

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RESIDENTS OF RAINHAM AND WIGMORE

AUGUST 1999

NUMBER 336



Members of the Royal Engineers' Band in their No. 1 Dress ready for a performance in 1935. This uniform was used until the Second World War. The Tunic belonging to Harold Wheeler (fourth from the front row) was given to the RE's Museum in 1976 and may be seen on display at Brompton. See the article 'Where Are Our Bands?' on page 7.

CLIFFORD MILLER

INSURANCE BROKERS

Three decades of local knowledge and experience have helped us to achieve a reputation for consistently high standards of service and reliability.

Contact us to test the claims made by Direct Line.

We can prove that you are better off dealing with a Registered Broker.

6 HALFWAY ROAD, HALFWAY, SHEERNESS ME12 3BR

Telephone 01795 581222

AF

Next Issue: SEPTEMBER 4th 1999
 Copy Date: Aug/17th Sm Ads Aug 20th
 Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
 5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
 Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller,
 5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
 Letterbox Leaflet Distribution
 Medway 372177

Editorial

Holiday month once again so our diary is inevitably shorter than usual. May I take this opportunity to remind club secretaries that we do need copy at least two months ahead of your planned date, particularly for events in the first half of any month. For example if you fix an event for October 14th Christine Smith needs details by August 17th so that it can be included in September. I know this seems extreme but I am afraid for a monthly magazine, run on a voluntary basis, we need this length of time. We always try to include late entries wherever possible but I am afraid this often leads to disgruntled complaints from readers who miss events because their copy of Action Forum has not been delivered until the middle of the month. Incidentally if our publication date is the 7th of any month, as it often can be – we come out on the first Saturday of each month – your copy may well not arrive until the 14th. Despite this, I hope you enjoy the fifteen pages that are still relevant. Over the years we have tried several ways to solve this problem but I am afraid it is always going to be there to haunt us!

Volunteers are much in demand this month. If you find you have spare time on your hands, perhaps the children have just started school, grown up and left home or you have just retired, perhaps you could consider answering one of the pleas in our pages this month. The volunteer workforce provides many vital services and by its very nature is a constantly changing pool as people's circumstances change. I am sure a niche could be found for your talents so do think about it and possibly ring the Gillingham Volunteer Bureau on 304204 to find out more. Even sitting at home watching TV you could begin your volunteer career. The Square Knitters make blankets for Oxfam and are in constant need of knitted six inch squares. If you feel you are wasting time just sitting watching then read on to find the instructions and start knitting. If you prefer the outdoor life, however, volunteers are needed to help at the local Country Parks, Riverside and Capstone, no experience is needed, just enthusiasm, a date for your diary could be the weekend of September 18th and 19th when the Beachwatch Campaign will be cleaning up the shoreline. So on the volunteer front plenty to do, all tastes catered for, go on give it a whirl.

Freddie Cooper raises some interesting points this month, yes we certainly should instill a sense of pride in our youngsters, his maxim of family, home town, school and country seem a good starting point but it is not easy when global communication via the internet comes more readily to our children than attending a local event. Still this month should be one of relaxation and enjoyment, so have a good time, make the most of the long days and we will see you again in September.

Correspondence

SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA CARERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to inform your readers who may be caring for an elderly person suffering from Dementia about the support services available in the areas Rainham and Wigmore.

The Carers' Support Scheme is able to provide support to carers by visits from the Co-ordinator on a regular basis if necessary, to listen to carers' needs and to ensure that they are informed about benefits, services available and respite care. The Carers Support Scheme covers Medway and Swale and is based in Chatham. I have enclosed a leaflet for your information.

The Alzheimer's Disease Society also run a support group which meets weekly at Malborough House, Rainham, every Friday between 10am and 2pm. They give invaluable support to those who are in this caring situation. Carers can go along and chat to other carers in an informal atmosphere and have tea and sandwiches while they are there.

For further information contact 01634 840866.

Yours sincerely,
 Maggie Luck
 Carers' Support Scheme
 Co-ordinator

CONDOR HOUSE BAZAAR

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everybody who generously donated and/or helped at the above event. You must be delighted to hear that this is the last Bazaar we will host at Condor House.

A total of £1,333 was raised, principally as a result of the magnificent efforts of our loyal band of helpers and generous donors.

The money has been shared between:

Kent Air Ambulance Trust
 NSPCC
 British Red Cross
 Medway Maritime Hospital Hydro-therapy Appeal
 Imperial Cancer Research Fund
 Demelza House

Thank you again for supporting this event.

Yours sincerely,
 Richard and Sue Field

'WHERE HAVE ALL THE VOLUNTEERS GONE'

Dear Editor,

Volunteers are always needed and never more so than now, the Hands and Gillingham Volunteer Bureau, now based at the Sunlight Centre, Gillingham, receive requests for volunteers from organisations throughout Medway offering a wide range of voluntary opportunities. The Gillingham Volunteer Bureau exists to co-ordinate these opportunities by talking with all potential volunteers finding their particular skills and interests so that we can refer them to an organisation where they will find their abilities are most appreciated.

Anybody thinking about volunteering and would like more information should phone 01634 304204 or call in person to the Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham. We are open 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday.

Yours sincerely,
 Pauline McTaggart

DEANVIEW '95 BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

Dear Editor,

As we have a good response through your magazine, once again we would like to ask if there are any boys who wish to join our football team. We are currently looking for U13s experience players, this is due to three of our boys signing contracts with Gillingham Football Club, to which we wish them all the very best and don't forget lads it was Deanview '95 where you started your career!!! We especially need a striker!! to join us, so any boy who wants to become the next Alan Shearer!! please telephone Karen on Medway 370211 for more information.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Adgie
 Secretary for
 Deanview '95

GARDEN AFTERNOON

Dear Editor,

The Cancer Caring Garden Charity Afternoon held at Mable Crocker's, 53 Lakewood Drive, raised £277 with your support. Also to the friends who helped this money: many thanks.

Yours faithfully
 Mabel Crocker

SALMON WINDOWS

*A family run business for all
 your double glazing needs*

- Replacement Windows & Doors
- Conservatories – Designed & Built
- Porches
- UPVC, Soffit, Fascia & Guttering
- Misted Sealed Units Replaced

For advice and very competitive quote

Medway 363881

GILLINGHAM RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Dear Editor,

Would you please bring to the attention of your readers that our society has changed its name to the above. As the Gillingham Music Society, it was assumed that we presented live concerts and recitals when in fact the majority of our programmes are presentations of recorded music. Our new season begins on 17th September in the Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, at 7.15pm when our first programme will be music chosen by the committee. We cordially welcome new members, who will be assured of a warm welcome, and a copy of our programme card can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Yours sincerely,
 Michael Smith
 Hon. Secretary
 29 Brockenhurst Close
 Gillingham
 Kent ME8 0HG
 Tel: 01634 235612

HOME START MEDWAY

Dear Editor,

Some of your readers may have watched GMTV's Get Up and Give during the week of 28th June. One of the charities to benefit nationally from the donations is Home-Start. Home-Start is a voluntary organisation that supports families with under 5s, who are going through some sort of difficulty and for a short time need friendly support.

