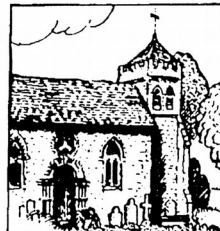


On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



Bridge

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Nailbourne

February 2013

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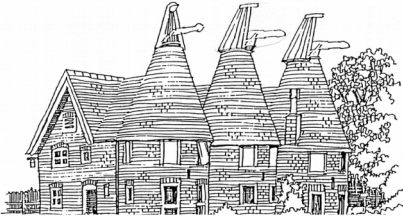
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The Bridge Group
Services for the month of February 2013

Year C	Nackington	Lower Hardres	Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne	Readings
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 Candlemas Family Service	NT: Heb 2.14-end G: Luke 2.22-40
Sunday 10 th February Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Family Communion		8.00 am BCP Communion	OT: Exodus 34. 29-end G: Luke 9. 28-36
Wednesday 13 th February Ash Wednesday			7.30pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes			OT: Joel 2.1- 2,12-17 G: John 8. 1-11
Sunday 17 th February 1 st Sunday of Lent		9.30 am Family Service	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	8.00 am BCP Communion	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	NT: Romans 10. 8b-13 G: Luke 4. 1-13
Sunday 24 th February 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am Sung Eucharist		8.00 am BCP Communion 11.00 am Family Service	11.00 am Mattins		OT: Genesis 15. 1-12,17-18 G: Luke 13.31- end
Sunday 3 rd March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8.00 am BCP Communion	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Sung Eucharist	9.30 am Third Sunday in Lent Family Service	NT: 1 Corinthians 10. 1-13 G: Luke 13. 1-9



Rev Julia Pickles
The Curate
21 High Street
Bridge
CT4 5JZ

curate@bridgechurch.co.uk
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Vicarage Office: 01227830250

Business as usual...

Well, since the interregnum (period in-between vicars) has started, now seems like a good time to answer some of the frequently asked questions that have been floating about of late. But before I do – let me reassure you that as far as life in the Benefice goes – with services, baptisms, weddings and funerals etc. it's business as usual. Come and see!

Who's in charge now? In the interregnum, the church wardens are in charge of their individual churches with the Area Dean and the Archdeacon. The curate plays a pastoral role in supporting the churchwardens and is a point of pastoral contact across the Benefice. As far as services go – we are blessed to have the generous support of our usual team of lay and ordained ministers (including our saintly band of retired clergy) plus a little extra help.



How long will it take before we get a new vicar? At least 8 months from the end of Jan 2013. It takes a few months with liaison between all the churches to write up the parish profile (this highlights the sort of person we think God is calling to minister here and where God might be leading us as a benefice in the future), after which the post can be advertised. The period from the point of advertising to the new vicar arriving is roughly 5 months, if all goes without a hitch so that makes a total of 8 months as a minimum (any new vicar usually needs to give their existing parish 3 months' notice).

Will our new vicar live in the existing vicarage in Bridge and be full-time? Yes.

Why will the 'living' be suspended in Bridge temporarily? This is for legal reasons and administrative purposes only – it will not affect the day to day life, ministry and services here in the Benefice.

What can I do to help? Please pray for the churchwardens, lay ministers, curate, retired clergy helpers, Area Dean and Archdeacon as we journey on in the interregnum and form the parish profile – for wisdom and discernment. Please also pray for our new vicar for grace that he or she may hear God's invitation to serve in this Benefice!

So...what now?

A bit like the disciples after Jesus' ascension into heaven...staring a-gog into the sky ... we might feel a bit lost without our vicar....we might feel like lack lustre Christians singing: "sit up, sit up for Jesus" or "Take my life and let me be..." but sooner or later the Holy Spirit will revive us once again with Jesus' call to 'go out into the world and make disciples of all the nations' she will strengthen us as we journey on and outwards in mission. As Fr John McKenna reminds us, in his reflection on the 'Ascension', "The Christian is a missionary, one who will not sit at home, but will leave comfort and comfort zones with the love of God burning in their hearts. Disciples are made — by welcoming people into our hearts. Disciples are made — welcoming people into an embracing community."

