

# ACTION FORUM

SEPTEMBER 2013  
NUMBER 491

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



A drawing of the centre of Hempstead, with some artistic licence I think. The shape of the Flying Saucer building on the right is clearly recognisable, although the structure behind is no longer there. However the bungalows on the left need some imagination to reconcile them with the shops which now occupy the site. The pavements are marked, but no trees yet planted, so it is probably a few years before the 1920s picture we featured last month. We continue our article about Hempstead on page 9. Pictures of Hempstead seem few and far between- if you have any showing the old village we would be very pleased to see them.

## Robert J. Kitney

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**AF**  
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## Editorial

And still the sun shines! Today is yet again gloriously sunny with clear blue skies but with just a touch of autumn in the air so not too hot. We really have been treated to an exceptionally good few months this summer. If only we could predict this and it was reliably fine and warm for a decent length of time we would not need to book holidays abroad in the sun ever again. Hopefully the British resorts are benefitting from the run of good weather and it will help redress the deficits they have suffered since our last 'barbecue summer' in 2006.

September brings its own regular features. Ever since the schools broke up in July all chain stores have featured 'Back to School' campaigns but now the reality is here and many frazzled parents will have been swelling the crowds in shops hunting for the one pair of shoes that are acceptable to both their offspring and the school and wishing they had made the effort earlier. Still I am sure all will have made it to school suitably booted and suited on the first day of term. With the schools back in session clubs and societies can also resume their meetings. Many are only too pleased to welcome new members so if you have spare time on your hands and would like to get out and meet new friends do look through our diary pages and see if any of those listed appeal to you. Most include a phone number so you can ring to find out more about the organisation before you visit or just turn up to a meeting, I am sure you will be made welcome. A Women's Fellowship Group who meet at the Church Room, St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue on the first and third Thursdays each month are actively seeking additional members as are Berengrave Ladies who meet at the Methodist Church Hall in Station Road, Rainham on Wednesday evenings. If you would rather use your spare time usefully Hands the organisation who provide help for lonely and house bound people are appealing for assistance. At the moment they need volunteer drivers, transport arrangers, gardeners and befrienders and also on-line shoppers to visit the housebound. If you can help them in any way do get in touch by ringing 01634 362119. They will be delighted to hear from you.

Whilst we have all been enjoying the outdoor life in the sunshine several amateur dramatic groups have been hard at work preparing their autumn offerings. The Oasthouse Theatre present 'The Darling Buds of May' by H.E. Bates on six nights over two weekends,

in early September, Wigmore MADs stage 'Making A Difference with Song' on 28th September and Gillingham Dramatic Society offer 'Jekyll & Hyde' from 2nd to 5th October at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone. Other Concerts, exhibitions, Quiz Nights and charity events feature in our pages so there is plenty to keep you occupied throughout the month. Whilst the good weather remains now is also the time to rekindle that New Year Resolution to get more exercise. Our local walking groups have prepared interesting excursions and would be delighted for you to join them – start now while it is warm and dry and you may just persevere when inevitably the wet and windy weather arrives. Whatever you choose do have a very good month and we will see you again in October.

## Correspondence

### BREDHURST WOODS

Dear Editor,

I am so pleased that Joe Ennis wrote such complimentary comments about his visit to Bredhurst Woods.

I was privileged to meet Joe at the Millennium Centre when he purchased one of BWAG's calendars and I preached a bit about how much improved the area was since BWAG had been responsible for it and tried to persuade him to revisit. To read how much he appreciated what had been done and the effect that we had had on the area was reward itself.

The problems caused by the National Grid's demolition of the thickets below the electric cables has yet to be resolved and it will take many years for the bird and reptile life in that area to return to the standard before the damage. The action of the contractors in razing the trees and bushes in early June, peak breeding time, impossible to justify but they are making great efforts to do so.

