

# Crash sparks call for village traffic control

**CALLS** for traffic calming on a busy village road have been stepped up after a late-night crash.

A Vauxhall Cavalier travelling down Bridge Hill at 11pm on Saturday lost control, ploughing into a parked car.

The force of the crash knocked a second parked car across the road and into the flint wall around St Peter's Church, knocking down the wall and the church flagpole.

Two men trapped in the Cavalier were cut free by firefighters. They were treated at Kent and Canterbury Hospital where their injuries were not thought to be serious.

They were lucky to escape with their lives, said parish councillor Mark Esdale, who lives close to the accident scene.

"I am surprised there haven't been more accidents here. I am stunned that these people were not badly hurt or killed. They were lucky," he said.

The parish council wants to see traffic calming measures introduced on the hill.

Cllr Esdale said: "The council next meets on September 9. We will be discussing this issue. We will certainly step up the pressure with Kent Highways."

by **AMANDA WILLS**

Bridge vicar the Rev Paul Filmer also wants safety measures: "I would like to see a pavement built on the church side of the road to make it safer for pedestrians and to act as a traffic calming measure," he said.

"Any accident is sad and I'm relieved no-one was hurt but I hope this crash will bring attention to the fact that this road is dangerous and something needs to be done.

"If it had happened at a different time and people were coming out of church, it could have been a lot worse.

"We should think ourselves lucky it wasn't and do something about it before something does happen."

City council spokesman Rob Davies said that although no traffic calming scheme was currently being considered for Bridge Hill, the council was working on a five year traffic plan for all villages in the district.

"As part of that, we have already had some suggestions from Bridge Parish Council for work in the village centre. If they would like to make some suggestions for work at Bridge Hill, we can work that into the plan. The deadline for suggestions is November."



**ACCIDENT SITE:** The Rev Paul Filmer and Selwyn Lewis, the chairman of Bridge Parish Council, examine the damaged church wall

Ref: pd 653752

KG Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 2004

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## MEET YOUR COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENTS



ON LINE: Bridge village correspondent John Anderson emails in the week's news Ref: pd 650992

**JOHN Anderson, our Bridge and Patricbourne correspondent, has been writing about village news for this paper for about five years.**

**He became involved after bemoaning the lack of Bridge news which was featured and now feels that he has built up a reasonable column of information.**

**He said: "I try not to miss a trick. Villagers give me reports of meetings and often put them through my door.**

**"I try to cover what's going on in Bridge and Patricbourne and do this by scanning the village notice boards.**

**"And I have to make sure I visit the three pubs once a week to include their events."**

**Mr Anderson also keeps**

**himself active in the community. He is a parish council member, as well as a former chairman.**

**After winning a by-election in January, he also represents the ward of North Nailbourne on Canterbury council.**

**Mr Anderson added: "I think I have pretty well got my finger on the pulse of village life.**

**"I thrive on being busy and do not feel like I am old. My council work has rejuvenated me because there's such a lot going on."**

**A 10-week computer course at Bridge school gave Mr Anderson the confidence to use e-mail and for the past two years he has e-mailed his reports to this paper.**

**He enjoys being village correspondent and places a great value on the role.**

**He continued: "Lots of people read the paper and those living in Bridge want to know what is going on around them and know they can turn to the village news and find it.**

**"Community news is an important part of a local newspaper and I enjoy going out to find it."**

**Mr Anderson has lived in Bridge since 1969. Before he retired, he was chief hotel inspector for the RAC, spending many weeks a year visiting establishments in this country and abroad.**

**NEXT WEEK: Harry Amson, Adisham.**

# 'Ceaseless' worker nominated to be the next Lord Mayor

Feb 26 2004

LIB Dem Cllr Martin Vye has been nominated to replace Nick Eden-Green as the next Lord Mayor of Canterbury.

The proposal was put forward by the leader of Canterbury City Council, Alex Perkins, at Thursday's meeting of the full council. The new Lord Mayor will take office in May.

Nominating Cllr Vye, Cllr Perkins said: "Martin Vye has worked ceaselessly with local people for a number of years. Martin has spent years doing an excellent job and I believe there could be no better nomination."

Seconding the proposal, Labour group leader Cllr Ron Pepper said: "This is appropriate

recognition for a man of character who will bring a number of qualities to the role."

