

BRIDGE

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

School News: A well-attended auction of promises was held at the school when more than 100 promises had been donated. With the hard work of Mrs Clare Jones, who co-ordinated the event, and Alan Mummery, of Lambert and Foster, who acted as auctioneer, the evening raised a large sum towards the cost of new curtains in the recently extended school hall. Headmistress Mrs A. Newton thanked members of the PFA who organised refreshments, and everyone involved.

Groups of children have listened to talks about the work of the RSPCA and fire safety. Older children enjoyed a performance by a group of guitarists from Christ Church College and years 3 and 4 visited King's Wood, Challock as part of their work in art, science and

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geography. Year 5 visited the Canterbury Environmental Centre.

The school says a good number of children who live in the village are now walking to school instead of coming by car. There is, however, still concern about cars parking in Conyngham Lane and Riverside Close. Access for pedestrians is being blocked and the school buses frequently have trouble turning and parking. Cllr Bill Oakey is exploring with the City Council ways of dealing with the problem. Parents who drive to school are asked to park away from the immediate area and escort their children on foot.

Surgery: City Cllr Bill Oakey will be available in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road, on Saturday, March 16, from 10am to noon. Parish Cllr Joe Connor will also be there.

NHS Crisis: CHEK, Concern for Health in East Kent, will attend a mass parliamentary lobby and a meeting in Westminster Hall on Monday, March 25. Members will join campaigners from Crawley, Kidderminster and Penzance where A&E departments have already gone and bed numbers drastically reduced. Many CHEK members live in Bridge and if there are enough wanting to attend, a coach will be organised to leave Bridge at 9am. For details phone Peggy Prior on 01227 832058. Not yet a member of CHEK? Then phone for an application form.

Ghost evening: Members of Bridge and District History Society meeting at the White Horse Inn, were entertained by a return visit from Stewart Ross, who gave chilling accounts of extracts from the Ingoldsby Legends and the Smugglers Leap in Thanet. He was thanked by chairman John Bishop.

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's spring show will be in the village hall on Tuesday, April 9. The doors will open for setting up exhibits at 6pm and judging will start at 7.30pm, when the show will open to the public and refreshments will be served. Show schedules can be obtained from Ann Edmonds on 01227 830795 or from Kathy Walder on 01227 830057. They will also have a plant stall and any unwanted cuttings can be left with Kathy at 17 Union Road a few days prior to the show.

For hospitals: A boot fair will be held by the Nailbourne League of Friends of the Canterbury Hospitals on Saturday, March 23, in the village hall from 10am to noon. Book a table, or donate items to be

sold in aid of their funds. Other clubs and organisations are welcome to book a table for their own fund-raising. For details phone Rosy Green on 01227 830204.

FISH Scheme: A coffee pop-in will be held in the village hall on Wednesday, March 13, from 10-11.15am. A lift can be arranged by phoning Ann Medhurst on 01227 830762.

Neighbourhood Watch: There have been many reports this week about damage to cars and thefts from cars in villages around Canterbury. Don't leave valuables in sight when you park your car, lock them in the boot or take them with you. If you can, park your car where it can be seen by others.

Church news: In a break with tradition for countless years, it has been announced that there is not to be any kind of service celebrating Easter Sunday at St Peter's Church, Bridge, the largest community in the Benefice.

Neither are there to be any services in any other of the five churches of the Bridge group save the 10am Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne. Those taking aged or infirm parishioners to this service are advised to arrive early as there is very limited parking, as there is space inside the church if all the congregations in the group respond to the Rev Paul Filmer's appeal. Easter Lilies donated in memory of loved ones at St Mary's can be sent to Andrea Nicholson. Lilies for St Peter's Church, Bridge, can be sent to Viv Brazier ready for the floral displays in the church on the following week and any money donated surplus to requirements will be added to the flower fund.

Health and Healing, 7 Windmill Close, Thursday, March 7, 7pm; Bangers, Beetles and Bingo, Bridge Village Hall, Saturday, March 9, 6pm; Caring and Sharing, 20 Riverside Close, Monday, March 11, 7.30pm; Lent Course week four, Bridge School 8pm Tuesday, and Thursday, March 12 and 14, 12.30 and 1.30pm. Ears and Beers, Plough and Harrow, 6pm onwards. Wednesday, March 13.

Services: Mothering Sunday, March 10, 10am Matins Dr A. Nicholson, St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne; 11am Mothering Sunday service, the Rev P. Filmer and 6pm Evensong, Mr Filmer and Mrs M. Clarke, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group. 8am BCP Communion, Mr Filmer, St Peter's Bekesbourne; 9.30am, Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church,

Nackington. 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by Mrs M. Beckwith.

