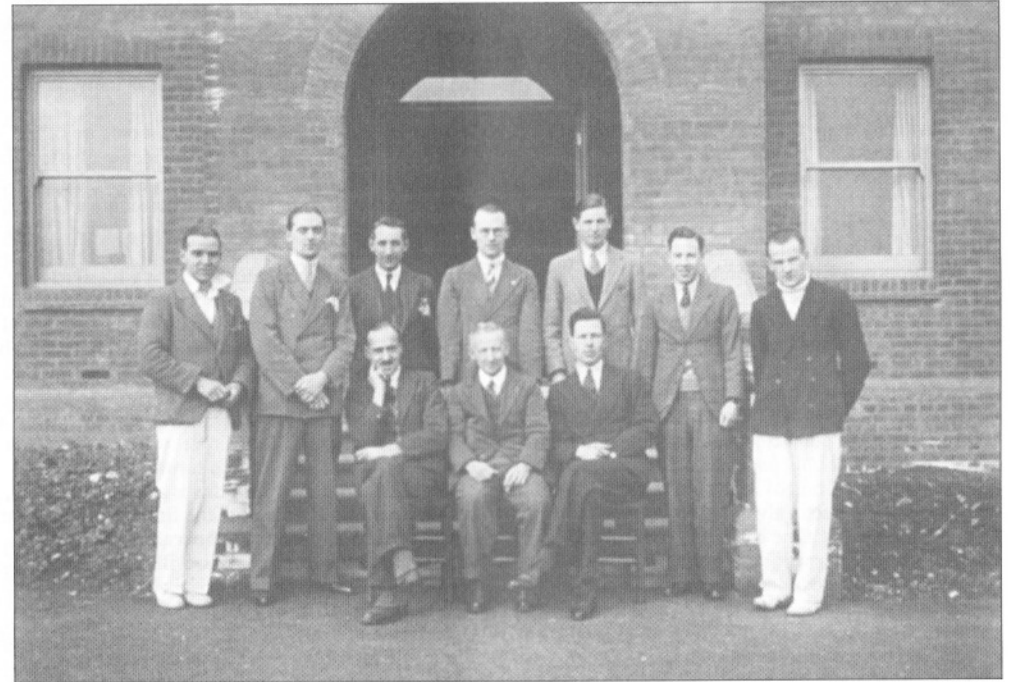


ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

OCTOBER 2002

NUMBER 372



The Masters at Rainham School for Boys pictured about a year after the school opened in 1932.
Standing from the left: ?, Mr Newell, Mr Sneath, Mr Thomas, Mr Chisholm, Mr Pharoah, Mr Fenton.
Seated: Mr Sargent, Mr Smith (Headmaster), Mr Nye.

Robert J. Kitney

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AF

Next Issue: November 2nd
Copy Date: Oct 15th Sm Ads Oct 18th

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

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

Editorial

Congratulations to Joe Ennis on another highly successful evening talk and slide show presentation of 'Old Rainham'. The church full of attentive listeners greatly appreciated the preparation which had obviously gone into making the evening so enjoyable and also the impromptu question and answer session with Joe and Freddie Cooper at the end. It is great to know that so many people are interested in Rainham and pleasing that it was not just the older age group who attended.

The proposed Cliffe Airport is on everyone's mind at the moment and there are several aspects that will affect all who live in Medway. The consultation period finishes at the end of November so now is the time to put forward your viewpoint if you wish to be heard. Displays, information meetings and public debates are all being held where you can find out more and lists of contact names and phone numbers together with a double page spread of information in the September edition of Medway Matters. Rarely has our community been galvanised to react so quickly to any other plan, but time is short if you want to have your say, next year will be too late.

Meanwhile life continues as normal in our neighbourhood, autumn as usual brings the expected sales of work in good time to buy that unusual Christmas present, this month we list a WI Craft Fair and the 50th Annual St Margaret's Bazaar, always one of the first Christmas sales. Upchurch Scouts are again organising a giant Bonfire and Fireworks celebration on November 2nd and would be very pleased to see you there, a much safer and easier option than attempting fireworks in your own back garden. Meanwhile another Scout group needs your help. The 18th Gillingham, Goudhurst Road, Group desperately needs new leaders for both Cubs and Scouts, so if you have past experience in Scouting, or are completely new to the activity but are willing to learn, do contact either Mick Lee 364358 or Eric Driver 233867 to find out more.

