

April 5th 2001

BRIDGE

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

FISH scheme: Coffee pop-in will be held in the village hall between 10am and 11.15am on Wednesday, April 11. All are welcome.

The Cornelia Slavin Blossom Tour will be on Wednesday, May 2 and the annual fund-raising coffee morning in Bridge Village Hall will be on Saturday, May 19.

Annual: The annual meeting of North Nailbourne Ward Conservative Association will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, at 7.30pm.

Concert: The Bridge-based Madrigal Singers including Quodlibet, are performing in a special concert for Passiontide and Easter entitled Some Sacred and Some Secular, at Littlebourne parish church, on Wednesday, April 11, at 8pm.

Tickets are £5 including refreshments, available from John Anderson on 830260, the Rev John Allen on 01227 721233, the Canterbury Visitors Centre, or on the door if any are left.

Easter Lilies: Anyone wishing to buy a lily for St Peter's Church Bridge can contact Vic Brazier, on 830981. The cost this year will be about £2. Decorating the church will start at 10am, on Saturday, April 14, all help greatly appreciated, especially newcomers.

Sadly, the numbers are falling on the rota, and a few extra people are desperately needed.

Also, at St Mary's Church, Patribourne, if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of lilies please forward donations to Andrea Nicholson, churchwards, Riverside Cottage, Patribourne, 830947. They will be decorating the church on the morning of Easter Saturday from 9.

They also need new people to join the rota of flower arrangers; you don't have to be an expert.

Services: Sunday (Palm Sunday): 10am Matins, Dr A. Nicholson, St Mary's Church, Patribourne; 11am, family service, the Rev P. Filmer; and 6pm Evensong, the Rev Filmer and Mrs Margaret Clarke at St Peter's Church, Bridge; 11am, Bridge Methodist Church service led by the Rev David Marshall.

Other churches in the Bridge group: 8am, Communion the Rev J. Shorrock, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 9.30am Communion, the Rev P. Filmer St Mary's, Nackington.

Holy Week services: Monday 8am the Rev P. Filmer, morning prayer and Tuesday, 12.30pm Communion

the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bridge.

Wednesday, 6pm, evening prayer, the Rev J. Shorrock, St Mary's Church, Patribourne; 7.30pm, Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae, Bridge School.

Good Friday, 10am children's workshop (at John Baker White Hall) Mrs M. Clarke to join the walk of Witness walkers in acts of worship at St Peter's, Bridge.

Walk of Witness from Bekesbourne to Bridge via Patribourne, with acts of worship in each church, 10am St Peter's, Bekesbourne, 11am St Mary's, Patribourne, noon, St Peter's Bridge.

Legion: Littlebourne and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will meet this month at the Plough and Harrow, Bridge; details of branch activities on 01227 812292.

PARISH MEETING

Chairman's report: Parish council chairman Cllr Anderson reported that the work done on the flood alleviation scheme last year had prevented the flooding emergency this winter being far worse. Bridge was one of the few villages that had a flood emergency action plan in 1988 and in light of recent experiences steps are being taken to bring it up to date in co-operation with other villages along the Nailbourne and Stour.

The council has been assured that the footbridge over the ford will be replaced by Kent County Council when conditions allow.

It was regretted that a once in a lifetime opportunity to extend the village hall had not reached a satisfactory conclusion.

The Bridge Millennium Festival was an outstanding success last year both in the summer and autumn and Cllr Anderson thanked all whose hard work and enthusiasm had made it such an outstanding occasion. Cllr Anderson also thanked Alan Walton, the chairman, and Cllr Christine Beer who liaised between their committee and the parish council.

The council, in consultation with the Kent county and city councils, is still interested in exploring the possibility of a footpath and cycle track from Bridge to Canterbury but this is on the back burner at present owing to the development of the park and ride and the fact that the council officer concerned has changed his allegiance to a different authority.

