

ACTION FORUM

JUNE 2015
NUMBER 510

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



This view of Lower Halstow, probably taken in the early years of the 20th century, is easily recognisable today. With the church on the banks of the Medway, a village green often supporting a parade of ducks and a stream running through the centre this is probably one of the prettier locations in the area. There is also a strong community feeling with many village activities organised each year. They are hoping to attract more bookings at the Village Hall by having two 'Open Days' on June 26th & 27th for those who do not know the village and would like to see the facilities on offer, for details see page 7.

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Editorial

'Open Gardens' are now very popular. It does indeed seem a very good way to raise money for a favourite charity. Since 1927 The National Gardens Scheme has published an annual list of properties open on special dates through the summer and has raised a magnificent £45 million for nursing and caring charities. However these tend to be the grander and larger stately home type establishments, some of which were regularly open to the public. However some others in private ownership do only allow visitors in on the special charity days. Now local organisers, always on the lookout for different ideas to raise money for various good causes, have realised that much love and attention not to mention back breaking hours of hard work go into maintaining the more humble urban gardens. Many of these are wonderful oasis of colour and hidden treasure well able to compete with the show stands at Hampton Court and Chelsea Flower Shows. So more and more each year are opened on specific dates for your enjoyment. Congratulations to the gardeners in Hartlip (June 7th) and Wigmore (June 20th & 21st) who have combined in their locality to provide a whole catalogue of venues for you to enjoy. A very pleasant way to spend the afternoon admiring the results of someone else hard work - it may inspire you to go home and tackle your own back yard jungle! Having retired at the appropriate age five years ago from Guiding I found myself agreeing to return to help at a residential weekend last October. Apparently it is difficult to find volunteers willing and able to help at such events. That was indoors with all the amenities so was really no hardship at all. It was good to be amongst youngsters again, makes you believe you are still 21 - until the creaking back and tiredness kick in at the end of the day! During a discussion about how they would staff the annual summer camp I rashly volunteered. The months sped by and all too soon the Spring Bank Holiday was here and time for camp. We have just returned from the Kent West County Camp at Cudham near Sevenoaks. Over three hundred girls plus their leaders enjoyed four days of intense activity. The weather was kind to us, virtually no rain, much warmer than the previous few weeks and even sunshine at times. While the vast majority of the campers were 'under canvas' (or more accurately under nylon nowadays) I must confess I chickened out and made use of the offer to sleep in the Brownie Pack

Holiday House which was serving as a camp HQ. So I had the best of both worlds, time outdoors cooking on a wood fire, eating in the fresh air and enjoying the wonderful woodland but able to retreat to relative normality with electric lights and kettle, a shower and a bed at the end of the day. The girls had a great time and apart from a broken ankle or two - the result of overenthusiastic rabbits burrowing and energetic girls running down hills - everything went to plan. Hopefully by next year a young, tireless volunteer will have come forward to help at residential events. Almost midsummer and as yet we have certainly not had much barbeque weather but there is still time and we are promised better things ahead so do make use of the long days and enjoy them when you can and we will be with you again in July.

Correspondence

WIGMORE PREFABS

Dear Editor,

My name is June Leigh and I lived in one of the prefabs in Fairview Avenue, Wigmore in the 1950s along with my mother Doris Leigh, my three brothers David, Stephen and Philip and my sister Carol. We lived there from 1950 until the prefabs were demolished in approximately 1969. I am looking for anyone who has any photos of the prefabs and/or Hempstead School during this time frame, I would be so grateful if anyone can help.

Many thanks

June Leigh Mobile: 07816 126753

Email: june_reddin@hotmail.com

BLOORS WHARF

Dear Editor,

Does anyone reading this have any photographs of Bloors Wharf taken during the period 1930 - 1990? Several local people remember the scrapyards in the period just after the war, and many more can also picture the area when piles of old cars, buses and other scrap metal filled the skeleton of a warehouse. Perhaps you or one of your family worked for British Anzani or its later successors?

If so, please would you get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Dellar

email rdellar283@gmail.com 01634 230324.

