

ACTION FORUM

JANUARY /
FEBRUARY 2014
NUMBER 495

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



Woodside Road, Wigmore, looking West.

Woodside, Wigmore. In 1926 there were only 13 properties in what was then named Woodside Road. These were not numbered but each had a name such as: Thistledene, The Moorings, Canuteland, Hazelmere, Winithdene, Jacksonville, Etheldene, Hazelwood, Sunnyside, Rosemond Nursery, May Lodge, Wouldham Lodge and Eunice Lodge. I wonder if any of these names are still in use. This was the period that Alan Major speaks of in his letter on page 2 when he accompanied his father on his delivery rounds. One large house being built in Woodside was so near completion at the outbreak of World War 2 that special permission was granted to finish the roof even though all building work had been prohibited for the duration of the war.

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Editorial

A Very Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had a great Christmas. Unusually for us we spent the time away from home, but for a very special reason getting to know our new grand daughter. Helena Elizabeth (named after her great grandmother) arrived, fashionably eleven days late, about a week before Christmas Day to her proud parents Rachel and Paul. She is a big baby and quickly getting the idea of feeding and sleeping so hopefully they will not have too much trouble! We are incredibly lucky that in the space of a couple of years we have amassed two grandsons and now a little girl, we certainly would not have imagined it a few years ago. I saw a quote the other day 'If I knew how great being a grandparent was I would have missed out being a parent' I am sure all you grandparents out there know how the author felt.

Back in the mid 1980s our neighbours planted a small eucalyptus tree at the bottom of their garden. Over the years it grew and grew and grew, slightly disrupted by the 1987 hurricane which pushed it sideways but it was pulled upright again and continued on its steady path upwards. It became a magnificent specimen and was made the subject of a tree preservation order which meant that the council tree officer would not sanction any significant reduction in its size, even though it had already shed branches, once during a late snow storm with very wet and heavy flakes and again a couple of times during high winds. Fortunately no major damage was done on any of these occasions and no one was in the way to be injured but I had been told that the limbs can drop at any time for no apparent reason so that was a bit more worrying. However during one of the stormy periods just before Christmas the whole tree uprooted, luckily during the early hours of the morning, and crashed at an angle across our garden and next door. It could have been much worse, if it had to fall it selected just about the right angle, yes it has demolished a shed and some fencing but missed all the more important structures around. On the ground you appreciate the dimensions of a fifty foot plus tree, the circumference of the main trunk is enormous and the head of the tree, still in full leaf of course, covered a large area. The tree surgeon who has helped clear it up told us a large proportion of the uprooted trees he has been called to are eucalyptus because they are only surface rooted. Rather than preserving these non native species the local tree

officers should ensure that they are kept at a size that poses no threat to life and property or better still replace them with native trees that support our birds butterflies and other wildlife.

January and February can be dreary months, but the days are getting longer and spring is round the corner so take a deep breath, ignore the wind and the rain and in no time we will be with you again in March looking forward to the summer! Have a good month.

Correspondence

HEMPSTEAD

Dear Editor,

The article by RAD re Hempstead in August 2013 Action Forum revived memories of a sometimes tiring childhood experience in the late 1930s. On Saturdays I would help my father Percy Major, a bread and grocery roundsman for Rainham Co-op, deliver some of the ordered items. We drove up Maidstone Road and turned right to what I now assume has become Wigmore and Hempstead along Woodside. Eventually the road petered out to a track so we had to stop, put the grocery orders into handled baskets, lock the van and set off along the track. To me aged 9 or 10 it seemed like ages as we trudged through woodland but eventually we emerged into a cleared area. Here there were wooden shed like dwellings and other constructions, sometimes chickens in a run and almost always a barking dog. The ordered items were handed to the occupant and I presume they paid my father before we retraced our steps and repeated the 'adventure' down other tracks several times during the day.

