On the Nail A magazine for the villages along the Nailbourne

Bridge

Bekesbourne

Patrixbourne

ug/Sept 2017 50p





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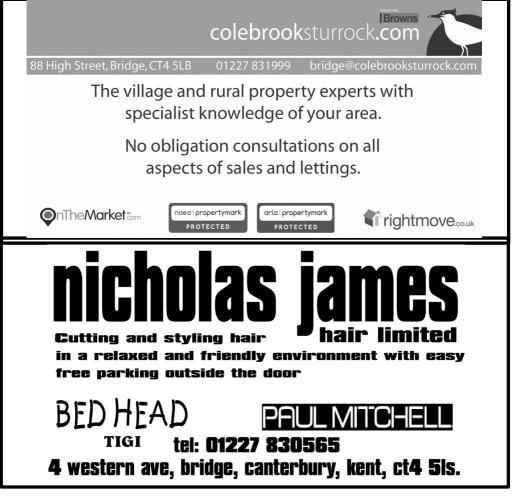
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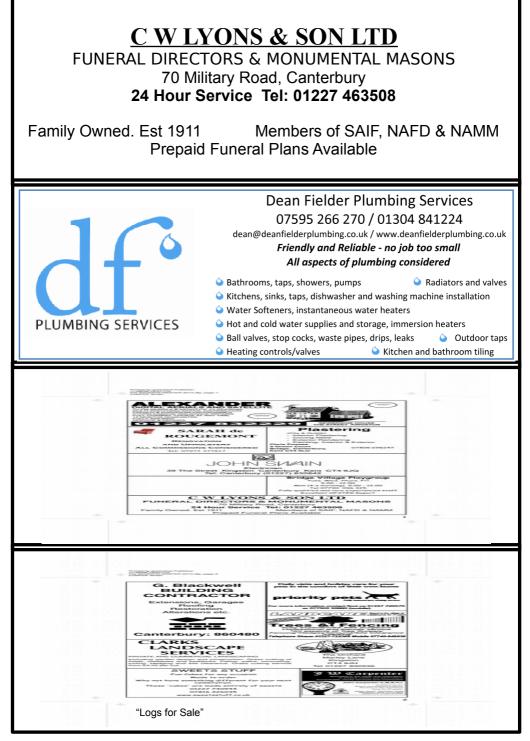
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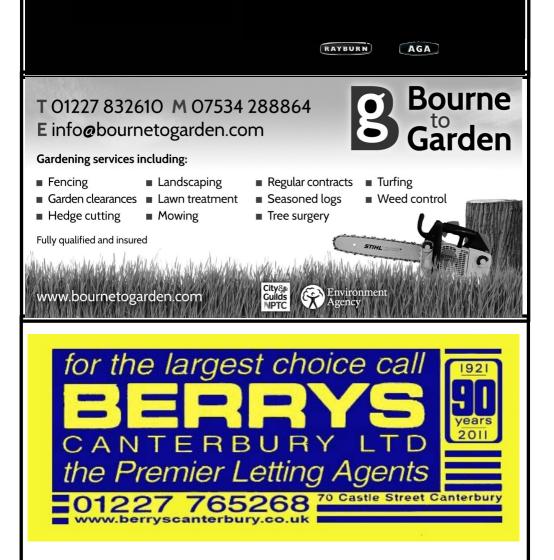
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church services for August 2017	St Mary NACKINGTON	St Mary LOWER HARDRES	St Peter BRIDGE	St Mary PATRIXBOURNE	St Peter BEKESBOURNE
6 August 2 Peter 1.16-19 Luke 9 28-36	8.00am BCP Holy Communion CP	11.00am Family Communion RO	6.00pm Evensong MC	9.30am Sung Eucharist CP	All welcome at the other services in the Benefice
13 August Romans 10.5-16 Matthew 14. 22- 33	All welcome at Bridge	All welcome at Bridge	9.30am Family Communion with Baptism GB	All welcome at Bridge	All welcome at Bridge
20 August Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. 10- 20, 21-28	All welcome at the other services in the Benefice	9.30am Family Service MC	11.00am Choral Eucharist GM	All welcome at the other services in the Benefice	9.30am Sung Eucharist GB
27 August Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13- 20	9.30am Sung Eucharist DL	All welcome at the other services in the Benefice	11.00am Community Worship BL	9.30am Matins MC	All welcome at the other services in the Benefice

There is Holy Communion every Tuesday at 9.30am to 10.00am at Bridge Church, followed by coffee. All welcome.

