

# ACTION FORUM

APRIL 2014  
NUMBER 497

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



The Bredhurst Bell in the early years of the 20th century. The licensee name above the door is James Monday who according to the information I found on line was listed in the Post Office Directory as landlord in 1913 and 1922. It was during this period that my family history relates that my grandfather and his brothers would walk from Rainham to Bredhurst on Sunday mornings in order to buy a thirst quenching drink. At this time pubs were only permitted to sell alcoholic drinks to travellers on Sunday (a traveller was defined as someone who had walked at least three miles). This was possibly part of DORA (Defence of the Realm Act) introduced during the First World War to try to limit drunken behaviour and improve productivity. Can you name any of the people pictured? Do let us know if you can. See page 8 for Joe Ennis visit to Bredhurst Woods in his Nature Notes this month.

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## Editorial

The Rainham Co-op holds very fond memories amongst many who were associated with it during the 100 years from its establishment in 1896 to final closure in 1997. For the first 70 years very little changed. As we have seen in the recent Mr Selfridge TV programme labour was cheap so a plentiful supply of shop assistants staffed all departments in these early days. Indeed Rainham Co-op mimicked the large London Store with its many departments all strictly ruled by their own manager. This encouraged discipline but also a very good sense of family for the employees and they were fiercely loyal to each other and their bosses.

For the customer shopping was a time consuming experience. Even with two or three assistants serving you often had to patiently wait your turn. Each item required was separately requested and then selected from the proffered goods. Payment also took time – the bill was hand written and enclosed in a capsule with your money then zapped along an overhead railway to the central office. Here the accounts personnel checked the arithmetic (Four and a quarter yards of material at three shillings and eleven pence halfpenny a yard was not easy in your head – no calculators in those days) and returned the capsule with your change. Now the goods were wrapped and your purchase was complete. All this personal customer service vanished almost overnight when the supermarket arrived. By the 1960s the old store had been converted to a self service shop, very small and crowded by the standards of today, and the goods arrived pre-packed so the warehouse staff became redundant. In 1979 the grand, new, large Co-op supermarket opened across Station Road in Rainham Shopping Centre and so in less than twenty years the whole transformation was complete. No wonder many of our readers reminisce fondly of these bygone days. Unfortunately last month I wrongly identified one of the gentlemen in our front page photograph of Co-op workers. At the extreme right of the front row is Sid Norris not Bob Chandler, our apologies to his family and friends.

April is a great month, we have moved to summer time so the long light evenings are a bonus and every ray of sunshine helps warm the ground and us – time to get gardening. The blossom is at its best and Kent really looks like 'The Garden of England' for a short while. Do get out and enjoy this season and we will

see you again in May, hopefully at the beginning of a long hot summer!

## Correspondence

### RAINHAM CO-OP

Dear Editor,

I have just received the March edition of Action Forum, sent to me by my sister who lives in Rainham. I also lived there until twenty-seven years ago when I moved to the West Country with my husband. I was delighted to see the photos of the old Rainham Co-op employees and to read Dick Grice's letter. I go back many years and remember so much about that store. My Mother, together with my sister and me, took our ration books during the war years to the Co-op Grocery Store in Station Road. These books were presented to Joy in the little kiosk where she stamped each coupon then gave Mum a slip of paper with all our allowances for the week marked on it. This was taken, first to the dry goods (tea, sugar, flour, etc.) counter where we were served with the requisite goods, then we crossed to the other side of the store to the bacon counter (butter, margarine, eggs, etc.) for the remainder of our allowances. I well remember Mr Grice, in fact I was in the same class at Rainham Senior School, Orchard Street, as his daughter Audrey.

