

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

APRIL 2018
NUMBER 541



Hempstead United Football Club in 1970. See David Woods article on page 9

Back row L to R: Terry Marks, Martin Allen, Barry Welch, David Wood, Ray Rowe, Tony Jarvis.

Front row L to R: Roger Bassett, Derek Hales, Frank Hewitt, Rodney Diddams, Aidan O'Sullivan.

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Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller

Action Forum Office
4 Saracen Close, Gillingham Business Park
Gillingham ME8 0QN
Telephone: 01634 310011
Email: af@thenet.uk.net

Editorial

March duly proceeded to 'roar in like a lion' this year leaving much havoc in its wake. Unfortunately it does not seem to be going out like a lamb thus fulfilling the old saying. The 'Beast from the East', so named by the weather forecasters, certainly had a lot to answer for in our small area. Snow piled up on the freezing ground and bitter winds persuaded all but the most hearty of individuals to stay at home in the warm. Providing you had a reliable boiler and plenty of food in the cupboards and freezer this was fine and a week of enforced confinement did no one any harm but there were plenty of horror stories related to keep the media busy. Even, after 6 days, once the rapid thaw arrived this was not the end of the trials and tribulations as burst water pipes and tremendous potholes continued the sorry tale for many residents. We have had winters ie snow and ice in sufficient quantities to make life difficult on average about every ten years and these epic events less frequently. 1947, 1962 and 1987 are the stand out dates I can remember when we were genuinely unable to do anything other than walk with extreme caution. Looking at the gaps in these dates 15 years 25 and now 30, I don't expect the next horrendous blast of winter weather will worry me! A few months ago I was alerted by a reader to the declining number of trees in Rainham Recreation Ground. Apparently each time there is a strong wind we seem to lose another tree! The concerned resident asks 'As the ground was left to the people of Rainham by the Wakeley Bros. does the Council have a duty of care to preserve what is a well-used park for future generations?'

It is lovely to see signs of spring all around us. Apparently however much we may have disliked the cold weather it is very good for the fruit trees in the orchards delaying the blossom until the danger of frost has passed thus ensuring a bumper harvest this autumn. It is certainly a wonderful sight when the trees are in full bloom in the sunshine with blue sky behind them. Just the time to go for a ramble through the countryside. Quizzes, concerts, productions, walks and all the usual meetings and events fill our diary this month so do make the most of the long spring days now we have reverted to summer time and enjoy the month of April. See you again in May, have a good month.

Correspondence

'HE IS RISEN!'

Dear Editor

On Sundays 15th and 22nd April the Parish of South Gillingham (Wigmore, Parkwood, Hempstead and Bredhurst) will be performing a new play entitled 'He is Risen!' This is a retelling of the story of the Resurrection of Jesus. The team involved in the writing, production and performance of this original script is the same that performed the Passion Play on Parkwood Green in 2015 and the Nativity Play at St. Matthew's Church in 2016, both of which were seen by several hundred people and were well received.

The cast comprises some 20+ people from the parish and the wider community. The play explores the events between the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection to recapture some of the mystery of an event that altered the course of human history. Performances are at 7.30pm on both nights, admission is by ticket only, these can be obtained free of charge from Claire Schofield 01634 230423 or email claire.schofield01@gmail.com Both performances will be in the St. Matthew's Church Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, Gillingham.

FRED'S CAFÉ RAINHAM

Dear Editor

We have just returned from Australia, staying with Colin Campbell and his wife Fay and meeting with Geoff and Rita Stringer. I previously lived in Kent Terrace, Colin in Orchard Street and Geoff Ivy Street. We were talking about Fred's Café in Rainham where we used to have egg & chips on a Saturday night. Fred and his wife did the cooking but we could not remember their surname or if they had a family. Does anyone have any information – perhaps the couple are still in Rainham. Geoff, Colin and I would love to know. Incidentally I post Action Forum to Australia each month where it is passed around lots of people from Rainham.