NO GRIPING ON THE MEDWAY

Dear Editor,

In the 1930s to late 1940s my father with his brothers used to go griping in the Medway estuary off Rainham and Bayford area. This was basically picking up the flatfish flounders from where they were lying on the base of the mudflats. It was done by wading up the mudflat channels to where the water was still trickling off. At a suitable site you bend forward, sleeves rolled up above your elbows, push your arms into the mud at the bottom and slowly grope along the mudflat. When

a flounder is discovered one hand is placed behind its head and the other by its tail, then with a quick upward movement the flounder is seized and dropped into an open sack tied around the waist of the griper.

It was illegal to just go and do this. A fishing party had to contain someone with permission and a licence. My father went with one of his school friends, Jack Coppins who lived in Station Road and was a Freeman of the River, a reward for his lifetime of service to the companies that had rights in the Medway estuary. He was given such a licence to gather fish, cockles etc for personal use.

I ate many a flounder, fried for a meal, brought home by my father even though fish connoisseurs said the flavour was poor, like the mud it lived in and its flesh was 'like chewing boiled cotton wool'. The custom was eventually killed off by oil pollution from the Isle of Grain refinery. Oil drops sink into the mud staining the flounders pearly-white underside and also affecting the flavour.

Recently, for an article I am preparing, I have been trying to find out if griping has officially or unofficially been revived now that the river estuary is much cleaner. Is there commercial fishing for flounders? I would also be interested to know the estimated present number of flounders in the Medway. One source told me that the only fishing for flounders now is occasionally by rod and line.

Yours sincerely

Alan Major

41 Heaton Road,
Canterbury CT1 3PY
01227 459246

FUNDRAISING EVENT - BREDHURST

Dear Editor

Another 'not to be missed' night of entertainment at Bredhurst Village Hall, on Saturday 27th June, with professional singing group The Flyrights performing Soul and Swing music, including many well known songs. There will be a licensed bar and raffle. Tickets are £12 and can be either booked by phone 07950 797325 or at www.bredhurstvillagehall.co.uk. Doors open at 7.00pm and all proceeds will go to Bredhurst Village Hall who would greatly value your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs June Cox
01634 268544

CHARITY BAZAAR

Dear Editor

On behalf of a national animal charity, we are organising an Autumn/pre-Christmas Charities Bazaar to be held at St Matthew's Community Centre Hall, Wigmore on the morning of Saturday 24th October 2015. Tables will be available to hire at the event for £7 each to representatives of charities to sell their crafts/wares. For more details, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Linda Liscgarten 01634 377267

email lindaliscgarten@hotmail.co.uk

TOWER & CHURCH OPEN DAY

St Margaret's Church, Rainham

Saturday 20th June.

Climb the Tower, £2 per adult £1 per child, Learn about the history of the Church. Find out about Weddings, Blessings Renewals of Vows, Baptisms and Putting a name in our Memorial Book

DIY SOS

A Community style day to help refurbish the 130 year old Oast Community Centre (next to the station) in Rainham back to its former glory Saturday 20th June. We need your help: Plastering, flooring, painting, decorating, cleaning, gardening, brickwork, plumbers, metal work, sign writers, website builders, marketing professionals, planners, engineers. Trainees, specialists, amateurs or professionals you name it we need you! Please get in touch and spread the word help bring this beautiful building back to life! whatever you can offer. Contact me on 07743788249 or email aylingh@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

Local artist Selwyn Dennis presents an Exhibition of his paintings, which are all available for sale, at Wigmore Library, Fairview Avenue throughout June.

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Diary 2015

No charge is made for Diary entries

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: June 23rd

All June - Exhibition of Paintings by local artist Selwyn Dennis, Wigmore Library, Fairview Avenue throughout June, all paintings are for sale.

