

At a Glance

Wednesday, 2 September, 11am

Life as an evacuee, Howard Baker

Saturday, 19 September, 11am

Dig for Victory, Russell Bowes

Wednesday, 7 October, 11am

Brandy, Baccy & 100 years of Smuggling,
Cyril Baldwin

Saturday, 17 October, 11am

Gravesend Airport, Frank Turner

Wednesday, 4 November, 11am

Growing Up in Wartime Northfleet, Alex Pavitt

Saturday, 14 November, 11am

Finding a Family, Tony Farnham

Saturday, 12 December, 11am

A Kent Christmas, Geof Doel & Mick Lynn

Wednesday, 23 December, 11am

Christmas Quiz, Towncentric

Saturday, 16 January, 11am - New Year Special

The World Garden & Time in Captivity,
Tom Hart Dyke

Wednesday, 20 January, 11am

Gravesend and the Merchant Navy,
Ted Rashbrooke

Saturday, 6 February, 11am

Music Hall and Theatre in the Post War Years,
Wilf Lower

Wednesday, 17 February, 11am

Topic TBC, Sandra Soder

Wednesday, 3 March, 11am

Thames Defences During the Spanish Armada &
Dutch Invasion, Victor Smith

Saturday, 20 March, 11am

Big Cats of Kent, Neil Arnold

How to find Gravesend



By Car

Gravesend is clearly sign posted from the M2, M20 & M25. Direct access is provided by the A2, A226 & A227.

By Bus

Regular services to Gravesend are run by Arriva Bus Services. Timetable information is available from their Helpline Tel: 0870 6082 608

By Train

Gravesend Railway Station is in the heart of the town and is 2 minutes from the shops. Timetable information is available from their Helpline Tel: 08457 484950

By Taxi

Situated at New Road (Gravesend), close to the station and shops.

By Ferry

Passenger ferries run regularly between Gravesend and Tilbury with bus connections to Tilbury Town Railway Station. Timetable information is available from G&T Ferries Tel: 07973 390124

National Travel Line: Bus, Rail and Coach - 0870 608 2608

A large print version of this guide can be made available on request 01474 337600



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TOWNCENTRIC Talks 2009-10



£3.00* except for New Year Special (£5.00*)

Price includes refreshments
Limited seats - pre-booking is essential

*** Please note the fee is non-refundable**

**For more information and to book
phone Towncentric on 01474 33 76 00
or email info@towncentric.co.uk**

Saturday Talks

Saturday, 19 September, 11.00am **Dig for Victory - Russell Bowes**

Dig for victory looks at the period when England's gardens took on the might of Hitler's armies. Gardens great and small, public and private saw clematis give way to cabbage and roses replaced by radishes. This lively and nostalgic talk looks at Land Girls, advice given to gardeners in print and over the airwaves and the role of the air raid shelter in the fight for food during WW2.

Saturday, 17 October **Gravesend Airport - Frank Turner**

Hear about the history of the airport during its existence from 1932 to 1958.

Saturday, 14 November **Finding a Family - Tony Farnham**

Tony found out at the age of 37 that he had been adopted. He was married with three children. This was a complete surprise as he had never been told, what follows is his personal story.

Saturday, 12 December **A Kent Christmas - Mick Lynn and Geoff Doel**

An audio-visual feast of Kentish Midwinter traditions such as Mummers Plays, Wassailing, the Hooden Horse, Christmas food and decorations, with slides, readings and traditional songs. The lecturers are published in this field and experienced performers and Mummers on the Kent folk scene and at Historical Societies.

2010 New Year Special

Saturday, 16 January **The World Garden and Time in Captivity - Tom Hart Dyke**

Tom shot to international prominence in 2000 when he was kidnapped and held hostage in Central America. Whilst in captivity he dreamt of creating a garden with plants from all over the world. He tells us how he has achieved this.

To be held in St George's Church
£5.00 including refreshments

Saturday, 6 February **The Rise and Fall of Music Hall & Variety**

A light-hearted account of how popular entertainment developed through the 'Music Halls', including the on- and off-stage lives of entertainers, the battle for survival and the eventual demise of the theatres, particularly those in north Kent.

Saturday, 20 March **Big Cats of Kent - Neil Arnold**

The author of *Mystery Animals of the British Isles: Kent* will be conducting a talk about his 23 years of research into big cat sightings around Kent, especially the 'beast' of Bluewater.

Wednesday Talks

Wednesday, 2 September **Life as an Evacuee - Howard Baker**

Join Howard Baker on a journey of discovery. A story about one 5 year old, 5 pleasure boats, 7 destroyers and a declaration of war. Told in pictures and letters from the time.

Wednesday, 7 October **Brandy Baccy & 100 years of Smuggling - Cyril Baldwin**

Just the right subject for a riverside heritage town like Gravesend!

Wednesday, 4 November **Growing Up in Wartime Northfleet - Alex Pavitt**

Alex shares his memories of a 1940s childhood in the old Northfleet High Street area with some pictures from his new book and other images from his collection.

Wednesday, 23 December **The Towncentric Christmas Quiz**

Towncentric will, again, hold the popular Christmas Quiz with mulled wine and mince pies. Maximum of four people per team.

Wednesday, 20 January **Gravesend and the Merchant Navy - Ted Rashbrooke**

A sequel to last year's popular talk with even more facts and tales about the Merchant Navy.

Wednesday, 17 February

Sandra Soder is offering another of her scintillating talks. Subject to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 3 March **Thames defences during the Spanish Armada & Dutch Invasion - Victor Smith**

What were the defences built around the Thames against foreign invasion? Hear how Gravesend prepared and recovered from it.