

Feb 6th 2003

BRIDGE WITH PATRIBOURNE

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

Thanksgiving: A service for the life of Laurie Shirley, as he was affectionately known in the village, both as Postmaster for many years, as well as representing the village as parish, City and Kent county councillor, was held on Sunday, February 2.

The cottage of a horse-drawn hearse and carriages, preceded by the Gambit Jazz Band, processed through the High Street from Dering Road, past the Post Office in which he had worked for so many years and on to St Peter's Church where the service was held.

A large gathering of relatives, friends and villagers followed on foot, and many more lined the street to pay their last respects to a greatly loved and respected character.

The church was packed to capacity with standing room only. Apart from all the local mourners, representatives from all the councils, authorities and charities with which he had been associated were present.

After a short recital by the band, the congregation was welcomed by the presiding minister Margaret Clark, pastoral assistant to the Bridge group, followed by a prayer from the priest in charge, the Rev Paul Filmer.

Personal tributes were given by long-standing friends Chris Barton, Dr Peter Giles and Mr Shirley's son, Nick. There followed a poem written and read by his granddaughter Meg. A reading from the Bible was made by his grandson Scott.

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ROUNDA

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The cortege then reformed and proceeded with most of the mourners to St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne, where the burial took place, with a moving farewell by the Jazz Band.

Gardeners: At the well-attended annual meeting of Nailbourne Horticultural Society, in the Village Hall, the chairman, officers and committee were all returned unopposed. Four new members were enrolled and the draw for the Chelsea Flower Show tickets was won by Ann Payne and Colin Swadling.

There was an appeal for ideas for interesting talks or outings for a future programme. Suggestions to the secretary or any member of the committee.

After refreshments, a talk and demonstration was given by local artists Julia Rowntree on painting flowers.

The president, John Anderson, who earlier had thanked all the committee for their work over the previous year, also thanked the speaker.

Friends: A fund-raising evening was run by the Nailbourne League of Friends of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital on Friday. A talk was given by Dr Tony Beaumont on the History and Constitution of Sark, accompanied by slides and pictures.

Mrs Elizabeth Stewart thanked him. The evening continued with a buffet supper and a raffle. Overall the event raised £560 for the hospital friends.

History: A talk to be given to Bridge and District History Society at The White Horse, Bridge, on Tuesday, February 11, at 7.30pm, by Martin Lloyd on Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies appears at present to be fully subscribed.

There are, however, possible cancellations and anyone wishing to be put on the waiting list can phone David Gilmore on 01227 832450. The cost, including refreshments, is members £6, non-members £8.

Fish News: The next Coffee Pop-In in the village hall is on Wednesday, February 12, from 10-11.15am.

Appointments for chiropody are now made directly with the Bridge Surgery.

If your mind is turning to spring seed sowing, please raise some extra plants for the Fish Scheme's annual fund-raising coffee morning on Saturday, May 17.

PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting will be held in The Hunter Room of Bridge Village Hall on Thursday, February 13, at 7.30pm. Those interested in standing for the council in May, are invited to attend and see how it works.

Surgery: City Councillor for the North Nailbourne Ward Bill Oakey will hold his surgery with a Bridge parish councillor on Saturday, February 15, from 10am-noon in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road, Bridge. There is no need to book an appointment.

Church Diary: Monday, February 10, 7.30pm Caring and Sharing Group, The Vicarage; Tuesday, February 11, 8pm After Eights Group, Fairview, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne; Wednesday, February 12, 6pm, onwards Ears and Beers, Plough and Harrow, Bridge; Saturday, February 15, 10.15am, Lower Hardres Junior Choir, Lower Hardres Church.

Church Services: Sunday, February 9, 4th before Lent, 10am Matins Mr C. Maclean, St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne; 11am Family Service, the Rev P. Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group, 8am BCP Communion, Mr Filmer, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 9.30am Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington; no service at St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by the Rev D. Marshall.

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Elections: An appeal is being made for candidates residing in the village of Bridge to stand for election to the parish council in May. It is now known that a number of councillors will not be seeking re-election this year, owing to either age or business commitments.

This is an important aspect of rural life, as the parish council is a non-political body which looks after the day-to-day running and maintenance of the village. If it became impossible to fill the vacancies, then the running of the village would be taken over by Canterbury City Council, who would not so easily be able to evaluate its particular requirements, and what's more, fight for them!

This can be a very rewarding task and need not take up too much of your time. For those who like to take a snipe at the parish council, why not come and join them? You can't really criticise them until you have had a go. For further details phone the parish clerk Tina Burchell on 01227 831085.

There are still two regular meetings before the election, Thursday, March 13 and Thursday, April 10 in the Hunter Room of the village hall at 7.30pm. So why not go along and see what goes on?

