

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

OCTOBER 2001
NUMBER 361



An aerial view of the railway station area of Rainham taken on 28th May 1930. A slide show of 'Rainham Then & Now' is to be given by Joe Ennis in St Margaret's Church on Wednesday 31st October at 7.30pm. £3.00 Admission for the Church Roof Fund.

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Next Issue: NOVEMBER 3rd
Copy Date: Oct 16th Sm Ads Oct 19th
Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Editorial

If, after watching one of the TV Chefs, you think 'I could make up recipes as good as that' now is your chance! A selection of your favourite dishes is to be published to help raise money for the Roof Repair Fund of St Margaret's Church. Simply submit your (carefully tested) recipe for approval to The Friends of St Margaret's Church, c/o 21 Wheatcroft Grove, and they will have a wonderful time selecting the best for publication. The resulting booklet will be on sale later in the year. St Matthew's Church, Wigmore, are to be congratulated, having reached half way target in their Roof Repair and Renew Appeal but of course fund raising continues for the next £300,000 needed. Action Forum is contributing to both these appeals and the Kajiado Project by donating the money saved on distribution costs by our volunteer workforce. If you could volunteer to help with some door to door distribution we would love to hear from you (ring 231307 or 371591 to volunteer).

Sadly our farming neighbours are still restricted by the threat of Foot & Mouth but Joe Ennis writes this month of his visit to a Kent farm. To find a farm with such a mixture as he describes is quite a rarity nowadays. Last year a local farmer told me in the course of conversation that there are now no hop gardens in the whole of Medway. As tastes change and fewer hops are needed for beer it has become uneconomic to grow the small acreage required and so farmers have diversified often to non agricultural use of the land like boot fairs, caravan parks or horse livery. Future generations will be puzzled as to how Kent acquired the name the 'Garden of England' when we no longer have the orchards with spring blossom and autumn fruit or hop gardens to admire.

Craft Fairs and Autumn Sales are definitely on the agenda this month, several are timed to help you plan your Christmas shopping, the idea always sounds good to avoid the last minute crowds in the shops but it does depend on being organised enough to remember what you have bought. Practice makes perfect, so I am told, so do go along to see what is on offer and help the various fund raising activities at the same time.

If you attended Rainham School for Girls in the 1940s and remember Wendy Green, she now lives in America but would love to hear from old acquaintances, do read further to find out more.

Autumn seems to have come early this year but we can still hope for an Indian summer before the winter really sets in. Until we see you again in November, have a very good month.

Correspondence

ST MATTHEW'S ROOF & RENEW APPEAL – FOREIGN COINS

Dear Editor,

Your readers may be aware that coins and notes of those countries in the Euro go out of circulation by the end of February 2002. We have made arrangements to change odd amounts of currency in aid of our Appeal, and would be grateful for any donations of your coins and notes.

Coins can be delivered to me up to the end of this year. Please telephone if you cannot deliver and we will try to arrange collection. We are also able to take old English coins which are now out of circulation.

My thanks to Action Forum and its readers for their ongoing support of the Appeal.

Yours sincerely
Peter Hagger
Secretary of
Appeal Committee
61 Edwin Road
Rainham
01634 235056

RAINHAM THEN & NOW

Dear Editor,

Your readers are invited to a slide show 'Rainham Then & Now' to be given in St Margaret's Church, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31st October. The show includes aerial photographs taken in 1925, 1930 and 1968 and views from the church tower taken in 1970 and 2001.

The show is in aid of the Church Roof Appeal and admission is £3. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards.

Yours faithfully
Joe Ennis

HARVEST TEA TWO

Dear Editor,

Thanks to the publicity given in Action Forum and other venues, The Lions Club of Gillingham, Harvest Tea, for Senior Citizens, planned for 30th September, received an overwhelming response.

Because of this another 'Harvest Tea Two' has been planned for SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER, where priority will be given to those people who were unable to get tickets for our original event.

Additional Senior Citizens of the area are invited 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 Medway 387095 or Medway 387991 (Mrs M. Banks) or from The Age

Concern Centre, 131-133 High Street, Rainham.

Transport can be arranged and again we would particularly like to see people who live alone or don't have the opportunity to get out too often.

Arrival time at the Millennium Centre, Rainham, is 3.30pm for 4.00pm.

