

# BRIDGE

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

**School:** Year 6 pupils have taken part in a Science Jamboree organised by Pfizer where many topics were covered with a variety of workshops. Years 5 and 6 also attended a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream given by the pupils of Class 8 at the Rudolf Steiner School, Perry Court. The Puppeteers Company visited the school to give a performance of Copellia which was enjoyed by all age groups.

Daniel Keim achieved a highly commended in the 50-word Mini Saga Competition organised by the Simon Langton School for Boys. In addition to his prize, he was given a book for the school library.

The PFA again organised a successful Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The term ended with the traditional Easter Service in which members of the Theatre Arts group read and dramatised the Easter story. The next term begins on Thursday, April 11.

**Gardeners:** The spring show of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society will be held on Tuesday, April 9, in Bridge Village Hall. The doors will be open from 6pm for the setting up of exhibits and at 7.30pm for the judging. At this time, it will be open to the public and refreshments will be served. Show schedules are still available from Ann Edmonds on 01227 830795 or Kathy Walder on 01227 830057. They will also run a plant stall and any unwanted cuttings can be left with Kathy at 17 Union Road a few days prior to the show.

**History:** Smuggling in Kent during the 17th to early-19th century was the subject of a talk, with slides, given to a large group of members and friends of Bridge and District History Society at the March meeting in the village hall. Peter Ewart outlined its history, and the efforts made by the authorities to stop it.

There is to be a day out to Maidstone planned for May 18, to include a guided tour of the Archbishop's Palace and, if time permits, the county museum, the carriage museum, and a river walk followed by a cream tea. The visit will be made in members' own cars (using the Park and Ride) and will set off from the Recreation Ground Bridge at 1pm. Members £8 Non-members £10, including cream tea. Anyone wishing to go on the proposed visit to Ypres and district by coach and ferry on Saturday, June 22, should tell chairman John Bishop on 01227 832596 as soon as possible.

**Boot Fair:** The fair in the village hall at the end of March by the League of Friends of the Canterbury Hospitals raised £250. The organisers thank all who supported and helped with the event.

**Fish Scheme:** The coffee pop-in will be in the village hall on Wednesday, April 10, from 10 to 11.15am. The Cornelia Slavin Blossom Tour will be on Thursday, May 9, and the annual fund-raising coffee morning on Saturday, May 18, also in the village hall. Details of both events can be obtained at the next meeting.

**Safari Supper:** The supper to celebrate the Golden Jubilee is planned for June 15. All participants will meet for drinks at the beginning of the evening and for coffee at the end. In between, you will be hosting one of three courses in your own home and go to two other homes for the other two courses. Each group will consist of six, who will change for each course. To book a place or to learn more about it, telephone Lesley Forward, on 01227 832175, after 6pm or at weekends.

**Books:** A fair for the sale of books, puzzles and videos is to be held in aid of the parish of Patricbourne with Bridge, in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, April 27, from 10am to 2pm. Entrance is 20p, with coffee and tea available all day. Please take donations to Pat Dunderdale 01227 830668 in Bridge or Andrea Nicholson 01227 830947, in Patricbourne. Donations for sale are welcome now or can be taken on the day.

**Children's Society:** The annual emptying of the 35 home and shop boxes in Bridge was completed in March and the contents amounted to £567.17, compared to last year's total of £435.62. If others are interested in having a box, telephone Kathy Eynon on 01227 830446.

**Parish Council:** Members will meet

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in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Thursday, April 11, at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome.

**Cycle Ride:** The London to Brighton ride to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation is on Sunday, June 16. A group is being organised to join the ride from the Plough and Harrow, Bridge, and anyone interested can contact Chris Maclean on 01227 830455 or visit the pub.

**Maundy Money:** Everybody in the Bridge district is delighted that Muriel Packer, the wife of Canon John Packer, was one of the recipients of the Maundy Money presented by the Queen at Canterbury Cathedral. She is well known for her many activities and acts of kindness in the area.

**Church News:** The Caring and Sharing Group meets at 7.30pm on Monday, April 8, for coffee and a chat at 37 High Street, Bridge. Ears and Beers on Wednesday evening, April 10, at the Plough and Harrow.

**Church Services:** Sunday, April 7, Easter 2, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 10am Holy Communion, the Rev Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group, 10am Holy Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; 10am Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 11am, Bridge Methodist Church Service led by the Rev B. Heather.