Some of those readers may have felt that they would like to volunteer for such an organisation. The good news is that there is Home-Start in the Medway area. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Home-Start Medway on 01634 570717, write to us for information at 46 Green Street, Gillingham, or pop into our office at Green Street for a chat and we will tell them all about Home-Start. Our next free preparation course starts in September.

So, if anyone is interested, please get in touch, their volunteering could make a difference.

Yours faithfully,
 Sue Hockley
 Admin Co-ordinator

Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

DAY CARE

available for pensioners between
9.00 and 3.00pm or 6.00pm

Come and meet people –
 have your Hair done and Good Food
 at **Rogers House Residential Home**

Contact: Mrs Pam Harrington –
01634 262266 KCC Registered

Diary '99

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
275 Wigmore Road
Wigmore
Tel: 233098

No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 17th August 1999

August 1st – Sponsorship forms are now available for A SPONSORED SWIM which will be held at the Black Lion Sports Centre on Saturday 18th September 6pm to 9pm in aid of MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF for funding ADDITIONAL MACMILLAN NURSES IN MEDWAY. Sponsorship forms and details from the organiser, Helen Larkin, on Medway 376621 or Bill Trythall on Medway 230329.

August 7th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am Shipbourne Green. Packed Lunch. PH available. 7 miles.

August 8th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 2.30pm. 6 miles. Meet and park at Kemsley Village car park.

August 8th – Countryside Event. Butterflies & Bush Crickets. 12 to 2.00pm. Darland Banks. Book in advance 378987.

August 10th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Post Show talk by Mr Les Hodgkiss. 7.30pm. Rainham Girls School, Derwent Way, Rainham.

August 10th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 7.30pm. 3 miles. Park at Savacentre, Hempstead, and meet at the end of Old Chapel Lane opposite.

August 11th – Bredhurst WI. Water Board, Southern Water. Vase of Garden Flowers. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

August 11th – Medway Camcorder Club. Medway Motor Yacht Club, Borstal. 7.30am. Your films. Theme 'Summertime'. Up to 10 mins. Ring 862298 for details.

August 11th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent) Outing. August 11th – Friendly Whist Drive. 7.30pm. Hartlip Village Hall.

August 11th, 12th – Drama Workshop for 8 to 14 yrs. Oast House Theatre, Rainham. 10 to 4pm. Ring 374183 for details.

August 14th – SUMMER FAIR. 2.00 to 4.00pm. Longford Court off High Street, Rainham. Many stalls, tombola, raffles and refreshments. Free admission.

August 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 2.30pm. 5 miles. Meet and park at West Malling short stay car park in the High Street.

August 16th – Rainham Evening WI. The History of Irons, Brian Mills. Competition: An Item in Copper.

August 17th – Medway Scrabble Club. 2.00 to 4.30pm. Riverside Indoor Bowls Sports Complex, Chatham.

August 18th – Hempstead Women's Institute. 7.30pm Village Hall, Hempstead. Members Evening. Ring 373298 for details.

August 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Isobel Whatrup. Talk on 'The Pocilory' Fuchsia Show. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

August 18th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Tea and Wisdom. Competition: Favourite Recipe with taster. 2.00 to 4.00pm.

August 18th – National Childbirth Trust. FUNDAY. 10.00 to 4pm. United Reformed Church Hall. £1.50 per child. Enquiries 843059.

August 19th – Rainham WI. Tutor to the Children in 'The Darling Buds of May'. Mrs E. Attaway. Competition: A Crafted Flower. 1.45pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham.

August 22nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 11.00am. 6 miles. Start 2.30pm. 6 miles. Meet and park at top of Charing Village.

August 25th – Friendly Whist Drive. 7.30pm. Hartlip Village Hall.

August 28th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am Bearsted Green by Royal Oak PH. Packed Lunch. PH available. 7 miles.

August 29th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 2.30pm. 5 miles. Park by Village Green and meet at Bearsted Church.

August 29th – Countryside Event. Exploring Medway's Countryside. 10am start. Cliff Marshes and Pools. Book in advance on 812196.

August 31st – Medway Scrabble Club (see 17th August).

September 1st – Kent IVC Social and Leisure Club for graduates, professionals and like minded people. 8.45pm Black Lion pub, Mill Road, Gillingham.

September 1st – Friendship Circle. Speaker. 2.15pm Parkwood Christian Fellowship.

September 2nd – Wigmore Thursday Club. Kent Association for the Blind – Kay Sharp. 2.00pm St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive,

Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.

September 2nd – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club. We meet every Thursday 7.30 to 9.30pm at Aburound House, Woodlands Road, Gillingham.

September 3rd – Charity Garden Party. Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild are holding a Garden Party in aid of British Heart Foundation at 53 Lakewood Drive, Wigmore, 2pm.

September 4th – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society will be holding their Annual Fruit and Vegetable Show at St Margaret's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. 2.00pm to 4.30pm.

September 4th – Rainham & Wigmore Community Centre QUIZ NIGHT. Oast House, Granary Close, 8pm. Teams of 4-6. Ring 374558 for details.

September 6th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Walk Saxon Shore Way each Monday commencing today. Meet 10.00am Cliffe Church. Dry Packed Lunch. No pub stop. 7 miles.

September 7th – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Indoor Bowling, Chatham.

September 8th – Bredhurst WI. Kingsnorth Power Station – Nature Study Centre. Bill Jones – Best Autumn Fruit Recipe.

September 8th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent). Demonstration Dorothy Bye (Aldershot, Hants). 'Flowers all the Way'. 7.30 to 9.30pm. St Margaret's Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham.

September 8th – Friendly Whist Drive (see 11th August).

September 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th & 18th – The Rainham Amateur Theatrical Society present 'ABSENT FRIENDS'. 8.00pm. The Oast House Theatre, Rainham. Box Office open Monday to Friday, 9am until 8.00pm. 01634 360506.

September 9th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Bingo.

September 9th – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club.

