

1.4.2004

BRIDGE WITH PATRIBOURNE

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

john.anderson74@btopenworld.com

Parish council: Notes from Bridge Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, March 25, at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall

Chairman's Report for 2003/2004: In May 2003 elections took place to nominate a new parish council. Five parish councillors stood down and have been replaced by Colin Beesty, Barbara Beinder, Ann Edmonds, Mark Esdale and Selwyn Lewis.

The new parish council has been working well together on a number of projects since May. The full planning committee meets prior to the main parish council meeting in the village hall on a monthly basis and is open to all parishioners. The parish council is working on obtaining Quality Parish Council status and a group has formed to look at producing an up-to-date Parish Plan.

The Parish Precept for Bridge will be reduced next year (2004/5) by 20 per cent from 2003/4. The precept rose this year to meet the shortfall in the Concurrent Functions Funding Grant from Canterbury City Council. The Concurrent Functions funding grant will be reduced again next year. Unfortunately, the final decision on the concurrent functions funding grant 2004/5 by Canterbury City Council was made too late to amend the parish precept. Bridge Parish Council is in the fortunate position of having some reserves to cover the shortfall.

The parish council is waiting for Seeboard Energy to switch on the Bifrons Path and Conyngham Lane street lights. The bench over the river has been replaced. There is new seating in the bus shelter by the dentist and the allotments are now up and running.

The Financial Statement 2002/3:

Parishioners were provided with the Income and Expenditure Accounts and the Balance Sheets for the year to March 31, 2003, produced by RBS Accounting Solutions, as well the accounts for the year ending March 31, 2003, in layman's terms produced by M. Stewart.

The Unaudited Financial Statement Forecast for 2003/4 and Financial Forecast for 2004/5: M. Stewart presented the accounts for the year ending March 31, 2004, estimated at March 8, 2004, as well as a financial forecast for the Parish Accounts for 2004/5. It is likely that there will be a deficit in the accounts for 2004/5, however it is fortunate that there are still sufficient reserves to meet any shortfall for 2004/5.

Report from the Bridge Village Hall Management Committee: Mrs

Janet Horsley, on behalf of the Bridge Village Hall Management Committee, reported that the village hall bank account is currently very good thanks to the regular bookings from the playgroup and from the two elections held this year.

The hall is used every day. There are some new charges, but these do not affect regular groups. Since last year the French group for children, the yoga group and the Guides have ceased to meet in the hall. However, there is a new slimming and exercise group and the French group is hoping to return once a new teacher has been recruited.

A new public entertainment licence has been granted for the village hall.

The fire extinguishers have been checked. The front windows to the village hall are rotten and need replacing. The double glazing seals are failing in the Hunter Room. Cllr Esdale repaired the holes in the village hall floor. The roof (along the shop side of the building) is to be repaired and a hearing loop has been ordered.

The unused wheelchair in the disabled toilet has been donated to K&C hospital.

The village hall questionnaire was sent out with the Parish Newsletter to find out if parishioners would like a new village hall. At present 58% of the village would like a new hall.

The new cleaners are proving to be very good and have agreed to work on Sundays to ensure that the hall is clean after weekend bookings.

Report of county councillor Martin Vye: Cllr Vye discussed the relationship between the county council and the city council, pointing out that both councils work together in the area of highways and traffic. Since the rural areas came under the control of Kent Highways there has been a great improvement in getting better traffic control established in the villages.

In the past there has been considerable under-investment by the county in unclassified roads and pavements. In the rural part of the district, it is regrettable that 36% of the unclassified roads have zero or less residual life. KCC has launched an emergency programme to substantially increase the length of road

resurfaced

The failure of the rural bus challenge bid made by the county and city councils to access money offered by the Government for extension of bus services in rural areas was a great disappointment. It was a great plan to have a bus shopper service to link villages to K&C and then on subsequently to hospitals in Margate and Ashford.

Education makes up 56% of the county's budget. Last year the Government managed to cut the funding in real terms to half of Canterbury's schools.

Consequently, this year council tax has increased significantly.

The new major development in education is going to be the increase in vocational courses and to get away from the damaging undervaluing of subjects that are not academic.

