

# Lib-Dem win with low turnout



**NIGEL OAKES**

THE political makeup of the city council remains unchanged following Thursday's by-election.

The Liberal Democrats held Herne - but with a reduced margin of just 70 votes.

Their candidate Nigel Oakes, who was standing for the first time, polled 867.

Alan White (Con) increased his party's share of the vote with 797, followed with 344 by Labour's David Horsby.

Other candidates were Carol Davis (Green), 187, and John Moore (UK Independence), 112.

The turnout was 26.8 per cent. The by-election was called after Lib-Dem Linda Mace resigned when she moved from the area.

The new Cllr Oakes, a father of three, said: "It is a shame that, given the amount of effort I know my party and the others put into this election, that the turnout was so low.

"Somehow or other we have got to try and combat this apathy that exists at a local level."

The political make-up of the council remains at 18 Lib-Dems, 18 Tories and 13 Labour.

# Flowering of hard work

FLORAL displays at St Peter's Church, Bridge, were admired by more than 700 visitors.

The arrangements were part of the Bridge Millennium Festival at the weekend.

There was also music and refreshments for the visitors. The event raised more than £800 and organisers hope the total could top £1,000.

Bridge Parish Council chairman John Anderson said: "There was a wonderful atmosphere and it was quite moving to see it all come to fruition.

"It has taken a lot of work to get this far and it was quite a social event.

"The festival evensong we had on the last day was wonderful and the whole thing was a credit to everyone involved."

The church was redecorated earlier this year and this was the first time a flower festival was held there.

Mr Anderson said: "It really



**CHURCH SHOW: Ruth, three, and Ann Nichols-Pike, five, admire one of the displays** 27A/5054E/00

lent itself to this type of event and I was very pleased to see it looking so good.

"I hope we will have another one but I daren't suggest it until we have all recovered from the work that went

into this one.

"But it was a wonderful occasion and I was really touched by everyone's support."

■ The Millennium Page, page 14

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# ROUNDAABOUT

Let us know what's going on near you... Contact your local correspondent (found under your area's heading)

Send your reports to: Villages, 9 St George's Place, Canterbury CT1 1UU, or by fax (01227 762415) or by e-mail on [ekentvillages@thekmgroupp.co.uk](mailto:ekentvillages@thekmgroupp.co.uk)

## ADISHAM

**Correspondent:** Harry Amson, 142 The Street, Adisham. Tel/fax: 01304 842436. E-mail: [harrya@adisham.ndo.co.uk](mailto:harrya@adisham.ndo.co.uk)

**Tree planting:** Bossington and Station Road Residents' Association report that the proposed Millennium tree planting has been given the go-ahead by the housing department. It is hoped that the trees will be planted next month.

The association reminds entrants to their bonus ball competition to pay either Bev or Maureen by 6pm Fridays, thus allowing time for banking purposes and for paying out to the winner on the following Monday.

**Church:** On Sunday, at 11am there will be a service of family worship with ABC, led by the Delta Group.

The following Sunday, at 11am, curate Rev Nigella Tyson will be conducting her final service in Holy Innocents. There will also be a buffet in the village hall at 12.30pm. See the September edition of the Adisham Newsletter for further information.

**Baptists:** On Sunday, at 11am, members will join worship at Holy Innocents, with the Delta Group.

**Garden club:** The autumn show in the village hall is on Saturday.

**Supper:** Harvest Festival supper organised by the Kent MS Therapy Centre will take place on September 29, in the village hall. Cost is £7, children up to 12 £3.50. Admission is y ticket only and these can be obtained from 122 The Street.

**Yoga:** Sessions for the autumn term from 8 to 9.30pm on Tuesdays are now transferred to the village hall in Bekebourne. For further information, please call Deborah Holder, on 01227 830428.

**CARE:** The annual meeting is in the village hall on Thursday, October 12 at 7.30pm. New developments in East Kent which

their comments and these will be sent to Mr Cooper.

**Letter:** Adrian Peskett had written to tender his resignation from the council and a letter had been received from Royal Mail explaining non-delivery of post on July 24 because of the postman's ill health. The Post Office apologised and gave assurances that this would not happen again.

