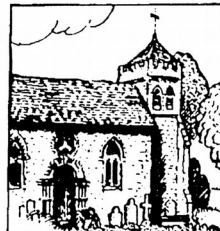


On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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villages along the
Nailbourne

Dec 2012 Jan 2013 50p



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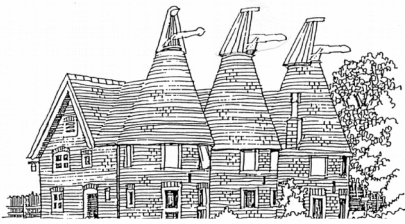
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Emmanuel, God with us, is the centre of the Christmas message. As a church community we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, born as God yet in human form to a virgin. What seems a simple story of birth becomes an extraordinary life changing revelation in the message that God so loves each one of us and our world that he sends his Son to reconcile humanity to himself. In celebration of this love so generously and freely given to humanity, it seems strange that we celebrate in a way that can be so subverted by human excess and guilt. Each year I try really hard not to be drawn in by the commercialism and the frantic pace that is generated by the festive period. Christmas Day holiday is after all the 'Holy Day' when we stop and celebrate Christ's birthday. If you are like me it has become a point of near exhaustion from rush to make the 25th December the 'perfect day'.

There is a story of a king being woken in the night from a loud noise above his bed. The king shouts out 'Who is there'? The king's jester replies 'It's me looking for a camel.' The king shouts back 'Camels on the roof, camels on the roof? You fool why are you looking for a camel on the roof of the palace?' The jester replies 'You fool! Why are you looking for God in a golden bed dressed in gold?' If we want to find God this Christmas my guess is that he will not be found in the pre-Christmas commercial induced exhaustion. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as Christian communities gather together in church we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. It's even free!

As we celebrate Christmas and the coming New Year may I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing and Christ's peace.

Simon

Stop Press

On Friday 16th November Bishop Trevor Willmott the Bishop of Dover, following an interview process very kindly offered me the post of Priest in Charge St Mary of Charity Faversham. After careful thought and consideration I have accepted this new post and will finish in both the Bridge and Littlebourne Benefices at the end of the year. I have with Gail and Josh felt both blessed and supported in sharing the past six years with all of you in the Bridge, and more recently, the Littlebourne Benefice. We as a family move to Faversham with hope for the unknown but strengthened by your love and prayers. I hope to meet as many of you as possible before we leave, in the meantime pray for the parishioners of the soon to be formed new Benefice of Faversham and their three church communities and for their future as we will for you as you enter into a time of exploration in God's grace.

Bridge Group of churches includes the Churches of Bekesbourne, Patixbourne, Bridge, Lower Hardres and Nackington. *The church at Bekesbourne is normally kept locked but a key can be borrowed from Essentially Hops in Chalkpit Farm during shop hours.

Your Parish Matters

Christenings

13.10.12	Bridge	Alexander William Feakins
13.10.12	Bridge	Anna Catherine Feakins
21.10.12	Bridge	Josephine Alicia Rose Millyard
28.10.12	Bridge	Eloise Mai Sawyer
28.10.12	Bridge	Mia Jill Sawyer

Weddings

06.10.12	Nackington	Katie Wright and Edward Burlison-Rush
27.10.12	Bridge	Jennifer Dobing and Graeme Heap

Funerals

19.10.12		Roy Peter Davies
26.10.12		Roderick James Seymour
01.11.12		David Rex Powell

Mid Week Communion takes place on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am at Bridge Church. This is a short service (30 minutes) and I hope this will provide an opportunity for those who drop children off at school to have time for themselves with God in a quiet atmosphere.

Morning and Evening Prayer. Morning and evening prayer take place at Bridge Church, from Monday to Thursday at 8.30am and 5pm respectively. All are very welcome to attend.

Prayers There is a book for prayer requests on the altar of the Lady Chapel in Bridge Church.

