

Feb. 1 2001.

## BRIDGE

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

**Gardeners:** At the annual meeting of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society, there was a talk by Barbara Beevin, home economist and regional speaker from Sainsbury's supermarkets, on the history and the development of the company. New services such as shopping by the Internet, home delivery and advisory services were also described.

The speaker was thanked by the president John Anderson.

Chairman Roger Austin thanked allofficers and members of the committee for their support.

He also announced, that as he was now to be chairman of the Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies, he would have divided loyalties. If his workload increased he would have to consider resigning from the society next year after many years in the post and some thought should be given to a possible successor.

The treasurer, Ann Edmonds, reported that funds were still healthy although down on last year. Extra expense was incurred in 2000 by the society exhibiting in the Bridge Millennium Flower Festival, and also, it was the only one to exhibit from south of Canterbury in the Herne Bay Millennium Garden Exhibition.

The show secretary, Joan Stingemore, said entries were slightly up on the previous year, and thanked Billie Anderson and members of the committee for their help in setting up of the spring and summer shows.

The secretary Kathy Walder appealed for new blood on the committee. The committee was disappointed, considering the size

of the membership, with the numbers attending meetings and outings.

It would like to hear from members on what subjects they would like talks and presentations to be about and at what time of year would they like outings to take place. It would be a great pity if the society, which has been in existence in one form or another since 1911, should have to fold through apathy.

The committee was elected as follows: Chairman, Roger Austin; vice-chairman, the Rev John Shorrocks; treasurer, Ann Edmonds; secretary, Kathy Walder; show secretary, Joan Stingemore; committee: Billie Anderson, Ethel Cartwright, Betty Cope, Bill Oakey, with two others yet to be co-opted.

Billie and John Anderson won the tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show. The first meeting of the year will be a talk and demonstration on pruning by Roger Austin, at the Methodist Church on Thursday, February 22, at 7.30pm. All members and friends are welcome.

**Coffee:** A coffee morning and Annual General Meeting for the Nailbourne League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals will be held in Bridge Village Hall, on Saturday, February 10, from 10am to noon. There will be a bring and buy and raffle and donations will be gratefully received.

**Council:** The parish council will meet in the Hunter Room of the village hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 8.

**Church services:** On Sunday, 8am BCP Communion with the Rev Paul Filmer is at St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne; 10am Communion with the Rev John Shorrocks at St Peter's Church, Bridge and 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by Mr M. Baybutt.

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 2001

## BRIDGE

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

**Wisdom:** A wine and wisdom evening has been organised by the parish churches of the Bridge group, in aid of the Indian Earthquake Disaster. This will be held on Saturday, February 17 at 7.15pm, in the Bridge Primary School, Conyngham Lane.

Tickets are available from Pat Dunderdale on 01227 830668; Andrea Nicholson on 01227 830947; or John Anderson on 01227 830260, £5 each including a light supper. Please bring own cutlery, plates glasses and liquid refreshment of your choice.

**Fish scheme:** A coffee pop-in will be held in the village hall on Wednesday, February 14, from 10 to 11.15am. All are welcome.

**Pudding:** A pudding evening in aid of local churches was held in the village hall on Saturday evening, when 30 parishioners sampled eight varieties of sumptuous desserts entered into the competition, plus an extra presentation donated by last year's winner, Phil Andrews.

Each sampling was preceded by a suitable grace by the Rev Paul Filmer. To keep the company entertained, a number of quizzes and a raffle was held during the proceedings. The winner this year was voted to be Julie Lathom.

The event raised £200 for the fund and was considered to be a most entertaining evening. The organisers thank all who in any way contributed.

**Gig:** On Sunday evening, Carousel, who play popular music of all sorts, are at the Red Lion, Bridge.

**Church services:** On Sunday at 10am Matins with Dr Andrea Nicholson is at St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 11am family service (Education Sunday) with the Rev P. Filmer and 6pm Evensong with Mr Filmer, and Mrs M. Clarke at St

Peter's Church, Bridge, and 11am  
Bridge Methodist Church service,  
with the Rev David Marshall.

Feb. 8th 2001

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2004

## BRIDGE

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

**Flood:** Last Thursday, the flooding situation became critical for many residents living in areas surrounding the Nailbourne in the village. Brewery Lane, Bridgeford Way and parts of the High Street were particularly badly threatened.

Being a working day it was difficult to raise volunteers to assist in the sandbagging operation. However the prompt arrival of three members of the Environment Agency with a lorry load and assisted by city councillor Bill Oakey and the chairman of the parish council John Anderson, they got down to the task of stemming the flow of the flood to the most vulnerable areas and increasing the defences elsewhere.

After some hours work it looked as though they had managed to contain the damage to a minimum. By early evening however, the river continued to rise, overflowing its banks again and the rise in the water table caused water to thrust upwards through the drains and manhole covers. This was further complicated by pollution with sewage in some areas.