You will probably have noticed a number of changes to the service patterns in August. These have mainly been caused by the fact that our stalwart retired clergy are enjoying summer holidays this month. We are very grateful to all those who are keeping us going during the interregnum and certainly don't begrudge them their wellearned time off. Perhaps this is a time when we can all go on a voyage of discovery and try something new in the way of worship.

However, there are going to be more adjustments for the eight o'clock congregation. It is proving more and more difficult to find retired priests to take an eight o'clock service so, with great regret, we are having to cut down to two per month from September. These will alternate, so that we have Nackington and Patrixbourne one month and Bekesbourne and Bridge the other, to produce a predictable fortnightly pattern. We hope this situation will not last for too long. Meanwhile, we hope you will understand the predicament and forgive the disruption.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR	St Mary NACKINGTON	St Mary LOWER HARDRES	St Peter BRIDGE	St Mary PATRIXBOURNE	St Peter BEKESBOURNE
Sept 2017					
3 September	8.00am BCP Holy	11.00am Family Communion	6.00pm Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.00am Songs of Praise
Romans 12. 9-end	Communion	RH	MC	RO	Lay led
Matthew 16. 21- end	RH				
10 September	9.30am Harvest Sung	6.00pm Evensong	4.30pm Flower Festival Songs	All welcome at the other services of	All welcome at the other
Romans 13. 8-end	Eucharist	MC	of Praise	the Benefice	services of the
Matthew 18. 15-20	RH		Lay led		Benefice
17 September	All welcome at	9.30am Family	11.00am	8.00am BCP Holy	9.30am Sung
Romans 14. 1-12	the other services of the	Service	Choral Eucharist	Communion	Eucharist
Matthew 18. 21-35	Benefice	МС	GM	RH	GB
24 September	9.30am Sung	All welcome at	11.00am	9.30am Matins	All welcome at
Phil 1. 21-end	Eucharist	the other services of the	Community Worship	мс	the other services in the
Matthew 20. 1-16	RO	Benefice	BL		Benefice
1 October	All welcome at	11.00am	6.00pm	9.30am Harvest	10.00am
Heb 12. 18-24	the other services of the	Harvest Family Communion	Evensong	Sung Eucharist	Harvest Songs o Praise
Matthew 21. 12-16	Benefice	GB	мс	GM	Lay led

There is Holy Communion every Tuesday at 9.30am to 10.00am at Bridge Church, followed by coffee. All welcome.

	RH		Canon Reg
Humphriss Owen		RO	Rev Richard
	CP		Rev Caroline
Pinchbeck		MC	Margaret Clarke
	GM		Canon Gordon
Manley		BL	Bev Latham
	DL		Rev Donald Lugg
			GB

Rev Garth Barber

C I

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 2017

		5.	Haly Communian St. Datar's Bridge
	on, Lower Hardre	S	2.00pm
Wed 13th Hall.		10.00am	FISH Pop-In, Bridge Village
Communion, M	lansfield Court.		2.30pm Holy
Tues 12th		9.30am	Holy Communion, St. Peter's Bridge.
Mon 11th		7.30pm	Caring & Sharing.
8th—10th Sun 10th	4.30pm Songs	10-4pm s of Praise	Flower Festival, St. Peter's Bridge.
After 8,s Mans	field Court.		7.30pm
Communion, B	Bridge Haven.		3.00pm Holy
Tues 5th Bridge.		9.30an	
September 20	17	0 2007	Holy Communical St. Dotor's
Tues 29th		9.30am	Holy Communion, St. Peter's Bridge.
Wed 16th		3.00pm	Hymns at Bridge Haven.
Communion, S	Saxon Lodge.		
Tues 15th		9.30am	Holy Communion, St. Peter's Bridge. 3.00pm Holy
Wed 9th Village Hall.		10.00a	
·	lansfield Court.		
Bridge.		9.3080	2.30pm Holy
Tues 8th	nuge naven.	9.30an	n Holy Communion, St. Peter's
Communion, B	Bridge Haven		3.00pm Holy
Tues 1st Bridge.		9.30an	Holy Communion, St. Peter's