It was a great disappointment that the county council did not keep its agreement to build a new library in the Whitefriars complex in Canterbury. However, it is compensating to a point and has agreed to spend £500,000 on refurbishing the library in the Beaney.

The county administration has backed down from building a new waste plant at Shelford.

The city council, parish council and Countryside Agency have put in money for the new street runner project, which is organising a Youth Bus that will go out to certain villages including Bridge.

Report from city councillor John Anderson: Cllr Anderson discussed the Strategic Rail Authority's plans to reduce rail services to some of the rural stations. Bekesbourne is currently undertaking a survey of rail use in the village and Cllr Anderson suggested that Bridge

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should do likewise as it has a larger population.

It is possible that the Ovenden Quarry will use Cold Harbour Lane as an access road for lorries under a deal that was originally agreed in the 1950s. On weekdays there will be a large number of lorries accessing the site and this will probably present most problems during school holidays when people are out cycling and walking. There has been little public consultation from KCC and Cllr Anderson suggested that it is not too late for Bridge Parish Council to object to the plans.

Canterbury City Council is reviewing concurrent functions funding allocation at the present time.

Report from the chairman of Bridge Allotment Association, Tony Walder: Since last year the derelict allotment site has become a beautiful vegetable garden. This has all taken place with the help of Bridge Parish Council, Charley Gooch and local people.

Following plans laid out by Cllr Gulvin and David Spenser there are now 14 allotments with clearly seeded pathways and on site water. There is a shared shed for each pair of allotments. The Allotment Association is now only waiting for rabbit proof fencing and hedging around the site

All the plots are actively gardened, except for one. John Thackray had managed to grow some beetroot by the end of last year.

Any one wishing to take on an allotment should contact Bridge Allotment Association and put their name down on the waiting list.

Any Other Business:

A) Canterbury City Council's plans to change rubbish collection to every two weeks.

Although too late to put forward as a formal resolution, a vote was held of those congregated to see how people felt about the plan. The majority of people wanted the system to remain the same. It was agreed to invite Ian Mackenzie to a parish council meeting to discuss the issue as it was felt that only limited information has been received so far.

B) Parking in Bridge High Street. City councillor John Anderson reported briefly on strategy he has discussed with Kent Highways, which would look at reducing double yellow lines along the High Street. There are no formal plans at present but the scheme would increase parking spaces and safety.

Talk by Superintendent Joanna Young: Supt Young reported on how intelligence led policing had driven down crime in the district. There are on average 17 burglaries a day reported in Kent and 1.6 a day reported in the Canterbury District. The fear of crime is high amongst the general public. However, in reality, crime figures are much lower.

Recently there has been a loss of contact with the public. Supt Young discussed plans to create small teams of officers to tackle specific areas. In particular, a small rural team which would be visible, accessible and involve more police walking around area.

Where there are large problems these would need to be broken down into smaller more manageable pieces, perhaps taking on a multi-agency approach.

The parish clerk, Tina Burchell, can be contacted at 3 Cranmer Close, Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5DF, 01227 831085 or at tinaburchell@onetel.com

Fish News: Thanks go to those who are responding to last month's appeal for knitting wool. Please keep it coming. Rosy Green on 01227 830204 is the one to contact.

Members look forward to seeing you on the Cornelia Slavin Blossom Tour on Saturday May 6.

Quiz evening: On Friday April 2 at the Plough and Harrow Bridge there is a quiz evening; tickets £3.50 to include buffet supper.

Also there will be a jumble sale on Saturday April 24 at 10am in the

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village hall The proceeds of both events go to the residents' amenity fund at the New Close.

Easter competition: For the children of Bridge at Easter there is a challenge to draw or paint an Easter poster on A4 size paper, and submit their entries to the Bridge Post Office and Pharmacy by Monday April 5. All entries will be displayed in the shop window. The winning entry will receive a special Easter treat.

There will also be an Easter raffle in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund, first prize being a giant Lindt chocolate rabbit and the second a large Milk Tray Easter egg.