Adult Education, or as they are now called, Community Learning Classes, have started for the new academic year, but places are still available, so if you did not quite get around to enrolling but still fancy an evening out once a week in social company ring 338400 to find details of groups with vacancies.

A new venture starts on October 19th, one-day cookery courses, the first entitled 'Entertaining with minimal approach' costs £37 (including all the ingredients) and is enrolling now on the same phone number, they will also be able to tell you details of future workshops.

Plenty to do this month so have a good time and enjoy the splendid weather while it lasts, we will see you again in November.

Correspondence

CLIFFE AIRPORT COULD HAPPEN
Dear Editor,

It is crucial to point out that, whilst the people on the peninsula have the most to lose as individuals; homes, businesses, way of life and beautiful surroundings, the proposed airport should be called 'Medway Airport', as this horrible idea will affect the whole of Medway.

Gillingham, Rainham and Rochester are all about six miles from the proposed runways. Some of these areas have almost a direct view to the runways. We will certainly see, hear and smell the aircraft as they take to the air. From personal experience I know that the noise will be loud enough to interrupt the normal way of life in the towns. Both noise and fumes will be carried to us on the prevailing north-east winds. This will be the first British airport to be run on a twenty-four hour schedule. The aircraft will also be spaced at one minute intervals. This airport will be larger than Heathrow, with a total of five runways.

We should not think that this is a 'stalking horse', or that it will be 2015 before the first two runways are due to open. The dust and upheaval of construction, together with the practice runs, will happen long before that if we do not vigorously oppose it.

What to do. Write to your MP, Councillor, or the Department of Transport, Room 1/28c, Freepost, Lon 17806, London SW1P4YS. You should attend meetings, go onto the local government e-mail, www.medway.gov.uk/cliffe. The libraries have the information. Both the Medway Council and Kent County Council are opposed to the project, but need your help.

We have only until November 30th 2002 to voice our opposition to this proposal.

E.S. and M.S. Peevers
269 London Road
Rainham Mark
Gillingham
Kent ME8 6YS

SCAN (STOP CLIFFE AIRPORT NOW)
Dear Editor,

What a ridiculous idea to site a new airport on Cliffe Marshes when there are several other cheaper and more easily constructed options. This area of Medway/Swale already suffers from severe traffic congestion problems which will only get worse

should the airport go ahead. Please help, if you also object to this plan, by writing to local MPs and other officials and making your views count. More information can be found on the RSPB website: www.rspb.org.uk/affairs or you can e-mail your views to: Noairportatcliffe@rspb.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Diane Parmenter
27 Bedson Walk

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS
Dear Editor,

Upchurch Scout Group is once again hosting the Annual Village Bonfire and Firework evening on Saturday 2nd November. The event takes place in Upchurch Paddock and car parking is available on the Recreation Ground, Oak Lane. Entry prices remain at £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for children (these admission prices have been held since 1998). The gates to the Paddock will be open from 5.30pm, with the Bonfire being lit at 6.30pm and the first rocket being fired at 6.45pm. As usual various local organisations and clubs will be on hand in the Paddock supplying a range of hot and cold refreshments etc.

Our firework display is being supplied and fired by Selstar Fireworks and we are assured that this year's display will be brilliant!

We look forward to seeing our regular spectators and welcoming some new ones!

Yours sincerely
Jim Harman
Group Manager
01634 235420

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS
Dear Editor,

My family and I would like to thank everyone who tried to help my wonderful husband who collapsed and died on Tuesday 10th September 2002 in Broomcroft Road. Our especial thanks go to the gentleman who stopped his car and found him, also to Mr and Mrs Alexander.

With thanks
Mrs B. Evans and family
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18th GILLINGHAM SCOUT GROUP
HQ GOUDHURST ROAD, TWYDALL
Dear Editor,

Could you please, through Action Forum, try and help our Group? We are desperately looking for new leaders both in our Cub Pack and Scout Group. Also any boy looking to join would be most welcome.