An exhibition of plans for traffic calming produced by the Kent Highways at the highway management unit at the city council was displayed in the village hall over a three day period. Visitors were asked to complete a questionnaire with their comments and these were analysed to obtain the overall view of the village,

largely in favour of the scheme. This scheme is now in the process of being implemented.

With the closure of the footpaths due to the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease, dog fouling of the streets and footpaths is now becoming a problem and, although he recognised that not all owners were being irresponsible, Cllr Anderson appealed to dog owners to clean up after their dogs.

During the year vandalism within the village had included the seat outside the post office and the concrete seat at the bridge and crime in general was on the increase.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is due to close at the end of April unless new co-ordinators can be found and Cllr Anderson appealed to parishioners to volunteer and keep the scheme up and running.

Hall management: Cllr Gulvin, on behalf of the village hall management committee, reported that the general licence had been granted. The hall is in regular use including weekends and income was above that of last year with more money on reserve.

A letter of thanks had been sent to Bridgeway Stores who hold the keys for the village hall. The management committee was disappointed that the shop could not be acquired to extend the hall.

Village sports trust: On behalf of the trust Cllr Gulvin reported that the trust pays its way and has a small surplus of funds.

Acts of vandalism had occurred but this was mainly broken glass and the trust was determined not to give in to vandalism and erect screens. More storage space is required and this is to be addressed in 2001/2002.

The junior and senior football teams have been unable to use the pitch since October due to the extreme weather conditions and may ask for a review of their fees.

School: Mrs Anderson a primary school governor, reported that the building of new classrooms was progressing well. To help alleviate the parking problems at the school, Mr Houghton is undertaking traffic duty at the beginning and end of the school day. The school has received a school achievement award. Over the last 10 years, five members of staff have moved on to take headships at other schools.

Mr Birrell has been named as sports teacher of the year by the sports district advisory council. Mrs Clubb has been presented to the Queen at a reception at Buckingham Palace in acknowledgement of her contribution to services in education, two members of staff have done an advanced teaching course and quite a few young people have come to the school on

work experience.

County Councillor: Cllr Vye reported that the new traffic measures are progressing swiftly and that although he is aware of divided opinion on them he supports the pedestrian crossing wholeheartedly.

Cllr Vye reported that traffic congestion at school drop-off and pick-up times remains a problem and that the school, to his knowledge, had not yet produced a green travel plan which was one of the conditions of granting planning permission for the new building. He reported that the school had tried to organise a Walking Bus project without success.

However there is a renewed initiative in the district to get such schemes started and there is city council money for start up costs.

Cllr Vye reported that he had been in touch with Mrs Newton and Mrs Whatley and a new attempt is being made to recruit volunteers.

On flooding, Cllr Vye said that we cannot be sure that the worst is over, but the likelihood is that the risk is receding and that the crucial task is to draw up plans for next winter and the future.

He said that Bridge is unique along the Nailbourne in that the Environment Agency did improve the channel through the village last winter and the problems this year came from run-off and newly appearing springs rather than from the stream itself.

The crisis had illustrated the deficiencies in the drainage and sewerage systems and Cllr Vye reported that he has assisted in setting up a meeting for the parish councils along the Nailbourne with the intention to establish a list of requirements for essential improvements to reduce damage to property and misery caused to people if there is a recurrence of the deluge.

Cllr Vye thanked Mr T. Pears and Cllr Oakey for the work they were doing with regard to flooding.

City Councillor: Cllr Oakey: In his report, Cllr Oakey said that the last 12 months had been full of activity. On the good side was the overdue traffic calming scheme with the first phase of the calming measures have already started.

Cllr Oakey reported that last June planning permission was granted for the construction of the new medical centre and it would have been in use now, but for the heavy rainfall last winter delaying its construction. The NHS advise that the medical centre should now be open by this autumn.

Cllr Oakey reported that on the adverse side was the fact that Bridge had been hit by the flooding Nailbourne, although not nearly as badly as the neighbouring villages

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of Patricbourne and Bishopsbourne.

