

June 1 2000

BRIDGE

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

Festival: The Millennium festival committee in conjunction with the fete organisers, have issued a special programme of events for the first major celebration of the year on June 24.

These consist of a duck race, classic car display, guided history tours, jazz band, Morris dancers, Sealed Knot Battles, performance by Bridge's own Canzonet Ensemble, children's disco (4-6.30pm), Snowdown Male Voice Choir (7.15), pig roast and fireworks at about 10.30pm.

The second big event will take place on September 8 to 10 with a flower festival in St Peter's Church, Bridge, a concert by The Canterbury Clerkes on the Friday evening, followed by a Communion service conducted by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, the Ven John Pritchard, on the Sunday morning.

A three-day exhibition will also be presented by the Bridge and District History Society in the village hall, with further guided tours of the village. There will also be music and barbecues around the pubs in the village.

Higham Park: There is now a £10 season ticket available. Members receive free entry to the gardens, invitations to special events and opportunities to become involved in the conservation and restoration of Higham. This has once again become a family home.

Visitors notice this when touring the splendid restored staterooms, and chatting to the owners about their ambitious restoration plans. This is for most people a special delight, as is exploring the 25 acres of restored parkland and gardens. For details phone 01227 830830.

Church news: Because of the change in the structure of the benefice of Patricbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne, to further include the parish of Nackington and Lower Hardres, under the administration of Paul Filmer, the new priest, it has become necessary, from June 1 to alter the times of services, to make them available to all those parishioners wishing to attend a particular service.

The future pattern will be as follows: First Sunday of the month: Lower Hardres, 10am Holy Communion, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion; Patricbourne 10am Matins; Bekesbourne 8am BCP Communion.

Second Sunday: Nackington, 9.30am Holy Communion; Bridge, 6pm Evensong; Patricbourne, 8am BCP Communion; Bekesbourne 10am Family service.

Third Sunday: Nackington, 8am BCP Communion; Lower Hardres, 10am Family Service; Bridge, 10am Holy Communion; Bekesbourne, 10am Holy Communion.

Fourth Sunday: Nackington, 9.30am Holy Communion; Lower Hardres, 6pm Evensong; Bridge, 8am BCP Communion; Patricbourne, 10am Holy Communion.

Where there is a fifth Sunday, details of a rotating benefice service will be announced.

Services for Sunday are: 10am, Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am, Matins, St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 8am BCP Communion, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne. Bridge Methodist Church service will be led by the Rev Donald Lugg.

Today (Thursday) Ascension Day Eucharist is at St Peter's, Bridge, at 6pm.

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FISH scheme: A coffee pop-in will be held in the village hall on Wednesday, June 14, 10.15 to 11.45pm, where visitors will be able to obtain details of the forthcoming strawberry tea to celebrate both the Millennium and the FISH scheme's 20th birthday.

Flower festival: The festival is at St Peter's Church, Bridge from September 8 to 10. There will be a stall selling plants and residents are asked to start growing and collecting plants for this stall now.

For further information or to make donations, please contact either Rosie Green 830204, Elizabeth Kirkwood 831056 or Viv Brasier 830981.

Aid: Christian Aid Week collections raised £1,105 in the area last month. Christine Hoare thanks all collectors and contributors for raising this amount.

Council: The parish council will meet in the Hunter Room of the village hall at 7.30pm today (Thursday).

Gig: On Sunday evening Hullabaloo (swing-jazz) will be at the Red Lion; doors open 7pm.

Services: On Sunday, 8am BCP Communion, St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 6pm Evensong, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 11am Bridge Methodist church, Rev Albert Ball (church anniversary).

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BEKESBOURNE

Correspondent: John Anderson, 7 Dering Road, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5NA, phone 01227 830260.

Bowls club: Anyone wishing to try short mat bowls is invited to the village hall on Friday evenings between 7 and 10. Or contact K. Diss on 830463.

Early train: The first train out of Dover passes through Bekesbourne at about 4.50am. At the moment it doesn't stop. Connex SE has a request for this train to stop and pick up passengers.

It is willing to timetable this from September provided no one objects. Please let the parish council have views.

If nobody has objected by the end of June the parish council will ask Connex to schedule the stop. Ring the parish clerk on 832573.

Service: On Sunday, 10am Holy Communion St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.

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BISHOPSBOURNE

Correspondent: Malcolm Mitchell,
The Old Cottage, Bishopsbourne,
CT4 5HT, phone 01227 830645.

Magazine: The parish magazine for Bishopsbourne and Kingston has a new editor. Carol Arter succeeds Alan Thew, who is giving up after five years.

Copy for the July edition should be with Carol, of 5 Greenacres Kingston, by Friday, June 16. She can be contacted on 830068.

Parish church: There will be a Matins service at St Mary's Church on Sunday, at 11am. In the absence of a Rector, it will be conducted by the parish ministry team.

Otherwise there is Communion at St John's, Barham, at 9.30am or

Even song at St Giles, Kingston, at 6pm.

Council: The monthly meeting of the parish council will be held in the Conrad Hall, at 7.30pm, on Wednesday.

An opportunity will be provided at the start of the meeting for villagers to air concerns or ask questions.

Dancing: The Oyster Morris and Offcumdums danced to a large, appreciative audience outside the Mermaid Inn, on Tuesday evening.

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BRIDGE

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

Millennium festival: Events on Saturday, in conjunction with the village fete, start with a duck race at 10am (bring own duck), from the ford to the recreation ground, entrance fee 50p a duck.

