

21.12.2006

## BRIDGE

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**PARISH COUNCIL:** At the latest meeting, County Councillor Michael Northey gave details of a pilot project to provide free bus travel for pupils between the ages of 11 and 16, which it was hoped would be introduced in the Canterbury area in June. Children who already qualified for free transport could continue with that scheme or opt for the new scheme, whereby for a small administrative fee, they would be issued with a 'super ticket' entitling them to free travel on buses throughout Kent at any time.

**Resignation:** The council noted with regret that Mrs Julie Bennett had resigned due to



pressure of work.

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Christmas trees: Cllr Esdale said there had been 69 Christmas trees displayed in the High Street this year and he thanked the villagers and councillors who helped to put them up. The trees would be taken down on Saturday January 6 and volunteers to help with this would be most welcome and were asked to meet in Cllr Gulvin's yard at 9am.

TV series: Cllr Esdale had been approached by ITV who were making a series of programmes about village life in the Meridian Area. They were seeking information about special events that could feature in a village profile. It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would pursue the possibility of ITV coverage for the Kent Association of History Societies meeting in the village in 2007.

The Mill Centre: Cllr Gulvin reported that a new committee had been formed. Several councillors had visited the centre and it was felt that potentially this was a valuable asset for the village but major renovation was needed. It was decided to defer discussion until the January meeting.

Recreation Ground: Cllr Gulvin reported that Tyler Hill Football Club had decided not to rent the football pitch this season and Exiles at Bridge had also said they would not be using the cricket pitch next season. Negotiations on the size and location of the running track for the primary school were continuing, but mole activities could cause serious problems for this project. In the long term, it would be necessary for the council to find alternative clubs to use the ground to keep up the level of income required to maintain it.

Cllr Beesty had drawn up a comprehensive plan for the on-going maintenance of the play equipment.

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 11 at 7.30pm. Members of the public are invited to address the council between 7.30 and 7.45pm and all parishioners are welcome to attend.



British Legion: The Littlebourne and District branch's annual dinner will be on Friday February 23 at Canterbury Golf Club. Phone 01227 472023 for further details. The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 9 at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne at 8pm. Thanks go to all who helped with the collection and those who donated to the Poppy Appeal. The target is about £3,300 but more donations are still expected.

**Fish Scheme:** The neighbourly help group's next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday January 10 in the village hall from 10-11.15am. The House Library Service has been a great success and Sheila Fenn and Sheila Knox have given a remarkable service to many people. However two volunteers are now needed for this service, which only involves a morning or afternoon's work once a fortnight.

**Benefice services:** Wednesday December 20, 7pm, carols service, St Mary the Virgin Church, Lower Hardres; Friday December 22, 7pm, carols, St Mary's, Patrixbourne.

Christmas Eve, Advent 4, 8am, BCP Communion, St Mary's, Nackington, 11.30pm, Holy Communion, Canon R Diss, St Mary's, Nackington, 10am, Holy Communion, Canon A. Duke, St Mary's, Patrixbourne, 4pm, Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight Communion, Canon G. Greenwood, St Peter's, Bridge, 11.30pm, Midnight Communion, Canon G. Manley, St Peter's, Bekesbourne.

Christmas Day, 8am, BCP Communion, the Rev K. Child, St Peter's, Bridge; 9.30am, Holy Communion, Canon R. Humphries, St Mary's, Patrixbourne, 10am, Family Service, Mrs M. Clarke, St Mary the Virgin, Lower Hardres, 11am, Family Carols, St Peter's, Bekesbourne.

Sunday December 31, 10am, Benefice Holy Communion, the Rev D. Roper, St Mary The Virgin, Lower Hardres: Sunday January 7, Epiphany 1, 10am, Benefice Holy Communion, the

Rev S. Rowlands, St Mary's, Patrixbourne.

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