

BRIDGE

Correspondent: J Anderson, 7
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Parish council: The next meeting will be in the village hall on Thursday March 11, planning committee at 7.15pm, full council at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

Parish outing: A proposal for an outing has been put forward by Peggy Prior at a date yet to be decided. The timetable would be to leave Bridge at 9.45am, join a boat with catering and toilets at Westminster Pier at noon., cruise to the Thames Flood Barrier viewing the sights of London from the river en route and returning at 3pm. This would cost adults £19.50 children £12.75. There is then a choice of crossing Westminster Bridge to visit to the London Eye at adults £11.50, children under 16 £5.75, under 5s free; the Florence Nightingale Museum at St Thomas's Hospital (last admission 3.30pm) costing adults £5.80, child, OAP/Student £4.20, family (two adults two children) £13;

or the London Aquarium, adults £8.75 children three-14 £5.25, students 15 or over (proof required) £6.50, OAPs £6.50. For a group of 10 or over £1s deducted from those prices.

To provisionally book seats phone 01227 832058, if engaged 01227 832477 or e-mail ppryer@hotmail.com

Royal British Legion: Twenty-one members attended the January meeting at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne, with Doug Fenn in the chair. and were asked to remember in silence Mrs Callard and Mrs Gibbs. A new member, Ken Rayner was welcomed to the meeting. The treasurer reported that all subscriptions are paid up and Fred Bennett asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded to the treasurer, John Hewett, for having collected them so efficiently.

Geoff Welch reported on the recent Group4 meeting.

Twelve members were at the February meeting at the same venue again with Doug Fenn in the chair.

There is a branch Hot Pot Supper and quiz at the Hay Wain, Bramling on Monday April 19 at £4.50 per head plus £1 to enter the quiz. Contact 01227 721237

Now that they have reached a quiet time of their year, branch officers extend an invitation to ex-service people who may be interested in the work of the legion, to attend a meeting. They can see what goes on and perhaps consider joining the branch. They are a friendly bunch and meetings are quite informal. They meet at the Recreation Hall Littlebourne every second Tuesday of the month at 8pm.

Church Diary: The Health and Healing group will meet on Thursday March 4 at 7pm at Netherbury, Meadow Close, Bridge by invitation of John and Muriel Packer. If you have any special requests, phone Muriel on 830364 or Kath Pierce on 01227 830844. Better still why not come in person? You will be welcome. Women's World Day of Prayer, Bridge Methodist Church 11am Friday March 5.

Caring and Sharing Group Monday March 8 7.30pm 37 High Street Bridge.

Holy Communion, Tuesday March 9 2pm. Churchill House, Bridge.

After Eights Group Tuesday March 9 8pm 58 Western Avenue, Bridge.

Church Services: Sunday March 7. Lent 2. 8am BCP Communion the Rev P. Filmer St. Mary's Church Patricxbourne, 9.30am Holy

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ROUNDUP

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Communion the Rev D. Bretherton
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 Mr. M.
Baybutt.

Darts competition: The Red Lion
Bridge was filled with darts
enthusiasts on Tuesday February
17 to watch Eric Bristow, many
times World Champion, play an
exhibition 16 matches against local
players. Playing the 801 game,
Stewart Bourne aged 13 came very
close to beating the champion
right down to the last double. The
only one to beat Eric was a player
from the Dog and Bear at Rough
Common. Innkeeper John Leeming
hopes that he will be able to hold a
similar event later in the year.

Parish Plan: At the inaugural
meeting of the steering committee
of the Parish Plan on February 19,
officers elected were chairman Bill
Oakey, secretary Ian McNeill,
treasurer Karen Beesty.

The committee now consists of the
above, plus David Powell, Mrs
Ailsa Williamson Powell, Mrs
Chris Coshall and Mrs Joan Hill.
The two representatives of the
parish council are Cllrs Mrs Pam
Dobson and John Hill.

The parish council chairman, Cllr
Mark Esdale, welcomed the
committee to the task of producing
a Parish Plan that would see
benefits to the community and
announced a grant of £500 from
the council to defray some start-up
costs. Other grants will need to be
applied for, from the Canterbury
City Council and the Countryside
Agency. The next meeting of the
steering committee will be on
Tuesday March 9 in the Hunter
Room of the village hall.

