

ACTION FORUM

AUGUST 2013
NUMBER 490

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



This view of Hempstead dating from the 1920s is still easily recognisable today. It predates The Flying Saucer pub, but the building on the right was already the social centre of the village. Although the words on the sign can't be read another photo from the same period reveals that it advertises the Working Men's Club and Institute. The car registration number is clear - PG 872. There are two shops, one of which now houses the pharmacy, and a smaller one just left of the houses. They are on opposite corners of the Harrow Road. See the article on page 9.

Robert J. Kitney

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Editorial

Oh how things can change in a month! In July I wrote that we had hardly had a day of summer. Since then we have hardly had a day when it has not been dry, sunny and – for me anyway – too hot. I know we should not complain, and this is very good for the tourist industry and the economy, but a week of average weather would be very welcome at the moment just to refresh ourselves, get a few nights of good sleep and then resume the hot sunny season for the remainder of the holiday period. At home we have long since run out of rainwater collected during the winter to quench the thirst of our growing crops and the ground is beginning to resemble a desert, but fortunately the wet winter means there is no threat of hosepipe bans at the moment. Over the past decade we do seem to have lurched from one meteorological disaster to the next, breaking records all the way. I also floated the opinion last month that no one would be able to add to the names we already knew of the people in our one hundred year old picture of the St Margaret's Church bells on the front cover. I should have known better and consulted my mother before writing this rash statement. Her opening gambit was 'Has anyone contacted you about the names?' When I replied 'No of course not' she used her trump card 'Well you missed out Ken Oldland – he is the smartly dressed man fifth from the left' – I stand corrected. August is traditionally the month when clubs and societies take a break to allow for a period of rejuvenation before everything starts again with the new academic year in September. However some groups are thinking ahead and are already advertising for help in the coming months. The Phoenix Singers would like more altos to join their choir, Hempstead Village Fete Committee would love to gather a few fresh faces to help organise events and if you have a young daughter wanting new experiences the Brownies are just waiting for her to join them. Throughout the month all our local walking groups continue to meet at the weekend and also many walks are organised midweek for you to enjoy. Now is the time to get out, make new friends and enjoy the countryside particularly when the weather is so good. On a personal note our collection of grandchildren is growing. Having waited 36 years for our offspring to take the hint Leonard Thomas (Lenny) arrived, fashionably late, but safely in May and at two months is already showing his personality and interacting with

big brother Jamie (almost two years old). Come December we go through the whole process again as Rachel and Paul who were married in January are expecting their first baby. Have a very good month and we will be with you again, refreshed and raring to go, in September.

Correspondence

NOVELTY DOG SHOW

Dear Editor

As we promised on September 14th 2013, we are holding our annual Lower Halstow Novelty Dog Show. Every dog is eligible, pedigree or not. The entry classes are:-
Fancy Dress,
The Most Handsome Dog
The Prettiest Bitch
Dog/ Bitch, who looks the Happiest,
Dog/ Bitch owner look alike.
There are rosettes and certificates for first to third place in each class, and two annual Trophy's and Goody Bags for Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

As we are starting the judging at 10.00am, there will be breakfast, tea, coffee and soft drinks available. We are hoping for an artist to attend who does dog caricatures (maybe a present for someone), there will also be a pet supplier displaying all sorts of pet items for sale.

If the weather is bad, we will be holding the show in the Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, but if it kind to us, we will be using the surrounding grass area.

Please come along and support the event as all proceeds will go towards the Lower Halstow Golden Oldies Christmas Lunch.

Schedules will be available nearer the date via the Local Best One Shop, the Three Tuns, or call Kay on 01795 844408.

Yours sincerely
Kay Howard-Challis

INFORMATION EVENT

Dear Editor

Following a very successful previous event, Medway Parent and Carers Forum are holding an Information Event for parent/carers and family members with children and young people with any type of disability, from birth to 25 who live across Medway. There will be fun and creative activities to keep your young people occupied whilst we talk to you about your issues and concerns and parents can find out more information about things that may help them in their day to day lives.

The event is being held on Saturday 14th September at The Pilkington Building, University of Greenwich, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, ME4 4TB and runs from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Admission is free and there will be information about Direct Payments and Personal Budgets, activities, support groups, fire and police services, adapted

bicycles and there will be an opportunity for parent/carers to join discussion groups on the Local Offer and Short Breaks. Refreshments will be available.