When I later married and was given a council house on Twydall Estate our groceries were delivered by Len Stockey. I think I am right in saying Len's wife Mary also worked for the Co-op in the Bakery Shop. Other Co-op employees I recall were Mr Sampson and Mr Ransley. I certainly remember Percy Major and his son Alan whom I knew at Orchard Street School. Details are a little hazy, which I suppose is understandable given the fact this was all about 70 years ago. But how good to have your memory jogged, for example I recall the ladies in the Co-op Drapery Store next door where Mrs Ovenden was in charge. When you asked an assistant for an item of underwear or stockings she would open a drawer in the fixtures behind her and place it on the counter for you to make a choice. I remember to this day that lovely fresh smell of new material as the drawer was put on the counter. How quaint is that?

One of the ladies was very polite but didn't always remember her customer's name, she would be addressed as "Mrs Umm"! Who remembers receiving a packet of pins in the change when paying, if the cost meant there was to be a farthing in the change?

Incidentally, I have just come across a newspaper cutting reporting on the disaster in Oak Lane in 1944 when a "doodle-bug" landed under the railway bridge just as a train was passing over it.

Having started this I could ramble on but must stop or you may become bored. Good memories!

Yours sincerely,  
Pam Wanstall (nee Mepsted)  
(pam.wanstall@btinternet.com)

### DETAILS OF BUS SERVICE CHANGES IN THE RAINHAM AREA

Dear Editor

In April 2014 there are a number of bus services changes within Medway. Sunday March 30th 2014 will be the last day of operation for the Sunday 327 service as funding from Kent County Council ceases. There will be no changes to the existing Monday to Saturday 327 service which is operated by Chalkwell. However from Sunday 6th April, the Arriva Sunday 132 Service will increase to every 30 minutes. The 132 runs between Hempstead Valley and Chatham, and will now also serve Medway Maritime Hospital on Sundays due to funding from Medway Council.

There are new ticket prices on the ASD 783 service serving Rainham railway station from Parkwood, Rainham, and Wigmore. Day returns and weekly season tickets are now available. The ticket costs £1.50 single, £2.60 day return, and £13 weekly.

Rob Carmen

Transport Planner Integrated Transport  
Medway Council 01634 331254  
rob.carmen@medway.gov.uk

### WIGMORE COMMUNITY & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - AGM

Dear Editor,

Our 2014 AGM will be held on Friday 25th April at Wigmore Library starting promptly at 7.30pm until around 9.30pm. Please do attend and support the Committee in its work for you. This meeting is of particular importance because the committee wish to discuss the future of the Association. We urgently require more Committee Members.

We have invited our local Member of Parliament, our Ward Councillors and representatives from the Police to attend and be available to talk to us and answer your questions about matters that affect us all locally.

The meeting will be in two parts with a short break for refreshments. The first part will be allocated to our guests the second to the items necessary for the AGM. All members are asked to attend. Should there be residents of Wigmore who are not members but wish to attend, there will be a facility to join on the night.

Looking forward to seeing you, at this particularly important AGM.

Bob Dunn  
Deputy Chair WCRA

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### ST MATTHEWS PLANT SALE

Dear Editor

Readers are invited to our biennial Plant Sale on 17th May, 10.00am – 1.00pm at St Matthews Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, where we will be selling reasonably priced garden plants. Teas, Coffees, Cakes and Lunches also available and a second hand garden tools sale.

Weather permitting refreshments will be served in the Rectory Garden, or the Community Centre if it rains! So please come along. Admission is free. For any further information contact me on 01634 387425.

Kind Regards

Roy Bishop, Plant Sale Co-ordinator.

### MEDWAY ASSASSINS SKATER HOCKEY CLUB

Want to earn your place in the Assassins Hockey Team?

Under 10s Novice Roller Hockey Sessions held every Wednesday 4.30 – 5.30pm at the Howard School, Rainham. Coaching under the supervision of Head Coach and former British International Skater Hockey star Barry Smith. Inline Skater Hockey is an exciting unisex sport which promotes teamwork, fitness and strength – it's a great spectator sport too! First two sessions free then just £3 per session. Hockey sticks & helmets provided, all you need are a pair of inline roller skates in good state of repair. To book your place or for more details contact Doug at medwayassassins@gmail.com (enable JavaScript to view it) or see www.Medway-Assassins.co.uk

### DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors of Action Forum are needed for: **Rainham**

Taswell Road & Warlingham Close  
Lower Station Road (Railway to Bakers Field)  
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# Diary 2014

No charge is made for Diary entries  
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Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 22nd April

- April 5th - Coffee Morning with a Twist, RSA Charity Fund Raising for Alzheimers, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham
- April 5th - Concert, Rivervoice Community Choir, 1.00 - 3.00pm, St George's Centre, Chatham Dockyard, Entrance Free, refreshments available, Donations welcome for choir funds, details ring 07932 452916
- April 5th - Quiz Night, Friends of Bredhurst - Cats Protection, 7.30pm, St Matthews Church Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, Tickets £5 per person, Tables of 6 - 8, Bring your own drinks and nibbles, To book contact Ann 01634 366766
- April 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Chatham Village Hall, Rattington Street beside river for a 5 mile moderate walk via Chatham and Bigbury Hill Fort, some hills and a few stiles.
- April 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff 07525161766, 10.00am near The Plough Inn, Lewson Street TQ962613 ME9 9JJ for a 6 mile walk via Provender, Painter's Forstal and Rushell. Pub at end with lunches available (need to book).
- April 6th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get involved by helping with some practical tasks on the site. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the country park. Refreshments provided, met at the Visitor Centre. 01634 337432
- April 7th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, Making Spring Posies and Hot Cross Buns, New members welcome, £1.50 per visit includes refreshments, for details ring Sue 01634 230639.
- April 8th - Orienteering Family Fun, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Test your map reading skills, Suitable for families and groups, £2 per person 01634 337432
- April 8th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, British Clock Towers - Mike Bundock, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 8.00 pm, visitors welcome. Enquiries medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com

- April 8th - Tea Dance, RSA Charity Fund Raising for Alzheimers, 2.00 - 4.00pm, St Matthews Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, Entry £3.50 includes tea and biscuits.
- April 8th - Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Fuchsia Bonsai - talk by Nancy and Arthur Phillips, specialist speakers on American fuchsias as well as British varieties, for more information ring 01634 852519.
- April 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike, 10.00am commuter car park, just north of Bredhurst TQ799629 ME8 0LU for a 6 mile walk along lanes and paths to Queendown Warren and Yelsted. Pub at end.
- April 9th - Family Bushcraft Day, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, whole family can learn the basics of bushcraft. No experience necessary. Suitable for adults and accompanied children, £11 per person 01634 338191
- April 9th - Mini-Beast Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep Netting, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years £3 per child, Book in advance 01634 337432
- April 9th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall, Workshop tutored by Robin White, For further information ring 01622 884657, 01795 472973 or 01634 863034
- April 9th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Lesley Gould - Japanese Festivals & Celebrations, visitors welcome, For details ring 01634 389966
- April 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Guide Filming at Chatham Historic Dockyard - Scott Belcher, details contact Rhonda Peek 07951 629444
- April 10th - Family Birdwatching, Riverside Country Park, A bird watching experience for the whole family, no experience necessary, Suitable for adults and accompanied children, £3 per child, 01634 337432