History Society: Despite a change
of venue at short notice, the
members' evening was a great
success with Chris Maclean
allowing the society to use the
meeting room at the Plough and
Harrow. Alan Walton talked about
the chequered history of the
Elham Valley Railway and Roger
Marden told the story of the local
fire service, its funding, the fire
fighting, the engines and the
volunteers. Both talks were well
illustrated with slides.

The next meeting will be in Bridge
School Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday
March 9 when Professor Ted
Parker will give an illustrated talk
on Clocks. Members will pay £2
non-members £3 including
refreshments.

Fish Scheme: This neighbourly
help group's Coffee Pop-In will be
in the village hall on Wednesday
March 10 from 10-11.15am. If you
require a lift phone Ann Medhurst
on 01227 830762. Knitting wool is
running out fast and if you have
take it to the Pop-In or phone Rosy
Green on 01227 830204.

Slimming and Exercise: The group
meets every Wednesday in the
village hall at 7.30pm. New
members are welcome and can just
turn up or, for more details phone
01227 832058, if engaged 832477.

11.3.2004

BRIDGE

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Jumble sale: There will be a jumble sale in the village hall on Saturday March 13 at 2pm, in aid of the local Liberal Democrats. There will be tea and cakes. Phone Janet Horsley with offers of jumble on 01227 830923.

WI: Bridge with Patricxbourne branch has made changes to the published programme of meetings due to "circumstances beyond its control.". The presentation on Tuesday February 17 was replaced by Mrs Ley Liberson, previously scheduled for March, talking about her experiences when their boat capsized in the Atlantic.

The meeting on March 16 in the village hall will now feature a talk by Mrs. Margaret Beckworth entitled Our Unmentionable Past and the competition is for an article beginning with the letter I.

Surgery: Cllr John Anderson, city councillor for the North Nailbourne Ward will hold his surgery in Bekesbourne Village Hall on Saturday March 20 between 10am and noon. No appointment is necessary.

Village hall: The annual meeting of the management committee will be held in the Hunter Room of the hall at 7.30pm on Thursday March 18 and is open to all living in and around Bridge. For further details phone Mark Esdale on 01227 832740.

Church news: St Peter's Church is pleased to invite all parishioners to a reception as part of the programme of activities for the Japanese school children visiting Bridge during March. During this two-hour event at Bridge School from 5-7pm on Monday March 22, there will be a cross-cultural game of bingo, tea and cake and a presentation by the visitors about their village and the reason for their trip to England. All ages are welcome, if you need transport there and home again phone either the Rev Paul Filmer on 01227 830250 or Pat Dunderdale, 830668, and to give an idea of numbers for catering. There is no cost for this event, but any donations towards

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ROUNDAE

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the refreshments would be much appreciated.

To mark their 50th anniversary, Canterbury and district branch of the Samaritans is looking to recruit new volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare; want to make a difference to others and yourself and to listen to others without judging them, phone and find out more on 01227 457777. You do not need any formal qualifications as training and support will be provided on the job.

East Bridge Deanery will launch a new annual activity for local primary school children in May. There will be workshops on song, dance, music, theatre and storytelling, with the event finishing with a celebration lunch. Provisionally it will run from 9.30am to 1.30pm. on Saturday May 15 at Bridge School. Registration will be on a first come first served basis for the limited places available. More details will be available next month, including how and when to register your child.

Diary: Monday March 15, Caring and Sharing Group, The Purlins, Meadow Close, Bridge, 7.30pm; Tuesday March 16, Holy Communion, Saxon Lodge, Bridge. 2.30pm; After Eights Group, Fairview, Bekesbourne Lane, 8pm.

Church Funding: Would you be willing to donate towards the upkeep of running the two churches in the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge? There are several ways you may consider. Planned giving is a regular payment through your bank, they can also claim back 28p in the pound if you pay income tax. You may prefer to use the envelope scheme by which you can donate, as and when you wish.

Alternatively you could make a one-off donation.

Last year the Patrixbourne with Bridge Churches needed £37,000 and raised £34,000. To make up the shortfall and move forward this year depends on everyone's generosity. For any type of donation phone Evelyn Andrews on 01227 830960.

Coffee morning: Highfield care home in Bekesbourne Lane has strong connections with the community, providing respite, convalescence, residential, palliative and nursing care. The manager is Roz Hadaway and there is an activities co-ordinator who helps the residents. They would welcome you to their St Patrick's Day celebration coffee morning on Wednesday March 17 at 10am.

Spring coffee: In aid of the parish of Patricbourne and Bridge, a coffee morning will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday March 20 from 10am-noon, with a cake stall and raffle.