As you must be aware by now we have completed almost a year in yet another Interregnum, a time between priests. When an Interregnum occurs people often panic and it feels like you are on a ship without a Captain or pilot. It then becomes up to the passengers (congregations and communities) and crew to keep the ship safe and on course. The crew in this case are the Benefice Council, made up of the Churchwardens and worship leaders across the three parishes. We found ourselves this time unprepared and in strong winds and heavy seas as our local Deanery were in the throes of re-shaping and producing a mission plan to create a church fit for the future. This re-shaping together with the plan are almost complete so calmer waters lie ahead. In light of falling ordained clergy numbers, falling revenues in the parishes and falling congregations in most of the parishes it has been a difficult and stressful time. It has been made all the more difficult with no Archdeacon in office (until Jan. 2017) and still no Area Dean to chair the Deanery Synod. BUT we have not only survived but feel renewed thanks to the hard work of the worship leaders. churchwardens, retired clergy and Diocesan personnel as well as the support from our local communities.

I see lots of positives that can come out of interregnums. It is a time to reflect on where we are with our journeys of faith and our mission to our communities. To search our souls and seek guidance in prayer and strength in togetherness. Looking back over the past year it is interesting to see how far we have come. The communities have pulled together, e.g. rescuing the church building in Bridge, the establishments of 'friends' groups, and the new Songs of Praise, a true community service, in Bekesbourne. All resulting in new life and a positive forward looking approach. All facets of church life have continued. The place of Laity (non-ordained) in leading our faith communities into the future is now a vital part of our church and its mission. This has now been recognised by the General Synod and laity are being empowered to work alongside and in partnership with the clergy. Without the laity involvement rural church will not survive.

There will be fewer priests across the Deanery; there will possibly be less money to finance them and the running costs of the buildings, and this may lead to fewer services (certainly of communion). **BUT** here in Bridge Benefice the church is in good heart. People are finding renewed life and energy. The Holy Spirit is at work. The congregations and the communities have recognised that they have a vital role to play in the life of their church. There is an awakening of the laity and a realisation that **we are the church** and it's us who make it what it is. We all need to get engaged and 'put in' just as we 'take out.' By working together, in partnership with our new incumbent (hopefully by early 2018) we can re-shape and create anew the worship and mission across this Benefice.

God bless and pray for renewal and growth in our communities. Pat Kusel benefice rep. on East Bridge Deanery Mission and Ministry group.

The Grenfell Tower Appeal

No one can fail to have been moved by the tragedy of the fire at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington London. At 3am on the morning of the 14th June the local Parish Church of St Clement opened its doors as an emergency relief depot for the traumatised residents, others affected in the local community, and the emergency services. Additional relief centres were also set up in the area and volunteers and donations of food, clothes and many other things flooded in. St Clement's and its associated sister organisation the Clement James Centre are still heavily involved in the relief operation.

Our Parishes here have a strong link with St Clement's in that the Assistant Vicar at St Clement's, the Reverend Mary Clarke is the daughter of our Lay Reader, Margaret Clarke. Wanting to help in the best practical way we could, we took a collection at our Services on the 18th June, and prayed for all those involved in this disaster. They continue to remain in our thoughts and prayers. The sum of £625 has now been sent to the PCC of St Clement's Church.

The Rev Mary Clarke has written and says:

"My mum has kept me in touch with the generous and thoughtful collection that has been happening in your benefice - many, many thanks.

The response by so many has been amazing and extraordinary. We are very aware that this will take years of work and prayer and hope for the community. Many of our congregation were evacuated and some are still not back in their flats as there is no hot water. There are also those who do not want to move back which is understandable. They were living in the flats directly next to the tower. People are understandably traumatised. The money sent will be used to help all those directly affected by the fire."

If you still wish to give to the appeal please hand your donation to one of the Churchwardens or alternatively you can donate online at the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation through their website https://thekandcfoundation.com/ Thank you

PLUCKLEY QUILT AND CRAFT SHOW 2017 PLUCKLEY VILLAGE HALL TN27 OQZ Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th September 2017. Doors open at 10.30am each day and entrance is £5 to include tea/coffee and cake. There will be a showcase by Inger Milburn, several trade stalls and some quilts for sale. There will be an auction of unsold "for sale" quilts at 4.00pm on Sunday. For further details phone 01233 840280 or email judith,pool@pluckley.net

LOWER HARDRES NEWS

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Family Communion will be at 11am on 1st October at Lower Hardres. Please bring gifts for Age Concern. Tins and packets are most welcome.

There will be a competition for children and young people and adults paintings, photography. drawings. potato animals etc. all concerning Harvest please.

