

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RESIDENTS OF RAINHAM AND WIGMORE

SEPTEMBER 1999

NUMBER 337



Macmillan Medway Committee Chairman, Bill Trythall, welcomes The Mayor of Medway, Councillor Dai Morgan to the recent Garden Party in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. This very successful event raised over £700 towards the most recent project of providing more Macmillan Nurses in the local community. Fund Raising continues, see inside for details of forthcoming events.

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Editorial

This month we publish the concluding part of Freddie Cooper's memoirs of Cozenton Farm. This series has prompted much discussion and stimulated others to relate their childhood memories in other parts of Rainham. Do write them down. Stories of playing in tunnels beneath Bloors Place or scrumping in the orchards and playing in the hop gardens seem like ancient history to today's children but unless we record them they will soon be lost for ever. With hindsight there are always things we wish we had done. One of my regrets is not keeping an accurate record of the farming around the Meresborough area since we moved here 27 years ago. It has changed beyond all recognition from primarily hops and fruit, both labour intensive activities, to a mixture of arable and small holdings, many now used for horses. Apart from the fields being built on, as has happened closer to Rainham, it is hard to imagine a more dramatic change to land that had for centuries produced apples, cherries, pears and hops, reputedly some of the best in England. I wonder what the next thirty years will bring.

More volunteers are needed for various activities. September sees the beginning of a new academic year plus all the clubs and societies swing back into gear. St Margaret's Youth Club would welcome your help to provide activities for their members, the Carers Support Scheme need more help and the Macmillan Cancer Relief Group would also welcome your support. Should you still find you have time to spare how about an evening with Medway Folk Dance Group sampling their varied programme all for free.

Once again Freddie Cooper has struck a nerve and provoked response to his article Rainham Under Threat. It seems you do agree with him that we live in Rainham, Kent not Gillingham or Medway. I know Freddie will be delighted that Peter Weller is so incensed he is prepared to try to do something about it – with your help. If you agree you would like to keep the name Rainham permanently in your address and not let it gradually slide into disuse please take a few moments to complete and return the form on page 13. The more support he receives the more encouraged Peter will be to continue. Unless we can pass on a feeling of belonging and valuing our local community to today's children I fear for Rainham in

the future.

All too soon we will be thinking about winter and Christmas (I notice Christmas presents already get a mention in this month's issue) so make the most of the good days this month and we will see you again in October.

Correspondence

RAINHAM UNDER THREAT

Dear Editor,

I thought I would drop you a short note to express my whole-hearted agreement with the article by Freddie Cooper (page 13) regarding the use of the town's name. As you will see from my address – I am one step ahead!

It would seem to confirm a much wider malaise in the increasing habit of not using the county name in the address. I can accept that Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool etc – perhaps do not need to be identified by their county. That really does not apply to small towns. In addition to being proud of our town's name I think its equally important to use our county's name as well.

I am something of a rebel – as when I write – Bournemouth is in Hampshire not Dorset and Oakham is in Rutland!

Following down the same unhappy path, if Brussels has its way – there will be no 'England', just nine faceless regions.

Yours sincerely,
D.J. Hallett (Mr)
47c Marshall Road,
Rainham
Kent. ME8 0AW
01634 232057

ADDITIONAL MACMILLAN NURSES

Dear Editor,

Macmillan Cancer Relief are in the process of appointing two additional Macmillan nurses in Medway Hospital. One will co-ordinate cancer care at the hospital and the other will specialise in lung cancer treatment and care. Another extra Macmillan nurse will be a community nurse who will be based at the Wisdom Hospice. Although the Macmillan charity provides the money to pay for these nurses over the first three years the NHS covers their salary from then on. They remain Macmillan nurses and receive the latest information on palliative care from Macmillan who are working towards ensuring there is the best information, treatment and care for cancer.

On Friday the 1st of October there will be a big coffee morning throughout the United Kingdom (Guinness Book of Records Coffee Morning) trying to beat last year's record number of coffee drinkers all raising money for Macmillan. Several coffee mornings will be held in Medway; so please do try to support them.

If anyone does wish to support the Medway Macmillan nurses by making a direct donation please write to Bill Trythall, Chairman, Macmillan Cancer Relief, Medway Committee, 20 Cherry Tree Road, Rainham, Kent. ME8 8JZ.