Church services: Sunday March 14
Lent 3, 10am Matins Chris Maclean, St. Mary's Church Patricbourne; 11am. Family Service, Martin Leggatt, St. Peter's Church, Bridge. Other Churches in the Bridge Group: 8am BCP Communion, the Rev John Shorrocks; St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 9.30am Holy Communion, the Rev Paul Filmer; St Mary's Church Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by the Rev David Marshall.

11.3.2004

BISHOPSBOURNE

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

Dorothy Ratcliffe: The death occurred peacefully on Monday, March 1, of Mrs Dorothy Ratcliffe, for many years organist at St Mary the Virgin Church. Mrs Ratcliffe, who was 97, survived her husband George for six weeks.

She was also organist at St John the Baptist and other churches in the Canterbury area, including the Archbishop's Chapel in the Old Palace, Canterbury.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, March 12, at St John the Baptist Church, Barham, at 11.30pm.

All the music for the service has been chosen by Mrs Ratcliffe and will be a celebration of her life and long dedication to both her family and the church.

The Rector, the Rev David Roper, urges all members of the congregations making up the Barham Downs united benefice to

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attend the service. The choir is asked to attend practice at Barham on Thursday, March 11, at 6pm, and Friday, at 10.30am.

Church: On Sunday, March 7, the traditional Matins service was held at St Mary's, conducted by Pat Austin. Lay reader Mary Ambrose preached the sermon, and readings were by Lorna Kenyon and Beryl Graham.

On Sunday, March 14, Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8am at St Mary's, and the Eucharist at St John's, Barham, at 8am. Other services in the benefice are family service at St Giles's Church, Kingston, at 10am and morning worship at 10am at Braham Methodist Chapel.

Also this week, the ecumenical Lent group meeting will be held at the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne, at 7.15pm on Thursday, March 11.

There will be a united Mothering Sunday service at St John the Baptist, Barham, at 10am on Sunday, March 21.

A deanery Confirmation service will be held at St Mary's, Bishopsbourne, on May 15. Anyone, of any age from 11 upwards, who would like to be confirmed should contact the Rector as soon as possible.

Annette Ardley is to join the parish in the summer as curate. The diocese has bought a house for her in Barham, but she is seriously short of furniture.

Anyone with excess furniture that they can spare which they would like to donate or loan should contact the Rector.

For further information on any of the above events or any other church matters contact the Rector, the Rev David Roper, The Rectory, Barham, phone 01227 831340, or the reader, Miss Mary Ambrose, 01227 830856.

You can log on to the benefice website at:
www.shineonline.biz/barhamdownschurches

Jumble sale: A jumble sale in aid of hall funds will be held in the Conrad Hall on Saturday, March 13, from 10am-noon, with a wide variety of stalls and other attractions. Admission is 20p.

Jumble may be delivered to the hall on Friday, March 12, between 7 and 9m.

For further information contact Sheila Castle, chairman of the trustees, on 01227 831184, or Phillipa Burniston, on 01227 830341.

Parish council: The monthly meeting of the council will be held in the Conrad Hall on Wednesday, March 17, at 7.30pm. All are welcome and time will be allowed before the start of the official agenda for members of the public to address the council or ask questions.

Anyone who has not filled in the questionnaire regarding the survey of local needs (affordable) housing which the council is conducting is asked to do so as soon as possible. Responses should be sent to the City Council, using the prepaid envelope, by March 14. They will then be forwarded unopened to the Kent Rural Community Council for analysis. It is hoped the results will be available for discussion at the annual parish assembly in April.

Crime: A maroon and cream Triumph Bonneville motorcycle with black frame, was stolen from an outbuilding at Golf Lodge, Frog Lane, Bishopsbourne, on February 28.

It appears to have been pushed for some distance towards Barham, where a 4x4 was used to carry away the motorcycle and a large amount of tools.

Audacious thieves have taken two Scots pines from a house at Lynsore Bottom. The mature trees were dug up and it is thought it would have taken at least four people to carry even one tree and a lorry would have been needed to transport them. Nothing was seen or heard at the time of the theft. Anyone who can help is asked to contact the police.

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**BRIDGE WITH
PATRIBOURNE**

**Correspondent: J Anderson, 7
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East meets West: Thanks go to residents of Bridge who offered to share their homes with the Japanese school children arriving in the village on March 20. Those taking part now form a host family network, with many members personally known to each other, and in contact by phone and e-mail. Several of Bill Rose's friends have generously contributed to the programme of events and activities, providing additional interest and entertainment for the guests.