May it be so with us all. God bless you, Julia

Your Parish Matters

Christenings

18.11.12	Bridge	Georgia Lilly Dennett
02.12.12	Bekesbourne	Alfie James Pidcock
02.12.12	Bekesbourne	Ellie Mae Pidcock
02.12.12	Bekesbourne	Charlie Luca Dobson
02.12.12	Bekesbourne	Lily Jane Dobson

Funerals

06.12.12 Thea Carr

Memorial Services

09.01.13 Dr. Ashley
John Cooper

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 5th February.**

All welcome. Contact Rev. Julia on 830265.

Bible Study Group. The next meeting will be held at 21 High Street, Bridge on **Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm.**

All welcome. (Adults from age 17 and up!).

Church Weddings. *If you, or anyone you know would like to explore the possibility of getting married in church in Bridge, Bekesbourne, Patribourne, 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 Vicarage or the Curate .The Church of England seeks to serve the community not just those who go to church.

Dates for Your Diary

February

05/02	14.00	Church Mice at Bridge Church
	15.00	Holy Communion at Bridge Haven
	20.00	After 8's at 7 Windmill Close
07/02	19.30	Health & Healing at 7 Windmill Close
11/02	19.30	Caring & Sharing
12/02	14.30	Holy Communion at Mansfield Court
13/02	10.00	Fish Scheme-Coffee pop in at Bridge Village Hall
13/02	14.00	Social Afternoon at John Baker White Memorial Hall,

Lower Hardres

19/02	15.00	Holy Communion at Saxon Lodge
19/02	20.00	After 8's at 7 Windmill Close
20/02	14.00	Hymns at Bridge Haven
	19.30	Bible Study Group, 21 High St., Bridge
25/02	19.30	Caring & Sharing
26/02	14.30	Holy Communion at Highfield

5th/6th October Art in Bridge

The Curate, Rev Julia Pickles has her day off on Friday each week. In case of an emergency on a Friday please contact the Rev Stephen Hardy on 01227 831340.

The Vicar is moving...

Since the publication of the last edition of the Parish Magazine, rather a lot has been happening at the Vicarage. At the end of November, following an interview process, I was offered the new post of the Priest in Charge of St Mary of Charity Faversham leading a proposed team ministry based in the town by Bishop Trevor. I have subsequently accepted the new post and will have moved from Bridge by the time you receive this magazine. It may seem that I am moving with undue haste but due to other commitments outside the parish this coming year with the Army, I felt that it was important to settle Gail and Josh into the new parish as quickly as possible. This is something which I am pleased the Bishop has supported.

I am to be licensed in St Mary of Charity on Shrove Tuesday 12th February at 7.30pm by the Bishop of Dover. Members of all parishes are warmly invited to attend. Please advise a Church Warden of your wish to attend so that we have an idea of numbers.

On behalf of Gail, Josh and myself, I thank you all for the kind words, cards and the generous gift you so kindly gave us at our leaving service on the Feast of Epiphany. We have all felt tremendously supported and cared for in our time in the Benefice. As we move to Faversham we are aware how many friends we have made and how you have allowed us the privilege of sharing the past six years with you all. We move to our new parish trusting in God not only for ourselves but also for your care as well. There are so many precious memories we take with us and you all as a group of communities have a special place in our hearts.

Yours in Christ

The Revd. Simon Rowlands

Electoral Roll

In March/April 2013 the Electoral Roll has to be completely revised. From Sunday March 3rd forms will be available in the churches. If you wish to be included on the new Roll, please complete a form and return it to Revd. Julia or one of the churchwardens.

The Responsibility is Ours

On behalf on the PCC can I express our gratitude to the parishioners of both St. Mary's and St. Peter's for the response to our TRIO appeal. 55 parishioners responded, many of which pledged to continue their Planned Giving, and 32 either increased their contribution or became contributors for the first time. The additional funds generated will greatly assist with covering ever increasing costs.