If anyone out there can help please contact
Mick Lee, GSL
01634 364358 or
Eric Driver
01634 233867

MIERS COURT PTFA
Dear Editor,

Well, here we are at the start of a new school year and Miers Court PTFA would like to inform your readers of our first two family events.

We are holding a Musical Wine and Wisdom on Saturday 9th November, start 7.30pm. Tickets: Adults £3.50, Children £2.50. Bring your own glasses and nibbles. Teams of eight. If you can't make the full 'octave' we can 'compose' a table on the night! Tickets: telephone 365377.

Our second event is the popular Christmas Bazaar. Every year the stalls, games and Christmas fun take over more of the school building. 2002 plans to be bigger and better than ever. The date - Saturday 30th November, 11am to 2pm. Everyone welcome.

Yours sincerely
Felicity Holten (Mrs)
Miers Court PTFA

WINE & WISDOM
Dear Editor,

The Gillingham and Rainham branch of Save the Children are holding a **Wine and Wisdom** evening on Saturday 19th October, starting at 7.30pm at St Margaret's Church Millennium Centre.

Tickets are available from myself on Medway 362617 and Mrs Cooper on Medway 375610.

The price of £6.00 includes supper and wine on the table (maximum 8 to a table). Wine and Beer will be available for sale.

Thank you.
Tina Barnard

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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: 22nd October 2002

- 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. Admission 25p. Light refreshments available. Tables £6 each, bookable by phone 235530. For a firm booking fee should be paid in advance.
- October 5th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am Aylesford Station. Walk to Allington Lock via Cobtree Park. Packed lunch. PH available, approx. 5 miles walk.
- October 5th – Medway Folk Dance Club. United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.30 to 10.00pm. Visitors and new dancers always welcome, ring 366189 or 388546 for details.
- October 5th – National Childbirth Trust 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' Team Challenge, 7.30pm. Teams of 6 £5.50 per head. Ring 07950 939898 for details.
- October 6th – St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore – Harvest Festival. 9.30am is Family Harvest Service, 5.00pm is Harvest Songs of Praise, 6.00pm is Harvest Supper – all welcome, three course meal and entertainment. Tickets £5.50 (£3 children) available from Peter Hagger (01634 235056).
- 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 Felsted Animals. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- October 7th-12th – RSPB Christmas Stall, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre.
- October 8th – Medway Antiques & Collectors Club AGM (followed by Talk). 7.30 for 8.00pm,

- St George Hotel, 7-8 New Road Avenue, Chatham. Ring 365861.
- October 8th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society AGM. Talk and demonstration on Paulos China by Pauline Mitchelson. 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham.
- October 8th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm, The Red Cross Gillingham Centre, 31 Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Contact no. 01634 862673.
- October 9th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent). Workshop, 7.30 to 9.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall.
- October 9th – Bredhurst WI. Annual Meeting. WI Adviser – no speaker. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- October 10th – Wigmore Thursday Club – Mrs Holmes. More talks on her travels.
- October 11th – Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society. Gravesend Airport, 1932-1956 (illustrated). 7.15pm, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
- October 11th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society AGM, Bredhurst Village Hall, 8.00pm. Visitors welcome, ring 308035 for details.
- October 12th – Instep Dancing. Saturday Social Dance, Rainham School for Girls. Ballroom/Latin/Sequence. 8.00 to 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738.
- October 12th – St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore – 7.30pm, Concert featuring Soprano Christine Hubbard. Tickets Adults £5 Concessions £4, available from Peter Hagger (01634 235056). Accompanied children free.
- October 13th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6 miles. Meet at St Peter's Church, Bridge.
- October 14th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club. Autumn Bazaar. 2.00pm, Howard Hall, Wigmore. open to the public. Ring 362662 for details.
- October 15th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. AGM and Planning for 2003. 7.30 to 9.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.
- October 16th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Laurie Manser Illustrated Talk 'Sweet Peas'. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

