

ALBANY TERRACE: Early 19th century, erected to house officers of Trinity House. A notable resident of No. 15 was Mr C Wills, baker, the Grand Old Man of Bridge, a member of the Fire Brigade for 51 years, of the church choir for 68 years and secretary of the Gas Co. for 42 years (1848-1942).

AUNT BETSY'S LANE - DERING ROAD: Named after Col. Cholmeley, younger brother of Sir Edward Dering of Surrenden Dering. He raised a cavalry regiment in East Kent in 1794, which served with distinction in Ireland in the rebellion of 1798. The steepness of the road is a consequence of the grading of the main road (like Bridge Hill) to facilitate traffic in 1829. Here was the old undertaker's store (destroyed 1987), and a WW I alehouse.

BIFRONS: ('Two Fronts') Sadly demolished immediately postwar (1949), it was the most significant house for Bridge. Originally built by John Bargrave in 1634, it was demolished in 1775 and rebuilt in contemporary style by Edward Taylor. It was sold in 1820 to Marchioness Conyngham, a favourite of George IV and a most notable benefactress to the village: 'fat, handsome, kindly, shrewd and extremely fond of jewels'.

BRIDGE PLACE: Built in mid-17th century by Sir Arnold Braems, first chairman of Dover Harbour Board. It was originally the largest house in East Kent, other than Chilham Castle, but was partly demolished by John Taylor of Bifrons in 1709, leaving only one corner of the original nine by seven bayed house with a central courtyard.

CONYNGHAM LANE: Formerly Laundry Lane, when the only buildings comprised the laundry to Bifrons at the far end. The road also gave access to Bridge from Bifrons. The old brick gateway just above the road though is a relic of Olivers Court, a mansion demolished in 1931. Beechmount lawn is on the site.

'DADDY FAGG'S FARM': so called after its most recent owner, was a 15th century Wealden hallhouse and great thatched barn, demolished in 1962 for the sake of housing development (Western Avenue Estate on three fields). Possibly the oldest vernacular building in Bridge, it was replaced by a Neo-Georgian terrace. It was once owned by the Rev. RH Barham (Thomas Ingoldsby). Other possible 15th century houses in the High Street are Nos. 33/5 & 49 (the old forge).

DR HUNTER'S: Rosedale Villa, now No. 24. 18th century timber framehouse, hung with mathematical tiles to resemble brick. Roger Hunter practised from here from 1939-1970 (surgery at the side), having bought the practice and the house from his predecessor Arthur Wilson, who came in 1906 and who was in his turn, like his predecessors, MO to the Union. Both were graduates of Trinity College Dublin.

THE FORGE: Probably 15th c. Conveniently adjacent to the posting house, where horses would be changed. One of two former smithies; later (1970s) Mrs Turner's greengrocery.

GAS WORKS: Erected by Marchioness Conyngham in 1859 on land behind the present High Beech to supply gas to Bifrons and eventually to provide street lighting to Bridge in 1906 and

then to the rest of the village and Patrixbourne. Closed in 1928. Oddly, the coal yard was behind houses beyond the Old School. Electricity was brought to the village in about 1935/6.

METHODIST CHAPEL: Built in 1894 of Corrugated Iron at a cost of just under £140, at purely local expense. The Chapel Committee in Manchester had wanted brick, so refused a loan.

This Wesleyan foundation followed that of the Primitive Methodists, who had already erected a wooden chapel in 1868 in Dering Road, demolished 1951 when it was a private house.

THE MILL: Bridge had a mill since at least 1596 (one of 39 then in Kent), originally a post mill but later a smock mill. By 1930 it was derelict and used merely as a store, but was demolished only in October 1954. The miller's house stands facing it, end-on to Union Road.

THE NAILBOURNE: The name 'bourne' indicates that this is an intermittent stream, only flowing at intervals. Frequently dry, more so nowadays than formerly, because of increased extraction from the chalk aquifer, the Nailbourne is yet capable of surprise. It was full of fish in the 1960s, it upset work on Bridge bypass in the 1970's, and ten years later made Brewery Lane impassable. Time for another flood?

OLD ENGLAND'S HOLE: An old tradition states that the last stand of the Britons against Caesar's invasion with the 7th legion in 54BC took place here, after their flight from defeat on Barham Downs. Roman burials have been found in Bourne Park, and in 1771 more than 100 tumuli were recorded in the adjacent field. The Hole is however probably no more than an old chalk quarry.

