

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

SEPTEMBER 2017
NUMBER 535



The Railway Public House, Station Road, Rainham annual Boxing Day football match in 1971.

Back row from left to right those recognised by David Wood are:

1.? 2.? 3.? 4. Peter Foster, 5.? 6.? 7.? 8. John Perrin, 9. Billy Huggins, 10.?

Front row left to right:

1. Maurice Mills, 2.? 3. Ron Ward, 4. David Wood, 5. Billy Hales, 6.? 7.? 8.? 9.?

We would be very pleased to hear from you if you can identify any of the other players, please email af@thenet.uk.net

See David's Memories of 'The Railway' Pub on page 9.

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AF

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Editorial

It has been lovely these past few months when driving through Rainham to see the beautiful troughs of flowers on the railings outside St Margaret's Church. Our thanks go to the local councillors who, I believe, use some of their community budget to fund them. The riot of colour really does lift the spirits particularly on some of the grey rainy days we have been experiencing. Great also to see that a vandal proof system of attaching the baskets seems to have worked, so far at least!

Apparently the annual holiday is changing. Two weeks in one place is old hat, now we are much more likely to go away for one week or just a few days at a time. Back in the days when we had family holidays with three children to entertain in (often wet, cool and windy) Wales our routine was to visit the nearest Visitor Centre on the first day of our stay picking up any interesting looking leaflets of local places to visit, obviously long before the days of 'just google it'. On one occasion in the 80s we spotted a rather scruffy hand written note pinned up inviting visitors to a new project at Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort in the Pembrokeshire National Park. Enthusiasts were reconstructing a round house on the original footings of a genuine ancient structure. That first visit was exciting, climbing the steep hill with little to guide our way but instinct, and the children thoroughly enjoyed, once we discovered the camp, helping to daub the walls of the round house by throwing mud pies and pushing them into the cracks. Over the years whenever we were in the area we returned and saw the site gradually develop into a tourist attraction. One year we attended a feast of iron age style food with the volunteers dressed in authentic clothing – an unusual spectacle back then. Since the family holidays ended we have only once returned. However, I am pleased to see the fort now has a website and is obviously a recognised asset to the area, although by the look of it much sanitised compared with those early days. Now it is the turn of the next generation to entertain young children and I was delighted recently to discover with them a similar site near Petersfield in Hampshire. Butlers Ancient Farm is just off the A3 at the end of a country lane in a valley of the South Downs National Park surrounded by open countryside and farm land although only a few miles from Portsmouth. It sounds a long journey but had a red Routemaster bus not caught fire on the M25 I would easily have made it in

the AAs predicted hour and 40 minutes. Again it is volunteers who set the scene, they were plentiful, proficient and obviously thoroughly enjoying themselves telling the children about and involving them in many hands-on activities related to that week's theme of the Romans. Many of the helpers wore Roman style clothing, the visitors could also borrow from an extensive wardrobe (if they could be persuaded) and join in the fun. This farm has structures and animals from Stone Age, through Iron Age to Roman and Anglo Saxon Britain with many authentic tools, instruments, weapons and artefacts. The boys particularly enjoyed trying on helmets and chain mail, finding out in the process how heavy they are. A display of surgical instruments and the graphic descriptions of their use by a Roman soldier kept them mesmerised – particularly how to cure a headache by trepanning. All in all another great day out, at £20 for a family of 4 very good value, particularly as packed lunches (the shop only sells drinks and ice cream) are actively encouraged anywhere you fancy on the site, sitting round the fire in a round house or out in the open with the goats, pigs and sheep for company. No high tech rides or amusements but a very welcome change from constantly staring at a small screen. By now the holidays are nearly over and it is back to school and a regular routine, but, for those of us who no longer have to worry about such things let's hope for some good sunny, warm weather through the autumn. Have a good month we will be here again in October.

