the home in Conyngham Lane, although it would have preferred using the Union Road site.

Concern was expressed that certain large trees on the proposed site should not be felled and that preservation orders be placed on them.

An apology had been received from the City Council's Planning Committee about the site meeting at Fairwinds, Conyngham Lane. The committee had now accepted the changed plans.

To school

It was decided to write to the applicant seeking his co-operation and expressing the council's own views.

A re-submitted application for an extension to the rear of 92 High Street was approved with the addition of a pitched roof. An extension to High Grantley, Meadow Close, was sent back with no observations.

Cllr Mrs Young reported on the meeting with the primary school's parent-teacher association about the introduction of school bus fares.

The meeting felt there might be a "breach of contract" with the Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne parents who had been promised transport when the two village schools closed.

Concern had been expressed at a possible reduction in school dinners, children being kept at home or cycling to school on dangerous roads.

Fears were expressed that opting out of the bus service could lead to it becoming underused to the point of being withdrawn.

Cllr Mrs Young said children were obliged to go to school by law and some would now be charged to do so. It was agreed to send a supporting letter to the Kent Education Committee.

Bridge Primary School was granted £50 for its instrument fund.

A letter was sent to Kent County Council supporting

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S. D. Boulding, 131 Little (2004).

Allanson, the manager, appeals for clothes, china, pictures, jewellery and bric-a-brac.

Opening times are Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 12.30 pm and 2 to 4.30 pm (except Monday morning and Wednesday).

Hunger lunches

Mrs Kathleen Orr-Ewing is organising hunger lunches on Saturdays during Lent. Held in the Tower Room at the parish church the bread and cheese lunches are eaten while the cost of normal lunch is given to the Church Missionary Society. The lunches are from 12.30 to 1.45 pm.

Operetta date

Wye College's Opera Society presents Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe tonight (Friday) and tomorrow at Swanley Hall, Withersdane. Tickets are 1, pensioners, students and children 75p.

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Kenilworth Gazette
26 Sept 1980

Singer hits the typewriter keys

SINGER and artist Peter Giles can now add author to his titles with the publication of his supernatural novel sparked off by a family holiday on the Isle of Wight.

Mr Giles, aged 41, of Filmer House, Filmer Road, Bridge, is a member of the Canterbury Clerkes trio and a part-time art teacher at Simon Langton Girls' School.

Last week he also became a novelist with the publication by Frederick Muller of his first book, *A Monster Unto Many*, on sale at £6.50 hardback.

The novel is not a ghost story but there is a supernatural element in it. Mr Giles explained: "It is about a man who seems to be haunted by his own son, aged 10. But his own son is still alive and with him. One wonders if it is his own son; if not, who is it?"

Of the holiday that gave him the idea, he said: "It all started very much as the book starts. Without giving the plot away, I went to the Isle of Wight with my family in 1976. I even had an itinerary from an old book in the library.

"When I got to Totland Bay I found it was rather a haunted place. There was a red brick and stone Victorian hotel on the head-



Singer and artist Peter Giles at the typewriter on which he made his debut as an author.

land for sale with its own private beach.

"I sat on the top of the cliff and looked at this place and within half-an-hour I had thought of a story."

He wrote down the synopsis and spent the next two years writing the book.

Mr Giles was born in Middlesex in 1939 and was educated at Hornsey College of Art before becoming a graduate art teacher. He later became a lay clerk at two cathedrals, moving to Canterbury in 1967 to become a lay clerk in the Cathedral choir.