Church Mice. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's, Bridge from 2pm-3pm for preschool children (0-5) and their parents and carers - play, songs, bible story, craft and tea and coffee. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 4th December**.

The January meeting of Church Mice will be on the **2nd Tuesday, the 8th of January 2013**. All welcome. Contact Rev. Julia on 830265.

Bible Study Group. The next meeting will be held at 21 High Street, Bridge on **Wednesday 12th December at 7.30pm**. The January meeting will be held on the **16th of January at 7.30pm**. All welcome. (Adults from age 17 an up!).

Church Weddings. *If you, or anyone you know would like to explore the possibility of getting married in church in Bridge, Bekesbourne, Patrixbourne, Nackington or Lower Hardres please phone the Vicarage to make an enquiry: 01227 830250. Further information is also available at www.yourchurchwedding.org.*

For Baptism and Funeral enquiries please feel able to contact the Vicar .The Church of England seeks to serve the community not just those who go to church.

Does Christmas make you want to sing? Then why not sing in Patrixbourne Carol Choir? Our Carol Service is on Friday 21st December at 7pm in St Mary's Church We extend a warm invitation to singers of all ages to join in a small number of rehearsals leading up to a friendly and enjoyable occasion. In addition to regulars and singers from the Bridge Choir and beyond, we hope to welcome newcomers. We shall be singing the traditional favourites as well as hymns and anthems familiar and unfamiliar such as "Joseph and the Angel" and "O Holy Night". If you would like more details, please contact Pauline Pritchard (830685 or pvpritchard@tiscali.co.uk) or John Harris (830631 or jmk.harris@virgin.net).

Dates for Your Diary

December

01/12	10-12.30	Lower Hardres Christmas Fayre at John Baker White
		Memorial Hall
04/12	14.00	Church Mice at Bridge Church
	15.00	Holy Communion at Bridge Haven
	20.00	After 8's at 7 Windmill Close
06/12	19.30	Health & Healing at 7 Windmill Close
10/12	13.30	Highfield Carol Service
	19.30	Caring & Sharing
11/12	14.30	Mansfield Court Carol Service
12/12	10.00	Fish Scheme-Coffee pop in at Bridge Village Hall
12/12	14.00	Social Afternoon at John Baker White Memorial Hall,
		Lower Hardres
	19.30	Bible Study Group, 21 High St., Bridge
15/12	09.30-12	Children's Christmas Workshop at John Baker White
		Memorial Hall, Lower Hardres
18/12	15.00	Saxon Lodge Carol Service
	20.00	After 8's at 7 Windmill Close
19/12	16.00	Bridge Haven Carol Service

January

03/01	19.30	Health & Healing at 7 Windmill Close
08/01	14.00	Church Mice at Bridge Church
	14.30	Holy Communion at Mansfield Court
09/01	10.00	Fish Scheme-Coffee pop in at Bridge Village Hall
	14.00	Social Afternoon at John Baker White Memorial Hall, Lower Hardres
14/01	19.30	Caring & Sharing
15/01	20.00	After 8's at 7 Windmill Close
15/01	15.00	Holy Communion at Saxon Lodge
16/01	15.00	Hymns at Bridge Haven
	19.30	Bible Study Group, 21 High St., Bridge
21/01	14.30	Holy Communion at Highfield
28/01	19.30	Caring & Sharing

WANTED Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC/Benefice Secretary This is a voluntary position which involves taking minutes of meetings and distributing relevant papers etc. The committees meet approximately 6 times a year from 7.30pm – 9.30pm on a weekday evening. If you would like to discuss this further please contact either Laurence Dunderdale on 830668 or Evelyn Andrews 830960.

Bridge Flower Arranging

A meeting will be held on Friday 7th December at 2.00pm at 'The Archways' to organise flowers at Christmas in St. Peter's Bridge and to draw up next years rota. If anyone is thinking about joining our team of decorators, not necessarily flower arrangers please pop in for a cuppa , or give me a call on 830981.

