

KG. NOV. 9<sup>th</sup> 2000

# BISHOPSBOURNE

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

**Parish church: A service of  
remembrance for those who died in  
the war will be held at St Mary the**

Virgin Church, at 10.45am on Sunday.

The wreath-laying, sounding of Last Post and Reveille and the Exhortation will be conducted around the war memorial on the green near the church lychgate, after which the congregation will continue the service in church.

It will be conducted by the ministry team of the united benefice.

Last Sunday, Communion was celebrated at St Mary's by the Rev John Tyler.

**Jumble sale:** A jumble sale is to be held on Saturday in the Conrad Hall to raise money for hall funds.

Admission is 20p and the sale will run from 10am to noon. Villagers with items to donate can take them to the hall tomorrow (Friday) between 7 and 8pm. For further details contact hall trustees Gill Applin on 01227 700693, or Phillipa Burniston on 830341.

**Wine and wisdom:** A quiz evening is to be held in the Conrad Hall on Saturday, November 18, at 7.30pm.

The event is in aid of the Nailbourne Scout Troop and tickets are £5 (cheese and wine included). For further details contact Ian Embry on 01227 832025.

**Council:** Following the intervention of the parish council, builder's rubble tipped on to the picnic site beauty spot overlooking Bourne Park has been removed by the city council's "hit squad".

Council workmen were also called on Friday to deal with large deposits of mud at the corner of The Street and Frog Lane following last week's torrential rain.

The parish council is asking the city council if priority can be given to clearing drains on the corner so that surface water can be carried away, particularly as this was the second such incident.

Kent Highways has also told the council that it would replace the missing crossroads direction posts and an accompanying sign

KG Nov. 9th. 2000

# BRIDGE

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



**Legion:** The Royal British Legion's Littlebourne and district branch will meet at the Plough and Harrow, High Street, Bridge, at 7.30pm on Tuesday.

**Inn:** The White Horse Inn is expecting to re-open early next week after complete renovation.

**Traffic calming:** A public consultation for parishioners held in the village hall over three days last week created a great deal of interest. The proposals were a combined recommendation by Kent County, Canterbury City and the parish councils.

After viewing the detailed plans all present were invited to fill in a questionnaire, and make comments. These will now be analysed by the highways department before making decisions.

**Fireworks:** Because of the flooding of the Church Meadow, the PTA's bonfire and fireworks display has been postponed to Saturday, November 25.

**Wisdom:** A wine and wisdom will be held in aid of the Bridge group of parishes at the village hall, on Saturday, November 25, 7.15 for 7.30pm prompt, tables of eight (or less and join in with others), £5 per head to include food, take your own plate, cutlery, glass and drinks.

Tickets (limited to 72) from Pauline Pritchard 830685, Andrea Nicholson 830947, Pat Dunderdale 830668, John Anderson 830260.

**Gig:** Tomorrow (Friday) evening, Perry White jazz is featured at the Red Lion Inn.

**Services:** On Sunday, at 10.50am, Remembrance parade service is at St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 6pm Evensong at St Peter's Church Bridge and 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service, led by the Rev Maurice Weatherup.

Nov. 9th 2000



KG. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 2000

## BRIDGE

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

**Trust transfer:** The trustees of the Charity of Mary Gregory, Charity Commission No 239043, propose to transfer the property of the charity to the Bridge Fish Scheme, Charity Commission No 10355797.

The details and notice reference the trustees' resolution are displayed on the parish council and St Peter's Church notice boards.

**Sale:** The tennis club is holding a jumble sale at the village hall on Saturday, November 18, 2-4pm. Admission is 20p.

**Tea:** A fellowship tea will be held in the Methodist church at 2.45pm, on Monday.

An illustrated talk will be given by the Minister, the Rev David Marshall called A Growing Concern, Telling the story of how the small towns and village Methodist churches grew in their care and involvement with the community.

**WI:** The annual meeting will be on Tuesday, at 7.30pm in the village hall. The competition will be for a favourite egg cup.

**Music:** Canzonet will be giving a celebration of music for St Cecilia's Day, at St Peter's Church, on Wednesday, November 22, at 8pm. Director is Peter Giles and accompanist: Robert Scott.

Admission is by programme £4, available from the tourist office, St Margaret's Street, Canterbury; John Anderson, on 01227 830260; Andrea Nicholson 01227 830947; or at the door.

**Coffee:** A coffee morning in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance will be held in the village hall from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday, November 25, with Christmas goods for sale.

**Wisdom:** Bridge group of parishes' wine and wisdom in the village hall is on Saturday, November 25, 7.15 for 7.30. For details ring Pat Dunderdale, on 830668.