Photography: The Bridge Digital Camera Club will meet at the Plough and Harrow at 8pm on Monday April 5. Anyone interested is welcome.

Church news: At St. Peter's Church Bridge preparation for the Easter floral decorations is under way.

The approximate price this year for lilies will be £2.50-£3. If you wish to donate towards a lily, in memory of a loved one, give your donation to Rosy Green, phone 01227 830204 before April 8. St Peter's is still desperately short of flower arrangers so if you are interested in joining them, pop in the church on Easter Saturday to see how you can help.

on Easter Saturday to see how you can help.

At St. Mary's Church Patrixbourne after the preparative period of Lent, when there are no flowers in the church, it is always a joy to see the church beautifully decorated for Easter. Once again the church is asking for donations towards the cost of Easter lilies. If you would like them to place lilies, perhaps in memory of a loved one, send your donation to Andrea Nicholson, Pauline Pritchard or Margaret Marsh.

The Prayer Group will meet on Thursday April 1 at 7pm at Netherbury, Meadow Close, Bridge by invitation of John and Muriel Packer.

Tuesday April 6, 3pm Holy Communion, the New Close Bridge. Also After Eights Group, Fairview Bekesbourne Lane, 8pm.

Nailbourne Craft Club: The summer season begins on Tuesday April 13. Members meet once a month on the second Tuesday from 2-4.30pm at Bridge Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road. All are welcome.

Barham Bowls Club: The club is running an open day on Sunday May 9 from 10.30am-4pm, offering a fun introduction to the sport of bowls at this friendly village club. All ages are welcome, men women and children.

Flat soled shoes without heels should be worn on the green, sandals are not allowed for safety reasons. The club will provide equipment on the day and there will be a chance to buy new equipment if you decide you want to use it. For further details phone 01227 760747 or click on to uk.geocities.com/barham/bowls/

Sunday Services: Sunday April 4
Palm Sunday, 8am BCP
Communion, the Rev Paul Filmer,
St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne;
9.30am Holy Communion, Mr
Filmer, St Peter's Church Bridge.
Other churches in the Bridge
Group: 10am Family Service, Mrs.
Pat Kusel, St Peter's Church
Bekesbourne; 11am Extended Holy
Communion, Mrs. Margaret Clarke
St. Mary the Virgin, Lower
Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist
Church service led by the Rev
Jeffery Ward.

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7.4.2004

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Children's Society: The Children's Society home and shop boxes, of which there are 32 held in Bridge and which were emptied in late February and early March, raised £545.02 for this charity. Also tax payers who have signed Gift Aid declarations enable the Society to claim a further payment on their contributions.

Thanks go to all box holders who made this result possible. Boxes are normally emptied annually before the end of March, or when full and can be obtained from Kathy Eynon, phone 01227 830466.

Outing: A proposed parish outing to London is planned for Saturday September 4, chosen not to clash with family holidays and giving children and parents something to look forward to on their return to school after the long summer holiday.

The seats are filling up so if you want to take part phone Peggy Pryer on 01227 832058 or 832477 if engaged, or e-mail ppryer@hotmail.com.

Non-returnable deposits will be collected at the beginning of June at £5 per adult £2 per child.

History Society: At the March meeting Professor Ted Parker talked about antique English clocks and timepieces. On Saturday April 17, this talk will be followed up by a visit to Belmont not far from Canterbury, a charming 18th century house with fine furniture and paintings and a wonderful collection of clocks and watches. Phone Maurice Raraty on 01227 830508 if you would like to attend.

On Saturday May 22 members will take a coach visit to Shoreham, where they will have a guided walk followed by lunch. In the afternoon they go to Lullingstone Castle, followed by tea. The visit costs £15 to members and £20 to non-members, including entry charges and meals. Phone Meriel Connor on 01227 830487.

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's spring show

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society's spring show was held on last Tuesday evening in the village hall when 15 exhibitors produced 76 entries. In spite of the recent wind and rain, the quality and variety of the daffodils were excellent, making judge Barry Risdale's final decision difficult. The cup for the best bloom in the show was won by Mrs Audrey Kollhoff and the cup for the best plant pot plant by Mrs Mavis Parsons. President Cllr John Anderson presented the cups and called on members to observe a minute's silence for Mrs Ethel Cartwright a long-standing and hard-working committee member, who had recently died. Refreshments and a raffle were also held during the evening.

