

BRIDGE

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

Parish council: Members meet on Thursday, March 14, at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the village hall. All parishioners are welcome.

Gardeners: At a well-attended annual meeting in the village hall of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society, the president, John Anderson, welcomed all members old and new and thanked officers and committee members for their work over the past year.

Ethel Cartwright said there did not appear to be a need for an outings secretary at present and Joan Stingemore felt unable to cope with the appointment of show secretary with her present commitments. Both, however, were happy to continue on the committee. Cllr Bill Oakey resigned from the committee owing to the pressure of council business, but will help when available.

In the absence of any other candidates, Roger Austin agreed to continue as chairman. Officers for the year are vice-chairman John Shorrock, treasurer Ann Edmonds, secretary Kathy Walder, committee Billie Anderson, Ethel Cartwright, Betty Cope, Joan Stingemore. Newly elected members are Colin Swadling, Pat Young and co-opted members Debbie Jenner and Christine Powell.

A talk was given by the chairman on the birds in your garden. This was followed by the raffle for paid-up members of the Chelsea Flower Show tickets, won this year by David Millyard.

The next planned event will be the spring show on Tuesday, April 9, in the village hall at 7.30pm.

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Meanwhile it is intended to produce a questionnaire for members to enable the committee to select talks and outings that would get the most popular support. The spring show schedule of classes is now available from secretary Kathy Walder on 830057.

Fish Scheme: The February Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, February 13 from 10 to 11.15am, in the village hall. Members want to pay tribute to Mrs Joy Monk, who died in January. She helped with the setting up of the Luncheon Club in 1980 and stayed involved until it closed in 1993.

The chiropody clinic will run from March 4-6. Phone Mrs Joan Warren on 830233 for more details.

Youth meeting: The meeting in the village hall, sponsored by the parish council, appeared to be a great success. There was not only a good attendance by interested adults, but also many youth of the village. The chairman of the parish council welcomed them all and introduced the invited specialists with experience of varying aspects of youth work, who had given up their time to attend. They were Chris Maclean, representing Bridge Scouts, Maggie Field, Bridge Guides, Alison Small, youth and community, and Debbie Adams, rural development, both from Canterbury City Council, Chris Franklin, youth and community, Kent County Council, Cllr Richard Bartley, Wye Parish Council and Toni Franklin, Wye Youth Forum.

Also present were county councillor Martin Vye and six parish councillors.

The chairman handed the meeting over to the Rev Paul Filmer and Cllr John Corfield, whose organisation and hard work made the event possible and after a discussion with the visitors and other interested parties, two main decisions were arrived at. One was that any youth organisation set up in the village would have to be independent from any other body, such as the church or parish council, although it could always apply for help. Secondly, that the organisation would be entirely run by themselves. During a break for refreshments, the youth group got together on their own to make a list of what they felt they needed for the village. They have also come up with the idea of producing a questionnaire so that they could interview and sound out the opinion of other youth in the area.

A further meeting of the group is planned for the near future, meanwhile they will liaise either with Mr Filmer and Cllr Corfield.

League of Friends: The Friends of Canterbury Hospitals Nailbourne branch held a coffee morning and annual meeting in the village hall last Saturday. The organisers thank all those who helped and supported the event, which raised

£131 for funds. The committee was re-elected as follows: Elizabeth Stewart chairman, Rosie Green vice-chairman, Christine Heap secretary, Maggie Fairweather treasurer. There are two new committee members, Jackie Thackery and Judy West.

Jubilee mugs: The parish council will present everyone under 18 in the village with a porcelain mug to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Slips are now being distributed around the village, to enable all those eligible to obtain one by returning a completed slip to the Bridgeway Stores, The Post Office or to John Hill, Renville Oast CT4 5AD. They must be returned at the latest by February 28 for ordering purposes.

Scouts: The Nailbourne Group organised and delivered more than 700 cards for Christmas. The service has become popular with residents and helps to raise much-needed funds for the group. Once again their thanks go to businesses who agreed to hold mailboxes in their premises and arrange the sale of stamps, those who used the service, Scout leaders and parents who gave up their time.

