

# ACTION FORUM

**JULY 2015**  
**NUMBER 511**

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



St Mary's Church, Upchurch has an unusual 'candle-snuffer' steeple. An octagonal pyramid seems to have been stacked on top of a square one resembling a couple of inverted cones. It has been suggested that the distinctive shape was chosen to help navigation for shipping on the river. See the article on page 9 by David Wood 'Upchurch at War in 1915'.

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## Editorial

July is always an exciting month, if you are of school age exams are soon over and all the end of year activities begin: Sports Day, Concerts, Certificate Evenings, Outings and the more relaxed last days of term before the long summer holidays begin. At least that's how it used to be! I always considered the days at the end of July, after we broke up, as a bonus holiday and loved the feeling of freedom that seemed as though it could go on for ever. But times have changed. We now have Academies and Free Schools beside the Community Colleges and private fee paying establishments and it seems no two agree on what makes an ideal school year. Some work a strict six week term – have a holiday, regardless of where it falls in the calendar or religious year. Others still stick to the age old Christmas, Easter and long summer holiday pattern, others have a mix of the two. I am sure with enthusiastic leadership all schemes can be made to work successfully and long lists of pros and cons drawn to accompany any model but it must be a nightmare for parents trying to juggle work and school holidays when more than one school enters the equation. I welcomed the government hard line approach to unauthorised absence of school children believing all school time is important but my sympathies go out to parents now who must find it incredibly difficult to find a time when everyone can go away together for a family holiday. At last it seems that we may have a summer after all. The temperature is warming up nicely and the long light days are a joy when the sun shines. This is just in time for all the outdoor events which crowd our diary for July. Village Fetes, Festivals and Picnics compete with Summer Concerts, Produce Shows and this year Dog Shows which also seem popular. Not forgetting of course the many guided walks hoping to entice you outside to continue or indeed begin a fitness regime whilst enjoying the countryside – so whatever you do – perhaps just enjoying your own garden – have a very good month until we see you again in August.

## Correspondence

### WIGMORE HUTS

Dear Editor

I was very interested in the photo on the May 2015 issue of Action Forum. I do not recognise the actual

house but many years ago as a child I lived in one very much like it.

It was called 'Glenkenny' and as far as I can recall it was owned by someone from London. Most of these houses, were owned as an escape to the country. Ours was in the old Bredhurst Road (unmade in those days), if the plots were sold for £10 what a bargain! The garden back and front was huge and Dad grew all we needed for a growing family. Veggies, fruit trees and soft fruit – it was idyllic.

Alas Dads health was not good as he was gassed serving in the First World War so always had problems. He worked in the Dockyard and cycled to and from work but eventually found this impossible so we moved to Holding Street. How Mum must have missed that garden to help feed us.

I have very fond memories of our time in Wigmore and often think about them. It would be interesting to know if any of the original homes are still lived in.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs E Naylor (nee Adie)  
69 Suffolk Court  
Rainham ME8 7LB

### WATERSIDE LANE

Dear Editor,

I lived in Ivy Cottage on Gads Hill in my childhood. On the left hand side going down Waterside Lane was the Zion Church where we went to Sunday School, there was also a very tall house where Mr and Mrs Croydon lived with their four children. On the left there was a Lane with on the corner one big and then several small cottages. We would often go there to listen to Mr Walker play his accordion on Sundays. I believe he was Irish. Further down Waterside Lane on the left were two old cottages and at the bottom a water outlet with a wall. In the summer this was a meeting place to chat and swim then venture across the water to a small mud island.

Turn to the left and there were two houses down steps, my cousin Lily Obee lived in the first. A footpath led to the Strand past allotments. If you turned to the right there were more cottages and a big house where Mr & Mrs Groves (manager of the cement works) lived. So many memories come flooding back to me. The post office at the top of Gads Hill, Mr & Mrs Wickham and daughter Sheila, Mr & Mrs Bromley with Doreen, Robert and James their children, a shop next which had packets of seeds in the window, Mr & Mrs Murrel lived here, There was a small shop tucked in the corner where we got our sweets and comics, then a Greengrocers kept by Mr & Mrs Small. Mr Alfie Hart had an orchard and a coal round, there was a Butchers on the corner on the left of Ivy Cottages. I remember Mrs Thorp and children Jean, Len and Ken, Mrs Taylor with Jean, Eileen and John, Jacks Stores and so many more people.