The visitors are from the village of Tenryu, similar in size to Bridge, a few hours by train north west of Tokyo. The village straddles the banks of the Tenryu river in the center mountain range of Honshu Island. Despite their relative proximity to Tokyo, the Japanese teenagers have little exposure to the urban life of the capital and almost no personal experience of western culture.

The Tenryu school children are engaged in a project to make 1000 origami cranes, symbol of peace and goodwill, to lay at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in August this year. Some of the cranes will be taken to the special Evensong on Sunday March 21 at Canterbury Cathedral and placed at the High Altar during the service. During their stay the guests will be demonstrating and teaching the art of origami to pupils of Bridge School and Kent College, who will be encouraged to make and sign origami cranes for inclusion in the collection destined for Hiroshima.

The pilgrimage to Bridge provides an opportunity for the visitors to meet Bill Rose the author of *You Shook My Hand*. He forged a profound friendship and made many acquaintances during his visit to Tenryu in 1999. His journey described in the final chapter of the book, provides a moving account of reconciliation. Following on from his first publication, based on extracts from his diaries written as a POW in Mitsushima, now renamed Tenryu, he is awaiting a publisher for the second edition. The later version, entitled *From Bluebell Hill to Kanose and Return*, gives a fuller account of his experience. Bill and the co-ordinator of the event Valerie de Furrentes invite you to join them, with the Japanese visitors, in a special Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral, on Sunday March 21 at 3.15pm. They also thank residents for their kindness and messages of good will.

Church services: Sunday March 21, Lent 4, 10am Holy Communion, Canon Gordon Manley, St Peter's Church, Bridge, 6pm Prayer and Praise, the Rev Paul Filmer, St Mary's Church, Patribourne. Other churches in the Bridge Group; 8am BCP Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church, Nackington, 10am Mothering Day Service the Rev John Shorrocks, St Peter's Church, Bekebourne, 10am Family Service Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by Mr J. Ellis.

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's next event is the spring show in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday March 30. The hall will be open at 6pm to enable members to stage their exhibits prior to the judging, with the presentation of prizes at 7.30pm.

What's going on near you... Contact

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Refreshments will be available during the evening and there will also be a raffle. It is hoped to run a bring and buy stall for which contributions would be welcome.

Names will be taken at the show of those who want to take part in the Chairman's Challenge at the summer show. For this, chairman Roger Austin has agreed to produce and distribute small seedlings, possibly geraniums, at the appropriate stage for members to grow on and enter at the summer show.

You need to be a member to exhibit at the shows, but you can join on the day. Membership remains this year at £2.50 for a single person and £4 for a family.

Schedules for both shows are available now from committee members.

Monthly meeting: The Bridge Parish Plan steering committee was joined by Amanda Sparkes from the Community Development Department of the City Council last Tuesday. Members approved the co-option of Robert Moon as a representative of the younger people in the village and agreed a timetable to produce the parish plan by April 2005. The next meeting will be in the Hunter Room of the village hall on Thursday April 15 when it is hoped to have Kathy Bugden from the Countryside Agency as speaker.

Church diary: Monday March 22 Caring and Sharing Group, 16 Riverside Close, Bridge, 7.30pm; Tuesday March 23 Holy Communion, Highfield House, Bekesbourne, 2.30pm;

After Eights Group, 58 Western Avenue, Bridge, 8pm; Wednesday March 24, 7pm Ears and Beers, Plough and Harrow, Bridge.

PARISH COUNCIL: The meeting was held in the village hall on Thursday, March 11.

Notice of proposed work to trees in a conservation area for which a tree preservation order has been served:

a. work on two trees at The White Horse Inn Bridge; b 17 Union Road, fell two large conifers on rear of boundary.

Litter picking: It was agreed to ask SERCO to clear litter from the recreation ground on a fortnightly basis for a six-month trial period.

Parish meeting: The annual parish meeting is on Thursday March 25 at 7.30pm in the village hall. This year the council is pleased to welcome Chief Superintendent Joanna Young, Cllr Martin Vye, representatives from the Village Hall Management Committee, Bridge Allotment Association and Bridge Village Youth Group to speak. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Funding and Precept: The precept for 2004/5 is set at £10,258 and the concurrent functions funding grant from Canterbury City Council at £4,970. The agreed concurrent functions funding includes £474 already held by the parish council for the maintenance of bus shelters. Street lighting is no longer eligible for funding from the grant. It was agreed to make up the shortfall in the grant of £3,796 from parish council reserves.