September 11th – GRAND BOOK & RECORD SALE. 11.00am to 2.00pm. St Margaret's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. Admission free.

September 11th – Gillingham Horticultural Society.

UTUMN SHOW. United Reformed Church, Gillingham. Viewing 2.30 to 4.00pm. Admission free.

September 11th – Bredhurst Village Show.

September 11th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am West Malling Country Park. Walk approx 3.5 miles. Afternoon walk 1.15pm. 3 miles.

September 12th – Rainham Riverside Worship. Short Family Service (CofE). 10.30am, Wakeley School. All welcome.

September 14th – Countryside Event. Exploring Medway's Countryside. 10 to 12 noon. Around Lower Rainham. Book in advance 378987.

September 14th – Medway Scrabble Club.

September 14th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Peter & Paul from Warrenthorpe Nurseries.

September 14th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. Twydale Baptist Church, Waltham Road. 1.30 to 3pm. Ribbon Embroidery. Guests welcome. Admission £1.00. Ring 234734 for details.

September 14th – Rainham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Plants in Medicine. Mrs J. Bowles. 2.00pm St Margaret's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham.

September 15th – Hempstead Women's Institute. 7.30pm Village Hall, Hempstead 'Egg Cups – Pocillivvy' Ring 373298 for details.

September 17th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. 7.15pm. Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham. New members welcome. Ring 235612 for details.

September 18th – Sponsored Swim at Black Lion Sports Centre in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. See August 1st for details.

September 18th – BEACH WATCH. 10 to 1.30pm, Riverside Country Park. If you would like to help clean up the shore ring 378987 for details.

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS AUGUST

Butterflies and Bush Crickets

Sunday 8th August

12.00pm to 2.00pm

at Darland Banks Local Nature Reserve

A guided walk looking at the butterflies and crickets of chalk grassland with Medway's Countryside Team. Stout footwear and good physical fitness needed. Book in advance on 01634 378987.

Beetles, Bugs & other miniBeasties

Monday 9th August

10.00am - 11.30am & 1.00pm - 2.30pm

At Riverside Country Park

Learn to love our creepy crawlies with mini-beast hunts around the Park. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Book in advance on 01634 378987.



**GREG BRYANT
CONSTRUCTION
MEDWAY 231321**

**REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDER
EXTENSIONS BLOCK PAVING
ROOF CONVERSIONS**



*Free Surveys
and Estimates*

THE HIDEAWAY NURSERY Open 10am-4pm CLOSED MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

Buy direct from the Nursery man.

Bedding & Basket plants now ready.



Hanging Baskets.

Wide range of shrubs.

All plants raised on site and undercover.

**105 CHAFFES LANE, UPCHURCH
01634 231693**

KW ELECTRONIC SERVICES

No Call Out Charge
All TV, Video, Hi Fi, Cassette/Radio, etc.
Repaired & Serviced

ALSO RECONDITIONED TV & VIDEO
FOR SALE

All work guaranteed at least 3 months

TELEPHONE; Medway 364943

DOCTOR

G.P. PRIVATE PRACTICE

Dr. M. J. MURPHY
MB, BCH

1 Crevequer Chambers
35 High Street, Rainham

Monday - Saturday

Tel: 01634 231333

- TREE MANAGEMENT
- CHIPPING
- STUMP GRINDING
- PLANTING
- MULCH
- FIREWOOD

LINDSAY
& COMPANY
TREE SURGEONS

JIM LINDSAY

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

CALLOWES HOUSE, HAM GREEN,
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT ME9 7HE

DAVID PAYNE

Painting, Decorating and
General Maintenance
Interior & Exterior

34 Tudor Grove
Rainham, Kent. ME8 9AF

MEDWAY (01634) 234070

PRINTING POSTER PRINTS TO A0 SIZE



SIGNS COLOUR COPY - PRINT & SIGNS

16 STATION ROAD, RAINHAM, KENT ME8 7PH 0800 783 0974

MAX RICHENS

ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS

For the Best in Heating
BATHROOMS - KITCHENS
and GENERAL PLUMBING

Estimates Free

57 Chalfont Drive
Rainham

01634 376751

Waverley Nurseries



622 Lower Rainham Road,
Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7TX
Telephone: 01634 232520

Conifers, Bedding Plants, Shrubs
Rustic Pergola's,
Fencing & Garden Sundries.

All Types of Fencing Supplied & Erected.
Contractors to K.C.C. and Local Authorities

CHRIS TONG

REPLACEMENT WINDOW AND DOUBLE
GLAZING SPECIALIST
ALL WORK PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED



Telephone: Medway 371172

WHERE ARE OUR BANDS?

As a lad my father, Harold Wheeler, joined The British Legion Band to gain experience in playing musical instruments.

In 1928, at the age of 21, he applied and was accepted to become a member of The Royal Engineers' Band and being stationed at Chatham they were always known as The Local Military Band.

Harold went on to become solo cornet for the following 16 enjoyable years until he came out of the service in 1945. During his time with The Royal Engineers he served in many places throughout the world including a long spell in Egypt.

Throughout the summer periods the band used to play at numerous venues including Buckingham Palace as well as playing at Town Bandstands for the local people to sit and enjoy the sun and music.

During the period up to 1936 the band would wear the Red Tunic which included the Busby. This smart dress was very similar to the uniform that is worn by The Guards to the current day. After 1936 and up to the present day the dress for the band is known as the 'Shacko'.

The Royal Engineer's Band had the honour of playing at the funeral of King George VI and because it rained all day everybody got completely soaked. This drenching caused havoc with the ornate uniforms and ruined the abundance of gold braid that made the tunics stand out from the rest.

All of the gold braid had to be replaced and it was my mother's task to spend many hours stitching on the replacement decoration.

My father's original uniform was given to the Royal Engineers' Museum at Chatham in 1976 for displaying along with many other military artefacts from a bygone age. All the exhibits can be seen by paying them a visit.

It is very important that we keep our heritage alive so why can't we have the band programmes back again on Sunday's at the local bandstands? There are still many local bandstands around such as at Maidstone, Folkestone and Tunbridge Wells, after they were all Military Towns once, including our own one in Chatham, which to my knowledge is never used, not even by town bands, of which there

are about 21 within the Kent and Sussex area.

So 'Bands' how about coming to Chatham and put our bandstand to a pleasurable use on Sundays? We would love to see you there.

Mrs Wheeler
232545

SQUARES - WANTED URGENTLY

The Square Knitters are very grateful to all who keep us supplied with knitted squares, but we still need to send blankets abroad with OXFAM, so please keep knitting!