At the bottom of Gads Hill there still remains a small building where the siren was during the war. I moved from Gads Hill, where I lived with my

brother Gordon and sisters Betty, Shirley and Daphne, when I was 15 years old, I am now 81 but remember it so well.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Simpson  
14 Peregrine Drive  
Sittingbourne ME10 4TZ

### BATTERSEA DOGS & CATS HOME

Please help Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in your local community

We are inviting local animal lovers to form a new volunteer fundraising group. Groups organise local activities like fete stalls, quiz nights and coffee mornings to benefit the dogs and cats at Battersea, including those at their rehoming centre in Brands Hatch. This is a great way to meet people, have fun and contribute to a worthwhile cause and groups are provided with lots of materials and support from the Home.

Battersea receives no government funding and needs to raise £15.4m every year. If you are sociable, enthusiastic and have some spare time, please contact Battersea's Regional Community Fundraiser, Victoria Lawrence, on 07590 173456 or at v.lawrence@battersea.org.uk to find out more.

### PAINTING, DRAWING & SEWING DAY

Following the huge success of our Community Art & Craft Exhibition last year, St. Margaret's Parish Church are holding a painting, drawing and sewing day on August 1st.

Artists & drawers will be able to paint or draw either inside or outside our beautiful building with the well known local artist Geoffrey John Hall on hand to offer advice and suggestions whilst needle women will be able to create a pin cushion whilst learning the Cathedral Window Patchwork technique from Rosie Bayliss.

Sessions will be from 10.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.00pm and the cost for either part or the whole day will be £3 including free tea & coffee. There will be a very small charge for the pin cushion kit. For any further information and for entry forms, which need to be returned by 26th July, please contact Kate, in the Church Office during office hours or on 01634 362023 also during office hours.

Pam Ormiston

### RAINHAM COMMUNITY ORCHARD

#### More volunteers needed.

A year ago Zammit Roofing generously offered us 5 acres of apple orchard at the bottom of Bloors Lane to run both as a productive orchard and as a wildlife habitat. Since then volunteers have put in many hours clearing nettles, thistles etc and then pruning during the winter. This summer the weed is growing fast and we need many more volunteers to help clear it before our "pick your own" days in September. Any profit we make will be donated to Kent Wildlife Trust. If you can spend a few hours a week helping please email orchard@thenet.uk.net or call me on 01634 310011 9.00 to 5.00 Mon to Fri to arrange a time to view the orchard.

Hamish Mackay Miller

### DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors of Action Forum are needed for:

#### Rainham

Hawthorne Avenue, Caldey Avenue & Ashley Road

#### Wigmore

Eleanor Close, Rutland Close and Top Maidstone Road

#### Parkwood

Rycaut, Howbury, & Hardinge & part Long Catlis Road  
Culpepper Road to Readscroft Road

#### Hempstead

Wildwood, Black Rock, Stalham Closes & Coppice Ct  
Watermeadow & Horseshoe Closes

#### Upchurch

The Poles, part of The Street,  
Church Farm Road, Forge Lane

If you live near any of these roads or are able to travel to them and could help for about an hour or so during the first week of each month we would be very pleased to hear from you on 01634 310011 (please mention that you are calling about Action Forum) or email af@thenet.uk.net

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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: July 21st