Incidentally after the First World War a scheme was introduced to assist ex-servicemen set themselves up in business as smallholders, poultry farmers etc using wooded land. A notable one was at Bromley Green near Ashford. Sadly most who took part ended up in debt and sold out. My father was offered sweet chestnut woodland in that area, as an investment, at £5 a strip, for as many long strips as were required. The snag was a considerable number of strips were needed to get a wide enough area of land to build a property plus the chestnut trees had to be felled and the land cleared. He declined the offer, but in later years seeing how the land value increased as building development of the area boomed he thought if only he had bought a few strips and held on to them until a developer wanted them, you never know....

Yours sincerely
Alan Major
41 Heaton Road
Canterbury CT1 3PY

FORTY THREE GOLDEN YEARS

Gordon Lucas started helping at the Parish Church in Rainham mainly for the evening services in June 1970. After having been involved with the music at St Margaret's for forty-three years he feels the time

has come to step down. Here he writes of his time at St Margaret's.

At this time (1970s) I held the post of Assistant Organist at the Royal Dockyard Church Chatham. In April 1980 I was appointed to be the Assistant Organist at St. Margaret's. It has been a truly wonderful experience and I have enjoyed every minute. Accompanying the choir especially anthems such as Balfour Gardiner's "Evening Hymn". It has been good to play for the congregation heartily singing hymns and psalms. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with clergy, organists and the choir at Rainham. At the special celebration of Choral Evensong in recognition of my service the choir with former members of the choir sang Introit - O Most Merciful by Charles Wood, Psalm 65 Chant by G H Garrett, Service setting in D minor by T A Walmisley, Anthem - Blessed be the God and Father by S S Wesley.

I have been obsessed with the organ since I was a child. Like most organists I was a choir boy and subsequently studied the piano and organ. It has been very satisfying to serve the parish through the ministry of music over the past years, a ministry which I hope to be able to continue albeit on a much reduced scale. I feel enormously privileged being able to play here at Rainham with its interesting organ. I am very happy to hand on my post to a successor safe in the knowledge that there is a thriving musical ministry at St Margaret's. In recognition of my service the Vicar and Church Wardens have awarded me the title "Organist Emeritus".

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G. H.S FLORAL ART GROUP

Our floral art group has a long history back to the last war but due to age and illness among our members we are now reduced to 7 ladies who are working hard to attract new members to keep our group going. We have a long and hardworking history with shows, flower festivals and many demonstrations including recent ones at Dobbies. It will be tragic if all this success and skill fades away but unless we can meet new people who are interested in flower arranging I am afraid it will. All skills are welcome, and not a

great financial outlay is required to start - in fact you can come to your first meeting free! Meet the girls and have a cuppa with us. If you have an evening to spare come along - we are friendly and there is plenty of banter during the meeting. Our first meeting is at 7.30pm on January 21st and the next on February 18th please do come. Contact Kaye for further details 01634 232998.

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Diary 2014

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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: 18th February

January 18th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10am meet Stephen Manning, 07551 712438, Charing Village car park off School Road TN27 0JN Walking the North Downs Way section 10 a hard 9.5 mile walk, No dogs.
January 18th - Beekeeping Course, 10 weeks 10.00am - 12noon, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, details from Pat Clare 01634 233748 or patclare89@me.com
January 18th - Medway Folk Dance Club, 7.30 - 10.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gill New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner, for details ring 01634 366189 or 388546.
January 19th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Ray, 10.00am Capstone Park lower car park (by the lake) for 4.5 mile walk. Surprisingly good views, Pub at end.
January 19th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet David Brown, 01634 373833 Camer Country Park car park DA13 0XT for a moderate/easy 4.75 mile circular walk, generally flat, muddy if wet
January 20th, 27th & Feb 3rd - Baby Massage Course, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, 10.00 - 11.00am, £5 for course, contact Elaine Wheeler 01634 379360 or email babymassage@the139club.co.uk
January 20th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome, details 01634 230500
January 20th - Parkwood Leisure Club, New Years Party, St Paul's Church, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome ring 01634 373594 for details
January 20th - Rainham Evening WI, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Mr Paul Beard - 'Barnardos', competition - Mug, ring 01634 262577 for details.
January 20th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 8.00pm, Bingo With a Difference, New members welcome, £1.50 per visit includes refreshments, for details ring Sue 01634 230639.
January 21st - RSPB Medway Local Group, Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.45pm, £3.00. Easy Way to Identify Gulls - David Darrell-Lambert. For Walks see www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