OLD SCHOOL: Built in 1872, it was superseded by the new school in Conyngham Lane in January 1971. From 1871 to 1911 teaching was in the exclusive hands of the Wye family. Prior to 1872 the National School was in the Workhouse.

PLOUGH AND HARROW: Built in 1692, originally as two dwelling houses, converted into a malthouse 1782-89. It became an alehouse in 1832, known by the 1860's by its present name. To the rear the former headquarters of Bridge Fire Brigade (since ca 1907), established by Marchioness Conyngham, and garage for the Engine. The funeral of fireman J Fenn in 1910 attracted 5000 mourners.

THE POST OFFICE: From which Lord Kitchener sent his first dispatches at the start of WWI. But the Post Office has been variously located: in 1823 at the White Horse; in 1873 near the present newsagent (perhaps no. 72), in 1896 at Mr Perry's grocers (now Skippers restaurant), in 1955 at Mr Roberts' (perhaps no 37). Only since then in the present location.

THE RED LION: Built in 1593 around a central chimney core, it was already called by this name by 1632. Used to have extensive stabling and carriage business. Housed the fire engine until ca 1904. Mr Jack Friend (1888-1936) was a noted publican in WW I. Note that there are two inns, one on each side of the river, for travellers in both directions.

'THE SHIP INN': Also late 15th century timber frame house with brick infilling. In the 19th century a row of four cottages ('Primrose Alley'), converted in mid-20th century. There is an east inside the pink-washed portion.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH: The church was traditionally viewed as a chapel to St Mary's, Patrixbourne (Bridge is not mentioned in Domesday Book). It retains some Norman features (in the West door, for instance), but was largely rebuilt with 'grotesque insensitvity' (Pevsner) by Scott in 1859-61 through the generosity of Mrs Gregory (1788-1867) of Bridge Hill House. It has three bells and several local memorials.

RIVER HOUSE: Or Riverside House. Mid-late 18th century. Formerly residence of TL Collard, auctioneer & valuer, Clerk to the Board of Guardians. Auctioned at the Red Lion in 1904, failed to sell at £380. Subsequently a Temperance Hotel.

THE BRIDGE: The reason for the village's existence, it marks the village centre. It is the first river crossing out of Dover, about half a day's march away, and provides a convenient stopping point. The core of the present bridge consists of a double arch, built in the mid-18th century, still visible from the river-bed. There was a water-splash on the NE side until the mid-20th century. One old railing survives.

BRIDGE UNION WORKHOUSE: Hence Union Road. The Union served 22 parishes around Canterbury. Built in 1835 at a cost of £4376 by TF Cozens of Canterbury, the house was ready for its first inmates within 9 months (February 1836). It was designed to house 200. South side: women and boys under 13, North side, men. Became a home for the elderly in 1934, converted to individual dwellings in 1982, when the New Close by the new school was opened.

VILLAGE HALL: Built by Marchioness Conyngham and originally know as the Reading Room and extended in 1878. Presented to the village by the Marquis of Conyngham on the coming of age of his son. Used as a canteen in WW I for soldiers camped in Bourne Park.

THE WHITE HORSE: The Posting House, though Bridge is only half a stage from Dover. 18th century exterior, with late mediaeval core. Early 16th century inscription on fireplace lintel. The house is visible in Schellinks' 1661 drawing of the High Street. Cathedral archives record a brawl here involving Christopher Applegate, a Marlowe contemporary. The first meeting of the workhouse guardians was held here, 22 April 1835.

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Little Stone

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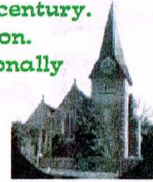
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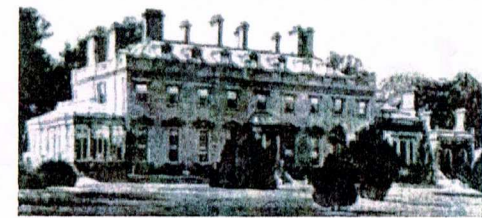
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'Bifrons'