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**17th & 18th June**

- April 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Every Picture Tells a Story - Tony Mitchell, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507 for details.
- April 10th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, Tea, chat and games. 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome. Phone 01634366907
- April 10th - Donn Barcott Band, 44Two Sports and Social Club, Featherby Road, Gillingham, 8.30 - 11.00pm, Admission £6, Details ring Jazz Line 01634 405037
- April 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 01634 364309 for details.
- April 11th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, Byron School, Gillingham, 7.15pm, Overview of the First World War - John Wigley, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982
- April 12th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Walking the North Downs Way Section 13 Boughton Lees, street parking around Village Green TN25 4HH for a 10 mile hard walk, ring for details, No dogs.
- April 12th - Rainham South Councillors will be holding a surgery at Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am - 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
- April 12th - Bredhurst WI, Fundraising Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm start, tickets £7.50 including hot supper (BYOB) Ring Pam Tuff 07969 878211, Proceeds to hall funds
- April 12th - Spring Craft Fair, St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Refreshments available
- April 12th - Psychic Fair, Angel Messenger Centre, Rainham Oast Community Centre, Granary Close, 1.00 - 5.00pm, Entrance £2 readings, healing, selling of crystals, joss, books, candles etc. Details ring Angela 07805 593626
- April 12th - Concert, 7.30pm, St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime, Tickets £10 in advance £12 on the door from 01795 843228 or 01634 376979 or oldbarnos@gmail.com
- April 12th - 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.
- April 12th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm, for Ballroom - Latin - Sequence Dancing, details 01634 363738 s.collins02@btinternet.com
- April 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Bob/Kath, 10.00am, Tenterden Church TQ884333 TN30 6AN for a 4 mile Countryside walk to lake at Ashenden and Forstal Farm and return to Tenterden. Pubs with meals in Tenterden.
- April 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249 Cliff Woods Public car park off Tennyson Avenue GR736735 for a 5.5 mile moderate undulating walk.
- April 14th - Monday Hub, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, 10.00am - 12.30pm, light refreshments, conversation, games etc, all welcome, ring 01634 230780 for details
- April 14th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome, details 01634 230500
- April 14th - Reiki Kyokai, Led by Robert Jefford, 8.00 - 10.00pm, Ramada Encore Chatham, £10 per person, proceeds to Wisdom Hospice, Booking Essential. For more details email kentreikishares@gmail.com
- April 14th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday evening of each month to help people still in employment who have lost a loved one, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details
- April 14th - Rainham Evening WI, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Biddenden Vineyard Competition - Wine Receptacle, ring 01634 262577 for details.
- April 14th - Medway Organ Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Organist - Ian House, ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694 for details.
- April 15th - Telling Tales, Storytelling for Adults, Hastings Arms 18 Lower Rainham Road, prompt 8.00pm start, Kate Corkery, Admission £7, details 01634 852614
- April 15th - Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'Imposed' Night! contact Kaye 01634 232998.
- April 15th - The RSPB Medway Local Group, Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3, Home & Away + AGM - Peter Saville, for Walks see www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

Continued on Page 11

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**QUIZ NIGHT**  
 Saturday April 12th, 7.30pm start  
 Bredhurst Village Hall Tickets £7.50 including hot  
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 Proceeds to Hall Funds

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR**  
 St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow  
 Saturday 12th April, 2.00 – 4.00pm  
 Join us for a wide selection of local crafts  
 at possibly the prettiest location around  
 Refreshments available

**"O SACRED HEAD"**  
 Music and readings for Good Friday 18th April will  
 be performed by members of St. Mary's Church  
 Choir and Upchurch Choral Society as an Act of  
 Worship in St. Mary's Church, Upchurch at 7.00pm  
 Organist: Sue Rossiter Conductor: Helen Osborne  
 Music includes works by Purcell, Victoria, Elgar,  
 Bach, Stainer, Handel, Chilcott, Tchaikovsky and  
 Maunder. Admission is free. There will be a retiring  
 collection in aid of British Heart Foundation

**CONCERT by THE KING FISHER SINGERS**  
 Saturday 26th April 7.30pm  
 St Matthew's Church Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore  
 Tickets £5 on the door  
 Proceeds to local charity C.W.L.T.I  
 (Children With Life Threatening Illnesses)

**BWAG BLUEBELLS & CREAM TEA**  
 Sat 26th & Sunday 27th April, 2.00pm each day  
 Join BWAG for its popular Guided walks through  
 Bredhurst Woods followed by cream teas,  
 shorter and longer walks available.  
 Tickets £7.50 per person must be purchased in  
 advance - tickets will not be available on the day  
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 For more details and tickets please call  
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**EASTER SERVICES**  
 You are most welcome to join us at Rainham  
 Methodist Church for any of the following services.  
 Good Friday Service 18th April, 9.30am.  
 Easter Vigil - includes Communion  
 Saturday 19th April, 6.30pm.  
 Easter Sunday Celebrations 20th April, 10.30am.

