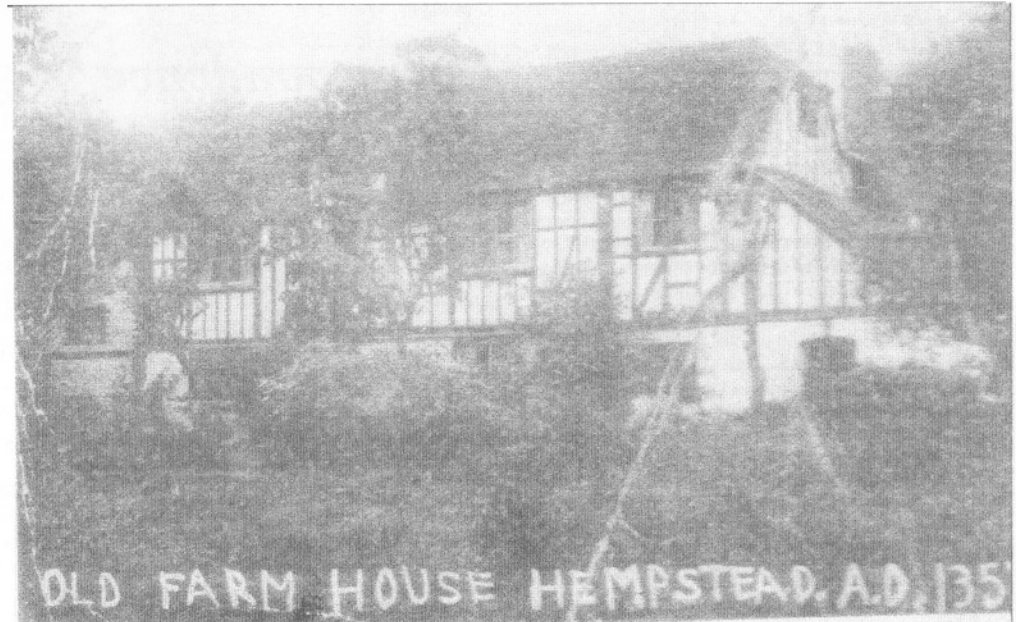


# ACTION FORUM

AUGUST 2016  
NUMBER 523

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



A settlement with a few houses along Hempstead Road has existed for several hundred years, known in the 1600s as 'Hemsted'. The hamlet's original farmhouse still stands. According to Wikipedia 'lands owned by this farm bequeathed to regional administration have become today's "Hempstead Playing Fields"'. In Geoffrey Huftons book 'Off The Beaten Track' he states 'In 1890 the Old Farmhouse and Farm had been bought by a solicitor named Brake. He split the farm into smaller plots and offered them for sale. The 'Chatham News' of 1st September 1900 carried the following advertisement HEMPSTEAD ESTATE Near LUTON Freehold Plots 20 x 20 feet Price £10 each (may be paid in instalments). See the article by a more recent resident of the Old Farmhouse on page 7.

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AF

Next Issue September 3rd 2016  
Copy Date: Aug 23rd Sm Ads Aug 26th  
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## Editorial