- October 16th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Miss Whittington – Nell Gwyn. Competition: Blue/White China. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- October 16th – Medway Camcorder Club, Medway Motor Yacht Club, Borstal. 7.30pm, Peter Dawson talks about his childhood in Chatham. Ring 371570 for details.
- October 17th – Gillingham Flower Arrangers. Layard horizontal. Teaching evening with Sheila Seed. 7.30pm, The Garrison Church Hall, Mansion Row, Brompton.
- October 17th – Rainham Afternoon WI. Royal Visits of Kent – Mr C. Breed. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham. Contact no. 01634 372479.
- October 17th – Wigmore Thursday Club – Bingo.
- October 17th-19th – Gillingham Operatic Society present 'The Music Man', 7.30pm, Sat. Matinee 2/30pm. Tickets from 389730 or 403868.
- October 18th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. Music from the Stage and Screen. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue), Gillingham.
- October 19th – Quiz Night at Oast House. 8.00pm, Community Centre, Granary Close, Station Road, Rainham. Teams of 6, all are welcome. Contact no. 374558.
- October 19th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am Snodland Station. Walk via Ham Hill to Birling, Holly Hill. Packed lunch. PH available. A long hill. Approx 7.5 miles.
- October 19th – Cookery demonstration workshop, cost £37 (including all ingredients). Ring 338400 for details.
- October 19th – Medway Folk Dance Club (see 5th Oct).
- October 19th – Medway WI CRAFT FAIR, Rainham Millennium Centre, 10.00 to 12 noon. Lots of lovely 'Goodies' for sale plus refreshments. Admission 25p, ring 233100 for details.
- October 19th – Wine & Wisdom in aid of Save the Children. 7.30pm, Millennium Centre. Tickets £6 including supper from 362617 or 375610.
- October 20th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 8 miles. Meet outside Detling Village Hall.


- October 21st – Rainham Evening WI. Letter 'V', AGM. 7.30pm, Platters Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
- October 21st – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Pam K – Patchwork Christmas Card/ Tree Decoration plus a Ribbon Bow (see 7th Oct).
- October 22nd – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 8th October).
- October 23rd – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Birthday Lunch.
- October 23rd – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am, 7 miles. Meet and park at Parkwood Shopping Centre, Deanwood Drive, Rainham.
- October 23rd – Gillingham Horticultural Society Quiz Night, Lloyds Social Club, Featherby Road, 8.00pm start. Tables of 6, £4 per person. Sausage & Chip Supper. Ring 360624 for details.
- October 24th – Wigmore Thursday Club – Disasters I have known – Mrs Chadwick.
- October 25th – The Medway Geographical Society. North Yorkshire National Park – Mr Peter Davis. 7.30 to 9.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
- October 25th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. 'Open Star Clusters', Alan Drummond (see 11th October).
- October 26th – Upchurch Horticultural Society AUTUMN SHOW, 2.30 to 4.00pm, Upchurch Village Hall.
- October 26th – Touch the Earth present a Charity Concert. 7.30 to 10.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. Ring 311389 to book.
- October 27th – Ramblers Association. Meet and park at Forestry Commission Barton Wood, north of Sole Street.
- October 30th – Medway Camcorder Club. Your Summer Films (see 16th October).
- October 31st – 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.
- October 31st – Wigmore Thursday Club – Service, Sales Stall and Sing-along.
- November 1st – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. Forty Years On (see 18th October).

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Correspondence

TALK ON OLD RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

I feel I must write to thank Joe Ennis and Freddie Cooper, together with the many others who took part, for such a splendid evening talking about Rainham in days gone by. I attended with my daughter (who must have been one of the youngest present!) and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the old pictures and hearing people's memories of life in Rainham many years ago. I also saw the first talk that Joe did in aid of the Church Roof Appeal and greatly regretted not writing to express my gratitude at the time. Both have been wonderful evenings. If they had been videoed, I believe that a great many would have bought copies of them. So much information was given that it would be nice to watch several times over at least. It would have captured those memories for future generations in Rainham.

On both occasions we left Rainham Church with such a sense of sadness that old Rainham is gradually being eroded and a strong desire to try to preserve what is left.

Once again, thank you for such excellent evenings. More please!

Yours sincerely
Marion Sharp
51 Chalky Bank Road

Editor: Other letters and verbal thanks have been received congratulating Joe Ennis on such a successful evening.

