

ACTION FORUM

number two

april 1969

The Rainham & Wigmore COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

This Association began in 1966, it was born of frustration, not at what was being done in Rainham—but rather of what was not being done!

The main aims of the Association are:

- (a) Education; to try to ensure that schools are being provided to meet the growing population.
- (b) To create Social and Recreational activities at all age levels.
- (c) To keep under review the development of the Rainham Plan.
- (d) To develop discussion on matters of interest to the people of Rainham.
- (e) This Association supports the efforts of the Medway Towns' Commuters Committee.

What have we achieved so far—Education initially was the greatest need. Infants and Primary Schools were overflowing with children being shuttled by bus from one school to another, and at one period the children from one school were transported to what was then a disused hospital in Gillingham. Protests had already begun and we were able to organize local public meetings, at which the views and sometimes indignation of local residents were made clear to the Education Authorities and our elected representatives.

Since then there has been a marked improvement in Infant and Junior School accommodation. There is, however, little room for complacency, for unless more Secondary School accommodation is soon made available, chaotic conditions will exist.

Social and Recreational—we began an intensive survey to find out what activities were required and what could be developed.

Eventually we were able to persuade the Council to let us take over the former C. of E. School in Station Road. This building is far from ideal but it

provides space where we have been able to begin what we hope will eventually grow into something worthwhile—but we need your support!!

Our activities include Table Tennis; Badminton; a Bridge Club; a Boxing School; Judo; a Ladies Keep Fit Class; a Play Group; and a Youth Club.

Rainham Plan—we have kept regular contact with Gillingham Council on the developments of this plan. To most people in Rainham, even four years after its public announcement, this plan is still a vague unreality.

Finally we support the Medway Towns' Commuters Committee in their efforts to improve the conditions under which so many people from Rainham travel to and from work.

Come along to our Annual General Meeting at Orchard Street School, on Thursday 15 May, at 8 p.m.

URGENTLY NEEDED

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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
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Saturday 9.30 to 12 noon.

FOLK against hunger

'I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?'

Folk music has always been a weapon of protest and a reminder of the tragic injustices of the world. On Saturday, 3 May, at 8 p.m. at Rochester Cathedral there is to be a Festival of Folk to rouse our compassion for the hungry, and to prepare for Christian Aid Week (12-17 May). The Television and Radio star, BOB HOLNESS will give brief commentaries.

HALF THE WORLD IS HUNGRY

The Festival will start with a wide variety of songs which express the fullness of our life in the West. But only a minority of the world's population enjoy this fullness. Half have empty stomachs. There's poverty at home, but the problems abroad are far bigger. Once, the underdeveloped only knew exploitation and they accepted their lot—and sang about it in negro spirituals. Now, many of the deprived know that 90 per cent of the world's income goes to overfeed 10 per cent of the world's population. Songs like 'Blowing in the Wind' voice their protest. What is Christian Aid doing about it? What can we do about it? When the starving wail and wait for death, are we there?

WELL-KNOWN SINGERS

A variety of well-known folk singers will take part, including Dave and Toni Arthur and John Bailey and some local artistes. The Festival is sponsored by the Medway Towns Committee for Christian Aid and Freedom from Hunger, which last year raised over £8,000 (expenses only £160) for a well-drilling rig, now at work in Rajasthan.

Admission is by ticket, price 5/-. These can be bought from Caroline's 76 Rochester High Street, or the Freedom from Hunger Shop, 224 Chatham High Street, or by post from ACTION FORUM, or at the door. Refreshments will be available.



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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Many, many more volunteers are needed to assist in the house to house collection during the second week of May. Please contact either Mrs S. Geiger, 7 Herbert Road, Rainham, or Mr. M. N. Terry, 215 Bredhurst Road, Wigmore.

local artists

An exhibition of the work of local artists, including a children's competition, will be held at Macklands in the last week of May, culminating in a Grand Auction on Saturday 31. It is organized by Rainham Help the Needy Committee. Please make sure that shy neighbour of yours either gives or lends his best painting. More details from Mrs Geiger or the Editor. Full details next month. In the meantime—get painting

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project vietnam orphans

Project Vietnam Orphans, as its name implies, is an organization working on behalf of war orphans in Vietnam and is based in Saigon. It finds homes for them in this country and helps relieve the suffering of mothers and children in Vietnam.

The organization depends on charity and, with the war as intensive as ever, funds are desperately needed. I have been working alone in the Medway area for about a month and have raised £11 with a 'coffee morning' sale of home-made cakes and £28 10s with a raffle and bring-and-buy sale.

Anyone willing to help should contact me, Mrs Gita Porter, 15 Queendown Avenue, Park Wood, Rainham. Telephone Medway 34027.

from the editor

What is ACTION FORUM all about? Briefly its purpose is to serve the community of Rainham and Wigmore, and to encourage that community to care for and help others less fortunate.