**Roads:** Kent Highways has written to inform the council that moving the 30mph sign and the village sign on Downs Road would take approximately six weeks to arrange, but would only take a day to carry out the work.

Highways had also written concerning the city council reorganisation, Tony Parker having accepted the new post of head of environment and street scene. Dennis Dutton will assume the role of highways manager until a successor is appointed.

**Plans:** Dover District Council has informed the chairman that a copy of the conditions relating to the planning permission for the abattoir at Ratling Court Farm will be sent to the council once they have been agreed. It appears that appeals on planning applications can only be made by the applicant if permission is refused. The council agreed to keep a watching brief.

Permission has been refused for the erection of a two-storey outbuilding at Little Bossington Farm.

Planning application forms have been submitted to the city council for the new sports pavilion on the recreation ground. The council expects to hear by October 18 if the application has been successful.

**Gate:** The chairman has repaired the damaged gate giving access to the recreation ground. Dismantling of the Tarzan play frame should commence soon.

**Forms:** It was agreed to distribute the parish referendum forms and this has now been carried out.

**Works:** The public rights of way

accommodate you.

## BARHAM

**Correspondent:** Amanda Wills, c/o Mount Ephraim, Wheelbarrow Town, Stelling Minnis, CT4 6AH, phone 01227 475911/01795 597532.

**School:** Pupils and staff at Barham Primary, including 40 new children, are back at school following the summer break.

One of the first events of the new school year is the annual meeting of the PTA on Monday and as usual the committee is looking for new members.

On October 11 the children will be entertained by Stockwell Puppet Theatre and on November 3 there will be a creative arts visit to London.

Jessi Metcalfe has passed her grade one guitar exam and Emily Husk has passed her piano grade two with merit.

Congratulations also to five children, Hannah Calderwood, Sian Llewellyn, William Gregory and William and Guy Hilton, who had a 100 per cent attendance last year.

The last PTA children's disco raised £121.22 and the strawberry teas on open day made £70.02 for the association's funds. The school has also just received another £10.84 for recycled newsprint.

**Services:** On Sunday at 9.45am there is a united service in Barham Methodist Chapel with the Rev Michael Walling and at 6pm the Ministry Team will lead evensong at Barham Church.

**Unicef:** This year's mini-market in aid of Unicef is being held in Barham Village Hall from 10.30am until noon on Saturday, October 7.

The need for resources is as great as ever, so all donations of bric-a-brac, cakes, books, nearly new goods, bring and buy, fruit, vegetables, preserves and raffle prizes are welcome. Phone 01227 831402/831389 if you can help.

There is also a folder in circulation around the villages.

## BELTINGE

**Correspondent:** Gabrielle Davis, 21 Sea View Road, Beltinge, Herne Bay, CT6 6JB, phone 01227 367426.

**Seashore animals:** This fun activity which all the family can share takes place on Sunday, September 24 from 3.30 until 5pm, starting from the Visitor Information Centre. Participants will be taken on a guided tour of the shore in search of marine life among the rocks and tidal pools.

This is a Wildlife Club event suitable for children aged from four. All children must be accompanied by an adult and sturdy footwear is advised. The cost is £1 per child or £2 per family (two children or more); half price for Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Watch members.

In September the centre is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11am until 5pm.

**Murder mystery:** A fun evening to solve the Mystery of the Manor House is being held in Reculver School Hall on Saturday, September 30 at 7.30pm. Guests are invited to enter the spirit of the occasion and wear country manor attire.

Tickets costing £5 (£3 for children) include a light three-course meal and a glass of wine. Reservations must be made in advance; ring Sue Kennedy on 01227 365971 after 6pm. The event is in aid of St Mary the Virgin Church, Reculver, but a donation will also be made to the Churches Together in Herne Bay Millennium Appeal.

**Churches:** Services for Sunday are: St Bartholomew's, Parish Eucharist, 10am, Searchlight evening service 6pm.

St Mary the Virgin, Holy Communion, 8am: parish Eucharist, 10am. St Mary's Parochial Church Council meets on Monday at 8pm in the choir

Hugh Walker and Evensong, 6pm at St John's, Barham.