Yours sincerely  
 Jim Chalmers, Trustee

Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

### MACMILLAN AFTERNOON TEA

Dear Editor

This year the local Macmillan Fundraising Committee is trying something different and holding afternoon tea instead of our annual coffee morning. Come along with your friends on 21st September from 2.00 to 4.00pm and buy a cuppa and cake in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Browse a variety of goods for sale, including jewellery, handicrafts and preserves and try your luck with the tombola and raffle. The venue is St. Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham, ME8 9BH entrance is 50p. Everyone welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely  
 Jean Mardel

### CHATHAM CONVICT PRISON

Dear Editor

Brompton History Research Group Lecture Series present 'Chatham Convict Prison' a talk by Pam Wood on the stories and history of Chatham Convict Prison.

The lecture will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 26th September at Chatham Dockyard 'Steam, Steel and Submarines' gallery. Please enter through the main gate on Dock Road as opposed to the 'Visitor Entrance'. Parking is available next to the gallery by the side of the river. Tickets cost £2 payable on the door. It is advisable to book in advance as seating is limited in the gallery.

For bookings please call 01634 822261 or email [deputycurator@re-museum.co.uk](mailto:deputycurator@re-museum.co.uk) or see [www.bromptonhistory.org.uk](http://www.bromptonhistory.org.uk)

Yours sincerely  
 Nina Robinson

Brompton History Research Group

### HARVEST TEAS

Dear Editor

Harvest time is fast approaching after our glorious summer and the partners of The Lions Club of Gillingham are now planning Harvest Teas for senior citizens of the district. These will take place on Sundays, 13th and 27th October in the Millennium Centre, Rainham, between 3.30 and 6.00pm.

As in previous year, we particularly like to invite elderly people who either live alone or do not have the opportunity to get out very often. Please encourage family members, friends or neighbours who fit into this category to apply for a free invitation by writing to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Mackalands House, Station Road, Rainham ME8 7QX, or by telephoning Brenda on 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840. Transport can be arranged to and from the Millennium Centre if required.

A pleasant afternoon is guaranteed and we look forward to welcoming you.

Yours sincerely  
 Beryl Brenton  
 (on behalf of the Lions' Partners)

### MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE

Saturday 14th September, 10.00am – 1.00pm  
 St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive.  
 Admission is Free. Refreshments served.  
 Contact Sarah Cross for further information:  
[sarah@the139club.co.uk](mailto:sarah@the139club.co.uk) or 07731 786 333.

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### DEMELZA ENTERTAINMENT EVENT

Dear Editor

The annual Demelza evening of Entertainment will take place on Friday, October 11th at the Rainham United Services Club, doors open at 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Singers Jenny Sinclair and Steve Dukes will be performing, and I am delighted to announce that a choir from the Danecourt Special children's school in Gillingham will also be appearing.

All proceeds from the evening will be donated to Demelza Children's Hospice. Tickets for this superb evening are £12 each, this includes a buffet. For tickets or more information please contact Colin on 01634 234973 or Demelza direct 01795 845272.

Your sincerely  
 Colin Obee

(Volunteer ambassador for Demelza.)

### WCRA - AUTUMN DROP IN

Dear Editor

Wigmore Community and Residents Association are holding their 'Autumn Drop In' at Wigmore Library on Friday 11th October, starting at 7.30pm finishing just after 9.00pm. This event is open to all residents of Wigmore and provides us with a great opportunity to meet and to speak, on a one to one basis, with our MP, our Councillors, Council Officers and Police Officers.

Last year's event was particularly successful, please do attend you should find it most interesting.

We will be delighted to see you there.

Kind Regards  
 Bob Dunn Deputy Chair WCRA  
 01634 378769

### BIG SING - SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 22nd September, 5.00pm

All Saints Church Hempstead Road, Hempstead  
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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,  
Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 17th September

September 5th, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14th - Oasthouse Theatre,  
The Darling Buds of May by H E Bates, 8.00pm, Box  
Office 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk  
September 7th & 8th - Medway Model Railway Show,  
Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm, Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm, Fort  
Pitt Grammar School, Chatham Adult £5, Senior £4,  
Child £3 Under 5 Free, details 07821 254232 or email  
medwaymodelshow@yahoo.co.uk  
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.  
To book visit www.the139club.co.uk  
September 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet  
Stephen Manning 07551 712438 for a day in  
Greenwich including Greenwich Park, Observatory and  
United Emirates cable car. Ring Stephen for start times  
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 for a 5.6 miles along the Darenth Valley  
Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches available.  
September 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am meet David Brown 01634 373833 South Park  
car park, Armstrong Road, Maidstone ME15 6AZ GR  
764543 for a 5 mile circular walk to Loose and Loose  
Valley, undulating and may be muddy if wet. No dogs