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**WI:** Bridge and Patrixbourne branch meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday, April 16 at 7.30pm. Mrs S. Bryant will talk about Royalty in Kent. The competition will be for the best painted flower pot, the winning entry to go to the group meeting.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** A company called Airblock Franchising (UK) Ltd has been inferring it is in negotiation with Kent Police for the endorsement of a new alarm system it is promoting. This is not correct and Kent Police says it does not endorse any alarm companies. There have been some burglaries and attempted burglaries in the local area particularly in Bekesbourne.

**Parish meeting:** Annual reports were received from County Cllr Martin Vye and City Cllr Bill Oakey. Cllr Vye sent a written report and apologised for being unable to attend. He said the year was dominated by the aftermath of the flooding. He initiated and had since sat as a member of the Nailbourne and Little Stour Parishes Management Committee, which had met every month since March 2001 and believed it had been an effective body in ensuring that the city council, the county council and the Environment Agency worked together to minimise the risk of recurrence of flooding on that scale. Bridge had had no major work carried out but the straightening, deepening and clearing of the channel further downstream, notably in Patrixbourne, would increase the flow and reduce 'back up' in the village.

Cllr Vye said the agencies mentioned deserved praise but Southern Water did not, as it was still in denial about the problems caused by its sewage network and had allocated millions of pounds to repair pipes elsewhere, but this area did not benefit. The parishes action group and the City Council continue to press the company hard.

Kent County Council had recently carried out a programme of highway drain clearance and investigation in the High Street and £70,000 would be spent on improving the sections of the drains that were faulty. Cllr Vye had opposed the planned move of Canterbury College into green fields between Nackington Road and the old railway line, and spoke as a city councillor at the public inquiry about the traffic problems it would cause on this side of Canterbury. A resounding success has been achieved in getting the High Court to quash the Secretary of State's decision to let the scheme go ahead and he was ready to play whatever part was necessary in whatever procedure was adopted to re-play the decision.

Cllr Vye also reported that councillors had seen off for the time being a proposal to allocate land south of Canterbury in the new Local Plan for a business park but as there was a long process of consultation on the plan, culminating in a public inquiry, those who wished to preserve the gap between Bridge and Canterbury would have to be vigilant.

Cllr Oakey reported on the unacceptable high rise in council tax and said they were justified in asking why an 8.8 per cent increase had been levied when inflation was only running at 2.2 per cent. He said half of the rise was caused by underfunding of Government initiatives that were left to the City Council to administer. The worst example was the free bus pass scheme. The Government was keen to take the credit for this worthwhile scheme that is costing the City Council £618,000, but it had only given the council £120,000 towards it, leaving a massive half a million pounds shortfall to be funded by the council, either by reducing front-line services or being forced to raise council tax. Best Value Reviews, insisted on by the Government, had cost £500,000 and all that the council had saved by them was less than £100,000.

Cllr Oakey reported that at long last phase one of the traffic calming and safety measures were now in place and traffic speeds at Conyngham Lane had been reduced from an average of 38mph to 28mph. He was delighted to hear from the school that a greater number of children were now walking to school and reminded everybody that the school run accounted for seven per cent of all pollution. Phase two was due to start this year, calming traffic coming down Bridge Hill with another pedestrian crossing. Cllr Oakey said he would be watching this closely to ensure that it is

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delivered on time. He also strongly supported the parish council's plans to investigate increased parking in the centre of the village and the innovative scheme to improve the flow of traffic to and from the school, as both these problems caused serious hardships to residents, particularly those living in the High Street.

Anyone with concerns about local issues should either write to him, or attend one of his surgeries. Dates and times are on the village notice board.

**Tennis:** The Tennis Club is offering a six weeks coaching programme starting on Monday, April 15, for improver juniors 6-7pm and advanced juniors 7 to 8pm. On Tuesday, April 16, a beginners junior group runs from 4 to 5pm, followed by a junior improvers 5 to 6pm for children who have had some coaching already. There are a few places left for adult beginners on Friday, April 19, 6.30 to 8.30pm. There will be a follow-up six weeks coaching course and both can be booked at the start, costing £18 per course (£36 for two) and £36 for adults (£72 for both courses). Contact Hilary Whiting on 01227 830056.

The programmes are open to non-members. New members are welcome to contact secretary Karen Furley on 01227 832239 for details and application forms.