Clive Medhurst
Hon. Treasurer

VILLAGE DIARY

The Parish Council has set up an on line events diary on the parish web site. We wish to avoid clashes between village societies etc. especially fund raising events. To ascertain if dates are free, access the village web site and click on the small calendar to the right of the events box.

Would the secretaries of the relevant groups please email "events@BridgeVillage.org.uk" with their programme as soon as possible, after it has been arranged for the following year. Please include the date(s), times), location, a brief description, and if possible a contact name/telephone number/email. We hope that this initiative will be helpful in the future.

Ann Edmonds
Bridge Parish Council

Fish Scheme (Neighbourly Help) News Tel no:07935 966 080

The monthly Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday 13th February from 10 to 11.15 in Bridge Village Hall. Everybody is most welcome for a coffee or tea and a chat.

Bridge History Society

Our February meeting will be held on Thursday 21 February at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall. Colin Breed will be talking to us about his experiences as the person in charge of the protection of members past and present of the Royal Family during their visits to Kent. His talk will be illustrated by film clips, many of which have not been seen before. There will be a buffet to follow the talk, supplied by the Plough and Harrow, and tea and coffee are included in the price. If you would like other drinks, we request that you bring your own. This meeting is our annual Members Evening – but non-members are welcome at an additional price. Members £8.50; non-members £12.

Meriel Connor

Littlebourne & District Royal British Legion

We had a good meeting in January despite some sad news - we lost one of our foremost members, Fred Bennett, who passed away recently. He will be sadly missed. We have a fairly quiet time just after new year but it will not last!! We are planning another Beef Pudding Supper Night in the spring at the Hay Wain, Bramling. More details on that later. Our next 2 monthly meetings will be held on Tuesdays, 12th February and 12th March both at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne at 8pm.

Bekesbourne Choir Vestry

Christmas at Bekesbourne was memorable, but not only as it was Simon's last service at St Peter's with a congregation of 160 filling every available inch. We were also appreciating the successful completion of the choir vestry project at the back of the church. The composting toilet is a source of interest to the children and brings relief to all! The new cupboards and pine panelling round the cubicle have been beautifully crafted. Below the floors, rotting timbers have been replaced and damp proof course inserted, together with ventilation pipes to prevent further rot in this area.

The final cost of just over £35,000 has been met by generous grants from Viridor Landfill Tax, Marshall's Charity, the Allchurches Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Kent County Council (via Michael Northey), Bekesbourne Parish Council, the Tory Family Foundation, the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Archbishop's Charitable Trust and a few well-wishers both local and further afield. The panelling to the screen was restored in memory of John Ash of Parsonage Farm. The project was pump-primed by a donation from the Friends of Bekesbourne Church and wouldn't have been possible without their help.

'Before' and 'after' photos are on the Bridge Benefice website.

A service of thanksgiving for the project will be held at St Peter's at 3.30pm on Sunday 30 April at which Archdeacon Sheila will be present. All are welcome.

Christmas Show at Bekesbourne Village Hall

The Occasional Performance Society (T.O.P.S.) based in Bekesbourne presented its Christmas Show to packed audiences on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th December 2012. The wide variety of festive songs and comic sketches had something to appeal to everyone present and we all went home with our spirits cheered. Clear and effective narrators engaged the audience's interest and introduced each highly professional act. The singers were excellent and gave us a medley of songs ranging from Bing Crosby's 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas' with enthusiastic audience participation to an Elvis tribute act accompanied by some screaming female fans. A fast paced series of comic sketches had everyone laughing hilariously. Of particular note were two drunks in New York and an impersonation of Fanny Craddock which particularly amused older cooks in the audience.

This was the second performance for this newly created group with a local membership which spans all age groups. Its directors are to be congratulated in creating such a range of very well rehearsed acts, decorous costumes and efficient stage management and lighting. As anyone who has ever been involved in a performance for a live audience knows, an effective performance takes a great deal of time and hard work from everyone involved. The Chair of T.O.P.S, Pam Ginman said, 'I am delighted that we had such a good rapport with our audience who understood our philosophy which came into being to carry forward the community spirit created by the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.' The T.O.P.S. company have certainly got off to an excellent start and we look forward to their 'Murder Mystery Evening' on Saturday 2nd March 2013.