**VINTAGE AND CLASSIC Afternoon Tea Party**  
 Medway Towns Rotaract Club  
 Hempstead Junior School  
 Sunday 27th April, 1.30pm Tickets £10  
 RSVPs to rotaractmedway@gmail.com

**ART AND CRAFT FAIR**  
 Longford Court, Rainham, All welcome  
 Saturday May 10th, 12noon – 4.00pm  
 Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Books and Bric-a-Brac

**WIGMORE ARTS WEEKEND**  
 Arts in the Wildest and Wildest Sense  
 28th and 29th June, 2014  
 St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore,  
 will be staging this successful community event  
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Are you engaged in any kind of artistic activity?  
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 Artists can hang and sell their work in the Art Show  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

In early March I visited Bredhurst Wood, which has been designated Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland. I parked my car in Hurstwood Road, opposite the Bell Public House. I walked down the road, turned right just before the church and picked up a leaflet on the wood from the notice board erected by Bredhurst Wood Action Group (BWAG). From this point on, Hurstwood Road, which leads to and through the wood, is little more than a cart track. Yet it is shown, quite surprisingly, on John Speed's Map of Kent of 1612. After a short distance, I stopped at a metal swing gate on my left. Ahead of me was Day Valley and, beyond it, a long, high ridge of chalk, upon which sits Bredhurst and Monkdown Woods. I walked down Day Valley which, from spring onwards, sports an impressive display of chalk down land flowers. Growing on the steep slope on the left of the path just inside into Bredhurst Wood were yew trees and a mixture of standard and coppiced broad leaved trees. Most of the coppiced trees were those of hornbeam, ash and hazel. In years past, coppiced hornbeam wood was mainly made into charcoal (for drying hops and for heating the blacksmith's forge), that of ash typically made into tool handles and that of hazel woven into wattle fencing. In the 1970s an abandoned, portable, metal kiln, used for making charcoal, could be seen on this spot. On my right, as I walked up the path, I passed the remains of an old boundary in the form of a ditch and bank. A line of massive, coppice beeches, which were probably planted in the 19th century, were growing on the bank. I soon reached the plateau on the top of the ridge, which is covered in acres of coppiced chestnut trees, with some oak standards. It is thought that the chestnuts were planted from about 1800 onwards. The coppiced wood was used mainly for hop poles and fencing. Hop production peaked in the late 19th century and declined thereafter. Thus, when BWAG took over management of the wood in 2005, most of the coppiced chestnut trees had not been cut for over 40 years and were very overgrown. Since then, parts of the wood have been opened up by contractors and,

more recently, by BWAG volunteers. The result has been that light has been let into these parts of the woods, allowing wild flowers such as bluebells, lesser celandines and wood anemones to prosper. An understory of plants such as bramble, bracken, honeysuckle, broom and holly has begun to develop in the earlier cleared areas. Dense bramble, in particular, will provide nesting sites for birds like blackcaps, dunnocks, blackbirds, chaff chaffs, wrens and robins. I continued along the footpath to Scragged Oak and, in due course, reached a valley on the opposite side of the wood. It is very steep, with steps down one side and an arduous climb up the other. The valley contains much the same species of coppiced and standard broad leaved trees as those in Day Valley. Worthy of mention, however, are a row of ancient, coppiced beech trees. One of them is particularly massive and impressive. It seems likely that these beeches were planted in the 19th century to serve both as boundary markers and as a source of wood, but became overgrown as a result of a subsequent lack of demand for the wood. Few plants can survive under the dense canopy of beech trees but, growing defiantly under one of them, was a clump of evergreen butcher's broom, a classic indicator of ancient woodland. Photographs of the coppiced beeches can be seen on the BWAG website ([www.bwag.org.uk](http://www.bwag.org.uk)) under "Gallery" followed by "Notable Trees". I decided not to tackle the muddy, slippery slope looming up between me and Scragged Oak. I partly retraced my steps and headed for an ancient boundary consisting of a bank and ditch. (It runs a few yards SW of posts 5, 6 and 7 in the BWAG leaflet). Very old, pollarded hornbeams, acting as boundary markers, grow along the bank; it is very difficult to date them. Standard hornbeams, unlike oaks, for example, are not long lived, but their life can be extended for a considerable time by pollarding. Also growing on the bank are some standard oaks and beeches, apparently planted in the 19th century. The bank marks, in effect, two boundaries that sit one upon the other. Both were settled in Norman times. One is the boundary between Boxley parish and what was later to become Bredhurst parish. The other boundary is between Monkdown Wood (which was awarded, by the Crown, to the

