

BRIDGE

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

Playgroup: The new term began this week at the village hall. Mondays and Wednesday sessions are dedicated fours mornings, mainly for preschool children with emphasis on skills that will be needed at school, fees are £4.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday sessions are for the playgroup plus the fours, the fees being £3.75.

The OFSTED inspection was passed successfully. For details phone Nicola Adam on 01227 721395, or the Playgroup mobile on 07980425109.

Institute: Bridge with Patricxbourne WI branch will meet in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, January 15, at 7.30pm when Mrs Jan Glover will talk on basket making.

The competition will be a photograph of a winters scene. Visitors and new members will be welcome.

Village surgery: The medical practice in Bridge has, over the last 10 years, expanded from a single GP to three full-time doctors, with nearly double the number of patients and the list still growing.

The new surgery, to replace the existing bungalow, opening on January 28, will enhance the range of services that the practice is required to offer.

The ground floor will have a waiting area with children's facilities, a reception office with secure storage for patient records, and a new computer system, two consulting rooms, a visiting consultant / therapist room, minor operations room, nurse treatment room, district nurse / health visitor / patient confidential interview room, and toilets.

On the first floor there will be a staff training and meeting room, two offices and staff kitchen.

There will be on-site parking for patients and staff, replacing the present street parking in Green Court.

The building will have a full range of facilities for the disabled, including designated car parking.

Expanded services for patients are increased doctor's surgery time, with minor operations being undertaken, in-house clinics with visiting hospital consultants and therapists, and extra nurse clinics.

There will also be an opportunity for in-house physiotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture and chiropody clinics, for which patients now have to travel to

Littlebourne or to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

The surgery will be open for viewing from 10am to noon on Saturday, January 26.

Concert: The King's School Crypt Choir and King's Musicians will perform in concert at St Peter's Church, Bridge, on Saturday, February 9, at 7.30pm, in aid of St Peter's Church restoration fund.

Tickets at £5, to include puddings in the interval, are available from Pat Dunderdale (830668) or Andrea Nicholson (830947).

Bill Dawson: The funeral took place at St Peter's Church Bridge, of the well-known village personality who will leave a gap in the community.

Mr Dawson was born in Dunstable but moved to London in 1960. In 1978, with qualifications in graphic design, he started his own business designing signs.

Nearly 14 years ago he started to visit and stay with his partner, David, in Bridge and gradually became involved in village activities, moving here seven years ago.

He undertook various duties concerning the running of the village hall and with the late Jim Tamsett founded the Bridge and District History Society.

He also undertook to revise and publish a new illustrated history of Bridge Church.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Canterbury Hospice.

Red Lion: John Leeming, landlord of the newly-restored inn in the High Street, says that from Friday, January 18, the newly-fitted kitchen will be operating for the service of restaurant meals and bar snacks.

Surgeries: City councillor Bill Oakey, representing the North Nailbourne Ward, will hold his monthly surgeries on the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to noon on the following dates: for Bridge and Bishopstone at Bridge Methodist Church Hall, Patricxbourne Road, Bridge, January 19, March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16; for Bekesbourne and Patricxbourne at Bekesbourne Village Hall, Station Road, Bekesbourne, February 16, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19, December 21.

Confirmation: Classes are to begin in February. It is not too late to enrol by contacting the Rev Paul Filmer on 830250.

Lent begins early this year on February 13 and details of Lent events and courses will be announced shortly.

Church services: On Sunday, January 13, Epiphany 2, 10am Matins Mr C. Maclean, St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne. 11am Family service Mr M. Leggatt, Mrs M. Clarke and 6pm Evensong Mrs M. Clarke and the Rev D. Roper St Peter's Church, Bridge.

Other churches in the Bridge Group: 8am BCP Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 9.30am Holy Communion, the Rev J. Thackray, St Mary's Church, Nackington, 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by the Rev David Marshall.

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Bridge surgery: The old surgery in Green Court will close on the afternoon of Friday, January 25, and will re-open on Monday, January 28, at the new surgery in Patricbourne Road. The postal address will be: Bridge Health Centre, Patricbourne Road, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5BB, phone 01227 831900. All members of the public are invited to an open morning at the new surgery on Saturday, January 26, from 10am to noon.