Ugandan students: With others, Bob and Bridget Douthwaite have been paying the secondary school fees for three Ugandan girls. Their father was killed in a car crash in 1989 and their mother worked as a housekeeper in Kampala in 1994-1996. One of the girls is now at university training to be a teacher, and the other two are awaiting their A level results in the hope that they will be able to go on to university, one to study law and the other engineering. Some sponsors are no longer in a position to contribute financially and we are looking for help elsewhere. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping to complete the education of these girls. Phone Bridget or Bob Douthwaite on 01227 831744.

Easter services: The Tenebrae meal on Maunday Thursday, April 8, at Bridge School is intended to be reminiscent of the Last Supper, with a simple meal, the sharing of bread and wine, and readings leading up to the crucifixion. On Good Friday, the Walk of Witness ends at Bridge Church with a short act of worship where the children from Margaret Clarke's Good Friday Workshop will join the

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congregation. Feel free to join in on any part of the walk, or simply meet in church for the final service.

The Good Friday Workshop will be held in the John Baker White Hall from 9.15-11.30am.under the guidance of the Bridge Group Lay Reader Mrs Margaret Clarke.

For details phone her on 01227 765598, Julie Cox on 01227 788316 or Sue Leggatt on 01227 830251.

On Easter Monday there is the annual youth pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral. Groups will be walking from Bekesbourne, Bridge and Nackington starting at 10am and combining at Patrixbourne before setting off together at 10.15am. The programme of events is: noon, service in the Cathedral; 1pm lunch in Chapter House or Cloisters (take a packed lunch); 2pm range of activities for all ages including concert, communion and drop-out zone; 3.15pm finale, Lights for the World.

Easter Day services. 10am BCP Communion the Rev John Shorrocks, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 11am Family Service, the Rev. Paul 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; 6pm Evensong with Holy Communion, Mr Filmer, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, Holy Communion the Rev George Bough.

Gig: Friday, April 9, at 9pm A Bit on the Side at The Red Lion, High Street, Bridge. Restaurant open as normal.

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Church services: Sunday, April 18.
Lent 2. 10am Holy Communion
Canon Gordon Manley, St Peter's
Church, Bridge. 6pm Rev Paul
Filmer Prayer and Praise St Mary's
Church, Patribourne. Other
Churches in the Bridge Group; 8am
BCP Communion Rev Paul Filmer,
St. Mary's Church, Nackington.
10am Holy Communion Rev Paul
Filmer, St Peter's Church,
Bekesbourne. 10am Family Service
Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin,
Lower Hardres.

**Surgery: City Councillor for the
North Nailbourne Ward John
Anderson will be holding his
monthly surgery on Saturday, April
17, at the Bridge Methodist Church,
Patribourne Road, between 10am
and noon and, wherever possible,
accompanied by a member of the
Bridge Parish Council. No need for
an appointment, just come along.**

PARISH COUNCIL: Concern was
raised about the Strategic Rail
Authority's plans to cut the
services to Bekesbourne Station. It

seems that the plans are based on inaccurate passenger data and with very little consultation of rural parishes. This is our nearest station and the proposed reduction in services will mean more car journeys, more parking problems and more environmental damage. In order to gauge the usage of the station by Bridge residents and to get as much input as possible, there is a questionnaire on the village web site: www.BridgeVillage.org.uk

The Parish Council agreed to pass control of the village street lighting back to the City Council. This has been necessary due to the shortfall in the concurrent function funding from the City Council for 2004/2005. The handover was due to take place in 2005, as a result of the City Council's Scrutiny Panel Review.

The Parish Council was divided over the issue of the new refuse collections proposed by the City Council. By the chairman's casting vote, the council agreed to oppose the plans. Although it was felt that bi-weekly collections might encourage some to increase recycling there was concern that the kind of rubbish that cannot be recycled (nappies, meat products, cooked food etc) could cause smells, attract rats and lead to health risks, especially in hot weather. It was noted that other councils that had tried the scheme had reverted to weekly collections and that some people put their ordinary waste into recycling bins, thus ruining the recycling effort. The parish council noted the poor communication from the city council about the proposals.