Thanks. Viv Brazier

Fish Scheme News

Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM in November. The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday December 12th and Stuart Field will kindly provide music for carol singing. Do come. The provisional date for our Winter Warmer lunch is Wednesday 23rd January but there will be more details at the Pop-In. The League of Friends of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital Nailbourne Group held a very successful Charity Lunch at the John Baker White Memorial Hall Lower Hardres on 1st November 2012, raising £923 for the benefit of the hospital. Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Bridge & Patrixbourne C.E.Primary School



Invite all Senior Citizens to an Afternoon of Entertainment on Tuesday 18th December 2012
1.30pm – 3.00pm in the School Hall

Come along and listen to the children sing Christmas songs - Year 6 will serve refreshments during the afternoon

If you would like to come please ring the school office on 830276

We can also arrange local transport if required

SALVATION ARMY AND BRIDGE SCHOOL CHOIR CAROL CONCERT

This has now become an annual event, this year it is to be held on

Thursday 6th December 2012 at 7.30pm In Bridge School Hall

Entrance £3.00 – pay on the door (school children free)

Refreshments will be served after the concert

Join us for an evening singing carols – all money raised will go to the Salvation Army Fund



British Humanitarian Aid- Gifts for Advent service Dec. 2012

As usual we have our annual Advent Gift service at St.Peter's Bekesbourne on Sunday Dec.2nd 9.30 am. When we bring our gifts to be blessed. Any of the following would be gratefully received.

Good everyday clothing (no jumble or fancy clothes); Under wear and socks!!!!!! All ages; Toiletries- lots of basics-nothing fancy-no shower gels!; bedding; shoes; toys or games-not battery or electronic; educational and art materials including easy reading books for those learning English; computers-working order ideally with CD or DVD drives; household goods.

If in doubt then contact BHA :

TEL: warehouse- 453434; email office@britishhumanitarianaid.co.uk

IF you have a lot of bulky goods then please feel free to deliver them direct to the warehouse on the Barton Industrial estate (beyond Noel Tatt)

If you wish to make a monetary donation then a 'gift aid' form is available from the website: www.britishhumanitarianaid.org. Thank you and God Bless Pat

The Festival of the Three Kings

Epiphany will be celebrated at the Family Service on 9.30am. On January 6th at St.Peter's Bekesbourne. We like to do some form of 'production' drama on the day involving all the children and young people who want to be part of it. In order to plan the drama we would like to know who wants to be involved. If you want to be included then please let me know as soon as possible by ringing me on 830272. You will need to be available for a rehearsal at St.Peter's on Sat.5th at 2.30pm

We also look forward to welcoming anyone else who wishes to come and celebrate with us. Pat (Kusel)

Deanery Children's Day

This is a report written by a member of St.Peter's, Bekesbourne Family service congregation who attended the recent SINK and SWIM event organised for Keystage1 and Keystage 2 children led by Captain Graham Nunn of the Church Army.

'Me, Evie (my sister), Darcy (my best friend) and Imogen (her sister) went to Ash school on Saturday 13th October. When we got there, we got into our groups. Me and Darcy were in the Blue Group. We made our own name badge. I put on a flower and spots for decoration. Then we did some word searches and crosswords while we waited for the others to finish. After this we sang some songs and Captain Graham did some magic tricks. I really liked it because when he opened his Holy Bible fire came out!

We then went to work in our groups on making a big frieze about the story of Noah. Darcy and I had to colour and cut out the men who made the ark.

After all the hard work we had some more fun playing parachute games. This made us all hungry and thirsty so we had some cakes and biscuits. Yum! Yum! Then Captain Graham told us the story of Noah until our parents came. Then we sung another song and did some circus skills before our parents took us home.

The time flew by because we were having such fun.'Nesta Maylam

Fashion Show

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church would like to thank all involved for helping to make the Fashion Show on 19th October 2012 a tremendous success.

