

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

SEPTEMBER 2002

NUMBER 371



Sacks of freshly picked hops arriving from the hop garden to be dried in the oasthouse. Until only a few years ago this was a familiar sight in Rainham, during September, indicating that summer was almost over. We no longer have any hop gardens but Joe Ennis has a nostalgic look back to those days in his new talk 'Old Rainham' on September 18th in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, the admission price of £3 will be donated to the repair of the church roof.

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Next Issue: October 5th
Copy Date: Sep 17th Sm Ads Sep 20th

Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Editorial

Last month's letter from John Austin, sharing his memories of Rainham School for Boys, obviously struck a chord with several readers. We include some of their recollections in this edition of Action Forum. I apologise if we have misprinted any of the names, it is sometimes difficult to be certain of particular spellings. One thing that struck me reading the letters from past pupils is how they all refer to their teachers by both their Christian and surnames. During my time at secondary school in the late fifties our staff were strictly Miss Thompson, Miss Ledger, etc with possibly just the occasional married lady, Mrs Hobgen comes to mind, and our one token male, the music master, in an all girls school. I have no idea of any of their first names and do not even remember it being a topic of speculation for us, although many other aspects of their lives were subject for gossip amongst the pupils at break times. Perhaps this is a peculiarity of boys' schools, always much more prone to name calling and nicknames, or alternatively, the girls lived a much less curious existence. Rainham School for Boys obviously had a profound effect on many of the pupils who all appear to have led successful lives based on the school's solid groundwork. I hope the present generation of pupils will have equally fond memories of their school days in fifty years' time.

September is the month we take stock of our lives and with all good intentions skim through the adult education prospectus hoping to find just the course to occupy those dark winter evenings. Enrolment is ongoing and many of the courses still have vacancies so it is not too late, there are a myriad of subjects to choose from. I am sure everyone should be able to find something of interest either educational or recreational in the comprehensive brochure we all received earlier this summer. If an organised course is not for you we have many clubs and societies listed in our diary all of whom welcome new members. The expensive camcorder you bought but have never really used could be the introduction to Medway Camcorder Club or your interest in gardening and flowers would be useful in one of the several related clubs in our listings. Of course the easiest way to join a group and enjoy the countryside is to attend one of the many conducted walks throughout the month,

whilst this good weather lasts this would be a very pleasant option.

However you spend it do enjoy the coming month and remember the talk Joe Ennis is giving on September 18th with many new illustrations of 'Old Rainham', he looks forward to seeing you there. Have a good month and we will see you again in October.

Correspondence

RAINHAM SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing my article in the August edition of Action Forum. Unfortunately there were a couple of mistakes I would like to correct. First, the Head Boy was Ronald Ward not Ware. I last saw Ronald 15 years ago when I moved back to Rainham, I trust he is well. The second, it was Mr Smyth who taught us metalwork not Mr Smith. I still use the brass and copper letter opener I made in his workshop 57 years ago.

Many thanks,
John K. Austin,
14 Sandown Drive,

Editor: Sorry space is at a premium this month. We hope to include more letters and an excellent photograph of Rainham School for Boys masters next month.

SEQUENCE DANCING

Dear Editor,

Could any reader of Action Forum tell me where we can LEARN Sequence Dancing? There are venues where one can go when one is accomplished, but please we want to learn!

Yours sincerely,
H. Stewart (Mrs)
01634 362446

FOXBORROW WOODS

Dear Editor,

With reference to the letter in August 2002 Action Forum about Foxborough Wood, the site has recently been designated a Local Nature Reserve, by English Nature, in recognition of its importance as a wildlife haven within Parkwood/Gillingham. We try to keep open a circular route around the site and having walked around the site this morning I am happy that most of the paths are 2m/6ft wide.

It is true that the original woodland was not fenced off, but after the storm the new tree planting was protected by fences to prevent access by people and dogs and so reduce damage to the young trees. Some of the fencing remains in place, partly as means of creating a non-intervention area and a sheltered core of the wood for wildlife, away from human disturbance. The nature of the wood has changed since the storm. Before 1987 it was a relatively open wood dominated by beech trees which shade out most other plants. As most of these trees were knocked over by the Great Storm, a new generation of trees

has slowly grown up. However, as part of that natural process, brambles, nettles and other plants can thrive with the increased light levels and disturbed soil. It is not desirable or practically possible to maintain the open nature of the wood pre-1987.