Cllr Oakey said that one good thing emerging during the flooding was the spirit of neighbourliness and this was exemplified by the soup kitchen set up in the village hall and the impromptu river party set up in Brewery Lane. Cllr Oakey said that one of this compensates the victims who are still dealing with the aftermath of the flooding.

Cllr Oakey recommended that the parish council reactivate its emergency task force set up in 1988 and to look to appoint a flood/emergency warden. The city council has set up a flood scrutiny committee to look at ways of better coping with such future emergencies.

Scrutiny: Cllr T. Pears, chairman of the county council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, gave a brief outline of the restructuring of the local government and how this had brought about the committee being set up to undertake a public interest inquiry into the recent and ongoing flooding in the county.

He said the final report of the committee was to be put before the city council in April and he gave a brief insight as to the contributory factors that had been taken into account and the recommendations that the committee had made which it was hoped would be taken on board.

Meeting: The parish council will meet in the Hunter Room, village hall, on Thursday, April 12, at 7.30pm; all parishioners welcome.

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BRIDGE

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

Gardeners: The spring show of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society held in Bridge Village Hall was of a high standard.

However as always, it is very difficult owing to the vagaries of the weather to judge the right

week to hold it. Certainly it would have been more desirable to have held it one or two weeks later as it turned out.

There were 11 exhibitors and 64 exhibits. The cup for the best bloom in the show was won by Joan Atkins with a daffodil, and she also won four firsts with her other exhibits.

Betty Cope won three firsts for her floral entries. Best floral display was won by Jean Foster.

Cookery section winners were Carol Pay and Betty Hill. The crafts section was won by Jean Foster.

The society's next event will be an evening visit to the city council nurseries at Eddington, Herne Bay, on Thursday, May 24.

Concert: Canzonet's latest concert, Flowers Familiar and Less Familiar was given before a fair-sized but appreciative audience in Bridge church.

This chamber choir, directed by Dr Peter Giles, reduces to smaller numbers as required by the music— notably on this occasion to the 12 and four-voice ensembles called Madrigal and Quodlibet respectively.

A seasonal programme was offered, both sacred and secular. The principle work was Mendelssohn's unjustly neglected, tuneful cantata *Lauda Sion*, in which the main soprano soloist was Ruth Hoskins, and the second Sue Powell.

Canzonet provides all soloists and small-ensemble singers from its ranks, and the solos and numerous quartets in *Lauda Sion* admirably demonstrated the effectiveness of this.

The rest of the programme presented Bach's *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* and one of his settings of the *Passion Choral* sung in German; part-songs by Stanford and Quilter; Gibbons *Jesu Grant me this I Pray*, a miniature jewel sung beautifully by Quodlibet; Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*; and two *Messiah* choruses by Handel. The accompanist was Robert Scott.

Peter Giles provided the contrast by reading five short poems by George Herbert and A. E. Housman.

With further adjustment, this choral group promises to evolve into one with a smoothly distinctive style among comparable ensembles in the area, especially when singing unaccompanied.

Fair: A book fair in the village hall in aid of the Parish of Patricxbourne with Bridge, raised £461.

The churchwardens and the fund-raising committee thank those whose donations filled the hall, all

who sorted the books into various categories, and manned the stalls for long periods.

Extravaganza: Another musical has been put on by all the pupils of the primary school. Four performances of *The Rocky Monster Show* were admirably executed, demonstrating the wealth of latent talent brought out by the teaching staff.

Families, friends and others connected with the school were all unanimous in their praises. Thanks go not only to the cast, but to the production team as a whole for all the hard work in bringing it about and the sponsors who made it possible.

WI: The group will meet on Tuesday, in the village hall at 7.30pm, when the speaker Mr Caplan will relate his experiences as a prisoner in the Japanese jungle camps.

The competition is for a spring flower arrangement in an egg cup, the winner to go to the group meeting. Visitors will be made welcome.

Cesspits: A parishioner living on an estate in the newer part of the village dating from the 1960s found a couple of holes appearing in his back garden. These appear to be the remains of an old cesspit prior to the village being connected to mains drainage in the 1970s.