Please note that parent/carers will be responsible for their children whilst at the event. To find out more visit our website www.medwaypcf.org.uk or e-mail medwaypcf@googlemail.com.

Yours sincerely
Keith Clear (Co-Chair)

GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Although we have a new venue for the coming year, Byron Road School, Gillingham we will still start our meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7.15pm. An exciting programme has been planned for the season beginning on September 13th with a talk by Vic Chidley about the Excavations on the site of Grange Manor and continuing on October 11th with Rod Morley and John Breeze from the Faversham Gunpowder Society. New members are always very welcome if you wish to find further information please contact Ron Baker on 01634 854982

CALLING ALL ALTO'S

We are the Phoenix Singers, a group of mature ladies who enjoy singing. We meet on a Friday afternoon at the Methodist Church Hall in Wakeley Road Rainham between 2.00 & 4.00pm. We sing popular songs, from the musicals etc. but some are in two parts, and we are short on alto singers. If you are free on a Friday afternoon and would like to join us, please contact Margaret on 01634 231532 for more details.

5th RAINHAM BROWNIES

We are currently looking for girls aged 7 – 10 years to join our Brownie Group. We have vacancies for September as our older members move on to Guides. If your daughter is interested and would like to take part please contact Lesley Hemsley on 01634 360415 or email lesleyhemsley@blueyonder.co.uk

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Free Children's Entertainment at Hempstead Valley
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HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE FAYRE

Did you enjoy the show this year? If the answer is yes, would you like to take a bigger part in it by volunteering to help the Committee put on next year's Fayre? The Committee also organise the Christmas Tree in the centre of the village and other events throughout the year. We enjoy promoting interesting activities for the people of Hempstead and at the same time, raising money for worthwhile charities. The 2013 Village Fayre raised £1000 for BLESMA (British Legless Ex Servicemen's Association). We desperately need more people to join us, as after 5 years we are struggling to keep going with just a handful of people. Please contact either Sheila Shepherd, 01634 377597, email sheilashepherd@tiscali.co.uk or Val Gorf, 01634 230214, email valeriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk who will be happy to give you more information.

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Upchurch

Forge Lane, Church Farm Road
The Poles and The Street to the Church,
If you live near any of these roads or are able to travel to them and could help for about an hour or so during the first week of each month we would be very pleased to hear from you on 01634 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net

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Diary 2013

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Copy should be in writing either by email to
af@thenet.uk.net or 5 Meresborough Cottages,
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Diary Copy Date: 20th August

August 3rd - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Shaw Memorial
Hall, Rock Avenue Gillingham, 2.00pm, Entry 20p

August 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 Jeskyns Country
park, 6 mile figure of 8 walk to Shorn Hill, undulating,
no stiles, some steps may be muddy, dogs allowed.

August 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Chris 01634
360270, 10.00am for 12.5 mile walk Margate Railway
Station CT9 5AD, TR347705. Train arrives 9.48am or
Station car park £3.00/day. A flat Linear walk to Herne
Bay. Bring picnic lunch. Pub, cafes etc at end.

August 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Geoff 07525
161766 10.00am, Sevenoaks Library, Buckhurst Lane
TN13 1LQ, TQ533545 for 3.5 mile gentle walk through
Knole Park, Pub at end.

August 4th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, M2 Services,
Sunday Service 6.30pm, Linda Hotchkins.

August 5th - Monday Hub, St Pauls Church, Parkwood,
10.00am - 12.30pm, light refreshments, conversation,
games etc. All welcome ring 01634 230780 for details.

August 5th - 18th - Free Children's Entertainment at
Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, 11.00am - 1.00pm
& 2.00 - 4.00pm daily, www.hempsteadvalley.com

August 6th - Dementia Café, St Paul's Church, Long
Catlis Road, 1.00 - 3.00pm. A friendly and supportive
meeting place for people with Dementia and their
carers. Everyone welcome, free refreshments available
more information Sylvia Wolfson 07557 111060 or
email sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk

August 6th - Wildflowers, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon, learn about the folklore and uses of
wildflowers Not suitable for children under 12 years
old. £2 per person 01634 337432

August 6th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm
Country park, 10.00am - 12noon, Test your
orienteering skills. Suitable for groups, families and
individuals, £2 per person 01634 338191