Yours sincerely
David Whitton
'Avalon' Augustine Road, Minster,
Sheppey ME12 2LZ 01795 874003

LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to see my cousin Katherine Major among the Rainham Ladies Civil Defence Football Team on the front of your January 2018 issue. May I correct the caption in that Katherine is in the front row third from right. I understand it was shortly after this game she became the team's goalkeeper. It was Moseley's the baker who managed to produce such scrumptious cakes and buns even in wartime, referred to in Derek Twort's letter.

Yours sincerely
Ian Major
41 Heaton Road
Canterbury CT1 3PY

THE SLIPPER AND THE ROSE

Dear Editor,

3 Towns Theatre Company will be bringing 'The Slipper and the Rose' to the Brook Theatre from 12th-14th April at 7.30pm and at 2.30pm on 14th April. This charming family musical tells the age old, favourite tale of Cinderella but looks at the story from the prince's side! It was made into a film in the 70's starring Gemma Craven and Richard Chamberlain and has been a favourite of many for years. A perfect holiday treat! Tickets from box office 01634 338338.

Kind Regards
Gwyneth Loft

ART AND DESIGN EXHIBITION

Rainham School for Girls Sixth Form
Halpern Gallery 272 High Street, Chatham
Friday 20th – Thursday 26th April. Free to enter.
An exciting and creative response to a range of work using a variety of skills and techniques through the mediums of Photography, Graphic Design, Art and Textiles. Together with Nucleus Arts Centre an exhibition of Year 12 students work has been prepared to give them a chance to showcase their exceptionally high standard of work and to establish a younger student voice in the Medway arts community. We held an in-house art auction, members of RSG staff bid on works made by the Year 12's and raised £232.50 towards exhibition fees and framing costs. For more information contact Mrs K. Moon, Rainham School for Girls 01634 362746

CAKE DECORATING COMPETITION

During the English Festival, Gillingham WI will hold their annual cake decorating competition. The theme is 'Royal Baby/Royal Wedding'. Under 14's category and 14 and over. Entries to be brought to the WI's Tea Tent at Riverside Country Park before 12 noon on Saturday 21st April 2018. We look forward to seeing you there!

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If you are a beginner or licensed of any age or gender with an interest in Radio Communication you will be very welcome. We have a varied programme, Natter Club Nights, Talks, Practical Sessions and Social Events. Weekly meetings at Parkwood Community Centre and our base in Bredhurst. For details please email secretary@brats-qth.org or see our website www.brats-qth.org

RAINHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Following a successful move to The Howard School, Rainham Community Choir are singing all sorts of great songs with the encouragement of our musical director Olivia, and our pianist Eleanor every Monday between 7.00pm and 8.30pm.

If you would like to come along for a 2-week free trial you will receive a warm welcome. No auditions, the choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. Current charges are £4 per session, payable half termly in advance. For further information please check our Facebook page Rainham Community Choir or email info@rainhamcommunitychoir@gmail.com.

DISTRIBUTION Volunteer distributors needed Rainham

Beechings Way (Pump Lane to Pembury Close), Hereford, Monmouth, Lichfield, Ely, Truro, Ripon Cls Wigmore

Top Wigmore Road & Fowler Close Parkwood

Woollaston & Warlingham Closes Nares, Old Castle, Plomley, Collett, Moyle Closes

Hempstead Meadowdown, Thistledown, Tamarind, Mulberry, Upchurch

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Diary 2018

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: April 24th 2018

April 7th - Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall,
7.30pm start, £5 each, bring your own food and drinks,
Contact Ann 01634 377671 for details.

April 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
meet Mo Fleisig 07976 600393 Linton Village Church
Car Park off Linton Hill A229 GR754502 ME17 4AW
for 6 mile undulating walk through One steep descent
and 6 stiles. Dogs Allowed

April 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely
circular walk 8.5 miles / 13.7km, finish 2.45pm,
Westerham - Limsfield Common - Crockham Hill,
Free car parking at Hosey Hill Car Park. TN16 1PJ,
TQ45353 Eight stiles with dog gates. Assistance dogs
only, Contact: John Watts, FLAME451@hotmail.co.uk

April 8th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Capstone
Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get involved
by helping with some practical tasks. Meet at the visitor
centre, Ring 01634 338191 for more information

April 9th - Rainham Community Choir every Monday
The Howard School, Rainham 7.00 - 8.30pm, 2-week
free trial, no auditions, the choir is open to anyone who
enjoys singing. Details see Facebook or email
infoatrainhamcommunitychoir@gmail.com.