Correspondence

HARVEST TEAS

Dear Editor,

The partners, members & friends of Gillingham Lions Club are busy planning this year's Harvest Teas for Senior Citizens, newcomers or for those who are alone. The 2017 Teas are being held in October on Sundays, 1st & 15th from 3.30 to 6.00pm at the Millennium Centre. If you, or maybe a friend or someone you know, would like an invitation to this popular event, either ring or write to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham, ME8 7QX, 01634 379064, or ring Mrs Yvonne Isles on 01634 373840. As always, transport to and from the Millennium Centre can be arranged. A pleasant afternoon of tea and entertainment is guaranteed and we look forward to welcoming you.

Yours sincerely,
Beryl Brenton
(on behalf of Gillingham Lions Club)

CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR

Dear Editor

Due to a couple of our regular stallholders unfortunately having relinquish their table bookings because of health problems, unexpectedly we have a couple of tables available for stallholders at our Christmas Bazaar to be held at St Matthews

Community Centre, Wigmore on the morning of Saturday 11th November 2017. Tables are £8 each, all proceeds to charity. If you would like to book a table please contact me as soon as possible: email lindaligarten@hotmail.co.uk or phone Linda on 01634 377267.

Many thanks,
Linda Lisgarten

COME TO OUR OPEN DAY

Cats Protection Bredhurst Adoption Centre
Dear Editor

On Sunday 10th September from 11.00am to 4.00pm you are invited to Matts Hill Road, (Near Bredhurst village) ME9 7XA for our annual Open Day.

We have Entertainment, Stalls, Cats Protection Goods, Bric-a-Brac, a Kids corner, games, an Inflatable Castle, Raffles, Refreshments, BBQ, Ice cream and lots of fun for all the family!

There is Free Parking nearby and entrance is only 50p. Homes are always needed for Cats and Kittens, so do come along and see our lovely cats!

For more information please contact the Adoption Centre on 01634 232471

We look forward to meeting you there.

GARDEN GALLERY

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SUMMER FETE

Lower Halstow Village Hall

Saturday 9th September 12noon - 4.00pm.

Flower Arranging and Vegetables Competitions.

The Fete includes Craft Stalls, Coconut Shy, Puzzle Stall, Tombola, The U.K.'s Mrs. Galaxy, (she will be collecting for PDSA and Dream Flights for Children)

Indian Food, Home-made Cakes, Hot Dogs and Burger BBQ, Refreshments and many more fun packed stalls. Grand Raffle will be drawn at 4.00pm

QUIZ NIGHT

Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association United Services Club, 171 High Street, Rainham, ME8 8AY.

Friday 22nd September

Doors open 7.00 for a 7.30pm start.

A fun event open to all members of the public, you

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don't have to be a member of a Neighbourhood Watch to participate! Tickets £5 per person.

Bring your own nibbles, but sorry - only drinks bought at the bar can be consumed on the premises (Licensed bar 7.00 until 11.00pm).

Tea and coffee also available for purchase. Ideally teams of 6 (8 maximum) with prize for winning team. The Quiz Night will consist of 8 Rounds and a Bonus Round.

To book tickets and for further information please telephone the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01634 792131 or contact secretarymnhwa@outlook.com

MURDER AMONGST THE ROSES

Saturday 23rd September, 7.30pm start

A Murder performed by Alternate Shadows

Newington Village Hall ME9 7JJ

Tickets £6 pp purchased in Advance

BYO Drinks and Nibbles

For Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance contact: Mike 01634 360906

Email: mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

SEPTEMBER SERENADE

September 23rd, 6.00 – 8.30pm

The Street, Hartlip, ME9 7TL

Music from stage, screen and opera
Interval wine and nibbles included in ticket.
£10, £8 concessions. Children free.

