

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

AUGUST 2001

NUMBER 359



Cozenton Farm after the renovations made in the late 1950s. Following Freddie Cooper's memories of the farm when he was a child, published a couple of years ago, this month we begin a series of more recent recollections from Colin Clifford of life at the farm in the 1960s.

Robert J. Kitney

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Next Issue: SEPTEMBER 1st
Copy Date: Aug 14th Sm Ads Aug 17th
Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Editorial

It is good to see walks listed again in our Diary pages; although the foot and mouth crisis is far from over at least we now have a more reasonable approach and footpaths that pose no danger to farm animals can be used. It is, of course, up to each one of us to be responsible and if there is the slightest risk that the infection could have been picked up then do the sensible thing and avoid walking near any other farm land for a good few weeks. However, the relaxation of restrictions does mean we can all enjoy what is left of the summer by taking walks in the countryside. One comment that has been made is that most of the walks commence a fair distance from Rainham and if you like to walk but do not drive they are almost impossible to reach. Perhaps regular participants would be willing to give lifts, all that is needed is a contact phone number beside each walk of someone who intends to go and has spare seats available. Petrol costs could be shared and parking difficulties relieved if enough walkers took part. Alternatively walkers without transport could begin their own programme of rambles all starting very locally. We are fortunate that we have a good variety of routes available. If you are interested write to Action Forum and you may soon have your own group of friends to accompany on walks.

August is traditionally the holiday period, so many societies and clubs have a month off but they are already committed to next year's programme so a sudden bulge appears in the diary as soon as term starts in September. All those mentioned in Action Forum welcome new members, we try to print a contact number for each group so you can find out more if you are interested, but if that is not available you would be very welcome to turn up at a meeting to find out more. Recently we have been given diary dates for the Medway Geographical Society who meet on the fourth Friday each month at the Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham; this I must admit is a new one to me but I am sure new faces would be welcome.

Enrolment also continues for Adult Education classes, now is the time to study the prospectus and decide which courses you would like to take next year. Remember some classes qualify for the Adult Learning Supplement so it may not cost as much as it

first appears; staff at the centres will be able to tell you more.

Whether you are going away or staying at home do have a very good month and we will see you again in September.

Correspondence

GILLINGHAM RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY
Dear Editor,

As from September we have changed the venue for our meetings to St Augustine's Church Room at the top of Rock Avenue, Gillingham. The meetings will continue to be at the same times, 7.15 to 9.15pm on alternate Friday evenings.

Listen to the recorded music of great composers and their masterworks on high quality equipment in comfortable surroundings. Whether you are a confirmed listener to classical music or just like listening you will be very welcome. We are a small friendly society and of course would welcome new members. Why not come along and join us, there is free parking. If you would like to know more about our group or would like a programme, please contact either myself on 852905 or Bill Davidson on 576691.

Yours sincerely
J.E. Stewart (Secretary)

GARDEN AFTERNOON
Dear Editor,

The Garden Afternoon in aid of the Cancer Caring Fund, held on June 8th at 53 Lakewood Drive, raised £574 on the day. I would like to thank all my friends for their help on the day and over the years, also all the people who have supported this charity. We have received a very generous donation of £450 making our grand total £1,024. This is our 'final fling' so we certainly went out with a bang.

Although this was the last Garden Party at Lakewood Drive I am pleased to say the charity will still be continuing at another address so I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thanking you
Mabel Crocker

MEDWAY EVACUEES
Dear Editor,

The next meeting of the Medway Evacuees Reunion Group will be Wednesday September 12th, 1.00-4.00pm, at Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. We welcome any interested visitors, more information about the group may be obtained from myself on 01634 814922. If you were evacuated during the Second World War and would like to meet with others who shared your experiences do get in touch.

Yours sincerely
Jean Simmons
(Secretary)

THE LORD STANLEY

Dear Editor,

In 1928 I moved with my family from Meresborough to the Otterham area. I am able to confirm that The Lord Stanley was a general shop selling sweets and vegetables but by that time no longer sold beer or spirits. It was owned by Mr Barnes and family and was on the bottom right hand side going up Windmill Hill and was, I would think, just in Upchurch parish. In my youth, before joining the Royal Navy, I often biked to that store. I would like to finish by sending best wishes to my contemporary Freddie Cooper and say how much I enjoy his articles and the rest of Action Forum which is sent to me by my daughter.