January 21st - Floral Art Group United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm, Seed Collage - own choice of size, for more information contact Kaye 01634 232998.
January 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Jim, 10.00am Otford village car park. TQ526594 TN14 5PQ for 8 mile lovely walk along the NDW. Picnic lunch midway, pub and tea room at the end.
January 22nd - Bereavement Group 1.00pm, Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, details 01634 788546 or 07986 699785
January 22nd - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Village Hall, Hempstead, 8.00pm, A Fun Music Presentation - John Pearce, details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
January 23rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Demelza Hospice Care, Laura Smyth, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507
January 23rd - GHS, Star Meadow Sports Club, Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Garden Videos details email@gillinghamhs.org.uk
January 23, 24, 25, 31, & 1st February - Cinderella, Oast House Theatre, 8.00pm Sat matinees 2.00 & 5.00pm 08448 793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
January 24th - 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.
January 24th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'Peru - trekking the Inca trail' - Steve Desson, Everyone welcome, Please come on the evening or contact Pat Meredith 01634 362683
January 25th - RAMASES, 2.30pm, Newington Village Hall, Jackie Garner 'The Wildlife Art of Ancient Egypt' Members £6.00, Guests £8.00 at the door. Contact ramasesnk@hotmail.com or John Dewey 01795 472316 for more details

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January 26th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Chris Morris, 01634 374923 07847 828249 Beltring, Old Whetsted Road off A228 just beyond the Hop Farm for an easy 5 mile flat walk in the Medway Valley, could be muddy if wet
January 26th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony and Ann 01634 406634, 10.00am Harrietsham Railway Station. TQ866529 ME17 1JA for 5 mile walk, Some slopes & stiles. Excellent views. Bring snack.
January 27th - Rainham Wives, Quiz Time plus Bring and Buy for our Charity, (see 20th Jan)
January 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike, 10.00am just north of Wrotham village (Old London Rd a dead end). TQ608597 TN15 7EA for 9 mile walk A Steep climb to Stanstead, for short pub stop or picnic lunch, then back through woods and fields via NDW
January 30th - Wigmore Thursday Club, AGM, (see 23rd Jan)
January 30th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, AGM and Social Evening, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038 for details.
January 31st - Fundraising Quiz Night HANDS & Gillingham Volunteer Centre, 7.30pm start. Dobbies Garden World, Light supper, BYOD Tickets £6 pp. Tables up to 6, Contact Ann 01634 815430
February 1st - Indoor Craft and Boot Fair, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, School Lane, ME9 7ES, Tables £6.50 each - New Bargain Board available for large items £1.50 per advert, refreshment, call Kay 01795 844408 or Lynne 01795 843679
February 1st - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 18th Jan)
February 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Roger Danks 07866 971819 Cuxton Railway Station car park in Station Road GR 714666 for a 5 mile moderate walk
February 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Jim, 10.00am Bredgar Village Hall (next to the school). TQ881603 ME9 8EX for 8 mile walk
February 3rd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 20th Jan)
February 3rd - Rainham Wives, History of the Royal variety Performance - talk by Dean Caston, (see 20th Jan)
February 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Being an Orchid Warden on a secret Kent reserve - Simon Curry, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.
February 7th - Medway Asthma Self Help Ladies Pamper Evening, Gillingham Golf Club, 7.00pm. Tickets £3 in