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BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE

**Correspondent: J Thomas,
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Church: On March 24, Palm Sunday, the Rev Paul Filmer will lead Holy Communion at 10am in St Mary's. There is no service in St Peter's on Sunday but Holy communion will be celebrated at noon on Tuesday, March 26. The Good Friday Walk of Witness starts in Bekesbourne with a service in St Peter's at 10am and continues with a service in St Mary's at 11am and in St Peter's, Bridge, at noon. While the walk is taking place there is a children's worship in Lower Hardres Village Hall from 9.30am.

Flytipping: Parishioners are reminded that the number for CCC's Flytipping hotline is 452582. Incidents such as the conifer clippings dumped in Old Palace Road last week or the car left on the verge outside Howlett's Farm can be reported to this 24-hour hotline by any member of the public.

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BISHOPSBOURNE

**Correspondent: Malcolm Mitchell,
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CT4 5HT**

Parish Church: Holy Communion was celebrated by the Rector, the Rev David Roper, at St Mary the Virgin Church on Sunday, March 10.

Next Sunday, March 17, there will be no services at St Mary's.

However, parishioners are invited to any of the services in the following churches in the Barham Downs united benefice, of which Bishopsbourne is a member.

Holy Communion, 8am, St John the Baptist, Barham; the Eucharist, 10am, St Giles's, Kingston; evening prayer, 6pm, Barham. There will also be morning service at the Methodist Chapel, Barham, at 10am.

Concert: Several Bishopsbourne villagers will be attending the concert at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 16, at St John's, Barham, being given by the Canterbury Singers. The programme includes Dvorak's Stabat Mater and anthems by Bruckner.

Tickets in advance at £6 can be had from the Rector; on the night they will be £8.

The Eutharist: No this is not a misprint but a new venture for the churches in the four parishes. The Eutharist will provide an opportunity for young people to meet and worship God in a way they can relate to, says the Rector. Everyone aged from 12 to 19 is welcome at the first session, tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm in the Methodist Chapel, Barham.

Mr Roper said it is hoped to make it a monthly event, helping to develop the churches' work among young people.

On Wednesday, 27 March, at 7pm, there will be a Jewish Passover meal at the Barn, Kingston, to which all Bishopsbourne parishioners are invited. Tickets at £3 can be purchased from the Kingston churchwardens.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28, there will be the Eucharist and foot washing ceremony in Womenswold Church at 7pm and on Good Friday, March 29, there will be meditation at the foot of the cross at Bishopsbourne church at 11am and on Saturday, March 30, there will be vigil and first Eucharist of Easter at Barham church at 8pm.

Full details of Easter services will be given in this column next week.

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BRIDGE

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

Neighbourhood Watch: Two homes were burgled in Ford Close. In the first, the thief entered through a front window and money and jewellery were taken. In the second the occupant who was watching TV, heard a bang and went to investigate. A 5ft 10in male was seen leaving by a front window to

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rejoin his partner, who had been holding a torch, before they both ran off.

Items were stolen from a car parked in a driveway in Bridge. There have also been two cases of locally-reported thefts from cars in the past week. The first was at Barham, when a wallet containing credit cards, a driving licence and a mobile phone was stolen. The second case took place at Bekesbourne, from a car parked on the owner's drive, when a holdall was stolen.

Festival: The Queen's Golden Jubilee festival is being planned on the lines of the recent Village Millennium Festival. All the events will be based on or around the combined school parish fete on Saturday, June 22, providing a wealth of fun on its own. Events will be taking place all day, including a concert by the popular Canterbury Clerkes, morris dancing, duck race and tug-of-war competition, pig roast and barbecue. In the week leading up to the festival, a barn dance and a quiz night are also planned. More details will follow and a full programme will be published soon.

Irish Evening: At the White Horse Inn, Bridge, to celebrate St Patrick's Eve. Saturday evening, March 16, Camine Celtic Band will play and an Irish menu will be available in the restaurant.

Church news: The parish Bangers, Beetle and Bingo evening held in the village hall was a great evening of family fun. Not only did a large group of parishioners have an enjoyable time, but they also raised funds towards the church restoration.

Lent Course Week Five, Bridge School, 8pm Tuesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 14, 12.30 to

1.30pm.

WI: The Bridge with Patricxbourne branch will meet in the Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, March 19. Guest speaker Mr T. Davies will give a talk entitled Funerals. The competition is a decorated hard-boiled egg.

Drains: For a few days during last week, parking in the village High Street was banned all day. This was to allow the water authority to wash out and clear the drainage system. It is hoped that this will avoid localised flooding during periods of heavy rain in the future. However, there still appear to be a number of drains still silted up, of which the Parish Council will investigate.

Coach outing: The trip to the evening performance of the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre on October 9 still has a few seats available. The coach and top price tickets are £40 per person. Pick up points are Bridge, Barham or the New Dover Road Park and Ride. Offer can only be held until March 15. Please ring 01227 831095 for details.