September 9th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, St Paul's  
Church, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome' ring  
01634 366056 or 373594 for details.  
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  
email babymassage@the139club.co.uk for details.  
September 9th - Medway Organ Club Concert, 2nd  
Monday of each month, Parkwood Community Centre.  
7.00pm for 7.30, finishing 10pm, details 01634 234694  
September 10th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,  
Regency Porcelain, St George Hotel, New Road,  
Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm all visitors are made most  
welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 0147 482 3606  
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.  
Bring picnic lunch, Pub at end with lunches available.  
September 11th - East Medway U3A Talk "Going Going  
Gone" 2.00pm at Rainham Mark Social Club  
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, 7.30pm Village Hall,  
Frankie Davison - Flower Arranging, 01634 389966  
September 11th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch  
Village Hall, 7.30pm, Demonstration by Nick  
Grounds Details 01795 472973 /or 01634 863034  
September 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,  
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Guide Dog Trainer  
Fiona Byers, details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444  
September 12th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, ,  
2.00 - 4.00pm, Mysteries of Blue Bell Hill , new  
members welcome ring 01634 366907.  
September 12th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Growing Old  
Disgracefully, June Faulkner, St Matthew's Community  
Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507

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September 13th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets every  
Friday 9.45am - 12noon for people who have lost a  
loved one, ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.  
September 13th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History  
Society, Byron School, Byron Road, Gillingham,  
7.15pm, Grange Manor - Excavations on site - Vic  
Chidley, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982  
September 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am meet Stephen Manning, 07551 712438 Otford  
Village car park TN14 5PQ for a 11.75 mile walking  
the North Downs Way section 6.  
September 14th - Rainham South Councillors surgery,  
Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am - 12 noon, no  
appointment necessary.  
September 14th - Money Management Course, 10.00am -  
1.00pm, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive,  
information: sarah@the139club.co.uk 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, or email@gillinghamhs.org.uk for details.  
September 14th - Chatham Grammar Association  
Centenary Lunch, School Hall, Rainham Road,  
Chatham, 12.30pm. 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 14th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for  
Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm, Ballroom - Latin  
- Sequence dancing, Enquiries 01634 363738 email  
s.colins02@btinternet.com  
September 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike  
07855 929404 10.00am Linton Park in free car park on  
left just as you enter village TQ755502 ME17 4AW for  
8.5 miles, lovely walk with good views. Pub at end.  
September 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am meet Brian Gevaux 01634 235883 Camer car  
park, Meopham DA13 0XT GR 649669 for a 5.5 mile  
walk a few hills, 4 styles & kissing gates. No dogs.  
September 15th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country  
Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm Refreshments provided, Free  
register interest 01634 337432  
September 16th - Monday Hub, St Pauls Church,