Reminder: The League of Friends of Canterbury Hospital Nailbourne branch annual meeting bring and buy and coffee morning with cakes and raffle, will run from 10am to noon on Saturday, February 22 in Bridge Village Hall.

Church services: Sunday, February 23, 2nd before Lent, 8am BCP Communion, Canon J. Packer, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion, the Rev J. Shorrocks, St Mary's Church, Patribourne. Other Churches in the Bridge Group, 9.30am Holy Communion, Canon R. Diss, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 3pm Evensong, Canon R. Humphriss, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres. No service at St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by the Rev D. Lugg.

Musical: A lavish production of the Pied Piper was performed by the senior classes 5 and 6 at the Primary School last week. Three performances, a matinee and two evening shows, enabled friends and parents alike to be entertained by this fast-moving, slick show. All the junior classes attended the dress rehearsal.

Generously sponsored by Pettman Homes, all the scenery and costumes were produced by the children themselves. Once again this demonstrates not only the vast wealth of talent in the school but the outstanding ability of the teaching staff to encourage and draw out the best from their pupils.

The head teacher Mrs Anna Newton thanks parents for providing costumes and the many others who helped behind the scenes.

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Fish Scheme: This is another village organisation with reason to be grateful to the late Laurie Shirley. More than 20 years ago he encouraged and helped to set up the scheme and, after he retired, helped as a volunteer driver. He is greatly missed.

If you have a car and are sometimes free during the week, please consider becoming a driver, mostly for trips to the hospital and surgery. Phone Ann Medhurst on 01227 830762 for more details.

The next coffee pop-in will be on Wednesday, March 12 in the Bridge Village Hall, 10-11.15am. The Cornelia Slawin Blossom Tour will be on May 7.

Sale Date: A jumble sale in aid of the North Nailbourne Liberal Democrat Party will be held in Bridge Village Hall from 2-4pm on Saturday, March 1.

Church dates: Caring and Sharing Group, Monday, February 24, 7.30pm at The Vicarage, Bridge; Women's World Day of Prayer, Bridge Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road, 11am, Friday, March 7; Bangers, Beetle and Bingo, Bridge Village Hall, 5pm, Saturday, March 8.

PARISH COUNCIL: Community Wardens: The chairman, Cllr John Anderson, reported that Bridge Parish Council's application for a warden from Canterbury City Council is on hold. The parish council have applied jointly with Bishopsbourne and Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne Parish Council as the North Nailbourne Ward for a free warden from Kent County Council.

Council.

Parish Forum: Cllr Dobson reported back on the City Council's recycling scheme and said it was important to place only recyclable materials in the clear plastic sacks provided, as bags that containing other materials are automatically placed in landfill sites without being sorted. A place is required in the village to store surplus plastic sacks and the council is due to deliver more sacks soon.

Rural Youth Bus: Cllr Dobson reported that the City Council was intending to provide a bus staffed by two youth workers to go out to rural areas and work in conjunction with local volunteers to provide youth facilities. The bus will contain resources, which can be unloaded at appropriate venues. It was agreed that the parish council would support the use of the village hall one session per week.

Parish meeting: Cllr Walder reported that Nick Shirley had offered to give a presentation on How the Nailbourne Flows at the annual parish meeting. In the event of Mr Shirley being away on business, Cllr Walder agreed to talk about the Elham Valley Twinning Association.

Clic 4 Bridge: Cllr Connor reported that he had met the head teacher at Bridge Primary School with Mr Sleigh, the specialist ICT teacher, to discuss the opportunities offered for use of the IT facilities at the school. The school have advised that a 10-week course of two-hour classes will cost £80. It was agreed that any local people who might be interested could contact the parish clerk on 01227 831085.

Planning applications: The following planning application has been received and is under consideration: Cam03/00001/Bri, replacement application Ca/02/1567/Bri - installation of 15 metres high telecommunications monopole with three antennas, two dishes and associated equipment cabinet at Renville Farm, New Dover Road, High Street, Bridge.

The following planning application has been notified as granted:

Ca/02/01559/Bri- two storey extension and single storey side extension to 14 Conynham Lane, Bridge. The following application has been rejected: Ca/02/01495/Bri, single storey extension to 104 The High Street, Bridge.

Feb 25 2003

BISHOPSBOURNE

Correspondent: Malcolm Mitchell,
The Old Cottage, , Bishopsbourne,
CT4 5HT

Quiz night: The annual wine and wisdom evening in aid of Conrad Hall funds will be held in the hall at 7 for 7.30pm on Saturday, February 22, with a full uptake of tickets and tables. Due to the success of the quiz another will be held in the hall on Saturday, June 14.