Special thanks go to the models ~ Wendy Durell, Janet Street, Jenny Skinner Rosie Mount, Gail Rowlands and Christine Ash. All agreed, they were terrific.

Scout Christmas Post
The Nailbourne Scouts will be providing a Christmas Post delivery in Bridge as they do each year.
The boxes will be placed in local shops and pubs on 1 December 2012 and deliveries will be made on 15 December and 20 December 2012. All proceeds from the post are used to support the activities of the local Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
Thank you for your support.
The Nailbourne Scout Executive Committee

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WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2012
5.30PM – 7PM**

SINGING WILL BE LEAD BY
Dave Cutting (piano/keyboard)
Stuart Field (violin)

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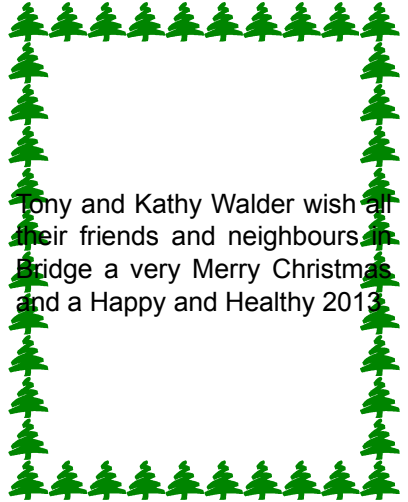
Amnesty International

Saturday 15th December
Petham Village Hall
CT4 5RD
8.00pm to 11.30pm
Bar for drinks
(But bring your own food)



Tickets £10

For more information call 01227 462210 / 01227 831956



Tony and Kathy Walder wish all their friends and neighbours in the village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2013



A Christmas Celebration An Evening of Seasonal Music

Saturday 1st December 2012 at 7.30
Lower Hardres Village Hall

Join us for our annual Christmas Celebration with seasonal entertainment by Sedecim (Top Choir Kent) and join in with some Traditional Carols.



After the musical entertainment, there will also be refreshments, a Christmas Quiz and a Raffle, with a top prize of a hamper.

Tickets £12.00

(To include mulled wine and mince pies)
Available from the Festival Office and
Marlowe Box Office on 01227 787787.

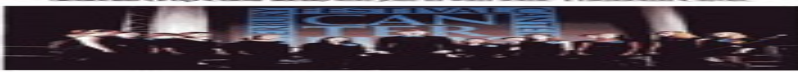


**Friends
of the
Festival**



A Christmas Celebration An Evening of Seasonal Music

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Lower Hardres Village Hall



Tickets £12.00

(To include mulled wine and mince pies)
Available from the Festival Office and
Marlowe Box Office on 01227 787787.



**Friends
of the
Festival**

The Bridge Group
Services for the month of December 2012

Year C	Nackington	Lower Hardres	Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne	Readings
Sunday 2 nd December First Sunday of Advent	8.00 am BCP Communion	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30 am Advent Family & Gift Service	NT: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end G : Luke 21.25-36
Sunday 9 th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.30 am Advent Carol Service	4.00 pm Advent Carol Service	9.30am Family Communion		8.00 am BCP Communion	NT: Philippians 1.3-11 G : Luke 3.1-6
Sunday 16 th December Third Sunday of Advent		3.00pm Family Crib Service	9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Carol Service	8.00 am BCP Communion	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	NT : Philippians 4.4-7 G : Luke 3.7-18
Friday 21 st December				7pm Carol Service		
Sunday 23 rd December Fourth Sunday Of Advent	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	----	8.00 am BCP Communion		----	NT : Hebrews 10.5-10 G : Luke 1.39-45
Monday 24 th December	11.30 Midnight Mass		3pm Christingle 5pm Christingle 11.30 Midnight Mass		11.30 Midnight Mass	
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day		9.30am Family Service		9.30am Holy Communion with Carols	11.00am Family Carol Service	
Sunday 30 th December First Sunday of Christmas			8.00am BCP Holy Communion			NT : Colossians 3.12-17 G : Luke 2.41-end
Sunday 6 th January The Epiphany	8.00 am BCP Communion	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Feast of the Three Kings Family Service	NT : Ephesians 3.1-12 G : Matthew 2.1- 12