For the last two years all of our attention has been focusing on the many anniversaries of the Great War, most recently the beginning of the Somme campaign. Rather slipping under the radar is the forthcoming 950th anniversary of the great Battle of Hastings fought between the Saxons and Normans in 1066 at Battle in East Sussex presumably so named in honour of the event. It is the one date that we all know from childhood immortalised in the title of the humorous book by W.C. Sellar and R.J. Yeatman '1066 and All That' which was the layman's guide to all important historical dates before the advent of the 'Horrible Histories' series of books. Considering that this was actually a defeat of the native army by the conquering Normans it is strange that it is so indelibly engraved on our memories. The Bayeux Tapestry reinforces the image with the dramatic depiction of the death of King Harold. Battle Abbey, the location of where he fell with the arrow in his eye, has recently moved a stone marking the site of his death to a spot about 20 feet away from the already revised 1980 position. Possibly a more accurate assessment but also a good publicity ploy at the beginning of the holiday season! Anyway it made me take notice and pass on the information so well done to the publicists – it worked. I hope the Abbey gets the visitors it deserves on this historic occasion. John Austin in a letter on this page suggests local children should be encouraged to remember the actual date, October 14th, with an army of craft work soldiers around Rainham. This would need substantial planning so there is probably not enough time now to fulfil the ambition but perhaps local schools could do something on their own premises so a new generation of Brits will be able to recall with certainty at least one important date from our history. Coincidentally Joe Ennis visits East Sussex in Nature Notes this month. He describes a visit to the Kent and East Sussex Railway and Bodium Castle so should you wish to see King Harold's revised death site and time travel back to 1066 you could combine the two locations for a great day out. The holidays have only just begun but already many of our readers are thinking of the new academic year. If you are part of the silver hair brigade and keep thinking you really should astonish your grandchildren by learning at least the basics of that computer they insisted you needed - now is your chance. The pupils

of Rainham School for Girls will gently initiate you to this alien world by providing free classes for beginners during the autumn. Ring 01634 362746 for more details. At the other end of the age spectrum there are vacancies for girls at a local Brownie Pack, join in the fun and make new friends, ring 01634 920424 to find out more. Do enjoy August, whether you are home or away we include plenty more to interest you in our Diary so please read on and we will be with you again in September.

## Correspondence

1066 AND ALL THAT - A Creative Educational Suggestion

Dear Editor,

As we approach the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings on 14th October this year (without doubt the best remembered year in English History) I feel it would be appropriate for our young people to be involved in a Creative Project. I suggest young people from pre-school to early secondary school age could swamp Rainham High Street and the Shopping Pecinct with many life size effigies of Saxon and Norman soldiers – similar to the Guy Fawkes we see in November each year.

Recently I visited Battle in East Sussex and on almost every lamp post and other similar bits of street furniture was either a Saxon or Norman warrior. As a retired art teacher I always viewed celebrating such events as a great creative challenge for all my students encouraging all ages to be involved in and inspired by our history. Studying the Bayeux Tapestry will give anyone interested a very good idea of the mode and fashion of dress worn by both armies during this period.

Yours sincerely  
J.K. Austin NDD (BA) ATD

100 YEARS CELEBRATION

Dear Editor

The 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group is celebrating 100 Years and is calling ex members and anybody associated with the 4th (from 1960) or the 1st Rainham, 20th Medway or 20th Medway East in the 40s and 50s, to come along and help celebrate and meet up with old friends on Saturday 24th September 2.00 – 4.00pm at St George's Scout Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham ME8 7NA

Please bring any memorabilia or let us have a copy and pass on this invitation to any other former members.

Refreshments will be available. Please contact the Group Secretary on email address 4thgillinghamsecretary@gmail.com

Yours sincerely  
Cathy Burns  
Group Secretary

BROWNIES

Dear Editor,

Due to a number of older Brownies going on to Guides, 5th Rainham Brownies will have spaces in September for girls aged 7-10. We meet at Riverside Primary school on a Thursday during term time. If your daughter would like to join us, please email 5thrainhambrownies@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 01634 920424 for more information.

Yours sincerely  
Michelle  
Leader 5th Rainham Brownies

GRAND CHARITY AUTUMN BAZAAR

Dear Editor

Due to an unavoidable late cancellation, we unexpectedly have a couple of tables free still to hire for our very popular Grand Charity Autumn Bazaar. The Bazaar will be at St. Matthew's Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, on Saturday 15th October, open to the public from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Any local charity or craftsperson who would like to take a table (£7 each, all table money donated to SPANA) is advised to contact Linda a.s.a.p. by emailing lindaligarten@hotmail.co.uk or phoning 01634 377267. Don't miss this very popular annual event where everyone will be shopping early for Christmas whilst supporting the many charities taking part!