**Church News:** Adult confirmation at The Vicarage, on Monday, April 15, 8pm; After Eights Group, 10 Union Road, Tuesday, April 16, 8pm; Lower Hardres Junior Choir, Saturday, April 20, St Mary the Virgin Church, 10.15am.

**Church services:** Sunday, April 14, Easter 3, 10am Matins, Dr A. Nicholason, St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne; 11am Family Service, the Rev P. Filmer and 6.30pm Evensong Mr Filmer and Mrs M. Clarke, 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 Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service, led by Mr M. Baybutt.

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**Church News:** Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meeting, Methodist Church, 7.30pm, Monday, April 22. Caring and Sharing Group, Women to Women, at Bridge Vicarage, Monday, April 22. Adult confirmation, Vicarage, Monday, April 22 8pm. Patricxbourne with Bridge annual parish church meeting, Bridge Primary School, 7.30pm, Thursday, April 25.

**Bowls:** Anyone living in the Bridge area is invited to the annual meeting of Bekesbourne Short Mat Bowls Club at 7.30pm on Friday, April 26, in Bekesbourne Village Hall. All visitors and new members would be made welcome and all equipment available free of charge.

**Gig:** On Friday evening, April 26, Keith James, acoustic guitar with vocals, will be at the White Horse, Bridge.

**Services:** Sunday, April 21, Easter 4, no service at St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne. 10am Holy Communion, Canon Gordon Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 10am Holy Communion Mr Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne. 10am Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres. 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by Mrs B. Skinner.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Recreation Ground: Kent Highways has agreed to contribute half the cost of upgrading the footpath as part of the County Council's Safe Routes to Schools initiative. It was agreed to proceed with the upgrade subject to the landlord's consent.

**Code of Conduct:** It was agreed to adopt the Model Code of Conduct for parish councils.

**Art in Bridge:** Cllr Dobson reported that the group had had an annual meeting to form a committee and constitution to obtain grants and it had been suggested that the parish council had a member on the committee. It was agreed that Cllr Dobson should represent the council on the committee.

**Golden Jubilee:** Cllr Hill reported that he had now closed the boxes for the requests for souvenir mugs and once the numbers were collated, would be placing an order. The distribution of the mugs was discussed and it was suggested that they could be collected from the village hall on a couple of Saturday mornings. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Queen congratulating her on her

**Lighting in Bifrons Path:** A request has been received from the manager at Mansfield Court on behalf of all the residents for lighting in Bifrons Path. It was agreed to proceed with installing lighting and the clerk was asked to obtain estimates.

**Planning applications:** The following were notified as granted: Cal02/0018/Bri, internal alterations at River House, 67 High Street, Bridge; Ca02/0015/Bri, first-floor side extension to 1 Bourne View, Bridge; Ca02/0035/Bri, conservatory to rear of dwelling at 10 Dering Road, Bridge.

**Notice of work to trees:** It was proposed to reduce a conifer in rear garden by five foot and tidy the crown at 10 High Street, Bridge.

**Gardeners:** Despite daffodils and tulips being in short supply, the Nailbourne Horticultural Society held a small but excellent spring show in the village hall last week. Flowering shrub sprays and pot plants made up for the lack of numbers in other classes.

The cup for best bloom in the show went to Joan Atkins, the best foliage pot plant was shown by Dorothy King, and the best flowering pot plant by the Rev John Shorrocks. This was a much-admired orchid.

Refreshments were served and members had the opportunity to buy other members' surplus plants from a fund-raising stall.

Barham and District Horticultural Society is having a coach outing to Pashley Manor Garden on May 11. Anyone interested in being put on a stand-by list can give names and contact numbers to Kathy Walder, phone 01227 830057, before May 4.

**First Aid:** Barry Whiting, First Aid Trainer (BRCS), will demonstrate some basic life-saving skills in the village hall on Thursday, April 25 from 7.30-9.30pm. There will be a charge of £1 to cover the hire of the hall and a donation to the Red Cross for the loan of equipment. All are welcome.

**Tennis Club:** To join in the coaching programme at Bridge, phone Hilary Whiting on 01227 830506 or Karen Furley, for membership application forms or details, on 01227 832239, and not as reported last week.

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## BRIDGE

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

**Parish fair:** Bring all your unwanted books, puzzles, and videos, early to the Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, April 27, to raise funds for the Parish of Patricbourne with Bridge between 10am and 2pm. To arrange collection or delivery beforehand contact Pat Dunderdale (Bridge) on 830668 or Andrea Nicholson (Patricbourne) on 830947. Entrance 20p. Coffee and Teas available all day.