Big. On Sunday evening, the Dobie Brothers', soul show is at the Red Lion, Bridge.

**Ride:** The sponsored bike ride at Patricxbourne in aid of the Friends of Kent Churches raised £250. The organiser Pauline Pritchard thanks all riders, sponsors and "church sitters."

**Church services:** On Sunday, 10am Holy Communion is at St Peter's Church Bridge and 11am Holy Communion, with the Rev David Marshall at the Methodist Church.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

**New councillor:** As a result of a casual vacancy on the parish council, a new member has been co-opted. This is Pam Dobson of the High Street, Bridge. Cllr Dobson was welcomed to her first meeting, by the chairman, Cllr Anderson.

**Traffic calming:** A good response to the exhibition of traffic calming measures, held in the village hall at the beginning of the month, and to the questionnaire, had been received from members of the public.

Results of the survey are to be examined and any amendments considered necessary as a result of the public consultation will be made to the plans.

**Christmas lights:** Councillors agreed that illuminated Christmas trees should again be displayed in the High Street this year, re-using the lights provided by the city council from the Millennium lighting fund last year.

Christmas trees are to be offered, in the first instance, to those who displayed them last year. Any other resident of the High Street, who would like a tree and lights should contact the clerk on 01227 832219. Any available trees will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Trees and their installation are being funded by the parish council, but anyone wishing to make a donation to help offset the cost should do so by forwarding a cash/cheque (payable to Bridge PC) to the clerk at 50 Riverside Close, Bridge.

**Planning applications:** The following applications had been received and commented upon: Replacement garage store at 45A High Street; erection of detached garage at 41 Union Road; erection of 15m pole with three antennae, two dishes, associated equipment cabinet and security fencing at BT Exchange, High Street.

The following applications had been notified as granted: First floor extension to Gardenways, Bridge Hill; two and single storey rear extension at 51 Union Road; two storey side extension (revised

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 2000



## BRIDGE

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

**Application:** British Telecom has applied for planning permission for the erection of a 50m pole with three antennae, two dishes, associated equipment, cabinet and security fencing at its exchange in the High street. These are next to private dwellings on the Canterbury side of the village and fairly close to the primary school.

The application had brought objections from the parish council and city councillor Bill Oakey and petitions from a number of residents.

**Sale:** The tennis club jumble sale on Saturday raised £190 for its funds. Organisers thank all who helped and supported.

**Póppy appeal:** The appeal in Bridge and District raised £1,182. The Royal British Legion branch and the local organiser thank their dedicated team of collectors.

**Fireworks:** The bonfire night and fireworks display, cancelled by the Bridge School PFA earlier in the month owing to the flooding, has been postponed indefinitely.

**Supper:** An American supper and sing-along to accordion accompaniment and other surprise entertainment, plus a raffle is to be held by the Nailbourne Horticultural Society at the village hall, on Tuesday, at 7.30pm.

Those attending are asked to take a plate of food to share, as well as their own drinks and glasses.

**Carols:** There is an invitation to join a Salvation Army Band on Monday, December 4, at 7.30pm in the school hall for a carol concert. Refreshments will be served. Admission is by ticket, £1.50 each, available from the school office, phone 01227 830276.

**Gig:** On Sunday evening Carousal is at the Red Lion.

**Church services:** On Sunday, 8am BCP Communion is St Peter's Church, Bridge and 10am Communion at St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne. The 11am Methodist Church service will be led by Ron Chadwick.



KG. Nov. 23 2000

## BEKESBOURNE

**Correspondent:** Jill Thomas,  
Cobham Court, Bekesbourne,  
Canterbury CT4 5ET, phone  
832573

**Bazaar:** A Christmas bazaar will be held on Saturday, at 10am in the village hall, with proceeds going to the village church and Brownies.

**Homes for local people:** The Samuel Lewis Housing Trust has begun to build six new houses beside Cranmer Close. There will be two one-bedroom houses and four three-bedroom houses.

They are due to be completed in summer 2001 and local people interested in being considered as tenants should apply in writing to Kate Griffin, Samuel Lewis Housing Trust, 1 Eurogate, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XW, 01233 640508.

The new homes are intended for local people and come under a parish S106 Agreement. Details of the conditions can be obtained from the Housing Trust.

**Canterbury College:** Professor Stuart Field made a submission to the local inquiry on behalf of the parishes of Bridge, Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne and Littlebourne. Prof Field outlined the traffic problems which were likely to ensue in these parishes if the college relocation went ahead.