They can be brought on the Saturday morning to be judged.

8 and under 9 and on and on and on.

We have always had amazing entrants.

Harvest Lunch

On October 8th at noon we are holding our Harvest Lunch in JBW Hall Children are free Adults £5 and for Senior Citizens £3.50. Do come, children will have some activities.

This lunch will follow a Benefice Eucharist at Bridge at 9.30 when Archdeacon Jo will preside and preach. It will be a wonderful occasion. Everyone is welcome. Margaret

Benefice Administrator—A brief introduction...

Hello, my name is Sian and I am the new administrator for the Benefice of Bridge. It's been lovely to meet some of you over the course of the last few weeks and get to know you, thank you for the warm welcome. I'm really excited to be working alongside you in what is a very active group of churches!

Although I live in Canterbury now, I don't originally come from Kent. I came to Kent University to study French and since graduating I've lived in over 8 different places in 3 different countries so I'm quite ready to stop moving and see Canterbury as my more permanent home.

In addition to working for the Bridge Benefice I also administrate for a church in Canterbury and continue to do private language tutoring for foreign students as I was a language teacher in my previous job.

When I'm not doing all this I'm generally very active – I do a lot of running and swimming and enjoy competing in races around the country.

I look forward to meeting more of you during my time here and if you have any administrative enquiries please do let me know. You can get in touch with me at <u>bridgeoffice23@gmail.com</u>.

Sian

Fish News

The August Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday 9th in Bridge Village Hall from 10 to 11.15.

The September Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday 13th

We give lifts to the health centres and hospitals and new users are always welcome as well as new volunteer drivers. Contact us on 07935 966 080

RIDE AND STRIDE 9TH SEPTEMBER

Please remember the Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride on 9th September, giving us the chance to raise money for our local churches. We shall need volunteers to go around visiting other churches, on bikes or on foot, more volunteers to sit in all three of our churches and welcome visitors and even more volunteers to sponsor the energetic. If you can help, please contact:-

Bridge 01227 830795 Pauline Pritchard Patrixbourne 01227 830685 Bekesbourne Johnathan Cowans 01227 831029 Lower Hardres Ann Nichols 01227 700533

Margaret

01227 765598

Ann & David Edmonds

Clarke Nackington

Silla Wright 01227 463265

Our Churches have receive grants from the 'Friends of Kent Churches' towards various repair / improvement schemes. Please support.

BEKESBOURNE NEWS

Pet Service at Bekesbourne

June's 'Songs of Praise' was a Pet Service, very well done by the Vicars of Dibley, Christine Ash and Amanda Barker. I took my dog, Poppy and my 2yr old grandson, Ted. Both had a good time. Poppy enjoyed sniffing all the other dogs and thankfully did not take too much interest in the guinea pigs and hamsters! Ted loved the hymns. We had both organ and guitar accompaniments to some very enthusiastic singing. He was swinging his hips to the music and joining in with his own version. Another very successful service with something for everyone. Nicky Fry

Bekesbourne Churchyard

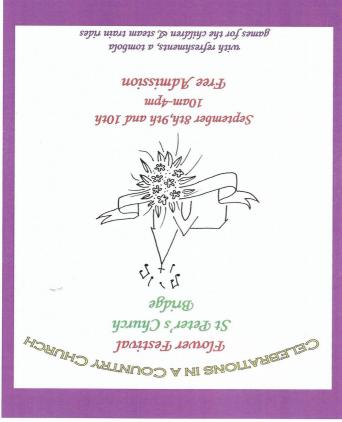
"Hi ho hi ho it's off to work we go". If you have an hour or two to spare. St Peters Bekesbourne is having a churchyard working party on the 5th of August and 2nd of September. 9.30am start. Refreshments provided. Do come along and lend a hand or two! Want to know more, contact Jonathan on 831029.

St Peter's Bekesbourne

The songs of Praise Service on October 1st will be a celebration of Harvest Festival. All donated gifts will be given to the Women's Refuge. Please bring suitable gifts such as bedding, clothing, toiletries & dried, tinned and packaged food. Thank you.

Heritage Day

St Peter's Bekesbourne will be opening its doors for a Heritage Day on Saturday





Bekesbourne PCC

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 10am - 4pm



View the church record Information Boards – Listen to the Bells Guided Churchyard walks Children's Church Trail Insect House Refreshments



St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

SONGS OF PRAISE

10am Sunday September 3rd



SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES EVERYONE WELCOME COME AND JOIN IN YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS LISTEN TO THE BELLS







FOLLOWED BY TEA, COFFEE OR JUICE AND BISCUITS And lots of chatting!