Valentine's meal: On Thursday, February 14, the Red Lion is holding a Valentine's Night four-course dinner at £15 per head. For details ring 01227 830281.

Neighbourhood Watch: There has been an increase in car crime in Canterbury car parks so take care if you are using them. Please report any sighting of a white Ford Orion registration H467 BKM to the police, giving location (dial 999 for this one). Also report sightings of a blue Ford Transit, registration number L750DKO to the police on 762055.

Church news: Lent Course 2002 is a series of five sessions studying the Character of God and our relationship with Him through the Lord's Prayer. Weekly sessions are to be held at Bridge and Patribourne School every Tuesday in Lent from 8 to 9.30pm, drinks provided, and they will be repeated on Thursday lunchtimes from 12.30 to 1.30pm, take your own lunch but drinks are provided. Evening courses are on Tuesdays, February 19 and 26 and March 5, 12 and 19. Midday courses are on Thursdays, February 21 and 28 and March 7, 14 and 21.

The course will finish with a joint Tenebrae service on Maunday Thursday, March 28, at 7.30pm in the School Hall. For more details phone the Rev Paul Filmer on 01227 830250.

Church Services: Sunday, February 10, 5th before lent. 10am Matins, Dr A. Nicholson, St Mary's Church, Patribourne; 11am Family Service, the Rev Paul Filmer; 6pm, Evensong, Mr D. Hoyer, Mrs M. Clarke, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Also here on Ash Wednesday, February 13, at 7.30pm, Holy Communion, the Rev J. Shorrock.

Other churches in the Bridge Group: 8am BCP Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bekebourne; 9.30am Holy Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, Holy Communion, the Rev David Marshall.

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WI: Bridge with Patricxbourne branch meeting will be held in Bridge village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, February 19. Mrs Avril Woolf will talk about My Life in Amateur Dramatics and the competition will be for an interesting mug.

Visitors and new members will be welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch: There have been burglaries and attempted burglaries in nearby villagers. As ever, be careful to lock doors and windows. Also there have been representatives from a power supply company cold-calling on people. Apparently they are persuading householders to sign for leaflets to explain their services but beware, these are in fact contracts for supply.

Church news: Ears and Beers with Paul Filmer will be held at the Plough and Harrow, High Street, Bridge, on Wednesday, February 20, from 6pm.

Lent Course week 1, at the Primary School, Tuesday, February 19, 8 to 9.30pm, drinks provided, and Thursday, February 21, 12.30 to 1.30pm. Refreshments will be provided but take your own lunch.

Village playgroup: The group is still awaiting its Ofsted inspection, due in September 2001 but delayed due to a re-shuffle at Social Services. Thanks go to the local businesses that donated prizes for the Christmas fair, which raised £245.38. This enabled the group to provide a free Christmas party for all its children.

The playgroup arranges special activities on a half term basis, this half term it held two music and movement sessions with Margaret Hennessey, had a visit from a librarian and held pancake races. The next half of the spring term holds lots in store with a planned lambs visit, an Easter egg hunt and an Easter bonnet parade, with prizes for the best boy and girl entries.

For more details phone Susan Stampe, the secretary, on 01227 769926.

Crypt Choir: A concert in St Peter's Church, Bridge, on Saturday featured the King's School, Canterbury's Crypt Choir and the King's Musicians. Director Stefan Anderson, with accompanist Mathew Martin, and 36 talented young musicians and singers entertained a large audience to a wide diversity of music, song and solos. They were thanked by the Priest in Charge, the Rev Paul Filmer. The evening raised £400 for the Church Restoration Fund.

Church services: Sunday, February 17, Lent 1. 10am Holy Communion, Canon G. Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge. No service at St Mary's Patricxbourne this week. Other churches in the Bridge Group, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev John Thackery, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 10am Holy Communion, the Rev John Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 10am Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres; 11am

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New business: Bridge has always prided itself that it has been lucky enough to retain most essential shops and businesses, unlike most villages in East Kent, and it is about to welcome a new enterprise. What was the old village shop and bakery next to the village hall, will be opening as Equestrian Elite Ltd, a saddlery business that will also be selling designer gear.