White Horse: The pub has introduced a new range of bar snack menus, ranging from £3.50 to £5.50 with a main course selection at £6.95. They have also revised their restaurant table d'hote menu selec-

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tion to £10 for two courses and £15 for three, as well as a new a la carte menu. On Friday, January 18, Three Blind Mice will play jazz. On Friday, January 25, there will be a Burns Night Supper. For details phone 01227 830249.

Church News: To avoid double bookings in the area, the fund-raising committee of the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge has announced the dates of various events during 2002 as follows: King's School Singers Concert, Saturday, February 9, 7.30pm; Parish Supper, Bridge Village Hall, Saturday, March 9; book and puzzle fair Bridge Village Hall, Saturday, March 9; Treasure Hunt, Saturday, May 11; village fete, Snowdown Male Voice Choir St Peter's Church, 7.30pm, both on Saturday, July 22; Benefice barbecue, Saturday, July 13; coffee morning Bridge, Village Hall, Saturday, September 21; parish harvest lunch, Bridge Village Hall, Sunday, October 6; Christmas craft fair, Bridge School, Saturday, November 9; Wine and Wisdom, Bridge Village Hall, Saturday, November 16.

Meeting: The Caring and Sharing Group meets at 7.30am at 37 High Street, Bridge, on Tuesday, January 21.

Church Services: Sunday, January 20, Epiphany 3, 10am Holy Communion, Canon G. Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge. No service at Patrixbourne. Other Churches in the Bridge group: 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Lower Hardres; 10am, Holy Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 10am, Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; Bridge Methodist Church, 11am, service led by the Rev Howard Skinner.

Neighbourhood Watch: An attempted burglary in Bridge and a theft from a vehicle in Patrixbourne, both took place in the last week. Residents are reminded to ensure all locks, windows and doors are secure. The Police want to hear of any sighting in the area of a red Cherokee Jeep registration number N2 KBW.

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History Society: The next meeting in the village hall is on Tuesday, January 22, at 7.30pm. Brian Fagg will speak on Old Ramsgate, with a display of pictures. Members pay £1, non-members £3, including refreshments. It was with regret that members heard of the death of Bill Dawson, a founder member and until his final illness the secretary. It was on April 27, 1995, that the inaugural meeting was held under the temporary chairmanship of Mervyn Gulvin, whose brain-child it was. Mervyn was unable to undertake long-term chairmanship because of other commitments, but at that meeting Jimmy Tamsitt was appointed chairman and Bill Dawson secretary. From then on Bill gave great enthusiasm and dedication to his role and his energy will be greatly missed.

Joy Monk: Another important member of the village community, Joy Monk, died on December 27. Born in Tunbridge Wells in 1919, she finished her education at a school in Switzerland. On her marriage to the late Eric Monk, who was also local, they travelled extensively, Eric having achieved a senior rank in the Royal Air Force.

On their retirement, they moved to Bridge in the late 1970s when Joy immediately became an integral part of the village. A founder member of the Fish scheme, an organisation for the promotion of welfare for local senior citizens, and helping to organise their annual Blossom Tour, she also helped with the Churchill House Luncheon Club for some years.

A regular supporter of the local church, and a keen bridge player, she was widely known and respected. The funeral took place at St Peter's Church, Bridge, the Rev Paul Filmer officiating, followed by cremation at Barham. Donations can be made to the Canterbury Hospice.

PARISH COUNCIL: Golden Jubilee: Cllr Hill said he had looked at the various options for a souvenir for the children and had found one at good quality and reasonable cost. It was agreed that the criteria for eligibility would be all children up to the age of 18 who live in the parish of Bridge. To establish the numbers required, it was agreed

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that a leaflet with a return slip would be circulated to all households.

Christmas trees: It was reported that there had been many favourable comments on the Christmas tree display and the clerk had also received a letter from a resident in Riverside Close thanking the council for the display and hoping that the event continues in future years. Cllr Walder confirmed that he had all but one set of tree lights, which he should have shortly, and that he would store them for next year. Cllr Anderson thanked Cllrs Gulvin and Walder for their efforts.

Sandbags store: It was reported that the door to the sandbag store was now completely off and had been put in the store and, as the contents of the store were now obvious to all, councillors hoped that there would be no further vandalism. The clerk said the installer had advised that he could make a reasonable repair for a cost of about £200 but he felt it would not withstand further vandalism. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the city council with a copy to Cllr W. Oakey expressing disappointment that, as the store is in a public open space, it was not of a more durable quality and it was agreed that a decision as to whether to go ahead with the repair would not be taken until the city council's response had been received.