advance (£4 on the door). Treatments from £5 pay direct to stall holders medwayasthmaselfhelp@btconnect.com or 01634 855844 for details.
February 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham 07989753278, 10.00am Sole Street Station car park, Fee £1, for a 7 mile walk through fields and orchards, Bring picnic lunch Pub at end with lunches.
February 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet John Trebill 01634 244045 Wateringbury Station GR 692528 for a 3 - 4 mile easy fairly flat walk, could be muddy, No dogs.
February 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday evening 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
February 10th - Rainham Wives, Happy as Larry talk by author Larry Brooks, (see 20th Jan)
February 10th - Medway Organ Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Organist - Ryan Edward, ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694 for details.
February 11th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, Last Days of Music Hall & Variety - Wilf Lower, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm all visitors are made most welcome. Enquiries medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com
February 12th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Trials and Tribulations of a Public Speaker - Barbara Stevens, (see 22nd Jan)
February 12th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike, 9.25am Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre for 9.27am bus to Maidstone. Linear (Bus Pass) 8.5 mile Walk
February 13th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Table Games, (see 23rd Jan)
February 14th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, Byron School, Byron Road, Gillingham, 7.15pm, Not Tonight Josephine - Martin Heard, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982
February 14th, 15, 21 22nd - Mother Goose Pantomime, St Paul's Drama Group, GMC Community Hall, Third Avenue, Gill, 7.30pm, Sat 22nd 3.00pm, Adults £6, Cons £5, For further information ring 01634 852712
February 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Walking the North Downs Way Section 11 Broad Downs, Coldharbour Lane, Wye for 8.5 hard walk, ring for details, No dogs.

Continued on Page 11

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Members £6.00 Guests £8.00

Tickets on the day at the door.

Contact ramasesnk@hotmail.com or

John Dewey 01795 472316 for more details

FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT

HANDS & Gillingham Volunteer Centre

Friday 31st January doors open 7 for 7.30pm start.

Dobbies Garden World, Courtney Road,

Light supper will be provided

but please bring your own drinks

Tickets £6 per person. Tables of up to 6 people

Contact Ann 01634 815430 or Wendy 07816 159668

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THE RSPB MEDWAY LOCAL GROUP TALK,

Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham

18th February, 7.30 - 9.45 pm £3.00.

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North Kent Birds, RSPB & Saving Nature — Mike

Clark. For Walks see

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AFTERNOON CONCERT

Hempstead Village Fayre Group are organising an

afternoon concert in the Village Hall on Friday 21st

February at 2.00pm. This will be our 3rd annual

concert and this year we are pleased to announce our

signers will be "Harmony", a local vocal

harmony group who more than live up to their

name. Tickets are priced at £4 each which includes

tea & cake. Please contact Val Gorf for tickets or

further details on 01634 230214, or email

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Asked to name the bird that best portrays Christmas, most people would, I think, nominate the robin. That is presumably why the robin is such a common feature on Christmas cards, typically perched on the snow covered handle of a garden fork. The robin's popularity doubtless stems, in the main, from its tameness; it will take worms from around the feet of gardeners and can even be persuaded to enter houses in search of tit bits or to take crumbs from the hand. It has however been claimed that there is a historical reason for the robin's appearance on Christmas cards. Prior to 1861 the uniforms of postmen were predominantly red in colour and the men were given the nick-name of "Robins". The birds depicted in early Victorian Christmas cards represented, it has been claimed, the postman delivering the cards. After 1861, incidentally, postmen's uniforms were predominantly blue, with red collars and cuffs. Whatever the origin of the depiction of the robin on Christmas cards, some naturalists have reflected on the irony of the association of seasonal peace and goodwill with robins, a species that can be very aggressive and quite capable of killing another of its kind, even at Christmastime, in defence of its territory. Robins have finished moulting by the end of August and begin to establish their territories for the next breeding season. Immature robins develop a red breast during their first summer, so equipping them to stake a claim to a winter territory. When threatening rivals, the robin puffs out its red breast and sways from side to side. Most unusually in the bird world, the female robin also seeks to hold a territory in the winter. In a locality where there are many robins competing for a territory, fights will frequently break out over the boundaries. Both males and females proclaim their rights to the ownership of a future breeding area by singing. The robin's winter song is rarely quite so rich and eloquent as its spring one. It is usually plaintive in tone and somewhat thin and wispy. Robins can often be heard singing, on dark evenings around Christmas, in well-lit town gardens and parks.