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

WIGMORE MADS

Dear Editor,

On OCTOBER 25th, 26th, 27th Wigmore MADS and friends present 'THE ROSES OF EYAM' by Don Taylor in St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, at 8.00pm.

This is the true and remarkable story of a Derbyshire village stricken with the plague in the 17th century. The play graphically portrays the controversy and conflict between the two rectors and the divisions between Royalist and Puritan supporters in the village.

Tickets £5, £4 concessions, children free, available from Sue Burrows – Medway 370639.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Sue Burrows

ST MARGARET'S MILLENNIUM CENTRE

Dear Editor,

There will be an Open Day at the new St Margaret's Millennium Centre on Saturday 3rd November from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

The Centre has excellent facilities and is available during the week for seminars, business meetings, clubs, etc. The Centre has two halls ideal for family celebrations, and rooms perfect for smaller group meetings.

So take this opportunity on November 3rd to see for yourselves what the Centre has to offer. Refreshments will be available and committee members on hand to answer questions and take bookings.

Entrance to the Centre is through the churchyard and up the slope. Car parking is available in the Cricketers car park.

Yours sincerely
Jan Lawrance

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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Dear Editor,

We shall be holding our GRAND ANNUAL BAZAAR on Saturday October 27th in the new Millennium Centre at St Margaret's, 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Have your first cup of coffee at 9.30am, look around the stalls and see what a splendid building Rainham now has. Of course you'll want to stay and chat and enjoy a Ploughman's Lunch, then why not stay on to find out if you've won one of the great prizes in our GRAND DRAW!

The proceeds from this popular event each year go towards the upkeep of your special Parish Church (particular problems this year, as the scaffolding indicates!). Ten percent is always sent to a deserving cause.

Do drop in and join us, we would love to see you there.

Margaret Meinertzhagen
01795 475907

URGENT LOCAL NEED

Dear Editor,

I wonder if there is a UKCC Registered Nurse reading this, with an interest in older people, and having a car and a few hours to spare?

I am a domiciliary Footcare Nurse for Age Concern in Gillingham and I love my job, but I need another pair of hands to cope with the rising number of pensioners who require regular toenail cutting.

As a self-employed person, you would be able to arrange hours to suit your own convenience. A free two-day training by a chiropodist has already been arranged for early October, backed up by occasional ongoing Study Days. Some start-up equipment is provided, plus indemnity insurance by Age Concern. The clients themselves pay for your services, and their heartfelt thanks provide great job-satisfaction!

If you are even *slightly* interested, do 'phone Cynthia Spicer, Chief Officer at Age Concern, the Mackenney Centre, Woodlands Road, as soon as possible. Tel: 01634 572616.

We look forward to your call.

Heather Jobson
Hempstead

Abbeyfield

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Contact: Mrs Pam Harrington—

01634 262266

KCC Registered

Diary 2001

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

No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 16th October 2001

October 6th – 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group will be holding a JUMBLE SALE at the Scout Hut in Berengrave Lane from 10.00am to 2.00pm to raise much-needed funds for the Group.

October 6th – Medway Folk Dance Club. United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.30 to 10.00pm. Callers Bob/Mike. Contact Hazel on 01634 366189 for more information.

October 6th – St Margaret's Church Craft Fair, 10 to 12 noon, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Admission 25p.

October 7th – World Birdwatch. Riverside Country Park. 10.00 to 4.00pm.

October 8th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers Association. Spinning. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.

October 8th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club meet 2.00 to 4.00pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore. We mostly play bingo, have a raffle, tea and biscuits. People over the age of 50 are welcome and transport can sometimes be arranged. Ring 362662 for details.

October 8th – Medway Organ Club. Artist Simon Smith. 7.30pm Parkwood Community Centre. Admission £3.00. Contact telephone number 01474 812466.

October 8th (and each Monday) – Medway and District Caledonian Society Scottish Country Dancing, Upchurch Village Hall, 1.30 to 3.30pm. £1.

October 9th – Medway Scrabble Club. 2.00 to 4.00pm. Riverside Indoor Bowls Complex, Chatham.

October 9th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Talk on 'The Winds of Change' by Bob Ogley. Remembering the effects of the hurricane. 7.30pm, The Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham.

October 9th – Rainham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Mrs Clancy: Decoupage. Guild Bazaar. 2.00pm at St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham.