Yours sincerely,
Bill Trythall

MEDWAY FOLK DANCE CLUB

Dear Editor,

May we bring to the attention of your readers that the Medway Folk Dance Club are holding an open evening (with no admission charge) on Saturday 18th September at the United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, starting at 7.30pm.

The object will be to demonstrate all types of dancing (with audience participation) that are covered in a normal club evening.

This is an interesting and varied pastime and is suitable for everybody no matter what their age.

Further particulars can be obtained from Alan and Marie on Medway 220463.

Many thanks,
Alan Bromage

TEAR FUND

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all who supported the coffee morning held at my home on 10th July in aid of 'Tear Fund'. With other donations the sum of £160.37 was raised (including £40 from the sale of 'Tear Craft' items).

Mrs Jean Tucker
Berengrave Lane

2000 YEARS OF THE TRUTH

Dear Editor,

Rainham Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Twydale is preparing to put on a new musical in September.

'The Truth' was an inspired idea that came to the writers/directors Drew Wagar and Jenny Steadman. I am contemplating 'How can the story of Easter be told in a way that people could understand today?' If they could get rid of the 'thou shalt' language and use

plain English, maybe people would get an understanding of what this person Jesus was trying to say 2,000 years ago.

In order to have something for everyone, the team have incorporated many different music styles, Pop, Dance, Rock, Blues, Techno, Country, Western, Classical and Soft Metal Ballads.

With the push on 'the Technology age for the Year 2000' they are utilising all the latest in technology with Computer Multimedia, Synthesizers, LCD Projection and even Web-site technology to promote the event. Drew is a local Computer Software Engineer working for Sun Microsystems while Jenny is a Computer Programmer working in the city. They both have a BSc in Computer Science; so the audience are in for a real feast of technology.

The venue for this event is St Mark's Church in Gillingham and the performances are Friday 17th September at 8.00pm and Saturday 18th September at 8.00pm. Tickets are £2.00 adults and £1.00 concessions and further details can be obtained by phoning 231657 or 238446.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine A. Fulwell
(Administrator for the Musical)

PATRONAL FESTIVAL CONCERT,
SATURDAY SEPT 18th
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WIGMORE at 7.30pm
Dear Editor,

Could I please bring the above concert to the attention of your readers. This year we have songs from Jon Williams (baritone) and Jackie Hopkins (soprano), music from Ad Hoc Ebony (Clarinet quartet), and organ solos from Douglas Moutrie and John Stannard. We expect to cater for a wide range of tastes. Tickets £3 Adults, £2 Concessions (Refreshments included) available in advance from Dilys Smith (233478) or at the door. Proceeds to St Matthew's Roof Fund.

Yours sincerely,
John Stannard

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Diary '99

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
275 Wigmore Road
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No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 14th September 1999

- September 4th – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society will be holding their Annual Fruit and Vegetable Show at St Margaret's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. 2.00 to 4.30pm. Admission free.
- September 4th – Rainham & Wigmore Community Centre QUIZ NIGHT at the Oast House, Granary Close. 8pm. Teams of 4-6. Ring 374558 for details.
- September 5th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.30pm. Queen's Head, Sutton Valence. Walk approx 5 miles.
- September 6th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Walk Saxon Shore Way each Monday commencing today. Meet 10.00am. Cliffe Church. 7.5 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. 7.30pm. Bredhurst Village Hall.
- September 8th – National Childbirth Trust. Speakers Corner 'Music Education for Your Child'. 8.30pm. Details from 811118 or 843059.
- 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 – Medway Camcorder Club. 7.30pm. Medway Motor Yacht Club, Manor Lane, Borstal. 5 min Competition. Ring 306926 for details.
- September 8th – Friendly Whist Drive. 7.30pm. Hartlip Village Hall.
- September 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th & 18th – The