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Diary 2017

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: September 26th 2017
September 2nd – Show Day Rainham Horticultural
Society, Millennium Centre 2 – 4.00pm, ring 366276
September 2nd – Bredhurst Village Show, Village Hall,
Doors open 2.30pm, ring 07791 781 910 for details
September 2nd & 3rd – Medway Model Club Show, The
Royal Engineers Museum, Prince Arthur Road,
September 2nd & 3rd – Medway Model Railway Show,
10.00am – 4.00pm, Fort Pitt Grammar School ME4
6TJ, Adults £5, under 16 £2, 07821 254232 for details
September 3rd – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet 10.00am,
for moderate circular walk 5.7 miles / 9.2 km, finish
1.15pm, please park considerably on road to Cuxton
Station. (ME2 1AB, TQ712667) Bring picnic lunch.
Tony/Ann, 01634 406634, vajra.faulkner@tesco.net
September 3rd – Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet John Williams 01622 764821 Cranbrook
Car Park off High Street. TN17 3DQ 6 mile figure of 8
walk 25 Steps. No stiles, Dogs Allowed
September 3rd – Volunteer Conservation Day, Riverside
Country Park, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Meet at the visitor
centre, for details ring 01634 337432
September 4th – Medway Towns Bridge Club, Sociable
duplicate Bridge every Mon, Tues and Fri, 7.30pm, St.
Luke's Methodist Church Hall, City Way, ME1 2BQ.
Table money £3.50 guests, £2.50 members (£10 to
join). We can usually find you a partner on Monday,
01634 375706, www.bridgewebs.com/medwaytowns
September 5th – GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed
Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm,

"Do your own thing" – practice night / 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 5th – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,
Asters – Jacqueline Aviolet, Rainham Cricket Club,
Berengrave Lane, New members welcome, ring 366276
September 6th – Medway Ramblers Walk, Breakfast Walk
in Newington, 9.00am, Moderate circular walk 6 miles /
9.7 km, finish 11.30am, Meet at the Tuck Inn,
Newington. (TQ846650) ME9 7PB. (Please phone
Margaret beforehand if you would like to book in for
breakfast 01795 843927, maglou1@yahoo.co.uk
September 7th – Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's
Community Centre, 2.00pm, Musical Entertainment,
The Village Skiffle Group, for over 50s ring 01634
234712 for details.
September 7th – Hempstead Leisure Club, whist, board
games, tea and chat. All Saints Church, Hempstead
Road 2.00 – 4.00 pm. New members always welcome,
phone 07583 343782
September 8th – Gillingham and Rainham Local History
Society, Byron Primary School ME7 5XX, 7.15pm,
History of the R.N.L.I. – Diana Lawrence, Visitors
welcome (charge) details from Val Barrant 07947
583327 email lupusrufus@sky.com or www.grlhs.org
September 9th – Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium
Centre, Rainham, 9.00am – 12.30pm, Free entry, Stalls
are £10 each contact cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com or
ring 07779 366054 for more details
September 9th – Summer Fete Lower Halstow Village
Hall, 12noon – 4.00pm. Competitions, Stalls & Games
Hot Dogs and Burger BBQ, all welcome.
September 9th – Concert, 7.30pm, Harmony with Vision
Signing Choir, St Mary's Island Community Centre,
ME4 3EP. Tickets £10, cons £8, including buffet; bring
your own drinks, ring Wendy 07816 159668 or Lynne
07979 693205 or email: harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk.

September 9th – Autumn Show, Gillingham Horticultural
Society, 2.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall,
Balmoral Road, Refreshments, Auction, 01634 856187
September 9th & 10th – Heritage Open Days, St Mary's
Church, Newington, 2.00 – 5.00pm, Afternoon teas
01795 842711 or thelma@newingtonhistory.co.uk
September 9th – Quiz Night, 7.30pm start, Twydall
Community Centre, Beechings Way, Gillingham for
Children's Brain Tumour Research, Tickets £7.50 per
person, To book a table call 01634 815430 e-mail
ann.hopley@outlook.com or john.guy@sky.com)
September 10th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.30am,
Leisurely circular walk 5.3 miles / 8.5 km ends 1.30pm
park Wateringbury Station Car Park. ME18 5EA
(TQ691528) led by Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers
Contact: Mick, 07742728938
September 10th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
2.00pm, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847
828249 Grays Tearoom. Brenchley Road. Brenchley.
GR 673418 TN12 7NX for a 4.5 mile Cream Tea Walk
which Must be booked in advance, No Dogs
September 10th – Open Day, Cats Protection Centre
Matts Hill Road ME9 7XA, 11.00am – 4.00pm.
Entertainment, Stalls, Kids corner, games, Inflatable
Castle, Raffles, Refreshments, BBQ, Ice cream Free
Parking nearby, Entrance 50p, details 01634 232471
September 11th – Monday Hub, 10.00am – 12.30pm, St
Paul's Church, Parkwood, ME8 9PN, Board games,
Table Tennis, use of Laptop and much more, Free light
refreshments, phone Jill on 01634 230780
September 11th – Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 – 4.30pm,
St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham,
new members welcome, details 01634 230500
September 11th – Rainham Flower Club, St Matthews
Church Hall, Wigmore, ME8 0NX Demonstration by
Robin White "Surprise Surprise" 7.30pm, Details see
www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 864572
September 11th – Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard
Club, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30pm Organist –
Chihō Sunamoto, details Brian Leonard 01634 234694
September 11th – Rainham Evening Bereavement
Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets
2nd Monday each month to help those in employment
who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat,
ring Julie 01634 364309.
September 12th – Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society,
7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, ME8