The Bridge Group
Services for the month of January 2013

Year C	Nackington	Lower Hardres	Bridge	Patricbourne	Bekebourne	Readings
Sunday 6 th January Epiphany	8.00 am BCP Communion	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	9.30 am Feast of the Three Kings Family Service	NT: Eph 1.3.1-12 G: Matt 2.1-12
Sunday 13 th January Baptism of Christ	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Family Communion		8.00 am BCP Communion	NT: Acts 8.14-17 G: Luke 3.15- 17.21-22
Sunday 20 th January Third Sunday of Epiphany		9.30 am Family Service	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	8.00 am BCP Communion	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	NT: 1 Cor 12.1-11 G: John 2.1-11
Sunday 27 nd January Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	9.30 am Sung Eucharist		8.00 am BCP Communion 11.00 am Family Service	11.00 am Mattins		NT: 1 Cor 12.12- 31a G: Luke 4.14-21 OT: Nehem 8.1- 3.5-6.8-10
Sunday 3 rd February Presentation of Christ	8.00 am BCP Communion	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	9.30 am Family Service	NT: Heb 2.14-end G: Luke 2.22-40

Lower Hardres Christmas Fair - We shall be holding our Christmas Fair on 1st December 2012 from 10am – 12.30pm in the John Baker-White Hall. If you have any contributions for collection please contact Margaret. It promises to be a good time with some lovely gifts, home made goodies. Please come along!

Lower Hardres Advent Carol Service – Following the success of last year's Service, we shall be holding an Advent Carol Service on Sunday 9th December 2012 at 4.00pm. Gerrard Ahern will be playing Advent music and there will be a selection of Advent and Christmas Hymns and readings. Mulled wine and mince pies.

Crib Service – Sunday 16th December, 2012 at 3pm. Christmas would not be the same in Lower Hardres without our traditional Crib Service in which the children place the nativity figures in the stable as we begin to prepare for our Christmas celebrations. If children would like to dress up as a Nativity character we shall be delighted. This year we have chosen Demelza House Children's Hospice as our Children's Charity. There will be a selection of candles on sale at our services during November and December – all proceeds to Demelza.

Benefice Children's Workshop

The Workshop will take place on Saturday 15th December from 9.30 to 12noon in the John Baker-White Hall, Lower Hardres. Our vicar, Simon, will end the morning with a short service. Please book your place by contacting Julie Cox 788316 or Margaret 765598. Parents please stay with your preschool child. It would be appreciated if each child could bring £1 towards materials. Do come along – it will be fun!

Wild Flower Project Recreation Ground

October has been a busy month. Several volunteers gathered on Saturday morning 20th October to weed, prune, replant and generally tidy the area round the pavilion on the Recreation Ground. Ferns and foxgloves were planted under the trees in the Wild Flower area together with seeds for next spring and summer. Several residents donated plants and seeds. Clearing the vegetation at the side of the path to the school was started several weeks ago and continues.

Last but not least on 22nd October the Eco Club from Bridge School planted Narcissi bulbs on the banks of the Nailbourne. The list of volunteers who have opted to help occasionally on the Recreation Ground during the year is growing. It is not too late to join! Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way during the year.

Sue Hodges

#

Elham Valley Vineyard Dec 2012

The Teashop is going from strength to strength with their very popular breakfasts and light lunches, it is also a favourite place for our students to want to work in. In order to accommodate more of them in the kitchen, we are scheduling an expansion and so will be closing between 17th December and 2nd January as that is a relatively quiet time.



