

IN BRIEF

Market day

A FARMERS market is being held at the Millennium Centre, Rainham, on Saturday, from 9am to 12.30pm. To book a stall call 01634 371941.

Two hurt in crash

TWO people were taken to Medway Maritime Hospital after a crash between two vehicles in Gillingham in Medway Street at 3.15pm on Wednesday.

Cards for kids

A CHRISTMAS card workshop will be held at Capstone Country Park, Chatham, on Saturday and Riverside Country Park, Gillingham, on Sunday from 10am to 2pm. £1 per child.

MS drop-in

THE Medway branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society is holding a drop-in session on Thursday from 10am to 2pm at Warren Wood Primary School, Arethusa Road, Rochester. Call 01634 238502.

Bouncing babies

BABY bounce and rhyme sessions are held in Grain Library, Chapel Road, Grain, on Tuesday mornings at 11.30am. New mums always welcome, call 01634 338727.

Festive fair

LUTON Infant School in Alexandra Road is holding its Christmas fair on Friday, from 3.15-5pm. Entry 30p.



■ Paul Clark MP job swaps with centre manager Mark Rumfitt of Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre

MP and centre boss talk shop

■ Experiences exchanged to understand challenges

TRANSPORT minister Paul Clark spent a day learning about what it's like to be a shopping centre manager. The Gillingham and Rainham MP went along to Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre to mark the beginning of the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC's

Day in the Life exchange experience.

The experience is aimed at raising awareness of issues affecting the retail property industry.

Mr Clark met centre manager Mark Rumfitt as he sought an understanding of the challenges facing shopping centre managers, particularly during the credit crunch.

Mr Rumfitt took Mr Clark on a tour of the centre, discussing

past, present and future events and examining the day-to-day issues affecting his role.

These could be anything from regeneration, the economic challenges that lie ahead and how he keeps anti-social behaviour at bay.

Mr Clark will join Mr Rumfitt in Parliament next year, to look at these same issues from a policy and legislative angle and discuss how they can work together with



■ Paul and Mark survey the CCTV footage at the centre

other community partners to resolve any shared concerns.

Mr Clark said: "It was interesting to see behind the scenes at a centre where thousands of my constituents do their shopping."

"Staff work hard behind the scenes to make people have a good shopping experience, and I'm looking forward to showing Mark the ropes when he comes to see Parliament next year."

FACTFILE

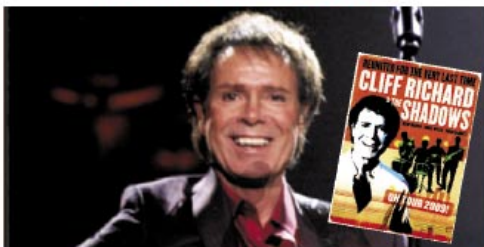
Hempstead Valley is half way through its Christmas gift fair.

Until Sunday the malls will be filled with speciality stalls selling a variety of traditional, unusual and quality gifts.

Shoppers will be able to buy anything from Christmas pudding to wooden jigsaws and jewellery to ginger wine.

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