Parkwood, 10.00am - 12.30pm, light refreshments,  
conversation, games etc. All welcome 01634 230780  
September 16th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens  
Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate  
Mondays 2.00 - 4.30pm details 01634 230500  
September 16th - Wigmore WI, Ray Spiller - Another trip  
down memory lane! Community Centre, Drewery  
Drive, 7.30pm, Visitors welcome, 01634 263405  
September 16th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church  
Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, Welcome back  
and members evening, New members welcome, £1.50  
per visit, for details ring Sue 01634 230639.  
September 16th - Rainham Evening WI 7.30pm,  
Millennium Centre, Don Ball talk 'London Coffee  
Houses', ring 01634 262577 for more details.  
September 17th - Dementia Café, St Paul's Church, Long  
Cattis Road, 1.00 - 3.00pm. Everyone welcome, free  
refreshments information Sylvia Wolfson 07557  
111060 or email sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk  
September 17th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30pm United  
Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, an  
arrangement in your home made container, ring 232998  
September 18th - Hempstead Scout Hall, Duke's  
Meadow Drive, Hempstead, 2.00pm.  
September 18th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm,  
Village Hall, AGM & Colin Obee talk 'My Work  
Experiences', new members welcome 01634 233554  
September 19th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, Tea  
and Chat, (see 12th Sept).  
September 19th - Rainham WI, 1.45 - 4.00pm, Methodist  
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker on Queen  
Victoria's Dreadful Uncles. Visitors welcome for small  
entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details  
September 19th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Alzheimer's  
Society - one of our charities for 2013, (see 12th Sept).  
September 20th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, M2  
Services, Clairvoyant Evening, 7.30pm, Dawn Evans.  
September 20th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, ,  
8.30pm Simon Spillelt/ Bobby Wellins Quintet.  
Admission £10, 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.  
September 21st - Macmillan Fundraising Afternoon Tea,  
Millennium Centre, 2.00 - 4.00pm, entrance 50p  
September 21st - Medway Folk Dance Club, (7th Sept).  
September 21st - Quiz Night, Oasthouse Community  
Centre, 7.30pm, Admission £2, Members £1.50, Rolls  
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Continued on Page 11

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Contact Jean 01634 389164 or just come along to  
The Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,  
Rainham

**WOMENS FELLOWSHIP**  
A Women's Fellowship Group meet at the Church  
Room, St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue on the  
first and third Thursdays each month. We begin our  
new season, after our summer break, on Thursday  
October 3rd at 2.30pm. New members are very  
welcome and we look forward to seeing you!

**CHARITY CABARET NIGHT**  
In aid of HANDS & Gillingham Volunteer Centre\*  
Saturday 21st September, 7.00 for 7.15pm start  
Dobbies Garden World Gillingham ME8 0FB (in  
large restaurant area) Tickets £8 per person. Light  
supper included but please bring your own drinks  
Local artistes performing include Rich Pickins  
(country quartet), Didi Bergman (folk singer/  
songwriter), Harmony (female vocal harmony group)  
plus more - including magic and comedy!  
For tickets, call Wendy 07816 159668, Lynne 07811  
703154 or Ann 01634 815430

**WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
(Medway branch) is running weekly talks and field  
trips on the Natural History of Kent starting on  
Tuesday 24th September, 10.00am – 12noon, in  
Bredhurst Village Hall. This term we're looking at  
landscape and wildlife habitats in Kent, the  
underlying geology and how man has changed the  
landscape. More details and pre-enrolment on  
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**WIGMORE MADS**  
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Tickets £6 & £5 cons from Sue 01634 370639.

**AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE.**  
Alpine Garden Society  
Rainham Girls School, Derwent Way, Rainham,  
Saturday 28th September  
Plant Sales from 9.00am Show open at 12noon  
Admission £2.50, Children & AGS Members Free  
For details contact 01303 862913 or see  
[www.alpinegardensociety.net/events](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/events)

**PRODUCE SALE AND CRAFTS**  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

In August I visited Hothfield Common Nature Reserve on the south side of the A20, midway between Charing and Ashford. It is owned by Ashford Borough Council and is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust.

The reserve consists of one of Kent's few remaining fragments of open heath and the county's last four valley bogs. Until the early 20th century livestock grazing maintained the open character of Hothfield Common. Once this ceased, bracken and birch began to overrun the heath. Kent Wildlife Trust is cutting back the invasive plants and is grazing the common with Konik horses (which are descended from European wild horses) and Highland cattle, in order to restore and maintain a mosaic of open and wooded heath, grassland and bog.

I entered the reserve through a wooded area of mainly birch and oak trees, beyond which was the open heathland with its purple carpets of common heather or ling. The plant is an evergreen whose bell-shaped and nectar-filled flowers attract swarms of bees. Also growing at the reserve are common and dwarf gorse. They are typical plants of heathland and, between them, their yellow flowers bring colour to Hothfield Common for much of the year. The sandy soil of the heath also supports a variety of low-growing liverworts and mosses.