Today (Thursday), the prayer group will be attending a service of compline and prayers for the benefice at Bishopbourne (7.45).

## BOUGHTON

**Correspondent:** Crispin Whiting, Forge Farmhouse, Staplestreet, Hernhill. Phone

01227 750948. E-mail [crispinw@lineone.net](mailto:crispinw@lineone.net)

**Tidy up:** Volunteers are needed for a churchyard clearance morning on September 23. All help will be gratefully accepted. Some tools are available but it would be useful for people to bring gloves and a few hand-tools. Turn up at the parish church, from 10am.

**Fair funds:** The Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies summer fair at the Bull Lane recreation ground raised £500 for group funds.

**Seniors:** At the Boughton Seniors meeting at the village hall pavilion on Tuesday, clerk to the parish council Terry Covell will be the speaker. New members are always welcome; phone 01227 750505 for further details. Meetings are at 2pm alternate Tuesdays.

**Rabbits:** A rabbit show is being held at the village hall on Sunday, September 24. Spectators will be welcome. For further details, phone Leah Doms, on 01304 373148.

## BRIDGE

**Correspondent:** John Anderson, 7 Dering Road, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5NA.

**Festival:** The flower festival at St Peter's Church was an outstanding success, with more than 800 visitors plus all the pupils of Bridge Primary School with the exception of the junior class, visiting the displays over the three days.

Added interest to what was a very

on heritage given by farmer John Palmer.

The competition is a limerick based on the media. The winners will go through to the group meeting.

**Fair:** A table fair for the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals will be held at the village hall, 10am to noon on Saturday.

**Coffee:** A coffee morning is to be held at 7 Windmill Close by permission of Kath Pierce, on Saturday, September 23, from 10am to noon. This is to raise funds to send a seven-year-old boy to Melbourne, for a brain tumour operation not available in this country.

The child goes with the blessing of his doctor at Great Ormond Street. George is the grandson of Detective Jack Maben and his wife Betty, who lived in Western Avenue, Bridge for some years. Jack was transferred to Maidstone and sadly has since died.

If residents can help either by a donation, which will be acknowledged by his mother Jill personally, or by supporting the event, it will be greatly appreciated. There will also be cakes, bric-a-brac and a raffle.

**Church services:** On Sunday there is 10am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, Bridge; 10am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Bekebourne and 11am Bridge Methodist Church harvest festival, led by Alistair Barwick.

**Chess Club:** Bridge/Canterbury Chess Club meets weekly at 7.30pm on Mondays at the Plough & Harrow, Bridge.

It is trying to increase membership and new members will be welcome. Just turn up on any Monday evening or phone the secretary John Sullivan on 01227 830385 or Graham Boxall on 01304 831398.

The 35th annual meeting of the club takes place on September 25 at 7.30pm with chess afterwards.

## BROAD OAK

could affect Aylesham are to be discussed and proposals for raising funds to assist the organisation to carry out its objectives will be tabled.

Everyone who is concerned about the rural environment is invited to attend.

**College:** Congratulations go to Katrina Maguire of The Street who has been accepted for training at the Royal Veterinary College in London.

**Crime:** There was trouble in The Street in the early hours of Saturday morning when a person or persons turned over a small car on to its side spilling half a tank of fuel as well as causing damage to the car.

The Fire Brigade had to be called to assist and to wash away the spilled petrol, disturbing neighbours' sleep in the process.

**Pub:** The Bull's Head, after several weeks of refurbishment and redecorations which, although not absolutely complete, will be opening again for business tomorrow (Friday). There will be music to also help celebrate a birthday. Soon there will be restaurant facilities.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

**Silence:** At the meeting held on September 4, a minute's silence was held at the start in respect of Jo Fewkes who had served on the council as vice-chairman and chairman.

**Letter:** The clerk was asked to write to the environment department of Dover District Council to report that the rubbish along the B2046 had not been moved and to find out who owns the land.

**Play area:** The council has received complaints about dog mess on the children's play area. It was also reported that the self-closing springs on the new gates do not work if the gates are opened more than 90 degrees. The chairman agreed to look into this.