Service: A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Ethel Cartwright, a well known character around the Bridge district for many years, was attended by a 153 relatives, friends and mourners in St Peter's Church Bridge. The service was conducted by Mrs Margaret Clarke, the Pastoral Assistant for the Bridge Group, who gave the address, prayers and commendation. The family tribute was given by nephew Martin James. And a personal tribute came from Dr Alan Wicks, the ex-Cathedral Organist and conductor of the choir in which Ethel sang. The reading was by niece Barbara Fielding and a poem was read by Denise Pettit. The organist was Dr Peter Giles. This was followed by a private cremation at Barham.

Ethel was known for many years behind the village Post Office counter. She was a stalwart member of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society, treasurer of a number of other organizations, founder member with her late husband Douglas of D and E Travel, providing tours and visits to West End theatres and concerts, Historic Homes and Gardens etc, and yoga. These are to name but a few of her activities. She will be sadly missed in the area.

Bridge in Bloom: The Parish Council is once again promoting Bridge in Bloom. This year, in addition to the competition for businesses, all private households will be included. Please plant up your containers and hanging baskets ready for judging in the summer. Further details to follow later.

Watercolour painting: Julia Rowntree will be running two workshops from her studio in Bridge. A three-day drawing and painting still life course from Tuesday, April 20, to Thursday 22. Also a watercolour painting landscape course from Tuesday, May 4, to Thursday 6. For further details phone Julia on 01227 830556.

WEA Bridge branch: Course No 7868. Sonnets in Summer. Sonnets old and new. Poets have explored the sonnet form since the 16th century. Since then almost every major poet from each generation has used the sonnet in an astounding variety of ways. Discover more about this versatile form and its long history in this six-week summer course.

Course information. Venue the Plough and Harrow, High Street, Bridge. Timetable Wednesdays 10am to noon. Six meetings from April 21. Fee £23 standard, £17

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reduced, £5 minimum. Phone tutor
Jane Ireson on 01304 840721.

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john.anderson74@btopenworld.com

Parish Plan: At the April committee meeting last Thursday, chairman Bill Oakey welcomed Sam Tassau and Alex Furley, two teenage residents who spoke of the need to have a dedicated skateboarding area in Bridge. He also welcomed Robert Moon as a representative of the young adult group in the village.

Ian McNeill reported that the application to the Countryside Agency for funding has been completed and that he was ready to apply to the City Council "Can Do" fund to add to this funding.

It was agreed that the committee should have a presence at the annual village fete on June 19 to publicise the Parish Plan and that there would be a montage of photographs taken by the various village groups depicting the good and bad features of the village. Ian Mc Neil agreed to form a sub committee comprising himself, Cerynne Beesty, Pam Dobson and Robert Moon to decide on and allocate the disposable cameras to the various groups. This sub committee will report its outcomes to the next committee meeting on May 3.

The chairman thanked Mr McNeil and Pam Dobson for their tremendous efforts in beating the deadline to get in funding applications.

Primary School: The end of term dance festival was a great success and there were a good number of mothers hiding the eggs for the Easter egg hunt that also took place. Thanks go to all the PFA members who work so hard for the school.

The A Team has got through to the finals of the Plate Competition for Mini Soccer and play at Kent University on Thursday April 29. The football and netball teams have had an assortment of triumphs and defeats this year but have enjoyed themselves.

Last month the school choir sang in Canterbury Cathedral to an audience of more than 1,000 at the Barnardo's Concert. There is now have an embryonic school orchestra.

Last month the school was visited by a group of Japanese school children who were staying with families in Bridge. They were guests of Year 6 and after assembly on the work our children on Ghana, as part of World Awareness Day, spent part of the time showing their origami skills to Bridge pupils. Thanks for the support of those who gave to the World Awareness Day Appeal, as a result of which the school has been able to send £300 to the school in Ghana which it supports.