July 4th – Lower Halstow Village Dog Show, 10.00am  
July 4th – Jazz Night, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham,  
8.00pm, The Parkin Lot with a varied programme  
Tickets £8 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or on the door.  
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 – Volunteer Task Day, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10.00am – 2.00pm, come and help at the Country  
Park, learn about the management and meet new  
people, refreshments provided, 01634 338191  
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 Brenchley  
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, St Paul's Church, Parkwood,  
ME8 9PN, 10.00am – 12.30pm all welcome  
July 6th – Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church  
Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays  
2.00 – 4.30pm, new members welcome, 01634 230500  
July 6th – Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall,  
Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, A fun game, or two,  
of Bingo, New members welcome, £2 per visit includes  
refreshments, for details ring Sue 01634 230639.  
July 7th – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm  
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, 'Medway in  
Bloom' – John Bentley, New members welcome, ring  
01634 366276 for details.  
July 7th – GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed  
Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm,  
"Malmaison – Ducess Rose" – Workshop with outside  
tutor (Viv O'Sullivan), New members welcome, first  
visit free, no experience needed details contact Kaye  
Buss 01634 232998 or email [kayebuss@btinternet.com](mailto:kayebuss@btinternet.com)  
July 8th – U3A Rainham Mark Social Hall 56 London

Road, 2.00pm, Steve Pendleton - Blinded on Duty ring  
0789 589 0635 for details.  
July 8th – Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall,  
7.30pm, Demonstration 'Bursting full of colour' by  
Graham King, for details ring 01634 864572 or see  
[www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk)  
July 8th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Mr. D  
March – The story of cheeses & Beekeeping, visitors  
welcome, For details ring 01634 389966  
July 9th – Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's  
Community, 2.00pm, 'Shipwrecked en route to The  
Falklands, Brian Biggs for over 50s ring 01634 235507  
July 9th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, board games,  
tea and chat. Village Hall behind the Church 2.00 –  
4.00pm. New members always welcome, phone 366907  
July 9th – 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  
July 10th – 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 & chat ring Julie 01634 364309  
July 10th – UpARA, Monthly Meeting, Upchurch Village  
Hall, 2.00pm, Members Free, Guests £2, New Members  
Welcome, For details email Chairman David Powell  
[davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk)  
July 11th – Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium  
Centre, 9.00am – 12.30pm Free entry, Stalls £5 from  
[carole@cdadswell.freemove.co.uk](mailto:carole@cdadswell.freemove.co.uk) or 07779 366054  
July 11th – Upchurch Choral Society 'The Green Leaves  
Of Summer' Conducted by Helen Osborne,  
Accompanist Janet Stone, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church,  
Upchurch, Admission by programme £5 (children free)  
Refreshments by and in aid of Friends of St Mary's  
July 11th – All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead  
Village Hall, 8.00pm, Outing, Hastings and Merriments  
Gardens details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

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July 11th – 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](mailto:s.collins02@btinternet.com)  
July 12th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033,  
Bluebell Hill, Common Road picnic site GR806578  
ME14 3LD For a 5.5 mile hard walk through chalkland  
and trees, hilly with a steep climb at the end. No dogs  
July 12th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Heather 07887  
750881, 10.00am, Public Car Park immediately to the  
north of Linton Church (free). TQ755502 ME17 4AW  
for a 5 mile leisurely walk, coffee break half way, Pub  
at end with lunches available.  
July 12th – 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  
July 12th & 13th – Festival of Archaeology Open Days –  
Bredhurst Archaeology Project by Historical Research  
Group of Sittingbourne, details Richard Emmett 07778  
793079 or email [richard@hrgs.co.uk](mailto:richard@hrgs.co.uk)  
July 13th – Medway Organ & Keyboard Club Concert,  
Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 7.30 –  
10.00pm, Organist – Dirkjan Ranzijn, details ring Brian  
Leonard 01634 234694  
July 13th – Rainham Wives, Summer Meal, (see 6th July)  
July 13th – 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  
July 14th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm  
Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Thurnham Black  
Horse Pub car park GR806578 ME14 3LD, For a 4  
mile moderate Evening walk, No dogs  
July 14th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia and  
Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for  
Girls, Derwent Way, Mini Show of cuttings distributed  
in March, for details ring 01634 852519  
July 14th – Rainbow Whist Drive, Bredhurst Village Hall  
Hurstwood Road, 7.30pm all whist players are  
welcome, partner not needed. Details 01634 610364  
July 14th – Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, St  
George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 8.00pm, Militaria,  
Medals with a story – Keith Reeves, visitors welcome.  
[medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com](mailto:medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com)