**Meeting:** The chairman reported that the council had met Robin Cooper, head of strategic planning at Canterbury council. The council had discussed a wide range of topics with Mr Cooper including the environment, housing, sports hut, bicycle track, vandalism.

Feedback from Mr Cooper will be circulated to the councillors for

officer informed the council that all hedge cutting along footpaths was to be completed by the end of August. As this has not been done the clerk is to make inquiries.

**Homes:** The Church Commissioners might be prepared to sell part of the land on the corner of Station and Bossington Roads for the development of low cost housing if the council would look favourably on an application by the church to develop another piece of land in the village. The clerk is to seek clarification.

## ASH

**Correspondent: Jan Bell, Starboard House, The Street, Ash, nr Canterbury, phone 01304 812345.**

**Barn dance:** The Friends of St Nicholas Church are holding a Barn Dance on Saturday at Little Weddington Farm from 8-11.30pm when the band will be The Westerners Square Dance Band.

Tickets are £5, children free. There will be a bar and barbecue.

## AYLESHAM

**Correspondent: Derek Garrity, c/o Aylesham Community Project, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AJ.**

**Training:** Those who would like a winter training course can visit the community project on Tuesday when students will be recruited.

There was an excellent response last time and there are limited places on the French, computer basic skills and arts classes.

**Millennium art:** Aylesham's new sculpture is going well. The artist, Patrick Crouch, has had the seven ton block of Portland stone delivered and has started work on the basic shape. The trustees are scheduled to visit the Aylesham Phoenix on September 21 the same day pupils from St Joseph's School, the county primary school and the youth club will go and have a chance to work on the sculpture.

There are three other places left for members of the public, so if you would like to see your sculpture in progress contact Derek Garrity who will try to

## BEKESBOURNE

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

**Council:** There will be a meeting of the parish council of Bekesbourne with Patribourne at 7.30pm on Monday, in Bekesbourne Village Hall. Representatives of the city council will visit to discuss the local plan.

**Wednesday Walkers:** The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month for a leisurely ramble in the local countryside. The programme has included walks in and around the village of Elmstone, through the bluebells of Trenley Park Woods, from Lower Hardres to Pett Bottom and back. Covert Lane in Kingston, and several walks closer to home on the parish footpaths.

The June walk entailed catching a train from Bekesbourne to Adisham and walking back over the Downs via the paths which would once have converged on Bekesbourne Mill. The outing ended with lunch in the garden of Cobham Court. Anyone is welcome to join in.

The next walk (destination to be decided) will be on Wednesday, October 4. Assemble at Bekesbourne Village Hall at 9.45am. For more information phone Joan Atkins, 831127.

**Land sold:** The land beside Cranmer Close has now been sold to the Samuel Lewis Housing Trust and the new development of six houses for rent will be starting soon.

**Allotments:** There will be six new allotments in the refurbished allotment plot available next spring. Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should speak to the parish clerk, Jill Thomas, 832573.

**Millennium walk:** The walk to commemorate the bi-centennial of the birth of Dr Charles Tilstone Beke and the unveiling of footpath map and heritage boards will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, October 7.

**Millennium photograph:** The photographs together with details of how to obtain copies can be seen at the Unicorn pub and in St Mary's Church, Patribourne.

Beltinge Baptist Church, Morning worship and Communion led by the Rev John Nainby, 10.30am. Evening worship led by Derek Gardner and June Bridgeland 6.30pm.

Today (Thursday), church members are hosting a tea for visitors from Harold Hill Baptists Church, Essex.

Beltinge Methodist Church, Sunday worship 6.30pm. Ronald O'Mahony will preach.

## BISHOPSBOURNE

**Correspondent: Malcolm Mitchell, The Old Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5HT, phone 01227 830645.**

**Parish church:** Thirty-eight riders checked into St Mary's Church on Saturday during the Friends of Kent Churches' annual cycle ride.

They were sponsored for the number of churches visited between 10am and 6pm, with half money raised going to the friends and half to the church nominated by the rider.