Yours faithfully  
Linda Lisgarten.

SILVER SURFERS

Dear Editor,

Calling all Silver Surfers! Ever wanted to learn how to use email, send attachments, do on-line shopping, join twitter, use a smart phone, search the internet or use an App – or maybe just learn how to 'log on'? Who better to help you than the real experts – our students.

Rainham School for Girls are offering **FREE** IT help and support for local absolute beginners for one hour a week for 4-5 weeks in September/October. Interested? Phone 01634 362746 to book.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs K Moon

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& Sunday 28th August, 10.00am – 3.00pm

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# Diary 2016

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: August 23rd 2016

August 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941965272  
Goathurst Common car park at crossroads with  
Nightingale Lane, Sevenoaks GR 497519 TN14 6JA for  
a 6 mile walk 3 stiles Dogs on leads contact walk leader

August 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Len, 01634 319391, lenbeadle@blueyonder.co.uk  
Chartham village green. TR108549 CT4 7JA for an 8.5  
mile leisurely walk finishing 2.45pm approx. 2 sharp  
climbs, 4 stiles and a couple of slight slopes.

August 7th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside  
Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Get involved by  
helping with some practical tasks on the site. Meet at  
the Visitor Centre. For details phone 01634 337432

August 8th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,  
Millennium Centre, Rainham meets 2nd Monday  
evening each month to help those still in employment  
who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat,  
ring Julie 01634 364309.

August 8th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,  
Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm,  
Organist - Paul Carman, details Brian Leonard 234694

August 8th - Rainham Flower Club, second Monday each  
month 7.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre,  
Wigmore see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring  
01634 864572 Visitors welcome.

August 8th - 21st - Free Childrens' Entertainment,  
Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, 11.00am - 1.00pm  
& 2.00 - 4.00pm daily outside Pandora and Thomson,  
Children must be supervised at all times.

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August 9th - Big Bug Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep  
Netting, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or  
1.00 - 3.00pm. Children must be accompanied by an  
adult. £3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432

August 9th - Willow Weaving, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10.00am - 12noon Use willow to make different  
objects like a star or a basket. Suitable for the whole  
family, £3 per person. To book phone 01634 338191

August 9th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm,  
Rainham School for Girls, 'Secrets of the Walled  
Garden' - D.J. March, Members £1, Non members  
£1.50, All Welcome ring 01634 852519

August 10th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Learn how to use a  
compass and test your orienteering skills. Suitable for  
groups, families and individuals who are after a bit of  
adventure. £3 per person, to book phone 01634 338191

August 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm,  
meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Parkwood  
Green, Gillingham GR 809642 ME8 9PN for a 4 mile  
Evening flat walk through Foxburrow Wood to  
Meresborough, 2 stiles, Dogs on leads if permitted

August 11th - Animal Bag Making, Riverside Country  
Park, 10.00am - 12noon Make your own wildlife and  
animal themed bag using inspiration from around the  
park. £3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432

August 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,  
Millennium Centre, Rainham every Friday 9.45am to  
help those who have lost a loved one. Join us for a  
cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.

August 12th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting Upchurch  
Village Hall, 2.00pm, Members Free, Guests £2 New  
Members Welcome For details email Chairman David  
Powell davidpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

August 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Meet  
Stephen Manning 07551 712438 London Capital Ring  
Walk -stage 7 Start Woolwich for a 9.5 mile walk via  
Falconwood finish at Marvels Lane, Grove Park

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August 13th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium  
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carole@cdadswell.freemove.co.uk or 07779 366054

August 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Geoff, geoff.rambler@me.com Kits Coty to Aylesford  
for a 6 mile leisurely circular walk finishing 1.15pm  
approx. Park in Old Chatham Road, near junction with  
Chatham Road, North of Kits Coty Brasserie.