The date of the summer ball has had to be changed to Saturday July 10. Tickets will be going on sale soon. The summer term begins on Monday April 26.

East meets West: A report from the director, Mrs. Valerie de Furrentes, states that the Japanese visitors left Bridge after a week which exceeded all expectations. Thanks to the residents, and supporters of East meets West, the guests had an exciting and interesting trip.

The Japanese Ambassador has contacted organisers to ask for photographs to illustrate a feature on the Tenryu visit for the next edition of the Japanese Embassy magazine. They have permission to use the press pictures, but would welcome further contributions by anyone else involved in the project. The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, North London, has made a similar request. Please send any photographs, with supporting text, to me, and I will forward them. The submitted material may also be included in the East meets West website, due to be launched at the end of April. Thank you again to all who contributed to this first major project, helping to make it such a memorable event. For details phone 01227 832851.

Tennis Club: The member's coaching programmes with head coach Vyv Smith will be: Intermediate Juniors, Mondays 6.30-7.30pm from April 26 to May 31 and June 7 to July 12; Beginner Juniors Tuesdays 4-5pm from April 27 to June 1 and June 8 to July 13; Improver Juniors Tuesdays 5-6pm from April 27 to June 1 and June 8- July 13.

Adult Beginners, Fridays 6.30-7.30pm and Adult Improvers Fridays 7.30-8.30pm from April 30 to June 11 and June 18 to July 23.

New assistant coach Robert Fullagar will be training four Schools Link Groups in mini-tennis and tennis. He will also take a six weeks' course for non-members: Beginners under 10, Mondays 4-5pm, April 26 to May 31, and June 7 to July 12; Beginners aged 10 plus, 5-6pm, Mondays April 26 to May 31 and June 7 to July 12. Advanced Junior Members, Thursdays 5.15-6.15pm from April 29 to June 3 and June 10 to July 15.

It is hoped that after the taster course of six weeks, players will want to become members. Places

on courses are soon booked up, so if you are interested in joining phone the coaching co-ordinator on 01227 830506.

Artist: Subjects as diverse as stacked chairs, washing hanging on lines and beach huts are the themes that Julia Rowntree, a local artist living in Bridge, is showing in an exhibition of her watercolour paintings in Dallas in May. This is a follow up of her successful show last year.

Julia gained an intermediate of the NDD in her youth but later as a mature student was accepted at Camberwell School of Art where she received a BA(Hons) degree in illustration. After working as an illustrator for 15 years she has turned her attention to fine art and painting for galleries. Her exhibitions have included Mall Galleries and The Royal Watercolour Society in London as well as various galleries in Blackheath, and Whitstable. Her paintings reflect her interest in shapes and shadows and depict details of the themes.

She is best known for her floral art but although there are still some flower paintings in her show the other images are taking priority.

Her son, Stephen lives with his family in Dallas which is why she has chosen to exhibit there, combining work with the opportunity to see her grandchildren.

She is also showing at Wyards Print and Artworks in Faversham in September in a joint show with Shirley Felts as well as opening her studio for the Canterbury Festival in October.

She runs workshops from her studio, the next is in May for landscape painters in watercolour. There are a few places left for students and she can be contacted on 01227 830556

In September she is teaching in Provence taking advantage of the landscapes of the area.

Gardeners: The Nailbourne Horticultural Society has organised an evening out to Goodneston Park on Thursday May 6 meeting there at 7pm. Everyone is welcome, both members and non-members alike. For further details and help with transport, phone Ann Edmonds on 01227 830795.

Church services: Sunday April 25,

Easter 3, 8am BCP Communion Canon John Packer and 6pm Evensong Mrs. Margaret Clarke, St. Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Extended Holy Communion Mrs Margaret Clarke, St Mary's Church, Patricbourne; 9.30am Holy Communion Canon R. Diss, St Mary's Church, Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church, service led by the Rev David Marshall.

Spring fair: Woodpeckers Nursery's spring fair is on Saturday May 8 on Bridge School grounds.