0BX Bluebells, Buttercups and Beasts – Don Wilkes,
Members £11, Non-members £1.50, New members and
visitors always welcome, For details ring 01634 852519
September 12th – Medway Antique & Collectors' Club,
8.00pm, St. George Hotel, New Road, Chatham.
'Richard Champion and his Bristol Porcelain', New
members welcome, for further information ring 01634
851512 or simply just turn up
September 13th – East Medway U3A, Rainham Mark
Social Club, 2.00pm, Neil Arnold – 'Spooky Kent'
Guests welcome Cost £2. 07895 890635 for details
September 13th – All Saints Women's Fellowship,
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Library Services –
Kate Clifford, for details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
September 14th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Broadly
Speaking – Holidays Afloat, Wilf Lower, (see 7th Sept)
September 14th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk "Life in
Dickensian London" by Leslie Allman (see 7th Sept)
September 15th – Hempstead Whist afternoons, 1.30pm,
Scout hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead. Whist
players of all abilities are welcome, a partner is not
required, for details please call Eunice 01634 321664
September 15th – Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club,
Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 8.00pm, Simon Bates/
Harry Harris Quartet in a tribute to Dave Brubeck
featuring:- Simon Bates alto sax, Harry Harris piano,
Dominic Howes Bass and Pete Cater drums. Admission
£12, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743
September 16th – Rainham South Councillors surgery at
3:16 cafe 10am – 12noon. No appointment necessary.
September 16th – Line Dance Evening Hempstead Village
Hall (behind All Saints' Church in Hempstead Road).
7.30pm start. Tickets from Val Gorf, £10 each to
include supper of fish or sausage and chips. 01634
230214, or email valriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk.
September 16th – Medway Folk Dance Club, United
Reformed Church hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 –
10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with
or without partner, information ring 366189 or 388546.
September 17th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10am
meet Mo Fleisig 07976 600393 Bishopsbourne, The
Street, Mermaid Inn GR 188526 CT4 5HX Park in road
6 mile walk. Some stiles. Dogs Allowed
September 17th – WOW A "Charity Auction" St Mary
Magdalene Church, Gillingham, 2.00 – 5.00pm,
Refreshments, Free entry, Details 01634 932135

Continued on Page 11

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enable people to be in control of their asthma, rather
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WELCOME TO WATTS ALMSHOUSES
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Heritage Open Weekend
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September
10.00am – 4.00pm Free Entry
The residents, staff and trustees of Watts
Alms Houses look forward to welcoming you.
www.richardwatts.org.uk

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
St Mary's Church, Newington
Sat & Sun, 9th-10th September, 2pm-5pm
It's a free event organised annually as part of the
national Heritage Open Days by Newington History
Group. Afternoon teas will be available.
@newingtonhg

QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 9th September, 7.30pm start
Twydall Community Centre Beechings Way
for Children's Brain Tumour Research
Tickets £7.50 per person, Teams of 6
(includes light supper of Sausage & Chips or veggie
option) Bring your own drink and nibbles
Free parking. To Book a Table Call:
John or Ann on 01634 815430
e-mail ann.hopley@outlook.com
or john.guy@sky.com

MACMILLAN CANCER COFFEE MORNING
Friday 29th September
The Scout Hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead.
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EAST MEDWAY U3A
Rainham Mark Social Club
56 London Road, ME8 6YX.
Wednesday September 13th, 2.00pm
Neil Arnold
'Spooky Kent'
Guests welcome Cost £2.
Phone 07895 890635 for further details

JAZZ GIG
Anchorians Rugby Club,
Darland Avenue, Gillingham
Friday 15th September, 8.00pm
Simon Bates/ Harry Harris Quartet in a tribute to
Dave Brubeck, Admission £12
Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743
Following a sell-out evening at the old RAFA club a
few years ago, Simon and Harry return with a tribute
to one of the popular figures in jazz, Dave Brubeck.
Their blend of sax and piano produce a perfect
match to the original quartet

LINE DANCE EVENING
Hempstead Village Hall
Behind All Saints' Church, Hempstead Road
Saturday 16th September, 7.30pm start
Tickets from Val Gorf, £10 each to include supper
of fish or sausage and chips.
Contact Val on 01634 230214, or
email valriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk.

MEDWAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
See the world and meet new friends
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES

It was on a hot, sunny, August day, one or two years ago, that I visited Yalding, which is a village to the south of Maidstone. Readers may remember seeing television pictures of young people paddling canoes down the village's flooded High Street, in December 2013, when the River Medway overflowed its banks. A flood plain, called The Lees, which is comprised of just a few fields, is all that separates Yalding from the Medway. The village sits on the River Beult, a tributary of the latter, and I commenced my visit at the mediaeval, ragstone Town Bridge which spans the Beult. The river was quite benign, little rain having fallen recently. It was lined with clumps of purple loosestrife, a classic riverside plant with its tall spikes of magenta flowers. A water hen spotted me and scuttled for cover. It was only when it flew up from the edge of the river to catch a fly, that I noticed the sulphur-yellow underparts of a male grey wagtail. It had presumably had its nest in a hole in the stonework of the bridge. Overlooking the old bridge and the Beult is the tower, topped by a distinctive onion-shaped dome, of the 13th century parish church of St Peter and St Paul. In the churchyard are ancient yews and hundreds of old gravestones, covered in lichens and marking the resting places of wealthy residents of Yalding in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the neighbourhood of the church are some elegant Georgian houses and a group of five oast houses. The oasts are a reminder that, in Victorian times, Yalding produced more hops than any other parish in England. It was also famed for its cherry orchards. Today, there are no hop fields, but cherries, among other fruits, and vegetables are grown in polytunnels on the slopes of the greensand ridge below which the village sits. The slopes face south and the sunshine. I left the village and walked along a public footpath across The Lees. The latter consists of common land, is bisected by drainage ditches, is dotted with oak trees and is mown for hay. In the ditches, among other plants, grows meadowsweet with its dense clusters of creamy, fragrant flowers. The oak trees were probably planted in the 18th century with the intention of them being

used, in due course, to provide timber for the Royal Navy, downstream at Chatham. In the unimproved grassland of The Lees, I came across bird's foot trefoil, lesser knapweed, lady's bedstraw and other flowers, which were attracting many bees and butterflies. The lady's bedstraw has bright yellow flowers in leafy clusters which, when dried, give off the scent of newly mown hay and were once added to straw mattresses. A kestrel was hovering above the long grass in a search for voles. At the western edge of the common, alongside the Medway, is a line of old crack willow trees. The trunk of this species of willow grows fast, but is apt to split open under its own weight.