October 9th – Medway Antiques and Collectors Club. Talk by Mr Cyril Baldwin, Club President, on Brandy, Baccy and 100 years of smuggling. 7.30 for 8.00pm, Gordon Hotel, High Street, Rochester. Guests (£2.50) welcome. Telephone 366586, 851512 or 852905 for information.

October 9th – Medway Jazz Society. Remembering Eddie O'Neil with Duncan Larmont and many of Eddie's friends. 8.30pm. Jolly Knight, High Street, Rochester.

October 10th – Bredhurst WI Annual Meeting. Silent Auction & General Natter. Competition: An Item in Bronze. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

October 10th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent) Workshop. 7.30 to 9.30pm. Upchurch Village Hall.

October 11th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Ashley David – Kent Tourism – Medway, Me and Tourism. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.

October 11th – Colourstrings Kindermusik. Babies (up to 18 months) 12.45-1.20pm. (Children 18 months-3 years) 1.30-2.10pm. 3.10-3.50pm. Children (3-4 years) 2.20-3.00pm. School age children (4-6 years) 4.00-4.40pm. St Paul's Church Hall, Parkwood. For information telephone 01435 872086.

October 12th – Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link (with slides). Mr Jeff Waller, Community Relations Co-ordinator. 7.15pm. Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.

October 12th – Musical Playtime. 8 months to 3 years. £2.50 session. 1.15pm, Hempstead Village Hall. For further information telephone 01622 630423.

October 12th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. Annual General Meeting. 8.00pm, Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, nr Gillingham. All welcome. Contact no. 01634 308035 evenings and Wednesday mornings only.

October 13th – GRAND AUCTION. St Margaret's Junior School PTA. Viewing 11.00am. Sale starts 12 noon. To submit lots for sale ring the school on 01634 230998 or call John Viner on 07712 577285. (Entry forms available from the school office). Lots accepted for sale at 15% commission (minimum 50p). No buyers premium.

October 14th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm Linton Church car park. 5 miles. Dogs on leads. Ring 01622 843463 for details.

October 14th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 11 miles. Meet at cycle path in Southpark Wood. Picnic lunch mid-way. Pub stop at end in Penshurst.

October 15th – Rainham Evening WI. Letter 'J'. AGM. 7.30pm Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.

October 15th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club. Autumn Bazaar (see 8th Oct).

October 16th – Gillingham Horticultural Society. Floral Art Group. AGM and Planning of 2002. 7.30pm. United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. For further information telephone 01634 234734.

October 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Stephen Nye. Illustrated Talk 'Guildhall Museum'. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

October 17th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Sailing Barges – Tony Farnham. Competition: Funny Animal Photo. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.

October 18th – Rainham WI. Speaker: Mr J.D. March – Story of English Country Cheese. 1.45pm. Methodist Church Hall, Corner of Wakeley/Station Road, Rainham.

October 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club. SOS Children's Village – Talk by Mrs Shandley (see 11th Oct).

October 18th – Ramblers Association. 8.00pm. Your Autumn Buffet and Annual General Meeting.

October 18th – Colourstrings Kindermusik

October 18th – Tales from the Mariners – The Three Mariners, Lower Rainham Road, Mary Medlicott. 7.30pm. Admission £4 (cons £2).

October 18th to 20th – Medway Little Theatre Youth Extravaganza. 7.30pm. Box Office 01634 400322.

October 18th to 20th – Gillingham Operatic & Dramatic Society present 'Fiddler on the Roof'. 7.30pm (Sat matinee 2.30pm) tickets £6-£8 from 389730 or Central Theatre, 403868.

October 19th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. New releases from Sony Classical (UK) Ltd. Ray Burford. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue), Gillingham. Ring 852905 for details.

October 19th – Musical Playtime (see 12th Oct).

October 20th – Rainham WI Craft Fair, Millennium Community Centre. 10.00 to 12 noon. Lots of lovely 'Goodies' for sale plus Refreshments. Admission 25p. 01634 233100.

October 20th – Medway Folk Dance Club. 7.30 to 10.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Caller Eddie Crook. Contact No. 366189.

October 20th – Quiz Night. Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. 8.00pm. Ring 374558 for details.

October 21st – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am, car park, School Lane, Herne Village. 6 miles. Dogs on lead. Ring 374923 for details.

October 21st – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 4 miles. Meet at car park opposite Whitstable Harbour. Pub lunches available.

October 22nd – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Bring & Buy for Demelza House. (see 8th Oct)

October 22nd – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 8th Oct).