Planning applications: The following planning applications are being considered: Ca/01/1322/Bri, conservatory to rear of dwelling at 28 Western Avenue; Ca/01/1339/Bri, first floor side extension to dwelling (renewal) at 2 Filmer Road.

Applications granted:

Ca/01/0136/Bri, demolition of internal wall at Flat 4, Bridge Hill House, Higham Lane;

Ca/01/1322/Bri, conservatory to rear of dwelling at 28 Western Avenue; Cat01/0028/Bri, coppice four ash trees and one sycamore at High Beech, Patricxbourne Road.

Proposed work to trees in conservation area: Fell large yew tree in front garden at Cosby, Higham

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's 2002 programme begins in the village hall on Tuesday, January 29, at 7.30pm. Chairman Roger Austin will give an illustrated talk on the Birds in your Garden. There will also be a short annual meeting when members will have the opportunity to renew their subscriptions (£2.50 for single membership, or £4 for a family). This will also entitle them to be entered into the draw for the Chelsea Flower Show tickets in May. They also are looking forward to welcoming new members. They would like to hear from anyone with ideas for evening meetings and are, as ever, looking for new committee members.

Anyone interested can phone the secretary, Kathy Walder, on 01227 830057 or any other committee member, or volunteer on the night. The president, John Anderson, is seeking a greater participation from members to not only bring fresh blood and new ideas to the society, but also to assist the existing committee.

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Dog Fouling: It has been reported that there has been an outbreak of dog fouling in the area north west of the High Street, Union Road and the Post Office. Dog owners are reminded that it is a fineable offence if the faeces are not removed from the pavement.

Reminder: New Bridge Health Centre, Patricbourne Road, has an open morning from 10am to noon on Saturday, January 26. All are welcome.

Youth meeting: The parish council has organised an open meeting, Giving Voice to Youth in Bridge, in the village hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, January 31. It is open to everyone in the village, especially young people aged 12-18.

This is an opportunity to express your views about the youth in the village. Maybe about the vandalism, but more importantly about what is and is not available for the 120 or more young people for whom there is little, if anything, to do, apart from Guides and Scouts. The parish council wants to hear your views and suggestions as to what, if anything, needs to be done. Ideas suggested include a youth club, a

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drop-in centre, a Youth Forum, and day trips. There will be several speakers including the vicar, Rev Paul Filmer, and representatives from Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council and the Wye Youth Forum, who will talk briefly. Villagers are urged to join what should be a friendly and interesting evening, and to encourage their children to attend.

Coffee date: The League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals Nailbourne branch will hold a coffee morning and annual meeting on Saturday, February 2, in the village hall from 10am to noon. This will include cakes, raffle and bring and buy. On Saturday, March 23, they will hold a table boot fair, also in the village hall, so book a table or donate items to be sold in aid of the League. Clubs and organisations are welcome to book a table for their own fund-raising. For more details phone Rosy Green on 01227 830204.

Yellow Lines: Restrictions in the village are rarely enforced, owing to the lack of police manpower, but they have now been transferred to the responsibility of the Canterbury City Council parking attendants, whose numbers were increased last year, partly to enable them to supervise parking restrictions in the city but also in surrounding villages.

Teams will therefore be making staggered visits at anytime of day, between 8 and 9pm, and possibly at other times by request.

A number of vehicle owners have already received parking tickets around the village, so you have been warned!

WI: At the Bridge with Patnixbourne branch January meeting in the village hall, Mrs Jan Clover gave a brief history of basket making, and explained the materials used. Members tried their hands at making platters. Mavis Parsons won the photographic competition of a winter scene. On Tuesday, February 19, Avril Woolf will speak on My Life in Amateur Dramatics and the competition will be for an interesting mug.

Neighbourhood Watch: There have been many vehicle thefts in the Canterbury area and a parked vehicle was damaged in Bridge. Report any suspicious activity to the police on 01227 762055. Also, the police would still like to know the whereabouts of red Grand Cherokee Jeep, registration number N2KBW.

Gig: On Friday evening, January 25, Carmine Celtic Roots Music is offered at the White Horse Bridge.