Parish Council: The regular monthly meeting will be held in the Hunter Room of Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 14. On Thursday, March 21, the annual meeting will be held in the Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm. After the business of the evening, Cllr Bill Oakey will give an address on the new changes of governance within the Canterbury City Council and how it will affect local authorities. All parishioners of Bridge are welcome to attend.

Church services: Sunday, March 17, 10am Holy Communion Canon Gordon Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge. No service at St Mary's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group 8am BCP Communion Rev Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington. 10am Holy Communion, Rev J. Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 10m Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, Rev Paul Filmer, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres. 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by John Ellis.

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BRIDGE

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

Mugs: Those in the village who have not received an order slip for a Jubilee mug, available free to all those under the age of 18, or for £3 to others, can place their orders in either the Post Office/Chemist or The Londis Grocery Store, or may order by phone from John Hill on 830215.

Reminders: The parish council's annual meeting is on Thursday, March 21, at 7.30pm, in the village hall; a table boot fair, for the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals is on Saturday, March 23, at the village hall from 10am to noon; on Friday evening, March 22, Three Blind Mice play jazz at the White Horse, High Street.

Neighbourhood Watch: There was a break-in at sheds used by Bridge Primary School and crash mats were moved to another area to make a den. Continuing damage is being caused to school premises and local youths are thought to be responsible. If you have any information please phone the Crime Desk on 762055.

Church News: The Works, Bridge Childcare centre, 10am Sunday, March 24.

For children on Good Friday, March 29, in the John Baker White Hall, Lower Hardres, there will be an Easter arts and crafts workshop from 9.30 to 11.30am. The children can take their results to Bridge Church, where they will join those from the walk of witness for a short benefice service. Book your place now by phoning Margaret Clarke (01227 765598) or Julie Cox (01227 788316). Parents of children of pre-school age are asked to stay with them. You are asked to donate 50p per child towards the cost of materials.

At Christmas all Smarties tubes went to a central charity, The Children's Society, but the Easter Smartie collection will be a separate charity for each church. Each charity will be announced by the church and children are encouraged to return their tubes at their own March or April family services.

Services: Services on Palm Sunday, March 24, 8am BCP Communion

the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; Other churches in the Bridge group, 9.30am, Holy Communion, Canon R. Diss, St Mary's Church Nackington; 3pm Evensong, Mr Filmer, Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by Dr David Marshall.

PARISH COUNCIL: Jubilee: The clerk reported, on behalf of Cllr Hill, that a total of 83 responses had been received with 174 mugs being requested for children. Cllrs Beer and Corfield both reported that several households had stated that they had not received the leaflet and it was agreed that a further invitation for requests for mugs would be included in the Parish Newsletter.

Newsletter: Cllr Dobson provided copies of the final draft of the newsletter. Cllr Anderson said the previous distributor was now no longer available and it was agreed that the newsletter would be distributed early next week by councillors.

Lay-By: Kent Highways had arranged for the lay-by below Church Cottage to be inspected and any repairs to be carried out.

Footbridge at Mill Lane: Cllr Gulvin presented a drawing of a date stone to mark the replacement footbridge in the Golden Jubilee year. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the stone and have it in place ready for unveiling on June 22. Cllr Anderson agreed to obtain a quotation from a local stonemason to supply and fit the stone. The clerk will write to Kent County Council for permission to site the stone in the bridge brickwork.

Planning: The following planning applications have been received and are being considered:
Ca/02/0015/Bri, minor amendments for information only on first floor side extension to dwelling at 1 Bourne View; Ca/02/0267/Bri, single-storey extension to front of bungalow at Coppice, Bridge Hill.

Applications granted:
Cal01/0127/Bri, erection of conservatory at Dover Lodge, 48 High Street; Ca/01/1065/Bri, erection of conservatory at Dover Lodge, 48 High Street;
Ca/02/0061/Bri, single-storey front extension; link wall and gate between dwelling and garage at 53 Bridge Down; Ca/00/1018/R, amended details, rooflights at Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP School, Bridge.

Trees in conservation area: The following notice of proposed work has been received: pollard small lime tree outside front of house at 51 High Street; clean out crown of mature beech tree between Great Pett Farm and Oast, Pett Hill.

Gardens: The National Gardens Scheme garden open for charity is at Higham Park, Bridge, on Sunday, March 24, 11am-6pm. Admission is £3 with lunches, teas and plants available. Dogs must be kept on leads.

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BRIDGE

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

School visit: Members of the parish council were invited by the Headmistress, Mrs Anna Newton, the Primary School staff and the governors to view building alterations and improvements made over the last year. The chairman of the council, John Anderson, thanked the school for its hospitality. They could not fail to be impressed by not only the quality of the facilities now available, but also by the high educational standards so obviously provided.