August 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033  
Shipbourne Upper Green Road, opposite church and  
Chaser Pub GR 592522 TN11 9PE for a 5.5 mile walk  
via Ightham Mote and Fairlawne Estate. Terrain is hilly  
with 15 stiles. Dogs on leads if permitted contact leader

August 14th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,  
Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, learn  
about the country park's management and meet new  
people. Meet at the volunteer block near the orchard car  
park. For more details phone 01634 338191

August 15th - Medway Scrabble Club, alternate Mondays,  
2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone  
Road, Chatham, new members welcome, 01634 230500

August 16th - Wildlife Faces, Riverside Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon Join the rangers and make your very  
own wildlife face of your favourite Riverside creature,  
£3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432

August 17th - Butterflies and Bush Crickets, Capstone  
Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm Soak up the  
summer sun with the park's butterfly and bush cricket  
population, then create your own butterfly or cricket.  
Suitable for the whole family. £3 per person, to book  
phone 01634 338191

August 17th - Wigmore Ladies Club, 2.00pm, Howard  
Hall, Woodside, We are a cheerful group of ladies and  
would love you to join us. Just come along or call  
01634 388912 for further details.

August 17th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village  
Hall, Janet Bryant - Talk 'Ponds and Water Gardens',  
Pelargonium Show, New Members Welcome, Ring  
01634 233554 for more detail

August 19th - UpARA, Village Walk, 10.00am from  
Village Hall, New Members Welcome (see 12th Aug)

August 19th - Hempstara Whist Afternoon Scout Hut  
Dukes Meadow Drive, 1.30pm start. Players of all  
abilities welcome. A Partner is not required, for details  
ring Eunice 01634 231664

August 19th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland

Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Protect the Beat featuring  
the multi saxophonist Derek Nash. Admission £10,  
enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743

August 20th - Rainham South Councillor's surgery  
Parkwood Youth Centre, 10.00am - 12 noon. No  
appointment necessary.

August 20th - Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, Jazz Night  
with the 'Dr. Jazz' The Swinging Traditional Dixieland  
Jazz Band. 7.30pm Tickets £9 each call Kay 01795  
844409 Please bring your own beverage

August 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am, meet Jim Gevaux 07807896995 Newnham  
park considerably on roadside GR 954577 ME9 0LL  
for a 5.5 mile undulating route. No stiles. Dogs on leads  
if permitted contact walk leader

August 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
John, 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk  
Ightham Mote to Knole Park a 9 mile moderate circular  
walk finishing 3.00pm approx Park in Ightham Mote  
(National Trust) car park (top end). Mostly footpaths  
and bridal paths Several hills one very steep hill at start.  
Could be muddy in places if wet. Bring picnic lunch for  
midway break. Dog friendly

August 23rd - UpARA, Coffee Morning, Upchurch  
Village Hall, 9.30am, Members £1.50, Guests £2, New  
Members Welcome (see 12th Aug)

August 23rd - Big Bug Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep  
Netting, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or  
1.00 - 3.00pm. Children must be accompanied by an  
adult. £3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432

August 24th - UpARA Outing, Day Trip to Southend,  
details email Chairman davidpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

August 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Frank/Mim Penshurst for a 6.7 mile leisurely circular  
walk finishing 1.45pm approx. Meet in layby in  
Penshurst Road (B2176) in Penshurst. TN11 8BN  
TQ526437 a clockwise circular walk Bring picnic lunch  
for midway break. Pub/shops at end.

August 24th - Fire Building and Cooking Over an open  
fire, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm,  
learn to start a fire with flint and steel, Please bring  
food to cook over your fire. Suitable for the whole  
family, £3 per person, to book phone 01634 338191

August 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall,  
Woodside, all welcome, 01634 312038.