We apologise to our regular customers and urge them to come back to see the difference in the New Year. Meanwhile we are now doing Sunday Lunches every week and are serving our Christmas Menu right up until 17th December. To book please phone the Teashop on 01227 831266. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an excellent New Year from students and staff at the Vineyard.
Nikki Marley – General Manager

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

For the Society's pre-Christmas social evening, this year on **Tuesday 4 December** at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall, **Mr Rob Masters**, a most entertaining and popular speaker, will be regaling us with topical tales under the heading of "**The Joys of Christmas**". Afterwards, there will be mince pies and a Christmas raffle and time to chat with fellow members and villagers. There will be a small entrance charge (to include refreshments) of £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

The 2013 programme is all in place and begins with the **AGM on Tuesday 22 January** at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. Annual subscriptions are due then, still held at £4 for single and £6 for joint membership, and show schedules for both the Spring and Summer Shows will be available. After the business part of the meeting, Una Smith will give an illustrated talk on the history and operation of the **National Garden Scheme**.

The Nailbourne Horticultural Society is one of the long-standing village organisations, but, in order for it to carry on, it is in desperate need of **new committee members**. Please consider joining us. It is not too arduous a commitment, with only three committee meetings a year and a little "behind the scenes" help at the evening meetings and the Spring and Summer Shows. Do give it some thought and keep this village society flourishing. Have a word with one of the existing committee members or volunteer at the AGM itself.

Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute

Please note that the December meeting will be on the second Tuesday of the month, namely **Tuesday 11 December**, still at the usual time of 7.30 pm and in Bridge Village Hall. Sandy Sharp will be entertaining us with her music and a talk on "**English Traditional Dance**" to be followed by festive mince pies and a refreshing drink.

At the first meeting of the New Year on **January 15th**, back to the third Tuesday of the month and at our usual time of 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall, **Dr Peter Giles** will give a talk on "**The Human Voice, its Mystery and Beauty**".

Bridge Royal British Legion

On the occasion of the re-launch of the refurbished Plough & Harrow, Bridge the landlord and landlady Mr. & Mrs. Ranulph Neame were asked to choose a charity of their choice for the Shepherd Neame Group to donate to.

So it was at 7.30 in the evening on Tuesday the 23rd of November that long-standing Poppy Appeal Organiser Barry Whiting was presented with a cheque to the British Legion for £200 by the board of Shepherd Neame in a packed Plough & Harrow.

Not only that, but Barry was given the honour of being the recipient of the first pint drawn from the pumps - complementary of course!

Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We have had a busy month with the Poppy Appeal, our Remembrance Service and our AGM.

The Poppy Appeal total is not in yet but we feel very optimistic about the result – all thanks to our Organiser, Jo Tatman.

Our Remembrance Service at Wickambreaux was a very enjoyable and memorable occasion. The church was full and we were joined by the local junior uniformed organisations, scouts, cub, guides and beavers. The Silence was observed at the war memorial, the branch standard being carried by Standard Bearer, Tom Pett.

At our AGM election of Branch Officers and Officials was as follows:-

President: John Marsh

Vice Presidents: Oswin Kent, Fred Bennett, Bernie Guyatt and Hugh Wheeler

Chairman: Ray Tupper

Vice Chairman: Barbara Hunt

Hon Secretary: Barbara Hunt

Hon Treasurer: John Hewett

Branch Committee: Ray Tupper, Fred Bennett and John Marsh

Welfare Committee Officer: Geof Welch

Standard Bearer: Tom Pett

Poppy Appeal Organiser: Jo Tatman has now decided to stand down for the coming year.

Our next two monthly meetings will be on Tuesday, 11th December 2012 and Tuesday, 8th January 2013, both at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne at 8pm.

Bourne Vets News

We have been seeing many more cases of arthritis and stiffness recently as the cooler, damper weather can make joints more painful. Older animals definitely find the winter months harder and if you have noticed that your pet is less mobile there are many treatment options that can make them feel more comfortable. If your dog is stiff after sleeping or exercise or your cat is no longer climbing their favourite tree they could well be developing arthritis.