August 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Competition
Night, 7.30 pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave
Lane, Rainham. New members welcome, ring 366276

August 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike 10.00am
for 7.5 mile walk Teston Country Park (Fee). ME18
5BX, Gradual climb through fields before dropping
down to Yalding. Return along River Medway

August 7th - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3pm, accompanied
children aged 4 - 12 years, £2 per child, 01634 337432

August 7th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead
Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm Afternoon Tea, Charity
Event, details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

August 8th - Beginners Fishing, Capstone Farm Country
Park, 9.00 - 11.00am or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn the basics
of course fishing, aimed at beginners and those wanting
to improve. All equipment and bait supplied. Suitable
for accompanied children aged 8 - 12 years. £10 per
child, ring 01634 338191 to book

August 8th - Donn Barcott's Five 5 Live, 8.30pm 44Two
Club Featherby Road, Elaine Diane (Vocals) with
special guest, songs from Great American Song Book
plus a magician at your table, raffle, bar admission £6
all welcome, details 01634 405037

August 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,
Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets every Friday
9.45am - 12noon to help people who have lost a loved
one, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634
364309 for details.

August 10th - NSPCC Cream Tea, 41 Woodside,
Rainham, 1.30 - 4.30pm, Tickets £3.50 (including
refreshments) available on the day, 01634 231003
August 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10am,
meet Pearl Stevens 02274 602929 Camer Country Park,
Meopham, 5 mile undulating walk, no dogs

August 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Pete/Kate
Ware, 10.00am for 6 mile walk at Cliffe RSPB car park
ME3 7SX TQ722758, flat circular walk

August 12th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens
Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate
Mondays 2.00 - 4.30pm details 01634 230500

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August 12th - Monday Hub, (see 5th Aug).

August 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,
Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday
evening of each month to help people still in
employment who have lost a loved one, join us for a
cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.

August 12th - Medway Organ Club Concert, 2nd Monday
of each month, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.00pm -
10.00pm, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694

August 13th - Mini-beast Hunt, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn to identify
the creatures. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5
- 12 years, £2 per child 01634 337432

August 13th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,
Club Members' Silent Auction, St George Hotel, New
Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm all visitors are made
most welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 0147 4823606

August 14th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Walk,
Cream Tea & Quiz, ring 01634 389966 for details.

August 14th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village
Hall, 7.30pm Workshop using wool etc. Information
ring 01622 884657 / 01795 472973 / 01634 863034

August 14th - Teddy Bears Picnic, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm Bring your picnic and
join storytelling, fun and games. accompanied children
aged 3 - 7 years £3 per child 01634 338191

August 15th - Orienteering Family Fun, (see 6th Aug)

August 16th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, 7.30pm,
M2 Services, Clairvoyant Evening, Francis Stadden.

August 16th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Clark Tracey Quintet
featuring Henry Amburg-Jennings on trumpet. Entry
£10, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.

August 17th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, walking
the North Downs Way (section 5) with Stephen
Manning 07598 330622, 11.5 miles from near West
Hawke, Gangers Hill, Oxted CR3 7AD, street parking
no weekend restriction, ring for more information.

August 17th - Rainham South Councillors surgery,
Parkwood Community Centre 9.30am - 12noon, no
appointment necessary.

August 17th - Quiz Night, Oasthouse Community Centre,
7.30pm, Admission £2, Members £1.50, 01634 710553

August 17th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls,
Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm, Ballroom - Latin -
Sequence dancing, Enquiries 01634 363738 email
s.colins02@btinternet.com

August 18th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Geoff 07525
161766, 10.00am for 12.5 mile walk at Otford Village
car park opposite The Bull (PH) in the High Street
TN14 5PG TQ526594, a lot of road walking but some
very picturesque areas. Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

August 18th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet John Trebill 01634 244045 at Yalding
Station, for a 6 mile fairly flat walk, no dogs

August 18th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm Refreshments provided, Free
register interest 01634 337432

August 19th - Monday Hub, (see 5th Aug).

August 19th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 12th Aug).

August 19th - Wigmore WI, Abba Evening, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 7.30pm, Visitors
welcome, Ring 01634 263405 for details.

August 19th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Members
Evening, competition - Holiday Postcards, ring 01634
262577 for more details.