Gillian Woodhouse

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church Invite You To

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Bekesbourne Village Hall

Friday, 8th March, 2013 ~ Start promptly at 7.30pm

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**Tables from 6 to 8 team members can be booked by
calling**

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Entry price: £4.00 at the door

Bridge Village Fete will be held on Saturday 15th June 2013 in Bridge School grounds. Put this date in your diary now and watch out for updates over the coming months. Children Society Boxes If you have a collection box which needs emptying, please see Laurence Dunderdale who can arrange to collect it or you may deliver it to his home 37 High Street, Bridge.



CHRISTIAN AID WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

We would love to see you again this year at our Lent Lunches of home-made soup and bread!

They will be on the 6 Wednesdays of Lent – 20 and 27 February and 6, 13, 20 and 27 March, between 12-1.30pm. at 1 Riverside Mews.

Everyone is welcome, especially if you haven't been before. It's a good chance to meet old and new friends and support Christian Aid too. Please ring 831956 the day before to book.

Alan & Jean Barber.

CANTERBURY DISTRICT invites you to TEA and FILMS on Saturday 9th February at 2.30pm at St Peter's Methodist Church Hall St Peter's Street, Canterbury PLEASE COME!

1st Bridge Rainbows News

2012 was another busy year for Rainbows, the youngest section of Girlguiding. We celebrated the 25th Birthday of Rainbows nationwide with a special challenge badge and party complete with tea, games and cake! Locally we travelled by bus to Dane John Gardens, walked to Bifrons Farm to see the lambs, visited Howletts Zoo and had a meeting at Build-a-Bear creating our newest mascot named Diamond in honour of the Queens Jubilee. We also had a day out in London attending Girlguiding HQ, seeing where the Queen lives and where she keeps her carriages.

Our meetings follow the Rainbow jigsaw programme of 'Look, Learn, Laugh, Love'. Each week is based on one topic which is explored through chat, song, games and craft activities. Topics during 2012 ranged from Penguins in Antarctica, Chocolate from Gambia, to 'Being Happy', Yetis, and the ever popular Haggis from Scotland!

After 16 years the present leader will be leaving in July. The unit urgently needs someone to take over. Guiding involves giving time and energy but it's very rewarding and great fun. If you would like to find out more please contact Sarah Wetherell on 01227 830318. Bridge Rainbows is thriving and has a long waiting list, please help your community and find out more about this opportunity to be part of Girlguiding.


Teashop at Elham Valley Vineyard

May we apologize to all our regular customers for a rather extended period of closure of the Teashop whilst we refurbish the kitchen to accommodate more of our Catering students. We initially hoped to re-open after Christmas on 2nd January but when we cleared the kitchen we discovered some potentially dangerous electric wiring and had to wait for a visit by a qualified electrician before continuing with the work. Unfortunately he couldn't come until 4th January so this delayed everything for over a week! We hope now to re-open by mid-January with our new, improved kitchen facilities which will enable us to go from strength to strength with this very popular venue. All enquiries for weddings, christenings, buffets, cakes etc should go to Claire or Karen on 01227 831266. A Happy New Year to you all.

Sue Goddard

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Bridge Farmers' Market



Bridge Farmers' Market will be on the 9th and the 23rd of this month, February 2013, at the usual time, 9 am - 1.2 noon and at the usual venue, the Red Lion Inn. In February we welcome back Hilde from Catering 4 Kent who will be demonstrating her cooking skills with all the lovely produce at the market - giving you recipes and recipes to take home - you may have sampled some of her delicious pumpkin recipes in the autumn.

Though it may not seem like it the days are getting longer and a trip along to see us is a great way to shake off the winter gloom. Then it's back home for some serious comfort eating. Maybe you just need to boost your immune system with all our delicious vegetables, meat and game. For meat eaters game is a great seasonal choice. Most modern game is lean and full of flavour and just needs to be stir fried or griddled. Guinea fowl, wood pigeon, venison, hare, partridge and pheasant are all good in February, whilst the comfort eaters might like to try some really slow cooked mutton - delicious.

