



Monthly Meetings

General meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday each month from 2pm to 4pm. **Doors open at 1.35pm**

Entry (including refreshments):

Members free, waiting list £1.50, guests £2

Friday 24th July
Eat Your Carrots
Speaker Guy Bartlett

Friday 28th August
Social Afternoon

Activity Sessions

Entry (including refreshments) Members £1, Waiting list £1.50, Guests £2

Sessions are held Fridays between 1.30 to 4.00pm
On dates below

July

Fridays 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Art Group/Cards/Games/Craft/Short Mat Bowls

Friday 31st Quiz

August

Friday 7th, 14th, and 21st

Art Group/Cards/Games/Craft/Short Mat Bowl

Rambles

We cut our last walk through Camer Park a little short because of the extreme weather conditions. We managed to keep under the trees around the edge of the park and then had a coffee or a cold drink at the Café in the park to revive us. The George welcomed us for an early lunch and it was one of the best Sunday lunches we have enjoyed – thoroughly recommended. Here are our plans for the next couple of months.

Sunday 28th June – Leybourne Lakes and The White Hart, Cuxton
Meet in the car park at 11 am (fee payable) for a circular walk around the lake. Back to cars and on to The White Hart for lunch around 12.45

Wednesday 1st July – Teston Lock and The Red Start Barming
This is our evening mid- summer ramble. Meet in the Teston Lock car park (ME18 5BX, also fee payable) at 5pm for a walk alongside the River Medway towards Wateringbury and after a short rest we re-trace our steps back to the car park. On to The Red Start, Barming for dinner around 6.45pm

Wednesday 22nd July – Shorne Country Park and The Rose and Crown

Meet in the Rose and Crown car park at 11am for a circular walk in the Country Park. Back to the pub for lunch around 12.45

Sunday 26th July – Grain Coastal Path and The Hogarth Inn, Grain
Meet in the coastal path car park at 11am for a walk alongside the river. Back to cars and on to The Hogarth for lunch around 12.45pm

Wednesday 5th August – Hythe to Folkestone – British Lion
This is our annual seaside walk. Meet at 11am on the seafront behind the Imperial Hotel, Hythe. Walk along the promenade towards Folkestone. Janet is assured by the Folkestone Tourist Board that the zig-zag path up to the Leas is open. Lunch at The British Lion, The Bayle at 1pm. Return to Hythe and cars by bus (don't forget your bus passes)

Wednesday 26th August – Frindsbury to Upnor and The Sans Pareil

Meet in the car park of The Sans Pareil, 245 Frindsbury Hill, at 11am for a walk towards Upnor and return. Lunch in The Sans Pareil approx. 1pm.

This will be a new walk to many of us and Phil has kindly agreed to lead it.

Wednesday 2nd September – King Charles Coastal Path and The Boathouse, Strood

Meet at The Boathouse, Canal Road, Strood, at 11am for a walk into Rochester and on the King Charles coastal path. If we need to extend the walk a little we can go along the Esplanade Gardens. Again Phil will lead this one. The Boathouse is recommended and we should be back there for lunch around 1pm

Non-walkers are very welcome to meet up with walkers for the pub lunch and prior notice would be appreciated. Please note that all ramblers walk at their own risk and non-members are reminded they are not covered by HiARA's third party insurance. If you have any queries about the walks please do not hesitate to give Janet a call on 01474 824221 or 0784988456

Upcoming Events

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| Saturday 19th September | Canal Cruise to Camden Market | FULL |
| Saturday 14th November | Social evening with Andy Badd | £10 |
| Tuesday 8th December | Christmas Lunch at Stone Lodge Dartford | TBC |

**Please note that all trips must be paid for when being booked
All trips will be leaving from Taylors Lane and junction of Mountbatten Avenue**

On Friday 22nd May, HiARA were invited to Gads Hill School for their annual Entertainment and Tea Party. The headmaster, Mr Paul Savage, welcomed over 60 of us and we were given a cooling drink prior to the pupils entertaining us with their piano playing and singing. One of the youngsters hosted a brain teasing quiz after which we went into the restaurant for a fantastic tea. The pupils expertly waited upon us with plates well loaded with sandwiches, superb homemade treacle tarts, honeycombs, pannacotta and lots more goodies. The youngsters are a credit to the school and giving us a great afternoon proved it.

Peter Morriss

Our away-day was to have a cream tea as we sailed in the sailing barge 'Hydrogen' on the River Blackwater in Essex.

With a 'bit' of a blow and a 'dollop' of rain, 31 of us boarded the 120 year old vessel. As we descended to the main cabin the lovely aroma of the fruit scones being made on board wafted up to us. Laid out ready for us were the butter, jam and cream to be washed down with coffee or tea. After our tea party we were able to go on deck to enjoy the sailing as the rain had stopped. Sails were set and aided by a stalwart engine which steadied our progress; we enjoyed the thrill of life working on a barge. The skipper and his mate answered our many questions during our 2 hour cruise. Arriving back at Maldon, the sun came out as we bade our hosts farewell hoping to return another day when the weather is on our side.

Peter Morriss



Chairman's June Report

Well May was a good month for the club. Attendances at the activity Fridays was good and then on the 22nd around 70 members accepted the invitation to attend Gads Hill School – no not for re-education but for an afternoon of entertainment and tea. The pupils of the school sang for us and it was well received. A quiz organised by the pupils themselves was accepted as being on our level! (ie not too hard). But the defining moment for most was the delightful afternoon tea prepared by the kitchen staff and served by the pupils and staff. A thoroughly good afternoon. I have sent a thank you letter to the headmaster, Mr Paul Savage on our behalf. We must have been on our best behaviour as we have been invited back for next year – pencil in 28th May 2027 for Gads Hill School.

On the 29th May at the monthly meeting, we were entertained by none other than Margaret Thatcher, (aka Tony Harris). The delivery was extremely funny and in some cases informative. The members showed their appreciation at the end of it by clapping and in some cases cheering, much louder than I have heard. Nobody fell asleep either.

Continue to enjoy the good weather.

Regards Rod

HiARA Committee Members

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|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Chairperson | Rod Stockford | 01634 221956 | Treasurer | Rita Hunter | 07815 853444 |
| Secretary | Joan Summers | 01634 297414 | Membership | Jenny Mount | 01474 356785 |
| Activities | Rod Stockford | 01634 221956 | Events | Jan Morriss | 01474 822775 |
| Newsletter | George Tharby | 01634 221579 | Committee Member | Peter Morriss | 01474 822775 |
| Committee Member | Trisha Stuart | 01634 715629 | Committee Member | Mick Mount | 01474 356785 |

If you have any comments, please contact the relevant committee member.