July 15th – Hempstara Hempstead Active Retirement  
Association, Scout Hall, Dukes Meadow Drive,  
2.00pm. Contact 01634 364440 for details.  
July 15th – RainARA, 442 Club, Featherby Road,  
Rainham, Talk on "Malawi Charity" by Elspeth Baeke,  
Members only, Details [kentsofkent@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kentsofkent@tiscali.co.uk) or  
01634 373596  
July 15th – Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Bredhurst  
Village Hall, Susan Scrivens Illustrated Talk - 'Herbs  
for Everyday Use' Sweet Pea and Single Rose Show,  
New Members Welcome, Ring 01634 233554  
July 16th – Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 – 4.00pm,  
Speaker on "Scarf Tying", Methodist Church Hall,  
Wakeley Road, Rainham. Visitors welcome for small  
entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details.  
July 16th – Hempstead Leisure Club, 'Billy Bunter' Talk  
by Tony Whiting (see 9th July)  
July 16th – Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Mayo with  
everything (or Irish Stew)', Paul Warren (see 9th July).  
July 16th – Walk: The Great Lines Heritage Park, Join the  
Brompton History Research Group for a guided walk.  
Find out more about the fascinating heritage and  
ecology of this special place. 6.30pm – meeting point  
Fort Amherst top gates, Maxwell Road, Booking  
essential, please email [bhrghbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bhrghbookings@gmail.com)  
Tickets £3 – pay on arrival  
July 17th – HempstARA Whist afternoon. 1.30pm, Scout  
Hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, all abilities welcome,  
partner is not required, for details please call Eunice  
on 01634 321664.  
July 17th – Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland  
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Robert Castelli/ Boom  
Quartet. Top modern jazz, funk, and Latin, Admission  
£10, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.  
July 18th – Newington Village Festival with Demelza,  
Noon – 9.00pm, School field, ME9 7LB, Annual tug-  
of-war contest, Live music on stage, dance displays,  
rides and sideshows, children's events, competitions,  
stalls, licensed bar, BBQ, Pimms and tea tents.  
Admission £2, under 16s free.  
July 18th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, Stour  
Valley Walk section 3 Meet Stephen Manning 07551  
712438, Ashford Blackwall Road South TN24 0NX For  
a 10.5mile moderate walk finishing at Chilham Station  
CT4 8EG Contact Stephen for details, No dogs

Continued on Page 11

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**THE GREEN LEAVES OF SUMMER**  
Upchurch Choral Society  
Lovely Music for a Summer Evening  
Conducted by Helen Osborne  
Accompanist Janet Stone  
Saturday 11th July, 7.30pm  
St Mary's Church, Upchurch  
Admission by programme £5 (children free)  
Refreshments provided by and in aid of  
Friends of St Mary's

**SUMMER CONCERT** Old Barn Orchestra  
Saturday 18th July at 7.30pm  
St Martin's Church, Northumberland Avenue,  
Maidstone ME15 7LP  
Schubert Symphony No 2 - Sibelius Waltz Triste  
Beethoven Coriolan Overture - Haydn Symphony 99  
Tickets £12 on the door or from 01795 843228  
or 10634 376979 or e-mail oldbarnos@gmail.com

**SUMMER CONCERT**  
River Voice Community Choir  
Saturday 18th July, 2.30 for 3.00pm start  
St Stephens Church, Chatham ME4 6JE  
Light Refreshment provided, small raffle,  
Free Entry, Donations welcome

**BWAG MUSIC & PICNIC at GREEN COURT**  
The Street, Bredhurst, ME7 3JY  
Sunday 19th July, Gates Open 4.00 for 5.00pm  
The Cantium Singers, a 50 strong Rochester choir  
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Entry £1, Refreshments, raffle and plant sale  
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Phone 01634 852519 for Show Schedule and  
details of entering exhibits.

**BEER FESTIVAL.**  
Rainham Cricket Club.  
Berengrave Lane, Rainham ME8 7NA  
Sunday 26th July, 12noon – 10.00pm.  
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fun and games for all the family. Come along and  
help raise funds for our Community Cricket Club.