August 20th - Dementia Café, (see 6th Aug).

August 20th - Wild Food, Capstone Farm Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon, Discover the food that grows
naturally in the wild. Suitable for accompanied children
aged 4 - 12 years. £2 per person 01634 338191

August 21st - Under-the-sea Collage, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Pop in for five minutes or half
an hour, Suitable for accompanied children aged 4 - 12
years, £2 per child, 01634 337432

August 21st - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village
Hall, Malcolm Withnall illustrated talk 'Less pain -
More gain - gardening for over 70s', new members
welcome ring 01634 233554 for details.

August 22nd - Beginners Fishing, (see 8th Aug).

August 22nd - Family Discovery Walk (Summer),
Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12noon, Join a
ranger on a walk looking at signs of summer. Fun and
interesting for all the family. £2 pp 01634 337432

August 24th & 25th - Dolls House Exhibition, St
Margaret's Junior School, Rainham, 10.00am - 4.00pm
(3.00pm Sunday), Entrance free, For further
information contact Sylvia 01634 312038

August 25th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249 at
Egerton Village car park, for a 5 mile undulating walk
in the Weald, dogs allowed.

Continued on Page 11

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JAZZ GIG
 Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland Avenue,
 Friday 16th August, 8.30pm
 Clark Tracey Quintet featuring
 Henry Amburg-Jennings on trumpet.
 Admission £10
 Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.

QUIZ NIGHT
 Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close,
 Every third Saturday of the month
 Saturday 17th August, 7.30pm
 Admission £2, Members £1.50
 For more information ring Maggi 01634 710553

DOLLS HOUSE EXHIBITION
 Saturday 24th August, 10.00am – 4.00pm
 Sunday 25th August, 10.00am – 3.00pm
 St Margaret's Junior School, Orchard Street,
 Entrance free (last entry 30mins before closing)
 New this year – A Department Store
 For information contact Sylvia 01634 312038

UPCHURCH FARMERS MARKET
 4th Sunday of every month (Feb – Nov)
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SUMMER SHOW
 Upchurch Horticultural Society,
 Upchurch Village Hall
 Saturday September 7th, doors open at 2.00pm,
 presentation at 3.30pm.
 Full details ring Steve 01634 373723.

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 Cost is £40 per couple.
 Free refreshments all day including hot buffet lunch.
 To book visit www.the139club.co.uk

FAMILY FIRST AID COURSE
 Saturday 7th September, 9.30am – 4.00pm
 St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive.
 Cost is £20 per person.
 Free refreshments all day including hot buffet lunch.
 To book visit www.the139club.co.uk

BABY MASSAGE COURSE
 September 9th, 16th & 23rd 10.00 – 11.00am
 St Pauls Church, Parkwood, Gillingham
 £4 for entire course
 To enrol contact Elaine Wheeler
 01634 379360 or email
babymassage@the139club.co.uk

ART GROUP
 Friendly, tutor-led Art Group meets Mondays 1.00 –
 3.00pm (term-time only) at St. Margaret's Junior
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 beginners very welcome. £5.00 per session.
 For more information telephone 01634 230715.

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 The information collected will only be used for this
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 Thank you from St Augustine's Catholic Church

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

"Unkempt about those hedges blows
An English unofficial rose"

On a hot and sunny day in early July, I headed towards Bredhurst Wood in order to see the orchids that grow in the chalk down land adjacent to the wood. It is an ancient wood of about 600 acres and is managed by the Bredhurst Wood Action Group. Details of the conservation work carried out by the group is shown on its well-produced website, www.bwag.org.uk. Having parked my car in Hurstwood Road, I headed towards Bredhurst Church, but turned right, down a stony lane, just before reaching the church. I paused to look at a notice board erected by the group and helped myself to a leaflet about the wood. I also stopped to listen to the song of a yellow hammer on the top of a hawthorn bush and a skylark singing high in the sky above me. The lane soon led me to a spot that overlooks Day Valley and Bredhurst Wood beyond it. The chalk down land bank of the valley is part of the slope that stretches for some three miles, from nearby Arran Bank to Queendown Warren Nature Reserve.