Our advertisers report a good response from A.F. No. 1. We hope you will continue to support them. We take this opportunity to apologize to Flaherty Bros. Ltd., for a mis-spelling and an incorrect phone number (now corrected). These, and the hurried presentation, were entirely our responsibility.

Where do we go from here? Please tell us what you would like to see in future issues. For May we hope to go to eight pages. Articles in preparation include the Samaritans and the Rajasthan project being supported in Christian Aid Week—the second week of May.

Eight pages will also allow us to include more advertising. We would particularly like to expand the small Ads and Diary section. There is so much happening in Rainham and elsewhere in the Medway Towns of which we hear nothing. Please write in and tell us about the activities in which you are involved.

BABY SITTING

One suggestion put forward is a baby-sitting register. All who would like to take part in such a scheme,

ACTION FORUM

H. B. Mackay Miller *General Editor*
Mrs C. Murphy. *Assistant Editor*
Mrs P. Lane. *Circulation Manager*
J. S. W. Willey. *Treasurer*

All correspondence to: ACTION FORUM

Macklands
Station Road
Rainham

Telephone Medway 31527 Kent

ACTION FORUM is totally independent of any other body, including those featured in its pages. Views expressed are not necessarily the personal views of the editorial staff.

operated on an exchange basis, please write to the Editor. First requirement—six young mothers to help keep the register.

Finally you are all invited to meet us, the staff of ACTION FORUM, over an informal cup of coffee at Macklands, 363 Station Road, any time between 11 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Saturday 12 April.

The NSPCC

All parents have problems bringing up their children. As they grow, families adjust to meet the changing situation, and deal with problems as they arise. For some families, however, Poverty, Illness, Eviction, Desertion, are some of the crises they encounter and which, for them, prove too much to endure. This is where the N.S.P.C.C. comes in.

Many people still think the N.S.P.C.C. deals only with cruelty, but the word prevention should be the one to be stressed. In 98% of the cases handled in any one year no court action is taken, and prosecutions are made in only 1/2%. The Society's aim is, and always has been, to help the children in their own homes to grow into well-balanced happy adults.

The N.S.P.C.C., now active throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, began in a very small way: Founded in Liverpool in 1883, largely through the

concern of T. F. Agnew, the London Society being founded in 1884 by the Rev. Benjamin Waugh. By 1889 they joined forces to become The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with Waugh as director. Since 1895 the Society has had Royal Patronage, H.R.H. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon is President now.

The Society is entirely dependent upon the general public for funds and fund raising, some of the monies being raised by flag-days, house to house collections, and by the efforts of the junior section—The League of Pity.

Too often a child could have been spared unnecessary suffering if the Society had been told of its plight. Strictest confidence is always maintained and the names and addresses of informants are not revealed. There is a certain reluctance in every person to report on a neighbour or friend, but if one knew of a suffering child, and allowed it to continue suffering until worse harm was caused—could one ever forgive oneself?

Small Ads 5/- per line

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(& Small Additions)

CHATER, 15 Tilbury Road.
To Derek and Doreen, a daughter,
Sarah Louise. 6 March.

WHIFFEN, 68 Parkfield Road
To Michael and Eileen, a son,
Michael Patrick. 7 March.

Situations Vacant

ACTION FORUM requires the following staff:

1. Typists, including some with use of an electric typewriter.
2. At least four 'layout artists'. No previous experience or artistic ability needed.
3. A team of 30 or 40 to help fold and count A.F. No. 3 on Friday 2 May.
4. 50 more distributors on Saturday 3 May.
5. A large team of willing beavers to take on many other small tasks.

SALARY—just the satisfaction of a job well done.

Diary 5/- per line

APRIL

Thurs. 10th, 8 p.m. Discussion group on 'Basic Psychology' led by Rev. W. Muller, at 14 Barleycorn Drive.

Fri. 11th, from 7.30 p.m. Wine tasting organized by the Community Association. In the Community Centre, Station Road.

Sat. 12th, 11.00–12.30. Informal coffee morning in Macklands Cellar, 363 Station Road. All welcome.

Tues. 15th, 8 p.m. Rainham & Wigmore Community Association AGM. See front page.

Fri. 18th. Final copy date for May issue of ACTION FORUM.

Sat. 19th. Gillingham Council of Churches 3 p.m. Service in Our Lady of Gillingham, 3.20 p.m. AGM (very brief) in St Mary's Parish Hall, followed by a talk on the 'Feed the Minds' campaign.

MAY

Sat. 3rd. Folk Festival. See p. 2.

Also, distribution of May ACTION FORUM. More help needed. Please contact the Distribution Manager.

Also many other events of which we have no details—sorry, but it's up to you.

COPY DATES

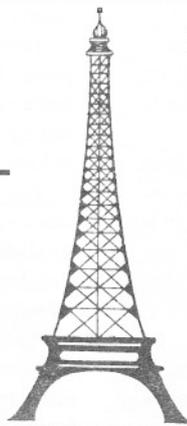
All advertising and copy for the May issue must reach the Editor by 7 p.m. Friday 18 April.

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