Many ornithologists take the view that, however popular the robin may be on Christmas cards, it is the mistle thrush that is the true native minstrel during the festive season and the shortest days of the year. The mistle thrush is so named because of its fondness of mistletoe berries. It is much larger and greyer than the song thrush and has strikingly bold spots on its under parts. The song thrush scuttles across lawns, rarely venturing far from cover. On the other hand, the mistle thrush has a much more confident demeanour and is to be typically seen on playing fields, in search of worms, and bouncing across the grass with a puffed out chest. The song thrush can occasionally be heard singing at dawn during the winter, particularly if the weather is mild. However, if one hears a bird singing in wintry weather, from high in the tree tops, it will almost certainly be a mistle thrush. The bird perches on an exposed branch, even when the wind is howling, hence its alternative name of "storm cock". The mistle thrush's song is loud and far carrying and consists of repeated, fluting phrases. It is similar to that of the blackbird, one of our most accomplished songsters. Like the robin, the mistle thrush is not averse to a bit of aggression in defence of the territory which it occupies well in advance of spring and the breeding season. The thrush will often take control of any holly tree or bush within its territory which has an abundant supply of berries. It will fend off encroachment by any other birds with calls that constitute an uninviting mix of irritation and aggression and which sound like an old football rattle. Our largest thrush is capable of driving off even wood pigeons and squirrels with fierce diving attacks. Such jealous behaviour makes genetic sense for, as a species, the mistle thrush is one of the earliest nesters and those that reach February in tip-top condition will get the best nesting sites and the choicest mates and will, in due course, produce the biggest clutches.

Joe Ennis

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RECVLVER CHURCH

(Editor - In October 2013 we featured an old postcard of the South View of Reculver on our front cover, here we include a brief history of the area)

Reculver once occupied a strategic location at the north-western end of the Wantsum Channel, between the Isle of Thanet and the Kent mainland. This led the Romans to build a small fort there at the time of their conquest of Britain in 43 AD, and, starting late in the 2nd century, they built a larger fort, or "castrum", called Regulbium, which later was part of the chain of Saxon Shore forts.

In 669 AD an abbey, with a church dedicated to St Mary, was built on the site. The Saxon church was reused as a parish church after the Norman Conquest, and extended during the 8th century. When it was rebuilt in the 12th century twin towers were added at the west end.

Reculver declined in importance as the Wantsum Channel silted up, and coastal erosion claimed many buildings constructed on the soft sandy cliffs. The village was largely abandoned in the late 18th century, and most of the church was demolished in the early 19th century after a great storm in 1805 washed away much of the cliff, so that the church's foundations were only a few yards from its edge. It was decided to demolish it, except for the towers, and build a new church further inland on higher ground, using stone from the original church. Trinity House purchased the towers in 1809, repairing and underpinning them so that they could continue to serve as a visible landmark for sailors. Was it at this date that the shingles were removed? Or did they simply rot away, leaving just the framework of the spires seen on twentieth century cards? According to several sources 'the spires of the church became known as the "Twin Sisters", supposedly after the orphaned daughters of Geoffrey St Clare' - but I have not been able to trace the said Geoffrey.....