Continued on Page 11

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**HEMPSTEAD**  
**THE OLD FARMHOUSE: (1932 - c.1990)**  
 'The Old Farmhouse', (once known as 'Hempstead House') stands in Harrow Road behind the 'Flying Saucer'. Originally the house fronted onto Hempstead Road, but in the early 1940's the owner (my Grandfather) sold land to the brewers that included the frontage - and a derelict bowling green that was directly in front of the house. This had the unfortunate effect of cutting the house off from Hempstead Road, hiding the property behind a high fence and also spoiling the view.

Actually 'The Old Farmhouse' was not only one house but really *two* houses! Facing Harrow Road is the Georgian section known as 'Hopewell House', (insisted by some to be a mis-spelling of 'Hop Well'), which had two bedrooms, two living rooms, two sculleries, one inside and one outside toilet, a front door, a side door (and several interior doors opening into the 'Old Farmhouse' itself). 'Hopewell House' was always home to tenants but my Grandparents always inhabited the 'Old Farmhouse' side, so it was that they and various relatives lived on one side whilst my parents and the tenants on the other!

I grew up fed on a hodge-podge of stories relating to the lovely Tudor side - how the massive black beams across the ceilings had once been parts of sailing ships and had the notches to prove it. I heard about the beams in the kitchen that had been replaced when my Grandfather set fire to a pot of tar he had been heating on the grate of the inglenook fireplace, and was told how 'The Old Farmhouse' was not originally a farm house at all but had started life as a hunting lodge - there was even a theory that Elizabeth Tudor had come to visit and hunt the wild boar and deer that inhabited the dense forest area. In Harrow Road was a large barn called 'The Hollies', once it had been one of several barns belonging to

'The Old Farmhouse' but now it was owned by Mr Gorf, our neighbour.

I understood that in the early 1900's my Grandparents had bought the house and much land from two spinster ladies named the Miss Catts. I know it had once belonged to a Charlotte Wraikes but have never been able to verify anything about the Miss Catts so maybe they were only renting? I once had access to old deeds when choosing a name for my own house and discovered a very early owner had been a Sir Richard de Wildash, a good name (Wildash) for a house, I thought!

Outside of the kitchen was a rather ornate pump, made of cast iron and weighing a ton! I never knew it to be used as mains water was connected before I was born and the well was dry anyway! Sadly, the top of the pump was stolen about 1990 - perhaps for scrap?

The three sculleries in the two abodes were extremely primitive with flint walls and uneven brick floors, concrete coppers, cold water taps and shallow sinks. At one end of the 'Old Farmhouse' was a room with a sloping roof known as the 'End Place'. Here there was a wonderful brick built oven, so large it was possible to crawl right inside. About 1950 my Aunt (Mrs Waters) purchased the property from my then widowed Grandmother and had the 'End Place' and brick oven demolished- also the flint built sculleries. The whole house (s) had been allowed to deteriorate badly and during the war heavy gunfire, shrapnel etc. had contributed to the dreadful condition of the roof. In fact it was quite possible to stand on the ground floor in some parts and see the sky. Now the whole house was repaired, a new bathroom put in and *one* kitchen built to replace the sculleries. There would be no more tenants!

With only my Aunt and Uncle occupying the house that had always been home to so many people, it seemed that much of the atmosphere was lost. Empty rooms that had once been warmed by logs and coal fires were now cold and damp, and gradually the whole place took on a feeling of decay as my Aunt became older and less able to notice the deterioration. By the time she died the poor old house was in much the same state it had been in when she had first moved in!

Continued on page 9

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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

On a sunny July day, of some time ago, my wife and I went on a boat trip on the River Rother from Newenden to Bodiam Castle and made the return journey by a steam hauled train of the Kent and East Sussex Railway. Newenden, one of the smallest of Kent's villages, is on the border with East Sussex. It has a small church, a public house (the White Hart) and a cricket pitch with a pavilion that stands in the shade of a massive oak tree.