Not in my front yard: Maurice Smith, the village street monitor, reports that like many others, he regularly picks up street litter. However he is sorry to see that some remains next to a property while owners or tenants walk straight in and out, ignoring it. Please help to keep Bridge a clean village to be proud of by clearing the area by your own property and, whenever possible, putting general litter in the nearest bin. Let him know of any large road or pavement cracks or protrusions.

Suspect truck: The police would like to know more about a white open-backed truck, with no rear number plate, apparently from a gardening company, seen in Bishopsbourne and Kingston. If you see it or have any information about it, please phone PC Ken Bradshaw on 01227 817127.

Red Lion: Easter Sunday specials, three-course lunch £9.95, evening gig with Little Rock, extension till midnight.

Church services: Holy Week.
Wednesday, March 27 5.30pm
Evening Prayer St Mary's Church
Patricxbourne, Thursday, March 28;
7.30pm Tenebrai Bridge School.
Good Friday, March 29, 9.30am,
Children's Worship, John Baker
White Hall, Lower Hardres, also
Walk of Witness start 10am St
Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, then
on to 11am St Mary's Church
Patricxbourne, finishing at noon at
St Peter's Church, Bridge, and
joined with the children from
Lower Hardres. Saturday March 30,
7.30pm Service of Light St Mary's
Church, Nackington.

Easter Day, Sunday March 31 10am

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Benefice Servcie, the Rev P. Filmer
St Mary's Church, Patricbourne,
Mr Filmer says that in order to
include as many parishioners in
the vision of benefice based
celebrations this Easter Sunday, he
and the churchwardens have
decided to provide a second
benefice service at 8am BCP
Communion at St Mary's
Nackington. There will be no
services at St Peter's Church,
Bridge, St Peter's Church,
Bekesbourne, or at St Mary the
Virgin Church Lower Hardres.

Bridge Methodist Church 11am,
Holy Communion, the Rev G.
Baugh.

PARISH COUNCIL: At the annual
meeting, the chairman Cllr
Anderson reported that a year ago
they were still recovering from the
effects of the flood and in fact, in
some cases, it was only at the
beginning of this year that the
restoration work was completed.
The council was sorry that it was
unable to bring negotiations for
the village shop, as an annex for
the village hall, to a satisfactory
conclusion.

The parish council had played an
active role on the Nailbourne,
Lesser and Greater Stour flood
prevention committee and it was
hoped that the work carried out by
the various authorities will help to
avoid any further recurrence.
There is now a two-week early
warning system in place together
with a 24-hour emergency control
centre at Canterbury City Council
to co-ordinate any action and the
village has its own emergency
sandbag store.

He thanked Cllr Bill Oakey, Liz
Oakey and Davd Daw for the
planting up, and maintenance of,
the extended curb areas of the
traffic calming in the High Street.

Part one of the traffic calming
development had been completed
and a marked increase has been
seen in the number of children
walking to and from school,
helping to reduce the traffic
congestion. Part two of the plan
was in this year's budget and
should start shortly.

should start shortly.
Janet Horsley, on behalf of Bridge Village Hall Management Committee, reported that the licence had been granted and that the electrical, fire and health and safety checks were all satisfactory. The light at the back door was now working. Several repairs have been carried out which included the wall at the back door, new double glazed doors, new heating clocks and a new picture rail was fitted for the art exhibition in October.

Plans for internal alterations have been drawn up for a disabled toilet to be installed by 2004 and they were looking for grants. The alterations will include improved storage, a smaller kitchen and a new path and ramp at the back, which will then become the main entrance to the hall.

On behalf of the Sports Trust, Cllr Mervyn Gulvin reported that the annual meeting was held recently when goodbye was said to Roger Cork, who stood down as treasurer due to illness. The trust is now short of a chairman and a treasurer, although a temporary treasurer has been found. All the clubs are functioning and the account healthy.

Mrs A. McKeever, a governor at Bridge and Patricbourne School, reported that the year had been one of change. Although not fully complete, the school had moved into the new extension. The extension to the hall, which was completed last term, was in use at Christmas and was able to accommodate the whole school together with parents. The computer unit, art unit and a small servery are still to be completed.

Lighting:

A question relating to lighting in Bifrons Path was raised by residents of Mansfield Court and will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

Vandalism:

The problem of vandalism within the village was raised and Cllr Beer emphasised the importance of reporting all acts of vandalism to the police, no matter how minor or whether the culprits were known or not. Cllr Beer also advised that the police were willing to come to the homes of residents to discuss the matter of vandalism with

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them.

Easter Sunday Service:

Concerns were raised that an Easter Sunday Service was not to be held at St Peter's Church. The chairman said that although he could not comment, he would pass on the concerns to the appropriate source.