Two of the public houses had to cease trading, and the remaining one was only able to serve drinks. On Friday, there being no hot food available in the village, John and Billie Anderson, John and Wendy

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2001

opened up the village hall at noon to provide soup and French bread, tea and biscuits free to anyone in need of help.

Although the immediate threat seems to have passed, John Anderson thanks, on behalf of the village, Cllr Bill Oakey and those Environment Agency employees for their prompt action. At the same time he feels that it would be desirable to draw up a list of names and phone numbers of anyone prepared to help in any emergency in the village should that occur anytime in the future. They are asked to contact the parish clerk on 01303 862814.

**Hospitals:** The annual meeting of the local branch of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals was held at a coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday.

Elizabeth Stewart reported on a better year, due in part to fund-raising for specific items such as a camera much-needed by Stewart Coltart and the oncology department for cancer care, also a laptop computer for Stewart Field and his breast-screening team, to aid the smooth running of this valuable department. Letters of thanks were read from both.

The committee for the next year will be: Chairman, Elizabeth Stewart; vice-chairman, Rosy Green; treasurer, Maggie Fairweather; secretary, Christine Heap; committee, Wendy Durrell, Madeleine Franklin, Jane Millyard, Kat Whitten, and Ann Medhurst.

Anyone interested in the work of the League, wishing to lend a hand or has ideas for fund-raising can call Elizabeth Stewart on 01227 830344 or Rosy Green on 01227 830204.

The group thanks not only those who regularly give their support time and money, but also to those who supported the annual meeting and coffee morning, raising a further £220.65.

Further 1220.00.  
k  
y  
6.  
**Wisdom:** There will be a wine and wisdom at the primary school on Saturday in aid of the Indian earthquake disaster appeal. There are still a few places left. Ring Pat Dunderdale on 01227 830668 for details.

**WI:** The next meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday, at 7.30pm. A talk is to be given by Mr R. Black entitled Boots, Backpack and Blisters.

The competition is for a favourite brooch. Visitors and friends are welcome.

**Gardeners:** The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's next meeting will be held in the Bridge Methodist Church on Thursday, February 22, at 7.30pm.

The society's Roger Austin will give a talk and demonstration on pruning. Members are invited to take a plant for this purpose.

**Church:** Services on Sunday are: 10am, Communion, Canon Gordon Manley, St Peter's Church Bridge; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, led by the Rev George Baugh.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

**Tele-cottage:** The survey to establish interest in the village is to be carried out with a questionnaire to be delivered to all households. The chairman thanked Cllr Connor for all the work he had done on this matter.

**Recreation ground footpath:** It was agreed that work to level this footpath should be undertaken and the contractor is to be instructed to start the work as soon as possible.

**Streets and footways:** Kent Highways are to be contacted to rectify two road signs which are not in their correct position and also asked to move a High Street sign which has been positioned so that it is in Station Road.

The request for the footpath at Renville to be extended has been acknowledged by Kent Highways and they are investigating the matter with a view to adding any proposal to the village traffic plan programme. The drain opposite the bottle bank in Town Hill is blocked and the matter will be drawn to the attention of the Patricbourne and Bekesbourne Parish Council.

**Planning applications:** The following planning applications have been received: Glazed roof to courtyard and re-positioning of fire-escape staircase at The Plough and Harrow, Bridge. Internal and external alterations at The Plough and Harrow, Bridge. Amended plans/additional information for 19 Riverside Close have also been received.

The following planning applications have been notified as granted: Provision of front step at

Feb. 15th 2007

## BISHOPSBOURNE

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

**Parish church:** The traditional second Sunday in the month 11am Matins service was held at St Mary the Virgin Church on Sunday, when prayers were said for flood victims.

It was conducted by Kay McGibney, a member of the Barham Downs united benefice ministry team. Lessons were read by Anne Neame and Sheila Castle and prayers were led by Pat Austin.

Congregation members were reminded that this Sunday, there will be Communion at St Mary's at 8am. Otherwise benefice services are: 9.45am, united service, Barham Methodist Church; 11am, Baptism and Communion, St Giles's, Kingston; 11am, morning worship, St Margaret's, Womenswold; 6pm, evening prayer, St John's, Barham.

The rector, the Rev David Roper, will lead daily prayers at Barham church at 8am Tuesday to Saturday.

In his "Pewsheets" the rector reflected on the latest flooding episode which, he said, "had devastated many of us." Although nobody had been killed or injured... "We need to be aware of the real sense of loss and bereavement felt by those whose homes have been invaded and despoiled by the rising water."

"I was encouraged and warmed by the extent to which neighbours helped one another and offered shelter to those in need - Christian service at its best."

**Wine and wisdom:** The quiz night scheduled to be held at the Conrad Hall on Saturday was called off on Friday due to flooding in The Street and the hall lavatories being out of action.

The quiz, in aid of hall funds, will be held later, at a date to be announced.

A hall trustee said: "It was very disappointing for everyone, particularly as we had bought all the food and wine and had a full number of participants. Hopefully they will all take part when we do manage to hold it."