October 23rd – Medway Scrabble Club (see 9th Oct).

October 23rd – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. The Red Cross (Gillingham Centre), 31 Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 8.00 to 10.00am. Ring 862673 for details.

October 24th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Birthday Lunch.

Continued on page 11

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If you are interested in purchasing RSPB sales goods from the Group or would like a current catalogue, please contact Mrs Carole Nixon, Telephone 01634 230153.

The Medway Group holds regular indoor meetings at Strood Library in Bryant Road on the third Tuesday in the month commencing at 7.45pm. There is also a full programme of outdoor meetings and coach trips to venues further afield. If you would like a copy of the 2002 Programme, please contact Sue Carter, Group Leader, on 01795 427854.

You might also like to visit the RSPB Promotions, Sales and Recruitment stalls at the following events:

Sunday 7th October 2001

World Birdwatch, Riverside Country Park, Gillingham, 10am to 4pm. Lots to see and do, with guided walks, RSPB information and RSPB goods for sale. Illustrated talks at 12 noon, 2pm and 3.30pm and games for the children run by the Medway Wildlife Explorers. It should be a great day out for the family. The event is accessible by public transport and there are wheelchair facilities, and refreshments on site.

Monday 5th November to Saturday 10th November

Christmas Stall, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre. We will be selling a range of goods from the Christmas Catalogue and will be happy to take specific orders; information will be available on the RSPB, both nationally and locally and you will have a chance to meet both committee and group members.

For information on the above events, please contact Carole Nixon, telephone: 01634 230153.

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FOOD HYGIENE

Are you involved with a local group, society or organisation where you prepare food for other people? ... Have you attended a Food Hygiene certificated course? ... This could be your opportunity on Tuesday 30th October. We are running a one day CIEH certificated course at Rainham Methodist Church Hall, Station Road. Places are available at the cost of £20 each, that is lunch included. The course starts at 9.30am and finishes approx. at 4/4.30pm.

For further details please contact Susan Ross on 01634 304204.

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. |

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

My favourite artist is the late C.F. Tunnicliffe who specialised in paintings of birds and the countryside generally. Many people may remember him as an illustrator of Ladybird children's books. One such book, first published in the 1950s, was entitled 'The Farm'. Tunnicliffe's illustrations for the book are of a traditional mixed farm built of stone. Four species of birds associated with farms are included in his illustrations. House sparrows are shown feeding on spilt grain, swallows hawking for flies above the farmyard, lapwings wheeling above the fields and rooks congregating at their nests in some tall trees.

I was given the opportunity, early in September, to find out what wildlife can be seen on a mixed farm of today when I went on a guided walk of Little Scotney Farm, near Lamberhurst, led by the farmer Ian Strang. The farm is owned by the National Trust and has a mixture of sheep, beef cattle, hops and wheat.

The sheep graze in parkland dotted with oak and other trees. In return for grants paid by English Heritage the farmer neither sprays his grazing grass with weed killer nor applies artificial fertilisers. The result is that the parkland continues to support a variety of grasses and other plants. On many other farms species-rich grassland has been replaced by fields of monotonous rye-grass.

I noted, however, that the sheep at Little Scotney Farm had grazed the pasture very low to the ground and it was not evident, from a distance, what species of plant were actually growing in the parkland. However, the flowers growing in the lane down which we were walking (fleece, hare bell, lesser knapweed, birdsfoot-trefoil, among others) would presumably flower in the adjoining pasture in the absence of the sheep.

We disturbed a large, mixed flock of rooks, jackdaws and wood pigeons feeding among the sheep. We also saw or heard some of the green woodpeckers which Mr Strang told us feed on the ants and their eggs in the many ant hills dotted among the parkland.

The farmer has left a wide strip of grass around his wheat fields in order to encourage nesting birds such as skylark and partridge. He clips his hedges only every other year in order to encourage a better crop of berries such as those of the hawthorn, the dog rose and the wayfaring tree. We did not come across any birds feeding on the wheat although I was hoping to see some house sparrows.

Mr Strang grows a variety of hops called 'Target'. They are cut by hand and stripped mechanically by machinery installed in the 1950s. The hops are then dried in the three oasthouses which date back to the 19th century. They are three of the very last traditional oasthouses still in use for their original purpose. We were just a little too early to see the gathering in of the hops which would be taking place after our visit.

