

ACTION FORUM

OCTOBER 2013
NUMBER 492

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



Joe Ennis visits Reculver this month in his Nature Notes on page 8. This picture postcard of 'South View, Reculver, 1800' was sent to my mother in 1927 just because the sender, a relative, thought she would like the card. I am not sure whether it was the picture or the rather gruesome information on the back he thought she would like! The caption reads:-'The Roman foundation, or Sacrificial Brick, is 24 inches long near the North Tower, under which is placed a live baby, as was the custom in AD2. They were under the impression that all the time the babe was there it was a living building and nothing could destroy it because it was a living sacrifice. When laying a foundation stone in England today we put the King's head underneath (coins) which is taken from the above custom.'

Robert J. Kitney

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Editorial

It has been a funny old season in the garden this year. The cold wet spring meant our seedlings took a long time to get going – in fact I wondered if some of the beans would ever germinate – but eventually they did and once the warm sunshine arrived everything sprang into life and you could almost watch them growing. So far so good but of course, as always, with all the plants needing attention at once some were bound to lose out. The tomatoes were terribly late arriving in their final growing positions and repaid us by hardly bothering to ripen despite all those long, hot, sunny days! Just as a few shades of red appeared autumn came with damper conditions and almost overnight the whole lot succumbed to blight. I think I will give up on tomatoes for the next few years. The beans did not fair much better. They put their heart and soul into producing a magnificent crop and we did have many meals, and I have a freezer bursting at the seams, but whilst they were still in their prime they were attacked by another of our constant threats – the rabbits. I am beginning to know how Mr Macgregor felt about that naughty Peter Rabbit. The trouble with building a rabbit proof cage is that when the pests manage to burrow their way in it is incredibly difficult to get rid of them. Late on in the season they discovered that the stems tasted exceptionally good and proceeded to chew their way through almost the entire row. If they had just chomped their way through the lower hanging beans I would not have minded as much – we had plenty to spare – but by attacking the main stem they effectively wiped out theirs and our food supply. Still the peas and sweet corn were good, the courgettes, onions and cabbages are doing well, some of our best crops for years so it is not all bad news, and the cage is keeping the birds off our taller brassicas so it is fulfilling part of its intended purpose. At least there is always something to marvel at in a garden, you certainly never have time to get bored. Autumn is very definitely with us now. On several occasions we have had very misty mornings, the sun sometimes manages to break through and then we have yet another glorious day but as the days shorten all too soon the daylight fades and we are reminded that long winter nights are not far away. Still before that happens we have lots to do this month, there are many activities listed in our pages, exhibitions, quizzes, concerts, walks and the inevitable start to the Christmas Bazaar season. Do please read on and

discover the items that interest you, until November have a very happy month and we will be with you again then.

Correspondence

BEES & POLLINATION

Dear Editor,

There has been a lot of media coverage lately about the plight of our pollinators and the potential long term impact on our environment, and ultimately our lives, if nothing is done to help them.

Over the years our small garden has evolved into a wildlife friendly zone with bee and butterfly friendly plants and micro habitats. Our interests have grown, one thing leading to another, and recently we took a beekeeping course. Alas our garden is too small for us to keep bees.

We are looking for anyone who would be interested in allowing us to keep some hives, as a hobby, on their land to help in pollination.

If any of your readers can help please contact us on 01634 234566.

Kind Regards
Carson & Pauline Holmes

WCRA - AUTUMN DROP IN

Dear Editor

Once again Wigmore Community and Residents Association will be holding their 'Autumn Drop In' at Wigmore Library. 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.

The event will be held on Friday 11th October, starting at 7.30pm finishing just after 9.00pm.

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

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.)