- Rainham Amateur Theatrical Society present 'ABSENT FRIENDS'. 8.00pm. The Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham. Box Office open Monday to Friday. 9.00am to 8.00pm. 01634 360506.
- September 9th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Bingo. St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- September 9th – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club. 7.30 to 9.30pm at Aburound House, Woodlands Road, Gillingham.
- September 11th – Bredhurst Village Show.
- 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. AUTUMN SHOW. United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road. 2.30 to 4pm. Admission free.
- September 11th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Figure of 8 walk. Meet 10.15am. West Malling Country Park. 3.5 miles. Afternoon walk 1.15pm. 3 miles.
- September 11th – Upchurch Horticultural Society. EARLY SHOW. Village Hall, Upchurch. Viewing 2.30 to 4.00pm. Open to the public.
- September 11th – Union of Catholic Mothers JUMBLE SALE. 11.00am. St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. Admission 20p. Any jumble to be collected telephone 233293.
- September 12th – Rainham Riverside Worship. Short Family Service (C of E). 10.30am, Wakeley School. All welcome.
- September 12th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.30pm. Entrance to Camer Park. 7 mile walk.
- September 14th – Medway Scrabble Club. 2.00 to 4.30pm. Riverside Indoor Bowls Sports Complex, Chatham.
- September 14th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Peter & Paul from Warrenorth Nurseries. 7.30pm Rainham Girls' School, Derwent Way, Rainham.
- September 14th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. 1.30am Twydall Baptist Church, Waltham Road. Ribbon Embroidery. 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 14th – Group of Speakers/learners of French at Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham. 9.30 to 11.00am. For more information please telephone Liz 576128.
- September 15th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Annual General Meeting. Linda Lioussias Demonstration 'Winter Hanging Baskets and Pots'. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- September 15th – Hempstead Women's Institute. 7.30pm. Hemstead Village Hall. 'Egg Cups' – Pocillivvy! Ring 373298 for details.
- September 15th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Historic Chatham Dockyard – Mr Dawson. Competition: Oldest Gillingham Photograph. 2.00 to 4.00pm. Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- September 16th – Rainham WI. The Riverside Country Park. Mr Jeremy Burgess. Competition: A Red Flower. 1.45pm. Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham.
- September 16th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Wood Turning by Mr Howard (see 9th Sept).
- September 16th – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club (see 9th Sept).
- September 17th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. Committee Choice Concert. 7.15pm 9.15pm. Gillingham Adult Education Centre, Green Street. Non members welcome. Ring 235612 for details.
- September 17th & 18th – Rainham Christian Fellowship present 'THE TRUTH'. 8pm. St Mark's Church, Gillingham. Tickets £2.00 Concessions £1. Details from 231657 or 238446.
- September 18th – Patronal Festival Concert in St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore at 7.30pm. Vocal and instrumental music to suit all tastes. Tickets £3 Concs £2. Refreshments included, available in advance from Dilys Smith 233478 or at the door. Proceeds to St Matthew's Roof Fund.
- September 18th – Medway Folk Dance Club OPEN EVENING. Free admission. 7.30pm. United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. More details 220463.
- September 19th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.30pm. Oare Church (just north of Faversham). Bird watching. No dogs.
- September 20th – Rainham Evening WI. Gone to the Dogs. Barbara Letchford. Competition: an item in tin. 7.30pm. Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham. Contact 01634 362908.
- September 21st – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Stag Steak.
- September 21st – Rainham & District Winemakers Guild. 8pm. St Margaret's Hall, Orchard Street. Ring 388404 for details.

- September 21st – Group for Speakers/learners of French (see 14th Sept).
- September 22nd – Friendly Whist Drive (see 8th Sept).
- September 22nd – Medway Camcorder Club – Filming Along the River (see 8th Sept).
- September 22nd – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.00am. Camer Park. Packed lunch. PH available. 9 miles.
- September 23rd – Wigmore Thursday Club. Quiz. (see 9th Sept).
- September 23rd – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club (see 9th Sept).
- September 24th – Medway Geographical Society will meet at the Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham at 7.30 to 9.00pm. Our speaker will be Mr Bob Appleton on National Parks in North America. New members and visitors are welcome.
- September 26th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am. Riverside Country Park.
- September 28th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. 'The Flower Arrangers Garden'. 8.00pm. Lloyds Social Club, Gillingham. Ring 234734 for details.
- September 30th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales and Singalong (see 9th Sept).
- September 30th – Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club (see 9th Sept).
- October 1st – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. 'This man will eclipse us all'. Music of Rameau Ian Bailey (Lewisham RMS). 7.15 to 9.15pm (see 17th Sept).
- October 1st – MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF are holding their usual GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS coffee morning in the Rainham Cricket Club, 10am to 12noon. Entrance fee 50p including coffee and biscuit. Cake stall, various other stalls, Xmas cards, gifts etc. Last year was a great success, everyone enjoyed meeting their friends and at the same time helping the Medway Macmillan nurses. More details from Bill Trythall, 30 Cherry Tree Road, Rainham.
- October 2nd – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.25am. Newington Station. Packed lunch. PH available. 6 miles.