Bridge

A Map and Guide to the History of the Village



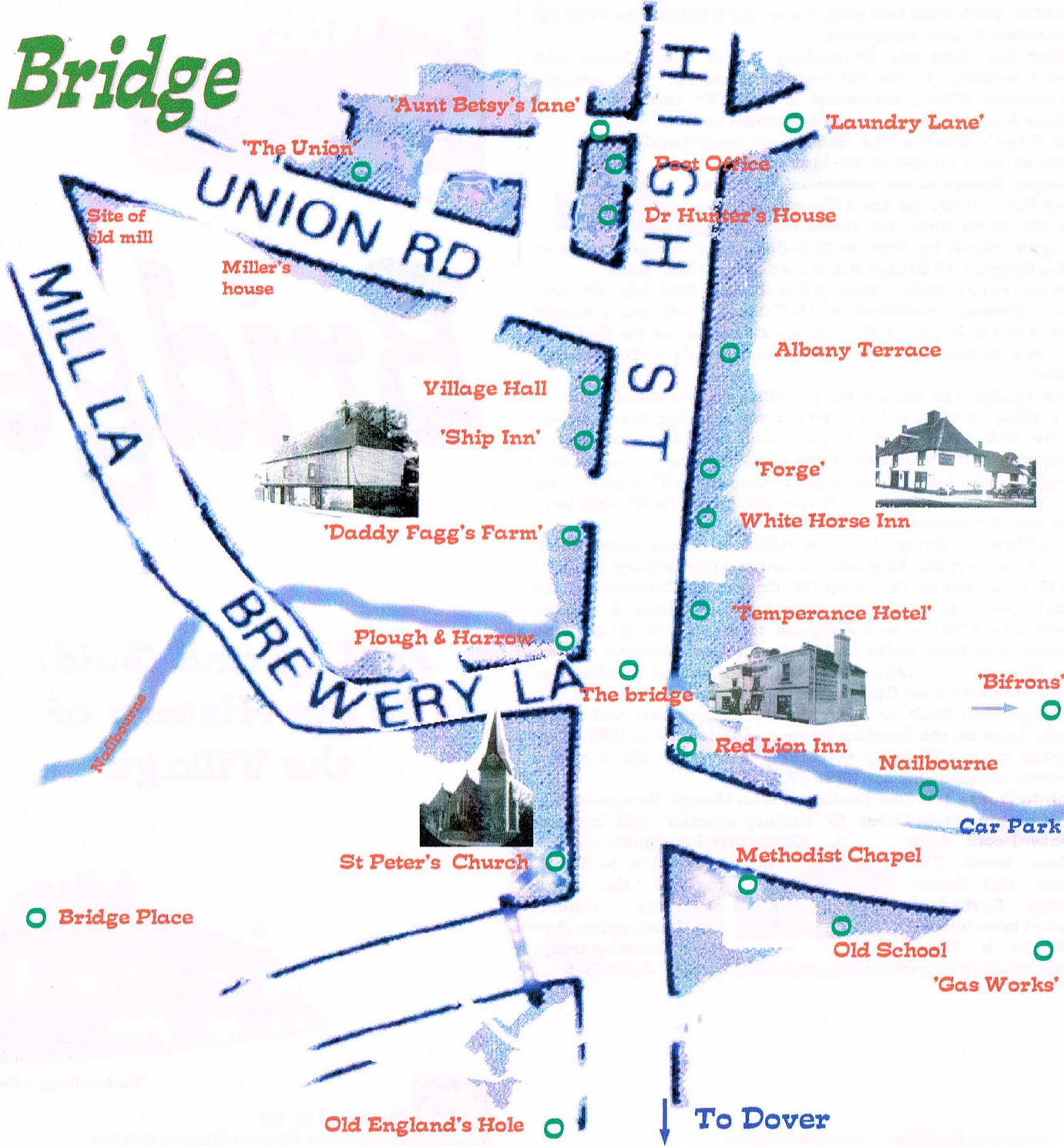
'Daddy Fagg's Farm'



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Designed for the Bridge and District History Society,
by John Corfield, 'High Beech', Patricbourne Road, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent.

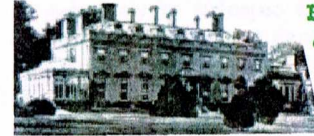
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23. **Red Lion Inn** Built in 1593 around a central chimney core, called by this name by 1632. Used to have extensive stabling and carriage business. Housed the fire engine until ca 1904. Note two inns, one on each side of the river for travellers in both directions.