June 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, Stour Valley Walk section 2, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Hothfield Common off A20 TN26 1HD, 6.5 mile moderate walk, Finish Ashford Blackwall Road South GR 034426 TN24 0NX, No dogs

June 6th - Wigmore MADS, Summer Concert 'A Grand Night for Singing', 8.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore Tickets £6 & £5 cons, Sue 01634 370639

June 6th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham 7.30 - 10.00pm. New and Experienced dancers welcome with or without a partner, information 366189 or 388546

June 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Heather 07887 750881, 10.00am, Newington Village car park (free) TQ859648 ME9 7JT for a 7 mile leisurely walk to Upchurch and Lower Halstow, Pub at end with lunches

June 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033, Clowes Wood car park at Gypsy Corner off Radfall Road/Hackington Road GR 136628 CT5 3ER, 5.5 mile moderate mostly flat walk with one gentle climb, can be muddy in parts, Dogs on lead

June 7th - Hartlip Open Gardens, 11.00am - 5.00pm, nine gardens plus The Village School, Methodist Chapel and Allotment gardens, Admission £5, accompanied children free, Refreshments, Sale of plants on School Lawn - Grand Raffle, Free Parking field adjacent to Rose & Crown Lower Hartlip Road Details Nikki 01795 841182 or www.hartlipgardens.wordpress.com

June 8th - Monday Hub, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, ME8 9PN, 10.00am - 12.30pm all welcome.

June 8th - UpARA, Bat & Trap Match, Upchurch Recreation Ground, 2.00pm, New Members Welcome, details email Chairman davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

June 8th - Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, Quiz Time plus

nibbles, New members welcome, £2 per visit includes refreshments, for details ring Sue 01634 230639.

June 8th - Reiki Kyokai Led by Robert Jefford, 8.00 - 10.00pm, Ramada Encore Chatham Historic Dockyard, £12 per person, open to All. Booking Essential. For details and book email kentreikishares@gmail.com

June 8th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays 2.00 - 4.30pm, new members welcome, 01634 230500

June 8th - 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

June 8th - Medway Organ & Keyboard Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 7.30 - 10.00pm, Organist - James Sargeant, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694

June 9th - Gillingham & District Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 'The Story of English Country Cheeses' - Mr W March, for details ring 01634 852519

June 9th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 8.00pm, Militaria - Keith Reeves, All visitors are made most welcome. See medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com

June 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter/Ann 01634 718895, 10.00am Camer Park, near Sole Street TQ650669 DA13 0XT for a 5 mile easy walk through Meopham, Tea Bar in Camer Park, pubs locally.

June 10th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Susan Shaw - Adventures in Peru, visitors welcome, for details ring 01634 389966

June 10th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Workshop 'A Tall Wedding Buffet Arrangement' tutored by Barbara Mallard, for details ring 01634 864572 see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk

June 10th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead

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Village Hall, 8.00pm, Inside the Jewellery Trade: Jean Whittington, details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

June 10th - 13th - Evita, Kentish Players, 7.30pm, Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, Tickets from £13.50 (cons) Box Office 01622 758611 or www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk

June 11th - Wigmore Thursday Club, The Silk Route (Part 2), Tony Mitchell, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 234712 or 01634 372508 for details.

June 11th - Hempstead Leisure Club, New Age Kurling, board and card games, tea and chat. Village Hall behind the Church. 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members always welcome 01634 366907

June 11th - Donn Barcott's 'Five 5 Live', 44Two Sports and Social Club, 8.30pm Featuring Elaine Dyan and Andrew Hawkes Magician, Admission £6 all welcome, Details 01634 405037

June 12th - 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 Julie 01634 364309

June 12th - Deanwood Primary School, Summer Fayre, 3.15 - 5.30pm, Entrance Adults 50p, Children 30p, Pre-School - Free, Something for all the family with many stalls, Refreshments hot dogs, chips, ice creams and hot and cold drinks, details t.kington@btinternet.com

June 12th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting, Upchurch Village Hall, 2.00pm, Members Free, Guests £2, New Members Welcome, details email Chairman David Powell davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

June 12th - Wigmore Community and Residents Association AGM, Wigmore Library 7.00pm, Secretary & Chairperson needed, interested let us know at AGM