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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

Our club is going from strength to strength - we are full to capacity for our Junior section and our Seniors is also growing in numbers. We would like to provide more activities and outings for our members but have a shortage of adult helpers - if you feel you could help, maybe once a fortnight or once a month, our dedicated team would be pleased to see you. The normal police checks will be made to anyone volunteering, to comply with the law.

The club meets at St Margaret's School on Friday evenings at 6.30pm during term time - for more information please call Frances Brown, 387342.

CRAFT FAIR

Rainham WI will be holding their annual Craft Fair Saturday 2nd October, 10 to 12noon at St Margaret's Church Hall. Good quality handmade crafts, cakes, preserves etc. Refreshments available. Come and get your presents early for Christmas.



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Everyone is most welcome to visit the Cathedral. A place of Christian pilgrimage and prayer since 604 AD, the present building is a blend of Norman and Gothic architecture, with a fine Medieval Crypt.

For individuals, entry is free, but we do ask for a donation of £2. There is a charge, however, of £1 for a photo permit.

Groups (i.e. 10 or more) MUST be booked in advance via the Education & Visits Office. Tel: 01634 401301 for details.

The Cathedral is open 365 days a year. It closes at 1800hrs in the week and 1700hrs on Saturday, 1800hrs on Sunday. Services at the weekend and in the week may restrict access, *please ring first!*

If you would like to consider voluntary work in the Cathedral we would be delighted to hear from you.



GARDEN PARTY BENEFITS MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

Over £700 was raised at a recent Garden Party held at the home of Mrs Soffe in Bredhurst Road, Wigmore.

The proceeds from this event were passed to the Medway Committee for Macmillan Cancer Relief. This will help to swell the funds of the Macmillan West Kent Project launched on 23rd July, which is aimed at putting more Macmillan Nurses into the communities of Medway and adjoining areas.

The warm, sunny weather made the afternoon even more enjoyable for all those who attended. The Mayor of Medway, Councillor Dai Liyanage and the Mayoress joined in the events and presented the raffle prizes which local people and businesses had generously donated.

The afternoon ended with local young people entertaining on keyboard instruments.

THE 'WRITE' WAY TO MAKE FRIENDS

The art of letter writing is often said to be dead but I must disagree. In spite of all the excellent communication systems of today, which we all use, the good old letter is still very much alive and kicking.

When I joined the International Pen Friends Club I soon discovered the pleasure of finding friends in faraway places.

The club supplied me with contacts at home and abroad. In my own age group and with similar interests to myself, all correspond in English so there are no language translation difficulties.

These days I write regularly to penpals in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, USA, Canada and Trinidad to name a few.

I have found penfriendship to be a fascinating yet inexpensive hobby which caters for all ages, creeds and cultures. I've exchange stamps, postcards, recipes and souvenirs. My knowledge of the world and its people is greater, my life richer, thanks to my penfriends around the world.

If you would like further club details please write, enclosing sae to

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE

EXTRA VAGANZA

18th September 1999

Guest appearance by the current author
Christopher Awdry

St Margaret's School
Orchard Street, Rainham
From 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

August is traditionally the month for holidays at the seaside. So this month's Nature Notes come to you from Seasalter, overlooking Whitstable Bay.

Seasalter was where my wife and I used to take the children when they were young. There was not a lot there, which appealed to us. There was (and still is) little more than an old coast guard house, an adjacent single story cottage, Waldren's Café and the club house of Seasalter Sailing Club. Near a wooden bungalow called 'Wie Worrie' there is a remnant of the saltings which once lay outside the original sea wall complete with an attractive showing of sea aster. There are a few white poplar and holm oak trees which can survive in the sea air and which provide some shelter from the North Easterly winds.