RAINHAM SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Dear Editor,

I was most interested in the letter from John Austin in the August Action Forum under the heading of 'Memories of Rainham School for Boys'.

Being one of the members of staff mentioned from those far off days brought back to me many memories too. I'm not sure about the 'straight line of spuds', or 'permission to look at the girls' - can't imagine I authorised that! I do well remember the keen competition between the various plots and when members of the Rainham Horticultural Society were

invited to judge them. May I say I now have the honour of being President of the Society of which I have been a member for almost 55 years.

I well remember a pupil being given the job of weeding the carrots, but I was amazed to find he had pulled out the carrots and left the weeds! Then, too, boys racing away from the beehive to escape bees to the amusement of all. Our produce was always sold to provide some funds for the garden. In those days we had some marvellous Horticultural Shows and boys brought their exhibits in barrows and anything that had wheels. School just came to a stop for each form to stage their exhibits. I also remember a boy(s) playing around and one had a fork thrust through the toe of his shoe. However, the time went between his toes. And so I could go on.

But I was very encouraged to read that John's experiences resulted in his having 'a great interest in gardening' and I hope he has had as much enjoyment out of it as I have, now, of course, being 'retired' for almost 25 years. It was most enlightening to read of the memories boys had of staff!

I find it very pleasing to frequently meet boys I taught so long ago; many 'Grandads' and some 'Retired', but they invariably speak very highly of those members of staff of those, now, far off days.

Yours sincerely,
Albert R. Pattinson
47 Derby Road,
Chatham ME5 7JD
01634 851705

GODS

Dear Editor,

Gillingham Operatic and Dramatic Society presents an amateur production of 'THE MUSIC MAN' at the CENTRAL THEATRE, CHATHAM, on 17th/18th/19th OCTOBER nightly at 7.30pm with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets can be obtained through our Ticket Secretary 01634 389730 or through the Central Theatre Box Office 01634 403868.

Come and support us and we guarantee to blow away those TV cobwebs! See your theatre.

Yours sincerely,
Marian Marshall

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

The River Medway, upstream from Maidstone, is a typical lowland English river. The footpaths of the Medway Valley Walk now give access to miles of the river's banks. For the purpose of writing September's Nature Notes, however, I did little walking. I spent much of my time simply sitting on the banks of the river at East Farleigh.

The latter is a delightful little village. On the north bank of the river is the clapboarded South Eastern Railway station building (with matching signal box) and the Victoria public house. On the south bank are some old hoppers' huts, a group of eight square oast houses, the church of St Mary with shingled spire and the Bull public house. The two banks are joined by an impressive ragstone 14th century bridge of five arches. Altogether, East Farleigh is a quintessential Kentish village.

My favourite waterside plant (the purple loosestrife) was going to seed by the time of my visit. But there were a number of plants in flower including tall ones such as hemp agrimony, meadowsweet and Himalayan (or Indian) balsam and smaller ones such as watermint, marsh woundwort and water dropwort. The creamy white flowers of the meadowsweet were a particular delight.

Many dragon and damselflies are active well into September. Dragonflies have stouter bodies and a stronger flight than damselflies. They have two pairs of dissimilar wings held out horizontally when at rest. dragonflies fly back and forth in their search for insect prey and some of their regular beats can be a considerable distance from water.

Damselflies are more delicate in appearance than dragonflies. They have slender bodies and a fluttering flight. Damselflies also have two pairs of similar wings which are held vertically over their abdomens when at rest. They tend not to stray far from the waterside where they breed. Whilst at East Farleigh I saw a male emperor dragonfly (deep blue abdomen) and a number of blue tailed damselflies (black abdomens).

Flocks of house martins and swallows were feeding in the air over East Farleigh and its surroundings. They came down occasionally to scoop up water from the surface of the river. These two species gather into flocks and move south in September and October. On warm autumn days, therefore, both species can be seen resting on wires or on the roofs of houses and basking in the sunshine.

Swallows are symbolic of summer and are therefore the favourite bird of many people. Unlike house martins they are not at home in towns. They need open spaces where they can hunt for large flies (such as bluebottles and dungflies) close to the ground. House martins can be seen in many towns and villages in this country but they are especially numerous above old Mediterranean towns.