June 12th - Gillingham & Rainham, Local History Society www.grlhs.weebly.com Byron Road Primary School, Gillingham, 7.15pm. 'Travels of a Man of Kent' - Peter Nebbs Visitors welcome for a small charge Ron Baker 01634 854982 or r.baker1234@btinternet.com

June 13th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, 9.00am - 12.30pm Free entry, Stalls £5 from carole@cdadswell.freereserve.co.uk or 07779 366054

June 13th - Barn Dance, Hempstead Village Hall, 7.30pm start, £10 includes a fish/sausage & chip supper, bring your own drinks, tea & coffee can be purchased in the interval. For tickets and information contact Val on 01634 230214 email valeriegorff@blueyonder.co.uk

June 13th & 14th - Chatham & District Model Railway

Show, 10am - 3pm, Medway Park Leisure Centre, Mill Road, Gillingham Entrance £7, under 14 free when accompanied by adult. See www.chathamshow.co.uk or ring 07552 777718 to 9pm

June 13th - Instep Dancing, social dances, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, ME8 0BX, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence, 8.00 - 11.00pm enquiries 01634 363738 or email s.collins02@btinternet.com

June 13th - Paranormal Investigations, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4UB, Gates Open 8.00pm Finish 3.00am Medium Richard Ware Tickets £35, Over 18's only 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com

June 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272, Hothfield Common car park off A20 TN26 1HD, for a 5 mile moderate flat walk with ponies on the common, may be muddy if wet, No dogs

June 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff geoff.ramblar@me.com, 10.00am car park of St Nicholas Church, Leeds. TQ813491 ME17 3BQ for a 20 mile long, moderate walk via Leeds-Hucking-Ringlestone-Lenham-Fairbourne Heath-Leeds, bring plenty of water, food & sunscreen. Expect to be out for up to 10 hours. Bring lunch. Pub midway and at end.

June 14th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, come and help at the Country Park, learn about the management and meet new people, refreshments provided, 01634 337432

June 15th - Medway Diabetes Meeting, 7.00 - 9.00pm, St Pauls Church, Parkwood, Speaker - Representative from Kent & Medway Diabetic Eye Screening Programme, All welcome - Free, Raffle, refreshments 07725 238464 medwaydiabetessupport@hotmail.co.uk

June 15th - Rainham Wives, Talk about 'Kasbah' and their work with young people, (see 8th June).

June 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Lapwing Drive, Lower Halstow Park in road GR 859674 ME9 7DZ, For a 4 mile easy Evening walk to Newington outskirts, some walking along lanes, dogs on Leads

June 16th - RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.50. Wildlife of New York State and New Jersey - Paul Hale. For Walks see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

June 16th - Rainbow Whist Drive, Bredhurst Village Hall 7.30pm partner not needed. Details 01634 610364

Continued on Page 11

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 Refreshments available including hot dogs, chips,
 ice creams and hot and cold drinks.
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 For details of running a stall, please contact
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BARN DANCE
 Hempstead Village Hall Committee
 This is a fund raising event
 Village Hall, (behind All Saints' Church
 in Hempstead Road).
 Saturday, 13th June, 7.00 for 7.30pm start
 Cost £10 includes a fish/sausage & chip supper,
 bring your own drinks, although tea & coffee can be
 purchased in the interval. For tickets and
 information contact Val on 01634 230214
 email **valeriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk**

CHARITY OPEN GARDEN
 Saturday 20th June, 10.30am - 4.00pm
 48 Bredhurst Road, Wigmore
 Stalls: cream teas, plants, books, bric a brac,
 reflexology. Everyone welcome

OPEN DAYS
 The Memorial Hall at Lower Halstow
 Friday Evening 26th June 6.00 - 9.00pm and
 Saturday 27th June 10.00am - 4.00pm
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JUNE FAIR
 Fairview Community Primary School
 Brewery Drive, Wigmore.
 Saturday 27th June 1.30pm. Entrance fee 50p each.
 Mobile Farm Experience, Farmers Market, Go Karts
 Amusements, Beat the Goalie, BBQ, Home made
 Cakes, Refreshments and much more.