The main bog, like the three others at Hothfield, has a causeway which enables visitors to walk over it. The underlying acidic and peaty soils of the bogs are ideal for the yellow-flowered bog asphodel, the heath-spotted orchid, with its pale pink flower spikes, and the tiny, round-leaved sundew. The latter has sticky leaves which trap its food – unsuspecting insects. I have to admit that I failed to spot any sundew plants and it was a reminder that it is often best to take advantage of the guided tours that are regularly organised by the Kent Wildlife Trust wardens

Two other species of flower growing in the main bog, which were widespread and very apparent, were common cotton grass and cross-leaved heath. The former plant sports heads of silky white plumes. These are comprised of hundreds of hairs attached to seeds which disperse the seeds in the wind. The cross-leaved heath is a member of the heather family and has rose pink flowers. Also very noticeable were a number of dragonflies and damselflies skimming over the surface of the bog in search of insect prey. Particularly noticeable was the bonded demoiselle dragonfly with its distinctive, iridescent blue body and black-banded wings.

As for flowers growing on the sandy heathland soils, I came across tormentil, birds'-foot trefoil, rose bay willow herb and harebell. The willow herb has tall spikes of pink flowers and has turned from what had been a comparatively scarce woodland plant into one of the most successful and colourful colonisers of railway embankments and waste places. It is thought that the plant spread throughout the country by means of the railway network. The harebell is one of the most delicately beautiful of Britain's common wild flowers and certainly one of the least fussy in its choice of habitat. Its paper-thin, almost translucent, sky-blue bells, on a thin stalk, shake slightly in the lightest of winds. The harebell is one of the last flowers of the year, blooming into September. Hothfield is a good site for reptiles, including slow worm, common lizard, and grass snake. As I ambled quietly and slowly through the reserve I kept my eyes open for any reptiles basking in the afternoon sunshine, but I saw none. During my perambulation my mind turned to Thomas Hardy's novel about Egdon Heath, "The Return of the Native." I thought of some of the characters who made a living out of the heath – the cutters of peat and turf and the gatherers of faggots and bracken. Villagers must have carried out the same tasks at Hothfield Heath in days gone by. Today they need to do nothing more strenuous on the common than walk their dogs.

Joe Ennis

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## HEMPSTEAD Continued from August 2013

After the Hempstead Club & Institute closed in December 1950 an Off-Licence, kept by Thomas Read, is listed in Kelly's 1951 Street Directory at No.140 Hempstead Road. The Club occupied an important place in Hempstead's life, and when it was reincarnated a few months later as The Flying Saucer on Friday 27th April customers would have recognised the Landlord, Thomas Read. Mr Read, who had previously been the Club's Steward, was an ex-soldier, who had served during the war as a Warrant Officer in the Hussars. The young Canadian soldiers who were housed in a tented camp at Wigmore (where Magnolia and Primrose Avenues are now) had been among the Club's wartime patrons.

The pub was one of several that had their licences transferred from other premises when large numbers of the Brompton population were rehoused in the newly developing areas of Hempstead & Twydall in the 1950s. The original licence for the Flying Saucer had belonged to the Shipwrights Arms at 22 Westcourt Street, Brompton. On 2 March 1951 (Confirmed 20 April 1951) the licence was transferred to the premises at 140 Hempstead Road, Hempstead.

The opening night was an informal occasion, with a cask of free beer for the locals and champagne (served in beer glasses) for some of the special guests. These included representatives of the brewers Style & Winch, and the builders, who had been working since February. They had just managed to complete the entire off-sales department on the day of opening! The new pub had a garden, a children's room and what the Chatham News described as 'comfortable arrangements for pleasant refreshment'. Tom Read's pickled eggs (from his own chickens) were a legendary delicacy.

The original pub sign showed on one side a small fleet of Flying Saucers arriving from outer space. The other, though, would today be regarded as rather un-PC - its design portrayed an irate wife throwing a 'flying saucer' at her lazy husband.