Serve your meat with the best of all the cabbages and brassicas that are around now. Savoy cabbage, sprouts, purple sprouting broccoli and cauliflower all work really well in stir fries and curries, or you can simply steam them with a little seasoning. Maincrop potatoes, jerusalem artichokes, parsnips and turnips provide the accompaniment to the game dishes and provide the starch that keeps us going through the cold winter months.

If you didn't make it to our first market of 2013 on January 12th you missed a really talented local folk band 'The Beards' who entertained us brilliantly in the freezing cold and managed to get a plug on Radio Kent as we were live on air at the time - lucky for us they are returning again in the spring - don't miss them.

Come along and buy all your **local seasonal produce** from us this month, and every month - everything at the market is grown, made, baked etc. within 30 miles of Bridge so it truly is local - hope to see you soon.
Pam Dobson



reat to the health of our dogs and cats in Britain and the Sick Animals (PDSA), a veterinary charity, estimates that of the UK canine population and 3 million cats – a quarter overweight. The charities 2012 Animal Wellbeing report found and 86% of cat owners admitted to feeding their pets cheese, crisps, biscuits, toast and takeaways.

ely affect your pet's health. It puts extra strain on the limbs study showed that overweight dogs require treatment for ur years sooner than dogs at an optimum weight. Obesity heart disease and diabetes as it does in humans.

Overweight cats are additionally more prone to lower urinary tract disease and are often unable to groom themselves properly.

We run a very successful obesity clinic and can give you lots of advice on diets and provide lots of free support and regular weigh-ins to help your pets lose weight. We also have a hydrotherapy clinic with an underwater treadmill which is an excellent way to help very overweight dogs to start doing controlled exercise in an environment where their bodies are supported by the warm water so the exercise is very low impact on their joints. We can use varying levels of water to work different muscle groups and the dogs really enjoy their sessions. We recommend weekly sessions for 6 weeks to see significant weight loss and after this time your pet will be able to resume normal exercise and enjoy life more! We offer 6 sessions for the price of 5 and are also offering £5 off any initial assessments booked in January if you mention this article. We have had some amazing success stories including Dolly the Newfoundland who has lost 2.5kg in the last 2 months and Leo the Labrador who continues to lose about ½ kg a month and is now looking fantastic.

You should be able to see and feel the outline of your pet's ribs, and it's waist should be obvious when viewed from above. The stomach should also be tucked up when viewed from the side. If you think your pet is overweight, we can help you make them feel much more comfortable and enjoy life more. Please give us a call at **Bourne Veterinary Practice** on **01227 832322** if you would like any further advice or information.

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Notes from Bridge Parish Council meeting 13th December 2012

Councillor Robert Moon was welcomed as a newly elected member of the parish council and congratulated on his strong election performance.

Snow & Ice Clearance -Cllr Bill Oakey reported that he had had a good response to his call for volunteers to help with clearing snow and ice from the pavements. He would be meeting volunteers shortly. The parish council agreed to buy salt and any equipment that might be required.

Recreation Ground – The old George Pratt memorial bench was reported to be in a poor state. It was agreed to replace it with the new George Pratt memorial bench, which was presently situated by the lay by at the recreation ground. The spare parts for the larger swing bank had been received.

Cllr John Hill commented on the excellent job that had been done in installing the new brackets at the pavilion to try to protect the guttering from frequent vandalism.

Sycamore tree on recreation ground – It was agreed to authorise the tree work proposed for the sycamore tree on the recreation ground, which had been recommended by the city council's Arboricultural Officer, i.e. reduce the height by 20% and inspect the cavities.

Purchase of Plaque for Diamond Jubilee Tree- Councillors decided not to opt for the more expensive brass plaque to commemorate the diamond jubilee oak tree because of the cost and the danger of metal theft. It was agreed to opt for a less expensive alternative made from an artificial material.

Bridge Village Sign – Cllr Hill reported that the village sign was in need of refurbishment. It was agreed to ask a local tradesman to do the restoration work

Twinning Sign – Cllr Brigitte Ward showed councillors the design of the new Bridge signs which would indicate that Bridge was twinned with St Andre, which she approved. The signs would be paid by St Andre from EU funding.