SUMMER FAYRE
 Miers Court Primary School
 Saturday 27th June, 11.00am - 2.00pm All welcome.
 Please join us for fun, games and entertainment.

ST PETER'S, BREDHURST SUMMER FETE
 Saturday 27th June from 2.00pm. We are welcoming
 back the performers from Applause Outdoors with
 the Apple Cart and this year we welcome the
 Caledonian Society Display Team and their Scottish
 country dancing. All the usual stalls and activities,
 including the ever popular children's races.
 More details from Diane Cooke 07749 919689

ANUAL DOG SHOW
 Saturday 4th July, 11.00am - 2.00pm.
 Lower Halstow Memorial Hall or if Sunny on the
 Surrounding Grass Area. Please enter your dog on
 the day, and enjoy the fun, All proceeds from this
 event helps fund the Over Sixties Christmas Tea.

UPCHURCH FESTIVAL of MUSIC
 Saturday July 4th, 8.00pm
 City of Canterbury Brass Band
 under its conductor Will Powell
 St. Mary's Church, Upchurch
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

Into my heart an air that kills / From yon far country
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What spires, what farms are those?
From "A Shropshire lad" A E Housman 1896
According to the Shell Guide to Kent of 1969,
motorists travelling on the A20 "stop at Wrotham
Corner for the most famous vista of the county". In the
foreground of that vista is the Vale of Kent and, with
Sevenoaks at its centre, the Ragstone Hills. On the
horizon are the blue-grey, distant hills of Ashdown
Forest and Crowborough Beacon in the High Weald of
Sussex and Battle Ridge to the North of Hastings.
The sight of these blue-grey hills always reminds me
of the above well-known lines from Housman's poem.
The poet and scholar was born in Worcestershire and
his poem was set in a half imaginary pastoral
Shropshire. He wrote his poem in London at a time
when he had never visited the county. He did however
have memories of seeing the distant Shropshire Hills,
whose names he did not know, from his boyhood
home. In May, a hundred or more years after
Housman's nostalgic depiction of rural life in
Shropshire, I set out from Wrotham to revisit a
favourite part of pastoral Kent. I drove westwards
along the Pilgrims Way, a narrow lane that runs along
the bottom of the southern escarpment of the North
Downs.

Wheat was the main crop in the fields alongside the
initial stretch of Pilgrims Way and sheep were grazing
in some of the steeper fields leading up to the edge of
the Downs. The predominant colour of the flowers in
bloom was white. Cow parsley was growing in
profusion along the verges of the lane; hawthorn
bloomed in some stretches of the roadside hedgerows;
drifts of oxeye or dog daisies were in flower on the
banks of the chalk down lands; and the blossom of
wayfaring and guelder rose trees along the edges of
the wooded slopes of the Downs stood out in the
sunshine. The Pilgrims Way crosses over the wide
valley of the River Darent at Otford. Alder trees line
the river as it meanders towards Shoreham. It is the
haunt of kingfishers and, in summer, waterside plants

such as hemp agrimony, water mint, purple loosestrife
and marsh willow herb are in bloom. Because of the
prevalence of flooding, the fields in the valley are
confined to the growing of mowing grass and the
grazing of sheep.

In due course I stopped to admire the view. Towering
above me was Westerham Hill, one of the highest
points of the Kent section of the North Downs. Below
me, to the south, was the Vale of Holmesdale, a long,
shallow valley that runs, below the Downs, through
Kent and Surrey. The scene was one mainly of arable
fields and woods. There were also some fields of
sheep and, quite a rarity for Kent, three dairy farms
which adjoined each other. Peeping above the rooftops
of Westerham was the stumpy, shingled spire of St
Mary's Church. On the move again, I passed into
Surrey near the Kent Brook, which flows into the
River Eden and thence into the Medway and which is
an ancient boundary between the two counties. Soon
after a T junction with Clacket Lane, I came to the tiny
estate village of Titsey on the edge of Titsey Park.
The village is served by St James Church which has a
tall, thin spire. A herd of red Sussex beef cattle were
grazing in the Park. Growing on the steep escarpment
above the Park was a "hanging wood" of beech trees
similar to the one immortalised by Reverend Gilbert
White in his "Natural History of Selbourne" which
was published in the 18th century.