I can assure you that there will be coppicing of the wood in future years as part of the management of the site, and that the council has no intention of selling the land off for any purpose.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Crawford,
Countryside Officer,
Medway Council
01634 812196

WINE & WISDOM

Dear Editor,

Medway & Maidstone VSO Group will be holding their annual Wine and Wisdom fund raising evening on Saturday 28th September at Thames View Infant School Hall, Bloors Lane, starting at 7.30pm. We will be providing wine, fruit juice and nibbles but ask participants to bring any other food they may require to stimulate the brain plus glasses! Tickets are £4 and we will be making up teams of 8 if possible. If any Forum readers would like to take part please phone Pam or Phil Cole on Medway 376608 for further details and bookings as we will need to know numbers in advance.

Yours sincerely,
Pam Cole

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Dear Editor,

Anyone interested in working an allotment? There are some available in Upchurch, costing £7 per year, half price for pensioners. Contact Sue Rossiter, Parish Clerk, on 01634 234780 for further details.

Yours faithfully,
Sue Rossiter

MACMILLAN FUND

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all those people who came to Joan, Fred and Tracy's Open Garden and Marilyn Soffe's Garden Party who between them raised over £2,080, a wonderful contribution to the Appeal to fund more Macmillan nurses in this part of Kent.

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Our next event is the Coffee Morning on 27th September; please see the Diary for details.

Yours faithfully,
W.C. Trythall,
Chairman,
Medway Committee,
Macmillan Cancer Relief

SCALLYWAGS PARENT & TODDLER

Meet Monday afternoons
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Volunteers Needed

- Have you ever thought of doing some voluntary work
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- Are you training and need some practical experience

Groups are always looking for additional help with:

- Singing in a circle
- Supervising painting
- Supervising playdough
- Making teas and coffees
- Getting toys out/putting away

If you feel you can spare any time and help in any way, please contact Claire - 376270.

NEWS FROM UPCHURCH PLAYERS

We urgently require the following

- someone to play the piano/keyboard for this year's pantomime
- someone to organise the seamstresses and assist as dresser for the performance (needlework skills would help)

Can U help?

Contact number for information

Dave or Andrea Candy 01634 361040
Gloria Knight 01634 363271

CRAFT FAIR

The Friends of St Margaret's Church are holding a Craft Fair in the Orchard Room of the Millennium Centre on Saturday October 5th from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Admission will be 25p and light refreshments will be available. Tables cost £6.

To book a table 'phone 235530. For firm booking the fee should be paid in advance.

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Diary 2002

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

No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 17th September 2002

- September 7th – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society. Day at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall. Open to the public from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission free.
- September 7th – Wine & Wisdom Evening. 7.30pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £6 (concessions £5). Ploughmans Supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets from Bill Trees 370722.
- September 7th – Medway Folk Dance Club invites you to join members for a Barn Dance at the United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.30 to 10.00pm. Beginners and inexperienced dancers welcome. Come by yourself, with a partner or friends. For details contact 01634 366189 or 388546.
- September 7th – Instep Dancing Saturday Social Dance. Rainham School for Girls. Ballroom/Latin Sequence. 8.00 to 11.00pm. Enquiries telephone 01634 363738.
- September 7th – Union of Catholic Mothers. JUMBLE SALE, 11.00am, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. Admission 20p.
- September 8th – Countryside Event. History Walk around local area including a stop at Upper Shawstead Farm, a 17th century ruin. 10.00am to 12 noon, Capstone Country Park. £1.50 per person Book in advance 812196.
- September 8th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am, Shipbourne Church. 10 miles. Packed lunch/pub stop. Dogs on leads. Contact number 01634 374923.
- September 8th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6 miles. Meet near Red House PH,

- in Hermitage Lane, south of Chart Sutton. Pub stop at end.
- September 9th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Spinning. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- September 9th – Countryside Event, Motney Hill walk. 12.00 to 2.00pm. £1.50 per person. Book and pay in advance 378987.
- September 10th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. George Bartlett, with continuation of Fuchsia Chit-Chat (part 2). 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham.
- September 10th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm. The Red Cross Gillingham Centre, 31 Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Contact number 01634 862673.
- September 10th – Medway Antique & Collectors Club. Paper Chase – Post Impressionists. 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, 7-8 New Road Avenue, Chatham. Ring 01634 365861.
- September 11th – Rainham Flower Club. Workshop. 7.30 to 9.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall.
- September 11th – Bredhurst WI. Mrs Jan Hancock. The post of 'Court Embroidress'. Competition: An Item in Blue. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- September 11th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 11.00am Rainham Station. Walk to Gore Farm. Packed lunch, refreshments available at Farm.
- September 11th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group 1.00 to 4.00pm, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. Non members welcome.
- September 11th – Charity Concert in aid of SSAFA by the Band of the Irish Guards at Sutton Valence School. 7.30pm. Tickets £6 from 01622 842281.
- September 12th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Countdown. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- September 12th-14th & 19th-21st – Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, present 'Big, Bad, Mouse'. 8.00pm. Tickets from 360506 (weekdays 9am-8pm).