Proceeds will go towards renewing curtains and windows in the hall. More details can be obtained by phoning trustees chairman Sheila Castle, 01227 831184, or Philippa Burniston, 01227 830341.

Parish church: There were no services at St Mary the Virgin, Bishopsbourne, on Sunday, February 16, but on Sunday, February 23, the Eucharist will be celebrated at St Mary's at 10am.

For those members of the congregation unable to attend, a welcome awaits them at services in other churches making up the Barham Downs united benefice: There will be holy Communion at 8am at St Margaret of Antioch, Womenswold, and Communion at 6pm at St Giles's, Kingston. There will also be a united family service at Barham Methodist Chapel at 10am.

Churchgoers from all four churches attended evensong in Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday when the Rector and Area Dean of the East Bridge Deanery, the Rev David Roper, was admitted as an honorary Minor Canon because he has been invited to join the group of clerics who sing evensong in the Cathedral in the absence of the Precentor.

For details of any of the above or any other church matter contact any of the following members of the ministry team: The Rector, the Rev David Roper, phone 01227 831340; the Curate, the Rev Lindsay Llewellyn, phone 01227 454704, or the Readers, Mary Ambrose, 01227 830856, or Poppy Deveson, 01227 830090.

PARISH COUNCIL: The chairman, Cllr Malcolm Mitchell, presided at the February meeting, held in the Conrad Hall on Wednesday, February 12.

Before the start of the official business a member of the public

asked how long the pumps on the corner of The Street and Frog Lane would remain in the village. The chairman replied that they would remain until their task of protecting cottages in The Street from sewage problems was completed, perhaps in March or April when the water table receded.

The clerk, Gerald Wenham, reported on earth dumping at Woodgate, Gorsley Hill, which involved heavy lorries driving through the village's narrow lanes, saying that Mr Sime of the City Council had written on December 12 undertaking to look into the matter.

A copy of the correspondence had been sent to City Cllr Bill Oakey and a follow up letter had been written to Mr Sime, on January 29, but so far nothing further had been heard. The council agreed to write again pressing the City Council for early action.

Mr Wenham said he would be attending a training day for parish councils arranged for March 5 by the City Council and Kent Association of Parish Councils. The session would be covering such recent legislation as freedom of information, ethical standards and elections.

Cllrs Colin Baker and Ian Burniston indicated they would be attending the public rights of way parish council liaison meeting on Thursday, February 27, in Elham village hall to discuss the service and plans for the future.

On finance, notice was received from the City Council that, based on the executive's recommendation, Bishopsbourne council would receive £514 by way of concurrent function grant for the coming financial year. As this was less than previous years and considerably less than many other villages received, it had been decided to appeal to the council to review its decision.

Notification was also received about new draft regulations covering the payment of travel and attendance allowances to councillors. Bishopsbourne members expressed no wish to claim for either and vice-chairman Cllr Terry Wilmshurst, referring to the lack of clarity in some of the draft regulations, hoped that such parish councils as Bishopsbourne, who would not be paying attendance allowances, would not be required to contribute towards

the running costs of the City Council's remuneration panel, which would make recommendations about the level of allowances.

Neame Meadow: The contract for ground maintenance work, excluding gang mowing carried out by the County Council, drawn up by Cllr Baker had been accepted and signed by the contractor, Tim Gallant, of Wingham Well.

Cllr Baker reported that he and Cllr Wilmshurst had planted out four trees, given to the council on the recreation ground. Cllr Baker had also drawn up a schedule of inspections of the new play equipment, which had to be carried out in order to satisfy the demands of the insurance company covering it. Both members were thanked by the chairman and colleagues for their work in connection with Neame Meadow.

Flooding: Cllr Burniston reported on the latest meeting of the Little Stour and Nailbourne Flood Management Group and problems with dredging the Little Stour and main Stour. The chairman said that the latest Environment Agency newsletter had indicated that Bishopsbourne was still on flood watch although there had been little change in water levels since December.

Highland Court: Cllr Burniston drew attention to the proposal in the draft local plan for allocation of a green field site at Highland Court as a possible site for office accommodation. It was agreed to keep watch on developments.

Green tourism: Cllr Burniston also referred to proposals to extend cycling paths, including one through Bishopsbourne along the dismantled Elham Valley railway line through Charlton Park to Kingston.

The aim was to link up villages with cycle paths. However what was presently a path over a field would not be suitable for cycles, which would need a metalled way. Cllr Baker said the matter would be explored at the forthcoming public rights of way meeting being organised by the County Council.

Church path: The chairman had been asked by the Rector, the Rev David Roper, if the council would pay for repair of the patch leading to the lychgate of St Mary the Virgin Church.