I left the stony lane, which is a byway of ancient origin, and passed through a metal swing gate into the field that fills Day Valley. On my left, an overgrown hawthorn hedgerow was festooned with the flowers of dog roses. The species is the most common and widespread of our native wild roses and their sweet scented flowers vary in colour from deep pink to white. On my right, the steep slope of the valley was covered in a sea of slightly waving, light brown coloured heads of grass seed. Closer inspection revealed swathes of yellow and white flowers among the grasses. The former were comprised mainly of buttercup, hawkweed, horse shoe vetch, bird's foot trefoil and kidney vetch. Dog daisies provided the contrasting splashes of white. It was however the orchids that attracted most of my attention. There were a few fragrant orchids, with flowers of pink to purple growing in the form of an elongated spire. Unlike other British orchids, this species really does have a fragrant scent. Pyramidal orchids were widespread on

the bank. They are also coloured from pink to purple and grow in a dense pyramidal spike. I came across just two man orchids, which were going to seed. The orchid has the shape of a manikin and has greenish yellow flowers in dense spikes. Because of their colour, man orchids can be hard to find and I may have missed some.

The chalk grassland in Day Valley is not grazed, but is cut for hay every now and again, once the flowers have seeded. It constitutes one of those few traditional hay meadows that Prince Charles is anxious to preserve. I came across a few Adonis blue butterflies in the valley, feeding on the nectar of horse shoe vetch plants. I was surprised to see them because they are supposed to be confined to sites where the soil is thin and the turf so closely grazed that the sun can bake the ground. The male has brilliant blue wings and I'm sure that I had correctly identified them. One writer has claimed that even if you have never seen an Adonis blue before, the colour of its wings are such a brighter blue than any other British butterfly, that you will recognise one when you see one.

My July trip to Day Valley was not my first this year. The first was in late May and was made with a group of local people and a local dog called Dougal, allied by Mike Philips of the Kent Amphibian and Reptile Group. We made a fairly early start in order to catch adders, slow worms and common lizards basking in the morning sunshine. We first visited Arran Bank and we were told to keep our eyes open in areas where scrub meets long grass. The latter affords a place where the reptiles can catch the sun's rays and the scrub gives them a bolt hole in the event of being disturbed. A bank vole, a favourite prey of the adder, was spotted scuttling away, but not a single reptile. We were however hopeful of being lucky on the sunlit bank of Day Valley. And we were. We saw a female adder as it wriggled back into cover, a young adder in a posturing pose and two slow worms. One of the latter had discarded its tail as a result of some predator catching hold of it. We found the cylindrical shaped skin that it had recently shed, which was minus the section where its tail would have been. We saw no lizards, but we were all pleased with our morning's walkabout. Our visit did however have an unfortunate

sequel. In June a large area of scrub on Arran Bank and in Day Valley was cleared by contractors on behalf of National Grid. This work should have been done in winter when birds are no longer nesting and amphibians are safely hibernating underground. Soon after the work had been done, we saw, on our television screens, among the debris left by the contractors, the distressing sight of the mangled remains of an adder.

Joe Ennis

HEMPSTEAD

The agricultural depression which developed after 1870 as cheap food began to be imported led to the sale of many farms. Hempstead Farm was sold in 1894 to the Brake family of Farnborough, Hants, who specialised in buying up land and selling it off in small parcels. These could be of 1 acre (or 2, 3...), large enough for smallholdings, costing £20 per acre, or building plots measuring 20' x 200' at £10 each. The buyers secured fresh air and freedom! But as Ronald Baldwin writes in his Gillingham Chronicles 'The reality was a proliferation of single-storey wooden shacks and huts of all shapes, sizes and colours, raised off the ground by bricks. There were no amenities: roads were unmade, rutted in summer and muddy in winter, no piped water, drainage, sewers, gas or electricity'. Water was brought to Hoath Lane in the early 1900s..... but plottolders had both to pay for the installation and dig channels for the pipes. Otherwise wells or neighbours provided water. Nevertheless by 1905 more than twenty-five owners lived on their plots throughout the year, and six years later there were nearly seventy resident families.

Hempstead was quiet and well-wooded, and appealed to town-dwellers looking for a rural retreat. Larger plots were often bought by those seeking to augment a pension by growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, keeping chickens or pigs, or supplying wood to the nearby Medway towns. A store selling basic necessities occupied a corner of one of the outbuildings (once a granary) of the old farmhouse; a Congregational Church ('the Tin Chapel') was established in 1905, and All Saints' Mission Church was built in 1911/12. The school, which had opened in 1907 with 22 pupils, grew rapidly: there were 88 in 1909, and new classrooms were added in 1911 so that up to 200 children could be accommodated.

