

OLD WORLD VILLAGE

HIGH ST.

WITH RACE-TRA

Ministry says: No need for safety measures. One day there'll be a by-pass

FEAR stalks Bridge, near Canterbury—the 20th century fear of death on the road. For the old-world High Street is a one-mile stretch of the London-Dover A.2.

For 20 years villagers have campaigned for special safety measures.

They have seen adults and children killed, and once parents formed a human barrier across the road as a protest against fast traffic.

But the authorities have done very little to alleviate the ever-present danger.

To every request for safety measures, the Ministry of Transport replies that Bridge will one day be by-passed, and there would then be no need for special precautions.

APPREHENSION

The 897 people of Bridge are solidly in favour of any move to reduce the danger. "The battle goes on" the Vicar, the Rev. R. A. Penney, told a reporter this week.

"The whole of this village lives in a state of apprehension about their children and old people.

"The lighting is very poor, and the old folk have a very dangerous time.

"In the summer, vehicles on the way to the Continent, and those coming the other way, form a non-stop procession of traffic both ways all the

NO FOOTPATH

The local police regulate the traffic at service times and for Sunday school. There is no footpath from the village to that part of the mill which leads to the church, and the



THE REV. R. A. PENNEY, Vicar of Bridge.

back for a footpath, the Ministry of Transport said that in view of the by-pass it would not be justified.

"The parish council has raised the matter four times, and the Ministry sent down an inspector, who stood in the High Street for half-an-hour when there was an un-hurried flow of traffic. Later, we were told there was no case.

"The pavements are dangerous and narrow, and we have 100 old people at The Close (a hospital). There is not more than 50 yards of pavement in which two people can walk abreast", said the Vicar.

BY-PASS: WHEN?

Mr. A. Taylor, chairman of the parish council, said he did not think the by-pass would come in his lifetime. Formerly, it was planned



MR. J. SMITH, road safety officer.

Meeting by candlelight

There was a candlelit evening for the annual meeting of the Bridge Group of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals last Wednesday when a power-cut put The Close, Bridge, in darkness.

As a result the visiting speaker, Mrs. M. M. Kidman, County Tutor for the National Council of Social Service, was unable to show the films she had brought to illustrate her talk on the work being done for elderly people in Kent.

Mrs. Kidman spoke about the setting up of an Old People's Welfare Council after a survey of the needs of the elderly during the war years. Following this there were now 4 Old People's Welfare Committees throughout the county.

By far the most important of their activities was visiting, but they were also developing clubs where old people could have subsidised meals and meet each other. Many firms offered cut prices for food bought in bulk.

She also mentioned the enormous increase in the amount of work by animal children, who did everything from mending to decorating, and talked about how holidays were arranged and the benefits which could come from the establishment of day hospitals.

Mrs. F. E. Apps presented bouquets to Mrs. Missenden and Mrs. Ruby Gooding, the Deputy Mayor and Mayor, after from Maidstone.

Close proximity

The Rev. C. E. H. Berry, who presided, spoke of the beauty of the proximity when the Bridge Group of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals met in The Close.

Mrs. Apps, the secretary, said that membership had increased to 27 and activities covered the year 1933-34.

In the treasurer's report, Mrs. Apps said that receipts were £100 and expenses £100, leaving a balance of £100.

The meeting was held in the church, and was attended by a large number of people.