In order that the squares can be sewn up easily into blankets, they must be 6" square. 30 stitches, 60 rows on No.8 needles is a guide, depending on your tension. Please leave the ends of wool - they are used for sewing up. Alternatively, you may prefer to knit a strip of 8 or 10 squares, changing wool colour every 60 rows instead of casting off.

Please be assured that all your squares are gratefully received and used.

To arrange for collection/delivery phone Mary on 234053 or Ann on 372680.

Many thanks.

Ann Gray

HOWARD LUNCHEON CLUB

Age Concern, Gillingham, run a Luncheon Club at Howard Hall, Woodside, on Thursdays.

Recently our numbers have dropped and we would like to invite new members to join us.

The Luncheon Club is open to anybody aged 60+ and a mini-bus pick-up is available for the less mobile.

A lunch costs just £1.75 and there is normally a small raffle.

Please contact me at the Day Centre if you would like to join us when we recommence, after the summer break, on 9th September 1999.

Brenda Greer
Deputy Chief Officer
Age Concern Gillingham
Tel: (01634) 572616 or 578928

REFLEXOLOGY

An ancient treatment that helps to relieve today's illnesses

HELP YOUR BODY TO HEAL ITSELF

Telephone for further information or to book an appointment

Home visits available

David Stride M.B.S.R., M.B.R.C.P.(Reflexology)
196 Wigmore Road, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent
ME8 0TL

Tel: 01634 365510



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

Have you ever thought of fostering children or young people? If the answer is yes, we would like to hear from you.

Due to continued demand on our services, we are looking for committed and caring families to be trained as foster carers.

For more information tel 01795 521739

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

The sound track of holiday programmes from hill-top villages in Spain or Italy will often include the screaming of swifts. The area around St Margaret's Church, here in Rainham, will probably never be the subject of a holiday programme. But the sight and sound of a party of swifts, chasing each other over the roofs and around the tower of the church, on a late July evening, is as spectacular as anywhere.

The timing of the arrival at and departure from Rainham of the swift depends upon the weather and, more specifically, the availability of insects. Generally, however, the first swifts arrive in Rainham in the first week in May and the last leave in the second week in August. From observations I have made of the colony of swifts which breed under the eaves of St Margaret's Church I have drawn up the following rough timetable of events.

1st week in May:

Swifts arrive.

3rd week in May:

Three week incubation begins.

2nd week in June:

Young hatch. Six weeks to fledge.

4th week in July:

Young leave nest and migrate soon after.

1st week in August:

Main body of swifts migrate including non-breeding yearlings.

2nd week in August:

Rest of swifts migrate.

I have two abiding memories of my swift-watching last year, both in August (albeit that these Nature Notes are supposed to relate to the month of July!). The first was a little after sunset (which was at 8.42pm) on August 5th. There were about 100 swifts in the sky high over the centre of Rainham. They appeared to have settled down for a 'cat nap' for the night in that they had adopted a rhythmic pattern of beating their wings for a few seconds then resting with wings outstretched for the same amount of time. At 8.50pm, however, a party broke away from the rest, descended rapidly and began to fly around the church, screaming to each other as they did so. About ten of the party subsequently peeled away from the

rest and, one by one, shot like arrows under the eaves of the church. These birds would have been parents going to roost in their nesting holes. They were apparently doing so only just before it would have been too dark to find the entrances. The remainder of the party, presumably intending to sleep on the wing, rose into the sky once more and, by 8.55pm, there was not a bird to be seen.

The second memory was of August 12th, a week later. It was 8pm and the sky was covered, almost from horizon to horizon, with dark storm clouds. Since there were no swifts about I was training my binoculars on a flock of black headed gulls returning to roost on the Medway. A number of swifts then came into vision, the setting sun occasionally picking out their underbodies. With my naked eye I could see them. It was difficult to judge how high they were but I later calculated about 1,000 feet above me. They were presumably overflying Rainham from a part of the country further north. They continued to head south and soon disappeared into the darkening sky. It would be over 8 months before they were back in England.

Joe Ennis

THE RAINHAM WE LOST (part four)

Part four of Freddie Cooper's article about life on Cozenton Farm in the 1920s continues with his memories of some of the livelier animals. Parts one to three may be found in the May to July issues, the final part will be included in our September edition.

The work was hard in all weathers and on reflection I am amazed at the knowledge accrued by the men covering fruit, arable, animals, poultry and building repairs. I don't recall a vet residing in Rainham so if one was required I presume that he would have come from Sittingbourne (we had fewer dealings with the Medway area then). That would have been expensive so various workmen would have carried out most treatments. The Long family, living in one of the cottages, provided most of the workforce. Mr Long Sen. was foreman, Fred was cowman (after Cliff Trice). Bill also worked for a period (I heard from Bill a couple of years ago from Eastbourne). The cows had to be milked seven days a week and pigs,

horses and sometimes sheep had to be fed and inspected. In wet or cold weather those likely to be working outside would first go into the granary to find a clean sack which they tied around the waist with bane string to protect the lower back. I often compare their care with men I sometimes see with areas of their back exposed when wearing jeans. More wore heavy boots and gaiters and if you saw one limping he was probably the cowman because most of them had been kicked whilst milking at some time. Some cows were quite vicious and they seldom missed. We had a strong leather strap which was placed around the back legs of 'kickers' before milking started which, at that time, was entirely manual. Incidentally there's a 'pecking order' in every herd and each cow had her own stall and would butt any other who made a mistake.

One of my jobs during the summer holidays when I was about 12 or 13 was to drive the cows up the lane and along the A2 to a field at the top of Bloors Lane (now between Denbigh Avenue and Danson Way). They would normally feed for several hours and then lie quietly chewing the cud and my duty was to stop them straying onto adjacent allotments which were not protected by fencing. One morning Darkie joined the herd a few days after having her calf. She was mooring and obviously very unhappy at the separation and several times trotted down towards the thin roadside hedge. I managed to turn her back until just around lunch time when she put her head down and came full tilt totally ignoring my feeble efforts with a thin stick.

I had to decide whether to stay with the herd or follow Darkie who obviously new her way home as she ran up Bloors Lane, along the A2 and down Berengrave Lane straight round the farm. Luckily for me a window cleaner was working on Mr Hatch's house (the large one next to the school field, just east of the bridge). His bike was standing outside which I quickly borrowed to follow Darkie and rush back very grateful to find the rest of the herd were still in or around the field. I suffered that dream of a cow running at me with head down for years into childhood!

Freddie Cooper
to be continued

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

To help with young children Monday afternoons. Approximately 1 hour per week.