April 9th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,
Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, ME8 9PN,

7.30pm, Organist - Chris Powell, details ring Brian
Leonard 01634 234694

April 9th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets 2nd
Monday 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.

April 9th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St Matthews
Church Hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX Demonstration by
Graham King An extremely friendly, encouraging club,
delighted to welcome both experienced and novices. Do
come and give us a try. Details visit our website
www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 863034 /
01634 373928 or 01795 843180

April 10th - Mallet and Badge Making, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm.
Use hand tools to make your own mallet and a badge
from the trees. £3 per child suitable for accompanied
children aged 5 - 12 years. Details ring 01634 338191

April 10th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, 7.30
for 8.00pm, St. George Hotel, New Road, Chatham.
'What you don't know about Buttons' (Powerpoint) -
Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown, For further information ring
01634 851512 or just turn up

April 10th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm,
Rainham School for Girls Talk 'Growing Fuchsias' by
Carol Gubler, All welcome. For more information
contact Janet 01634 852519

April 11th - Beginners Fishing for Children, Capstone
Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or 1 - 3.00pm,
Learn the basics of fishing - aimed at beginners and
those wishing to improve. All equipment supplied,
limited numbers, £10 per child for accompanied
children 8 - 12 years, Ring 01634 338191 for details.

April 11th - East Medway U3A Smallholders Club,
Springvale ME8 0JG, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Mary Smith - A
School Girls War (WW2), Non-members welcome Free
to members, £2 for visitors second Wednesday of the
month 07816 159 668 or see www.eastmedwayu3a

April 11th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall second
Wednesday of each month. Michelle Ernout Talk
'How to make bath bombs & candle making' Details
Pam Ormiston 01634 365789

April 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead
Village Hall, 8.00pm, Taster Evening, for details
contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

April 12th - Kite Making Workshop, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Join the rangers making kites
in Visitor Centre then fly them in the bracing winds. £5
per person, ring 01634 338191 for more information

April 12th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Outing to Rye
Market and Tenterden, no local meeting.

April 12th - 14th - 3 Towns Theatre Company, 'The
Slipper and the Rose' Brook Theatre, 7.30pm & 2.30 on
14th. Tickets from box office 01634 338338.

April 13th - 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.

April 13th - Games Evening Memorial/Village Hall, 7.00
- 9.00pm (second Friday of every month) £2 per head
Adults and £1 per child includes Tea/Coffee/Squash
and biscuits, and our Lower Halstow warm welcome.

April 13th - Donn Barcott Band 'Five Live' Second
Friday every month, 8.00 - 10.30pm, Brompton
Conservative Club, Gillingham, Licensed Bar, Quality
Raffle, Light Snacks Phone Donn 01634 405037 or
Chris Buckwell 07977 262564 for more information

April 14th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, Millennium
Centre, Rainham, Free entry, Refreshments, To book a
stall (£10 each) ring 07779 366054 or email
cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com

April 14th - Free Taster Session, RiverVoice Community
Choir, 10.00am - 1.00pm, St Luke's Methodist Church,
City Way, Rochester, an open, friendly and welcoming
non-auditioned choir no requirement to read music just
enjoy singing and have fun. Details Nikki Pease 07815
207153 or nikki.pease@hotmail.com

April 14th - Spring Craft Fair, St. Margaret's Church,
Lower Halstow, 2.00 - 4.00pm Refreshments available,
www.thesix.org.uk

April 14th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed
Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 -
10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with
or without a partner, details ring 366189 or 388546.