The farm itself is a typical Kentish farm consisting mainly of red brick buildings with peg tile roofs. There is a wooden framed barn with black painted cladding (which serves as a maternity unit at lambing time) and the three round oasthouses already mentioned. The open sheds which house the beef cattle in winter were empty at the time of our visit. A couple of swallows and a handful of house martins were hawking for flies above the farm but Mr Strang told us that none of them had nested on the farm itself. Indeed we came across no bird life at all on the farmyard – not even a house sparrow.

Little Scotney Farm is in an idyllic spot. It sits in the valley of the River Bawl and is surrounded by fields, hop gardens and woods. Four parish churches are in view. I therefore thoroughly enjoyed my tour of the farm but I was very disappointed that the farmyard itself was so devoid of bird life. In particular, I had hoped to see some house sparrow feeding on spilt grain (as depicted by Tunnicliffe). But they appear to be as scarce on farms as they are in our own back gardens. My favourite artist would no doubt be amazed to learn that the British Trust for Ornithology is conducting research into the causes of the decline of a bird that was once very common, widespread and a bit of a pest.

Joe Ennis
PS I hope to see some of you at the slide show 'Rainham Then and Now' in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31st October.

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CRAFT FAIR

Rainham WI are holding their annual CRAFT FAIR on Saturday 20th October, in the Millennium Community Centre from 10am to 12 noon. Lots of lovely 'goodies' for sale, plus refreshments. Admission 25p. Ring 01634 23310 for more details.

DOLLS' HOUSE GROUP - CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

Rainham and District Dollshouse and Miniaturist Group are moving.

As of Thursday 27th September meetings will be held at the St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham.

Meetings will still be on the last Thursday of each month and still start at 7.30pm.

For further information contact Sylvia on 01634 312038.

'RAISE THE ROOF RECIPES'

It is proposed to publish a book of favourite recipes in aid of the Roof Fund at St Margaret's Church. If you have any recipes which you would like included in the book please send them to 'The Friends' of St Margaret's Church, c/o 21 Wheatecroft Grove, Rainham, Kent, ME8 9JF or phone Ann (372680).

Thank you.

BOOK SALE

There will be a book clearance sale on Saturday 3rd November, 11am to 2pm, Orchard Room, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeepers Close.

All books 15p each or 10 for £1. Refreshments. All profits to the Roof Fund at St Margaret's Church.

KAJIEDO DISTRICT IN KENYA

Roger Milton, project director of the Kajiedo District Development Trust, will be giving an illustrated talk on Friday 9th November at 7.30 as part of an African Open Evening at the Rainham Bookshop, 17-25 Station Road. Doors open 7pm. African music will be featured in the CD Department and a display of maps and guides in the travel department. With our expansion we have plenty of room for more. Please contact the shop with any proposals.

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Over the years many versions of 'A History of Rainham Church' have been compiled. Most of them are based on the definitive version written by Rev. A.J. Pearman, MA, in 1887, originally published in Archaeologia Cantiana Vol XVII that year. A facsimile reproduction in the form of a 24 page booklet has been produced and is on sale for a minimum donation of £2.00 towards the Roof Repair Fund of St Margaret's Church from The Rainham Bookshop, who are donating all printing costs, or the Church.

Correspondence

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Dear Editor,

This year the Gillingham & Operatic Dramatic Society production is 'Fiddler on the Roof' from 18th to 20th October at the Central Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm each evening with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Once again we aim to recreate an excellent show from the London West End. The lead role, Tevye the dairyman, is being played by local police officer, Chas Alder, and his wife, Golde, by long standing GODS actress Debbie Collins. Motel the tailor is played by Rainham resident Craig Ridley. Tevye's daughter Tzeitel by Wigmore local Tina Bargiggia and Lazar Wolfe the butcher by yours truly.

Following complaints last year about the poor sound in our musical 'Billy' we have decided to hire sound engineers for this production, to augment the system in the council theatre. This will allow our patrons the full benefit of all that is said and sung on stage.

Tickets are from £6 to £8 with concessions for senior citizens and children and free tickets in block bookings of ten or more seats. The GODS Box Office is with Pam Watts on Medway 389730, or at the Central Theatre, on Medway 403868.

For and on behalf
of the Committee
John Endicott

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October 24th — Rainham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Marie Summer Music Hall, Luncheon.

October 25th — Rainham & District Dolls House & Miniaturist Group. 7.30pm, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. Ring 312038 for details.