- 1) General helper
 - 2) Creative person to assist with art and craft
 - 3) Creative person to assist with non cooking foods ie marzipan fruits etc
 - 4) And anybody else who feels they have something to offer the group.
- Contact Claire, 376270.

The Medway Branch of
The National Childbirth Trust
is holding a
FUNDAY!

on Wednesday 18th August 1999
at United Reformed Church Hall
Balmoral Road, Gillingham
10.00am to 4.00pm

There will be
a bouncy castle, playdoh, painting, craft activities,
singing and storytime. Also a tea bar.
The cost is just £1.50 per child (under ones go free).
All children must be accompanied and should
bring their own picnic.

Further details and tickets may be obtained from the
NCT Medway Enquiry Line on Medway 843059.
(NB cost of ticket is £2.00 per child if
booked after 11th August due to extra admin)

The local Branch of the national charity offers
information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and
early parenthood and is keen to recruit new members.
Anyone who is interested should contact the NCT
Medway enquiry line on Medway 843059.

The charity has qualified antenatal teachers who
run regular antenatal classes and breastfeeding
counsellors who can give support and advice to
anyone experiencing difficulties with feeding. In
addition support groups are held regularly and offer a
chance for parents and children to get together and
share information on a wide range of pregnancy,
childbirth and parenthood related issues. It also
organises events for children of members.

**Mrs Angela Wallace and
Mrs Rosemary Block**

**Counsellors in all
Personal Relationships**

Clients seen in Rainham, and at
The Alexandra Hospital, Walderslade

For further information or appointment
please phone Med: 853153 or 712570

ARTEX TRAINED
TEXTURER & DECORATOR

CEILINGS - Repaired, Replaced, Coved
DECORATING - Internal / External

Established 1988

NEIL MACE 01634 - 376747
19 Gayhurst Close
Rainham

LEE LANGTON & COMPANY

Solicitors

35 High Street, Rainham

For all your family
legal matters

Wills & Probate

Family Disputes

MEDWAY 360488



Est. 1984
01795 842644
Mobile: 0860 733980

D.A.Price Services
(Medway)

GENERAL HOUSE MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR and EXTERIOR

Household/Shop - Maintenance and Repairs
Plumbing - Carpentry - Fence Erection - Odd Jobs
NO DISTANCE CHARGE

61 High Street
Newington
Kent, ME9 7JJ

AJ**Aspect Joinery**

Colin Fildes

*for All Aspects of Carpentry
Joinery and Home Improvements*

58 Tufston Road, Rainham

Tel 01634 374711 Mobile 0402 123182

**MUNN ACADEMY OF
DANCE**Classes held locally
3yrs - AdultBallet Tap Modern dance Jazz
Gymnastic dance Disco Keep fit

Principal: Lesley Munn

Fellow & Examiner I.D.T.A.

MEDWAY 234168**D.H. MILLER**

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS

*For all your Plumbing Services***HELP** is on its way
*Upgrading & Servicing of
old Systems a Speciality*

- CENTRAL HEATING
- LUXURY BATHROOMS
& SHOWERS

MEDWAY 235831

Reg. No. 6629

36 High Street, Rainham



CAR AND COMMERCIAL BODY REPAIRS AND PAINTWORK
162 High Street, Rainham, Kent. ME8 8AT
24 Hour Recovery. 8am-6pm Tel: Medway 377803
After Hours: Tel: Medway 379396

**JOHN STYLES
FLAT ROOFING**

Strip & Re-felt
All Work & Materials Guaranteed
Free Written Quotation
MEDWAY 374028

CENTRAL HEATING

CORGI registered gas installer

Update your old system with latest
energy saving controls.

Repairs & system servicing

PLUMBING, COMPLETE BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
Free estimates Emergency service**M.A.P. SERVICES**

Century Road, Rainham

MEDWAY 365026**Housemartin Scheme Limited**

Carers required for weekdays, evenings and
weekends, hours flexible. Domestic and
Personal Care help given to the elderly,
frail, mentally and physically handicapped.

Training provided - transport not
essential. Three weeks paid holiday,
enhanced payment for unsociable hours.

Telephone essential. For further details ring

Medway 01634 366528**CARLTON VISION
ELECTRONICS**TELEVISION - VIDEO - SAT
REPAIRS

Fast Service Reasonable Rates

No Call Out Charge

Qualified Engineer

25 Years Experience

MED 360367**IFAW ANIMAL ACTION WEEK AWARDS**

Each Year The International Fund for Animal
Welfare (IFAW) runs Animal Action Week, an event
aiming to raise awareness of animal welfare issues.
1999 is the sixth event, with a theme of endangered
species. The week runs from 3rd to 10th October,
incorporating St Francis of Assisi and World Animal
Day on 4th October.

In connection with Animal Action Week, IFAW
are running the Animal Action Awards, which will be
presented to people who have done something
outstanding for animals. Nominees could include
someone who has rescued an ill or dying animal, or
set up their own wildlife sanctuary.

There are two categories, juniors up to 17, and
adults 18 or over. Up to 10 juniors will receive a
limited edition print by a leading wildlife
photographer, while up to 3 adults will receive an
engraved crystal trophy. The nominees will be judged
by a panel from IFAW and will be presented to the
winners in October 1999.

Readers can nominate people they know who have
done something special for animals by writing to the
IFAW Animal Action Week team explaining why
their nominee deserves to win. They should include
the nominee's age and contact details and send their
entries to: Animal Action Awards, 186 High Street,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1EY, with the entry marked
junior or senior. The closing date for receipt of
entries is August 31st 1999.

IFAW Animal Action Week itself (3rd to 10th
October) is now an international event, and tens of
thousands of people join in the fun each year. There
are various ways to participate - schools and youth
groups can receive a free video and information pack
on whales, whilst other elements of the week include
an anti-poaching elephant competition, a poster
design competition and a youth survey to gauge young
people's opinions on animal welfare. Colourful
action packs will be available from June, giving
details of the week. Make sure you reserve yours now
calling 01634 830888.

Boxer and TV star Frank Bruno is just one
celebrity who is supporting the event. 'If you're an

animal lover like me, you'll want to support IFAW
Animal Action Week,' says Frank. 'It's a great way
to show you care!'

Anyone requiring information about the Animal
Action awards or IFAW Animal Action Week should
call 01634 830888, or write to the address above.

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS**Celtic Capers****Monday 16th August****11.00am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.00pm****At Riverside Country Park**

Step back into the Iron-Age for the day with Cantiaci
Iron-Age Living History Group. All children under 8
must be accompanied by an adult.
Book in advance on 01634 378987.