Meetings: The council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm (with the exception of August) in the village hall. Parishioners are invited to speak between 7.30 and 7.45pm.

Planning committee: The committee had no objections to the planning applications listed below:

CA/04/00200/BRI 72 Bridge Down, erection of detached double garage.
CA/04/00263/BRI Coppice, Bridge Hill, single and two storey extensions to dwelling and relocation of dormer window.

CA/04/00299/BRI dormer window to rear of 58 Western Avenue.

It was agreed to ask the planning department to bring the loss of a cherry tree outside 72 Bridge Down to the attention of Jon Lambourne, Canterbury City Council's Arboricultural Officer.

Planning applications notified as being granted: CA/04/00073/BRI 6 Bridgeford Way pitched roof with

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living accommodation to replace flat roof to rear of dwelling.

The following applications have been notified as being rejected:

CA/04/00020/BRI 2 Park View, Mill Lane extension to front and rear of dwelling. CA/04/00013/BRI erection of bungalow (revised scheme) adjacent to Trees, Bridge Hill.

It was noted that the City Council has asked the owner of the recently erected stables at Renville to submit a retrospective planning application, as this constitutes a breach of planning control.

(revised scheme) on land adjacent to Trees, Bridge Hill

Bridge Parish Council's planning committee meets in the village hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15pm (excluding August). All parishioners are invited to attend.

The clerk, Tina Burchell can be contacted at 3 Cranmer Close, Bekesbourne CT4 5DF, phone 01227 831085 or e-mail to Tinaburchell@onetel.com

25.3.2004

BISHOPSBOURNE

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

Parish church: The Eucharist will be celebrated at St Mary the Virgin Church at 10am on Passion Sunday, March 28.

Other services in the Barham Downs united benefice, of which Bishopsbourne is a member, are: Holy Communion, 8am, St John the Baptist, Barham; The Eucharist, 6pm, St Giles's, Kingston. There is also morning worship at Barham Methodist Chapel at 10am.

For further details of any of the above or any other church matter phone the Rector, the Rev David Roper, on 01227 831340, or the reader, Miss Mary Ambrose, 01227 830856.

Obituary: The death occurred on Friday, March 19, after a very short illness of Andrew Rolla, who earlier this year had moved into Forge House, The Street. Mr Rolla, an artist, had been living in Warwickshire with his partner Colin Richmond-Watson after a long spell in Kent and regarded their move back to the county as "coming home."

PARISH COUNCIL: The monthly meeting was held in the Conrad Hall on Wednesday, March 17, with the chairman, Cllr Colin Baker, presiding. He welcomed City Council ward councillor John Anderson.

The chairman reported that the parish council was to receive £1,100 in concurrent grant funds from the City Council. The parish council will decide how to allocate the funds at its next meeting.

He also said that he had contacted Jennifer Shaw, of the Kent Rural Communities Committee, regarding progress on the survey on affordable housing which the council had recently launched.

Cllr Baker said Ms Shaw had reported that there had been a good response from villagers, with about 50 per cent returning survey forms, a number having completed the section indicating a housing need. It is expected that the full results of the survey will be available for the annual parish assembly next month.

The first mowing of the Neame Meadow recreation ground had been carried out earlier that day and it was reported that Tim Gallant, from Wingham, had confirmed he would contract for all ground maintenance in Neame Meadow at the price he had originally quoted. The chairman said he would produce an amended form of contract for completion.

The council agreed to renew its subscriptions to the Committee for the Preservation of Rural England (£25), the Kent Rural Communities Committee (£35) and the Kent Association of Parish Councils (£95).

The council thanked its clerk, Gerald Wenham, for the hard work he had put into formulating a response to the 29 questions posed in a City Council questionnaire concerning the future system for allocating concurrent grants to parishes.

It was reported that no action had yet been taken by the City Council on dealing with the encroachment of soil on to the pavement in Station Hill. It was decided to review the matter at a later date.

Planning: The City Council had confirmed that there was a breach of planning control in that stables in Bourne Park had not been demolished as directed and stated that the occupiers of the land intended to submit a retrospective application to vary the condition of permission granted for the erection of new stables, which had required the demolition of the old ones.

Karen Jelley and Christopher

Moyce, of Woodlands House, Bourne Park, attended the meeting and were invited to comment on the situation.