Cllr Vye, originally from Surrey, moved to the district 35 years ago with Jennifer, his wife of 40 years. The couple live in Bridge, have two grown-up children, three grandchildren and a fourth on the way.

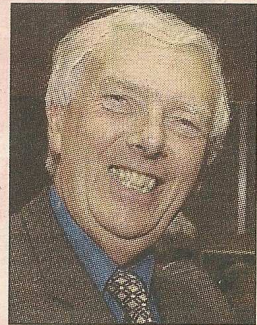
A former Russian teacher and housemaster at King's School, Canterbury, Cllr Vye was elected as a county councillor in 1989 and to the city council in 1995.

He said of his nomination for Lord Mayor: "I view it as a singular honour. I feel that after 15 years in local government, I have a good knowledge of the

way in which the council helps the local community, and I look forward to acting in a non-partisan way to further that.

"Of course, I plan to represent Canterbury to the best of my endeavour."

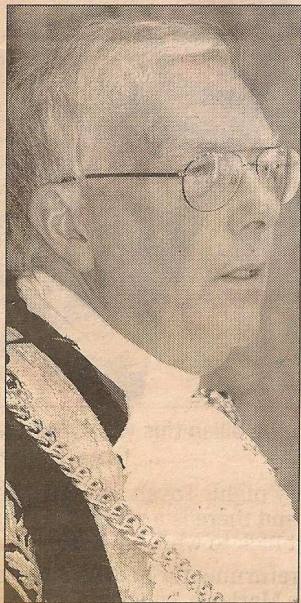
The holder of the office will not be confirmed until the night of Mayor making in May.



Cllr MARTIN VYE

'LOCAL LEGEND' IS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES

# Children put at top of new Lord Mayor's agenda



CIVIC ROLE: New Lord Mayor Cllr Martin Vye

CONCERN for children and young people will be the cornerstone of the new Lord Mayor of Canterbury's term.

Cllr Martin Vye was officially invested during a ceremony at the Guildhall, having been elected unanimously by council members.

He takes over from fellow Liberal Democrat Cllr Nick Eden-Green as the district's first citizen.

He told a packed Guildhall: "At times like this you are made to feel rather special.

"It's a special job to which we all bring our own interests and attitudes.

"My concern is for all the children and all the young people and we will take every opportunity to stand up for them and celebrate their achievements."

by ALEX CLARIDGE

Cllr Vye also paid a special tribute to his wife Jennifer who will be the new Lady Mayoress, describing her as his "wife, companion and partner".

He was proposed for the mayoralty by Lib Dem council leader Cllr Alex Perkins who said: "Martin is a local legend.

"He has helped so many people. He has solved so many difficult disputes, fought for local children, defended the rights of minorities and is the man who will be there when a cause needs to be promoted or defended."

Cllr Vye is a fluent Russian speaker who trained as a Marine before serving in Naval intelligence.



LAST ORDERS: Sheriff Cllr Fred Whitmore and Lord Mayor Cllr Nick Eden-Green at the mayor-making ceremony at the Guildhall

Ref: pd 587802

He then moved into education, teaching at Kingston Bridge, is also the Liberal Democrat county councillor for the South Canterbury division.

He has chosen Dr Joseph O'Hanlon from the Franciscan International Study Centre at the University of Kent as his chaplain for the next year.

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## The lighter side of the office

OUTGOING Lord Mayor Cllr Nick Eden-Green and his deputy, Cllr Fred Whitmore, took great pleasure in recounting some of the funnier moments of their spells in office.

Cllr Eden-Green recalled some of the questions he had been asked by schoolchildren over the year.

They included: Is the Queen your mum? Do you rule the whole of Kent? Has your sword got blood on it? Do you live in a mansion? Do you wash your robes in a washing machine? How many toilets does your house have? Do you know George Washington personally?

Cllr Fred Whitmore said he had grown used to traditional role of an English sheriff - an office which dates back to Saxon times - being confused with the lawmen of the Wild West.

"Children expect to see you riding in on a horse," he said.

"And I did have one call from woman who was complaining about a gang of youths near her home. As the call went on, I realised she was expecting me to raise a posse."



**CRASH SCENE:** A fire crew helped to release the van driver

# Driver freed from crashed van

**TWO** vehicles collided in Station Road, Bridge at midday on Wednesday.

A Citroen van, travelling the winding country lane towards the High Street, grazed the grass bank at the side of the road after skidding 60 feet.