Christmas trees – Cllr Hill thanked councillors and residents who had helped to erect a record number of Christmas trees in the High Street on 1st December. The trees would be taken down on 5th January and it was hoped that many residents would come and help to do this.

Recreation ground fence – Cllr Robert Moon reported that the new fence would be erected on the recreation ground by the pavilion in the first week of the New Year.

Notes from Bridge Parish Council meeting 10th January 2013

Review of Parish Precept requirement – In the light of a Government change in the funding of parish council precepts, which could result in lower grants available to parish councils after the next financial year, it was decided to increase the parish council's precept requirement for 2013/14 by £3,000 to £28,707. _

Replacement windows for the village hall – Councillors objected to the Village Hall Management Committee's proposal to replace the wooden window frames of the village hall with plastic frames because they considered this was inappropriate in a Conservation Area. It was agreed to ask the Village Hall Management Committee to submit three quotations for wooden replacement frames

Recreation Ground – Cllr John Corfield reported that a hole was developing in the earth floor of the youth shelter. The Recreation Ground Committee would see what could be done to repair it.

Cllr Robert Moon was thanked for his work to repair and increase the height of the fence between the recreation ground and Riverside Close
A Spring Working Party would take place on the recreation ground on Saturday 6th April. Volunteers should assemble at the pavilion at 9.30am

Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management Group - Cllr Alan Atkinson drew councillors' attention to the report from the Environment Agency circulated by LSNRMG reporting that the Nailbourne level was rising and suggesting that there could again be problems with sewage contaminating the river. Residents should ensure that the river bed was not blocked by obstructions that could impede the river flow.

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting – The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be Thursday 2nd May. It was agreed to invite Larissa Laing, the Head of the City Council's Environmental Services, to the meeting to talk about the new system of waste collection and recycling.

Village Diary- Cllr Ann Edmunds explained that there had been clashes of dates for some events in the village and a system was needed for societies to publicise their programmes for the year in a way that would be easily available to other groups. It was agreed that an electronic calendar on the village website would be the best solution. Cllr Corfield agreed to discuss this with Mark Esdale, who is jointly responsible for the village website.

Dog waste bin for Brewery Lane – In view of the amount of dog mess in the area, it was agreed that the city council would be asked to provide a dog waste bin for Brewery Lane and locate it near the entrance to the water meadows.

Street lamp in Mill Lane- Cllr Moon reported that branches from trees outside the oil depot were obscuring the street lamp in Mill Lane. Kent Highway Services would be asked to cut them back.

Fire hydrants- The council decided not to take over responsibility for maintaining fire hydrants in the village from Kent Fire & Rescue Service

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 14th February at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall. The Planning Committee will meet prior to the Council Meeting at 7.15pm. All Bridge residents are welcome to attend these meetings.

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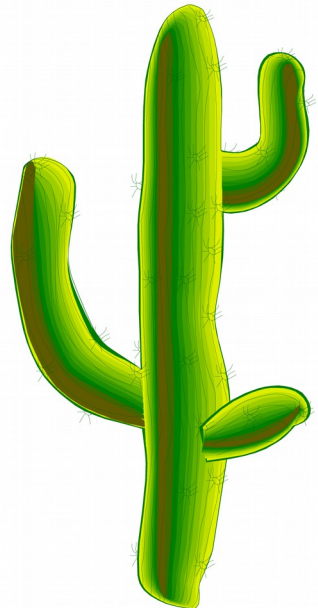
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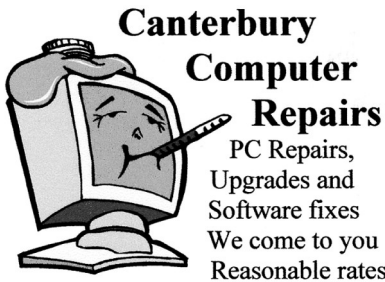
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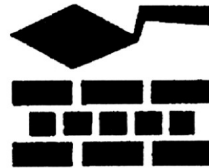
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