I kept an eye open for any common terns that might still be around. But they seemed to have migrated already to West Africa. They can be seen, in the summer, along the Medway, hunting for small fish. Chubb, perch and roach are the most common fish in the freshwater stretches of the Medway. A grey heron flew over but did not land. Although I have seen kingfishers on the Medway I did not see one on this occasion. To increase the chances of seeing one of these delightful birds one needs to visit the river in the breeding season when the parents are flying to and from their nest.

It had been a pleasant late Summer's afternoon that I had spent beside the Medway. In between the occasional car, train or cabin cruiser I could hear only the twittering of the house martins and the plop of a fish on the surface of the water.

As I walked back to the station yard where I had parked my car the signalman came out of his box and closed the wooden gates across the road. He then set the semaphore signals for the passage of a local train from Paddock Wood to Maidstone. The scene reminded me of my other main interest as a youth ... trainspotting. Happy, grubby days!

Joe Ennis

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE POSTAL CHARGES?

Throughout the year the RSPB Medway Group sell a range of RSPB Sales and is happy to take specific

orders for customers. In this way both parties benefit: the customer saves postal charges and the Group is allocated commission on their total purchases each quarter. At the end of the financial year the Group then indicates to which particular RSPB projects they would like this commission allocated.

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 2003 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: Monday 7th October to Saturday 12th October: 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.

Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December: Riverside Christmas Fair, Riverside Country Park. For information on the above events, please contact Carole Nixon, telephone 01634 230153.

ST MARGARET'S 50th ANNUAL BAZAAR Saturday 2nd November - 9.30am to 2.30pm Millennium Centre - Admission 30p

Fifty years ago St Margaret's Church held its first Autumn Bazaar and fifty years on we continue the tradition and celebrate this year's event with a 'Golden' theme.

Our fun, fundraising event to end a Jubilee year will have many stalls, a Grand Golden Draw (you could win a new television!), ploughmans lunches, and the chance to see old faces again.

As in previous years, the proceeds are for the support of our lovely old Parish Church and its clergy (also lovely but not so old!) and of course 10% of our

proceeds, as usual, go to charity.

So join us, spend an hour or two with us, chat and refresh yourself with our splendid cups of tea/coffee. We hope that Miss Margaret List will open our Bazaar - she was running a stall at the first one!

Mrs Margaret Meinertzhagen

P.S. Any donations of goods (no jumble please) Tel: 01795 475967 or bring to the Millennium Centre during Friday 1st November.

UPCHURCH PLAYERS

Background to players

The Upchurch Players is a group of people who have for the last 13 years got together to put on a pantomime for the local community. It is a tradition we would like to continue. Due to personal circumstances, we have lost some key members of the group and we are appealing (well some are - some i.e. me, are near their sell by date) for new members of the group. There is an urgency to find members with either musical (piano/keyboard) capability or sewing (design or seamstress) skills in particular to help us produce this year's pantomime. Dress rehearsal dates are the first week in December, with generally a Monday evening meeting each week from September onwards for rehearsals. If you fancy being involved in Am Dram, give us a try. We are a friendly group of people of all ages, with one common desire - to give local people an evening of enjoyment whilst enjoying ourselves in the process.

If not interested in joining the group, and haven't seen us in action, why not come along and join in the fun. Performance dates 5th-7th December 2002 (matinee performance extra on 7th), Upchurch Village Hall. £5.50 adults (under 12s and OAPs £3.00). Tickets on sale from October 1st (contact 01634 361040).

ADULT CLASSES UNDERWAY

The autumn term for adult and community learning classes is now underway but there are vacancies in many of the classes that started during the last week of September - it is not too late to join. Telephone 01634 338400 for details of classes and vacancies.

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CRAFT FAIR

Rainham WI will be holding their CRAFT FAIR on Saturday 19th October, 10am to 12 noon, in the Millennium Community Centre. Please come along and support us, perhaps shop early for Christmas, as we shall have lots of lovely 'Goodies' for sale; plus refreshments. Admission 35p. Details from 01634 233100.