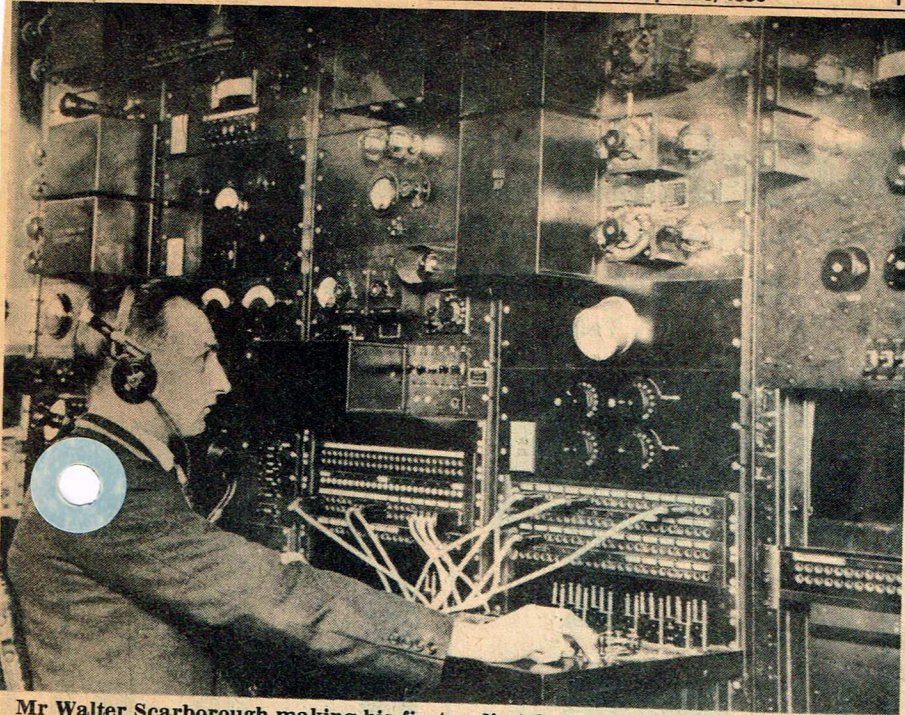
He is a counter-tenor and in 1974 was one of the founder members of the Canterbury Clerkes, who

have sung in France, Holland and Germany. Mr Giles has also appeared as a soloist in the United States and Canada.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Kate, aged 17, and Simon, 13.

Following the publication of this first novel he has nearly completed the first draft of his second, which concerns to some extent the same characters but is set in 1980.

He has also been commissioned by his publishers to write a book on counter-tenor singing and there is the possibility of his illustrating a version of Schumann's *Advice to Young Musicians*.



Mr Walter Scarborough making his first radio telephone call overseas, in 1927, to New York. Three years later he was to make the first call to Australia.

Historic phone call to Australia

AN historical call between England and Australia was made 50 years ago this week when Mr Walter Scarborough engineered the first radio telephone call between the two countries.

The call was from British Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald to Australian premier James Scullin and 83-year-old Mr Scarborough, of 68 Western Avenue, Bridge, helped design and set up the link.

A former Canterbury Area Telephone Manager, Mr Scarborough also helped design and set up links between Britain and New York, Montreal, Argentina, Brazil, New Zealand, India and Ceylon.

The call to Australia was broadcast at 8 am by the BBC. It was 6 pm in Australia and Mr Scarborough had to make sure everything was prepared: "I was asked to 10 Downing Street as I was responsible for making all the necessary arrangements. We broadcast from the Cabinet Room," he recalls.

The Prime Minister wanted all his staff and MPs present to hear his conversation, so Mr Scarborough arranged to have headsets linked to the phone circuit.

Said Mr Scarborough: "The first radio telephone call was made on April 30, 1930, and the BBC were allowed to broadcast the proceedings. Other radio services followed quickly."

That breakthrough half a century ago helped lay the foundations for today's complex network of telecommunications.

"Now you can get Australia any time of the day," says Mr Scarborough. "At that time, the service ran from 6 am to 9 am and from 6 pm to 9 pm. Because of the wavelengths we were on, 25 and 27 metres, we could only go out during the twilight periods.

"Now, instead of going by radio, we can go through land cables and satellite."

You can phone Australia by direct dialling in many areas in Britain — and it will be introduced in Canterbury this year — or via the International Exchange.

Mr Scarborough recalls the cost of the service 50 years ago was £2 a minute. It is now just £1.21 a minute!

At that time Mr Scarborough was engineer-in-chief at telephone headquarters. He later took charge of telecommunications for the Services



Mr Walter Scarborough

during World War II. In 1945 he moved to Canterbury as telephone manager, retiring in 1959.

For his contribution to telecommunication technology and his war effort, Mr Scarborough was awarded the OBE in 1956.

East Kent Diary

— edited by
Desmond Connolly