The van turned on its side before it was in collision with a 16-tonne lorry going towards the village of Pett Bottom.

The 59-year-old driver of the van was taken by Air Ambulance to Kent and Canterbury Hospital, suffering from injuries to his arm.

The driver of the lorry was shaken but unhurt.

Two teams of paramedics took 40 minutes to release the driver.

A fire crew had to make space in the vehicle by going in the back door and through the front windscreen.

Paramedics Team Leader, Dave Latham, said, "When we arrived the vehicle was on its side and the driver still had his seat belt on.

"He was not physically trapped in the car but we had to make the space to cut him out.

"The Air Ambulance was called because of the nature of the impact and the mechanics of the injuries."

KG May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004



Publican Chris MacClean, right, with Mark Esdale and the wireless Internet setup Ref: pd583010

# Logging on to the Innترنت

A PUB in Bridge is at the forefront of a revolutionary method of accessing the Internet.

The Plough and Harrow is acting as a hub for WiFi – a system which allows computer users to receive information through radio airwaves.

Anyone with a laptop and a WiFi card can sit down in the pub and log on to the World Wide Web while supping a beer.

The pub, a Shepherd Neame house, has had a server installed in its cellar from

which the Internet signals are transmitted.

Mark Esdale, the chairman of Bridge Parish Council, has been the driving force behind the project in the village.

He said: “It is a revolutionary system – I have been into the pub and paid my income tax over the Internet while having a pint.

“There have been a few people going in there using it so they are aware of it.”

The system has been developed by the Ashford-based company Telabria, which is running trials on

WiFi “hotspots” at three Kent pubs.

Another feature of WiFi is known as the rural mesh and also runs from the hub at the Plough and Harrow.

Homes within a kilometre radius of the pub which have been fitted with the necessary equipment can also pick up the Internet over the airwaves at a high-speed connection.

It means in houses and farms in remote areas can access the Internet.

Broadband is likely to be introduced in Bridge in October.



PEDAL POWER: Cyclists about to embark on their charity ride from Canterbury Cathedral to the twin city of Reims

Ref: pd 583913

## Riding to Reims in the rain raises a cool £16,000

A GROUP of cyclists set out from Canterbury Cathedral on a ride to twin city Reims to raise money for the Lady Mayoress's charities.

At the end of the trip – cycled in driving rain – they had managed to raise more than £16,000 for the Samaritans and Pilgrims Hospice.

The riders set off early on Thursday and all went well on the road to Dover and at the start in France, with the odd puncture and minor breakdown rapidly sorted out by the technical back-up team from Downland Cycles, based at Canterbury West Station.

The first night was spent at Aire sur la Lys and the next day the cyclists left for the 85-mile stretch to St Quentin. The support team of Lord

Mayor Cllr Nick Eden-Green and his wife Monica swung into action, stripping supermarket shelves of 50 baguettes, 10 kilos of bananas, 100 bottles of water and several kilos of ham and cheese.

“The woman on the check-out couldn’t believe it,” said Cllr Eden-Green. “They normally expect to see the trolleys of British visitors full of beer and wine and wondered if we were on some sort of special diet.”

The Pilgrims Hospice provided the other support vehicle for first aid (not needed) and catering. Hopper’s Farmhouse Bakeries, in Herne Bay, provided free high-carbohydrate snacks.

At lunchtime the heavens opened. There was thunder and lightning and two days of rain with

the rest of the ride completed in the cold and wet. “They rode like heroes through the next day and a half,” said Cllr Eden-Green. “Conditions were just terrible but nobody pulled out.”

In Laon, 45 miles from their destination, the group was met by a team of riders from Reims who rode with them the rest of the way. At the city limits they were escorted into the town by police motorcycle outriders.

The mayor and deputy mayor of Reims and the chairmen of Canterbury and Reims twinning groups met the riders at a reception who were presented with a medal celebrating their achievement and a signed certificate from the Lady Mayoress.

# Pedal power along coast aids charities

CYCLISTS set off from Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay to take part in a coastal bike ride in aid of the Lady Mayoress's charities.

The biggest group started from the city and those taking part ranged in age from six to over 70. A route had been mapped and followed cycleways for almost all its length.

Lady Mayoress Monica Eden-Green said: "It was a perfect day. The weather was fine, warm and sunny with almost no wind.