At the time, residents had to sign a form to say that they would fill them in. It may well be that this was not done at the time, or that the earth deposited in it has been washed away due to the excessively wet winter. However to avoid accidents residents should be made aware that this possibility exists, and keep a lookout for any unusual circumstances in their gardens.

School PFA: The wine and wisdom held at the end of March was a great success and raised £750. Thanks go to all who supported the event.

The PFA is holding a barn dance on Friday, May 18 at the John Baker White Memorial Hall, Lower Hardres at 7.30pm. Tickets are available after Easter from the school, £7.50 to include supper and refreshments.

There will be a children's line dancing evening on Friday, May 25, at the school for infants and juniors. The summer fair will be on Friday, June 22, from 1.30pm to 4pm on the front playground. Anyone wishing to have a stall or who is able to help out, please call Ros Beching on 831027.

Gig: On Saturday evening Three Blind Mice will offer cool jazz at the White Horse.

On Easter Monday there will be live music from 1pm and a charity head-shaving by Nick James, at

the Royal Marsden Hospital. For details ring 01227 830249.

Church services: 7.30pm tomorrow (Maundy Thursday) Tenebrae, Bridge Primary School. 10am Good Friday Walk of Witness from St Peter's Church Bekesbourne, to St Peter's, Bridge, via St Mary's, Patrixbourne with acts of worship in each church.

Easter Sunday, 10am Communion, the Rev G. Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 6pm Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's, Patrixbourne.

Other churches in the Bridge group: 8am, BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's, Nackington; 10am, family service with Communion, the Rev P. Filmer and Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; 10am, Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Peter's, Bekesbourne; 11am, Bridge Methodist, Holy Communion, the Rev George Baugh.

The annual meeting of the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge will take place in Bridge Primary School, at 7.30pm, on Wednesday, April 18.

Barbara Heather to preach.
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BISHOPSBOURNE

Correspondent: Malcolm Mitchell,
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Church news: The Rector, the Rev David Roper, conducted the Eucharist of the Last Supper and Foot Washing at St Mary the Virgin Church on Maundy Thursday.

Pat Austin and Lorna Kenyon were among those who had their feet washed by the rector to symbolise the events of the last Supper. Readings were by Kay McGibney and Kay Crouch.

On Good Friday, the rector, assisted by the new curate, Lyndsay Llewellyn, conducted the service at St Mary's at which lessons were read by Gill Applin and Lorna Kenyon. On Easter Day, the rector celebrated Communion at Bishopsbourne, at which he and Lorna Kenyon read lessons.

This Sunday, there will be no services at Bishopsbourne, but members of the congregation are invited to attend any of the services being held at other churches in the Barham Downs united benefice. These will be at: 8am, Communion, St Margaret's Church, Womenswold; 11am, Communion, St Giles's Church, Kingston; 11am, family service, St John's Church, Barham; 5.30pm, evening prayer, Barham House.

The annual meeting of St Mary's Parochial Church Council will be held at 6.30pm tonight (Thursday) in the Conrad Hall. The rector will preside and reports will be given on the church's activities during the year. All villagers are welcome.

Traffic: A meeting has been held at Highland Court between Highland Court Investments, Kent County Council, Canterbury City council, Kingston, Bridge and Bishopsbourne parish councils to discuss the continuing nuisance

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caused by heavy Continental refrigerated fruit lorries which invade country lanes in the area after getting lost while trying to find Highland Court or return from it to the A2 main road.

In December, during the floods, one such lorry found its way to Bishopsbourne, damaging roadside verges, a lawn and demolishing the parapet of a bridge over the Nailbourne in Charlton Park, almost damming the river.

It was agreed to introduce an improved system of signposting to and from Highland Court, which will be put in place by Kent Highways.

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BRIDGE

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Allotments: Councillors agreed at the last meeting that once the bottom allotments have been cleared a new estimate would be obtained for bringing water on to the site.