April 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely
circular walk 6.5 miles / 10.5km, finish 1.15pm, meet in
front of Leysdown Village Hall, Wing Road. Toilets
nearby ME12 4QR, TR035703, Level terrain - no stiles.
Path along dyke can be uneven. No cover from the
elements. Contact: Geoff, geoff.rambler@me.com

April 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 George Inn,
Newnham Car Park. GR955576 ME9 0LL Meals
available must be pre booked. 01795 890237 for 6 mile
undulating walk passing historic Church. Dogs Allowed

April 15th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside
Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get involved by
helping with some practical tasks. Meet at the visitor
centre, Ring 01634 337432 for more information

April 15th - 'He Is Risen!' St. Matthew's Community
Centre, 7.30pm, a new play retelling of the story of the
Resurrection of Jesus. Ticket only, free of charge from
01634 230423 or email claire.schofield01@gmail.com

April 16th - Medway Scabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St
Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new
members welcome, details 01634 230500

April 16th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, St
Paul's Church, Parkwood, 7.30pm, My Grandfather's
Tale, Ley Liberson, All welcome, ring Kate Archer
01634 360797.

April 16th - Wigmore WI, 7.30 - 9.30pm, St Matthews
Community Centre, Brewery Drive, various speakers &
events. Visitors Welcome, interested ring Chris Ellison
01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan 01634 268611

April 17th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, ME8 9PN.
7.30 - 9.45pm £4. The Pantanal - Dr Peter Gasson, for
Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway

April 17th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm,
United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road,
Gillingham, 'Shades of Shakespeare' - Asymmetrical
arrangement with secondary Placement (interpreting
one of his plays). New members welcome, first visit
free, no experience needed. Just come along parking
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Continued on Page 11

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St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow

Saturday 14th April, 2.00 — 4.00pm

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new.

Do join us for a wide selection of local crafts at
possibly the prettiest location around.

Refreshments available.

www.thesix.org.uk

HISTORY TALK

The Oast Community Centre

Granary Close, Rainham ME8 7SG

Lost Breweries of Medway - David Burton

Friday April 20th, 9.45am — 12.15pm

A look at the lost breweries of the Medway towns
including Budden & Biggs, Arkolls, Woodhams and
Dampiers. Followed by a refreshment break.

Second half a slideshow pub crawl around the lost
pubs of the towns. On display will be a 1/12th scale
model diorama of the Globe & Laurel pub

Gillingham, a collection of local pub artefacts and
display 'Famous Long bar in Chatham High Street'

£3 per person or two for £5 Funds towards

The Oast Renovation Fund, Bar will be open

CALLING ALL QUIZZERS!

Medway Hospital charity Quiz Night

Friday 20th April, 7.00pm

Common Room, Postgraduate Centre,

Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham.

Teams of six to eight players compete for the title of

Medway Hospital Quiz Champions.

£6 per person.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

For more information or to book contact the

fundraising team 01634 830000 ext. 5398

or email medwayft.charity@nhs.net

'THE MINISTRY OF BISCUITS'

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Saturday 21st April, start 7.30pm

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BARNARDO'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 28th April, 7.00pm for 7.30 start

Tywdall Church Hall, Gillingham

Tickets £5 each, Tables of 6-8

Book in advance

Bring your own Drink and Nibbles

Free Tea Coffee + Biscuits available

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BLUEBELLS & CREAM TEA WEEKEND

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th April

Walks start at 2.00pm each day

Join BWAG for its guided walks through Bredhurst

Woods followed by cream teas at a local farm -
shorter and longer walks available.

Tickets £7 per person must be purchased in advance
not be available on the day (children under 16 free).

For more details and tickets please call

Jim Chalmers 07870 878907,

Esther Huxstep 01634 233752

email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

on line at bluebellwalk2018.eventbrite.co.uk

WINE AND WISDOM EVENING

Saturday 28th April, 7.00 for 7.30pm start

St Matthew's Community Centre

Drewery Drive, Wigmore

Tickets £5 per person.