Cistercian monks of Boxley Abbey) and Bredhurst Wood. The fact that the ditch is on the Bredhurst Wood side (to keep animals out of Monkdown Wood) indicates that the bank and ditch were dug by the monks. As usual, I had thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Bredhurst Wood. I had seen and heard a common buzzard, mewing as it soared in the sky. I had heard the raucous calls of cock pheasants and jays, the echoing laugh of a green woodpecker and the warbling notes of a mistle thrush. I was too early to see the wood's magnificent display of bluebells but I intend to join one of BWAG's bluebell walks, followed by a cream tea, on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th April at 2pm. Details and tickets can be obtained from Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 or, by e mail, from [bwag@vanessajones.plus.com](mailto:bwag@vanessajones.plus.com)

Joe Ennis

## IT'S NOT CRICKET

A Note from Rainham Cricket Club  
Individual sporting activities are catered for at schools but team based ones are not. They appear to have suffered due to Government cut backs and the availability of teachers who are willing to be involved and have the knowledge to teach the requirements of team based sports. Cricket teaching in schools is unfortunately non existent and it is sad to see the decline over the years. Individual sports can be dealt with in the odd half hour but much longer time often out of school hours is required when cricket is involved. Parents know the benefits that their children get from belonging to a team especially when playing competitive sport against other schools. It is most valuable when teachers, boys and girls can identify with a team (school) and witness team spirit and camaraderie. The Olympics brought this home and showed in the great achievements of Team GB. It is about winning and losing, dealing with the ups and downs and above all experiencing interaction with other people. At Rainham Cricket Club we try to provide meaningful competitive sport - this is engrained in our ethos. It is an essential part of character building in young people and I feel it is being missed by schools. Unfortunately although the contribution and role Sports Clubs provide in the community is often acknowledged by the authorities they are not willing to support this financially. With cut backs, tick box application forms and desk top assessments the success in raising capital

for our new Community Sports Pavilion has become a real lottery! What will happen in 2014/15 no one knows. However the longevity of the clubs history is there for all to see and somehow we will continue to pick up the pieces and enjoy the best game in the world. Please continue to support us in our efforts.

K. E. Chambers - Fund Raiser and Trustee.

## 3-16 COFFEE SHOP, PARKWOOD PRECINCT

We're coming up to our 8th year of giving thanks and praise for God's marvellous work using staff and volunteers from Local Churches to help make 3-16 the success that it is today. We have a Ministry to serve the people in the area with good food and drink in a warm relaxing atmosphere. Customers can ask a member of staff about their Christian faith and prayer with them and for them.

Jane Mills (Manager) comments - My main thanks are to God, he has definitely been working in the Staff and Customers' lives, you only have to look in our visitor's book to see what an asset we are to the community, for example: "Your shop is a friendly and welcoming, a place to come and feel welcome and wanted". We are a bridge between active Christians and those still searching.

For Easter we will have quizzes and Children's activities in the afternoon. Local children are welcome to join our Easter colouring competition and help decorate our Easter theme notice board.

Why not pre-book your personal event or afternoon tea, Phone us on 01634 378300

For more information and details of becoming a friend of 3-16 contact Rev R Hayton 01634 235799 or see Jane our Manager in the shop.