I headed towards the three aforementioned dairy
farms, namely, Force Green Farm, Park Farm and
Court Lodge Farm. These days, dairy farms can be
identified by slurry tanks, feed hoppers, stacks of
silage in large, plastic covered bales and massive
sheds clad in corrugated asbestos sheets in which cows
are both milked and kept in winter. The sheds, in
particular, are not a pretty sight but are the inevitable
consequence of the growing sizes of dairy herds.
Dairy farms are closing by the week, mainly as a
result of lack of profitability. Kent farmers are
particularly vulnerable to economic pressures because
their cows do not feed on the kind of lush pastures
found in the wetter, western side of the country. At all
three farms I noted swallows either twittering
cheerfully as they perched on various overhead wires
or hawking for flies among the cows in the pastures.

The swallows will have nests in the old fashioned
farm buildings that remain on each of the farms.
Regular users of the M25 may have connected the
Clacket Lane in Surrey that I mentioned above with
the service station of that name. Both the M25 and the
M26, which lead in to each other, do indeed run right
through the middle of the Vale of Holmesdale. Many
fields were lost under the concrete of the motorways
but away from the sight and noise of them, there
remains a pastoral Kentish scene for which I have
great affection.

Joe Ennis

STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA

In March's edition of Action Forum we told you about
five women from Rainham who travelled to India last
November to volunteer in a rural school and in a boys
home for street children in a very poor area of Udaipur
India. We had a wonderful response from readers who
attended our Quiz Night in March in order to raise
funds for the orphanage – thank you so much. With
your help we raised almost £1,000 which can do so
much to help some of the world's poorest children.
We hope you will help us again by attending our next
event which is an **Open Garden on Saturday 20th
June 10.30am - 4.00pm at 48 Bredhurst Road,
Wigmore, ME8 0PE**. It is being held in conjunction
with Wigmore Open Gardens, organised by the
Church and gives an opportunity to have a cream tea
in a beautiful garden and support our fund raising
stalls selling cakes, plants, books, bric a brac or
pamper yourself and try out a mini session of
reflexology or Indian head massage.

Later in the year we plan to run a **charity auction** and
are currently collecting suitable goods in good
condition, such as unwanted household equipment,
small pieces of furniture, those unused Christmas
presents, toys, jewellery etc. If you have an unwanted
item that you are willing to donate to support our
Indian appeal please call Sandra Colyer on 01634
362863. We look forward to hearing from you or
meeting you on 20th June.

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Did you know that last year 15% of children left
Medway Primary Schools unable to read to the
expected level, nearly 500 children! Did you also
know that 47% of children in Medway attend schools
that require improvement or are in special measures -
the worst in England!

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and business to support Medway schools to raise
children's literacy standards and overall wellbeing.
We would like your support, please encourage friends
and family to apply to become reading helpers, refer
business contacts to us - so we can engage them in the
campaign and please get in touch with any other ideas
you may have for making this a success. To contact
us or to apply to become a reading helper please ring
01622 662026 email kent@beanstalkcharity.org.uk
or see www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk

EVITA Kentish Players

Wednesday 10th – Saturday 13th June, 7.30pm
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another Hall' and 'You must Love me'
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or visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk

WIGMORE COMMUNITY & RESIDENTS Association

We hope you can join us for the AGM of the Wigmore
Community and Residents Association which is being
held at Wigmore Library from 7.00pm on Friday 12th
June. We need a Secretary and a Chairperson, if you
are interested please let us know at the AGM

WANDER WITH WISDOM MOONLIT WALK

Friday 19th June, 8.00pm

Join the Friends of Wisdom Hospice to light up
Medway at the 10k Moonlit Walk

Registration fee £15

See www.fowh.org.uk ring 01634 831163
or email info@fowh.org.uk for details

WALK: THE HISTORY OF BROMPTON

Join the Brompton History Research Group for a
historical walk around the village of Brompton
7.00pm on Thursday 25th June - meeting point outside
the Lampard Centre, Sally Port Gardens Booking
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Diary 2015

June 16th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Basic Shape Workshop (2) New members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed For details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or kayebuss@btinternet.com

June 17th - Hempstara Hempstead Active Retirement Association, Scout Hall, Dukes Meadow Drive, 2pm. speaker Dave Cash. Contact 01634 364440 for details.