I have a postcard showing the church in 1800, still complete, and with other buildings nearby. The card was published by M.H. Holman, of Reculver and Herne Bay, and has the following printed on the reverse:

"According to tradition Ethelbert, first Christian King of Kent, was buried here. Mr Green, incumbent of the parish in 1695, mentions that an inscription in old English records this event. Mr Weever says 'At the

upper end of the south isle in this church I saw a monument of antique forme mounted with two spires, wherein (as the inhabitants have it by tradition) the body of one Ethelbert, a Saxon King who hath his pallace royal here in Reculver, lieth entombed.' Whatever value we may attach to this statement, it is pretty certain that Ethelbert after resigning his palace at Canterbury to St Augustine retired here. Kilburne states 'Ethelbert the first Christian King of Kent, about 1060 years since, built a palace here for himself and his successors.'

The nearby vicarage was also abandoned as the sea encroached, and became the temporary premises of the 'Hoy and Anchor' when this inn was lost to the sea. A new building with the same name was finished by 1809, but was renamed as the "King Ethelbert Inn" in the 1830s.

Perhaps the origin of the 'King Ethelbert was buried here' story is the fact that another Saxon king of Kent, Eadberht II, was buried at St Mary's Monastery in the 760s. The Christian king died in 616 AD.

RAD

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

The Medway Branch of
Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research
Saturday February 22nd, 7.30 (doors open 7.00pm)
Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham
Tickets ~ £5 per person (teams of 6) Licensed Bar
Contact ~ Dot 01634 864642

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and Miniaturist Group
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ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038 for details.

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Byron Primary School, Gillingham
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Diary 2014

February 15th - Kent Wildlife Trust Walk, 10.00am – 1.00pm, Meet Geoff Orton near The Ship Inn, Conyer Creek ME9 9HR for a walk along the south bank of the Swale, wear warm clothing and sturdy footwear, could be muddy. Booking essential ring 07788 102238 or email geofforton@hotmail.com

February 15th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 18th Jan)

February 15th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 – 11.00pm, for Ballroom – Latin – Sequence Dancing, details 01634 363738 s.collins02@btinternet.com

February 16th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff 07525161766, 10.00am car park Igham Mote (NT) for 6.5 mile walk Pub at end with lunches available.

February 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Gill Smith 01622 710569 07999 858981

Paddock Wood Station car park (£1 fee) GR 671453 TN12 6ER for 5.5 mile easy flat walk. No dogs

February 17th - Medway Scramble Club, (see 20th Jan)

February 17th - Rainham Evening WI, Birthday Party Competition – Cup Cake any form, (see 20th Jan)

February 18th - Floral Art Group Arrangement using an unusual/unconventional container, (see 21st Jan)

February 18th - The RSPB Medway Local Group, Talk, Medway YOC 41 Years On - North Kent Birds, RSPB & Saving Nature – Mike Clark. (see 21st Jan)

February 19th - Wigmore Lecture, Rupert Matthews - The Wreck of the Titanic, 8.00pm, Tickets £3.75, Wigmore Library, 01634 337799

February 19th - Bredhurst Garden Club 7.30pm, Village Hall, illustrated talk Dusty Miller 'Pest Warfare', new members welcome ring 233554 for details.

February 20th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Life in England 1900-18 through postcards, Helen Allinson, (see 23rd Jan)

February 20th - Kent Wildlife Trust, 11.00am – 2.00pm, Discover Wild Birds, Tyland Barn Visitors Centre, Wear suitable clothing could get muddy, donation £3 per child, Booking essential, call 01622 662012

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February 20th - Rainham Women's Institute, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 1.45 - 4.00pm, Speaker on "Health & Beauty", Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276

February 21st - Cash Bingo, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, School Lane 1.00 – 3.00pm Free Entry - £1.00 per whole card game, all welcome

February 21st - Hempstead Village Fayre Group, Concert, Village Hall, 2.00pm. "Harmony", Tickets £4 each, includes tea & cake. Details or tickets Val Gorf 01634 230214, or email valeriegorf@btinternet.co.uk.