We boarded the motor vessel "Dannie Lee" at Newenden Bridge. Teas can be had, before or after sailing, at Riverside Cottage alongside the bridge. The River Rother has fairly high banks on the stretch to Bodiam Castle and the view from the boat was therefore somewhat limited. However, the trip was a relaxing one and there was plenty to see, from a natural history point of view, on or alongside the river. Waterside plants to be seen in July included meadow sweet, purple and yellow loosestrife and great willow herb or "codlins and cream". We heard the rattling notes of a sedge warbler emanating from the common reeds that line the river. We saw many dragon and damselflies, including the banded demoiselle, one of our largest damselflies. The male has a metallic blue abdomen and a broad, blue black band to its wings. The banded demoiselle has a butterfly-like flight. It can often be abundant on slow moving rivers with tall vegetation, such as the River Rother.

We alighted from the boat just before Bodiam Bridge and entered the grounds of Bodiam Castle which was built in the 14th century, is surrounded by a moat and is owned by the National Trust. The castle towers serve as places where, during the summer, three species of bat, Daubenton's, Natterer's and pipistrelle roost and the females of the species give birth. The first two species are medium sized bats and the third is Britain's smallest and commonest bat. The maternity roosts are occupied from May to August, and sometimes into September. The males roost separately, sometimes all three species together. In the heat of a summer's day, bats often move about inside the roost sites and there is plenty of chattering,

especially in the maternity colonies. Droppings litter the floors of the towers in which the bats and their young roost. The droppings are small, dark, oval shaped and crumbly.

Daubenton's bats feed over water and, at Bodiam, they fly low over the castle moat and the River Rother in search of insects such as caddis flies. The Natterer's bats hunt among trees where they pick flies and small moths off leaves and twigs. Pipistrelles are the species to be found flying over domestic gardens and around houses in search of flies and small beetles. They have a rapid, jerky flight. In due course we had a cup of tea and a cake at the National Trust restaurant. We were entertained by some very cheeky house sparrows and chaffinches mopping up crumbs on plates that had not been cleared away. On our way to Bodiam Station we crossed over the River Rother by means of a three arched 18th century bridge. We noted that the native plants in the river were being crowded out by masses of Himalayan Balsam, an introduced plant, which is becoming a nuisance in many of the country's rivers. At Bodiam Station we climbed aboard a train to be hauled by a former Great Western Railway Pannier Tank steam engine No 1638. Once on the move we had a view, out of the left hand window of the carriage, of the fields alongside the River Rother, which are lined with fresh water dykes. Mute swan were swimming in some of the dykes, in one case among a raft of yellow water lilies. Some of the fields were arable and were producing oil seed rape, wheat, maize and mowing grass. Jackdaws and rooks were feeding in a field littered with large hay bales bound with black plastic polythene. Other fields were in use for the grazing of beef cattle and sheep.

The view out of the right hand window was one of woods and small fields typical of the Sussex Weald. The tower of Ewhurst Green church stood out prominently on the high ridge of the Weald. The flowers we spotted from the train included foxgloves, rose bay willow herb, tansy and fleabane. The regular sightings of oast houses and of escaped hops growing in festoons over line-side hedges and fences were an indication that hops were once commonly grown in the area. The brewers Guinness once had extensive hop gardens in the vicinity of Bodiam Station which,

in days gone by, was busy with the comings and goings of hop pickers from London. We alighted at Northiam Station a short distance, by footpath, to where we had left our car at Newenden Bridge.