Yours faithfully
Harry Howting
c/o 9 Bathleaze
Kings Stanley
Stonehouse
Glos. GL10 3JN

LOCAL POTTER

Dear Editor,

I have just completed my BA (Hons) Ceramics at the Kent Institute of Art and Design. Now the really hard part is upon us - making our way in the real world!

I have two requests which I would like to make through the pages of your magazine.

Along with a couple of friends I am now looking for suitable premises in the Rainham, Gillingham area where we can work and hopefully become established in time. We are also looking for any second hand pottery equipment, kilns, wheel, etc. that might be sitting quietly in someone's shed or garage and that we can put to good use.

The second request is regarding the history of the now defunct Rainham and Upchurch Potteries. Does anyone know where they were located or where the descendants of the potters went to? I know one of them was a Mr Edward Baker and would love to know more.

Please contact me at the address below.

Best wishes
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ATTENTION ALL WIGMORE RESIDENTS

Although Wigmore Community & Residents Association has been formed for a number of years there is just a chance that some residents may not have heard of us.

Our aim is to do all we can to ensure that Wigmore continues to be a safe and pleasant place in which to live.

We take up issues with the local authority and with our elected representatives which are of concern to the membership and relevant to the Wigmore area.

Membership is open to all residents of Wigmore and we are always ready to welcome new members. Membership per household is a bargain at only £1 per year, £5 for 5 years.

PLEASE JOIN US

We need your support - you don't know when you might need ours.

To join contact John on 361975.

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Diary 2001

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
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Diary Copy Date: 16th August 2001

- August 4th – Royal Star and Garter Home Military Tattoo, Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Ring 234973 for details.
- August 5th – Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet 2.00pm Charing. 6.5 miles. Dogs on leads.
- August 7th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. Floral Art Group. Evening out to visit a Garden.
- August 8th – Bredhurst WI. Mrs Pat Jeffrey: Herbs for Health. Competition: An Item in Tin. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- August 8th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent) Outing.
- August 8th – Medway Camcorder Club, Medway Yacht Club, Borstal. 7.30pm. Titles and how to create them, ring 371570 for details.
- August 12th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. Solar Observing at Riverside Country Park. Telescopes will be set up (weather permitting) for safe observing of the Sun. 11.00am to 5.00pm.
- August 12th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm Snodland Village Car Park. 6 miles. NO dogs.
- August 13th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Off Loom Weaving. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- August 13th – Countryside Event Evening Bird Cruise. Tickets £12 book & pay in advance. Ring 378987.
- August 14th – Medway Scrabble Club. 2.00 to 4.30pm. Riverside Indoor Bowls Complex, Chatham.
- August 14th – Medway Antiques and Collectors Club. 7.30 for 8.00pm. Gordon Hotel, High Street, Rochester. Treasures of the India Office Library – Mrs M. Poulter.

- August 14th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. An amusing and informative talk on growing Geraniums and Pelargoniums by Derek James from the Vernan Geranium Nursery at Cheam. 7.30pm, The Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham.
- August 14th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. The Red Cross (Gillingham Centre), 31 Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 8.00 to 10.00pm. Ring 862673 for details.
- August 15th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Trevor Teath. Talk: 'Design and Planting Concept' FUCHSIA SHOW. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- August 15th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Competition: Unusual Shoe Horn. 1.45 to 4.15pm. Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- August 15th – Rochester & West Kent Art Society. Barbecue at 628 Lower Rainham Road. 7.00pm. Cost £2. Bring your own drinks. Please let Pat Maynard-Smith on 01634 233053 know beforehand.
- August 16th – Rainham WI. Speaker Mrs G. Wakefield. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Corner of Wakeley/Station Road, Rainham.
- August 18th – Quiz Night, 8.00pm start. Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close, adjacent to Rainham Station. Ring 374558 for details.
- August 19th – Medway Towns Footpath Group meet 2.00pm Kingswood Village Hall. 7.5 miles. Dogs on leads.
- August 20th – Rainham Evening WI. Letter 'H'. 'The Fuchsia as a Pot Plant' – Jack Fiddick, Gillingham HS. 7.30pm. Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
- August 22nd – Medway Camcorder Club. 5min Competition (see 8th Aug).
- August 25th – Countryside Event, Capstone Green Craft Day. 10.30am to 4.00pm. Adults £1, Children 50p. Ring 812196 for details.
- August 26th – Medway Towns Footpath Group meet 2.00pm Borstal Recreation Ground, Manor Lane. 5 miles. Dogs on leads.
- August 28th – Medway Scrabble Club (see 14th Aug).
- August 28th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 14th Aug).