In due course I came to the mediaeval, ragstone Twyford Bridge, which crosses the Medway. It has large angular buttresses, which also act as cutwaters, and which are carried up to well above road level, in order to form much needed pedestrian refuges. The stretch of river near to the mediaeval bridge attracts day visitors who arrive by car or train. Anglers can purchase day tickets from the Environment Agency and coarse fish such as perch, chub and roach can be caught. On hot days, children paddle or fish for minnows, with their nets, in shallow water. In years past, during August school holidays, youths swam in the deep waters of the river immediately below the bridge and there was a seaside atmosphere about the place. Swimming is now prohibited. There are two eating places near the river, the 16th century Old Anchor Inn and Teapot Island which has its origins as a tin shack in the 1950s selling tea and bait to anglers. It is now a bistro café and takes its name from the museum on the premises containing over 8,200 teapots. There is a photo on the café's website showing an unsmiling Prince Charles being shown a teapot in the form of his mother's head and crown, seemingly based on the image of Her Majesty on postage stamps. The café's cream teas are very popular and there was a long queue to order them. I decided to take a walk along the river bank. The flowers that I noticed on the banks of the Medway included flowering rush, purple loosestrife, fleabane, Himalayan balsam and great willow herb. The latter herb has the common name of "codlins and cream"

because its petals are rosy (like codlins or cooking apples), with a trace of creamy whiteness. I saw both white and yellow water lilies, above which hovered dragon flies, including the beautiful banded demoiselle, and bright blue damselflies. Hawking for flies in the air above, were house martins. I did not spot where they were nesting, but their choice of closeness to the Medway was a good one; there would have been lots of mud about for the building or repairing of their nests on their arrival from Africa in the spring. The day was hot and I was dying for a cup of tea. The café's menu of scones baked on the premises daily, real Cornish clotted cream, home made jam and a pot of tea was very tempting. I would simply have to wait patiently in the queue. It occurred to me that the place merits an alternative name of Honey Pot Island.

Joe Ennis

MEMORIES OF 'THE RAILWAY' PUB

'The Railway' pub in Station Road closed several years ago but it thrived during the early 1970s. Very lively and always crowded with a mixed clientele, the landlord Bob and his wife Doris made it a friendly and enjoyable place for customers to socialise. A wide range of Rainham characters gathered in 'The Railway' on Friday and Saturday evenings. In the saloon bar Dartford football manager Ernie Morgan became a regular. He owned a window cleaning business in Rainham for many years. He also took Dartford to the Southern League championship and an FA Trophy cup final appearance at Wembley. Later he became involved in local youth football. Billy Hales who worked in W H Hales butcher's shop in Station Road usually sat at the bar with his Maltese wife Ida. Other regulars included Ernie Nicholls who owned a well-known haulage company and lived at the bottom of Station Road and local footballer Peter Foster with his blond haired girlfriend Janet Smith whose father owned a confectionary shop in Station Road. Pensioner Sid Clout from Webster Road usually sat alone in a corner with his pint while a former bus conductor named Ralph who loved cricket mingled with customers. Rainham cricketers who socialised in the saloon bar included George Phillips from Scott Avenue, Denis Chambers from Pump Lane, Peter and Alan Heath from Childscroft Road, Bill Balderston from

Berengrave Lane and Terry Glazier from Maidstone Road. Former Rainham cricketer Roger Varley and a well-spoken man named Max whose real name was Maxwell from Holmoaks mixed with them. The pub became so popular with the Rainham cricketers that it served as the club headquarters for a short period during the mid-1970s.

The saloon bar also became a popular meeting place for well-known Gillingham footballers with David Peach and Alan Wilks being regulars at one time. Dick Tydeman, Steve Bruce and Tony Cascarino also socialised there. In 1976 David Peach, who had played in the FA Cup Final for Southampton against Manchester United, turned up in the saloon bar on the same evening with his FA Cup medal hanging around his neck to socialise with his old friends which caused a sensation.

The famous 'Keg Boys' which included Stan Peace, Neville Huggins and Colin McGregor usually drank in the public bar. Others included well-known local footballers Billy Huggins and Maurice Mills and train driver Ron Ward who regularly drank there after his shift finished.