From 10.30am to noon there are History Society tours from the village hall.

At 11.45am the fancy dress parade is from the Red Lion up the High Street to Bridge School. There will be prizes for three categories.

This is to herald the start of the village fete at noon with many stalls and events taking place during the afternoon.

At 3.45pm a Sealed Knot drummer will lead off from the school grounds to the village hall for a free children's dance which will end at 6pm.

At 4.15pm The Canzonet Choir Ensemble will be giving a performance in the marquee at the White Horse.

Between 1 to 6pm there will be a classic cars display at Rogers Garage, and alternative therapies will be offered in the White Horse courtyard.

From 5pm there will be jazz in the garden at the Red Lion Inn and between 5 and 8pm Morris Dancers will be entertaining between the White Horse and the Red Lion.

At 6.15pm The Sealed Knot Civil War Display in the Church Meadow will be augmented by the firing of cannons, followed by a tug-of-war challenge to villagers over the Nailbourne in Bridge Place Meadow.

Between 7 and 9pm there is a guitar and vocal duo at the White Horse. At 7.15pm the Snowdown Male Voice Choir will be giving a performance in St Peter's Church.

At 9pm a pig roast and barbecue will take place in the White Horse garden. At 10pm there will be a firework display in Church Meadow.

Times of all the events taking place are approximate. All events are free of tariffs. Donations however will be welcome for the school or church.

History society: Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the evening at Higham Park has been cancelled. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Red Cross: A collection in the Bridge and Patrixbourne areas raised £177.22. The organiser thanks all who donated.

Gigs: On Sunday evening, Jed Thomas (blues/rock) is at the Red Lion.

Church services: 8am BCP Communion, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 11am, Bridge Methodist Church, service led by the Rev Howard Skinner.

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Cycle ride: Congratulations go to the 11-strong Plough and Harrow cycle team members who all completed the London to Brighton ride on June 18, the hottest day of the year. They raised more than £1,000 for the British Heart Foundation.

WI: On a pleasantly hot day 14 members spent a relaxing day at Walmer Castle. The garden meeting is on Tuesday, July 18 at 3.30pm, at 26 Western Avenue.

Please take a garden chair if possible, also a small plate of food. There will be a bring and buy stall with a garden theme.

Barn dance: By popular demand Bridge School PFA is again holding a family barn dance, on Saturday, July 8.

FISH scheme: The scheme celebrated not only the Millennium, but its 20th anniversary with a strawberry tea, held in a marquee in the White Horse garden. About 65 members,

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and supporters were welcomed by Jean Johnson the co-ordinator. Grace was said by Canon John Packer.

In an address by John Hill, all volunteers whose work in looking after older citizens was recognised, in particular Joan Warren who was a founder member, and the original co-ordinator.

Joan then cut the anniversary cake.

Outing: A coach outing to the Kent and Sussex Railway, plus Michelham Priory, East Sussex from Bridge, will take place on Thursday, July 27.

Tickets are £19 for both coach and train, and bookings must be made by July 1. For details ring 01227 831095.

Gardeners: An evening outing to the Summerfield Nurseries at Staple was organised by the Nailbourne Horticultural Society. This was a well supported, and informative evening, with a demonstration on the grafting of rose buds, and a tour of the rose growing fields.

The organisers thank the hosts, on behalf of all members, for hospitality. Summer show schedules are now available on 830763.

Council: Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the July meeting of the parish council will be held a week earlier, on Thursday, July 6, at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the village hall.

Fete: The village fete organised to raise funds for the Bridge Primary School, and the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge was a well supported event, no doubt enhanced by the Bridge Millennium Festival celebrations going on at the same time.

It started with a children's fancy dress parade up the High Street and led by mounted and foot soldiers of the Sealed Knot Regiment carrying their colours, and beating their drums.

On arrival at the school the fete was declared open by the Rev Paul Filmer, recently appointed as the new priest, who then judged the fancy dress competition.

The results were as follows: Pre school class, Chloe Webb, Sam and Emily Pither; 4-5 Alice and Emily McCormack, Joshua Day; 7-9 Tom McCormack, Sofie Masterson; 10 plus Lucy O'Brien, Abbie Blackwell.

Many stalls and sideshows and varied refreshments were available, while in the arena there were displays to entertain everyone all through the afternoon.

The total amount raised after expenses was about £4,500. The organisers thank all sponsors for their generosity, all helpers for their hard work and all who supported them on the day.

Millennium festival: In conjunction with the fete this offered a great variety of free entertainment. All day from 10am to midnight people were milling around, enjoying the carnival atmosphere.

Everyone united in the spirit of the occasion not seen since the bypass celebrations in the 70s. Music was provided from jazz to pop in the pubs, from the Canzonet Choir ensemble in a marquee, to the Snowdown Male Voice Choir in the church.

Other highlights of the day included the history society's tours, the classic car display, Oyster Morris dancers, The Sealed Knot and fireworks display.

A big thank you goes to Alan Walton and his committee for organising such a wonderful day. Also thanked are the sponsors and those who worked so hard, in assisting with the arrangements.

During the whole period there was never the slightest suggestion of any discord, or unpleasantness at any time. Thanks go to the police, and in particular the village's own Special Constable Ranjit Khaliwal who so ably organised the High Street procession.

Gig: On Sunday evening a Carousel talent night is at the Red Lion, Bridge.

Church services: Sunday, 8am BCP Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 10am Matins, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 10am Holy Communion, St Peter's Church

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