Create a Creature**Monday 23rd August****10.00am to 11.30am & 1.00pm - 2.30pm****At Riverside Country Park**

Re-use that rubbish by creating animals and insects in
our craft workshop. Children under 8 must be
accompanied by an adult.
Book in advance on 01634 378987.

**Exploring Medway's Countryside
Sunday 29th August****10.00am start, Cliffe Marshes and Pools**

A series of walks exploring the importance and value
of Medway's rural areas and wildlife sites. Find out
why this unique area is so valuable, and see the
migrant bird-life, with one of Medway's Countryside
Team. Book in advance on 01634 812196.

SEPTEMBER**Exploring Medway's Countryside
Tuesday 14th September****10.00am to 12.00pm, around Lower Rainham**

The last in this series of guided walks exploring
Medway's wildlife sites. This walk discovers the
footpaths around Lower Rainham, from estuary to old
chalk pit. Book in advance on 01634 378987.

HMF AT HIDSONS**DO YOU REPAIR YOUR OWN CAR?**

**HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
OBTAIN THE PARTS
YOU NEED
AT TRADE PRICES**

**Discount Parts for Ford, Fiat,
Vauxhall, Rover, Nissan,
Peugeot, Renault, Volvo,
Skoda etc, etc**

HMF AT HIDSONS 01634 388114

110 HIGH STREET, RAINHAM, MEDWAY, KENT

THE KENT WILLWRITING CENTRE

Home visits — at times *convenient to you!*
Fixed Fees — £45 for a single Will, £65 double.
No hidden extras.

7 out of 10 people do not have a valid Will,
which could lead to distress and hardship for
their families: Do you fall into this category?

Don't leave it until it is too late —

Do it now, make a Will.

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.

01634 302930 for a prompt appointment

B D L GAS SERVICES

For all your Gas Appliance needs!

Come and visit our Showroom at

191 Station Road, Rainham

01634 232048

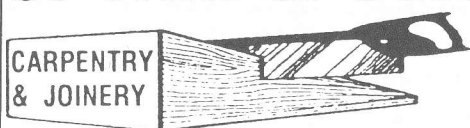
opposite Johnsons of Rainham

Potterton Baxi Cannon and

many more. All well known makes

25 yrs British Gas Corgi Reg

J. Trim & Son



CARPENTRY
& JOINERY

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Tel: (01634) 374867

Mobiles: 07801 598717 & 07803 263655

Why Miss Work!!

WASHING MACHINES
DRYERS ETC

Repaired 7am to 11pm

by SQUADMATIC

MED 373515

Monday to Sunday

NO CALL OUT CHARGE FREE ESTIMATES

City & Guild Trained Engineer

0402 255105 (Mobile)

HOUSEWORK

Spring Clean

Regular

or

One Off Service

SPICK 'N SPAN

MEDWAY 263220

DA CONSTRUCTION

CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALIST

EXTENSIONS • LOFT CONVERSIONS

GENERAL

COMMERCIAL/DOMESTIC MAINTENANCE

City & Guilds / Institute of Carpenters

TOP QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE RATES

MR ARCHER — Tele: (01634) 389604

SUNSHINE CLEANERS

WINDOW CLEANING

Fed up with fair-weather window
cleaners. Then call us.

01634 372228

Mobile 0961 500737

B. HAYFIELD & SONS

Builders

Est. over 22 years

All Building / Maintenance Work

Carpentry & Painting

Roofing & Plumbing

Medway 234072

'RAINHAM' IS UNDER THREAT ONCE AGAIN!

Some authorities are eliminating the name of Rainham from their activity usage, this was started by the Post Office who indicated that Rainham was superfluous and only Gillingham should be included in our addresses. When I made enquiries from their Customer Service Dept. it was clear that they only need the Post Code and road number. We all know that many commercial companies only need this when we telephone. I appreciate that post sorting is based upon area coding but I'm not sure that I want to get to the point when I have to tell people that I live in ME8 0EG.

Readers of the local papers may have noticed that Medway Council is using Gillingham instead of Rainham when planning applications are advertised.

It is possible because roads with similar names were changed when Rainham was absorbed by Gillingham in 1929 from Milton RDC. Thus Webster Road was previously Milton Road, Shakespeare was changed to Hothfield, Oxford Road became Durham Road, and Hamilton Avenue became Salisbury Avenue. The only duplication is now our High Street and I wonder how much correspondence is delivered to wrong addresses when the post code is not used. I recently found a daft entry when looking for a key cutter in Yellow Pages, the address for Timpson's is shown as Unit 7C, Rainham Shopping Centre, High Street, Gillingham. I'm waiting for Medway Council to fall into the same trap!

The action taken by Gillingham Council 70 years ago was not seen at the time as a means of ceasing to use the name Rainham but within a few years residents became very irate when there was a proposal to alter the name of our Station. I recall, as a teenage reporter, attending a 'standing only' overcrowded meeting in the old Co-op Hall which was addressed by Dr Reed, W.H. Holding, Clr Cheetham and others when the proposal was condemned by everyone present and was quickly dropped. I haven't seen any protest by present Rainham Councillors at Medway's action!

Many residents are still proud to live in Rainham and I suggest that we all continue to use our Parish name on all of our correspondence.

I have always maintained that one should be proud of our family, our place of residence, our school and our country. I fear that we have failed to instill this pride into many of our youngsters which is a major cause of vandalism and lack of social responsibility. I'm sure that this is mainly due to living in larger conurbations and the failure to identify with or feel part of that community. The authorities are making that situation even worse.

There are dangerous practical implications, emergency vehicles now sometimes come from other areas. I've personally known ambulances to come from Sittingbourne and Northfleet, both apologised

for the delay because they didn't know the area. I can well imagine an ambulance man being given the name of Rainham Road as Gillingham tearing through from Sittingbourne beyond Bowater's roundabout thinking that's where Gillingham began! Rainham is still shown separately on all maps and drivers are unlikely to know that bureaucratic decisions have decided to ignore its existence particularly as they are now controlled from Hastings.

Perhaps it is an opportune time to mention the likely origin of 'Rainham'. Although Roman remains have been found in Lower Rainham there is no definitive source to which one can refer but the late Mr W.J. Smith, who was Headmaster of Orchard Street Senior Boys School and a local historian, wrote in 1937 that the known form of spelling included Reinham, Renham, Reynham and Raynham. He considered that the ancient Britons probably called the lower land 'Ruime' ie the Marsh and when the Saxons entered the Thames and Medway they settled in the creeks making an 'ham' or 'home'. The Saxon word 'Ham' also meant a 'bend in the river' so that the earliest settlement of our forefathers may have been called 'Ruime ham', ie the marsh in the bend of the river. The map shows how suitable such a name was. On the other hand 'Rain' or something similar may have been the name of a 5th century Saxon family as many settlements were named after a family such as the Gillings, Mere and Ceatta (Chatham).