Osteoarthritis is also known as degenerative joint disease (DJD) and is very common in middle-aged or older pets. It can unfortunately also occur in younger animals if they have developmental joint problems such as hip or elbow dysplasia. DJD is associated with damage to the cartilage that lines joints and causes lameness, pain and swelling of the affected joint with reduced mobility. Once a joint has DJD it cannot be cured. The goal of treatment is to decrease pain, minimise lameness, improve mobility and provide a good quality of life for affected patients. There are many treatment options which can greatly help your pet, and we can discuss with you the best options for your specific pet. We can provide courses of treatment to relieve pain and inflammation, and can offer guidance on diet and weight control to minimise extra strain on joints. We can also provide dietary supplements and advice on gentle exercise and hydrotherapy as well as weekly injections which protect damaged cartilage and inhibit further damage. There are many options available and many people comment that their pets behave like puppies and kittens again after treatment.

We can discuss all the options and the best treatment specifically for your pet at **Bourne Veterinary Practice**. We are open 7 days a week, just call us on **01227 832322** to book an appointment.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your pets a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2013.



Christmas at Chalkpit Farm

Sunday 9th December 2012

10.30-4pm

Nativity

Village Carol singing 2.30pm

Mulled Wine & mince pies

Charity raffle in aid of Pilgrims Hospice

Wreath making demonstration

Family photographer at All Nine

Something for the kids with Mama Christmas

Locally grown Christmas trees, Mistletoe & Holly

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NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Nailbourne Horticultural Society?

Come along to our

AGM

Tuesday 22 January

at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall

followed by

Illustrated talk by Una Smith

**on the history and operation of the National
Garden Scheme**

Nailbourne Horticultural Society The Joys of Christmas A talk by Rob Masters
Tuesday 4 December 7.30 pm Bridge Village Hall Refreshments with Mince Pies
Christmas raffle time to chat with fellow members and villagers small entrance
charge (to include refreshments) £2 for members and £3 for non-members

SNOW AND ICE PROBLEMS

The last 3 winters have all had periods of snow and ice bringing with them danger to our more elderly residents and disruption to those trying to get to work. In the old days the task of clearing our footpaths was the job of our own "roadman", but these individuals have long gone. Whilst it is the responsibility of Highways we all know that, in times of need, the clearing of Bridge footpaths is way down the list of priorities and will not happen unless we, the residents of Bridge, do something ourselves.

In this respect, we, The Parish Council, are seeking to get volunteers who will commit themselves to clearing a stretch of footpath, treating it with sand and salt, and generally ensuring that it is safe for the elderly to walk on. If you are able bodied and likely to be unable to get to work because of the snow conditions, why not offer your services to clear the footpath in your road? It is good fun, it will get you warm at no cost and you will have the satisfaction of doing some good for your community. We, the Parish Council will provide you with Snow Shovels, brushes and sand mixed with salt. All we want you to provide is the manpower (or womenpower!). So, if you are up for a spot of community activity that will make a huge difference to the most vulnerable in our society, contact me, Bill Oakey on 832397 or e mail me on bill.oakey@canterbury.gov.uk and we will arrange to have an informal meeting (probably in one of our local hostleries) and get ourselves ready for the worst that the elements can throw at us!

Councillor Bill Oakey
Bridge Parish Council

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!!!

Calling all residents,

KCC Community Warden , Allan Macdonald has been working in your local community to try and identify your neighbours that may need some support in their wellbeing and access to local services.

We need you to support Allan in identifying residents that would benefit from a home visit to talk about how he can help.

With the Winter months fast approaching, it is so important to make these links to help support people through the colder weather.

Cold or damp homes affect the most vulnerable members of your community.

Allan can be identified by his uniform and contacted on **07773 396657**.

He is fully CRB checked and police vetted, giving you piece of mind that any information you give him will be dealt with by an appropriate person.

If you feel either yourself or a neighbour would benefit from a visit from Allan, please give him a ring.