June 17th - RainARA, 442 Club, Featherby Road, Rainham, Talk on "History of the Royal Variety Performance" by Dean Caston, Members only, Details kentsofkent@tiscali.co.uk or 01634 373596

June 18th - Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 - 4.00pm, Cookery Demonstration "100 years of W.I", Methodist Church Hall, Rainham. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details.

June 18th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Outing to Ashford Shopping Outlet followed by tea at Lathe Barn. No meeting in Village Hall (see 11th June).

June 18th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Strawberry Tea entertainment Newington Concert Party, (see 11th Jun)

June 19th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland Avenue, 8.30pm, Dave Barry Quintet, Steve Waterman trumpet, Simon Allan saxophone, Gareth Williams piano, Mick Hutton Bass and Dave Barry drums, Admission £10, 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.

June 19th - Wander with Wisdom, 8.00pm Friends of Wisdom Hospice 10k Moonlit Walk, Registration £15 See www.fowh.org.uk ring 01634 831163 or email info@fowh.org.uk for details

June 20th - Tower & Church Open Day, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, Climb the Tower £2 adult, £1 child

June 20th - Community DIY SOS, help refurbish Oast Community Centre (next to Rainham station) We need your help, 07743788249 email aylingh@hotmail.co.uk

June 20th - Open Garden, 10.30am - 4.00pm, 48 Bredhurst Road, Wigmore, ME8 0PE In aid of Street Children in India

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June 20th & 21st - Wigmore Gardens Weekend, local gardens open at various times over the weekend to explore and enjoy. Contact Paul Bellerby on 01634 387328 or www.stmattswigmore.org.uk for details.

June 20th - RAMASES Newington Village Hall, 2.30pm, Lecture given by Massimiliano Pinarello 'Members £7, Guests £9, at the door, email ramasesnk@hotmail.com or ring John Dewey 01795 472316 for details

June 20th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th June).

June 20th - Quiz Evening, 7.30pm, Rainham Oasthouse, admission £2.50 (£2 members) rolls available 60p each, for details ring Maggi 01634 610391.

June 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Ade 01634 306405, 10.00am, free public car park in the High Street, East Malling TQ702570 ME19 6AJ for a 6 mile leisurely walk from East Malling Bring picnic lunch for midway break. Pub at end with lunches available.

June 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Anne Bond & Pat Wells 07778 302866 07804 837155, Leeds Church car park (park at far end) For a 5.5 mile moderate mainly flat walk with views of Leeds Castle, some stiles, no dogs

June 22nd - Monday Hub, (see 8th June).

June 22nd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 8th June).

June 22nd - Rainham Wives, Evening of slides with Mr Coe, (see 8th June).

June 23rd - UpARA, Coffee Morning, Upchurch Village Hall, 9.30am, Members £1.50, Guests £2, (see 12th Jun)

June 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham 07989 753278 10.00am graham.jenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk, Otford public car park (charge) TQ525595 TN14 5PQ for a 6.5 mile leisurely walk along the Darent Valley Path one climb near the end. Linear walk returning on the 2pm bus from Farningham. Bring picnic Pub at end.

June 24th - Gillingham Horticultural Society talk 'Dig for Victory and Gardening History', United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.15pm start. £2, (£3 non members) details 01634 852519.

June 24th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Walk, (see 10th June).

June 25th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service, (see 11th June).