Cllr Mitchell said it was not the

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council's responsibility but wondered if the County Council had any responsibility for its upkeep if it was a registered footpath. It was agreed that the matter would be raised at the next County Council public rights of way meeting and Cllr Baker undertook to inspect the definitive footpath map to discover if it was listed.

Community Wardens: The County Council is funding the cost of such wardens. Bridge parish council is interested in obtaining a warden but its population was too small to qualify and so asked neighbouring parishes to join it in forming a group of councils which could qualify.

The chairman, on behalf of the council had informed Cllr John Anderson, chairman of Bridge Parish Council, that Bishopsbourne would join such a group, provided no cost fell on the parish, and members agreed.

Annual meeting: the chairman and vice-chairman were asked to make the usual arrangement for refreshments at the annual parish meeting which, this year, would be held on Wednesday, April 16.

Members were not minded to invite a special guest speaker, although it was agreed to keep the matter under review.

The next meeting of the council will be on Wednesday, March 12, in the Conrad Hall at 7.30pm.

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BRIDGE WITH PATRIBOURNE

**Correspondent: J Anderson, 7
Dering Road, Bridge, Canterbury,
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Computer Course: The parish council's negotiating with Bridge CEP Primary School to hold computer courses for anyone interested in the village. Owing to the break-in and theft that occurred at the school last week, the idea is unfortunately on hold for the present. The council expresses its sympathy with the school.

History Society: The February meeting at the White Horse, Bridge, was fully booked for a talk by Martin Lloyd. Following his previous talk on passports, this was entitled Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies and gave details of scoundrels and worse who have passed through our county and ports.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. In May 2002, Dr Paul Wilkinson of the Kent Archaeological Field School, conducted a dig on Star Hill above Bourne House, with the aid of 20 volunteers. His talk will tell of what he found there, and in other digs he has conducted in East Kent, and what they add to our knowledge of the district. Admission for members is £2, non-members £3.

On Saturday, March 22, at 2pm in Bridge Village Hall, there will be an antiques valuation afternoon, offering an opportunity for members to have their treasures valued in the village. A valuer will express his opinions on the antiques and there will be an antiques quiz. This is restricted to members only and to two items per person maximum. Members only pay £2, including refreshments.

Neighbourhood Watch: A burglary took place at Bridge Primary School, Conyngham Lane, on the night of February 18/19. The glass was smashed and the door forced on a steel fire exit door to gain entry and an Intel digital microscope, an RM laptop computer, several Dell laptops and a Mitsubishi data projector were stolen.

All items were marked with the postcode CT4 5JX and the computers were burnt with the name Bridge and Patrixbourne School. If anyone has any information about this theft, phone the police on 01227 762055.

Friends: The League of Friends of Canterbury Hospital Nailbourne branch raised £161 at its annual meeting and coffee morning, last Saturday in Bridge Village Hall. The chairman Elizabeth Stewart and all the officers were returned unopposed. The organisers thank all who supported the event.

Jumble Sale: A sale in support of the local Liberal Democrat Party will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, March 1, from 2-4pm. Phone 01227 830923 for collection of donated items.

Tories meet: The annual meeting of the North Nailbourne Ward Conservative group will be in Bridge Village Hall on Thursday, March 6, at 7.30pm.

Wine and wisdom: A quiz evening will be held on Friday, March 7, at Bekesbourne Village Hall at 7.15pm. Tickets cost £3, take your own food, drink, plates, cutlery and glasses. Phone Rosemary Cowans on 01227 831029 or Jane Shorrocks on 01227 832133 to book your table.

Church Services: Sunday, March 2, one before Lent, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev P. Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 9.30pm Holy Communion, Mr Filmer and 6pm Evensong, Mr Filmer and Mrs M. Clarke, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge group: 10am Family Service, Mrs P. Kusel, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne; 11am Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, service led by the Rev D. Lugg also Friday, March 7, at 11am, Womens World Day Of Prayer, interdenominational and all are welcome.

WI: Bridge and Patrixbourne branch held its February meeting in Bridge Village Hall. Mrs Pauline Greenman spoke about the work of the Association of Country Women of the World, a branch of the Institute who, among other things, promote clean water projects and the teaching of new skills to women living in rural communities.

Its fund-raising is still known as the Pennies for Friendship, although more than just pennies are now needed to keep the organisation running.

The winner of this month's competition was Mary Merton. Next month's meeting will be in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm, on Tuesday, March 18, with Mrs Barbara Wilson talking on Working as a Prison Governor, and the competition will be for an article beginning with D. The competition for April is for a limerick on smuggling, the winning entry to go on to the group meeting.