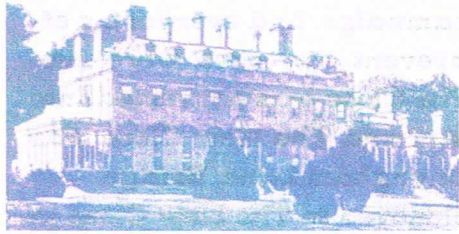
24. **Nailbourne** The name 'bourne' indicates that this is an intermittent stream, only flowing at intervals. Frequently dry, more so nowadays than formerly, because of increased extraction from the chalk aquifer, the Nailbourne is yet capable of surprise. It upset work on Bridge bypass in the 1970's, and ten years later made Brewery Lane impassable. Time for another flood?

Bridge

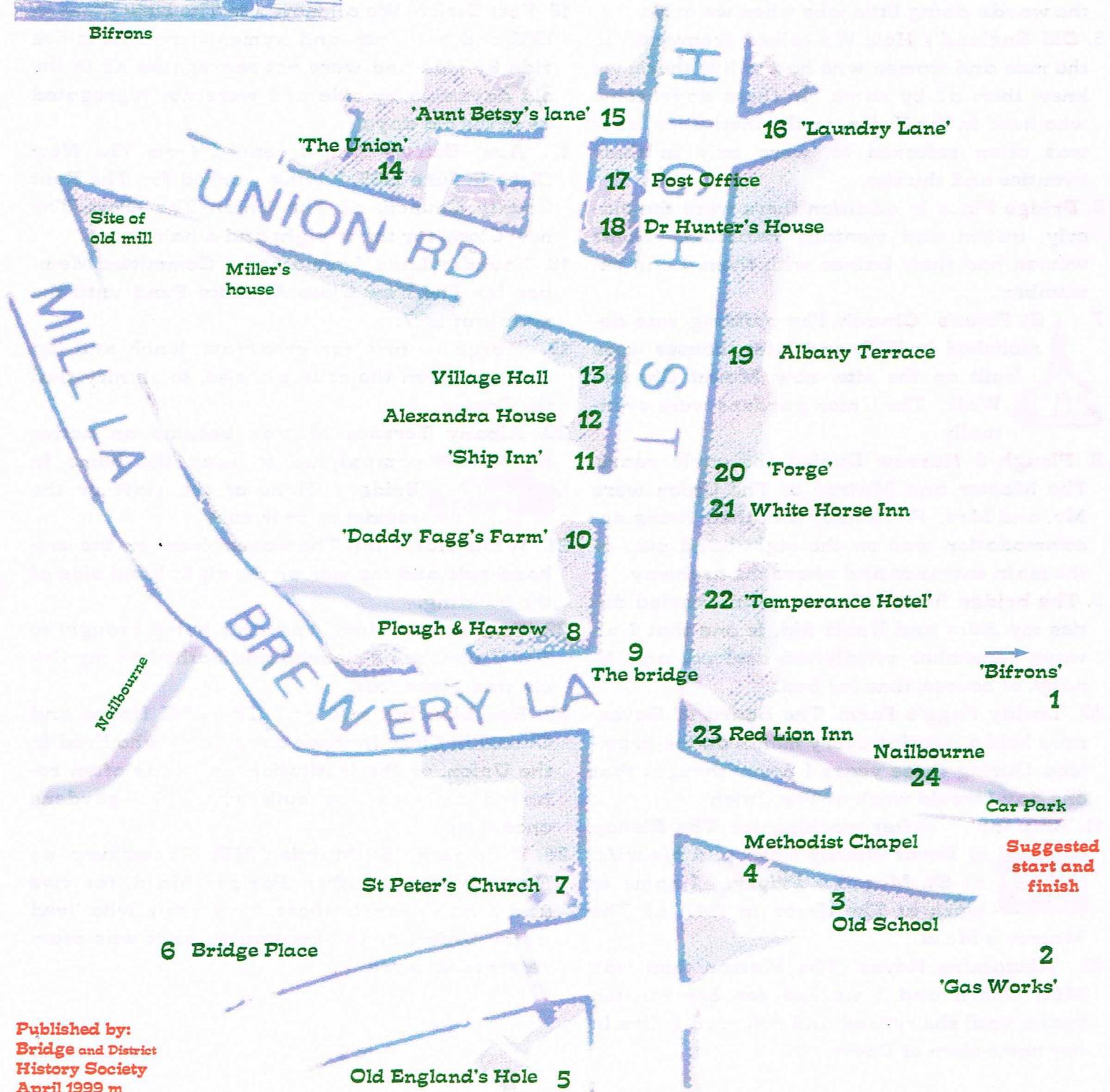


Daddy Fagg's Farm

A Village Tour A Village Tour



Bifrons



1. **'Bifrons'** In 1933, when we (the Lemar family) came to live in Old Mill House, Union Road, Bridge, we had relations working at The Union, Union Road.

2. **'Gas Works'** My Aunt and Uncle (Mr. and Mrs. Len Lemar) held the posts of Porter and Porteress, and their living accommodation was on the left-hand side of the main entrance (now made into two flats).

3. **Old School** They had two daughters (our cousins), so as children we were often in The Union. This gave us an insight into life that we would not otherwise have known about.

4. **Methodist Chapel** We spent many hours in the laundry, the chapel, the kitchen, and on the wards, doing little jobs when we could.

5. **Old England's Hole** We talked frequently to the men and women who had to live there; we knew them all by name. In those days, some who lived in the Union, or the Institution, as it was often referred to, were only in their twenties and thirties.

6. **Bridge Place** In addition there were the elderly, infirm and mentally retarded. Some women had their babies with them. I can remember .

7 . **St Peter's Church** The building was demolished in 1976, and later, houses were built on the site, now Mount Charles Walk. The Union gardens were eventually

8. **Plough & Harrow** During the early years, The Master and Matron of The Union were Mr. and Mrs. P. Honney and their living accommodation was on the right-hand side of the main entrance and above the archway.

9. **The bridge** Among the many and varied duties my Aunt and Uncle did, is one that I always remember vividly had arrived, and finally, of course, time for bed.

10. **'Daddy Fagg's Farm'** The Board of Governors held a meeting every month on the premises. During those years I never thought that one day I would work at The Union.