Teams of up to 8 people

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Proceeds to go to St Matthew's Church Fund

To book a table or more information

contact Alan Spearink 01634 370492

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE FAYRE 2018

I am now booking stalls for the Hempstead Village

Fayre which will be held on

Harrow Road Playing Fields on

Sunday, 20th May from 11.30am to 4.30pm.

If you would like to hire a pitch or require further

information, email valeriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

Halfway through Lent, on the 4th Sunday, Christians were traditionally allowed a relaxation of Lenten penance and fasting. That day was originally called Refreshment Sunday, but later became known as Mothering Sunday, probably because the day was celebrated in one's mother church. Gradually, the 4th Sunday in Lent became a celebration of motherhood and, by at least the 16th century, it had become the practice to present a gift to one's mother, typically a simnel cake. These days, such a cake is decorated with eleven marzipan balls, representing the twelve apostles, excluding Judas. Up to mid-Victorian times, however, a simnel cake was decorated with preserved fruits and flowers. Those children who could not afford to buy or make their mother a cake would traditionally present her with a bunch of wild flowers, commonly sweet violets. At St Margaret's church many of the daffodils that are used to decorate the chancel on Mothering Sunday are later given to children to present to their mothers.

Just before Mothering Sunday I visited the North Downs in order to look out for whatever wild flowers were in bloom and any other signs of spring. Passing through Hartlip, I noticed the bright yellow petals of a mass of winter aconites growing under an enormous horse chestnut tree in the front garden of The Old Parsonage. My first stop was at Queendown Warren, a nature reserve managed by Kent Wildlife Trust. As I stepped into the reserve, a number of rabbits and their young darted back into their burrows. These ruminants are quite a problem for the Trust. They are eating the rare chalk down land flowers and have left the vegetation on the main bank of the reserve looking almost as neat as a well mown lawn. At the very top of the bank, too far from their burrows for the rabbits to get back safely in the event of a fox or buzzard appearing, I came across patches of white deadnettle and carpets of low growing plants with purple flowers which I at first thought were violets. To my disappointment they were ground ivy. I did nevertheless find many of the rounded leaves of violet plants, but they were not yet sporting any flowers. In

the hedgerows around the reserve I came across a number of hazel shrubs with male catkins dangling like lambs' tails. Once they were covered in pollen, they would attract the attention of emerging bumble bees and butterflies.

I moved on to Stockbury, passing the white blossoms of roadside blackthorn and cherry plum, and parked near The Harrow Public House. Stockbury parish contains extensive deciduous woodland, but consists largely of arable and grazing land. The latter supports herds of sheep and one herd of beef cattle. Many of the one-time orchards of fruit, particularly cherry, have been grubbed out, but many remain in an untended state, particularly in the Yelsted area. It has been recorded that wrynecks, members of the woodpecker family, once nested in holes in the old fruit trees. The species is now only a rare passage migrant. Blue and great tits, among other birds, do however nest in those old trees that remain standing. I walked a short way down Hill Green Road where I came across a field of sheep and lambs in an old orchard at Green Acre Farm – a commonly accepted sign of spring. My next stop was at Parsonage Farm which has a splendid farm shop, including a Post Office and a butchery that serves meat from animals reared on the farm. I took the opportunity, being careful not to set off a gaggle of edgy geese, to have another look at the impressive, double entry, mediaeval tithe barn in the farmyard. I then walked down Church Lane, passing a community orchard in which sheep were grazing among old and newly planted cherry trees. The children of Hartlip Primary School have had a summer teddy bears' picnic in the orchard. I subsequently sat myself down on the grass verge, at the top of the very steep Honeyrock Hill, which leads down to the Stockbury Valley and the A249 Maidstone to Sheerness road. Very nearby was a rookery in a group of ash trees. There were about twenty nests, many being still under repair from the winter storms. I did however notice the tail feathers of at least one sitting, female bird sticking out of the nest. I wondered where the rooks would go if and once the trees were dead from the spreading disease of ash dieback. Finally, I visited the graveyard of the nearby 13th century

church of St Mary Magdalene, Stockbury. Next to it was a group of rams, their work done for the year, grazing among cherry trees on the remains of a motte and ballie, originally built by the Normans. I could hear a blackbird and a song thrush singing. There were a few wood anemones and lesser celandines just in bloom among the gravestones. Growing much more prolifically were flowers that can be described as having 'yellow discs florets and white rays', namely, common daisies. I picked a small posy of the flowers to take home to Mrs Ennis, mother of Sarah and Annabel. Sweet violets would have been more appropriate and presentable, but I failed to find any.