"Whitstable and Herne Bay looked at their best and we even picked up the odd extra rider on the coast who joined in because we were clearly having such fun."

The Lord Mayor, Cllr Nick Eden-Green, who also finished the 25-mile ride, said cycling group Spokes and the Crab and Winkle Line Trust, whose route was followed, helped in making the event a success.

Several hundred pounds were raised for the charities, the Pilgrims Hospice Appeal and Samaritans. Sponsorship money and donations should be sent to A. J. Welch, 30 St George's Place, Canterbury CT1 1UT.



MADE FOR TWO: Ready for the off (left) Finbar Shirley, 10 and Hugh Saffrey, 13

Ref: pd583912

KG May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004



# Stately home open to the public after restoration

AMID seasonal flowers and showers, Higham Park reopened its gates to the public on Sunday.

The stately home and gardens, near Bridge, has been lovingly restored since cousins and joint owners Patricia Gibb and Amanda Harris-Deans bought the property in 1995.

Since it was last an open house in September, it has had copper roofing installed, covering 300 square metres at the back of the building.

Five chimneys are also being re-rendered and a number of windows repaired or replaced.

Ms Harris-Deans said: "Roofing felt had been put up in the 1950s that only had a 20-year life, so it was well past its sell-by date.

"This copper is costing four arms and six legs! It is very frightening, but absolutely necessary."

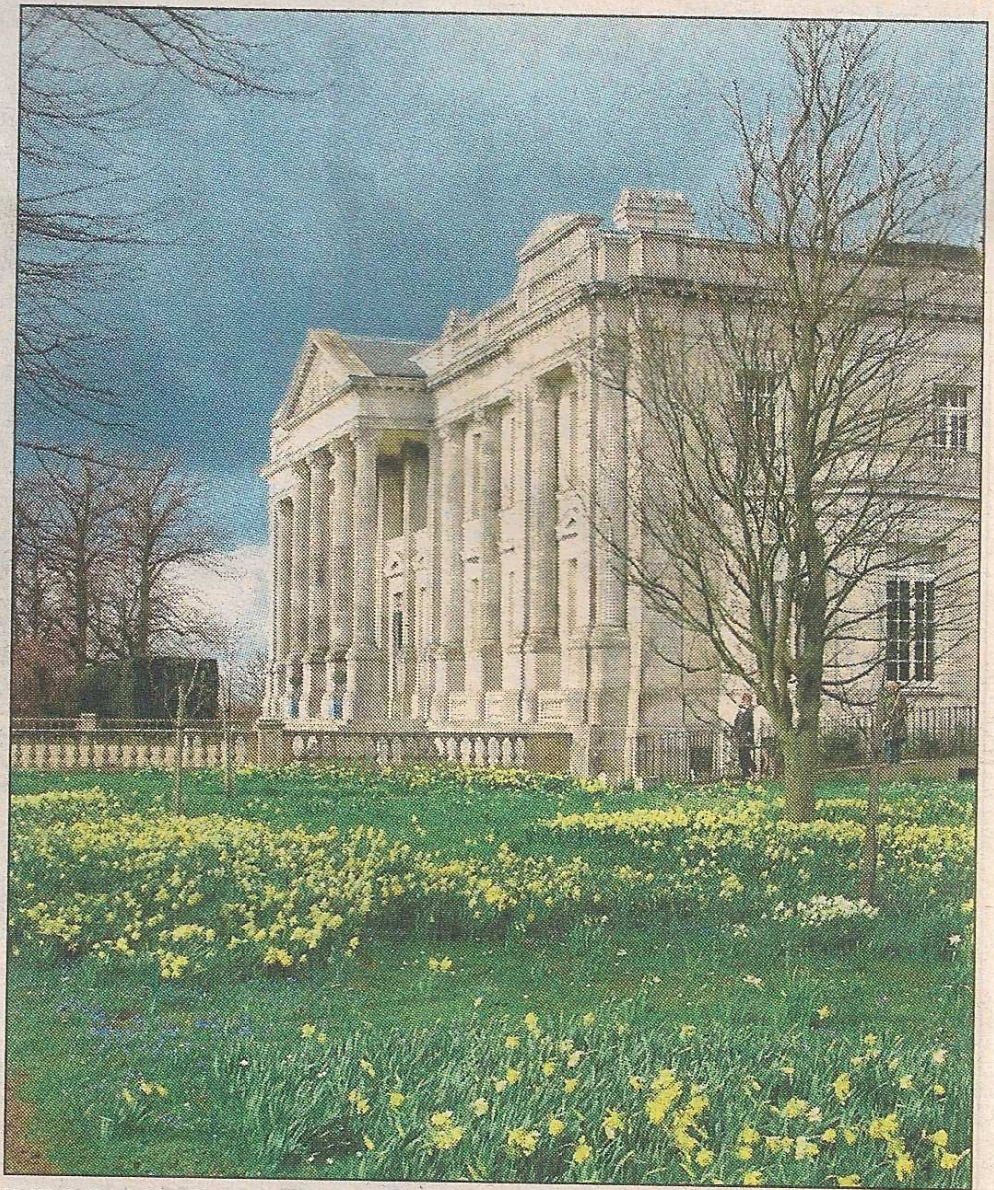
The building can be traced to the reign of King Edward II in the early 14th century.

