

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

MARCH 2003  
NUMBER 376



Manor Farm Restaurant, at the junction of Maidstone Road and the A2, was originally built in 1926 as the gas showrooms with a flat for the manager above. The spacious interior had a large display of all the most modern gas appliances. Expanded and converted some twenty years ago it still kept much of its original charm. A recent refurbishment has completely altered the appearance. This picture will remind you of how it used to look.

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Next Issue: April 5th 2003  
Copy date: March 18th Sm Ads Mar 21st

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

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

## Editorial

Apologies for the missing caption underneath the front cover photograph last month. I am sure you will have worked out the significance of the cheerful group of children but just for the record it should have read 'Children of Komiya School near Magadi, Kajiado District, proudly show their new books bought with donations from Action Forum. See how you can help in the article'. I am very pleased to say several people responded to my appeal for help with distribution. This indirectly helps these children as the money saved by not paying distributors is divided between Kajiado District and the Church Roof Appeal Funds for St Matthew's and St Margaret's Churches. If you did not quite get around to ringing last month your help as a distributor can still be used, particularly if you are able to cover an area not necessarily in your immediate neighbourhood. Ring either 371591 in shop hours or 231307 at other times to volunteer.

I am pleased to be able to report that the popularity of Action Forum continues to grow and for the last year we have had to operate a waiting list for advertisers and inevitably turn some away altogether. For many reasons it is not practical to enlarge the magazine; we cannot just add a couple of pages as a newspaper would in these circumstances, and we are not prepared to have a larger percentage of advertisements to editorial copy, so as a possible solution we are this month introducing a new size of box advertisement. Slightly smaller than the present standard one-eighth page box, the new size will fit twelve advertisements on each full page, and of course will have correspondingly cheaper prices (see the top of page 14 for current rates). We hope you will like our slightly different look and will continue to support the businesses who advertise in our pages.

Recently a gentleman has brought back to us an almost complete set of Action Forum he had collected since the 1970s. I have supplemented these, with copies I have, so we now have a complete run, right from the earliest edition in March 1969, available for anyone to look through at Rainham Bookshop. The copies have already been used by one lady researching the history of St Margaret's Junior School. From the early 1990s we also have some spare copies that we are happy to give you (while

they last) if you have a particular interest, but any not available and earlier issues can be photocopied at the cost of 15p for each A4 sheet. We are working on an index but this is a very time consuming activity and will not be ready just yet!

Plenty to see and do in our pages this month so please do read on and enjoy the month of March while we look forward to those long spring days to come, have a happy month, see you again in April.

## Correspondence

### SPRING CONCERT

Dear Editor,

After a brief break for the winter St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, starts a spring series of concerts on Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm, with the welcome return of the local soprano Christine Hubbard. She will be performing as part of her Mnarani Tour, which is in aid of a school building fund in the village of Mnarani in Kenya. The theme of the concert will be 'It's All About Love', with the programme containing songs from shows and operas with a love theme. Tickets are now available from Peter Hagger (01634 235056) at £5 each.

Future concerts at St Matthew's Church include Kent Junior Choir and Singers on Saturday 26th April and Kent Chamber Choir on Saturday 21st June.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Hagger

### RAINHAM FLOWER CLUB

Dear Editor,

Rainham Flower Club (Kent) is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) a voluntary organisation for those interested in the art of flower arranging.

This year Rainham Flower Club celebrates its Sapphire Anniversary (45 years) with over a 100 members. The monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday in every month at the village hall in Upchurch from 7.30pm.

The club has many talented members who enter exhibits in local, area, and national competitions who over the years have been awarded Gold, Silver, Gilt and Bronze medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. Other exhibits have been in cathedrals, stately homes and other locations.

Many of the club members are currently involved in a presentation:

'Fleuratations', a floral art competition at Upchurch Village Hall, The Street, Upchurch, on Saturday 29th March 2003 from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

Yours sincerely  
Barbara Nancollas  
73 Edwin Road.

### CHILD CARE STUDENTS

Dear Editor,

Mid Kent College currently have students studying childcare who require work experience placements in a family environment. If you have a baby from 0-11 months old and are interested in having a student, free of charge, for the summer term please contact Julia or Gill at the college on 01634 830633.

Yours sincerely  
Julia Such  
Mid Kent College  
Horsted Centre

### CRAFT CLUB

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring your readers' attention to a Craft Club which meets on the second Tuesday of each month (1.30pm to 3.00pm) at Rainham Christian Fellowship, located at the junction of Begonia Avenue, Waltham Road and Milsted Road in Twydall.

We are a friendly group who meet together once a month to learn new crafts. We share our own skills with the group and sometimes we have an outside demonstrator.

We charge £1 a session and any profit remaining at the end of each year goes to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Any new faces would be welcome to join us. For more information please call me on 01634 260463.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Sarah Martin

### THE ADIE FAMILY

Dear Editor,

I moved into 15 London Road with my wife 6½ years ago and have been renovating the property ever since. I was lucky enough to obtain the original land deeds dating back to 1902. The deeds show that the house was built by a James Adie. I have been trying to trace his relations but as far as I know he and his wife did not have any children.

When reading Freddie Cooper's article in the November Action Forum I was amazed to see that a Charles Adie was the proprietor of the White Horse Inn in 1908. I also note that in 1901 the population of Rainham was only 3,693, surely the two Adies must

be related! I would be very grateful if anyone could throw any light on this.

I am hoping to replace the porch of my house in the near future and wish to do so in the original style, unfortunately as yet I have been unable to find a picture of the front of the house. If anyone has a photograph of this area in the early 1900s I would very much like to see it.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Hunt  
15 London Road  
Rainham

Editor: A lady I was talking to in the shop recently told me she was a relation of Charles Adie; unfortunately I did not take any details of her name or address but I am sure Mr Hunt would be very pleased to hear from her.