Joe Ennis

HEMPSTEAD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB The Glory Years

From 1966 to 1971 Hempstead United dominated Medway football on Saturdays and won almost every competition they entered. Many of their players also played for Rainham Cricketers, a leading team in the Premier Division of the Medway Sunday League. Competing firstly in the Rochester & District League Division 1 which they won in 1966/67 and 1967/68, they then joined the New Brompton League and played in a strip of black and blue stripes and black shorts. The team won county fame in the Kent Benevolent Cup by beating Maidstone Rangers 4-3 in the 1968 final. They also caused a big upset when they reached the quarter finals of the Kent Senior Cup defeating Kent League teams Slade Green, Crockenhill and Faversham Town before losing 4-2 to Herne Bay. This led to key players John Gunner and Pat Goodyer leaving to play senior football but with new talent the team's success continued. Former West Ham Youth players Derek Hales and Rodney Diddams with Richard Hales and David Wood from Breach Rovers and Aidan O'Sullivan from Chatham arrived. These players fitted in well with defenders Tony Jarvis, Terry Marks, Ray Rowe and Barry Welch, midfielders Martin Allen and Jesse Reed and forwards Frank Hewitt and Roger Bassett. George Phillips and Wavell Hulbert also featured in the squad.

During the 1970-71 season Hempstead United headed the New Brompton league but were challenged by Strood side Rainbow Rangers right to the end. Hempstead defeated Rainbow 3-1 in September but the league championship hinged on the outcome of the

return game at the end of the season. Hempstead also defeated Rainbow 4-1 to win the Sittingbourne Charity Cup. They were occasionally challenged in the league but their hardest matches were in cup competitions with their only reverse being a 3-2 defeat against Kent League side Slade Green in the Kent Senior Cup.

After defeating Medway County 7-1 in the area final of the Kent Junior Cup with Derek Hales scoring five goals, Hempstead met Mote Wanderers from Maidstone in the county stage of the competition. After trailing by three goals in the first half Hempstead fought back to 3-3 before Norman Dolby scored a late winner. Unfortunately, Mote Wanderers complained to the KCFA that he was an ineligible player, the appeal was upheld and the match replayed but Hempstead won 3-0 to reach the county final. Hempstead faced Kent Amateur League side BOCM at Sheppey United Football Ground in the county final of the Kent Junior Cup. In difficult windy conditions they struggled to play well. Derek Hales scored in the first half but BOCM hit back strongly and equalized, forcing the match into extra time. Defender Barry Welch then scored in the final minute to win the cup for Hempstead.

With three league matches to play Hempstead faced Rainbow Rangers in an almost certain championship decider. Derek Hales scored a hat trick which gave Hempstead a 3-1 victory then after winning their remaining two matches they became New Brompton League Champions for the third consecutive season. Most of the players left at the end of the 1970-71 season to play at a higher level. Derek Hales became a professional with Luton then Charlton, Derby, West Ham and Gillingham, his brother Richard played for Sittingbourne, Rodney Diddams had a spell at Dartford and others joined Faversham Town. With the loss of so many talented players Hempstead United were unable to repeat their earlier successes but they remained in the New Brompton League.

David Wood.