CINDERELLA

Dear Editor,

Three Towns Theatre Company is putting on Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at The Brook Theatre from 31st October to 2nd November. Tickets start from £12 and the box office number is 01634 338338. Shows are at 7.30pm nightly with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Cinderella - the Musical', has beautiful music by Richard Rodgers with the book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, it is based upon the fairy tale of Cinderella. The story is about a young girl forced into a life of servitude by her cruel stepmother and self-centered stepsisters, who all dream of a better life. With the help of her Fairy Godmother, Cinderella is transformed into a Princess and finds her Prince. Given the Three Towns special touch with great directing and choreography it is a show not to be missed!

Many thanks
Gwyneth Loft

CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor

We are holding our annual Craft Fair on Saturday November 23rd, 1.30 to 4.00pm at Rainham Methodist Church Hall (on the corner of Station Road and Wakeley Road, Rainham). Admission is 30p and Refreshments will be available.

We have spaces to spare (£8 each) as several of our regular crafters are unable to be there. For more information please contact Ruth on 01634 389502.

Yours sincerely
Ruth Kitney

BREDHURST MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Dear Editor

Next year is the centenary of the outbreak of WWI, "The Great War" and I believe there is a national project being undertaken to research the story behind the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

I am researching the history of local names and I'd be grateful for any additional information that could be supplied by your readers on the following listed on the memorial plaque situated in St Peter's church, Bredhurst. Some of the names have Rainham and Gillingham connections:

Johnson, Charles Alfred, L/Cpl 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 9.9.16 aged 25. Born Bredhurst, enlisted Rainham. Charles' brother

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Edmund Johnson is also commemorated on the plaque. He was a private in 'A' Company, 10th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal E. Kent and W. Kent Yeomanry). Killed in action 11.8.18 aged 35. Lived in Bredhurst, enlisted in Rainham.

Akhurst, John William, Private 1st Battalion, the Buffs (E. Kent Regt). Died 30.3.17 aged 24. Resided Bredhurst, enlisted Canterbury.

Mason, William James, Rifleman 2nd/17th (County of London) Battalion, (Poplar & Stepney Rifles), London Regiment. Died 20.2.18 aged 21. Born and resided Bredhurst. Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery.

Brooks, Frederick, Gunner, 269th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, died 4.2.19 aged 21. Buried St Peter's churchyard, Bredhurst (died Balham hospital).

I have basic details from the website www.kentfallen.com, but if anyone has personal stories remembered by their parents etc, it would be really good to get a picture of the men behind the names.

Many thanks.
Isobel Whatrup
01634 360 183

e-mail - thomas@whatrup.freemove.co.uk

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Diary 2013

No charge is made for Diary entries
Copy should be in writing either by email to
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Diary Copy Date: 15th October

- October 5th - Autumn Plant Sale, Upchurch Horticultural Society, Co-op Garden, Upchurch, 01634 373723
- October 5th - Macklands P.A.C.T. Wine & Wisdom, St. Margaret's Millennium Centre, 7.30pm, Teams up to 8, £5 pp, Bring your own drinks & nibbles ring 366183.
- October 5th - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Memorial Hall, Rock Avenue Gillingham, 2.00pm Admission 20p
- October 5th - 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, 01634 366189 or 388546.
- October 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033 Hollingbourne Railway Station ME17 1TX 5 mile walk Harps Wood and Hollingbourne Manor, dogs allowed.
- October 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Ade 01634 306405 10.00am Headcorn High Street pay & display car park next to Sainsburys (free on Sundays) 7 mile flat walk Bring picnic lunch Pub at end with lunches
- October 6th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, Farthing Corner M2 Services, Service 6.30pm, Karen Willis
- October 7th - Parkwood Leisure Club, St Paul's Church, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harvest Service - bring tins, new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 373594
- October 7th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, AGM and Harvest Supper, New members welcome, £1.50 per visit includes refreshments, ring Sue 01634 230639.
- October 8th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, AGM, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 8.00pm visitors welcome. Ring Miss E Boyes 0147 482 3606
- 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 - East Medway U3A Monthly Meeting 2.00pm, Rainham Mark Social Club. Find out all about the U3A & our Interest Groups, ring 0789 589 0635
- October 9th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Imposed workshop, information ring 01622 884657, 01795 472973 or 01634 863034