Joe Ennis

## THE OLD FARMHOUSE HEMPSTEAD Continued from Page 7

When the hurricane struck in 1987, folk jokingly remarked that "The Old Farmhouse" was the only building in the village to remain undamaged - because the wind went straight through", no exaggeration! Now the property went on the market and was purchased by a developer. Hopes that this meant the house would be repaired etc. were soon confounded! An application had been received by the Council for the building to be demolished, and for a number of houses to be built on the land! Happily the Council were quick to put on a preservation order but still substantial damage was inflicted by heavy plant throbbling close to the walls. Villagers were appalled and rallied support in every way possible, but for some years the house remained deteriorating and changing ownership, until there were fears it would fall down unless something was done quickly. Today, thanks to the farseeing Murphy family, 'The Old Farmhouse' stands as proud as ever. Picked down to a skeleton and rebuilt brick by brick it now graces the very small plot left by the builders and more than holds its own against modern neighbours. It may have gained another dormer window and a bathroom or two but who cares? 'The Old Farmhouse' remains what it has always been since Tudor days - the heart of Hempstead.

Yvonne Lane

## CONCERT 'THEN SINGS MY SOUL'

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham  
Sunday 4th September, 2.30pm

Pam Rhodes is returning to her native town, Gillingham, to perform a concert in the format of "Songs of Praise", which she has been associated with since 1987, in aid of the Church Re-Ordering Appeal.  
Tickets including refreshments £8 (at the door £10)  
from The Parish Office 01634 853459  
gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com  
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Saturday 20th August, 7.00 for 7.30pm  
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Tuesday 6th September 1.30pm for 2.00pm start  
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Please contact the event organiser for application and sponsor forms Lion Gina Druker, 52 Hunters Way West, Chatham, ME5 7HL, Tel: 07491134174

## SHOW DAY

Rainham Horticultural Society  
Saturday 10th September, 2.00 - 4.00pm  
Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham  
Visitors welcome, ring 366276 for details.

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## Diary 2016

August 27th & 28th - Dolls' House Club Open Day & Exhibition, St Margaret's School, Rainham, Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday 10.00am – 3.00pm, Admission Free details contact Sylvia 01634 312038 www.rainhamdhc.co.uk

August 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Mandy, 07758 232871 Maidstone Parks & Riverside 10 mile leisurely circular walk finishing 3.30pm approx Meet at Penenden Heath car park, Maidstone Bring picnic lunch for midway break. Pub at end.

August 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Margaret / Barrie Davis 07749 853000 Teynham Railway Station (free) GR 957632 for a 6 mile walk No stiles. Stop beside the Creek. No toilets. Dogs on leads if permitted contact walk leader

August 29th - Medway Scramble Club, (see 15th Aug) August 30th - Wild Biscuit Decorating, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am – 12noon Decorate your very own wild biscuits. Suitable for all the family, £3 per person. To book phone 01634 337432

September 1st - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, A Look at Crime in Victorian Kent, Helen Allinson, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.

September 2nd - UpARA, Village Walk, 10.00am from Village Hall, New Members Welcome (see 12th Aug)

September 2nd - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm - Euchre, Whist, Rummicub, Dominoes, Scrabble and a warm welcome, £1.50 entry includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

September 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 8.30am meet Jim, jimbush46@btinternet.com at the car park near Bredhurst for car sharing for a 12 mile moderate circular walk finishing 2.00pm approx at the famous Seven Sisters. Walk will start at approx 10.00am.

September 3rd - Bredhurst Village Show, 2.30pm, Village Hall, Ring 01634 233554 for more details

September 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk Harvel Park considerably in Harvel Street and meet by the Amazon and Tiger pub. Post Code: DA13 0DE (DA13 0DE, TQ651632) for a 5.6 mile leisurely circular walk

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September 4th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside Country Park, (see 7th Aug)

September 4th - Bredhurst Cats Adoption Centre – Grand Opening, Matts Hill Road, ME9 7XA, 11.00am – 4.00pm, parking close by. Contact Carol 07973 677390

September 4th - Concert Then Sings My Soul, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham, 2.30pm, Pam Rhodes "Songs of Praise" Tickets £8 (door £10) 01634 853459 gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com or Hilda 01634 932135

September 6th - Sponsored Knit, Lions Club of Gillingham, Beds for Babichi, 2.00 – 4.00pm Parkwood Community Centre, ME8 9PN Six Knitters per Team contact Gina Druker, 07491 134174 for details.