AFTERNOON TEA

St Michael and all Angels Church, Hartlip
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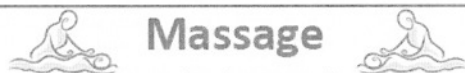
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- April 18th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall,
Woodside, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome to
this cheerful group, just come along or ring 01634
388912 for more information
- April 18th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Village Hall,
7.30pm, Jeannie Robinson Title: The Science of
Propagation, New members always welcome ring
07791 781 910 for details
- April 19th - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 - 4.00pm.
Breast Cancer Care Wakeley Hall, Oast House
Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham. Visitors
welcome for small entry charge per visit. Ring 01634
366276 for details.
- April 19th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, Scrabble,
board games, tea and chat. All Saints Church,
Hempstead Road 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members always
welcome, phone 07583 343 782
- April 20th - 26th - Art and Design Exhibition, Rainham
School for Girls Sixth Form, Halpern Gallery 272 High
Street Chatham. Free to enter details 01634 362746
- April 20th - The Oast Community Centre, 'Lost
Breweries of Medway' History Talk - David Burton,
9.45am - 12.15pm, £3 per person, two for £5, Bar open.
- April 20th - Medway Hospital charity Quiz Night,
7.00pm, Common Room, Postgraduate Centre,
Medway Maritime Hospital. Teams 6 - 8. £6 per person
bring your own drinks and nibbles. Details and to book
01634 830000 ext5398 or medwayft.charity@nhs.net
- April 20th - Local History Society, Byron Primary
School, Gillingham, ME7 5XX, 7.15pm - Talk Jeremy
Thornton 'Shipbuilding at Sheerness' Membership £20.
Visitors £3 per meeting. Tea and coffee is available
before the meeting for a small charge, details Val
Barrand 07947 583327 or visit website www.grlhs.org
- April 20th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, 8.00pm,
Roan Kearsley-Lawson Quartet, Admission £12,
Enquiries 01634 354352 or 07544 312743, Website
coljazz.webs.com
- April 21st - Rainham South Councillors surgery 3:16 cafe
Parkwood 10.00am - 12noon, no appointment necessary
- April 21st - 'The Ministry of Biscuits', Applause Rural
Touring Theatre, Bredhurst Village Hall, 7.30pm The
Foundry Group, Tickets £10 Ann Keeble 01634 361263