February 22nd - Quiz Night for Macmillan Cancer Support, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30 start. Light refreshments, also BYO. £6 pp or £40 table of 8, call 07792 545853 or email cohanlon@macmillan.org.uk

February 22nd - Charity Quiz Night, Medway Branch of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research 7.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, Tickets ~ £5 per person (teams of 6) Licensed Bar, Contact Dot 01634 864642

February 23rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Lindsay Floyd / Margaret Norman 07743 702049 07780 517785 Appledore Church, facing Court Lodge Road, for 5 mile easy walk, 7 stiles.

February 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Pete/Kate 01634 232992, 10.00am Camer Park TQ650669 DA13 0XT for 5 mile walk, Pubs in Cobham village

February 24th - Kent Wildlife Trust, 7.30pm, Medway Valley Reserves - an update, St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AN, Steve Weeks brings the latest developments, Donation of £2.50 includes refreshments, Call Richard Jowett 01622 675002 for details

February 24th - Rainham Wives, Hardy Geraniums talk by Jacqueline Aviolet, (see 20th Jan)

February 26th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, A Better Life - Adam, (see 22nd Jan)

February 27th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed by Singalong, (see 23rd Jan)

February 27th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, (see 30th Jan)

February 28th - Medway Geographical Society, 'Nepal Adventure' - Mile Collins, (see 24th Jan)

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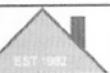
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Diary 2014

March 1st - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 18th Jan)
March 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Mo Fleisig 07976 600393 East Blean car park,
Hicks Forstal Road off A291 for 6 mile moderate flat
walk, 1 small climb. No dogs.
March 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Brian/Linda
07708 033544, 10.00am Stanford B2068 Farthing
Common, limited car park. TR136403 CT18 8DH for
5.5 mile walk Bring picnic lunch for midway break.
March 3rd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 20th Jan)
March 3rd - Rainham Wives, Ideas for Outings in 2014
with Kim, (see 20th Jan)
March 4th - Floral Art Group, Basic Shapes Workshop 1,
(see 21st Jan)
March 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Age-proof
gardening - Malcolm Withnall, (see 4th Feb)
March 6th - Wigmore Thursday Club, And another thing I
meant to say....., Mel Rees (see 23rd Jan)
March 8th - RAMASES, Peggy Dewey Lecture 'Ramses
III - Never a dull moment!' - John Dewey (see 25th Jan)
March 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham
07989753278, 10.00am Public car park in Wye TN25
5EG for 6 mile climb out of Wye through old college
and woods on to the downs. Bring picnic lunch for
midway break. Pub at end with lunches available.
March 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 (text message
only) Lower Upnor car park beyond Arethusa Venture
Centre for 8 mile moderate walk. Bring snack lunch.

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March 9th - A Gentle Service for the Bereaved, 4.00pm
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service to think and pray for loved ones lost no matter
how long ago. Reading of names included, for further
details or to include name of loved one(s) please
contact 01634 374231 or nisenut@hotmail.com

March 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group
(see 10th Feb)

March 10th - Rainham Wives, Board Games and Nibbles
(see 20th Jan)

March 10th - Medway Organ Club Concert, Organist
Steve Hubble, (see 10th Feb)

March 11th - Medway Antique and Collectors', Historic
English Cathedrals - David Carder, (see 11th Feb)

March 12th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Fund
Raising Event, (see 22nd Jan)

March 13th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Birthday Tea &
keyboard entertainment by Tom Macaulay, (see 23rd
Jan)

March 14th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, Royal Interlude - Life in the Royal Household
- Mr. P. Hartley, (see 14th Feb)

March 15th - Craft and Produce Market, Millennium
Centre, Rainham, 9.00am - 12.30pm, Free entry,
Refreshments available. In aid of St. Margaret's
Church, contact Tony Andrews 01634 371941

March 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Walking the
North Downs Way Section 12, Etchinghill, Tolsford
Close, Westfield Lane CT18 8BU for a 8.5 hard walk
ring for details. No dogs.

March 15th - Instep Dancing, (see 15th Feb)



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