- August 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st – Wigmore Evangelical Freechurch, Durham Road, are holding every morning from 10.00 to 12.00 a holiday Bible Club. All children are welcome, aged 5 to 11 years. For more information contact Rev. T.J. Wood on Medway 388187.
- August 30th – Rainham & District Dolls House & Miniaturist Group. 7.30pm, Oast House, Granary Close, Station Road, Rainham. For further information telephone Sylvia Wildridge 312038.
- August 31st – Countryside Event, Creatures of the Night Walk. 8.00 to 10.00pm, Capstone Farm Park. Ring 812196 to book.
- September 1st – The National Childbirth Trust. 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Nearly New Sale at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, Gillingham. Admission 30p. Sale of babies/children's toys, clothes & equipment and maternity items. Refreshments available. Further information telephone 07950 939898 or visit website at www.nctmedway.org.uk
- September 1st – Coffee Morning at Papillon, 7 Houghton Avenue, Hempstead. 10.30am. Inner Wheel Club in aid of charity, do come along with a friend, all welcome.
- September 1st – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society will be holding their annual Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show at Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 2.00 to 4.00pm. Admission Free.
- September 2nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group meet 10.00am Linton Church car park. 6 miles. Dogs on leads.
- September 4th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. Floral Art Group. All Tied Up – an evening to practice weaving, plaiting, etc. 7.30pm, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.
- September 4th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. A Coffee Morning to be held 10.30am to 12.00 noon at 86 Lyndhurst Avenue, Wigmore. All proceeds to the Air Ambulance Fund.
- September 4th – Medway Towns Footpath Group meet 7.00pm, Mote Park car park (via Mote Avenue). 5 miles. Dogs on leads.
- September 5th – Friendship Circle. Christian Fellowship. 2.15pm. Telephone 365758 for further information.

- September 5th – Medway Camcorder Club. 'Make 'em Laugh' (see 8th Aug).
- September 6th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Chelsea Pensioners – Talk by Joy Wittington. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- September 6th – Countryside Event Talk. 7.30pm, Capstone Farm Country Park. 'Traditional Coppice Crafts'. Ring 812196 to book.
- September 6th-8th – Medway Adult Education Information Stand, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre.
- September 8th – Bredhurst Garden Club (see 15th Aug).
- September 9th – Countryside Event. History Walk, 10.00 to 12.00 noon, Capstone Farm Country Park. Ring 812196 to book.
- September 9th – Medway Towns Footpath Group meet 2.00pm Doddington Chequers – park in road not pub car park. 6 miles. NO dogs.
- September 10th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Making Silk & Other Paper – demonstration by Claudie Tingley (see 13th Aug).
- September 11th – Medway Scrabble Club (see 14th Aug).
- September 11th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Fuchsia 'Chit Chat' talk by George Bartlett, Vice President of the British Fuchsia Society.
- September 11th – Rainham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Games of your Choice. 2.00pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham.
- September 11th – Medway Antiques and Collectors Club. Hop pickers, hovels, huts & houses. Mr Robin Walton, 7.30 for 8.00pm (see 14th Aug).
- September 11th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 14th Aug).
- September 11th – Medway Adult Education guidance evening, 6.30 to 8.00pm, Rainham. Ring 850235 for details.


Continued on page 13

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Correspondence

HARVEST TEA

Dear Editor,

On Sunday 30th September The Lions Club of Gillingham and their partners are arranging a Harvest Tea, in the Millennium Centre (behind the church), Rainham.

We would like to invite Senior Citizens of the area to join us for tea and entertainment. FREE tickets are available by post from Mrs F. Holton, 23 Church Mews, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8LB, by telephoning Med. 387095 or Med. 387991 (Mrs M. Banks) or from The Age Concern Centre, 131-133 High Street, Rainham.

Transport can be arranged and we would particularly like to see people who live alone or don't have the opportunity to get out too often. Please encourage family, friends and neighbours to attend.

Arrival time is 3.30pm for 4pm and we hope many of you will take the opportunity to enjoy this afternoon and perhaps visit the new Millennium Centre for the first time. Come and see the view!

Yours sincerely
Felicity M. Holton (Mrs)
on behalf of
Gillingham Lions Club

ADULT EDUCATION

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the comments in your Editorial in the July edition concerning the delivery of the adult and community learning service directories.

As you are aware, our directory is delivered 'door to door' to give the best access to all Medway residents to the learning opportunities available. It is very difficult to find an alternative reliable company to carry out these deliveries and consequently we use Royal Mail. As we have discovered, this service needs to be booked years in advance to have any chance of obtaining acceptable dates because Royal Mail will only take a finite number of deliveries per week and the large companies book the slots nationally.