## SUCCESSFUL QUIZ

Thank You Action Forum for supporting our Charity by including details of the Quiz on March 8th. The total raised was £480. Thanks also to quiz master and support from Holy Trinity Twydall

Olwen O'dowd (Fundraiser Brain Tumour Charity)

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Deanwood Primary School, 4th July, 3.15 - 5.30pm  
If you are interested in having a stall, please contact Tracey Kington via email [t.kington@btinternet.com](mailto:t.kington@btinternet.com)

## ART EXHIBITION

Paintings and drawings by members of Rainham Art Club will be on show and for sale in Wigmore Library, Fairview Avenue between 1st and 31st April

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## Diary 2014

April 16th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Arthur/Jan  
01634 711734, 10.00am, Park on street in Mereworth  
meet at Church TQ660537 ME18 5LU for a 6 mile  
circular route. Bring snack. Pub at end.

April 16th - Bredhurst Garden Club 7.30pm, Village  
Hall, illustrated talk Roland Stevens 'A Year in the Life  
of a Lawn', new members welcome ring 233554

April 17th - Rainham Women's Institute, Methodist  
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 1.45 - 4.00pm,  
Speaker on "Alzheimer's Society", Visitors welcome  
for small entry charge, ring 01634 366276 for details

April 17th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Lost Empires - the  
Last Days of Music Hall - Wilf Lower, (see 10th Ap).

April 17th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk "My Dramatic  
Life", (see 10th Ap).

April 18th - Good Friday Service at Rainham Methodist  
Church, 9.30am. All welcome.

April 18th - Cash Bingo, 1.00 - 3.00pm, Lower Halstow  
Memorial Hall, School Lane

April 18th - "O Sacred Head", Music and readings for  
Good Friday, St. Mary's Church, Upchurch, 7.00p.m.  
Admission free, collection for British Heart Foundation  
April 18th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland  
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Alan Barnes/ Dave  
O'Higgins Quintet, Admission £10, Enquiries 01634  
365352 or 07544 312743

April 19th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Opposite  
Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road ME7 3JZ for a  
6 mile moderate walk, some road walking, undulating  
terrain, could be muddy, dogs allowed.

April 19th - Easter Vigil - includes Communion, 6.30pm,  
at Rainham Methodist Church, All welcome.

April 19th - Wine and Wisdom Evening, Macklands  
P.A.C.T, 7.00 for 7.30pm start, Millennium Centre,  
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April 20th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Bob/Kath,  
10.00am Westerham main Car Park [on the right] as  
you approach Westerham TQ450541 TN16 1DD for a 5  
mile lovely countryside walk. Pubs with meals at end

April 20th - Easter Sunday Celebrations, 10.30am at  
Rainham Methodist Church, All welcome.

April 20th & 21st - Easter Fun at Fort Amherst, Dock  
Road, Chatham. 10.30am - 4.00pm,  
www.fortamherst.com 01634 847747

April 23rd - All Saints Women's Fellowship, presentation  
- Asthma UK and Kent Autistic Trust, (see 9th Ap).

April 24th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Tea, chat &  
games, (see 10th Ap).

April 24th - Gillingham Horticultural Society talk  
'Vegetable Growing', 7.30pm, Star Meadow Sports  
Club, Darland Avenue, Members £2 Guests £3.

April 24th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed  
by 'Advertisements of Yesteryear' - Colin Coe, (see  
10th Ap).

April 24th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,  
7.30pm, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

April 25th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron  
Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'A  
Journey to Borneo' - Sue Hollis, Everyone welcome,  
Please come on the evening or contact Pat Meredith  
01634 362683

April 25th - Wigmore Residents Association AGM, 7.30  
- 9.30pm, Wigmore Library, all welcome.

April 26th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 12th Ap).

April 26th & 27th - BWAG, Bluebells & Cream Tea  
Weekend, Walks start 2.00pm Tickets £7.50 per person  
in advance (under 16 free), details and tickets call  
Vanessa Jones 07813 785940 or email  
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April 26th - The King Fisher Singers, 7.30pm St  
Matthew's Church, Wigmore, Tickets £5 on the door,  
Proceeds to 'Children with Life Threatening Illnesses'.