- September 14th – Countryside Event, Autumn Bird Cruise. Tickets £17 payable in advance, ring 378987.
- September 14th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. GHS AUTUMN SHOW. 2.30 to 4.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.
- September 14th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am, Linton Hill car park (A229) next to Church. Packed lunch. PH 'Stile Bridge Inn' available. 6.5 miles.
- September 14th – St Matthew's DCC JUMBLE SALE and BOOK SALE. 11.00am, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Admission 20p. Proceeds to St Matthew's Roof and Renew Appeal.
- September 15th – Countryside Event. Beginners trees guided walk, 10.00am at South Wood. £1.50, book and pay in advance 812196.
- September 15th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Outing – Eltham Palace and the Fan Museum at Greenwich.
- September 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm, Headcorn Church. 6 miles. Dogs on leads. Contact number 01622 843463.
- September 15th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6.5 miles. Meet and park in public car park in Upper Upnor.
- September 16th – Rainham Evening WI. Letter 'U'. Acrylic Painting, Mrs Rosemarie Madder. 7.30pm, Platters Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
- September 17th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. Church Flowers – a teach-in by Carol Goodwin and Wynne Prescott. 7.30 to 9.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.
- September 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Questions and Answers Forum, chaired by E. Williams. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- September 18th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Mr Goddard – Retired Magistrate. Competition: A Button Hole. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- September 18th – The Friends of St Margaret's Church present a talk and slide show 'ANOTHER

- LOOK AT OLD RAINHAM' by Joe Ennis. 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church. Entrance fee £3.00 to include light refreshments. Proceeds to fund Roof Repairs. For further enquiries telephone 235530.
- September 18th – Medway Camcorder Club, Medway Yacht Club, 5 minute competition. Ring 371570 for details.
- September 19th – Gillingham Flower Arrangers. Guessing on Book Titles. 7.30pm, The Garrison Church Hall, Mansion Row, Brompton.
- September 19th – Rainham Afternoon WI. Downderry Bursery (Lavender). Dr S.J. Charlesworth. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham.
- September 19th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Marie Shandley – Extendacise (see 12th Sept).
- September 19th-28th – Medway Little Theatre present 'OUTSIDE EDGE'. 7.30pm. Tickets from 400322.
- September 20th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. On Your Feet. 7.15 to 9.15pm at St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue), Gillingham.
- September 20th – St Matthew's Wine & Nibbles evening to launch the Patronal Festival. 8.00pm. Tickets £5, concessions £4.
- September 21st – Instep Dancing (see 7th Sept).
- September 21st – Quiz Night at the Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Station Road, Rainham. 8.00pm. Contact number 374558.
- September 21st – Medway Folk Dance Club (see 7th Sept).
- September 21st & 22nd – St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore – Flower Festival & Exhibition on the theme of The Church Seasons. Admission Free. Refreshments available. 21st 10.00am to 4.00pm open. 22nd 12 noon to 4.00pm open. Concert 7.30pm, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, featuring Gillingham Male Voice Choir and Guitarist Dean Whale. Tickets Adults £5, Concessions £4, available from Peter Hagger 01634 235056. Accompanied children free.


Continued on page 11

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Correspondence

A PLEA FOR A FOOTCARE NURSE

Dear Editor,

Because of the rising numbers of pensioners in this area who require regular toenail cutting, Age Concern is looking for an additional domiciliary Footcare Nurse.

You need to be a Registered Nurse with a car and a few hours to spare. As a self-employed person, you are free to arrange hours to suit your own convenience. Relevant training would be arranged free of charge, backed up by occasional ongoing Study Days. Start-up equipment is provided through Age Concern, plus indemnity insurance, and the clients themselves pay a set rate for your services.