- October 9th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Mrs. Julia Page - Dreamy, Drowsy Loose, 01634 389966
- October 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Hempstead Valley, Past Present & Future - Mark Rumlitt, Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
- October 9th - Charity Tea Dance, Tesco Retired Staff Association for Kent Air Ambulance, 2.00 - 4.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, Admission £3.50
- October 10th - Apple Day, Hillyfields 11.00am - 3.00pm Fun and games for everyone
- October 10th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall 2.00 - 4.00pm, Neighbourhood Watch, new members welcome ring 01634 366907.
- October 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Bingo, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507 for details.
- October 10th - 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
- October 11th - 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 364309
- October 11th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, Byron School, Gillingham, 7.15pm, Gunpowder Faversham Society - Rod Morley/John Breeze, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982
- October 11th - Wigmore Community and Residents Association - Autumn Drop, all Residents of Wigmore, 7.30 - 9.00pm, Wigmore Library, 01634 378769
- October 11th - Demelza Evening of Entertainment, Rainham United Services Club, 7.30pm Tickets £12 (includes buffet) 01634 234973 or 01795 845272.
- October 12th - Sewing Together, Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Twydall Primary School, £2 entry, craft sale and demonstrations.

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- October 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike 07855929404 10.00am Southern tower of Tower Bridge, West Side, 7 miles along Thames path to Albert Bridge, Bring picnic, Pubs at end with meals
- October 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Roger Danks 07866 971819 Cuxton Railway Station (park in Station Road) 5 mile walk
- October 13th - Riverside Country Park, Volunteer Task Day 10.00am - 2.00pm Refreshments 01634 337432
- October 13th - Wags and Walkies for Wisdom Hospice, 3 mile sponsored dog walk starting The Three Tuns Public House, Lower Halstow, 9.30am. All welcome, Entry £5 adults, under 12s and dogs - free
- October 13th - Harvest Tea, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 3.30 - 6.00pm, free invitation ring 01634 379062 or 01634 373840. Transport can be arranged.
- October 14th - Dementia Café, St Paul's Church, Long Catlis Road, 1.00 - 3.00pm. All welcome, free refreshments, information Sylvia Wolfson 07557 111060 or email sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk
- October 14th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (7th Oct).
- October 14th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays 2.00 - 4.30pm details 01634 230500
- October 14th - Monday Hub, St Pauls Church, Parkwood, 10.00am - 12.30pm, light refreshments, conversation, games etc. All welcome ring 01634 230780 for details.
- October 14th - Rainham Wives, 'Memory Makers' talk by Susan Pope, (see 7th Oct).
- October 14th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday evening each month ring Julie 01634 364309
- October 14th - Medway Organ Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 10.00pm, 01634 234694
- October 15th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.00, Transatlantic Travels - Mike Mockler. For Walks see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.
- October 15th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, AGM, ring 232998 for details.
- October 16th - Hempstead Active Retirement Association Scout Hall, Duke's Meadow Drive, 2.00pm.
- October 16th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Dr Simon Charlesworth illustrated talk 'A World of Lavender', new members welcome ring 01634 233554 for details.