**Millennium yew:** A large congregation for the family service at St Peter's Church braved the rain to watch the planting of Bekesbourne's Millennium yew tree. The yew is one of many hundreds of small trees which have been given to parishes by the Conservation Foundation to mark the start of the third Christian Millennium.

All the trees have been propagated from yew trees believed to be at least 2,000 years old and growing during the lifetime of Christ. The "parent" of Bekesbourne's tree is the Eastling yew, at Faversham.

The tree was planted by Rosalie Stacey, church organist, helped by Amy Osterloh, one of the younger members of the congregation.

**Church services:** There is no service at Bekesbourne on Sunday.



See under Bridge for details of other services in the benefice.

**Footpath map:** The Millennium map showing the parish boundary and footpaths is now installed on the front wall of the village hall. The emergency services are currently recommending that anyone phoning for assistance should provide their Ordnance Survey grid reference. The new map shows this reference for all properties in the parish.



(781742) of the village post office.  
KG. NOV. 23 2000

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KG. Nov. 3<sup>0th</sup> 2000

## BEKESBOURNE

**Correspondent:** Jill Thomas,  
Cobham Court, Bekesbourne, CT4  
5ET, phone 01227 832573.

**Bazaar:** The Christmas bazaar held in the village hall last Saturday morning raised approximately £520 for the village church and Brownies.

Prize winners were: Bagatelle, Max Stonier; weight of cake, Jill Gillanders; name the teddy, Jill Thomas.

Thanks are given to all who helped to make this such a successful and enjoyable morning.

**December walk:** For this month only the walk will be on the first Tuesday of the month. Meet at 9.45am at Bekesbourne Village Hall on Tuesday.

The walk will be on the high ground of Barham Downs; details from Joan Atkins 831127.

**Tree dressing:** Continuing the common ground tradition started several years ago there will be a tree dressing ceremony in St Peter's Church Walk, at 3pm, on Sunday. The theme is coloured garlands.

Make garlands in advance or go to the workshop at Cobham Court at 1.30pm. If going to the workshop, take coloured plastic carrier bags to be cut into strips and woven into garlands.

This event is timed to coincide with the end of National Tree Week; more information from Pat Kusel, 01227 830272.

**Felling:** Railtrack has given notice that it intends to carry out line-side tree and shrub management on the railway embankment south east of Bekesbourne station. Species causing safety problems will be felled.

Species to be retained include oak, hazel, birch, hawthorn and blackthorn.

**Service:** The service in St Peter's Church, on Sunday, is BCP Communion, at 8am.



KG . Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2000

## BISHOPSBOURNE

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

**Parish church:** The coffee morning and Christmas bazaar in aid of church funds due to be held in the Conrad Hall on Saturday, has been cancelled because of the flooding in the village. It is now planned to have a coffee morning and bring and buy sale in the spring.

For the same reason, the induction and institution of the new Rector, the Rev David Roper, on Thursday, December 7, has been moved from Bishopsbourne to Barham.

The ceremony will be held in St John's Church at 7.30pm.

Following the service there will be a reception in Barham Village Hall.

This Sunday, there will be Holy Communion at St Mary's at 9.30am, with the Rev Barbara Way as celebrant, and a special United Service at St Giles's Church, Kingston, at 11am to celebrate the



first Sunday of Advent.

**Flooding:** The parish council discussed the village flooding at length at its meeting last Wednesday. The chairman, Malcolm Mitchell, presided.

Concern was felt not just about the current situation, which has seen homes, flooded with water and others with sewage but about the future. It was decided to hold a village meeting in the Conrad Hall, at 7.30pm, on December 13.

All the authorities involved in dealing with the flooding, the Environment Agency, Southern Water, city council and county council officials responsible for flooding, highways, drainage and health will be invited to attend, along with county councillor Martin Vye and city councillor Bill Oakey.

They will be asked to report on what they had done so far to alleviate the effects of the flooding and what they plan to do to avoid a repetition.

**Meeting:** An informal meeting was held in The Mermaid on Thursday, attended by a large number of villagers, Paul Kent, area manager of Southern Water, and Vivian Pritchard and Steve Rivers of the city/county council highways unit.

The meeting was opened by county councillor Martin Vye who said he was appalled at what he had seen. It was a serious situation.

When the crisis had passed he intended to call a meeting of all the parish councils in the Elham Valley and all the agencies involved to "rewrite the emergency book" so that it could not happen again.

Villager Tim Wisdom said the



Villager Tim Wisdom said the sewerage system was "catastrophic" and should be sorted out as soon as possible.

Many villagers told of sewage coming up in their homes, which the authorities seemed powerless to prevent.