October 25th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales Stall and Games (see 11th Oct).

October 25th, 26th & 27th — Wigmore MADS and friends present the play 'THE ROSES OF EYAM' by Don Taylor in St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, at 8.00pm. Tickets £5, £4 concessions, Children free. Box Office — Sue on Medway 370639.

October 26th — The Medway Geographical Society. A Journey through France, the Dordogne: Mr C. Wade. 7.30 to 9.00pm. Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.

October 26th — Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. Pete Bassett talk on Apollo 8 and Pete Parish constellation of the month. 8.00pm, Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, nr Gillingham. All welcome. Contact no. 01634 308035 evenings and Wednesday mornings only.

October 27th — St Margaret's AUTUMN BAZAAR 9.30am to 2.30pm. Millennium Centre. Many quality Stalls, Ploughmans Lunch. Admission 30p. Contact no. 01795 475907.

October 28th — Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am, East Malling car park by Rail Bridge. 5 miles. Dogs on leads. Ring 855522 for details.

October 28th — Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 10 miles. Meet at Hollingbourne Rail Station. Picnic lunch mid-way. Pub stop at end in Hollingbourne.

October 29th — Medway & Maidstone VSO Group. Wine & Wisdom Quiz evening. 7.30pm Hillyfields Junior School Hall. Teams of 8. Tickets £5 including Supper, Wine and Fruit Juice. Table/ticket bookings Medway 376608.

October 29th — Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 8th Oct).

October 31st — 'Rainham Then and Now'. A Slide Show in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm in aid of The Church Roof Appeal, £3. Details telephone 235182.

November 1st — Wigmore Thursday Club. Southern Water — Talk on Water Wise (see 11th Oct).

November 2nd — Gillingham Recorded Music Society. Tchaikowsky — to the crisis. Ian Bailey (Lewisham RMS) (see 19th Oct).

November 3rd — St Margaret's Millennium Centre Open Day. 10.00 to 2.00pm.

November 3rd — Book Clearance Sale, Millennium Centre, 11.00am to 2.00pm.

November 4th — Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am Penenden Heath. Town River Walk. 6½ miles. Dogs on leads. Ring 377278 for details.

November 4th — Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am, 7 miles. Meet and park in All Saints' public car park on the A268 Hawkhurst.

November 4th — Lions Club of Gillingham 'HARVEST TEA TWO'. 3.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Tea and entertainment for Senior Citizens. Free tickets from Medway 387991, 387095 or Age Concern Centre, 131-133 High Street, Rainham. Lifts available.

November 5th — Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Spinning (see 8th Oct).

November 5th — Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 8th Oct).

Continued on page 13

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November 5th-10th — RSPB Christmas Stall.
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for details.

November 6th — Medway Scrabble Club
(see 9th Oct).

November 6th — Gillingham Horticultural Society.
Floral Art Group. 'CHRISTMAS WREATH' fresh
and/or dried plant material (see 16th Oct).

November 7th — Friendship Circle. Parkwood
Christian Fellowship. 2.15pm. Contact no.
Medway 365758.

November 8th — Colourstrings Kindermusik
(see 11th Oct).

November 8th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Recycling
& Future in Medway by Brian Barker
(see 11th Oct).

November 9th — Gillingham and Rainham Local
History Society. Roses, Castles & Canals
(illustrated): Mrs Daphne Knight. 7.15pm
(see 12th Oct).

November 9th — Mid-Kent Astronomical Society.
Guest Speaker Neil Bone with a talk on 'Meteors'
(see 12th Oct).

November 9th — Musical Playtime (see 12th Oct).
November 10th — QUIZ NIGHT at Bredhurst Village
Hall. All proceeds to Cancer Research. 7.30pm.
Tables of 8. Tickets £5, Sausage and Chip Supper.
Bring own drink. Contact Alison Jupp on 01634
234490 to book.

November 10th — Boot Fair in aid of 'Raise the Roof'
Fund, Millennium Centre, 10.00am to 12 noon.
Tables £6 ring Ann on 372680 to book. Admission
25p.

November 10th — Wine & Wisdom in aid of 'Raise
the Roof' Fund, 7.30pm Millennium Centre,
Rainham. £5 a head including supper, 8 to a table,
tickets from Alan 235751 or Ann 372680.

November 11th — Medway Towns Footpath Group.
Meet 2.00pm, Waitrose car park, Allington.
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November 11th — Ramblers Association. Start
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