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Saturday 27th July, 2.00 – 4.00pm  
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**SUMMER FETE**  
Friends of Bredhurst Cats Protection  
Bredhurst Village Hall – Hurstwood Road ME7 3JZ  
Sunday 2nd August, 11.00am – 4.00pm  
Due to refurbishment of the centre, this year's Fete  
will be held at the Village Hall. Come and learn all  
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Refreshments, raffle, children's corner, bric-a-brac,  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

It is claimed that there are more ancient trees in this country than anywhere else in Northern Europe. At Richmond Park alone there are about 900 ancient trees, more (it is said) than in France and Germany combined. On the other hand, Britain has poor forest cover compared with European countries and none of it remains in its original state. But those ancient and untouched forests which still exist in Eastern Europe, for example, do not necessarily allow individual trees to survive to a great age. Competition with other trees causes them to grow tall and thin so that they fall prematurely. Many of Britain's ancient trees (including those in Richmond Park) are a legacy of hunting from the time of William the Conqueror onwards. The sport required fairly open land over which horses could gallop but dotted with free standing trees to provide cover and shelter for the deer. These trees grew outwards rather than upwards and, today, those that have survived are massive, gnarled and misshapen.

In June I visited Godinton House and Park near Ashford, in the valley of the Great Stour. The approach by car to the house is through parkland studded with many, very old, magnificent trees. The red brick, largely Jacobean house is open to the public in the summer, as are the three attractive gardens (formal, walled and Italian) and a wild flower meadow best seen in the spring. Facing the front entrance to the house is a large and untidy heap of timber, all that remains of a great oak said to have existed at the time of Domesday. The great tree fell to the ground on 3rd September 1939, the day on which Neville Chamberlain announced that this country was at war with Germany. Having parked my car and paid for a ticket to the grounds only, I commenced on a walk around the parkland and adjoining water meadows, largely by means of public footpaths. The main trees in the parkland were ash, beech, horse chestnut, oak, London plane, sweet chestnut and sycamore. Beef cattle stood in the shade of one large oak, chewing the cud and swishing flies with their tails. Many new trees had been planted over the past few years, protected

from grazing cattle (and any wild deer) by rings of chestnut palings. A distinctive and uniform browsing line on trees throughout the parkland, a few feet above the ground, confirmed that cattle are indeed fond of young leaves.

Some old trees, especially oaks, are referred to as "stag headed" because they sport dead boughs which resemble the antlers of a stag. I noted a few of them at Godington. These dead boughs have lost their leaves as a result of retrenchment by the tree in old age; they may not rot and fall off for nearly a century, long after the tree has adjusted to a smaller crown. Fortunately, there is a growing recognition that "stag headed" trees are not dying and do not need to be cut down. In due course I arrived at the water meadows of the Great Stour, overlooked by the tower of Great Chart church, and in which sheep were grazing. The spiky stems of clumps of compact rush indicated that the meadows were indeed waterlogged, at least in part. A large flock of jackdaws were feeding in the meadows, among the sheep. The existence of molehills showed that the meadows had not been ploughed for many years, if at all, presumably because of the regular threat of flooding. Growing beside the wet ditches feeding the Great Stour were meadow sweet and great willow herb or codlins and cream. Alongside the river itself were crack willow and alder trees and above it banded demoiselle dragon flies flew in search of insect prey.

On my way back to Godington House, and a cup of tea and a cake in the restaurant, I came across a dead beech tree which had presumably died suddenly and quickly in the previous summer. Because their roots are extremely shallow, beeches are vulnerable to droughts and to gales. Consequently, they rarely exceed two centuries in age. The 18th century naturalist, The Reverend Gilbert White, described the beech as "A truly noble tree. The most lovely of all forest trees, whether we consider its smooth rind or bark, its glossy foliage, or graceful, pendulous boughs." There the Godinton beech stood, with its smooth bark and graceful, pendulous boughs. Only its glossy foliage was missing. It was as if, where the tree stood, it was still winter, whilst everywhere else summer had arrived. It was quite surreal.

Joe Ennis

## UPCHURCH AT WAR IN 1915

Upchurch residents continued their daily lives as the war raged on but most had little idea about the reality of the conflict apart from what they read in newspaper reports and heard from servicemen who returned home on leave.