For other needs villagers had to walk or drive into Luton, but Kelly's 1926 Directory reveals that now there was a Post Office and shop run by Mrs Mary Ann Hopper, another general shop kept by Ernest Hughes, and a bootmaker, James Evans. The social centre of the village stood at the junction of the Harrow Road and Hempstead Road. A long barn, formerly one of the farm buildings, had been used for agricultural shows, and later it was refurbished to provide a hall where whist drives, dances and other events could be held. Attached to the hall was the Hempstead Working Men's Club & Institute, its Secretary being Sydney Spiller. After a day's work men could enjoy a smoke and a drink over a game of cribbage or dominoes. The decor was rather spartan - wooden chairs and tables, and a spittoon or two on the floor. Ales were supplied by Ind Coope at this time. During the late 1920s there was a serious fire at the Club which, like any other, attracted numerous spectators. Amongst them was a small boy who had been brought by his father to witness the fate awaiting those who succumbed to the demon drink. The leader of the Hempstead branch of the Band of Hope (a Temperance Society) was an ex-London policeman named Caleb Morrish, and apparently he was observed marching up and down close to the scene shouting "Burn! Burn!" at the top of his voice.

During the next decade Hempstead continued to grow, with more substantial houses being built between, or replacing, the shacks. One, opposite the Club, had been occupied by both a donkey and its owner until the late 1920s, but I think that today only one of the original wooden homes remains. There were a dozen market gardens, nurseries and poultry farms in the mid-thirties, the proprietor of one of the latter at 'Windermere' combining his business with that of a radio dealer. This was Edgar Green, whose premises would later become Green's Garage.

In 1935 the village was postally still part of Chatham, and dwellings were distinguished by name - Harrow and Hempstead Roads, Pine Grove and Pear Tree Lane had yet to be numbered. By this time the Club, now supplied by Style and Winch, had gained a Steward, John Reed, and Frederick Brush had become the Secretary. His address was 'Margaret Cottage'. The Club & Institute is not listed in Kelly's 1951 Street Directory, for it closed under that name on 31st December 1950. RAD To be continued

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Diary 2013

August 25th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet

Alex/Mandy, 10.00am for 6 mile walk at the RSPB car
park at Cliffe Pools, ME3 7SU, TQ723761, very flat
with excellent views of bird reserve and River Thames.
Good chance to see lots of wild life, Bring picnic lunch.

August 25th - Upchurch Farmers Market, 10.00am –

1.00pm, Upchurch Village Hall, Variety of stalls, Good
quality at reasonable prices, Andrea 01634 361040

August 27th - Treasure Trove Trail, Capstone Farm

Country Park, 11.00am – 2.00pm, prizes for those who
complete the trail. Suitable for accompanied children
aged 5 – 12 years, £3 per child 01634 338191

August 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Peter/Ann

01634 718895, 10.00am for 4 mile walk at Lower
Higham, Church Street, ME3 7LS TQ717742, a Walk
With A Challenge Midway. Please park tidily in road
by church. Pub at end.

August 28th - Teddy Bears Picnic, Riverside Country

Park, 11.00am – 2.00pm, Bring your picnic and join in
storytelling, fun and games. Suitable for accompanied
children aged 3 – 7 years £3 per child 01634 3374321

August 29th - Beginners Fishing, (see 8th Aug).

August 29th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,
7.30pm, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

September 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet John

07879 857307, 10.00am Bluebell Hill Car Park,
Common Road, TQ743621 ME5 9RG 13.5 miles,
some hills, woods, farmland and views over River
Medway. Bring Picnic lunch. Pub stop at end.

September 1st - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, M2

Services, Sunday Service 6.30pm, Shauna McCusker

September 2nd - Monday Hub, (see 5th Aug).

September 2nd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 12th Aug).

September 2nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Tea and Chat,

St Paul's Church, 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members

welcome' ring 01634 366056 or 373594 for details.

September 3rd - Dementia Café, (see 6th Aug).

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September 3rd – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30pm United
Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham,
Improvisation, ring 232998 for details.

September 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Society, Wildlife
Gardening, (see 6th Aug).