Bob and Doris served behind the bar and they were assisted a small lady named Toni who worked there for many years and by Phil Austin from Station Road. He worked alongside a lady named Linda who Rainham cricketer Alan Heath later married. Evening entertainment only included recorded music while periodic social functions took place. On Boxing Day each year the saloon bar played an annual football match against the public bar on Rainham Recreation Ground. Crates of free beer were provided at the end of the match. A day trip was usually arranged to Royal Ascot in mid-summer when everyone journeyed from the pub to the racecourse on a coach organised by Bob the landlord.

'The Railway' is soon to be replaced by Wetherspoon's but during the 1970s it had a reputation as one of the most popular pubs in the area.

David Wood.

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Diary 2017

September 17th - Medway Ramblers Walk 10.00am,
Moderate circular walk 11.5 miles / 18.5 km, 4.15pm
Meet in Camer Park Public Car Park (Café and Toilets)
DA13 0XT, TQ649669 Bring picnic lunch contact
Simon/Mandy, simonellwood@hotmail.com

September 18th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, St
Paul's Church, Parkwood, 7.30pm. Speaker Andy
Garland - The Medium of Radio and Behind the scenes
at the BBC, All welcome, 01634 360797 or just come.

September 18th - Wigmore WI Meet every 3rd Monday
in the month 7.30 - 9.30pm, St Matthew's Community
Centre, Drewery Drive, interested ring Chris Ellson
01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan 01634 268611

September 19th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.50.
Gambia: Crocodile birds and the Smiling Coast - Chris
Ward, Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

September 19th - GHS Floral Art Group, "Autumn
Glory" - foliage only arrangement, (see 5th Sept).

September 20th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall,
Woodside, Wigmore 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members
welcome to a cheerful group, just come 01634 388912

September 20th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Village Hall,
7.30pm, Annual General Meeting, Alan Wainwright
'Allotment Growing Pains', Potato Show, Bring and
Buy Produce Stall, New members always welcome,
ring 07791 781 910 for details

September 21st - Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 - 4pm
Birthday Celebration & Cookery Demonstration,
Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Rainham
Visitors welcome (small charge). Details 01634 366276
September 21st - Wigmore Thursday Club, A talk by
Tony Mitchell, (see 7th Sept).

September 21st - Hempstead Leisure Club, whist, board
games tea and chat (see 7th Sept)

September 22nd - Medway Geographical Society, 7.30pm
Alan Mills - Beating the bounds - mapping property
rights in Africa, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall Lane,
ME8 6TN, all welcome, just come or 01634 572139

September 22nd - Quiz Night, Medway Neighbourhood
Watch Association United Services Club, High Street,
Rainham, ME8 8AY 7.30pm. £5 pp. Bring own nibbles,
drinks only from bar, teams of 6 (8 max) Ring 01634
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September 22nd - Organ Recital Series, 7.30pm, St
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unwaged and under 25's free. Tea and coffee after.

September 23rd & 24th - Open Day, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
Prince Arthur Indoor Bowls Club (opp RE Museum).
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September 23rd - RiverVoice Community Choir Open
Rehearsal, 10.00am - 12noon St Luke's Methodist
Church, City Way, Rochester. All welcome contact
07815 207153 nikkipease@hotmail.com

September 23rd - Wigmore Voices present 'A World of
Music' an evening of musical entertainment, 8.00pm, St
Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive. Tickets
£7, available from Sue on 01634 370639

September 23rd - Murder Amongst The Roses, 7.30pm, A
Murder Mystery to be performed by Alternate
Shadows, Newington Village Hall ME9 7JJ Tickets £6
pp in Advance, BYO Drinks and Nibbles, proceeds for
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01634 360906 email mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

September 23rd - September Serenade, 6.00 - 8.30pm,
The Street, Hartlip, Sittingbourne ME9 7TL, Music
from stage, screen and opera, wine and nibbles included
£10, £8 concessions. Children free, 01795 842735

September 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am,
Moderate circular walk 5.5 miles / 8.9 km finish 1pm,
Meet Black Horse Pub, Tumblefield Rd, Stansted,
TN15 7PR TQ606621 Pub lunches at end - may need
to book. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881

September 24th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 (Text
Only) Appledore, The Street, Village Hall Carpark. GR
955296 TN26 2AF Toilets nearby for 6.5 mile flat but
undulating walk, A few styles, No Dogs

September 25th - Monday Hub, (see 11th Sept).