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The date for the start of 2001/2 enrolment was fixed around the Royal Mail, with all deliveries having been completed by Saturday 30th June. I welcome people to contact me if this was not the case.

Can I remind the readers of Action Forum that enrolment continues all year round and that classes start and end at various times. There is still plenty of time to enrol for courses commencing in September, although the more popular courses do tend to fill more quickly. You can obtain information and enrol for courses throughout the summer by telephoning 01634 850235.

I draw readers' attention to the information, advice and guidance sessions in the area in September:

Monday 10th September 6.30-8.00pm at Chatham

Grammar School for Girls

Tuesday 11th September 6.30-8.00pm at Rainham

Mark Grammar School

Thursday 13th September 6.30-8.00pm at Rainham

Mark Grammar School

Saturday 15th September 10.00am to 1.00pm at

Gillingham, Green Street

Yours sincerely
Marilyn Elfrod

COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES

Medway Council organise a variety of events for all ages and interests. From walks and talks to craft days and country fairs, from adult study days and pruning sessions to children's activities. These are listed in the diary.

A good place to discover more about countryside and other green activities is at one of Medway's two country parks.

Capstone Farm Country Park has 280 acres of countryside including ancient woodlands, meadows and orchards. Facilities include a visitor centre, café and camping field available to organised groups. For more information on Capstone's facilities telephone 01634 812196.

Riverside Country Park is situated on the Medway Estuary and its habitats include saltmarsh, reedbeds, ponds and meadows. Facilities include a visitor centre and café. For more information telephone 01634 378987.



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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

Richard Mabey, writing in his book 'Flora Britannica', states that churchyards are, in many parishes, the last refuge of flowers such as meadow saxifrage, green winged orchid and hoary plantain. The latter species can be found in our own St Margaret's churchyard but the other two cannot. The predominant wild flower in the churchyard in July was the dog (or ox-eye) daisy, although other flowers such as evergreen alkanet (which has small, bright blue petals), toadflax and creeping cinquefoil were also in bloom.

Richard Mabey also notes that churchyard walls and tombstones are frequently colonised by lichens, ferns, mosses and other small plants. A bright orange lichen (Xanthoria) can be seen on a number of gravestones in St Margaret's churchyard and small ferns such as maidenhead spleenwort and black spleenwort grow in the churchyard walls. The stone chippings which have been spread between the kerbstones of a number of graves have proved an ideal habitat for reflexed stonewort and biting stonewort. Both have small, star-like yellow flowers which are in bloom in July.

Many pear and cherry trees were lost when the orchard to the south of the church was developed. More trees will be lost (including a cherry plum which flowers in early spring) when the Cricketers car park is extended towards the new Millennium Hall. As some compensation, many native trees and shrubs have been planted in the strip of land between the churchyard wall and the new houses. They include beech, rowan, field maple, cherry, blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam, dogwood, holly and privet.

A number of churchyards in Kent have been designated Sites of Nature Conservation by Kent Wildlife Trust. St Margaret's churchyard is, I think, too extensively mowed to attract any accolade from the Trust. But the churchyard has two features which, for me, make it very special. The first is its ancient yew which is almost certainly older than the church

building itself. It would have been well established when, for example, Chaucer passed by on his way to Canterbury in 1370. A few months ago two of the lower branches of the yew dropped to the ground although both retained some connection with the trunk. It is now clear, however, that one of the branches has died although the other appears to be alive and well. Fortunately, yew trees are remarkably resilient, despite the internal decay to which they eventually become prone, and can live for a thousand years and more.

The second feature which makes St Margaret's so special is the colony of swifts which nest under the eaves of the church. For most of July the parent birds will be feeding their young but in about the fourth week the young will leave their nests and thereafter look after themselves. Those birds which are brooding their young will spend their nights in their nesting spaces. Those swifts which are not breeding, mainly those which are only a year old, sleep in the air. At dusk they begin to circle higher and higher until they disappear from sight. They remain aloft until sunrise, catnapping on any currents of rising air between short spells of flapping to regain height.

Swifts were traditionally called 'devil birds' because of the way they shatter the peace and quiet of the Sabbath Day by their screeching. Derwent May, the nature correspondent of The Times, claims that those parties of swifts which spend their summer evenings speeding and screaming over the rooftops are made up of male birds showing off to the females. I am not sure whether he can prove his theory but it sounds convincing to me!