Although Upchurch men had joined the Armed Forces an article appeared in the East Kent Gazette dated March 6th 1915 accusing the village of lacking patriotism, stating that men of fighting age were not joining up. The article ended with the words, 'Wake up my lads! Seize the chance of your lifetime and lay a just claim to honour your existence as Brits.'

This proved to be unjustified as 140 men from the village joined up to fight during the war including Alfred and James Robinson from Ham Green who were amongst the first of the 1915 volunteers. The fervour of patriotism continued on Sunday June 5th, 1915 when a troop of the East Kent Mounted Rifles rode into the village for an open-air recruitment meeting beside the church. At the meeting Reverend Trew urged the troop captain to persuade mothers present to commit their sons to join up, Richard Wakeley of 'Wakeley Brothers' gave a patriotic speech and Holywell headmaster Mr. Maltravers raised the Union Jack flag above the Infant's School. James Hatton and Fred Godfrey were the only recorded Upchurch fatalities at the battle front during 1915. James Hatton served as a private in The Buffs and after enlisting in 1909 he served in Singapore and Ireland before going to the European mainland with the British Expeditionary Force in 1914. He was killed on February 27th 1915. Fred Godfrey served as a private in the Buffs but perished on the Western Front on November 26th 1915. Born in Teynham he lived at Ham Green.

On a more pleasing note George Marsh from Forge Lane joined up in 1914 and after fighting in France with the British Expeditionary Force he gained promotion to sergeant then to staff sergeant in August and September 1914. He later became attached to the RAMC taking charge of motor convoy workshops. Throughout the year Holywell School raised money for the war. In May 1915 pupils presented a show in aid of St Bart's Hospital and raised £5. Fund raising activities continued under the direction of teachers Mr and Mrs Maltravers. Later in December 1915 a bazaar

at the School raised £12/3/10d for Princess Mary's Fund. The Young Patriots also raised £30 for organisations like 'HRH Princess Mary's Christmas Fund for Soldiers and Sailors,' the 'Belgian children' and for the 'YMCA Hut Scheme.'

Several incidents in Upchurch included the arrest of Private William Duley, of the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment for being absent from the army without leave while the police forced local inventor Mr Mantle from Bayford House in Poot Lane out of the parish under instructions from the military and later charged and arrested him under the Defence of the Realm Act. They alleged that he had acted in a way prejudicial to public safety. He fought the case through his MP and it went to the Under-Secretary of State in the House of Commons. The charges were eventually overturned and Mr Mantle returned to Bayford House then after suing the government for wrongful arrest he moved away from the area.

At the end of 1915 not much optimism existed for a quick end to the war as more village boys joined the forces while the opposing sides fought for small gains with massive casualties along the Western Front.

David Wood

## BREDHURST ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

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## NEWINGTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL

in conjunction with Demelza Hospice  
Saturday, July 18th, Noon – 9.00pm  
School field, School Lane ME9 7LB  
Community family event run by parish council.  
Annual tug-of-war contest for Newington Challenge Cup. To enter team of 8 - 10 contact 01795 842405 or sepr@hotmail.co.uk.

To book a stall, £15 email fionashoults@yahoo.com.  
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## Diary 2015

July 18th - RAMASES Newtoning Village Hall, 2.30pm,

Lecture given by Jocelyn Gohary 'Holy Roaming:  
Egyptian Gods Abroad' Members £7, Guests £9  
Tickets at the door, email ramasesnk@hotmail.com or  
ring John Dewey 01795 472316 for details

July 18th - Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall,  
7.15pm start, £5 each, bring own drinks and nibbles  
ring 01634 377671.

July 18th - Summer Concert, River Voice Community  
Choir, 3.00pm start, St Stephens Church, Maidstone  
Road Chatham ME4 6JE Light Refreshment provided,  
small raffle, Free Entry, Donations welcome

July 18th - Old Barn Orchestra Summer Concert, 7.30pm,  
St Martin's Church, Northumberland Avenue,  
Maidstone ME15 7LP, Tickets £12 on the door or from  
01795 843228/01634 376979 or oldbarnos@gmail.com

July 19th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff  
geoff.rambler@me.com, 10.00am Park around Iwade  
village - meet in car park of the Woolpack PH. TQ900  
679 ME9 8SH for a 6 mile leisurely walk Bring  
binoculars if you have them. Pub at end.

