

# Amiable man who was dedicated to serving community

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Family and friends gathered on Tuesday to say a fond farewell to a village stalwart who served his community for decades.

Former Bridge parish council chairman John Anderson, who died on January 29 aged 88, was widely respected for his dedication to village life.

He served on the council for a total of 15 years and was also a city councillor for North Nailbourne ward for two terms until he was forced to step down in 2011 due to ill health.

A memorial service is also planned at St Peter's church in the village, where he was a warden for many years, at 2pm on Monday (February 22).

As well as his parish and city council service, John was the village correspondent for the Kentish Gazette for many years.

A keen gardener, he was presi-



**Bridge village stalwart John Anderson who has died**

dent of the village Horticultural Society from 1994 and later chairman until 2010.

He was a former Buff and studied medicine, later managing a hotel in north Wales with his first wife, who sadly died young.

He moved to east Kent and became sales manager at Grain Harvesters at Wingham.

His next move was to become

**'John was a real village stalwart'**

an RAC hotel inspector, where he was later appointed chief inspector for Europe, retiring in 2005.

He lived in Dering Road with his wife Ethel, who is known as Billie. They have a daughter, Vicky. Their son, Ian, died of cancer in 1997.

Increasing ill health caused Mr Anderson to be cared for at the Bridge Haven Care Home in recent years.

Lay preacher at St Peter's Church, Margaret Clarke, took the service and gave the eulogy for Mr Anderson at Barham Crematorium and recalled his bright and funny character.

Afterwards, former parish council chairman Ann Edmonds said: "John was an amiable and gentle man who was a real village stalwart and contributed a lot of his time and effort to the community."



# Canterbury Spring Races

Kentish Gazette,  
April 25, 1865

There has been a visible improvement in the Canterbury meeting since Mr Verrall undertook the management.

The last autumn meeting extended over two days with ample sport, while formerly a sufficient programme could barely be issued for one day, and considering the counter attractions of Newmarket and Cheltenham, he must again feel gratified at the success he has attained this spring.

The weather was highly favourable for the occasion and Barham Downs presented a lovely appearance.

The sport included five races. The company was highly respectable and the course was well kept.

Through the excellent arrangements of the weighing and starting, each race took place almost punctually to the time fixed and the meeting passed off very agreeably.

10.3.2016



A LOOK BACK...

# PAST PAGES

Your paper from years gone by

## The battle of Bridge is finally over

The Battle of Bridge ended on Tuesday. The barely audible snip of a pair of scissors silenced the deafening roar of juggernauts for years.

Wielded by the Minister for Transport, Dr John Gilbert, the scissors sliced through a length of tape to signal the opening of the long fought for by-pass.

As the whole village breathed a sigh of relief, Dr Gilbert admitted that as he travelled along the old A2 he was unable to believe the country still had roads like it.

It was not only villagers who welcomed the new road. The drivers of the TIR [Transports Internationaux Routiers] giants who had to thread their way through the narrow main street were also thankful.

As the opening ceremony reached its climax many in the audience were remembering the lorries that never completed the

Kentish Gazette,  
July 2, 1976

tortuous trip through the village, but instead embedded themselves in village shops and houses, leaving death and injury in their wake.

All that came to an end shortly after 3pm when Dr Gilbert officially opened the new £3.25m road before an audience of villagers, councillors and contractors.

Bridge Primary School was given the day off for the event and the village was decorated with flags. Drivers entering the High Street were faced with a sign from the A2 Group campaigners: "Bridge's last TIR. You know it makes sense."

One placard said it all. It was tied to the tail of a 32-year-old pony called Dandy and bore the simple message: "Goodbye TIR."

March 10 2016



The message is clear from Dandy the pony with his four-year-old passengers, Serena Bartlett and Arran Finch, both of Bishopsbourne.



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# A2 will become "real killer", council's protest to minister

The latest plan to widen the A2 between Canterbury and Dover will turn the road into a "real killer", Cllr A.J. Ross told members of Bridge-Blean Rural District Council on Wednesday.

And the council agreed with him, deciding to send a string of protests to the Minister of Transport and press for a dual carriageway to be built from Brenley Corner to Dover as soon as possible.

The plan to widen the present road to a single 24ft carriageway was strongly criticised by the divisional surveyor (Mr G.T. Bragg).

Kentish Gazette,  
April 30, 1965

Cllr Ross, Bridge-Blean's representative on the Kent County Council, said: "It will get the traffic moving faster, but it will kill more people in the process. It will cause goodness knows how many accidents.

"The average width of the road is 20ft and to add four more would it would almost a three-lane road - and these are absolute killer.

"This road has much dead ground and this will encourage the crackpot motorist to try to

overtake.

"The ministry are quite wrong about this. I am sure they are doing the wrong thing. If only they would put in another carriageway - and they are certainly taking enough land for it."

Cllr J.H. Reid said the A2 from Canterbury to Dover was an absolute disgrace and it was time the council took some definite action to get something done.

Cllr G.H. Mount said the only answer was to extend the M.2 right through to Dover. Such a road would be badly needed long before any channel tunnel was built.

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