

BRIDGE

Correspondent: John Anderson, 7 Dering Road, Bridge, Canterbury, CT4 5NA, phone 830260.

FISH news: The usual monthly coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday May 10, between 10.15 and 11.45am in the village hall.

There is also the annual fund-raising coffee morning and bring and buy on Saturday, May 13 between 10am and noon. There are also plants and cakes as well as bric-a-brac. The next chiropody clinic is in the week June 5-9; phone Joan Warren for more information.

Health for all: Dr Mark Jones will be giving an illustrated talk with slides and photographs, about a project, supported by local communities, to set up medical and educational facilities in one of India's poorest regions. This is to be held at the village hall on Wednesday, May 10 at 7.30pm. Entrance is free.

Children's Society: Boxes in homes and shops have this year raised £333.70 to help the society's work with homeless deprived children and teenagers. Should anyone else like a box, contact Kathy Eynon on 830446.

Wanted: Back number parish magazines to complete the Bridge Archive, originally assembled by the late John Williamson and handed over by the retiring Vicar, the Rev Raymond Gilbert, are sought. Wanted items are: all earlier than April 1957; February and April 1958; all of 1963-72, plus January-April 1973; all of 1975-1977; January to June 1979; February to December 1999.

Also wanted are any other documents, cuttings, photographs relating to people, places and events in Bridge and the surrounding villages in past years, which residents think may be of future interest (and almost everything is, however trivial it may seem to be now).

Anyone who would care to donate any of the above items, please contact the current custodian, Maurice Raraty, the treasurer, Bridge and District History Society, phone 830508.

Bridgedown steps: A route for pedestrians wishing to shop or conduct any other activity in the village and without having to walk the far greater distance via Higham Lane, is at the moment closed until further notice.

Complaints by some residents that the stairs were unsafe were made to the city council with whom the responsibility lies. After inspection, it has been decided to seal them off, until a survey can be completed. Appropriate action, residents have been assured, will take place as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the estate will return to the intention of the builders when it was designed to be a quiet backwater close to, but away from the centre of the village.

Being a new development, the inhabitants were mainly young and active, but now there are many older people who will find the present arrangements quite a hardship.

Council: The parish council will meet in the Hunter room of the village hall on Thursday, May 11 at 7.30pm.

Gig: On Sunday evening Two's Company (60s-90s classics and rock 'n' roll) will be at the Red Lion, Bridge.

Church services: On Sunday, 8am, BCP Communion, St Mary's Church, Patribourne; 9.30am, BCP Communion, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 6.30, Evensong, St

Peter's Church, Bridge. At Bridge
Methodist Church the 11am service
will be led by Beryl Skinner.

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FISH scheme: The coffee morning and bring and buy on Saturday morning in the village hall, raised £336 for its funds. Jean Johnson, on behalf of the committee thanks all those who helped and supported the event.

Woodpeckers Nursery: The May fair held in the Bridge school grounds on Saturday was well attended with the weather providing the best day of the year so far. Comedian Dave Lee released the balloons for the race.

The clowns fancy dress parade, was judged by the parish council chairman John Anderson and his wife Billie. The winners were Rachael Harrison, Anna Evans, Amelia Cotter and Molly Glew.

Overall the event raised £1, 150. Nicki Denning the chairman of the fund-raising committee and Angie Sheppard thank all who helped and supported.

Health For All: Before a large

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audience in the village hall last Wednesday, Dr Mark Jones gave a talk on the Bridge with Littlebourne surgeries' own registered charity to support health care for Bihar, one of the poorest and most deprived areas of India where there is little, or in many cases no care available at all.

With the contributions, work has now been started on the building of a small rural health centre, to serve a number of villages in the area.

This would have not been possible without the support of The People First Education Charitable Trust, and Dr Verma a general practitioner working in the area.

On Dr Jones' visit to the area last year he took a number of drawings and correspondence from Bridge and Barham schools, to the village schools of Kosomoh and Kesapi.

On his return he brought drawings back for the children here, as well as a conviction that the project can make a difference.

Anyone who feels they could offer help to what is this area's own worthwhile charity, should contact Susan Blacker, Littlebourne Surgery, The Corn Stores, Nargate Street, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1UH.

Gig: On Sunday evening Kilo, a blues-rock outfit is at the Red Lion, Bridge.

Church services: Sunday: 8am BCP Communion, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 9.30am, Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 11am Matins, St Peter's Church Bekesbourne; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by Michael Baybutt.

PARISH COUNCIL

Election of officers: At the May meeting of the parish council, Councillor John Anderson was re-elected as chairman with Cllr Tony Walder as vice-chairman.

The recreation ground and sports committee members are Cllrs M. Gulvin, J. Hill and T. Walder. The planning committee comprises Cllrs J. Connor, J. Corfield, J. Hill and J. Monk, and on the environmental committee Cllr J. Connor has responsibility for footpaths, Cllr J. Monk for trees and Cllr E. Shirley for general matters.

Cllr Anderson has taken over responsibility for streets, footways and lighting, although a member of the public, Mr M. Smith, has offered to identify and report problems relating to streets and footways. Cllrs C. Beer and M. Gulvin remain representatives to Bridge Village Hall Management Committee as well as to the Mill Centre Management Committee.

Cllrs J. Connor and J. Corfield continue as representatives to the Kent Association of Parish Councils and Cllr J. Monk is the parish council's representative on the Mary Gregory Trust.

Millennium matters: Cllr Beer reported that the Millennium committee has organised a packed day on June 24 when apart from the village fete, there will be Morris dancing in the streets, musical entertainment and a civil war display by the Sealed Knot.

The history society will be organising history tours of the village. A pig roast is to be held and barbecued food will be available at the local public houses.

The evening will end with a fireworks display.

Allotments: Estimates have now been received for allotment renovation but are too high for the parish council to fund in full. The parish council will be seeking alternative means of clearing the land and providing water and are considering setting up a local action group of allotment holders and other willing volunteers.

Anyone interested in forming a working party should contact the parish clerk on 832219.

Planning applications: The following planning applications have been received: Single storey extension and orangerie to The Paddock, Higham Lane; conservatory at 72 Bridge Down; internal alterations at The White Horse Inn; two-storey side extension to 3 Union Road.

The following applications have been notified as granted: Demolition of outbuilding, internal and external alteration to Flat 5