FRIENDS OF BEKESBOURNE CHURCH

Invite you to

An Organ Recital

Performed by Adrian Bawtree

Friday, 6th October, 2017 at 19.30hrs

In St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Ticket price £12.00 to included drinks and canapés after the performance

Please call Graham or Christine

01227 830271 or 01227 830828

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

SONGS OF PRAISE

10am Sunday October 1st



FOR ALL AGES

EVERYONE WELCOME – GIFTS TO THE WOMEN'S REFUGE Please bring bedding, clothing, toiletries & dried, tinned and packaged food COME AND JOIN IN YOUR FAVOURITE HARVEST HYMNS



FOLLOWED BY TEA, COFFEE OR JUICE AND BISCUITS And lots of chatting!





Have The Harp" (Persuasion)

Camilla Pay, harp

Jane Husten, words

An afternoon of beautiful harp music accompanied by the writing of Jane Austen, held in the Regency Ballroom at Charlton Park

> Lady with a Harp: Eliza Ridgely By Thomas Sully

3 pm, Sunday 10 September The Ballroom, Charlton Park Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JA

Tickets $\pounds 15$ including tea and cake in the Drawing Room

Box Office: Contact Tina at the Canterbury Festival Office: 01227 452853 or tina@canterburyfestival.co.uk



FAIRTRADE NEWS



There's good news and bad news; first the good:

<u>CADBURY'S</u> parent company, Mondelēz International, is rolling out its own sustainable sourcing programme called Cocoa Life, across all Cadbury products. This is so they can safeguard their supply chain by taking complete responsibility for the sustainability of the cocoa they buy. The Fairtrade Foundation has been working with Mondelēz to make sure Fairtrade farmers have been properly consulted on the Cocoa Life programme, and that they will receive at least the same value as they have under Fairtrade certification. The farmers fully support the new scheme. So although you will no longer see the FAIRTRADE mark on your chocolate bars, you can be assured that the farmers will still be getting a good deal.

<u>And GREGGS</u> now have loads of Fairtrade products in their shops. You can pick up a fairer tea, coffee, hot chocolate, juice and bananas when you go into Greggs. In the 10 years that Greggs and Fairtrade coffee farmers have been working together, they've invested over £1 million into their farms and communities.

Now the bad:

<u>SAINSBURY'S</u>, once the leading supermarket in selling Fairtrade goods, have dropped the FAIRTRADE Mark from their own-brand tea and replaced it with their own 'Fairly Traded' label. The Fairtrade Foundation has major concerns about this watered-down scheme and Fairtrade farmers have written to Sainsbury's to express their dismay. There is also concern that all Sainsbury's Fairtrade certified products may go the same way.

A petition to Sainsbury's, backed by Christian Aid and other organisations, can be found at <u>www.change.org</u>



Singing in Bridge

Would you like to join a singing group in Bridge? The aim is to have a local, nonauditioned group who meet once a week to enjoy the many benefits of singing. We have a venue, St Peters, Bridge, we have a teacher to lead us and we have a day and time, 7.30 to 9pm on Tuesdays.

Please email Dorothy or Sarah to express your interest and to find out more details. dorothy.lloydhughes@gmail.com

sarahweth@gmail.com



1st Bridge Rainbow Unit

In May the 1st Bridge Rainbows undertook a sponsored walk from Bridge to Bekesbourne Recreation Ground. The Rainbows, aged 5-6, were given sponsorship forms in order to raise money for 'Children with Cancer'. The money has now been collected in and the 15 girls raised a total of £469. We feel this is a huge achievement for the unit and we wish to say a very big 'thank you' to the families and friends who supported them so generously.

Susie Macdonald (Chestnut) 1st Bridge Rainbows

Royal British Legion

The final total raised by our Tea Afternoon on 3 June is £440 due to a few late donations. Well done to everyone involved.

It has been a fairly quiet month but we are already thinking about the Poppy Appeal once again in the autumn. If anyone feels they could spare a few hours to collect for this good cause please contact 01227 472023. We have a number of willing collectors but can always do with more help.

Once again we would welcome any new members to the branch (you do not have to be ex-service). We meet every 2nd Tuesday at 8pm at the Recreation Club, Littlebourne. Please contact the above number for more details. Our next 2 meetings will be on 8 August and 12 September.