Joe Ennis

MEMORIES OF THE FINAL YEARS OF COZENTON FARM, 1963 to 1966

I read with interest Freddie Cooper's memories of Cozenton Farm (May to September 1999). I had thought that all traces of it had long been expunged from our local history.

It is a place that holds very special memories for me, as I too spent formative years there. Aged from eight to eleven I could be found in this magical place roaming through its forests of fruit trees, across its endless plains of grass, encountering the huge woolly

beasts that lived there before retreating to one of the many flint built ramparts to survey my kingdom.

After a refreshing Victoria plum I might hop into one of the many vehicles dotted around the place and become a tractor driver or a lorry driver or anything else that my imagination could create. After a few Worcester apples picked fresh from the tree it was off to explore the dark recesses of the farm buildings never knowing what I might encounter. To have your own private piece of countryside is an idyllic way to spend a childhood.

Personally I did not arrive in Rainham until the age of seven, having been born in foreign parts on the other side of the River Medway in North Kent. We moved to Twydale in 1963; I will always remember that winter when the snow was up to the window ledges.

Cyril Stephens, the last to farm the property (letter Oct 2000), lived a few doors away and I became a friend of his son; who was understandably popular, with a constant queue of small boys wanting to visit his farm.

Unlike the others I took to the country life and have stayed friends with Cyril Stephens and his brother Ken for the past thirty-five years. Ken unfortunately moved on to the great farmyard in the sky in June 2000.

Brothers Cyril and Ken Stephens began renting the farm from Mrs Richardson in 1958 and there is an interesting article in the East Kent Gazette of December 11th 1959 detailing their fight to save the land from the developers. I note with interest that such news was reported in the Sittingbourne local paper, not in similar Medway-based publications, which shows that thirty years after Rainham was devolved to Gillingham there was a greater interest in our affairs in the countryside around Sittingbourne than in the increasingly urban Medway Towns.

The article gives an interesting insight into 'Cozenten', as they spell it:

'... When the brothers first came to the 21 acre smallholding half of it was overgrown fruit plantation and the rest was rough grassland ...'

'... The farmhouse itself was deep in the undergrowth and sadly in need of repair ...'

'... They started near the house and worked

outwards, grubbing, burning, ploughing and planting potatoes and other market garden crops ...'

'... When they are finished only two acres of the original fruit, Napoleon and Black Eagle cherries will remain ...'

This would indicate that post war the farm went into a serious decline.

This period is better covered by Freddie Cooper's previous articles but it is interesting to note how people's lives were interwoven within a small village community.

Cyril Stephens worked at R.G. Hodge's garage at Rainham Mark; a large brick built building with a green roller shutter door as I recall. It stood on the site now occupied by the modern petrol station.

One of Cyril's duties was to act as driver for Mr Hodge's father-in-law who by coincidence was Mr Richardson of Cozenton Farm.

As petrol was rationed and farmers had a higher allowance Cyril would drive to Cozenton where Mr Richardson would supply just enough fuel for his required journey and not a drop more. It must be remembered that petrol rationing did not end until May 1950. This introduced Cyril to the farming world and sparked an interest that would result in he and his brother being the last custodians of Cozenton Farm.

To be continued Colin Clifford, 01634 360435

CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS

NATURE DAYS (£1 per child, under 8 must be accompanied).

Riverside Country Park, Mondays July 30th, August 6th, 13th & 20th. 10.30 to 12.00 noon and 1.30 to 3.00pm. Ring 378987 to book.

Capstone Park, Tuesdays August 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th. 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Capstone Park, Thursdays August 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th. 10.00am to 12 noon. Ring 812196 to book.

FISHING TEACH-IN (£5 per child, 8 to 16 years). Capstone Park, Wednesdays August 1st, 15th & 29th. 10.00am to 3.00pm. Ring 812196 to book.

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MEMORIES OF RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

Like my six brothers I was born in Rainham and so I am always interested and make a point of visiting once a month to collect Action Forum. Over the last few months there have been some particularly interesting articles that have brought back many memories.

Mr Edwin Jelly, whose shop was pictured on the front of the April 2001 edition, I remember very well. As I was passing his shop one day he called me: 'Oi you' he shouted — which I ignored, so he had another go: 'Kitney boy', so I turned. He had a message for my mother, he had some good boys' suits and would she like one for my 10-year-old brother. I relayed the message and Mother was interested so I had to return to the shop where I collected a parcel containing three suits for my brother to try; all three suits appeared similar, jackets and short trousers, but each with a different price tag. Mother decided on the cheapest and I returned to the shop with the unwanted ones and the money. On another occasion, Queenie Moor went hurtling round the top of Pudding Road on her bike and smashed into the shop window.