- October 17th - Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 - 4.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker 'A Teenage Bride in Africa in 1950's, Visitors welcome for small entry charge. Ring 01634 366276
- October 17th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, Tea and Chat, (see 10th Oct).
- October 17th - Wigmore Thursday Club, The Land Army, Moira Bostock, (see 10th Oct).
- October 18th - WCRA 'Songs from the Show', 8.00pm at Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore. Tickets £8 adults, £5 children from Mark 01634 232526 or Bob 01634 378769 all profits Demelza House Children's Hospice.
- October 18th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, Clairvoyant Evening, Robin Hodson (see 6th Oct).
- October 18th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Derek Nash Band featuring Louis Marshall on vocals. Admission £10, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.
- October 19th - Rainham South Councillors surgery, Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am - 12 noon, no appointment necessary.
- October 19th - Quiz Night, Oasthouse Community Centre, 7.30pm, Admission £2, Members £1.50, Rolls available 60p, details 01634 710553
- October 19th - Friends of St Margaret's Church, Knowledge & Nibbles Evening, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm prompt, Food provided, bring your own drinks & glasses, Tables of 8 - £6 per person, Advance booking only Kay 230430 or Lesley 379796
- October 19th - Rainham Ladies Choir with UK Paper Band (Sittingbourne) Raffle/programmes in aid of Medway Autism Group, Queen's Hall, Corn Exchange, Rochester 7.30pm, Tickets £10 (£5 child, 12 and under) 01634 370797 or www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk
- October 19th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 5th Oct)
- October 19th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm, Ballroom - Latin - Sequence dancing, Enquiries 01634 363738
- October 20th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike 07855 929404, 10.00am White Hart Pub at Cuxton, (do not use Pub Car Park) 12.5 miles at least two steep climbs. Bring packed lunch for picnic en route. Pub at end.
- October 20th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Bob/Kath 10.00am Chequers Pub, Loose Hill TQ758521 ME15 0BL for 4 mile walk from Loose towards Coxheath to Pimps Court and on to Loose Valley. Pub at end.

Continued on Page 11

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All welcome please come and make the evening a
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Tickets £8 adults, £5 children from

Mark 01634 232526 or Bob 01634 378769

All profits to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

CONCERT

Rainham Ladies Choir in concert with

the UK Paper Band (Sittingbourne)

Saturday 19th October, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Raffle/programmes in aid of MAGIC

(Medway Autism Group and Information Centre)

The Queen's Hall, Corn Exchange, Rochester

Tickets £10 (£5 child, 12 and under)

Ring 01634 370797 or 01634 613715

www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk

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Tickets, £5 per person, under 16s free of charge

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KNOWLEDGE & NIBBLES EVENING

The Friends of St Margaret's Church

The Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham

Saturday 19th October, 7.30pm (prompt start)

Food provided

Please bring your own drinks & glasses

Tables of 8 - £6 per person

Advance booking essential

Contact Kay 01634 230430 or Lesley 379796

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Upchurch Short Mat Bowls Club

Saturday 26th October, 7.30pm

Upchurch Village Hall

Admission £8, includes jacket potato

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Brenda 01634 388425 or Julia 01634 373723

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REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT

Upchurch Choral Society

Saturday 9th November, 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Upchurch

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

In September of last year Mrs Ennis and I paid a visit to Reculver Country Park, to the east of Herne Bay. The twin towers of the former St Mary's church are a distinctive feature, not only of the park itself, but also of a long stretch of the north Kent coast. The towers are visible for miles around and have guided sailors in the Thames for centuries. Also within the confines of the park are the remains of a Roman fort, the King Ethelbert Inn and a visitor centre run by Kent Wildlife Trust.

In Britain we have a long and varied coastline. Our seashores consist of a wide range of coastal habitats, including mud, sand, shingle, chalk cliff and rock. They are home to an abundance of plant and animal life. The seashore at Reculver consists of mud and sand interspersed with surrogate rocks in the form of weed covered concrete blocks and granite boulders. We chose to visit the park on a day when Kent Wildlife Trust was organising a hunt for "seashore mini beasts". Fishing nets and plastic buckets were provided and two members of the Trust stood by to identify, where necessary, what had been found. Mrs Ennis and I joined in the excitement and enthusiasm created by a large number of parents and children. On the rocks we found whelks, limpets, mussels, and a sea anemone. The latter is a plant-like animal that clings to rocks and has tentacles which are used for finding any food floating by in the water. In the pools between the rocks we came across crabs, common shrimps, a starfish and a common blenny, which is a sea version of the fresh water bullhead, having a blunt head and a tapering body. One of the crabs was a common hermit crab, which takes over the empty shell of a dog whelk or wrinkle. One can sometimes see what appears to be a whelk or wrinkle moving at an unexpected speed across the bottom of a pool. Closer examination reveals that a head and a number of legs are sticking out of an empty shell, which has been taken over by a hermit crab.