11. **'Ship Inn'** After working for The Bishop of Dover (Bishop Rose) and his wife, at St. Martin's Priory, I came to work at The Union in 1947, as The Matron's Maid.

12. **Alexandra House** The Matron then was Miss Eborn and I worked for her for ten years, until she retired and returned to live in her home town of Dover.

13. **Village Hall** During my time at The Union (later to be named The Close), I worked for seven Matrons. Sometimes my work took on a different role as some of the Matrons had families, and then I had the children to look after as well.

14. **'The Union'** During the time that Mrs. D. Upton (later to become Mrs. Holway) was Matron there was talk of The Union /The Close being closed. the people of Bridge, wanted the home to move into Canterbury.

15. **Dr Hunter's** The campaign and everyone's efforts to prevent the move were successful. The Close was converted into houses/flats and The New Close was built in Conyngham Lane, Bridge.

16. **Post Office** We all moved to The New Close in 1982 and here, men and women were able to live side by side and were not segregated as in the old days. side by side and were not segregated as in the old days.

17. **'Aunt Betsy's lane'** I retired from The New Close in June 1985, having worked for The Kent County Council, at The Union/The Close/The new Close, for thirty eight and a half years.

18. **'Laundry Lane'** I remained a Committee Member for The New Close Amenity Fund until the middle of 1997.

19. **'Forge'** , time for breakfast, lunch and tea (even between the courses), also, to signify that the Doctor

20. **Albany Terrace** Matron became an active campaigner to keep the home in Bridge. None of the staff or the residents, or in fact

21. **White Horse Inn** The women lived on the left-hand side and the men on the right-hand side of the building.

22. **'Temperance Hotel'** vagrants being brought to The Union, being cleaned and bathed by my Uncle, and given food

23. **Red Lion Inn** sold and Churchill House and Churchill Close In those days, some who lived in the Union, or the Institution, as it was often referred to, were are built where the gardens once were.

24. **Nailbourne** St. Martin's Hill, Canterbury, as House Maid and then Parlour Maid, for five and a half years In those days, some who lived in the Union, or the Institution, as it was often referred to, were

Thanks to The White Horse Inn, Bridge, for providing sponsorship for this guide