**Floods:** Flooding returned to the village on Thursday after 24 hours of incessant rain. Several houses previously unaffected were inundated and many suffered for a second or third time.

The city council delivered an emergency supply of sandbags which were distributed to the most vulnerable homes.

The Nailbourne burst its banks in Charlton Park where a cricket club footbridge was washed away and roads in and out of the village became impassable as up to two feet of water swept through The Street.

On Friday, the government minister responsible for dealing with floods, Elliot Morley, visited the village.

He was responding to a call from Canterbury MP, Julian Brazier, who had visited the village earlier and told Mr Morley's aides that the village flooding was "the worst I

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2001



Parish council chairman Malcolm Mitchell welcomed him and urged upon him the need to get the Environment Agency to accept responsibility for the river stretches above Bourne Park.

On Sunday, a group of visitors dug out a ditch in the paddock at the foot of Rose Lane to divert floodwater back into the river and prevent it flowing across the allotments and inundating The Street, threatening worse flooding to properties.

The work proved to be successful and almost immediately levels began to fall, although the road at the junction with Frog Lane continued to be impassable to all but off-road vehicles and tractors.

**Shrove Tuesday:** A Barham Downs benefice pancake party will be held in the Conrad Hall on Tuesday, February 27, at 6.30pm.

Fun, games and pancake racing "for children of all ages" is promised at this family event.

Admission is free but those wishing to attend should advise their churchwardens.

Bishopsbourne residents should contact Gill Applin, phone 01227 700693.

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2001

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001

## BRIDGE

To advertise ring 01227 768

CT4 5NA, phone 01227 830260.

**Appeal:** The wine and wisdom in aid of the Indian Earthquake Appeal, organised by the Bridge group of parishes, was a great success. It was held in the primary school hall on Saturday as the demand for tickets far outweighed the space available in the village hall.

The total amount raised was £760. The Rev Paul Filmer thanked all whose hard work made the event possible, coupled with those who supported it.

**School:** Last weekend saw the arrival of the first heavy machinery to prepare for the replacement of the primary school's mobile classrooms with a permanent building. From this week no vehicles, either staff or visitors, will be allowed to park on the school road, between 7.30am and 6pm.

During the summer holidays the whole school will be out of bounds to all the staff and visitors, with no vehicles allowed anywhere on the site. It is hoped that the project will be completed around the end of October.

In the meantime all those involved in the reconstruction works apologise for any inconvenience caused to staff, parents and parishioners.

**Hit and run:** Last Wednesday week at about 7pm in the centre of the High Street, a white van was seen to collide with a parked Ford Fiesta shunting it into two parked cars behind. The van sped off, but witnesses had taken the registration number and the matter is under police investigation.

**Calming:** Traffic-calming measures due to start in the village this month will be delayed owing to pressure of work on the Highways Department due to flooding. They hope to commence as soon as possible.

**Flooding:** A further deluge added to the distress of those residents in

**Flooding:** A further deluge added to the distress of those residents in the Brewery Lane, High Street area already having been flooded before and this time by as much as a foot of water in some cases.

This has not been without the humour and stoicism often demonstrated by people in adversity. Neighbours have met neighbours they have never spoken to before.

The most affected in the village have got together to form The Bridge Yacht Club, and at the inaugural meeting discussed topics such as a regatta, navigation rights, mooring, pennants and the discharge of foul waters! They intend to hold an annual dinner at a local hostelry as the only land-locked yacht club in the British Isles.

The officers are: Commodore, Charles D Scott; secretary, Chris Maclean; treasurer, Adrian Mortimer; cabin boy, Mary Maclean; lock keeper, Elisa Hudson. Anyone interested in joining should apply the secretary.

Also seen in the village was a flight of plastic ducks swimming on the lake outside the front door of the village butchers shop.

**Gig:** Tomorrow (Friday) evening The Odd Couple, with Drew and Jez offering songs and harmonies, are at the White Horse.

**Church news:** There will be a concert entitled Flowers Familiar and Less Familiar at St Peter's Church, on Wednesday, April 4 at 8pm in aid of the church restoration appeal. Details will be announced shortly.

The new family service on the second Sunday of the month at 11am in St Peter's Church Bridge has really taken off, with well over 100 parishioners aged between three weeks and 82 years. A warm welcome is extended to all those, who have not yet had the opportunity to attend this service.

Services on Sunday are: 8am BCP Communion, with the Rev John Shorrocks, at St Peter's Church Bridge; 10am Communion, with the Rev John Thackray, at St Mary's Church Patrixbourne; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service, led by the Rev Donald Lugg.

Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in the Bridge Methodist Church Patrixbourne Road, on Friday, March 2 at 11am.

On Ash Wednesday, February 28, Communion is at St Peter's Church, at 7.30pm with the Rev Paul Filmer. Benefice Lent course starts on Tuesday, March 6, at lunchtime on Tuesdays, noon-1.30pm and Thursday evenings starting March 8, 8 to 9.30pm. The

Feb. 22nd 2001