Vivian Pritchard of the highways unit said rivers were generally the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

However, in the case of the Nailbourne the agency was responsible only for the waterway below Bourne Park. It had no jurisdiction over the river upstream of the park; that was the responsibility of the various owners of land through which the river bed passed.

It was suggested that the line marking the beginning of the Environment Agency's responsibility should be moved back to Lyminge as a matter of urgency.

Mr Pritchard said the highways unit would help whenever it could even if it had no direct liability to do so.

But it could not just issue sand bags willy nilly. Although the unit was aware the previous week the river had started to flow, and had cleared culverts under bridges, it did not know it would be so bad.

The unit had been tackling flooding problems since early October throughout the district and was fully stretched. The unit would continue to work 24 hours a day for the foreseeable future.

Steve Roberts said the unit's budget was already seriously overspent - and it was still early winter. He said the Environment Agency could not cope, being fully stretched by the situation in Yalding and other parts of the county.

Paul Kent, of Southern Water, said a temporary extra pump had been installed at Bekesbourne to try to reduce the pressure on the sewerage system - but it had mysteriously been turned off several times (probably by a villager) until another pump which could not be tampered with was brought in.

He would have a pump installed to pump out sewers in the village the following day in an attempt to reduce the pressure on them and allow the sewage flow to cease.

Mr Kent said there was a massive amount of water on the move down the Elham Valley following the wettest autumn for the 250 years since records started.

He promised Southern Water would continue to do as much as it could "although at present I cannot do any more."



K G. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2000

## BRIDGE

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

**Coffee:** A coffee morning with bring and buy and raffle will be held in Saxon Lodge, Western Avenue, on Thursday, December 7, from 10.15am.

**Playgroup:** On Tuesday, December 12, from 10.45am to noon, the group is performing a Nativity play in the village hall. All are welcome. There will also be refreshments, raffle, lucky dip and cake stall.

On Friday, December 15, in the village hall, the last day of term, there will be a Christmas party between 9am and 12.30pm. The spring term starts, Monday, January 8. Because of increased demand, there is now an extra fours session on Wednesday mornings; contact Joanne Watt on 832343.

**School:** Senior citizens are invited to an entertainment on Thursday, December 14, 1.30 to 3pm. Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Mrs Andrews on 830276 if you wish to join them, also if you require transport.

**Health For All:** The recent wine and wisdom held in aid of health and education projects in Bihar, India, the charity sponsored by the Bridge and Littlebourne surgeries, raised £741.96.

The trustees thank all who took part, helped with preparations,



KG NOV. 30<sup>th</sup> 2000

donated raffle prizes or supported the event in any other way.

**Knees-up:** The Friends of The New Close this year held a November Knees Up instead of their usual Christmas fair. This consisted of a afternoon of music and dancing provided by Anna Goulden accompanied by her husband.

There was also a buffet together with a tombola, craft stall and raffle. The event raised more than £300 towards special needs for the residents. Irene Ellis the chairwoman thanks all who helped

**Concert:** The celebration of music for St Cecilia's Day in St Peter's Church, Bridge before an appreciative audience, emphasised the talent and versatility of the various choral groups which together form Canzonet.

**WI:** Bridge and Patrixbourne branch annual meeting was held in the village hall. The secretary Shirley Collingwood reported that in the past year they gained four new members, but lost five

Wendy Durell gave an account of the half-yearly council meeting when Evelyn Oxlade received for the institute a certificate commemorating its 80th birthday.

Jean Foster won the competition cup, with Daisy Watson the runner-up. Jean Foster's egg cup won this month's competition.

Evelyn Oxlade was re-elected as the president and Mary Lanaway remains as treasurer. Beryl Heap is the new secretary.

At the earlier date of Tuesday, December 12, at 7.30pm in the village hall, there will be a folk-dancing session led by Norah Watkinson followed by a buffet supper, for which members are each asked to supply a plate of food and a glass.

The competition is a Christmas table decoration.

**Wine and wisdom:** This event in aid of the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge, held in the village hall raised £236. The organisers thank all those who contributed.

**Coffee morning:** A coffee morning in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance held in the village hall raised £317. Glynnis Austin, the organiser, thanks all who helped.

**Church services:** On Sunday, 10am Holy Communion is at St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Matins at St Mary's church, Patrixbourne and 11am Bridge Methodist Church (toy service) led by the Rev David Marshall.

**Gifts:** Family gift collection in St Peter's Bridge will be at the 10am Holy Communion on Sunday, December 17.

Families and friends are invited to bring a Christmas present for one of the elderly residents at the New Close, Conyngham Lane. Presents should be gift wrapped, and for the aid of the staff it would be helpful to indicate if a present is specifically for a man or a woman.