Mrs Jelley explained that although they wanted to take down some of the old buildings, they were anxious to retain the stable block and restore it. They were now three-quarters of the way through upgrading the riding establishment.

The chairman thanked them and said the council could not make any judgement until the planning application had been received.

Members again recorded their dissatisfaction with the City Council's development control section over the spoil dumping at Woodgate. Cllr Anderson said he would take up the matter with the officers concerned.

Mr Wenham reported that the building of a porch to the side and internal and external alterations to Cedar Grove, Park Lane, had been granted, subject to the work being carried out using materials matching those of the existing property. The parish council had strongly supported the application.

The retrospective application for the demolition of an oast house and its reconstruction, conversion and restoration of its roundel at Middle Pett Farmhouse, Pett Bottom Road, had also been granted subject to conditions concerning joinery, eaves, rooflights and other matters.

The felling of two dead or dying beech trees at Crows Camp and to tidy up others had been approved by the City Council.

The annual parish meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, at 7.30pm. It will start by an illustrated talk on the old Elham Valley Railway line, with particular relevance to Bishopsbourne, by Alan Walton, licensee of the White Horse Inn, Bridge.

The formal business agenda will follow and those attending the meeting will be invited to refreshments at the end of the evening.

Cllr Peter Sinnock reported that the revived village fete, which was being organised by the Conrad Hall trustees, will be staged on Neame Meadow on Saturday, July 10 (see below).

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday,

April 28, at 7.30pm in the Conrad Hall.

Village fete: After an interval of several years, the village fete is being revived by the trustees of the Conrad Hall. It will be held on the Neame Meadow on Saturday, July 10.

The trustees have circulated a questionnaire to all houses in the village to gauge the amount of interest in the fete and how much help can be expected in running it.

The questionnaire is seeking volunteers to act as car parking stewards, to sell and serve refreshments, to man stalls or loan gazebos which can be used for stalls.

The trustees are also appealing for the loan of old photographs of the village for a display to be mounted in the Conrad Hall and is seeking promises of donations of items for a white elephant stall, reasonable quality second-hand books, items for a tombola and gifts of cakes for a stall and for refreshments.

Anyone seeking further information should contact Barbara Criddle, phone 01227 830912, or Keith and Sharon Symes, on 01227 830077.

Cricket: The annual meeting of Bishopsbourne Cricket Club will be held at 8pm at the Mermaid Inn on Friday, March 26.

25.3.04

BRIDGE WITH PATRIBOURNE

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Parish council: The annual meeting will be in the village hall on Thursday March 25 at 7.30pm, Items of interest will be to receive the chairman's report; the financial statement; and reports from the village hall management committee county and city councillor, the Allotment Association and the Village Youth

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Group.

After any other business concerned with parish affairs, there will be a talk by Chief Superintendent Joanna Young.

Art: The annual meeting of Art in Bridge will be held at the Plough and Harrow on Tuesday March 30 at 7.30pm. Constituted in 2002 to promote community art in and around the village of Bridge, it will stage its next open exhibition on October 16 and 17 during the Canterbury Festival. All interested will be welcome at the meeting, phone John Corfield on 01227 830976 for details.

WI: At the March meeting Mrs Margaret Beckwith showed her collection of Victorian underwear, being the unmentionable past in the title of her talk. Dorothy King won the competition. Mike Bingham talks about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf on Tuesday April 20 at 7.30pm in the village hall. The competition will be an article beginning with E.

Coffee: The coffee morning last Saturday in aid of the parish of Patricbourne and Bridge

raised £168. The Churchwardens thank all those who helped with and supported the event to make it such a success.

Church news: The Rev Paul Filmer would like to start a weekly confirmation group before Easter ready for Confirmation in the Cathedral in November this year. Confirmation is available to all adults and children in Year 6 and above. The course can also be used as exploration of the Christian Faith, without commitment to be confirmed at the end. All enquiries for baptism or confirmation are welcome. Please apply now, even if you have registered your interest in the past. Phone Mr Filmer on 01227 830250.

Church Services: Sunday, March 28, Lent 5, 8am BCP Communion

Canon J Packer and 6pm Evensong the Rev Paul Filmer and Chris Maclean, St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion Mr Filmer, St Mary's Church Patricbourne. Only one other service in the Bridge Group, 9.30am Holy Communion Canon Ronald Diss; 11am Bridge Methodist Church service led by the Rev Barbara Heather.