**WI:** At the Bridge and Patricbourne branch meeting Madeleine Franklyn thanked Mrs S. Bryant after her talk about royalty in Kent. Jean Foster won the competition for a painted flower pot. The resolutions will be discussed at the May meeting. There will be no speaker. The competition is a Bloom from your Garden.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Police advise that there have been robberies from handbags in Canterbury city centre. Please try to ensure that when you are out and about your handbag is properly zipped up and purses, wallets and mobile phones are out of sight. Thefts from parked cars continue to be a problem. Lock

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coats, briefcases etc in the boot.

**Wine and wisdom:** Bridge School is holding another wine and wisdom quiz evening on Saturday, April 27.

Profits will be used to buy outdoor play equipment, indoor and outdoor PE equipment and the funding of the new hall curtains, which are now proudly hanging.

Test your general knowledge over a glass of wine and supper at £6 per ticket, with a donation bar. Teams of six-eight or individuals are welcome. Phone the school on 01227 830276 for ticket details.

**Gardeners:** Update on the coach outing to Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst, near Wadhurst, East Sussex, and Merriments Gardens, Hurst Green. Barham and District Horticultural Society to join them on their outing to the above on Saturday, May 11. The coach would have to pick up in Bridge outside Bridge News at 10.05am with expected return at about 6.30pm. The cost is £16 per head to include coach driver's tip and entry to the gardens. For further details call Kathy Walder on 830057 before Monday, May 6.

**Bring and buy:** In aid of CHEK (Concern for Health in East Kent), a sale will be held at Mansfield Court, Riverside Close, Bridge, on Saturday, May 11, at 10.30am. The event will also be supported by a visit from Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury.

**Coach Outings:** From Bridge Newsagents by D&E Travel. Leonardslee Gardens Horsham. Thursday, May 16, £16 inclusive of entrance; Floriade Horticultural Show Holland. Friday to Sunday, June 7-9, £151 inclusive of coach, crossing and hotel B&B. Europe's largest horticultural show held only once in every 10 years. Single room supplement £30. Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts. Friday, June 21, £22.50 inclusive of entry. Hampton Court Flower Show, Hampton Court, Thursday, July 4. Inclusive price to be announced.



Otley Hall Ipswich, Thursday, July 25, coach £19.50. Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, Tuesday, August 13, £22.50 inclusive of entry. Somerset House, Strand, London. Thursday, September 5, £21 including entrance. Pashley Manor and Merriments Gardens, East Sussex. Friday, September 27, £15 inclusive of entrance. Royal Pavillion, Brighton, Thursday, October 17, £18 inclusive of entrance.