September 5th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Madagascar
Wildlife Tour, Elizabeth Sillifant, St Matthew's
Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634
235507 for details.

September 5th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village
Hall, behind All Saints Church, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Tea and
Chat, new members welcome ring 01634 366907.

September 7th - Jumble Sale, (see 3rd Aug).

September 7th & 14th - Active Birth Workshop (2 Day),
9.30am – 5.00pm, St Matthew's Church, Drewery
Drive. £40 per couple. Free refreshments all day inc.
hot buffet lunch. To book visit www.the139club.co.uk

September 7th - Family First Aid Course 9.30am –
4.00pm, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive. £20 per
person. Free refreshments all day inc. hot buffet lunch.
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September 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Show
Day, Millennium Centre 2.00 -4.00pm, ring 366276

September 7th - Upchurch Horticultural Society, Summer
Show, Village Hall, 2.00pm, presentation 3.30pm. Full
details ring Steve 01634 373723.

September 7th - Bredhurst Village Show, 2.30pm.

September 7th - Medway Folk Dance Club, 7.30 –
10.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral
Road, Gillingham. New and experienced dancers
welcome, with or without a partner, for details ring
01634 366189 or 388546.

September 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet
Tony/Ann 01634 406634 10.00am Eynsford car park.
TQ540655 DA4 0EH 5.6 miles along Darenth Valley
Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches available.

September 9th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (see 2nd
Sept).

September 9th, 16th & 23rd - Baby massage Course,
10.00 – 11.00am, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, £3 for
entire course contact Elaine Wheeler 01634 379360 or
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Diary 2013

September 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,
Evening Group (see 12th Aug)
September 9th - Medway Organ Club Concert, (12th Aug
September 10th - Medway Antique and Collectors'
Club, Regency Porcelain, (see 13th Aug).
September 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Graham
07989 753278 10.00am Otford village main car park
TQ526594 TN14 5PQ for a 6.5 mile Linear walk.
Returning on 2pm bus from Farningham. One climb
near end otherwise fairly flat. Bring picnic lunch, Pub
at end with lunches available.
September 11th - Medway Evacuees Club, 2.00pm
Millennium Centre, Rainham - A performance by Irish
singer/entertainer Steve Erickson, all welcome £1.50
per person, ring 01634 372189 for details.
September 11th - Bredhurst WI, Frankie Davison -
Flower Arranging, (see 14th Aug).
September 11th - Rainham Flower Club, Demonstration
by Nick Grounds (see 14th Aug).
September 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Guide
Dog Trainer Fiona Byers, (see 7th Aug)
September 12th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Mysteries of
Blue Bell Hill (see 5th Sept)
September 12th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Growing Old
Disgracefully, June Faulkner, (see 5th Sept)
September 12th - Donn Barcott's Five 5 Live, (8th Aug)
September 13th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, Byron School, Byron Road, Gillingham,
7.15pm, Grange Manor - Excavations on site - Vic

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Chidley, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982
September 14th - Money Management Course, 10.00am -
1.00pm, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive.
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information: sarah@the139club.co.uk or 07731 786333
September 14th - Lower Halstow Novelty Dog Show,
every dog eligible, Schedules will from Local Best One
Shop, the Three Tuns, or call Kay 01795 844408.
September 14th - GHS Floral Art Group, Autumn Show,
United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham,
ring 232998, see www.gillinghamhs.org.uk or
email@gillinghamhs.org.uk for details.
September 14th - Chatham Grammar Association
Centenary Lunch, School Hall, Rainham Road,
Chatham, 12.30pm, three speakers Myra Clare, Inge
Watson and David Gundry Tickets £22, apply in
writing, to 37 Homefield Drive, Rainham, ME8 8RS.
September 14th - Craft and produce Fair, Millennium
Centre 9.00am - 12.30pm supporting St. Margaret's
Church. Free entry to the public.
September 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike
07855 929404 10.00am Linton Park free car park on
left as you enter village TQ755502 ME17 4AW for 8.5
miles, lovely walk with views & Deer park. Pub at end.
September 16th - Medway Scabble Club, (see 12th Aug)
September 16th - Wigmore WI, Ray Spiller - Another trip
down memory lane! (see 19th Aug)
September 16th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church
Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, Welcome back
and members evening, New members welcome, £1.50
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