Rainham has changed dramatically over the last two centuries as the population of 722 in 1801 had risen to 3,613 at the turn of the century and I reckon that somewhere around 40,000 now live in the area which was previously controlled by the old Rainham Parish Council.

I wonder how many are left who were descendants of those who were here 200 years ago!

Freddie Cooper

BREAKFAST IN AMERICA

(drama workshop based on the musical GREASE)

date: Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th AUGUST

time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

age: 8 - 14 year olds

venue: The Oasthouse Theatre

Stratford Lane, Rainham

tutors: The Theatre Experience

led by Kate McCormack & Rachel Taylor

showcase performance:

3.00pm Thursday 12th August

course fee: £16.00 (limited space available)

for further details: telephone 01634 374183

A fabulous opportunity to attend Rydell High, drop out of beauty school and become pink ladies! Or why not join Danny and the T-Birds and build a car that goes like greased lightning. Two days of non-stop drama and excitement working towards a showcase performance for your friends and family on Thursday afternoon.

BOOK NOW!!!!

Small Ads

Published: September 4th
Copy date: August 20th
Price: £1.50 per line
Average 4 words to a line

Please contact H. Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cottages,
Meresborough, Gillingham.
Tel: 231307.

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION
Competitive prices. No area too small. Contact Letterbox Leaflets
Medway 372177.

DISCO — professional entertainment for any occasion.
'The Black Pepper Roadshow'
Jim Lindsay 375552 or
0860 484431.

REFLEXOLOGY. Holistic therapy to aid relaxation and help the body heal itself. For further information or to book an appointment please contact Jenifer Carr MBSR on Medway 376784.

REGISTERED CHILDMINDER
has Full/Part time Vacancies.
Hours Negotiable.
Phone Linda
Rainham 01634 261614.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES & Comics. Old issues wanted for cash. Roger. Medway 374028.

MULCH DELIVERED £25 for 1 cu. metre. 01634 376776.

Weddings, Anniversaries, Friends Visiting? Quality, Friendly Bed & Breakfast **NON SMOKING NATIONAL GRADE** ♦♦♦♦
Condor House, Bredhurst 232988

BOOK TOKENS are welcomed throughout the country. We can post them for you. Just phone with your credit card details.
Rainham Bookshop,
17 Station Road. Medway 371591

RAINHAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. Sunday Services 10.30am and 6.30pm at Begonia Avenue Church, Twydall.
Further details from Jim Crompton, 01634 408438.

ELECTRICIAN CITY & Guilds qualified at affordable rates. Fault finding, security lights, 16th Ed. Consumer Units for safety, house re-wires. Extra power points etc. Free estimates.
REPAIRS: WASHING Machines, Cookers, Tumble Dryers etc.
01634 370905 or 0374 233509.

PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRE-SCHOOL (Est.1969) Parkwood Green, Rainham. Morning Sessions 9.00am to 12 Noon during school term time. Children aged between 2½ and 5 years old welcomed. Telephone (01634) 366574 [Session time only please]

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH Sundays 10.30am, Community Hall, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre. Further details from Allan Smith, Medway 264410.

ROOFING CONTRACTOR
All types of roofing work, vertical tiling and guttering undertaken. Estimates Free.
Phone Dave Moon on 375069.

'HOME TUITION', English to GCSE level. 11+ coaching. Creative writing.
Jill Dixon, BA, Tel. 234577.

DENTIST: RUTH LINDSAY, BDS. NHS dental treatment for elderly and housebound in your own home. All denture work. Free denture repairs. Free treatment if on income support.
Tel: 231144 between 6 & 8pm
842566 (Surgery).

For **STANNAH STAIRLIFTS** new or reconditioned. Also electrical work carried out.
Tel: Contact for Electrical
01634 374524 for free estimate.

AQUAFIX HEATING & PLUMBING. Boiler Servicing and Repairs. Landlord Safety Certificates. Specialising in Combination boilers. 24hr call out
Tel: 01634 846871. Pager 01523 156098. Corgi Reg. No. 175929.

ELECTRIC GUITAR TUITION, Music Theory and Maths.
01634 402647.

NEED A PLUMBER?
For that small job or annoying leak tel: 234149.

SPECIAL OFFER ON MAPS. Save £1 per map when buying 10 or more Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps at the Rainham Bookshop, 17 Station Road. Medway 371591.

TREE & SHRUB SURGERY
Garden Welfare & Planning. Life Time of Experience.
Ray Wade Medway 233957.

GUITAR TUITION by qualified teacher. Medway 376608.

MATHS/PHYSICS TUITION GCSE, A LEVEL ETC.
Tuition in your own home by specialist tutor. BSC Hons, Cert.Ed. Ring Medway 377267.

SPAIN - COSTA DEL SOL. Villa on fully maintained pueblo close to small coastal fishing village of Nerja. 2 twin bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge/diner with F/F kitchen, own terrace and garden. Available all year round.
Phone 01634 376792/261322(eve)

TREE STUMP GRINDING AND TREE REMOVAL SERVICE.
Telephone Roger Alsey
01634 376776 for an estimate.

BUY DIRECT FROM THE FARMER: Cherries - July; Apples from end of July. Kent Honey, Kent Apple Juice & Kent Free Range Eggs. We are also agents for Calor Gas. From: **PUMP FARM,** Pump Lane (below bridge), Rainham. Open: 6 days per week Tuesdays to Sundays 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays only.

DENTURE REPAIRS/ Cleaning/Replacement of discoloured or chipped teeth. Collection & Delivery Service free. Med 856355.

PRUNING - Trees, Hedges, Shrubs. Fully qualified & insured.
Jim Lindsay - 01634 366923.

BROKEN PALLETS available free to those who can collect from Gillingham Business Park. Suitable for firewood etc.
Tel. 310011.

SPAIN - COSTA BLANCA
Individually designed Villa, 2 Double Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms, Lounge with Sofa Bed, Dining Room & F/F Kitchen. 10x5m private pool & BBQ. Covered and uncovered terraces. Close to restaurants, shops, sea and Golf. Available all year round.
Phone Med: 318781.

MATHEMATICS TUITION Secondary, GCSE, A Level by experienced tutor - B.Sc.Hons, A Level Assistant Examiner.
Tel. Medway 233374.