September 25th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 11th Sept).

September 27th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Birthday Social, for
details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

September 27th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, Quiz
and potato weigh in, 7.15pm Refreshments, £2
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Diary 2017

September 28th - Rainham Friendship Group, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, 1.45pm - 3.30pm, all welcome, hosted by Hands, £2 per session. Ring 01634 577984 for more information.
 September 28th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Audio/Vision presentation by Colin Coe (see 7th Sept)
 September 28th - Free films at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham Green, 2.00pm "Pride and Prejudice", free entry and refreshments; no need to book. Enquiries 01634 324783
 September 28th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Social Meeting, (see 7th Sept).
 September 28th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, Rainham, All welcome, more details from Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038
 September 29th - Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning, Scout Hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead. Bring & Buy Sale 10.30am - 12.30pm held by Hempstara.
 September 30th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (16th Sept).
 October 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am moderate circular walk 9 miles / 14.5 km finish 3.00pm Park in Woodland Trust free car park Church Road on Hucking Estate, Not Hook & Hatchet PH Picnic lunch Pub near end. 01634 360270, chris.strachan@live.com
 October 1st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet David Brown 07815 106791 Cranbrook. Jockey Lane Carpark GR 776362 TN17 3JT for 7 1/2 mile Circular walk Cranbrook to Sissinghurst Castle, flat, may be muddy if wet. 3 Stiles. 6 Steps. Dogs Allowed
 October 1st & 15th - Gillingham Lions Club Harvest Tea, 3.30 - 6.00pm, Millennium Centre. For an invitation .ring or write to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham, ME8 7QX, 01634 379064, or 01634 373840.
 October 3rd - GHS Floral Art Group, "Witches Brew" - an exhibit incorporating a pumpkin, (see 5th Sept).
 October 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Soc, Transforming Your Front Garden - Alison Marsden, (see 5th Sept).

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October 5th - Wigmore Thursday Club, The History of Buttons, Rupert Matthews, (see 7th Sept).
 October 5th - Hempstead Leisure Club, whist board games, tea and chat (see 7th Sept)
 October 6th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham every Friday 9.45am. Join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.
 October 7th - Brain Tumour Charity Quiz, 7.15 - 10pm, Twydall Church Hall, Twydall Lane, Gillingham Raffle - Bring Your Own Food and Drink, Tea/Coffee and Biscuit available. Free Parking on Twydall Green, Please Contact Olwen 01634 263622
 October 7th - RAMASES Dylan Bickerstaffe - Great expeditions to God's Land and Punt, Newington Village Hall, 2.30pm, £8 in advance, £9 on the day. annette.crowder65@gmail.com or 07476 636803.
 October 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am moderate circular walk 8.5 miles/13.7 km finish 2.45pm Meet at Linton Church Car Park (Free) Linton Hill ME17 4AW, TQ754501 Some hills. Bring picnic lunch Pub at end. John Watts, FLAME451@hotmail.co.uk
 October 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272 Aylesford Bridge Carpark (Free) 732588 ME20 7AU for a 5 1/2 mile walk along the new river pathway from Aylesford to Allington, 1 Stile. 4 Steps. No Dogs
 October 9th - Monday Hub, (see 11th Sept).
 October 9th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 11th Sept).
 October 9th - Rainham Flower Club, Imposed Design & Exhibition (see 11th Sept).
 October 9th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship Group, (see 11th Sept).
 October 9th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club, Organist - Dirkjan Ranzijn, (see 11th Sept).
 October 10th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, In-House Evening Autumn Show, (see 12th Sept).
 October 11th - East Medway U3A, Jack Deans - Finger prints and murder (part II) (see 13th Sept).
 October 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Recycling - Tom Moore, (see 27th Sept).
 October 12th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Women Wartime Workers in Munitions Industry, Ann Knief,

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