More about Hempstead can be found in Geoffrey Hufton's 'Off the Beaten Track', now out of print but available at local libraries. I must also gratefully acknowledge all the help given me in preparing this article by Yvonne Lane, whose Grandfather, James Lees, lived at the farmhouse and designed the original club.

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## 2014 CALENDAR

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre is a local, community-based charity providing a number of support services for the elderly, those with disabilities, or living in isolation, in the local area using volunteers. We are currently looking for volunteer drivers, transport arrangers, gardeners and befrienders, and also on-line shoppers to visit the housebound. Can you help us deliver these much-needed services? All expenses will be paid. If you think you can help, please call John or Jan on 01634 362119

## MEDWAY MACMILLAN COMMITTEE

We have been established for over 35 years and are a lively, friendly group of individuals who host events, collect money and help local supporters of Macmillan Cancer Support. In the last two years we have raised around £100,000. We are looking for new enthusiastic members for the committee, as well as event helpers and collectors. If you are interested, to find out more, email Liz eohanlon@macmillan.org.uk or call 07850 208759



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## Diary 2013

September 21st - Charity Cabaret Night, In aid of  
HANDS, 7.15pm start, Dobbies Garden World (large  
restaurant). Tickets £8 pp (light supper included bring  
your own drinks) from 07816 159668, or 01634 815430

September 21st - Barn Dance, 7.30pm, Newington  
Village Hall, Excellent night, no dancing experience  
required! Tickets £8 to include a ploughmans meal, call  
01795 842478 or laneatborden@btinternet.com

September 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Geoff  
07525 161766 10.00am Bluebell Hill picnic area,  
Common Road, for 7.5 miles, steady climb back. Food  
at Micky's Dinner or at the Lower Bell PH

September 22nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
2.00pm meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847  
828249 Oad Street Craft Centre, Cream Tea Walk, 4  
mile short fairly flat walk, ring for details. No dogs.

September 22nd - Upchurch Farmers Market, 10.00am –  
1.00pm, Village Hall, Variety of stalls, Good quality at  
reasonable prices, details from Andrea 01634 361040

September 22nd - Big Sing - Songs of Praise, All Saints  
Church, Hempstead Road, 5.00pm, Very warm  
welcome to all, details 01634 234149

September 23rd - Medway Diabetes Support Group,  
AGM, 7.00 – 9.00pm, St Pauls Church, Parkwood,  
Details medwaydiabetessupport@hotmail.co.uk or call  
Karen on 07725 238464

September 23rd - Rainham Wives, Evening of Fun Dance  
with Maureen, (see 16th Sept).

September 24th - WEA (Medway) weekly talks and field  
trips on the Natural History of Kent 10.00am – 12noon,  
Bredhurst Village Hall. details and pre-enrolment on  
www.wea.org.uk or ring Carole 01634 295563

September 24th - Telling Tales, Helen East & Rick  
Wilson Folk Tales from Old London, Hastings Arms,  
18 Lower Rainham Road, 8pm, £6, For more  
information phone 01634 852614 or tony.ed@me.com

September 25th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,  
Birthday Social, (see 11th Sept).

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September 26th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Belly  
Dancing, (see 12th Sept).

September 26th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service  
followed by Singalong, (see 12th Sept).

September 26th - GHS, Star Meadow Sports Club,  
Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Ploughman's  
Supper and Fun Quiz, Single Potato official weigh-in  
www.gillinghamhs.org.uk email@gillinghamhs.org.uk

September 26th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,  
7.30pm, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

September 27th - Charity Quiz Night in aid of Medway  
Asthma Self-Help 7.30pm Parkwood Community  
Centre, Tickets £5, teams up to eight, 01634 855844

September 27th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron  
Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.00pm, 'LHR to  
DXB - Dubai a city of air travel' - Alan Lyons,  
Everyone welcome, details 01634 362683

September 28th - Alpine Garden Society Autumn Flower  
Show & Plant Sale, Rainham Girls School, Derwent  
Way, Plant Sales from 9.00am Show open at 12noon,  
£2.50, Children & AGS Members Free Contact 01303  
862913 or www.alpinegardensociety.net/events

September 28th - Produce Sale and Crafts - 2.00 –  
4.00pm, St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow. home  
grown and home made produce, jewellery, pens, wood  
work, needle work, cards and honey, Refreshments.