The church was manned by parishioners during the day to sign riders' sponsor sheets and to offer drinks and biscuits. Four parishioners, Peter and Lesley Sinton, Sue Dawkins and Natalie Hutton took part in the ride and the amount they raised will be announced later.

**Church services:** The monthly Matin's service was held at St Mary's on Sunday morning, conducted in the absence of a rector by members of the benefice ministry team, Gill Applin and Lizzie Hophrow.

Lessons were read by Malcolm Mitchell and Anne Neame with the address given by Mrs Hophrow.

Next Sunday, there will be Holy Communion at St Mary's at 8am, conducted by the Rev John Tyler. Otherwise, parishioners are invited to the following services in other churches in the United Benefice: 9.45am, united service, Barham Methodist Chapel; 10.30am, harvest thanksgiving, Womenswold, conducted by Lizzie Hophrow and the ministry team; family Eucharist, 11am, St Gile's, Kingston, conducted by the Rev

professional and exceptionally high standard of composition, were the various arrangements depicting the history and life of Bridge.

Over the same period a group of hard working parishioners and their friends provided refreshments in a marquee in the churchyard.

The churchwardens thank not only the organising committee and the sponsors, but all the arrangers, helpers and stewards and those who supported the event and gave so generously.

On Friday evening a free concert in the church was given by Quodlibet, a section of the church's own Canonet choir to further celebrate the Millennium festivities. Before a large audience a polished performance was given by Ruth Hoskins soprano, Jane Farrell mezzo-soprano/contralto, Richard Pond tenor and Mark Gardner bass, directed by Peter Giles counter tenor; pianoforte.

The programme offered a wide variety of songs to suit all tastes. A collection raised £127 for the church restoration and music fund. Thanks was given by the Rev Paul Filmer.

On the Sunday evening a large congregation attended the festival Evensong to end the celebrations. A warm welcome was given to new lay reader Margaret Clarke who is transferring from Chartham to Bridge. The sermon was by the Ven John Pritchard, Archdeacon of Canterbury and both he and Mr Filmer praised the work of the flower arrangers. The evening concluded with a reception.

**Exhibition:** The Millennium exhibition in the village hall, giving a pictorial history of Bridge up to the present day, created much interest. Several hundred people visited over the three days.

Thanks must go to the organisers for putting on such a comprehensive and interesting display.

**WI:** Nine members met up with nine from the West Kent link on Wednesday, at Headcorn for lunch and then travelled to Iden Croft herb garden at Staplehurst for tea before leaving for home. The outing was much enjoyed.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, at 7.30pm, in the village hall for a talk

**Correspondent: See Sturry.**

**Bingo:** The Sturry and District Group of the League of Friends of the Canterbury Hospital is holding an open bingo evening at Broad Oak Village Hall from 7pm on Friday, September 22. All are welcome.

**Women's Institute:** An open meeting is being held at Broad Oak Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday when the guest speaker will be Lieut Col Hoskins giving a talk entitled, A Life On The Ocean Waves.

The members' competition is for a "Royal" item and refreshments will be served during the evening. All are welcome.

Tickets are still available for the harvest supper to be held in the Village Hall from 7.30pm on Friday, September 29.

A tombola with a harvest theme will be run during the evening. Non-members and families are also welcome.

For details or tickets ring Marion Hope on 01227 711402.

## CHARTHAM

**Correspondent: Nan Akehurst, Swan Haven, Rattington Street, Chartham, phone 01227 730969.**

**Church:** St Mary's service on Sunday are 10am, family communion, with children's teaching activity within worship; 11.30am, family worship with baptism, all welcome.

The Salvation Army has a 10.15am, prayer meeting; 11am, holiness meeting and 6.30pm, salvation meeting.

**Gardeners:** The group will meet tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm, at the Royal British Legion Hall, Bolts Hill. Erica Grey will give a talk on The Straight and Narrow, about a journey on the canals.

Competitions are for five beetroot, and in floral art, an arrangement in a cup/saucer.

The autumn show is at 2.15pm on Saturday, in the Legion Hall; all welcome.

**Footpaths:** There is a walk leaving Chartham Hatch village hall at 2.30pm on Sunday.