I have enjoyed doing this rewarding work for 11 years and would be happy to discuss it further with anyone else who is interested. However, in the first instance, please contact Cynthia Spicer, Chief Officer at Age Concern, The Mackenney Centre, Woodlands Road. Tel: 01634 572616.

Yours sincerely,
Heather Jobson,
Hempstead.

MR 'JOCK' MILLER

Dear Editor,

It was with great sadness that I have recently heard of the death of Mr Miller, or as we as kids knew him, PC Miller, later of Bedford Avenue, Rainham.

As kids in the 50s and 60s he could always be heard practising his bagpipes as you walked down Danson Way and along Bedford Avenue where he lived at number 28 with the official police house plate on the front wall.

I can often remember him coming into the Bloors Lane chalk pit opposite the bottom of Danson Way and telling us off for playing in there. Who thought of health and safety in those days, oh the pleasures of youth.

To us on the Seaview Estate, he was our local bobby and we respected him likewise always having time to pass the time of day.

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My earliest recollection was of him playing the bagpipes at an event at Macklands House down Station Road during the summer of 1957, having to walk across the fields from Berengrave Lane to Station Road below the railway line, you could hear the sound of the pipes across the field.

It is good to see that he will always be remembered by his dedication to his music and the playing of the pipes as can be seen in the photograph in the book of 'Old Rainham'.

No doubt there will be many memories of Mr Miller from all those in Rainham who knew him or grew up around him which could fill many editions of your magazine.

My thanks for sharing mine.

I remain,
Alan Morgan (late of
Danson Way but I still
call Rainham 'home')
69 Deerlands Road,
Wingerworth,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S42 6UN.

PENINSULAR NOT OUT ON A LIMB

All of us by now will be aware that there is a proposal for a new airport to be built at Cliffe and become operational by 2011. What many people have not realised is the level of impact that the airport will have on the Medway towns as a whole and on the Hoo Peninsula in particular.

Many groups are coming together to fight the proposals, if the airport were to go ahead the impact would be more than significant for everyone in the area. The RSPB is publishing more details and how to protest on their website (www.rspb.org.uk/caffairs or email NoAirportAtCliffe@rspb.org.uk) It doesn't require much of our time but with the powerful groups who are campaigning for this to go ahead the people on the peninsula need all the support we can give them. This is a lot of information to absorb in one go but the Government seems to be distributing it fairly selectively and this issue is too important to ignore.

Rebecca Parrett

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

Most flowers of the saltmarsh bloom relatively late in the season, from July to September, and August is therefore a good time to see them. The Countryside Park on the Lower Rainham Road is a conveniently accessible place at which to view some of this country's saltmarsh plants.

The two most common plants of the saltmarshes of the Park are sea purslane (a low-lying shrub with silvery-grey oval leaves) and common chord grass (which has long and fairly wide blades). Other sea plants to be seen at the Park are sea beet (which is a close relative of cultivated beets and whose leaves can be cooked as a spinach) and common glasswort or marsh samphire. The latter is a small plant with shiny green stems which look like pipe cleaners. The plant is succulent and edible but was mainly used in the past in the making of both soap and glass. None of the above plants, however, have conspicuous flowers. On the other hand, golden samphire, common sea lavender and sea aster are quite eye-catching.

Golden samphire, as its name indicates, has golden flowers. It is a member of the daisy family and is rare outside the Thames Estuary and a few other places. Common sea lavender has lilac or pale mauve flowers and is of the same family as thrift (which was imprinted on the back of the old three penny bit). The sea aster has bluish petals around a yellow disk. In Elizabethan times the sea aster was a popular garden flower but has been superseded in the introduced Michaelmas daisy. Golden samphire and common sea lavender can be seen to the seaward side of the newly-built raised footpath at Horrid Hill. A small patch of sea aster grows below the embankment footpath leading to Bloors Wharf and near to where the dinghies are taken in and out of the water.

Horrid Hill is the site of a former cement works and quay and, jutting as it does into the Medway estuary, is one of the best places from which to view birds of the North Kent marshes. Birds aside, there are spectacular all-round views of water, mud, marsh and sky from the hill.

However, although August is a good time to see the saltmarsh flowers the month is a somewhat quiet one for birds. Nevertheless, species such as black headed gull, shelduck, oyster catcher and redshank can be seen in the summer months, albeit in smaller numbers. Black headed gulls breed on Nor Marsh, an RSPB reserve, off the tip of Horrid Hill. They generally feed on insects and other small invertebrates but can often be seen flying over our streets and gardens looking for scraps of food. The shelduck is a large black and white looking duck with a chestnut band round the forepart of its body. The oyster catcher, a wader, is also a black and white bird and with a long orange-red bill. It has a piping call. The redshank is a brown coloured wader with orange-red legs. It is known as the sentinel of the marshes because it rises into the air with an explosion of shrill notes if it is flushed.