September 28th - Breastfeeding Support Group L.L.  
Rochester, 20th Anniversary Party, 12noon – 2.00pm,  
Riverside Children's Centre, St Edmunds Way, details  
from Emilia (emilia\_ill@yahoo.co.uk)

September 28th - Wigmore Mads Autumn concert of  
popular music 'Making A Difference with Song',  
Community Centre, Brewery Drive, Wigmore, 8.00pm  
Tickets £6 & £5 concessions 01634 370639.

September 28th - Oasthouse Theatre, 50 Years and Still  
Standing, 8.00pm, Box Office on 0844 8793224 or on-  
line @ www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

September 29th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941  
965272 Dryhill Nature Reserve off A25 near Sevenoaks  
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September 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet  
Tony/Ann 01634 406634 10.00am Trosley Country  
Park. Pay & Display TQ632610 TN15 7JW for 6.2  
miles circular walk. Bring picnic lunch.  
September 30th - Monday Hub, (see 16th Sept).  
September 30th - Medway Scrabble Club, (16th Sept).  
September 30th - Rainham Wives, 'World War Two' talk  
by June Faulkner, (see 16th Sept).  
October 1st - Coffee Morning, Macklands House, Station  
Road, Rainham, In aid of Cancer Research, 10.00am -  
2.00pm, Admission £1 includes Tea or Coffee, Stalls,  
Books, Bric a Brac and Raffle, details 01634 374108  
October 1st - Dementia Café, (see 17th Sept).  
October 1st - GHS Floral Art Group, Autumn Leaves - a  
foliage only arrangement, (see 17th Sept).  
October 2nd - Rainham Horticultural Society, Talk Alpine  
Plants - Tim Ingram, 7.30pm Rainham Cricket Club,  
Berengrave Lane, New members welcome, ring 366276  
October 2nd - 5th - Gillingham Dramatic Society, 'Jekyll  
& Hyde, Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone. Tickets £10 - £14  
online www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk or from the box office  
01634 372322 or 01622 758611  
October 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Musical  
Entertainment by Steve Erickson (see 12th Sept).  
October 3rd - Women's Fellowship Group, Church  
Room, St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, New  
members are very welcome.  
October 5th - Autumn Plant Sale, Upchurch Horticultural  
Society, Co-op Garden, Upchurch, 01634 373723

October 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
Meet Stephen Manning, 07551 712438 Holly Hill car  
park near Holly Hill House DA13 0UB for 10.25 miles  
Walking the North Downs Way section 7, No dogs.  
October 5th - RAMASES, 10.00am - 4.30pm, 'Aspects  
of the Old Kingdom', Newington Village Hall, tickets  
£25, includes cold buffet, ramasesnk@hotmail.com or  
contact 07184 292716 or bpetersen@live.co.uk  
October 5th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 7th Sept).  
October 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
Meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033  
Hollingbourne Railway Station ME17 1TX for a 5 mile  
walk, dogs allowed.  
October 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Ade 01634  
306405 10.00am Headcorn High Street pay & display  
car park TQ834442 TN27 9NE for 7 mile flat walk  
Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches available.  
October 8th - NSPCC Curry Night, Spice Fusion,  
Deanwood Drive, Rainham, 8.00pm Three Course meal  
- £20 per head from 01634 865286 or 01634 231003  
October 9th - Charity Tea Dance, Tesco Retired Staff  
Association raising funds for Kent Air Ambulance, 2.00  
- 4.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, Admission  
£3.50 includes tea and biscuits  
October 11th - Wigmore Community and Residents  
Association - WCRA Autumn Drop, open to all  
Residents of Wigmore, 7.30 - 9.00pm, Wigmore  
Library, Details 01634 378769  
October 11th - Demelza Evening of Entertainment,  
Rainham United Services Club, 7.30pm Tickets £12  
(includes buffet) from 01634 234973 or 01795 845272.

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