April 27th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
Meet Steve Giddins 07720 628511 Manor Park Country  
Park car park (£2 fee) ME19 6PE outside West Malling  
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## Diary 2014

April 27th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet John 07749 760788, 10.00am, Camer Park public car park  
TQ649669 DA13 0XU for a 11.5 mile circular walk.  
Bring snack for picnic lunch

April 27th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Karl 07974 169356, 10.00am, Chatham Whiffen's Avenue Car Park, behind Old Town Hall/Brook Theatre, for an 8 mile circular urban walk, Bring picnic lunch

April 27th - Teatime Concert, St Mary's Church, Newington, 5.00pm, Tickets £7, call David Lane 01795 842478 or laneatborden@btinternet.com

April 27th - Vintage and Classic Afternoon Tea Party, Medway Towns Rotaract Club, Hempstead Junior School, 1.30pm, Tickets £10 RSVPs should be made to rotaractmedway@gmail.com

April 28th - Monday Hub, Coffee Morning in aid of Friends of the Wisdom Hospice, (see 14th Ap).

April 28th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 14th Ap).

April 28th - Rainham Wives, Musical Quiz - Margaret also Tombola in aid of charity 'Hands', (see 7th Ap).

April 30th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike 10.00am commuter car park, just north of Bredhurst for an 8 mile walk Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

May 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff 07525 161766, 5.15am (Sunrise) Mickey's Diner - off Chatham bound carriageway of A229 for a 4 mile walk via Kits Coty to watch the Morris dance at sunrise. Pre order breakfast before walk.

May 1st - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Where did we go and what did we do?' - Ley Liberson, (see 10th Ap).

May 1st - Hempstead Leisure Club, "Bon Marche", (10th Ap)

May 2nd - Ex Dockyard Workers reunion, 7.00 - 11.00pm, Commissioners House, Chatham Dockyard, entrance £5, details email alexrouten@hotmail.co.uk ring 01634 263201 or text 07752 875882

May 2nd - Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, 8.00 & 9.00pm, approx. 1 hour, Tickets £10 per person, not suitable under 8 years, information or to book tickets visit www.fortamherst.com

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May 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Chris 01634 360270, 10.00am Rainham Railway Station for a 7.25 mile Linear railway walk to The Strand and over The Great Lines to Rochester Sweeps Festival

May 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249  
Brenchley car park GR 674418, for a 6 mile moderate walk, Dogs Allowed

May 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet John 07749 760788, 10.00am Ightham Mote car park (NT) for a 11.5 mile circular walk. Bring picnic lunch

May 6th - Floral Art Group, Ikebana, (see 15th Ap).

May 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, The Italian influences on the gardens of Kent - Dr Ann Kneif, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

May 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike 10.00am, Hook and Hatchet Inn (use the far car park) at Hucking for a 7.5 mile walk around Bicknor and Wormshill Railway, Bring picnic lunch, pub at end.

May 10th - Bredhurst Information Day, 11.00am - 1.00pm, Bredhurst School, Over 20 stands and displays, Entrance Free, Refreshments, details email Wendy Kemp clerk@bredhurstpc.co.uk or call 07813 785940

May 10th - Art and Craft Fair, Longford Court, Rainham, 12noon - 4.00pm, All welcome

May 10th - RAMASES, 2.30pm, Newington Village Hall, Charlotte Booth - 'What the Art of the Hyksos can teach us about their role in society' £6, Guests £8 at the door. ramasesnk@hotmail.com or 01795 472316

May 11th - Wheels for Wisdom, Charity Bike Ride in aid of The Wisdom Hospice, Start and finish Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham, 45km or 75km routes, for further details see www.fowh.org.uk

May 11th - Kent Wildlife Trust 10.00am meet with sturdy footwear snack and drink at Queendown Warren car park for a guided walk, Book 07788 102238 or geofforton@hotmail.com . Dogs on leads please

May 15th, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24th - The Wilde in Wild West, A comedy by Sam Fish, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm, 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

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