The first of the winter visitors to the Medway Estuary (such as dunlin, which are waders) can be seen in August as can the first of the summer visitors (such as the swallow) passing through on the way to warmer climates. Do have a look at the board in the barn for the latest list of birds seen at the Countryside Park. Then have a cup of tea in the café. It will be a particularly welcoming place if your August visit turns out to be a typically cold and wet one.

Joe Ennis

P.S. I hope to see many of you at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th September in St Margaret's Church for 'More Slides of Old Rainham'.

GILLINGHAM MALE VOICE CHOIR

This local choir has only been in existence for around 13 years but has already gained a fine reputation locally and within the county. We have about 35 members including just under half from the Rainham/Wigmore area. Our musical director is Paul Robinson, a schoolteacher from Welling, who is ably assisted by our pianist Matt Whitworth.

The choir has a busy few months coming up with two concerts in September and one in October. On Saturday 21st September we will be performing at St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, at 7.30pm. We have sung there on several occasions and

are always pleased to be invited back.

We always have a major concert in October at The Brook Theatre in Chatham. This year's is on 5th October at 7.30pm. Following the success of our concert with them last year we are pleased to welcome back the KM Medway Brass Band as our guests for the evening. Tickets for this event are available from our Chairman, Jim Simmonds, on Medway 360134 priced £6 for adults and £5 concessions.

The choir likes to perform for churches or charitable organisations and is looking to add to its list of concerts for 2003. If you would like to book the choir please contact Jim or myself for further details. Alternatively if you would like to join our choir please come along to our rehearsals. We meet on Wednesday nights at The Brook Theatre, Chatham, from 8.00 to 10.00pm. We are hoping to sing at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff in July 2003 as part of the 'World of Male Voice Choirs' concert, which is sure to be memorable.

Craig Ridley (Publicity Officer)
01634 376117

ST MATTHEW'S WIGMORE CELEBRATES PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Over the weekend of 20th to 22nd September St Matthew's will be celebrating its Patronal Festival, with a Flower Festival on the theme of 'The Church Seasons'.

Friday 20th September at 8.00pm a Wine & Nibbles Evening to launch the Festival. Tickets £5, concessions £4.

Saturday and Sunday, 21st/22nd September, Flower Festival & Exhibition – ADMISSION FREE, refreshments available including ploughmans lunches. Saturday 10am to 4pm, Sunday 12 noon to 4pm.

Saturday 21st September at 7.30pm. Concert featuring Gillingham Male Voice Choir and local guitarist Dean Whale. Tickets £5, concessions £4, accompanied children free – in aid of Roof & Renew Appeal.

Tickets available from Peter Hagger, tel: 01634 235056.

CHATHAM MAN'S PRISON DIARIES FROM JAPAN, 1942-1945

Bill Rose from Robin Hood Lane, Walderslade, joined the RAF Voluntary Reserve and was posted to the Far East late in 1941. He returned late in 1945 with a complete set of diaries of his journeys and the terrible time in prison in Japan, an experience he never discussed with anybody.

In 1994 one of his sons married a Japanese girl. She went back to Japan and found the village where Bill had been a prisoner. In 1999 he returned there on a mission of reconciliation and was warmly received. He is now 90 and plans to return next year.

'You Shook My Hand' is extracts from his diaries. It is a story of courage and Christian Faith in the most terrible of circumstances.

Available from the Rainham Bookshop at £10.00 (£11.00 by post).

PHOEBE SCOTT

We are sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Phoebe Scott of West Moor Farm on Thursday 22nd August 2002. Mrs Scott, who was 94 years old, will be remembered with affection by many Rainham residents. She was very involved in the local community both organising and participating in events. During the war Mrs Scott served in the WRVS and later organised the Women's World Day of Prayer and ran a Darby & Joan group in the old Co-op Hall. For many years she ran one of the stalls at St Margaret's Church Autumn Bazaar. I remember her kindness and assistance to local Guiding: not only did Mr and Mrs Scott allow us to store our camping equipment upstairs in one of the farm barns but we also used their cherry orchard for weekend camps. Mrs Scott gave generously of her time to the community and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Editor

EVACUEES REUNION GROUP

The next meeting of Medway Evacuees Reunion Group will be on Wednesday 11th September 2002, 1.00 to 4.00pm at Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent. Non members are very welcome.