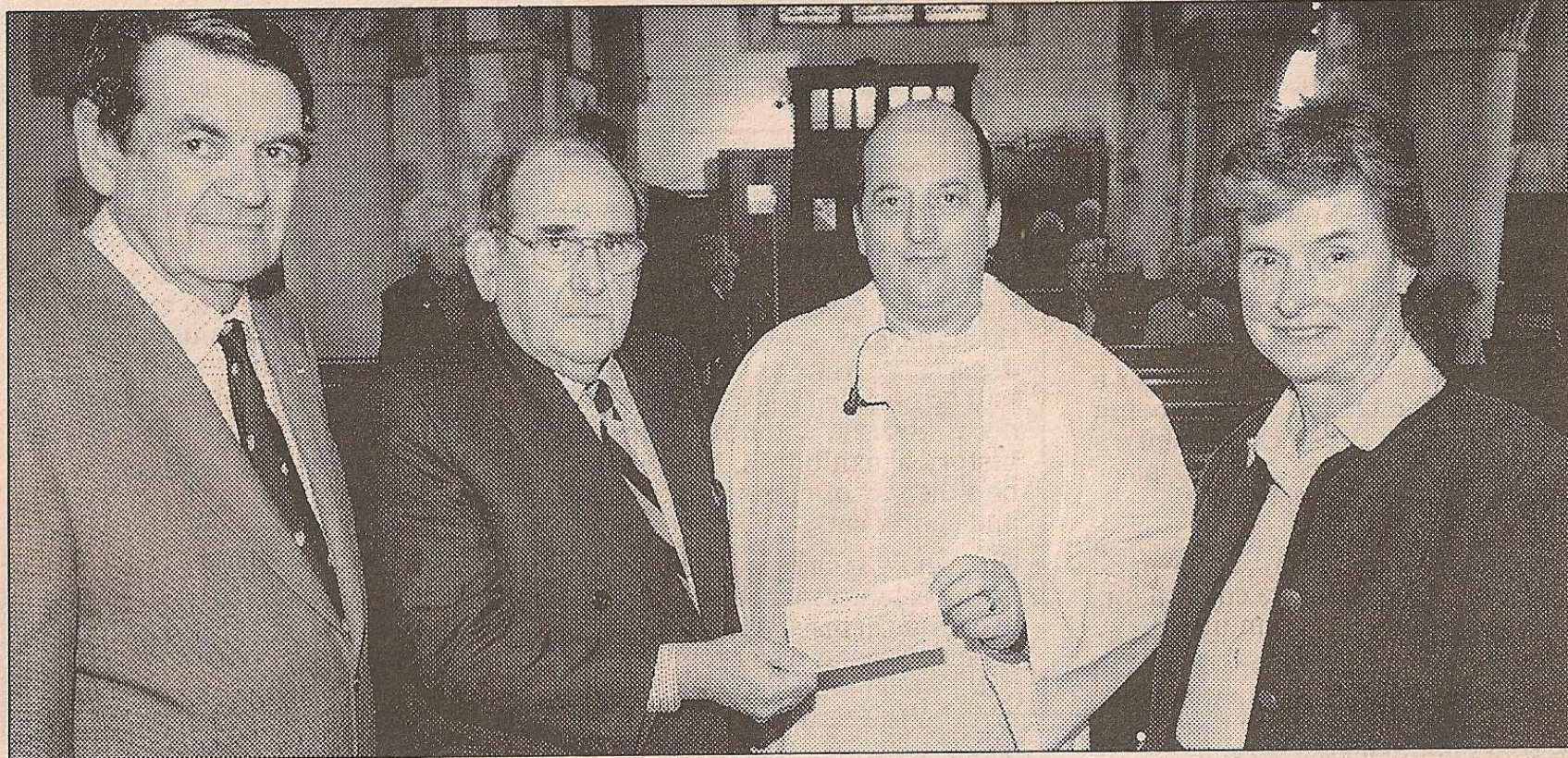
Please ring 01227 831095 for further information. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Petanque:** The purpose of the Elham Valley Boules Club is to encourage the use of the petanque terrain by all in the Elham Valley. Boules is fun for all the family and application for family membership (£5) can be made by contacting a committee member. Village representatives have been nominated for Bridge (Tony Walder 01227 830057),

Patricxbourne/Bekesbourne (Peter Morris 01227 830437), Lyminge (Dennis Huntly 01303 862343) Elham Ian Sladden (01303 840336) and the secretary of the club is Colin Hewlett (01303 840418). The club announces the following programme fo events for the Summer at the Petanque Terrain, The Green, Elham. Sunday, May 5, Bank Holiday Melee (11am start). Sunday, May 19, Whit Sunday Melee (11am Start). Sunday June 23, Shepway/Boulogne Sports Day. Sunday July 14, Bastille Day Melee (11am start).

The melee events are open to all, everyone will get a chance to play, all age groups and abilities including beginners. They want maximum support for Shepway/Boulogne Sports Day which is being hosted this year by shepway; the petanque matches will be played on the Elham terrain. They are looking for players to complete their teams and supporters to cheer the teams on the day. Details of the start time will be announced shortly, please contact Colin Hewlett if you want to participate.

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**CHURCH BOOST:** Pictured from left is John Hill, Sir John Grugeon, the Rev Paul Filmer and Ailsa Williamson  
*Ref: pd 74660*

## Cash windfall keeps church dry

**CHURCHGOERS** in Bridge no longer need pray for dry weather now that cash is available to fix the leaking roof.

St Peter's Church has been given an £18,000 donation from the Brett Environmental Trust – cash generated from landfill tax.

The money will go towards urgent repairs to the roof of the 11th century church.

Parish councillor John Hill said the roof had fallen into such disrepair the congregation had to sit with buckets among them every time it rained.

“We had a line of buckets in

the church whenever it rained,” he said. “They were on the pews, between the pews – it was getting quite desperate.

Trust chairman Sir John Grugeon presented priest in charge the Rev Paul Filmer with a cheque which covers most of the repairs.