The nursery will be holding its annual event hoping to raise funds for an outdoor play surface to enable the children to play on their bikes and toys

The fair will run from 11.30am-2pm and has a Peter Pan theme, so lots of pirates and fairies. There will be refreshments, hot dogs, raffles and tombolas. There will also be a fancy dress competition for the nursery children, stalls including plants, toys, bric-a-brac and cakes as well as a treasure hunt and name the parrot!

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League of Friends: The League of
Friends of Canterbury Hospital are
holding a talk and light supper
with wine in the village hall on
Friday May 21. The speaker will be
John Harris and his subject will be
Pakistan, Past, Present and
Future. Tickets are £7.50 each and

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there will be a raffle. For tickets phone 01227 830344 or 830204.

WI: At the Bridge and Patrixbourne branch April meeting, the advertised speaker was forced to cancel and Mrs Avril Austin stepped into the breach with a guided tour of her holidays in Spain and The Canary Islands, with slides. She also won the competition. There will not be a speaker at the May 18 meeting as the annual Resolutions will be discussed and voted upon. The competition will be an article beginning with N.

Coming events: The gardeners' outing to Goodneston Park on Thursday May 6, meet at 7pm at the entrance. All are welcome.

Woodpecker's Nursery spring fair, Saturday May 8, 11.30am-2pm at the Bridge School Grounds.

Fish Scheme, Cornelia Slavin blossom tour, Wednesday May 5, phone 01227 830204 and a coffee morning bring and buy on Saturday May 22.

Christian Aid Week: This year's week is from May 9-15. Last year £1,350 was raised and over half the some was gift aided, so the total was nudging £1600. If you are a tax payer and indicate this on the envelope, then an equal to almost 30 per cent can be claimed from tax, with no further effort on your part.

It is never too late to volunteer to deliver a few envelopes to the houses near where you live. Phone Chris Barnett on 01227 832447.

Church News: Starting on May 2 a new group suitable for children up to 10 will run in conjunction with the first Sunday Communion Service at Bridge Church. The Upper Room will meet at 9.15am in the function room in the Plough and Harrow and the children will join the congregation in church just before the communion itself. To register your child's name for this group, or to offer your help as an adult assistant, phone Ruth Washington on 01227 831156 or Paul Filmer on 01227 830250.

They will also be re-launching The Works, the monthly workshop for children of all ages across the benefice. The Works will meet every fourth Sunday at Bridge School. Again phone Ruth or Paul to register your interest.

East Bridge Deanery Children's Fun Day, a free event for five to 11 year-olds with workshops for song, music, theatre, dance and storytelling, including a free snack and lunch, is on Saturday May 15 at Bridge School from 9am to 1.30pm. For an application form or further details phone Rosi McElroy on 01227 831358. Maximum 60 children on a first come first served basis. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Church services: Sunday May, Easter 4, 8am BCP Communion, the Rev John Shorrocks, St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne; 9.30am Holy Communion and Baptism, the Rev Helen Connell, St Peter's Church, Bridge. Other churches in the Bridge Group: 10am Family Service, Mrs Pat Kusel, St Peter's Church Bekesbourne; 11am Holy Communion the Rev P. Filmer, St. Mary's Church, Nackington; 11am Bridge Methodist Church Service led by Mrs M. Beckwith.

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CHAMPION FARE: Lawrie Wakeham, right, with the awards, and pie chef Arthur Wiseman with some of his delicious creations

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Lawrie's ingredients for success

A BUTCHER from Bridge is celebrating after winning awards for making the best meat pies in Kent.

Judges gave Lawrie Wakeham first prize in both the red and white meat pie sections.

His winning entries were a chicken and mushroom pie and a Kent hop-pickers pie which contains beef,

vegetables and Guinness.

Mr Wakeham, who runs Lawrie Wakeham Butchers in the High Street, says his methods were simple.

"It's about having high quality meat and ingredients and making sure the pies taste nice," he said.

"It's good to win this, good for

the staff and the chef is over the moon." The competition is run by the Kent Council of Meat Traders and the awards were presented during a ceremony at Faversham's Chimney Boy pub.

Mr Wakeham was given two shields for his winning pies. Last year he won a prize for his sage sausages.