It will open on Friday, March 1, when it will offer a 10 per cent discount, and raffle prizes. It will open from 10am to 6pm, Mondays to Saturdays, with late night

shopping on Thursdays to 8pm. The restoration of the building removes one of the last eyesores in the High Street.

Meeting: The annual meeting of the North Nailbourne Ward Conservatives will be held in Bridge Village Hall, at 7.30pm, on Tuesday, March 5. Members are hoping to arrange a Golden Jubilee Safari Supper to take place around the village on Saturday, June 15. For bookings and details phone John Anderson on 01227 830260 or Lesley Forward on 01227 832175.

Fun Evening: Bangers and Mash, Beetle and Bingo in aid of the St Peter's Church restoration fund will be held in the village hall on Saturday, March 9, at 6pm. Tickets at £3 per head, or £8 for a family, from Pat Dunderdale on 01227 830947.

Services: Sunday, February 24, Lent 2, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bridge. 10am Holy Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne. Other churches in the Bridge Group: 9.30am Holy Communion, Canon R. Diss, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, service led by the Rev J. Ward.

PARISH COUNCIL: Jubilee: At the last meeting, Cllr Hill reported that the leaflet to establish the number of souvenirs required had been circulated with a requested return date of February 28. Cllr Dobson said the Golden Jubilee Committee had applied for funding and was looking into the possibility of a community art project involving 50 groups coming together to produce a commemorative tile or slab work of art which could be sited in the village. Councillors unanimously agreed to approve the idea with a site for the artwork being decided later.

Mole treatment: The clerk, Geraldine McCombe, said Bounty Pest Control had been contacted about increased mole activity at the recreation ground and treatment had been carried out. Weekly checks would be made until the problem is cleared.

Sandbag store: The clerk reported that, in response to letters from the council and Cllr Oakey expressing disappointment in the quality of the sandbag store, Canterbury City Council had replied that, although the store was the parish council's responsibility, on this one occasion it would arrange for the repair to be carried out by the contractor and would contribute half the cost.

Medical Centre: Kent Highways had confirmed that the gateway and speed signs had been moved further back along Patricxbourne Road and that the coloured surfacing should be laid within the next few weeks depending on the weather.

Newsletter: Cllr Dobson was preparing the next newsletter and asked councillors to supply her

with any items for inclusion as soon as possible. Cllr Dobson also requested an article from the planning sub-committee and Cllr Hill agreed to write it.

Planning: The following planning applications are being considered: Ca/00/1018/R, amended details, rooflights of Bridge and Patricxbourne CEP School; Ca/02/0015/Bri, first floor side extension at 1 Bourne View; Ca/02/0035/Bri, conservatory to rear of 10 Dering Road; Ca/02/0018/Bri, internal alterations to River House, 67 High Street; Ca/02/0061/Bri, single-storey front extension to 53 Bridgedown.

The following planning applications have been granted: Ca/01/1268/Bri, porch to front and conservatory to rear of 4 Filmer Road; Ca/01/1339/Bri, first floor side extension (renewal) at 2 Filmer Road; Ca/01/1378/Bri, conservatory to rear of Beech Cottage, Beech Hill.

The following notice is being considered: To fell fir tree in back garden at 34 Conyngham Lane, and to fell blue cedar tree at 9 Riverside Close.

Ghost Evening: The event in the White Horse on Tuesday, February 26, organised by the Bridge and District History Society, is now fully subscribed. For news of any cancellations, phone John Bishop on 832596.

Neighbourhood Watch: Take care when shopping in Canterbury. There have been two robberies in Palace Street committed by two youths about 14 years old wearing designer clothing. They are accompanied by a 'team' and have attacked from behind. Keep your handbags zipped up and wallets and purses out of sight.

There have also been reports of damage to cars and thefts of hubcaps in surrounding villages. Report anything suspicious to the police on 762055.

Church news: The Caring and Sharing Group will meet at 16 Riverside Close, on Monday, February 25, at 7.30pm.

Lent Course, Week Two, is at 8pm, at Bridge school on Tuesday, February 26, or 12.30pm on Thursday, February 28. Deanery Synod, Aylesham Church, 7.30pm Wednesday, February 27.

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