Distinguished visitors include Mozart, General Charles de Gaulle and Noel Coward, but perhaps most notably James Bond creator Ian Fleming.

Another work of Fleming's, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, was inspired by a racing car designed by former resident and racing driver Count Louis Zborowski in the 1920s.

Several regiments were stationed at Higham Park during the Second World War.

Ms Harris-Dean said that for much of the last century, the house was used as the gynaecology department of



IMPOSING SIGHT: Higham House, near Canterbury, has opened early to the public this year

Ref: pd 558848

Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Friend and former neighbour Peter Crouch gives regular talks to visitors, focusing on Count Zborowski's cars.

Higham's parkland and gardens extend some 25 acres, much of which was designed by influential 20th Century garden designer Harold Peto.

Sunday's opening came earlier than usual to allow visitors to delight in the array of daisies,

daffodils, anemones and scillas among other species.

Higham Park will remain open until the end of September. Visiting times are daily except Friday and Saturday, between 11am and 5pm or 6pm on Sundays.

Admission is £2 for a guided tour, £3 per adult and £1 per child for the gardens.

More information is available at [www.higham-park.co.uk](http://www.higham-park.co.uk) or by calling 01227 830830.

Mar 25 2004

25/3/2004



**UP ON THE ROOF:** Patricia Gibb, left, and Amanda Harris-Deans on the renovated rooftop of Higham House

*Ref: pd 558847*

# Restoration is a shining example

STUNNING copper roofing is part of extensive work being carried out at Higham Park at Bridge before it opens to the public this month.

Co-owner Amanda Harris-Deans has been restoring the house since she purchased it in a state of disrepair with her cousin Patricia Gibb and nephew in 1995.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, March 21, the stately home throws open its doors to the public for the first time this year.

The copper roofing covers an area of 300 square metres at the back of the building, the oldest part of the house.

Five chimneys are also being re-rendered and 20 windows are being repaired or replaced.

Ms Harris-Deans said: "Roofing felt had been put up in the 1950s that only had a 20-year life, so it was well past its sell-by date.

"The copper looks beautiful and shines out; I expect it almost blinds aircraft pilots overhead.

"A heck of a lot of work is being put in ready for the opening of the house on Mother's Day.

"About 3,500 bulbs have been planted and the daffodils are glorious."

The house and gardens will be open from 11am to 5pm from March 21 every day except Fridays and Saturdays.

Entry to the gardens costs £3.50 and tours of the house, which begin at 12.30pm and 2.30pm, cost £2.50. For more information phone Higham Park on 01227 830830.

Mar 4 2004

# Children extend the hand of friendship

WAR diaries penned by Bridge resident Bill Rose while held captive in Japan have inspired an international exchange taking place this week.

On Saturday, 15 schoolchildren from the Japanese village of Tenryu arrived in Bridge to play their part in the burgeoning East Meets West initiative.

The diaries of Mr Rose, now 91, were edited and published in 2002 under the title *You Shook My Hand*.

The book cemented a link between the two villages established when the war veteran visited Tenryu in 1999.

Tenryumura – literally ‘village of Tenryu’ – was the location of the prisoner of war camp where Mr Rose was held during the Second World War.

On the site of the camp now stands the Tenryu Junior High School, from where the 14 and 15-year-old pupils have made this week’s pilgrimage.