July 19th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358, Hunton Village  
Hall, West Street car park GR723498 ME15 0RR, For a  
4.75 mile easy walk via Burford and Yalding No dogs

July 19th - BWAG Music & Picnic at Green Court, The  
Street, Bredhurst, 5.00pm, The Cantium Singers  
performing highlights from well known musicals, John  
Rutter and Verdi. BYO picnic and rug Tickets £5 per  
person must be purchased in advance - not be available  
on the day (under 16 free) call Vanessa Jones 07813  
785940 or email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

July 20th - Monday Hub, (see 6th July).

July 20th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 6th July).

July 21st - RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood  
Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.45pm, £3.50,  
E Birds of New Zealand - Victoria Golding. For Walks  
see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

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July 21st - GHS Floral Art Group, Craft Night - bases,  
basic 'living card', (see 7th July).

July 22nd - Gillingham Horticultural Society, Robert  
Wiseman - talk 'Hints from the Judge on Showing your  
Plants and Produce' and small Show Table  
demonstration. Bring pot plants for advice on showing.  
(see 7th July).

July 23rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Blind Veterans UK  
(our charity for 2015), Peter Williams (see 9th July).

July 23rd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, board games  
(see 9th July)

July 25th - Medway Ramblers Walk Joint walk with  
White Cliffs Ramblers, meet Margaret/Jim 01795  
843927 maglou1@yahoo.co.uk, 10.00am, Challock  
Village Hall car park (50p pp) TR011505 TN25 4AU  
for moderate Figure of eight walk. 6 miles and 5 miles.  
Lunch at halfway House, Challock. If eating please  
email Margaret or phone by 18th July.

July 25th - Annual Summer Show, Gillingham & District  
Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, Viewing from  
2.00pm, Main Hall, Rainham School for Girls, Entry  
£1, Refreshments, raffle and plant sale, to enter an  
Open class ring 01634 852519 for Show Schedule

July 26th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet Pearl Stevens 07724 602929 New Ash Green,  
park in North Square GR605656 DA3 8QT For a 5 mile  
moderate walk through woodlands and fields, no stiles  
a few steps and slopes. No dog

July 26th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Ade 01634  
306405 adeballard@yahoo.co.uk, 10.00am, Park  
considerately in Harvel Street and meet by the Amazon  
and Tiger pub TQ650634 DA13 0DE for a 5.6 mile  
leisurely walk Bring picnic lunch for midway break.  
Pub at end with lunches available.

July 26th - Beer Festival. Rainham Cricket Club,  
Berengrave Lane. 30 real ales and 10 ciders, live music,  
all day BBQ, fun and games 12noon- 10.00pm.  
July 27th - Produce Sale and Crafts, 2.00 - 4.00pm, St.  
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July 28th - UpARA, Coffee Morning, Upchurch Village  
Hall, 9.30am, Members £1.50, Guests £2, (see 10th  
July).

July 28th - Rainbow Whist Drive, (see 14th July).

July 29th - Things with Wings, Riverside Country Park,  
9.30 & 11.30am, whether it's a bird, a dragonfly or a  
butterfly, it may fly past you at the country park. Create  
one in this craft activity £3 per child, 01634 337432

July 29th - Beginners Family Fishing, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 9.30 - 11.30am or 1.00 - 3.00pm learn  
the basics of fishing, all equipment and bait supplied,  
suitable for accompanied children aged 8 - 12 years,  
£10 per child, 01634 338191