To the landward side of the sea walls are the Graveney Marshes intersected by reed filled dykes. Sheep graze there, as they have done from mediaeval times. Large flocks of rooks can often be seen feeding on the marshes.

To the seaward side of the walls is an expanse of mud and sand (when the tide is out) called the Oaze. These mudflats are rich in worms, shrimps, marine snails, cockles and other molluscs, providing a very rich source of food for birds. On the day of my visit, a very hot day in early August, there were few birds about. I could see one or two herring gulls, black headed gulls, oyster catchers and shelduck. I could hear the piping call of a redshank.

A few fishermen were digging for lugworms in the Oaze and a number of families were enjoying themselves on the beach. The latter consists of a mixture of pebbles, cockle shells and sand.

On the horizon and to the East I could see Whitstable Harbour and to the West the hamlet of Shellness on the tip of the Isle of Sheppey. Because the tide was out Seasalter Sailing Club was out of action but there were a number of sailing dinghies on the Swale and two sailing barges on the Thames.

I set out westwards along the sea wall towards the Sportsman Inn. On the beach below me I noticed

viper's bugloss, yellow horned poppy, sea kale, sea beet, sea holly and biting stonecrop – all typical plants of a shingle habitat. The sea wall itself was covered mainly in bristly ox-tongue (same family as the dandelion) and wild carrot (which has an umbrella shaped head of white flowers).

At the Sportsman Inn the Graveney Marshes end and the Cleve Marshes begin. Within a short time of passing the Inn I both saw and heard skylark and meadow pipit in the sky above the marshes. The pipit sings a single high note, accelerating as the bird climbs and ending in a long trill as it descends. I also saw, feeding on the ground, yellow wagtails and read buntings. Swallows were hawking for flies just above the surface of the vegetation. Among the reeds in the dykes of the marshes I could hear sedge and reed warblers calling.

In the hot and sunny weather there were plenty of butterflies along the grassy areas of the embankment. I noted common blue, small heath, small copper, gatekeeper and meadow brown.

It was a perfect Summer's day at the seaside. A few years ago, mid afternoon would have been time for four ices at Waldren's of Seasalter. On this visit it was time for a pot of tea for one.

Joe Ennis

THE RAINHAM WE LOST (part five)

Concluding Freddie Cooper's memories of Cozenton Farm from seventy years ago. This series has prompted much interest and discussion and we hope to include some follow-up items soon.

Most of the operational machinery at Cozenton Farm was located in the barn and driven by a petrol engine in a shed at the northern end. Long wide drive belts hung from the overhead shaft which were linked to the various machines to cut chaff, chip mangel wurzels or break up 'mats' of cattle cake into 'oxo cubes'. I shudder when I think how these were operated with hardly any protection.

The only accident I had, which I thought was serious at the time, was whilst doing the most monotonous job of washing woolly aphids from the trees in the plantation. I was armed with a large tin of methylated spirit, a 2lb jam jar and a short ladder.

Unfortunately, as I reached up to a high branch the jar tipped and its contents washed over my eyes and face. I was about a quarter of a mile from the farmhouse and had to get back almost blinded to wash my eyes out with water; it didn't cause any long term damage but I always think of methylated spirit when I see those white woolly aphids on the trees.

I suppose my most enjoyable days were when I went with the waggoner to Holborn Wharf, along Medway Street, Chatham, to collect a load of steaming manure which we covered with a tarpaulin to sit on all the way home. I was so proud to take the reins along the A2 and down Chatham hill. At the top of the hill I had to jump down to place a skid under the back wheel to prevent the cart pushing into the back of the horse. On the way home we always stopped at Star Pond (where the Will Adam's Memorial now stands) to rest and refresh the horse. At last we had a sandwich. Thirty years later I was being driven over the same route in the Mayoral car!

I didn't like the pigs, they would bite, but it was fun catching the sheep and learning how to throw them over awaiting cleaning around their tail where they had blow fly maggots. I still remember that when I smell Jeyes fluid. You had to be very careful how you held the back leg as a sheep can quite easily break a boy's wrist.

Fruit picking and packing was important, damaged fruit wouldn't keep. The pickers relied for their safety upon the ladderman, who would move the heavy tall wide-based ladders single handed and place them into the safe areas of a tree from which cherries could be reached. Pickers didn't like sheep around the base of their ladder and would loudly call out 'sheep' until the animals were cleared away.