After Eights: The group meets at 10 Union Road, Bridge, at 8pm, on Tuesday, January 29.

Church services: Sunday, January 27, Epiphany 4: 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church Bridge; 10am Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patnixbourne. Other churches in the Bridge Group: 9.30am Holy Communion, Canon R. Diss, St Mary's Nackington, 3pm Evensong Mrs M. Clarke, Mr Filmer, St Mary The Virgin Church, Lower Hardres, 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by the Rev Barbara Heather.

meeting in the village hall, Brian Fagg talked about the development of old Ramsgate from the 1600s. He was thanked by the chairman, John Bishop, who also reported £50 had been donated to the Canterbury Hospice in memory of the late Bill Dawson.

The next meeting will be a Ghost Evening on Tuesday, February 26, 7.30pm, at the White Horse, Bridge.

Primary school: In her latest report headmistress Mrs Anna Newton, said the Parents and Friends Association's annual meeting with more parents than usual attending to look around the new building. The general consensus was they had been fortunate to get such a good building, which was a huge improvement on the mobiles.

The PFA had been most supportive at school-based activities throughout the term. An Auction of Promises will be held on February 23, when the money raised will help pay for the new hall curtains and PE equipment. Mrs Dover arranged an exhibition of children's art work as part of the village's weekend art exhibition.

Last term there were 23 after-school clubs running throughout the week, which had to be a record.

Much of money raised at the Christmas bazaar was used to supplement the cost of all the children going to the pantomime Babes in the Wood at the Theatre Royal, Margate. Mrs Andrews was commended on her organisation of both events.

Thank You: A private reception was held in the new Bridge Health Centre on Friday, January 25, for friends, supporters, professional and business associates, not forgetting the staff who have provided such great input.

Dr Mark Jones welcomed guests and thanked all those whose support and enthusiasm was essential to get the project started.

He thanked John Rofe, the practice manager, for his unbounded energy in bringing it to such a satisfactory conclusion.

Dr Somner, the retired GP from Littlebourne, was able to provide an in depth history of all the doctors and surgeries which came together to make what the practice is today.

Refreshments and a buffet were provided, and a chance to tour the unit.

On Saturday morning the centre was open for inspection by the public and the great number of visitors who flocked to view it, demonstrates the interest the local population has in the future of primary health care.

Reminders: Giving Voice to Youth meeting is at the village hall, on Thursday, January 31, 7.30pm. The Kings School Canterbury, Crypt Choir and Kings Musicians at St Peter's Church, Bridge, at 7.30pm

on Saturday, February 9. Tickets £5 to include puddings, please book in advance for catering purposes.

Church News: A deanery Candlemas Service will be held at Wingham Church at 3.30pm on Sunday, February 3.

After Eights group will meet at 8pm on Tuesday, February 5, at 10 Union Road, Bridge.

Health and Healing meeting will be at 7 Windmill Close, Bridge, at 7pm on Thursday, February 7.

Confirmation 2002: This is a last call for confirmation candidates. Information will be sent to all applicants during February, for a start in March. Please contact the Rev Paul Filmer to express an interest in the course or to remind him if you hear nothing! This year's confirmation service will be taken by the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Stephen Venner, in Canterbury Cathedral on November 19.

Smarties for charity: A total of 180 tubes of Smarties were distributed to children across the benefice in November. Over Christmas 62 tubes filled with coins were returned, worth £232. This will be sent, with the Christingle, Crib and Nativity collections, a total of £525, to the Childrens Society's project to keep runaways and homeless children off the streets, by providing help, care, shelter and safe homes. Their Shop and Home Boxes will be emptied during March 2002. Should any be filled before then, please phone Kathy Eynon on 830466 for collection.

Electoral roll: A new Church Electoral Roll has been prepared every six years and the next will happen this year. Please contact your Churchwarden or PCC secretary for an application form. This applies to existing members of the old electoral roll as well as anyone applying for the first time. The roll is the register of those qualified to attend and to vote at the church's annual parish meeting, where elections take place for the Parochial Church Council and the Deanery Synod.

Church services: On Sunday, February 3, Presentation of Christ, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 10am Holy Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge group: 10am Holy Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres; 10am Family Service, Mrs P. Kusel, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by Mr P. Burt.

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History Society: At the January

Jan. 31st 2002