If Mr Rose was the inspiration, the East Meets West initiative has been moved forward by Bridge resident Valerie de Furrentes and a number of families who have volunteered to host the schoolchildren.

With Canadian Trevor Anderson, rep-

by DAN IRWIN

representative of the Tenryu Board of Education, she has organised this week’s programme of trips and activities with the broad aim of fostering international peace through education.

“There was a special atmosphere when our Japanese guests arrived on Saturday after 20 hours of travelling,” said Ms Furrentes.

“The host families in Bridge were all there to meet them by torchlight, it was quite lovely.”

## High Altar

The next day, a special evensong was held at Canterbury Cathedral in front of the Japanese Ambassador, Masaki Orita.

The service began with a symbolic act of peace and goodwill, when two of the Japanese children lay origami cranes at the High Altar.

The bird is a symbol of peace in Japan and some of the cranes will be taken back and placed on an altar at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

Origami has become a feature of the

week, with Bridge schoolchildren taking lessons in the paper art from their Japanese counterparts.

Francis and Judith Harvey, of Bridge Down, volunteered to temporarily extend their family of four children with the addition of two Japanese girls, Saki and Naru.

Mrs Harvey said: “We have a busy house at the best of times, but our two guests have fitted in really well.”

“We’ve tried to offer a mix of cultures during their stay. On Sunday we had roast potatoes with noodles!”

On Monday, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Nick Eden-Green, welcomed the party to his parlour in Tower House, Westgate Gardens.

There then followed a tour of East-bridge Hospital and Greyfriars before a reception at Bridge Primary School in the evening.

The Japanese schoolchildren talked their hosts through a slide show of pictures before singing a medley of songs from their homeland.

At the party, Mr Rose was formally introduced to the guests he has so inspired, *You Shook My Hand* is now central to the Tenryu students’ social studies curriculum.

## Obligation

He said: “When I wrote those diaries I had no expectations of anything like this happening.”

“It was the introduction of my Japanese daughter-in-law that changed all that. She went back to Tokyo and helped arrange my visit in 1999, which was just fantastic.

“I was on national TV over there and they’ve erected a wonderful memorial, so I feel it’s my obligation to go back some time.

“This week’s visit has been a tremendous success.”

The pupils also visited Kent College to teach origami to the junior school pupils.

Further excursions include a tour around Higham Park, in Bridge, an overnight stay in London, a shopping trip and a visit to Leeds Castle before they fly home on Sunday.

East Meets West plans a further exchange later this year, when a group from Bridge will visit their new friends.