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- April 21st - Rochester and North Kent Music and Drama
Festival, Pilkington Building, Kent University Chatham
Maritime, ME4 4TB, 9.15am - 5.00pm, small entrance
fee. See www.mkmdf.org.uk for details.
- April 21st - English Festival Cake Decorating
Competition, theme 'Royal Baby/Royal Wedding
Under 14's category and 14 and over. Entries to WI's
Tea Tent at Riverside Country Park before 12 noon
- April 22nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
meet Anne Bond 07778 302866 or Pat Wells 07804
837155 Sheldwich Lees Village Hall Car Park. GR
014561 ME13 0LG for 5.5 mile walk using pathways
via Badlesmere, Throwley and Wilgate Green could be
muddy if wet. 2 stiles. Dogs Allowed
- April 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am,
Leisurely circular walk 7 miles / 11.3km, finish 2.00pm
Four Water Mills, Meet and park at the public car park
Wingham High Street CT3 1BN, TR242577 Mainly
flat. Contact: Mike, cycling39@aol.com
- April 22nd - Indoor Boot Fair, Twydall Community
Centre, Beechings Way, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Free
Parking, Refreshments available
- April 22nd - 'He Is Risen!' (see 15th April)
- April 25th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, 7.15pm,
Speaker - Horticultural Scientific Developments,
United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road,
Gillingham ME7 4PU, £2 Members £3 Non Members,
details Call Sandie 07962 277330
- April 25th - Rainham Historical Society, Millennium
Hall, Rainham, 7.30pm, AGM & speaker for chosen
charity, All welcome, Contact secretary Olwen
O'Dowd 01634 263622 for more details.
- April 25th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Charity
Presentation, (see 11th April)
- April 26th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk 'How to enjoy
Driving' by John Mills (see 19th April)
- April 26th - Free films at St. Mary's! St. Mary Magdalene
Church, Gillingham Green, 2.00pm, Free entry and
refreshments; no need to book, details 01634 324783
- April 26th - Jazz at the Hastings, 8.00 - 10.30pm,
Hastings Arms, Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, The
Donn Barcott Band 'Five5Live', Donn 01634 405037
- April 27th - Medway Geographical Society, 7.30, Alison
Bristo - Orang-utans and My Journey to Borneo, Holy
Trinity Church, Twydall Lane, E8 6TN, all welcome,
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April 28th & 29th - Bluebells & Cream Tea Weekend,
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advance - no tickets available on day (children under
16 free). Call Jim Chalmers 07870 878907, Esther
Huxstep 01634 233752 bwag@vanessajones.plus.com
April 28th - Barnardo's Charity Quiz Night, 7.00pm for
7.30 start, Tywdall Church Hall, Tickets £5 each,
Tables of 6-8 Book in advance, 01634 233405
April 28th - Wine and Wisdom Evening, 7.00pm for
7.30pm start, St Matthew's Community Centre,
Wigmore, £5 per person, teams up to 8 people, details
and to book Alan Spearink 01634 370492
April 28th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 14th April)
April 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate
circular walk 6 miles / 9.7km, finish 12.45pm, Medway
Urban Walk, Meet at the exit from the top car park in
Whiffen's Avenue, Chatham ME4 4SF, TQ759681,
bring picnic lunch. Contact: 07941 813985
April 29th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
meet David Gaul 07719 382284 Boughton under Blean,
Bounds Lane, Park on the street between garage &
Queens Head GR 062593 ME13 9BA for 4.5 mile walk
via Mount Ephraim and through orchards. No Dogs
April 29th - Chatham Bowling Club Open Day, 10.00am
- 4.00pm, Palmerston Road Chatham, Come and try
your hand at Bowls, Equipment and Training provided.
Contact K Grubb 07934 368627
April 29th - Taize Service, St. Mark's Church, Canterbury
Street, Gillingham, 6.30pm join us for a short
contemplative service focusing on the Easter story,
information contact 01634 570489
April 30th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 16th April)
May 1st - GHS Floral Art Group, 'May Pole' - a spiral
arrangement, (see 17th April)
May 1st - Breast Cancer Support Group, Medway
Hospital, Level 2, Area 7, 7.00 - 9.00pm. Julie Gamble
from the Advanced Skin & Beauty Clinic will give a
demonstration together with a beautician, details
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May 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Members
Meeting. New members welcome, 01634 366276.
May 3rd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, Scrabble,
board games, tea and chat (see 19th April)
May 4th - 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.
May 4th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow Memorial,
2.00 - 4.00pm. Euchre, Rummy, Whist, Scrabble
and many other card and board games. £1.50 per person
includes Tea/Biscuits and a very warm welcome.
May 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate
circular walk 6.5 miles / 10.5km, finish 1.00pm,
Canterbury - Coffee, Cake & 'Bring a friend', Park
considerately around Chartham village. Meet on the
green near the toilets. CT4 7LA, TR106551, Level
terrain and no stiles. May be muddy if wet. Contact:
Tony/Ann, 01634 440663, vajra.faulkner@tesco.net
May 6th - Afternoon Tea, St Michael and all Angels
Church, Hartlip, 3.00 - 5.00pm. Please join us for a
relaxing afternoon of tea and homemade cakes whilst
enjoying the peace and tranquillity of our lovely church
yard with beautiful views across the orchards to
Rainham and help us to keep our beautiful church alive.
May 8th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club,
Exhibition of Teddies and Talk, 'And So To Bed,
History of Teddies and Other Bears' (Powerpoint) -
Mrs. Melanie Gibson-Barton, (see 10th April)
May 9th - East Medway U3A, Barbara Stevens - Stories
from a Journalist Year, (see 11th April)
May 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, AGM, (see
11th April)
May 10th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Gardening and plant
sale with Jackie Aviolet (see 19th April)
May 11th - Local History Society, AGM, (see 20th April)
May 12th - Tea and Cake Lindy Hop Dance, Lower
Halstow Memorial 7.30 - 10.00pm Hot Rod's Lindy
Hop Music, Tickets £7 includes Tea/Coffee and cake.
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