ACCOUNTANT FOR YOUR Income Tax, Accounts, VAT PAYE, Self Assessment Returns, Budgets and Business Plans. For free initial consultation and visit call (Zafar Naqvi 01634 376174).

HSE PUBLICATIONS
Rainham Bookshop is now a 'main stockist' for HSE Publications on Health and Safety.

THE GRANARY CHURCH
Rainham Evangelical, Rainham Community Centre, Granary Close
Sunday - 10.15am
Open meetings in homes.
Pastor: The Rev. P.S. Harper.
Details Tel 01795 844031

LIGHTEN YOUR DARKNESS. Call Barry Pickance - Electrician for all domestic electrical work. No job too small - Free estimates - emergency callout. Med 372739

LEAKING TAPS RESEATED
Loft and Toilet overflows.
Medway 262912.

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE HALL
To Hire Ring Med. 374732.

BOOKS WANTED! Immediate cash! Medway 360227.

PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Parkwood Green Sunday Service 10.15am to 12 noon. Further details from Richard Hayton (01634) 235799.

FRIENDS OF THE SAMARITANS. Volunteers needed to help raise funds to keep our telephone lines open 24 hours a day.
Ring Medway 842222.

SEWING MACHINE REPAIRS
Serviced and repaired any make. No call out charge.
Telephone 01634 366130.

WIGMORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, Durham Road. Sundays 11am and 6.30pm, Treasure Seekers and Ambassadors 10am. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 7.45pm. Visitors Welcome. Pastor Rev T.J. Wood
Medway 388187.

LAWNMOWER SERVICE
Sharpening and all Garden Machinery repairs. Med 361217.

JOHN INNES SEED & POTTING COMPOST - always available. 50 lb bag: £2.40. Also 300 litre Grower Bales of Peat: £9.00.
Meresborough Nursery - Medway 231639.

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL available for hire. Weddings - Parties - Meetings. Large and small halls - Kitchen.
To book phone 01634 364859.

ADVERTISING RATES
1/8th page One issue £28.00
Three issues: £77.00
Twelve issues: £291.00

Small Ads per line per issue £1.50
Concessionary rates for Small Ads are available for Charities. All rates are on the basis of prepayment. Please make cheques payable to Action Forum and send to 5 Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 8PP. Copy date is usually the penultimate Saturday each month, for publication the first Saturday of the next month.

SOPHISTICATS as well as being the most comprehensive gift shop in the area, we have built up a reputation for our first class **PICTURE FRAMING** service. Be it tapestry, collage, print, oil or medals, you will always find advice on hand as to the best way of presenting them at 31 Station Road, Rainham. Tel. 361436.

TAPE/SLIDE SHOWS. Kent Villages etc. Ideal for club evenings, usually available at short notice. £15 per evening.
Mr C. Coe, Medway 361240.

PIANO, KEYBOARD, FLUTE tuition. Exp. teacher Med 378038

SEWING ALTERATIONS
New Zips etc. Tel: Med. 235484.

YEAR 2000 KENT CALENDARS now in stock at Rainham Bookshop include 'Impressions of Kent' with paintings by Geoffrey John Hall, privately published at £7.99 and likely to become a collector's item. Also available Salmon's Calendars 'Beautiful Kent' £3.25 and 'Picturesque Kent' £2.25. Ideal gifts for visitors, or to take when visiting.

CHIROPODIST J. JUDGE
A.Ch.P. Home Visits - clinic at 42 Station Road. Med. 361720.

ST MATTHEW'S Community Centre available for hire.
Medway 235518 or 370492.

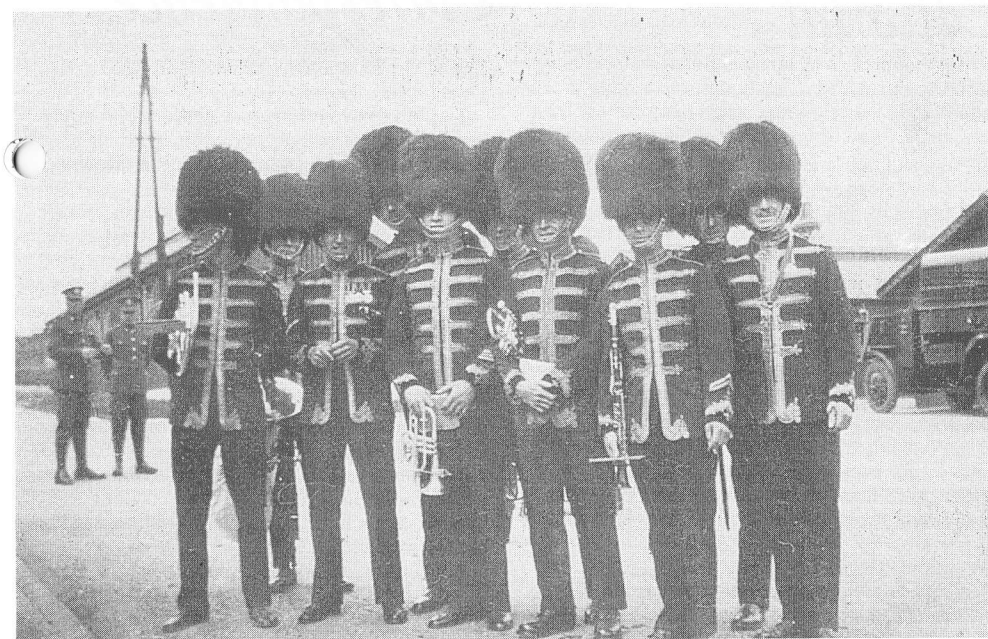
AI SCHOOL OF DANCING
Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham.
Classes in Ballet-Tap-Modern. Pupils from 3 years to Adult.
Ring 01622 717394.

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RESIDENTS OF RAINHAM AND WIGMORE

AUGUST 1999

NUMBER 336



Members of the Royal Engineers' Band in their No.1 Dress ready for a performance in 1935. This uniform was used until the Second World War. The Tunic belonging to Harold Wheeler (fourth from the front row) was given to the RE's Museum in 1976 and may be seen on display at Brompton. See the article 'Where Are Our Bands?' on page 7.

CLIFFORD MILLER

INSURANCE BROKERS

Three decades of local knowledge and experience have helped us to achieve a reputation for consistently high standards of service and reliability.

Contact us to test the claims made by Direct Line.

We can prove that you are better off dealing with a Registered Broker.

6 HALFWAY ROAD, HALFWAY, SHEERNESS ME12 3BR

Telephone 01795 581222