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Diary 2015

June 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club, AGM and fund
raising for Lifeboats (see 11th June)

June 25th - Walk: The History of Brompton, 7.00pm,
meeting outside Lampard Centre, Sally Port Gardens,
Booking essential, email bhrghbookings@gmail.com
Tickets £3 - pay on arrival

June 25th - Garden Open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, 25 Hanover
Drive, Wigmore ME8 0RF, Handmade Crafts and
Creative Threads, Refreshments, Entrance £2, Proceeds
to Meningitis Now

June 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall,
Woodside, Rainham, Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

June 26th - Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Open Day 6.00
- 9.00pm and Saturday 27th 10.00am - 4.00pm. See
for yourselves what a wonderful venue our Hall is the
rates per hour are so affordable too.

June 27th - Fairview Community Primary School June
Fair, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 1.30pm, Entrance 50p,
Mobile Farm Experience, Farmers Market, Go Karts,
Amusements, Beat the Goalie, BBQ, Home made
Cakes, Refreshments and much more

June 27th - Miers Court Primary School, Summer Fayre,
11.00am - 2.00pm, All welcome. Please join us for fun,
games and entertainment.

June 27th - St Peter's, Bredhurst Summer Fete from
2.00pm. Applause Outdoors with the Apple Cart and
the Caledonian Society Display Team. All the usual
stalls and activities and children's races. 07749 919689

June 27th - Bredhurst Village Hall, professional singing
group The Flyrights, 7.00pm licensed bar and raffle.
Tickets £12 on line www.bredhurstvillagehall.co.uk or
ring 07950 797325 proceeds to Bredhurst Village Hall

June 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Mo Fleisig 01634 788148 07976 600393, Cobtree
Manor Park car park free Forstal Road, Aylesford
Toilets and café, GR 744587 For a 6 mile moderate
walk along riverside, through countryside No dogs

June 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Pete/Kate
07751 879003, 10.00am Hollingbourne Railway Station
car park. TQ835551 ME17 1TX for a 6 mile leisurely
walk via Eyhorne and back via the Pilgrim's Way.

Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches available.
June 29th - Rainham Wives, 'Norwegian Cruise'
illustrated talk by June & Alan Parkin, (see 8th June).

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June 30th - Rainbow Whist Drive, (see 16th June).

July 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter/Ann
01634 718895, 7.00pm The Stone Horse Pub
Dillywood Lane, near Wainscott TQ732713 ME3 8EN
for a 4 mile easy Evening walk Pub at end

July 2nd - Hempstead Leisure Club, "Colour of the
Weather" talk by Ian Currie (see 11th June)

July 2nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Round the World in
a Double Decker Bus', Richard King (see 11th June).

July 3rd & 4th - St Paul's Drama Group 'Murdered To
Death, a comedy by Peter Gordon, GMC Community
Hall, Third Avenue Gillingham, 7.30pm, Tickets £6 -
cons £5. Tickets and information 01634 852712 See
www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

July 4th - Annual Dog Show, Memorial Hall, Lower
Halstow, 11.00am - 2.00pm, enter dogs on the day, All
proceeds for Over Sixties Christmas Tea.

July 4th - Upchurch Festival of Music, 8.00pm, City of
Canterbury Brass Band, St. Mary's Church, Admission
Free, Retiring Collection For Festival Funds.

July 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony/Ann
01634 406634, 10.00am, Borstal Recreation Ground car
park. No parking fee TQ738669 ME1 3AE for a 6.5
mile moderate walk Bring picnic lunch

July 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249
Brenchley car park at Market Heath on Brenchkey
Road just before the village GR 673418 TN12 7NX,
For a 6 mile easy walk in the Weald Dogs on leads

July 6th - Monday Hub, (see 8th June).

July 6th - Medway Scramble Club, (see 8th June).

July 6th - Rainham Wives, A fun game, or two, of Bingo,
(see 8th June).

July 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, 'Medway in
Bloom' - John Bentley, New members welcome, ring
01634 366276 for details.

July 8th - Rainham Flower Club, Demonstration (10th
July 11th - Upchurch Choral Society 'The Green Leaves
Of Summer' Conducted Helen Osborne, Accompanist
Janet Stone, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Upchurch,
Admission by programme £5 (children free)

July 12th & 13th - Festival of Archaeology Open Days -
Bredhurst Archaeology Project by Historical Research
Group of Sittingbourne, details Richard Emmett 07778
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