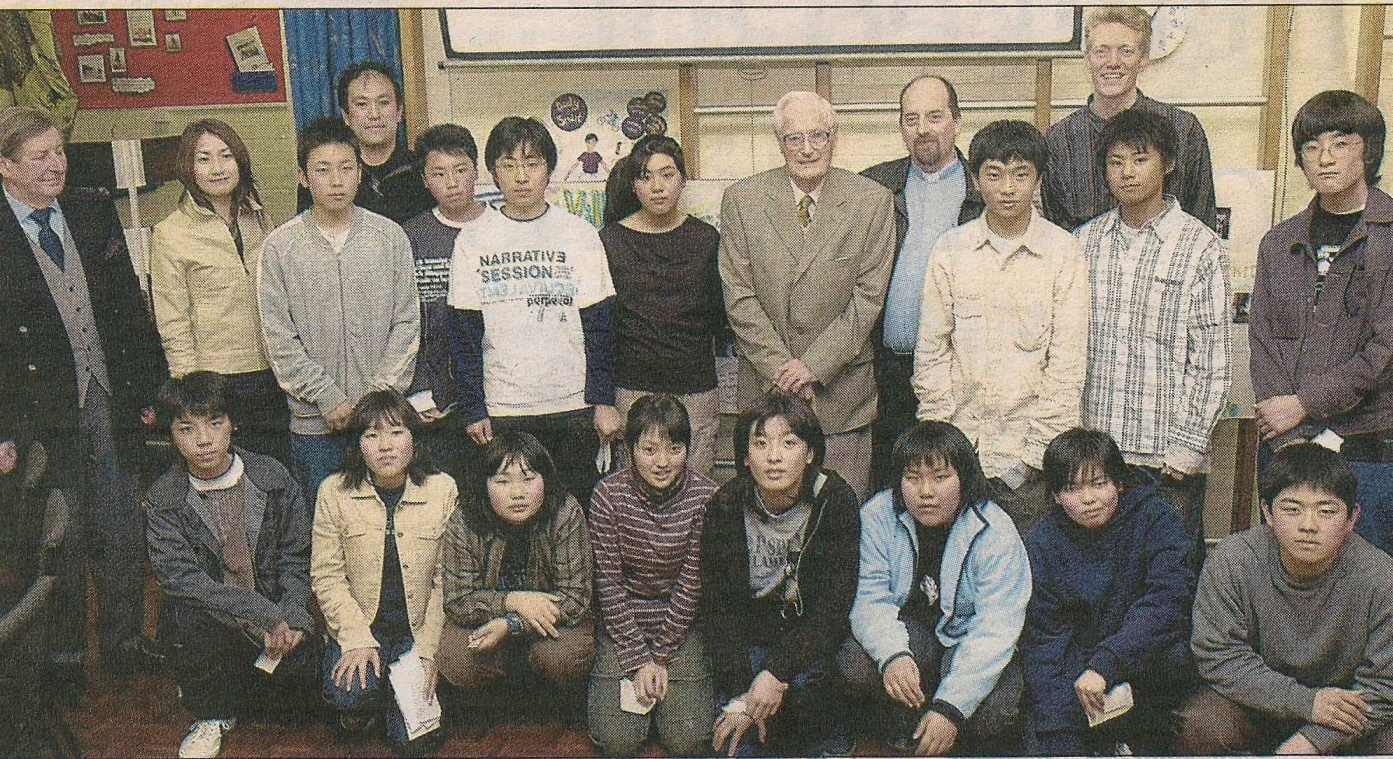


INSPIRATIONAL READ: Valerie De Furrentes, Bill Rose and Nailbourne councillor John Anderson look at Bill's book

Ref: pd 559610

25/3/2004

# WARTIME DIARIES INSPIRATION BEHIND VISIT OF JAPANESE SCHOOLCHILDREN



**SYMBOLIC GESTURE:** Origami cranes symbolising peace are laid on the high altar at Canterbury Cathedral  
*Ref: pd 5587*

# Thieves who stole drive mirrors 'put lives at risk'

Road 'dangerous enough anyway'

by JO ROBERTS

A TRAFFIC campaigner says thieves who stole a roadside mirror he relies on to exit his drive have put him in jeopardy.

Alan Howland, 61, has been complaining to the parish and district councils since 1982 about traffic through the 14ft wide Bekesbourne Road in Bridge.

He felt it was dangerous enough leaving his drive into the path of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles, even with the mirror, but since thieves stole his and a neighbour's mirrors overnight on Sunday, he's felt he is taking his life in his hands.

Mr Howland said: "Bekesbourne Road is used as a sliproad off the A2 by HGVs and other traffic.

"The safety mirrors that have been stolen were used to ensure that when we leave our drives we aren't facing certain death.

"I am situated on the wrong side of the bend so rely on the mirror both when I am backing into my drive and when I am coming out - without it I have to get halfway into the road before I can see what is coming.

"The mirror was there Sunday evening but I noticed on Monday it was missing. I never go out without checking it.

"There's no way it could have been knocked off, they must have been taken deliberately. This is the third mirror my neighbour has had stolen."

The mirrors cost about £100.

A police spokesman said: "On busy roads with concealed entrances these privately-owned mirrors assist drivers by warning of on-coming traffic. The theft of such mirrors is an irresponsible act."



TRAFFIC HAZARD: Alan Howland outside his driveway in Bridge

Ref: pd 472459

Mr Howland says more sliproads into the city from the A2 would greatly help the traffic problem.

He said: "An awful lot of the traffic is caused by the lack of a proper access and egress to the A2. It would certainly be a great step forward and ease some of the problems here."

■ A fund for a feasibility study into A2 sliproads at Canterbury has raised more than three-quarters of its £50,000 target.

Business group Canterbury 4 Business (C4B) is collecting pledges to meet the cost of bringing forward a Highways Agency feasibility study into the sliproads, which would ease city congestion.

Without the money, the Highways Agency does not have the budget for the survey until 2006.

No pledges will be collected until a defined survey has been drawn up with the Highways Agency.

Pledges can be made through Fiona Beer on 07717713892/fbeerc4b@aol.com or Kevin Bush on kevin@newbiz4u.co.uk