July 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike, 10.00am  
Hook and Hatchet [use far car park] in Hucking  
TQ844583 ME17 1QT for a 6.5 mile moderate walk  
through Hucking Estate to Hollingbourne and uses the  
North Downs Way, steady climb on return section.  
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July 30th - Butterflies and Bushcrickets (5+), Riverside  
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with the park's butterfly and bushcricket population £3  
per person, 01634 337432  
July 30th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Summer Lunch with  
entertainment by Sue, No meetings in August but meet  
again Sept 3rd. (see 9th July)  
July 30th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall,  
Woodside, Rainham, Ring Sylvia Wilbridge 01634  
312038 for details.  
July 31st - Blue Moon Paranormal Investigation Special  
using areas not normally open, Fort Amherst, Dock  
Road, Chatham, Gates open 8.00pm, Arrive 8.00 -  
8.30pm Activities start 9.00pm finish 1.00am approx.,  
Medium Richard Ware, Tickets £35 book on line, Pre  
booked only - over 18s only, For more information ring  
01634 847747 see www.fortamherst.com  
August 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet Roger Danks 07866 971819, Harrietsham Station  
car park GR866529 For a 5 mile moderate walk using  
field paths and tracks with 21 stiles via North Downs  
Way, Pilgrims Way and Ringlestone with excellent  
views. No dogs  
August 2nd - Volunteer Task Day, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, (see 5th July).  
August 2nd - Friends of Bredhurst Cats Protection,  
Summer Fete, Bredhurst Village Hall - Hurstwood  
Road ME7 3JZ, 11.00am - 4.00pm, Parking on site  
Refreshments, raffle, children's corner, bric-a-brac,  
books, cat related items, tombola etc, Contact Carol  
0797 3677390  
August 3rd - Monday Hub, (see 6th July).  
August 3rd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 6th July).  
August 5th - Pond Dipping and Sweep Netting (5 - 12  
years), Riverside Country Park, 9.30 - 11.30am or 1.00  
- 3.00pm, Find out what lives in the pond and  
wildflower meadows. £3 per child, 01634 337432  
August 6th - Creative Clay Creatures (3 - 12 years),  
Riverside Country Park, 9.30 - 11.30am, it may get  
messy, £3 per child 01634 337432  
August 7th - 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  
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August 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Stour  
Valley Walk section 4 Meet Stephen Manning 07551  
712438 Chilham Station CT4 8EG For a 9 mile  
moderate walk finishing at Fordwich George & Dragon  
King Street GR 179597 CT2 0DB No dogs  
August 8th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium  
Centre, (see 11th July).  
August 8th - Instep Dancing, (see 11th July).  
August 9th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country  
Park, (see 12th July).  
August 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet Gill Smith 07999 858981 Ickham park in the road  
near Duke of William GR221581 CT3 1QP For a 5  
mile moderate gentle walk along the Stour Valley with  
16 stiles No dogs  
August 10th - Monday Hub, (see 6th July).  
August 10th - Rainham Bereavement Evening Friendship  
Group (see 13th July).  
August 10th - Medway Organ & Keyboard Club Concert,  
Organist - Byron Jones, (see 13th July).  
August 11th - Gillingham and District Fuchsia and  
Pelargonium Society, 'The Plant Heritage Organisation'  
- Jude Lawton, (see 14th July).  
August 11th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club,  
Postcards of World War I - John Wigley, (see 14th  
July).  
August 11th - Rainbow Whist Drive, (see 14th July).  
August 12th - U3A, Anna Austin: How Women learned  
to drive the car, (see 8th July).  
August 12th - Rainham Flower Club, Workshop 'All  
Green' tutored by Avril Hill, (see 8th July).  
August 12th - Bredhurst WI, Miss J. Whittington - The  
Chelsea Pensioners, (see 8th July).  
August 13th - Donn Barcott's 'Five 5 Live', (see 9th  
July).  
August 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
Meet Graham Starkey 01634 371948 Ulcombe All  
Saints Church, Ulcombe Hill GR846498 ME17 1D For  
a 5 mile undulating moderate walk through fields and  
some lanes via Sutton Valence Castle No dogs  
August 17th - Monday Hub, (see 6th July).  
August 17th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 6th July).  
August 19th - Hempstara (see 15th July)  
August 19th - RainARA, Rainham, Talk on "Childhood  
memories of an evacuee in Germany and Austria in  
WWE" by Mrs U. Atkins (see 15th July).

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