DINNER AND DANCE

The 'St Augustine Group of Friends' will be holding a 'Candlelight Dinner and Dance' in aid of Cancer Research UK at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton, on Friday 8th November 2002.

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WIGMORE MADS

The next Wigmore MADS production is an intriguing powerful thriller written by the best selling author of 'Stepping Out' Richard Harris, a play successfully performed three years ago. When John Haddell dies of a heart attack at the wheel of his car, the woman at his side is his lover Julia, not his wife! To find out more get your tickets now and be prepared for thrills.

Performances are from 7th to 9th November at 8pm in St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore.

Tickets £5, £4 concessions, available from Sue Burrows - Medway 370639.

CHARITY CONCERT

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Saturday 26th October 2002, 7.30 to 10pm.
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To book tickets contact Lynn Gosney or Rob Wilson, 01634 311389 or 07870 755089.

CONCERTS AT ST MATTHEW'S, WIGMORE

St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Autumn series of concerts continues on Saturday 12th October at 7.30pm with a performance by the local Soprano, Christine Hubbard.

The last concert in this series is on 23rd November at 7.30pm when we welcome the return of Annie Mawson a Celtic Harpist and Folk Singer who helped Wigmore celebrate the Jubilee earlier in the year.

Tickets are available for both concerts from Peter Hagger (01634 235056) - £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and accompanied children free.

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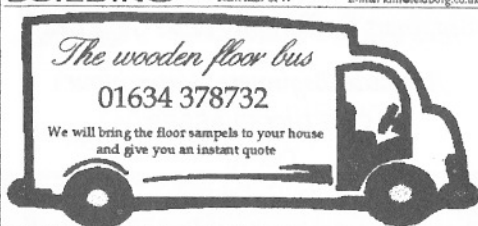
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Diary 2002 cont

November 2nd - St Margaret's 50th Annual Bazaar,
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admission 30p. Ring 01795 475967 for details.
November 2nd - Village Bonfire & Fireworks
evening, Upchurch Paddock, 5.30pm. Admission
£3 Adults, £1.50 Children. Ring 235420 for details.
November 3rd - Ramblers Association. Start
10.00am. 10 miles. Meet at Shipbourne Church.
November 4th - Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers
Association. Beryl and Pat - Pasta Angels for the
Christmas Tree (see 7th October).
November 5th - Gillingham Horticultural Society
Floral Art Group. 'Catherine Wheel' - a
polychromatic spiral design (see 15th October).
November 5th - Medway Camcorder Club. Visit to
Tonbridge CC (see 16th October).
November 6th - The Friendship Circle, 2.15pm, at
Parkwood Christian Fellowship. Contact Mary
Tindall 365758.
November 6th - Rainham (Kent) Horticultural
Society. Mr C. Bradshaw - Birds of the North Kent
Marshes. 7.30pm, Pavilion Cricket Ground,
Berengrave Lane, Rainham.
November 7th - Gillingham Flower Arrangers.
Among My Souvenirs - Petite.
November 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club - The
Weakest Link.
November 7th-9th - Wigmore MADS present 'Dead
Guilty' by Richard Harris, 8.00pm, St Matthew's

Small Ads

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November 8th - Gillingham & Rainham Local
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story of passports (with slides) (see 11th Oct).
November 8th - Dinner & Dance in aid of Cancer
Research, King Charles Hotel, Brompton.
Tickets £25, ring 363793 for details.
November 9th - Instep Dancing (see 12th October).
November 9th - Medway & District Group of
HF Holidays. Meet 11.00am Mote Park car park,
Maidstone. Dry packed lunch. Approx 3 miles.
November 9th - Mierscourt PTFM Musical Wine &
Wisdom, 7.30pm at the school. Teams of 8 adults
£3.50, children £2.50. Ring 365377 for details.
November 9th - Friends of Chernobyl's Children
(Medway) Fund Raising Barn Dance. 7.30 to
10.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral
Road, Gillingham. Dancing to live music. Bring &
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November 10th - Ramblers Association. Start
10.00am, 5.5 miles. Meet and park around Green at
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WRVS Darby & Joan Club meets at the Howard Hall,
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