Post office bench: The new post office bench has been delivered and is awaiting installation.

Planters: The planters outside The White Horse Inn are to be renovated and planted.

Streets and footways: Several matters have been reported to the city council including the reappearance of the potholes in Bekesbourne Lane which were filled in during the last week in March, the accumulation of rubbish by the recycling bins and a blocked drain outside the village hall.

Village sign: It was agreed to repaint the village sign and the parish council notice board and an estimate is to be obtained.

Planning applications: The following planning applications have been received and have been commented upon by the planning sub-committee: Erection of boundary walls to front of dwelling at 21 The Close, Union Road, Bridge; replacement single-storey extension to rear of dwelling at 5 Ford Close, Bridge; internal alterations to The Red Lion PH, 75 High Street, Bridge.

The following planning applications have been granted: First floor side extension to dwelling and single storey extension to rear of garage at 65 Riverside Close, Bridge; conservatory and two storey extension to rear and alterations to front porch at 19 Riverside Close, Bridge.

Neighbourhood Watch: It was reported that PC Ken Bradshaw, Neighbourhood Watch liaison officer, had received a good response to the circulation of his closure notice. He is now very hopeful of being in a position to re-establish the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme within the village and a meeting of the interested volunteers is to be held within the next two weeks.

WI: Six visitors joined members at

the April meeting to hear Jack Caplan's talk. He had nightmares for years after his release from a Japanese jungle camp, where he witnessed comrades dying of disease and malnutrition from which they all suffered.

Jean Foster won the competition for an arrangement of spring flowers in an eggcup. The annual resolutions will be discussed at the May 15, meeting in the village hall, at 7.30pm. There will be no speaker. The competition will be an unusual pottery dish.

Annual: The meeting of Patricxbourne with Bridge Parochial Church Council took place in Bridge School Hall. The Rev Paul Filmer presided and welcomed everyone.

Following the resignation of John Anderson as churchwarden of the parish, Lawrence Dunderdale was elected to fill the office and will be sworn in at the next Archdeacon's Visitation in Canterbury Cathedral, next month.

Andrea Nicholson was re-elected as churchwarden, while in line with the new policy to elect two churchwardens for each church, David Lathom was elected for Bridge and Pauline Pritchard for Patricxbourne.

After receiving the various reports from the officers, elections were held to confirm the appointment of two deanery synod representatives Billie Anderson and Christine Hoare.

New appointments were then confirmed for the 15 members of the parochial church council, plus a volunteer auditor Vivian Pritchard for the coming year.

In his retiring speech John Anderson thanked all who had supported him during his term in office, in particular Dr Nicholson his co-churchwarden and Lawrence and Pat Dunderdale.

With priest-in-charge Mr Filmer now completing his first year and with Margaret Clarke recently joining the group as lay reader, he wished them all well for the future.

GIG: Tomorrow (Friday) evening Little Rock guitar and vocal duo will be at The White Horse, Bridge.

Church services: On Sunday there will be only two services in the Bridge group, 8am BCP Communion with the Rev John Shorrock, at St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres and 10am Benefice Communion, with the Rev Paul Filmer, at St Mary's Church, Nackington. The 11am Bridge Methodist Church service will be led by Mr M. Baybutt.

Primary school: The school has received The School Achievement Award which recognises the work of all staff in maintaining consistently high standards in recent years. In addition, as the result of a recent assessment of Quality South East, the school has now been awarded the Investors in People standard.

Four performances of The Rocky Monster Show were much enjoyed by parents and friends of the school. The show was directed by Mrs S. Murrell and accompanied on the piano by Mr S. Corfield.

Children took part in the Easter egg hunt organised by the PFA. Permission was given to use the grounds of the New Close as the school field is at present disrupted by building work.

At a special assembly on the last day of term, children listened to the Easter story read by members of staff. The Rev Paul Filmer gave the blessing.

A presentation was made to Sue Murrell who after nine years at Bridge has left to take over the post of headteacher at Barham School. She received several gifts from parents, colleagues and children.