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BRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all our customers

9am-12noon Red Lion Inn CT4 5LB



Saturday 8th December

Wednesday 19th December

Candlelit Christmas Market

3:30pm – 6:30pm

First Market of 2013- 12th January

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all our customers

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Notes from Bridge Parish Council meeting 8th November 2012

Budget & Precept requirement: The precept and the budget requirements for 2013/14 were agreed. The required precept level would be 0.07% higher than the previous year.

Revision of Financial Regulations: The Finance Committee had reviewed the Internal Audit arrangements and had not recommended any changes. Changes to Financial Regulations recommended by the Internal Auditor were agreed. These included raising the level above which three quotations for work should be obtained from £1,000 to £3,000.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mr Joe Connor reported on a constructive meeting between three members of Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Adrian Verrall of CCC, in charge of drawing up the Local District Plan. It had been suggested that Bridge should put forward a small number of proposals for inclusion in the Plan, based on data from the questionnaires. It was important that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee should consider other issues apart from housing. Another meeting of the Committee would be held before Christmas with the aim of putting further proposals to the parish council in January.

Recreation Ground- Cllr Terry Wilmshurst had again repaired the tiles on the pavilion roof. All spare tiles had now been used up. One of the picnic tables had been smashed. It was agreed to move the remaining picnic table into the pavilion for the winter. Cllr John Hill thanked Cllrs Corfield and Wilmshurst for installing the new swings. It had been found that one of the shackle pins needed to be replaced. Cllr John Corfield would supply the details to Wicksteed so that a replacement could be ordered.

Quotes to replace the hinges on the sand bag store and to replace the wire /fencing between Riverside Close and the pavilion and raise its height were accepted.

Cllr Sue Hodges thanked the volunteers who had joined the working party on the recreation ground on 20th. October. She also thanked those who had donated plants and seeds and the volunteers who had signed up to work throughout the year on the recreation ground. Cllr Hodges reported that Bridge School Eco Club had planted narcissi on the riverbank and she thanked the school for their help.

It was reported that the football pitch had been severely damaged by a team playing in very wet conditions the previous Sunday. As a result the grounds contractor had taken emergency action to repair some of the damage but the pitch would be unfit for matches until December.

Snow and ice removal from pavements – Cllr Bill Oakey would compile a list of volunteers who would be willing to help to clear ice and snow from the street when required. Volunteers were asked to contact Cllr Oakey.

Bus shelter seat – It was agreed to accept the quotation for a new seat for the bus shelter near the pharmacy.

Recreation Ground Maintenance Contract 2013/14 It was agreed to award the contract for grounds maintenance to AJ Garden Services again. The price of the contract would be raised by 5% but this would be held for two years. Councillors praised Mr Longley for his good work and his helpful approach

Christmas trees – The Christmas trees will go up on Saturday December 1st and be taken down on Saturday 5th. January. All volunteers will be very welcome to help. Please meet at the village hall.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 13th. December at the earlier time of **6.15 pm** in Bridge Village Hall. The Planning Committee will meet prior to the Council Meeting at **6.00pm**. All Bridge residents are welcome to attend these meetings.

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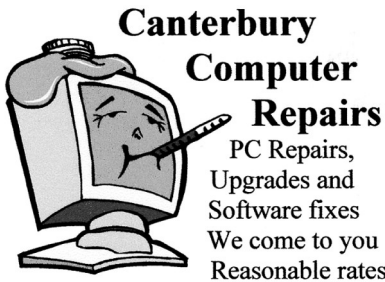
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Lay Reader: Mrs. Margaret Clarke. (765598)
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PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer Mr C Medhurst, 1 Park View Bridge (830762)

Gift Aid Officer Mrs A Medhurst, 1 Park View, Bridge (830762)

Organist (Patrixbourne) Mr J Harris 1 Riverside Close, Bridge (830631)

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Items for *On The Nail* should reach Laurence Dunderdale by the 15th of the preceding month preferably by email :

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