Much of the fruit was sent to agents Ridley and Houlding at Covent Garden but it was very chancy as to whether or not one received a reasonable price. All too often the receipts didn't even cover the carriage charge and some were returned unsold. From around cherry picking time a train left Rainham Station at 4pm during the week taking produce direct to Newcastle where one hoped to obtain a better price. Chatham Station served a wide area when it was first opened in 1858 and was actually named Rainham and Newington at that time.

Ultimately the Council bought most of the farm in 1962 for £18,160 and to my shame I never walked over all of Berengrave Park but I have happy memories and although my experiences didn't assist my subsequent employment I learned a lot about life.

Before closing I wonder if anyone has knowledge of the construction of the main drainage sewer from Rochester, under Chatham and the Lines out to Berengrave Lane from whence it went to Motney Hill. This must have been very deep and I recall seeing one of the shafts on the boundary of Cozenton Farm and Berengrave House when men seemed to be lowered down in wicker baskets. I've often wondered how they excavated all the chalk and how it was designed as it must have been quite a feat of engineering.

Freddie Cooper

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS

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.

Beginners Trees

Sunday 26th September

10.00am to 12.00pm at South Wood

An introduction to tree identification for adult beginners with one of Medway's Countryside Team. Book in advance on 01634 378987.

BEACH WATCH

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th September

10.30am to 1.30pm at Riverside Country Park

Help clean up your shore for the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch Campaign. If you would like to help out, please contact Riverside on 01634 378987.

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CARERS' SUPPORT SCHEME**'Carers are people looking after relatives or friends
who, because of disability, illness or the effects of old
age, cannot manage at home without help.' (Carers'
National Association)A report from the Alzheimer's Disease Society
shows that many carers spend more than 80 hours a
week looking after a relative with dementia. As a
result, nearly all are tired, stressed or depressed.The Carers' Support Scheme aims to relieve some
of the stresses experienced by carers of people who
are aged over 65 and have mental health problems,
including dementia.The scheme operates in the Medway/Swale Social
Services catchment area and utilises volunteers to
visit carers in their own homes to provide support and
a listening ear.Caring for someone can be tiring and sometimes
very difficult. Perhaps we can help ...**How the Carers' Support Scheme helps carers**One of the most urgent issues for carers of the
elderly and mentally ill is to have someone to listen to
them air their problems.For example, the Scheme visits an 81-year-old
lady. Her husband has Alzheimer's Disease and
consequently she suffers from immense stress. She
looks forward to regular visits from a volunteer, as
this allows her to off-load and discuss the various
problems which the caring situation creates.In many cases, but not all, the carers feel isolated
and welcome the opportunity of having a friend to
talk to.We understand that all carers needs are different,
therefore we cater for individual demands and offer a
variety of supporting roles;

- * to visit regularly and listen to carers' needs;
- * to ensure that carers and the cared for are
receiving advice and information, for example about
benefits and respite care;
- * to inform about carer support groups.

How you can help the Carers' Support SchemeCould you volunteer? The visiting scheme cannot
exist without volunteers - so **your** help is needed.
Volunteers support individual carers via home visits
and telephone calls. The volunteer visitors in this
scheme will bring 'a ray of sunshine' into the life of a
carer and your mere presence and listening ear will be
greatly appreciated.If this sounds like the sort of volunteer work you
could do, then read on ...**How long would I need to volunteer for?**

Ideally for one year, six months minimum.

How often would I need to visit?One or two hours, every week or fortnight. This
would be decided between carer and visitor. This
arrangement is very flexible and fits in with other
commitments.**What support will the volunteer receive?**A full preparation course will be provided, as will
social events with other volunteer visitors on the
scheme, and naturally, travel expenses will be
reimbursed.If you would like further information regarding the
Carers' Support Scheme (if you are either a carer or a
potential volunteer), then contact:Juliette Gosling (Manager), Carers' Support
Scheme, 15a New Road Avenue, Chatham,
ME4 6BA. Tel: 01634 840866.The office is usually staffed from 9.30am to 4pm
Monday to Friday. All other times an answer machine
will take your message and it will be dealt with
promptly on the next working day.**Rainham Amateur Theatrical Society
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Diary '99 cont'd.