Seaweeds we came across included sea lettuce, which has two pale green fronds resembling the leaves of a rather limp lettuce and jelly buttons which look like

an irregular blob of brown jelly. Bladder wrack, however, was the commonest seaweed; it has spherical gas filled bladders along the fronds permitting the plant to float upright when the tide is in. It is a great favourite with children because, when squeezed, the bladders explode with a loud "pop". Along the tide line we picked up razor shells, mermaids' purse (which is the egg case of a dog fish), a common whelk egg case (which resemble a bunch of shrivelled grapes) and some cuttlefish bone (which supports the long soft body of the fish). All in all, we much enjoyed our hunt for seashore mini beasts.

We had a cup of coffee in a cafe within the park and then headed for the twin towers of the former St Mary's Church. We noticed that a large area of grass near to the church was festooned with thousands of long threads of silk. These are spun by young money spiders as a means of dispersal from the place where they were born. The newly born spiders climb up long stems of grass, face the breeze and then spin a strand of silk which eventually generates enough lift to send the creatures skywards. This spectacle occurs mostly in late summer and early autumn, on warm sunny days, when the ground is warmed by the sun. As air currents rise, the young spiders can be carried high into the sky. It was not clear to us whether the threads on the grass at Reculver were attached to young spiders still trying to take off or whether they had brought spiderlings from their birth places elsewhere. As our attention moved away from the spiders' webs, we noticed a small flock of sand martins flying overhead, in the direction of the English Channel. The birds are one of the first of our spring migrants to appear in this country, arriving from mid March onwards. They move south again from late July to September, with stragglers in October. One of the largest colonies of sand martins in Kent, some 100 or more pairs, can be found nesting in Bishopstone Cliffs, about a mile away from where we stood. The birds we saw migrating were likely to have been nesting in the north of England, rather than locally. A few fulmars spend their summer on the cliffs between Reculver and Bishopstone although it is rare for them to breed successfully. Most of them are likely, in any case, to be non-breeding juveniles. By

September all fulmars will have returned to a life on the ocean, where they can often be seen following trawlers.

Joe Ennis

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED Do You Have a Few Hours to Spare?

HANDS has for many years been providing practical help to the local community through support from our volunteers. Much of our work is arranging transport for elderly and disabled clients to enable them to attend medical appointments, day-centres, shopping and social visits etc. If you would like to contribute something to your community and have tact, patience and an ability to laugh at the ludicrous side of life, why not join us as a volunteer driver? We need more drivers so that we can extend our service, so if you have spare time and a car please help us continue this important service. It doesn't matter if you only have a few hours a week to spare, every little helps. For details contact Jan Excell Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre 01634 362119 enquiries@gillinghamvolunteercentre.com

HARMONY

Looking for a choral performance for an event? Harmony is a prize-winning, Medway-based female vocal harmony group available to perform at local events, weddings, parties. We are a group of friends who love to sing together performing songs, traditional and modern, in harmony. As well as performing at our own concerts and other events, we have won numerous prizes at music festivals and competitions including the Brewer's Fayre National 'Carol Factor' competition 2012. We are now planning our 2014 schedule but may still be able to fit in performances in the run-up to Christmas 2013. For more information, see our website: www.harmonykent.com or find us on Facebook (Harmony Kent), You Tube (harmonykent) and Twitter (@harmonykent) Contacts: email: harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk or ring Wendy 07816 159668; Lynne 07811 703154; or Brenda 07788 998443

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WAGS & WALKIES FOR WISDOM HOSPICE

Calling all Dog Lovers! Come and join The Friends for a Sunday morning Mooch with your Pooch. Wags & Walkies is a 3 mile sponsored dog walk taking place on Sunday 13th October, starting at The Three Tuns Public House in Lower Halstow at 9.30am. Walkers will enjoy a picturesque route along the Saxon Shore Way taking in views of the River Medway and surrounding countryside. Everyone is welcome, with or without a canine companion. Entry is just £5 for adults, while children (under 12) and dogs can take part free of charge. We also encourage you to ask your friends and family to sponsor your pooch, it's not every day that your four-legged friend walks 3 miles!