Lower Hardres Village Hall – Free Table Tennis Sessions

During August the Village Hall will be available at certain times for anyone who fancies a few games of table tennis for free. Adults and accompanied children are all welcome. If you're interested please email <u>ba_moore@btinternet.com</u> for more information.

If there is sufficient ongoing interest then the hall can be hired at the rates indicated on our website www.lowerhardresvillagehall.org

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

As a follow-up to our July talk on the **Ramsgate Tunnels**, we are fortunate to have organised a **guided tour** of this most extensive underground public shelter system on **Wednesday 16 August** at 2.00 pm. As with the talk, members may invite partners and friends to join them. The tour will last about one and a half hours and will cost between £4 to £6 depending on numbers. Those going should wear sensible shoes and have warm clothing as it could be cool down in the tunnels. For final details, and if you would like to go, please contact our Secretary, Carina Whiting, on 830737. Then, moving into September, **Josie Chisholm** is the guest speaker at our meeting on **Tuesday 19 September** (7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall) and she will be doing a **"Felt Workshop**" with us. Members should come along with a design in mind - a flower, a scene etc - and Josie will help us turn our ideas into felt pictures. Members should bring a towel and apron as well as £2 to cover the cost of materials. There will be Phoenix Cards for sale at the meeting. It goes without saying that we are always delighted to welcome guests and visitors to our meetings.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

After a short summer break, our programme of talks recommence on **Tuesday 12 September**, 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall, with the return of the ever popular and entertaining **Martin Newcombe**, professional ecologist and nature lover, who will be sharing his knowledge of "**Wildlife in the Garden**" with us. All are welcome and there will be a small charge to include refreshments.

National Vegetable Society - Kent Association

The Society has invited **Kelvin Mason** FNVS, prolific writer and editor of the Society's magazine, to give a talk on "**Soil Maintenance**" on **Wednesday 9 August**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm start in Bridge Village Hall.

Then, over the weekend of 9 and 10 September, the Society is holding its Annual Show, this year in Wingham Village Hall.

This will be closely followed by an evening talk, back in Bridge Village Hall at the usual time, on **Wednesday 13 September**. **Malcolm Withnall**, college lecturer and fruit advisor, is the guest speaker and he will be giving a talk with practical advice on the "**Pruning of Garden Fruit and Shrubs**".

There is a sales table and raffle at all meetings and non-members will be made most welcome.

Thirsty Birds.

The Nailbourne has long ago dried up and we have had very little rain.

My 2 bird baths are often thronged with Blue tits, Thrushes and Blackbirds.

Do get one to provide a constant supply of water for our feathered friends, in which they can bathe as well as drink.

Ann Shirley.

Bridge & District History Society

The first meeting of the new season will be on Thursday September 21st at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. Sheila Sweetinburgh of Canterbury Christ Church University will talk about Kent's Cinque Ports in the Middle Ages and of their unique status under the law. This talk will be preceded by a short Annual General Meeting. Members £4.00, non-members £5.00.

NAILBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Wildlife in the Garden

a talk by professional ecologist & nature lover Martin Newcombe

Tuesday 12 September 7.30 pm Bridge Village Hall

All welcome

small charge to include refreshments Bring Along a Friend for Free!

Art in Bridge Exhibition 2017

Bridge Village Hall High Street, Bridge

Saturday 7th October

11am – 6pm music from 5pm **Sunday 8th October**

11am – 4pm

Entrance FREE Refreshments available

Exhibitor entry form from the web site, The Bourne Gallery, Bekesbourne and in **September** from Colebrook Sturrock & Co, Estate Agents, High Street, Bridge

Exhibits to the Hall 4.30 – 6.30 pm Friday 6th October

For further information please go to www.artinbridge.org.uk or telephone John Corfield on 01227 830976

Calling all all artists to exhibit in Art in Bridge 17th Open Exhibition



Free prize draw & free to exhibit for young artists See entry form for details

Bridge Village Hall, 7th & 8th October 2017

Anyone living, working or studying in Bridge or a rural Parish within 5 miles, is invited to submit up to three exhibits – including sculptures and craft work. All abilities are welcomed. Children and young persons are especially encouraged to exhibit.