September 6th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm, 'Up the Pole' – a vertical arrangement + pre-show discussion, New members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed, for details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com

September 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. Putting the garden to bed in the Autumn - Jean Griffin, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

September 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Mike at the commuter car park north of Bredhurst for an 8 mile leisurely circular walk finish 2.30pm approx Bring picnic lunch for midway break. Pub at end.

September 8th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Serbia, Phil Shorthouse, (see 1st Sept)

September 9th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting (12th Aug)

September 10th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, (see 13th Aug)

September 10th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Autumn Show for details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com

September 10th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Show Day, Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham 2.00 – 4.00pm Visitors welcome, ring 366276

September 10th - Concert, St Mary's Island Community Centre, 7.30pm., Harmony and the Vision Signing Choir Tickets £10, cons £8, from 07816 159668 email: harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk.

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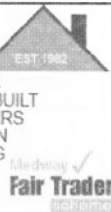
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## Diary 2016

September 10th - The FAS (Foetal Alcohol Syndrome)  
Charity Ball Black Tie Event, Priestfield Stadium,  
7.00pm, Carriages 1.00am, Tickets £80 each from  
[grace@gracousevents.biz](mailto:grace@gracousevents.biz) or 07840 120586

September 10th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United  
Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham,  
7.30 - 10.00pm. New & experienced dancers welcome,  
with /without a partner, ring 366189 or 388546

September 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Tony/Ann, 01634 406634, [vajra.faulkner@tesco.net](mailto:vajra.faulkner@tesco.net) at  
Bearsted. Go to the end of the Church Lane and park  
just past the church beside allotments. (ME14 4EF,  
TQ800555) for a 5.2 mile leisurely circular walk  
finishing 1.00pm approx Bring picnic lunch

September 11th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,  
Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Meet  
at the volunteer block near the orchard car park. For  
more details phone 01634 338191

September 12th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 15th Aug)  
September 12th - Rainham Flower Club, 'Update your  
Skills' part 3 (see 8th Aug)

September 12th - Rainham Bereavement Evening  
Friendship Group, (see 8th Aug)

September 12th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard  
Club, Organist - Janet Dowsett, (see 8th Aug)

September 13th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society,  
'Organic Growing in the Garden' Talk Brian Carline,  
(see 9th Aug)

September 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 9.00am meet  
Margaret, 01795 843927, [maglou1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maglou1@yahoo.co.uk) The  
Tuck Inn, London Road, Newington ME9 7PB,  
TQ846650 for a 5.5 mile moderate circular Breakfast  
walk finishing at 11.30am approx

September 14th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,  
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Women in the Navy  
- Andrew Theobald, details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

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September 15th - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 - 4.00  
pm. Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre,  
Rainham. Speaker on "Portrait of Matt Monro".  
Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. Ring  
01634 366276 for details.

September 15th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Fingerprints  
and Murder, Jack Deans, (see 1st Sept)

September 15th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,  
Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.45  
pm £3.50. Wading through Waders - David Darrell-  
Lambert. For Walks see: [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway).

September 16th - UpARA, Village Walk, (see 12th Aug)  
September 16th - Jazz Gig, The Dave Lewis Band, (see  
19th Aug)

September 16th - Paranormal Investigations, Fort  
Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, Gates open 8.00pm,  
Safety Brief 8.30pm Activities start 9.00pm finish  
3.00am approx, Medium Richard Ware, Tickets £35 pre  
book on line, over 18s only, For more information ring  
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September 17th & 18th - Wigmore Arts Weekend, St  
Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore ME8  
0NX Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm, Sun 11.30am - 4.00pm,  
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September 17th - Family Barn Dance, Lower Halstow  
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September 17th - Autumn Songs with Kingfisher  
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September 21st - Wigmore Ladies Club, (see 17th Aug)

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