October 2nd — Rainham WI. CRAFT FAIR at

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Rainham. 10.00 to 12.00. Handmade Crafts,
Cakes, Preserves, etc. Refreshments.

October 2nd — Annual Concert, Gillingham Male

Voice Choir with guests Bexley Music Centre

Wind Orchestra. 7.30pm. Brook Theatre, Chatham.

Tickets £5. Box Office 408965.

October 3rd — Medway Towns Footpath Group.

Meet 2.30pm. Borden Church, Sittingbourne.

October 5th — Medway Scrabble Club

(see 14th Sept).

October 5th — Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Chris

Butt — Team Rector. 8.00pm. Marlborough Unit,

Midstone Road, Rainham.

October 5th — Group for Speakers/learners of French

(see 14th Sept).

October 6th — Kent IVC Social and Leisure Club. For

professionals, graduates and like-minded people.

Club night at Black Lion pub, Mill Road,

Gillingham. For more information telephone

582742.

October 6th — National Childbirth Trust. Speakers

Corner 'Winter Containers'. 8.30pm. Details from

811111 or 843059.

October 6th — Friendship Circle. Slides. 2.15pm.

Parkwood Christian Fellowship.

October 7th — Upbury Manor Folk Dance Club
(see 9th Sept).

October 8th — Gillingham and Rainham Local History
Society. Medieval Merchants, Artisans & Men of
Business with overhead transparencies — Mrs Toni
Mount. 7.15pm. Adult Education Centre, Green
Street, Gillingham.

October 9th — Friends of St Margaret's CRAFT AND
COLLECTABLES FAIR 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. Admission
20p. Details telephone 01634 234208.

October 10th — Rainham Riverside Worship. Short

Family Service (C of E). 10.30am. Wakeley
School. All are welcome.

October 10th — Medway & District Group of

HF Holidays. Sunday morning stroll. Meet

10.30am. Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre,
outside BHS. Approx 2/3 miles.

October 10th — Medway Towns Footpath Group.

Meet 2.30pm. Brasted, West of Sevenoaks. New

territory. Meet near crossing. Walk to 'Toys Hill'.
No dogs.

October 11th — National Childbirth Trust. Speakers

Corner 'Aromatherapy'. 8.30pm. Details from

811118 or 843059.

RAINHAM UNDER THREAT

Following the article by Mr Freddie Cooper entitled
'Rainham' is under threat again! and at the risk of
wearing out the subject or being a complete and utter
bore I once again put pen to paper regarding this
subject. I feel that enough has been said about the
matter and that it is high time those of us who hold
the matter close to our hearts did something about it. I
am therefore prepared to start the battle chiefly with
the postal authorities whom I feel are the prime
culprits in trying to do away with Rainham by
stating that we are Gillingham. Anyone who feels
that they would like to be involved has only to fill in
the petition and return to me at the address below. I
also have some ideas to put to the post authorities
which I am sure would satisfy them and also the new
Medway unitary authority under which Rainham now

comes. However, before I can do this I need to have
the support of residents, young and old, business or
residential, if we are to get the authorities to listen to
our case. So return the petition to me so that I can
show the evidence regarding the strength of feeling of
the residents of Rainham. It may take some time to
achieve because all companies with a postal code
data base on their computers will have ME8 listed as
Gillingham. This is the principal cause of the
problem and until we can persuade the postal
authorities to issue a correction to this data base
anyone living in Rainham is going to be addressed as
Gillingham. Furthermore, Gillingham is no longer an
administrative council so why is Rainham still a part
of Gillingham? when we all come under Medway
Council. I rest my case!

Peter Weller

I/We (Name)

(Address)

.....

.....Rainham. ME8

wish to register my/our concern over the fact that
Rainham continues to be considered as a part of
Gillingham even though we are now under the
unitary authority of Medway. Rainham has a very
large population and as such deserves to have its
identity preserved.

Signed

Please detach and send to: P.C. Weller, 32 Sandown Drive, Rainham, Kent. ME8 9DU.

Small Ads

Published: October 2nd
Copy date: September 17th
Price: £1.50 per line
Average 4 words to a line

Please contact H. Mackay Miller,
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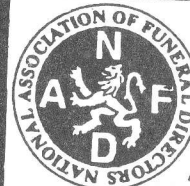
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