Exhibitors entry form available from:www.artinbridge.org.uk The Bourne Gallery, Chalkpit Farm, Bekesbourne and in September from Colebrook Sturrock & Co, Estate Agents, High Street, Bridge

Further information on the web site and from John Corfield, tel: 01227 830976

Exhibition sponsors:

The Bourne Gallery, Picture Framing Service Chalkpit Farm, Bekesbourne - preferential rates for exhibitors The Arts Society Canterbury Evening providing young artist prizes



Concerned about the decline in hedgehog numbers, I investigated what could be done to encourage these spiny inquisitive little creatures into my garden.

My action plan was to:

Put a CD case-sized hedgehog door in my back gate Leave pockets of my garden to grow a little wild Add log piles to encourage invertebrates (hedgehog food) Provide a clean water source and make safe my pond Provide a hedgehog home made from large pots placed on their sides under dense shrubbery Avoid using slug pellets and chemicals in the garden.

To my delight I soon had my first prickly visitor to my back garden. He feasted on meal worms that the starlings had knocked off the bird table and then went to explore the garden.

My first hedgehog rescue was a hoglet approximately eight weeks old, found in broad daylight after it rolled down a steep bank. It was curled up on the side of the road. I gave him a health check and cat food and meal worms. His weight was satisfactory and he will be released safely near where he was found.

Dog or cat food with a meat but not fish base, and clean water (but not milk which is harmful for hedgehogs) provides a good meal for hedgehogs. You can encourage the hedgehog population in our villages by making your garden accessible and safe for these loveable creatures.

Contact me regarding general information. I can also offer advice and transport to wildlife vets and to rescue centres if you find a hedgehog in need.

Email: <u>katyfuller@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Mob. 07703050339



te's Puddings illa Panna Cotta

Panna Cotta is a very under-rated Italian pudding – it means "cooked cream" and is just that. The gentle panna cotta is offset by a fruit compote or sauce, and is a delicious yet light pudding. I've used gelatine leaves in the recipe, as they give a quicker set and better texture than powder, plus fresh Kent cherries. Not being great at turning things out of moulds, I did mine in little glass ramekin dishes instead.

Panna Cotta: 4 leaves of gelatine 12 floz/350ml double cream 12 floz/350ml milk (full fat or semi-skimmed) 1 ½ oz/35g caster sugar 1 pod of vanilla

Cherry Compote: ¹/₂ lb/220g fresh cherries (preferably) with some extra to decorate small amount of sugar and water generous dash of some kind of fruit liqueur

6-8 ramekin dishes, depending on size

First, soak the gelatine in cold water until it goes soft. In a large pan, mix together the cream, milk and sugar. Break open the vanilla pod and scrape out all the little seeds with the point of a knife. Add the seeds to the mixture, plus the pod. Bring the temperature up to a gentle simmer, stirring to stop the milk sticking to the bottom of the pan. Remove the pod.

Squeeze out the gelatine leaves and add them to the pan, then take the pan off the heat and stir until the gelatine has dissolved, as you don't want stringy bits. Pour into a jug, and then into the ramekins. Leave a little room at the top for the cherries. Chill until set – approx 2 hours.

Stone the cherries and put them into a pan with a little water, sugar to taste, and Framboise or cherry liqueur. Simmer until the cherries release their delicious dark juice. Allow the cherries to cool before serving.

Serve with the cherry compote and the cracked black pepper tuiles. If you make double the amount of cherries, you can put them into the Black Forest Trifle later!

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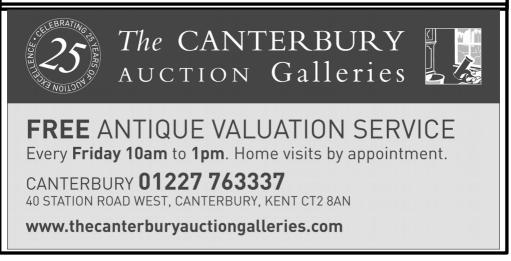


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mrsmaclarke@yahoo.co.uk

Authorised Lay Minister: Beverly Latham 01227-830365 Administrator:

Mrs

Mrs

Vacant

Sian Smith-Keary

bridgeoffice23@gmail.com

St Mary's Patrixbourne with St Peter's Bridge Churchwardens:

Dr Andrea Nicholson 01227-830947

Mrs Pauline Pritchard 01227-830685

Mr Laurence Dunderdale 01227-830668

dwbrougham@aol.com

laurence.dunderdale@gmail.com

Mrs Evelyn Andrews 01227-830960

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