Jean Simmons (Secretary) – 01634 814922

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Diary 2002 cont

September 21st — Countryside Event, Children's Nature Day. 10.00am to 12 noon, Capstone Country Park. 5-13 years (under 8 must be accompanied). £1.50 per child, book in advance 812196.

September 21st — Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.30am Newington Station. Walk to Lower Halstow. Packed lunch. PH available. Approx 6 miles.

September 22nd — Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am. Three Mariners pub, Oare, Nr Faversham. 5 miles. Optional lunch at Three Mariners pub if booked. Contact number 01795 535941. No Dogs.

September 22nd — Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 8 miles. Meet and park in car park behind shops in Derringwood Lane, Downswood.

September 23rd — Countryside Event — Evening Talk. Wildlife of the Medway Estuary. 7.30pm, Riverside Country Park. Tickets £1.60, book in advance 378987.

September 23rd — Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Club's 21st Birthday Party and Open Evening for Past Members. 7.00pm to 10.00pm.

September 24th — Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 10th Sept). 862673.

September 25th — Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.00am Meopham Green.

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September 26th — Rainham & District Dollshouse and Miniaturist Group. 7.30 for 8.00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. For details telephone 01634 312038.

September 26th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales Stall, Beale (see 12th Sept).

September 27th — The Medway Geographical Society. Walking the Pilgrim Route to Santiago: Mr Tony Cartwright. 7.30 to 9.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.

September 27th — Macmillan Cancer Relief, Doris Perrin invites you to her coffee morning in support of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning at the Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. 10.00am to 12 noon. Admission 75p includes coffee. There will be a cake stall.

September 28th — SOUL MESSENGERS. Come to Upchurch Famous South Coast 10 Piece Soul Band Playing Blues Soul Funk Motown Latin Disco. Tickets £10. Bring your own drink. Contact Jane Knapp for tickets, 01634 825202 or out of hours 01634 232119.

September 28th — Medway & Maidstone VSO Wine & Wisdom evening, Thames View Infant School Hall, Bloors Lane, 7.30pm. Teams of 8. Tickets £4. Details 376608.

September 29th — Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 7 miles. Meet and park layby on A228 by Church between M20 and A20 just past turning to Leybourne Grange.

September 29th — Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, present 'Paul Harris & Paul James' from BBC Radio Kent. 4.00pm and 8.00pm. Tickets £6 from 360506 (weekdays 9am to 8.00pm).

October 1st — Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. 'Petite Landscape' or 'Autumn (groundwork) Tapestry' — own choice (see 17th Sept).

October 1st — Medway Camcorder Club visiting Canterbury (see 18th Sept).

October 2nd — The Friendship Circle. 2.15pm at Parkwood Christian Fellowship. Contact Mary Tindall 365758.

Continued on page 13



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Diary 2002 cont

October 2nd – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society.
Mr W. Friend – Gardening in Chalk, 7.30pm,
Pavilion Cricket Ground, Berengrave Lane,
Rainham.

October 3rd – Gillingham Flower Arrangers.
Arrangement in a Casket or Box (see 19th Sept).
October 3rd & 5th – Wigmore MADs present 'RICH
REWARD'. An Evening of Song and Dance to
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Music and more. 8.00pm, St Matthew's
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October 4th – Gillingham Recorded Music. Music for
the Keyboard (see 20th Sept).

October 5th – The Friends of St Margaret's Church
CRAFT FAIR in the Orchard Room of the
Millennium Centre, Rainham. 10.00am to 1.00pm.
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October 5th – Medway & District Group of
HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am, Aylesford Station.
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October 6th – St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive,
Wigmore. Harvest Festival. 9.30am Family

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October 6th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am.
8 miles. Meet and park at Otford Rail Station.

October 7th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers
Association. Megan – Dry Felted Animals
(see 9th Sept).

October 8th – Medway Antique & Collectors Club.
AGM (followed by Talk) (see 10th Sept).

October 8th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia &
Pelargonium Society. AGM. Talk and
demonstration on Paulos China by Pauline
Mitchelson (see 10th Sept).

October 8th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting
Club (see 10th Sept).

October 9th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent)
Workshop.

October 9th – Bredhurst WI. Annual Meeting.
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