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Saturday 2nd November, 10.00am – 2.30pm
St. Margaret's Millennium Centre.
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Friday 15th November, 7.30pm
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October 20th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, Meet Anne Bond and Pat Wells 07778
302866, South Park car park, Armstrong Road,
Maidstone for a 5 mile walk via Boughton Monchelsea
and Loose Valley, varied terrain, some stiles, No dogs.
October 21st - Parkwood Leisure Club, Phill,
Blytheswood Shoe Boxes. (see 7th Oct).
October 21st - Wigmore RVS Darby & Joan Autumn
Fair, Howard Hall, Wigmore, 2.15pm admission 25p.
Stalls and refreshment. £10 raffle prize, 01634 362662
October 21st - Wigmore WI, Julia Davies - Cookery, St
Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive,
7.30pm, Visitors welcome, Ring 01634 263405
October 21st - Rainham Wives, 'A Portrait of Matt
Monroe' illustrated talk by John Pearce, (see 7th Oct).
October 21st - Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Sir Jeremy
Elwes talk 'The Honours System, competition -
Autumn Leaves, ring 01634 262577 for more details.
October 22nd - BWAG Birds of Prey - Up Close, 7.30pm,
Bredhurst Village Hall, Tickets only in advance £5pp,
child free 07813 785940 bwag@vanessajones.plus.com
October 23rd - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Handbag
and Jewellery Sale, (see 9th Oct).
October 24th - Woodcraft Workshop: Rustic Furniture,
9.30am - 4.00pm, Suitable for beginners. 01634
292062 or email ranscombe@plantlife.org.uk
October 24th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Golden Years of
Television (see 10th Oct).
October 24th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Travels with my
Camera - Tony Mitchell, (see 10th Oct).
October 24th - GHS, Star Meadow Sports Club, Darland
Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Talk - 'Staying Healthy,
Medicinal Plants', details www.gillinghamhs.org.uk
October 25th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron
Primary School, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'The River Medway,
from source to East Farleigh' - Graham Johnson, All
welcome, contact Pat Meredith 01634 362683

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October 25th - HANDS & Gillingham Volunteer Centre,
Quiz, Dobbies Garden World, 7.30pm, Light supper
bring own drinks, Free Parking, Tables up to 6, £6
each, Ann 01634 815430 or Wendy 07816 159668
October 26th - Autumn Show, Upchurch Horticultural
Society, 2.00pm, Presentations 3.30pm, Village Hall,
Upchurch, details ring Steve 01634 373723
October 26th - Halloween Dance, Upchurch Short Mat
Bowls Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall, £8,
includes jacket potato, tickets and details ring Brenda
01634 388425 or Julia 01634 373723
October 26th - Brain Tumour Charity, Fund Raising Quiz,
Twydall Church Hall, 7.45 - 10.00pm, Ring Olwen
01634 263622 to book £5 per person.
October 26th - Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm, St Margaret's
Millennium Centre, Rainham Teams up to 8, £5 per
person, Bring own drinks and nibbles, Medway Branch
of The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Ring 01634 238502
or 01634 374938 or email
JaneMSMedway@gmail.com to book
October 27th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Chris/Karl
01634 360270 10.00am The Market Car Park,
Rochester (Fee) 11 miles steep climb to North Downs
Way and back to Rochester Cathedral. Bring picnic
October 27th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, Meet Pearl Stevens 07724 602929 Camer
Park car park, Meopham for a 5 mile flat walk through
fields, woodland and orchards, no stiles, No dogs.
October 27th - Upchurch Farmers Market, 10.00am -
1.00pm, Village Hall, Variety of stalls, Good quality at
reasonable prices, details from Andrea 01634 361040
October 27th - Harvest Tea, (see 13th Oct).
October 28th - Monday Hub (see 14th Oct).
October 28th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (7th Oct).
October 28th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 14th Oct).
October 29th - Riverside Country Park, Family Discovery
Walk 10.00am - 12noon Join one of the rangers
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the family, £2 per person, ring 01634 337432
October 30th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Autumn
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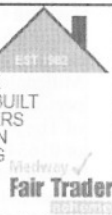
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Diary 2013