Ma Barrett at the Council School Canteen revived many memories. I can picture her now banging on the bench with her huge ladle and booming 'QUIET' in her loudest voice and then very sweetly saying 'Now say your grace my dears'. It always gave me a smile.

During the war years I was at Orchard Street Boys' School, Mr Smith was Headmaster. He patrolled the school carrying a large cane and was not afraid to use it. Two female teachers I remember. Miss Woodward stood no nonsense, but the other was a little lady who dressed in a long tweed costume and wore a pince-nez, she was not used to handling boys and frequently fled the class in tears.

Finally, with my brother Dick, I was evacuated to Brynna in South Wales and remember a school photo taken of all the Rainham evacuees being on display in a glass case at the side of Mrs Cheesemans Boot &

Shoe Shop. I would love to have a copy if anyone still has the picture.

Yours faithfully,
Doug Kitney
32 Pennant Road
Rochester ME1 2XS

THE RAINHAM & WIGMORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Activities at the Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham. These activities take place every week, individual events are listed in the Diary.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Sunday | Oast 'Ouse 'Oppers Morris Dancing, 12 to 2pm, contact Mrs Lynn Cass 370327. |
| Monday | RWCA Bridge Club, 7.30 to 11pm, contact Audrey Clarke 230370. |
| Tuesday | Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Club, 10 to 12 noon.
A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm, contact 01622 717394.
Badminton, 7 to 11pm, contact Laraine 373833. |
| Wednesday | Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Club, 10 to 12 noon.
A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm, contact 01622 717394.
RWCA Whist Club, 7.30 to 11pm, contact Mrs K. Naylor. |
| Thursday | Kentara Line Dancing, 1.30 to 4pm, contact Mr J.F. Smith 372288.
Weightwatchers, 5.30 to 8pm.
Rainham Chess Club, 7.30 to 11pm, contact Tom Stonehouse 231374.
Dreamcatchers Line Dancing, 8 to 11pm, contact 300026. |
| Friday | A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm, contact 01622 717394. |

Exhibitions

For information on forthcoming exhibitions at Medway's Country Parks please telephone Riverside Country Park on 01634 378987 or Capstone Farm Country Park on 01634 812196, or look out for details in the local press.

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Diary 2001

September 12th – Bredhurst WI. Mr Peter Curd:
Bonsai. Competition: An Item in China.
September 12th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent).
Demonstration: Tony Cleaver 'Home and Away'.
7.30 to 9.30pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre,
Rainham.
September 12th – Countryside Event. Cliffe Walk.
10.00am to 12 noon. Ring 378987 to book.
September 12th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group.
1.00 to 4.00pm, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green,
Dock Road. All welcome, ring 814922 for details.
September 13th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Kent
Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Gardening
(see 6th Sept).
September 13th – Medway Adult Education guidance
evening (see 11th Sept).
September 15th – Gillingham Horticultural Society.
Floral Art Group. AUTUMN SHOW. 2.30 to
4.30pm, United Reformed Church. Admission
Free. Sales Tables, Teas and Home-made
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For further information telephone 01634 234734.
September 15th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society.
25th Anniversary Event. Temple School, Strood.
For further details telephone Amanda Peters,
01634 308035.

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September 15th – Medway Adult Education guidance
day, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Ring 850235 for details.
September 15th – Countryside Event. Pruning for the
novice, Kings Frith playing field, 10.00am to
1.00pm. Ring 812196 to book.
September 15th – Rainham & Wigmore Community
Association. QUIZ NIGHT. 8.00pm, Oasthouse
Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham.
Ring 374558 for details.
September 16th – Medway Towns Footpath Group
meet 10.30am Teston Bridge Picnic Site. 5.5 miles.
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September 16th – Countryside Event. Beginners trees
guided walk, 10am to 12 noon at South Wood.
Ring 812196 to book.
September 19th – Medway Camcorder Club. What is
a Foley Editor? (see 8th Aug).
September 21st – Gillingham Recorded Music
Society. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church
Room. Concert to be arranged by Ken Purton.
Ring 852905 for details.
September 26th – Countryside Event. Early autumn
bird cruise, from Gillingham Pier. £17, book and
pay in advance 378987.
September 28th – Medway Geographical Society.
7.30 to 9.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Green
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