October 31st - Riverside Country Park, Halloween Masks
10.00am - 12noon for accompanied children aged four
to 12 years, £2 per child ring 01634 337432

October 31st - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service
followed by a quiz, (see 10th Oct).

October 31st - Hempstead Leisure Club, (see 10th Oct).

October 31st - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,
7.30pm, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

October 31st - November 2nd - Cinderella, Brook
Theatre, 7.30pm, Sat Matinee 2.30pm. Tickets from
£12, box office 01634 33833.

November 2nd - Grand Autumn Bazaar, St. Margaret's
Church, Rainham, 10.00am - 2.30pm, Millennium
Centre. Entrance 50p Details Maggie M. 01795 475907

November 2nd - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Shaw
Memorial Hall, Rock Avenue 2.00 pm Admission 20p

November 2nd - Upchurch Family Fireworks, Westmoor
Farm off A2, Rainham, Gates open 5.30pm, £5 under
16, £7 adult, £20 Family Ticket Car parking fee, pay at
the gate, see www.upchurchfireworks.co.uk or email
info@upchurchfireworks.co.uk

November 2nd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 5th Oct).

November 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Hoo St
Werburgh car park corner Church Street & Stoke Road

4.5 mile flat walk along sea wall & farmland, No dogs.
November 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham
07989 753278, 10.00am, Camer Country Park near Sole

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November 3rd - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, Farthing
Corner M2 Services, Service 6.30pm, Francis Stadden
November 4th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Famous and
Infamous Ladies in Kent, (see 7th Oct).

November 4th - Rainham Wives, 'Military Medals'
illustrated talk and valuations - Glenn Jones, (7th Oct).

November 5th - Dementia Café, (see 14th Oct).

November 5th - GHS Floral Art Group, Fireworks - a
Polychromatic arrangement, (see 15th Oct).

November 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Talk
Vertical Gardening - wall shrubs & climbers Steve
Bradley, 7.30pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave
Lane, Rainham. New members welcome, ring 366276

November 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Musical
Entertainment by Kingfisher Singers, (see 10th Oct).

November 7th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Theatrical
Tales (see 10th Oct).

November 8th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, Victorian Doctors - Toni Mount, (11th Oct).

November 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438

Bluebell Hill picnic site ME5 9RG for a 11 miles
walking the North Downs Way (section 8)

November 9th - Upchurch Choral Society, Remembrance
Day Concert, 7.30pm, St. Mary's Church, Tickets £5 on
the door or 01634 361897 Refreshments

November 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Sunday
November 10th, meet Mike 07855 929404, 10.00am,
Higham Railway Station - free parking. for a 7.5 mile
very flat walk, Bring snack for mid walk break.

November 10th, meet Mike 07855 929404, 10.00am,
Higham Railway Station - free parking. for a 7.5 mile
very flat walk, Bring snack for mid walk break.

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ACTION FORUM

OCTOBER 2013
NUMBER 492

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



Joe Ennis visits Reculver this month in his Nature Notes on page 8. This picture postcard of 'South View, Reculver, 1800' was sent to my mother in 1927 just because the sender, a relative, thought she would like the card. I am not sure whether it was the picture or the rather gruesome information on the back he thought she would like! The caption reads:-'The Roman foundation, or Sacrificial Brick, is 24 inches long near the North Tower, under which is placed a live baby, as was the custom in AD2. They were under the impression that all the time the babe was there it was a living building and nothing could destroy it because it was a living sacrifice. When laying a foundation stone in England today we put the King's head underneath (coins) which is taken from the above custom.'

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