### WAKELEY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

Wakeley Junior School is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in June 2003 and as part of the commemoration we are producing a book documenting the life of Wakeley over the last fifty years. We would welcome any contributions your readers may have. The contributions can be in the way of photographs or memories. Please contact the school for further details.

If anyone would like to pay us a visit, then all are most welcome to our 'Open Morning' at Wakeley on Thursday 6th March between 9.30am and 11.30am. There will be displays from both Meredale Infant School and Wakeley Junior School, as you may know, the two schools will be merging in September as Riverside Primary.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs T.J. Daley  
Headteacher  
01634 231965  
office@wakeley.  
medway.sch.uk

### REWARD

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# Diary 2003

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

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Diary Copy Date: 18th March 2003

- March 1st – Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.30-10.00pm, Bob Parsons, details 366189 or 388546.
- March 2nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 10.00am. Meet Bluebell Hill Picnic Site. Dogs on leads. 6 mile walk. Contact no. 01634 865583.
- March 2nd – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. Meet at Sheldwich Lees and park in Green opposite. 8 mile walk.
- March 3rd – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Carole – Ribbon Weaving. 7.30 to 9.30pm, at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- March 4th – Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7.30 to 9.00pm. Simplicity using only 3 flowers plus foliage. All welcome, ring 234734 for details.
- March 4th – Wigmore Men's Fellowship, Marlborough Unit, 8.00pm, RNLI Lifeboat Coxswain. All welcome, details 364818.
- March 5th – Rainham Horticultural Society. 7.30pm Berengrove Cricket Club, Berengrove Lane, Rainham. Mrs Bowles 'Growing & Caring for Houseplants'. Ring 387176 for details.
- March 5th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. 1.00 to 4.00pm. All welcome, ring 814922 for details.
- March 5th – Medway Camcorder Club. How a Website is devised: with Graeme Whippy. 7.30pm, Medway Motor Yacht Club, Medway Bridge Marina, Manor Lane, Borstal, Rochester. Contact no. 01634 371570.
- March 6th – Wakeley Junior School Open Morning, 9.30 to 11.30am, all welcome.

- March 6th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Mr Morgan – Talk on growing Geraniums and Fuchsias. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- March 7th – Women's World Day of Prayer. 'Holy Spirit Fill Us', 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church, Rainham. All welcome.
- March 7th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. The Four Seasons. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue), Gillingham.
- March 8th – HF Walk. Meet 10.30am free car park opposite 'Man on Wheels', Rainham. Approx 6 miles to Queendown Warren, dry packed lunch.
- March 8th – Instep Dancing. Saturday Social Dance, Rainham School for Girls. Ballroom/Latin/Sequence. 8.00 to 11.00pm. Enquiries telephone 01634 363738.
- March 9th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 10.00am, Teynham Rail Station. 5 mile walk. No dogs. Contact no. 01795 535941.
- March 9th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. Meet at Chequers PH in Loose. 6 mile walk.
- March 10th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Warping a Loom. (see 3rd March)
- March 11th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls. Talk by Derek Lloyd Dean. Ring 362683
- March 11th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm. The Red Cross Gillingham Centre, 31 Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Contact no. 01634 862673.
- March 12th – Rainham Flower Club. 7.30 to 9.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Demonstration: Athena Tulba 'My World Revisited'. Ring 362123 for details.
- March 12th – Bredhurst Women's Institute. 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall. Sue Hartfree 'Container Gardening'. Ring 232617 for details.
- March 12th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. Meet and park in Hollingbourne Rail Station. 7.5 mile walk.
- March 13th-15th & 20th-22nd – Rainham Theatrical Society, 'Educating Rita'. 8.00pm, Oasthouse Theatre. Tickets £5 from 360506 (weekdays 9am to 8pm).

- March 13th, 14th & 15th – Wigmore MADS present 'An evening at the Music Hall', St Matthew's Community Centre, 8.00pm. Tickets £5 (£4 conc) Box Office 370639.
- March 13th-22nd – Medway Little Theatre, 'The Happiest Days of Your Life' by Derek Benfield. 7.30pm. Box Office 400322.
- March 13th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Mr Howard – Talk on 'Wood Turning'. (see 6th March)
- March 15th – Countryside Event, Wildlife Gardening, 1.30pm Capstone Farm Park. £1.60. Book on 812196.
- March 15th – Medway Folk Dance Club. Morris Larkin. (see 1st March)
- March 15th – HF Walk. Meet 10.30am long stay car park opposite 'The Bull', West Malling. Approx. 6 miles, packed lunch.
- March 15th – Union of Catholic Mothers. Jumble Sale, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, 11.00am. Admission 20p, all proceeds to the Blue Peter Water Works Appeal. Ring 233293 for details.
- March 16th – Countryside Event. Effective Pruning, 10.00am to 3.00pm, Capstone Farm Park. Book on 812196.
- March 16th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 10.30am. Meet Faversham Love Lane, near cemetery. 9 mile walk. Dogs on leads. Contact no. 01634 374923.
- March 16th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. Meet and park in Lamberhurst car park. 9 mile walk.
- March 17th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute. 7.30pm, Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham. Mrs S. Redman 'A Woman's Work'. Ring 231554 for details.
- March 18th – Floral Art Group. 'In a Whirl' a spiral arrangement. (see 4th March).
- March 18th – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. 'An Investiture at Buckingham Palace'. (see 4th March)
- March 19th – Countryside Event. Guided Walk, Riverside Country Park. 10.30am, £1.50. Book on 378987.
- March 19th – Bredhurst Garden Club, 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall. Spring Show. Talk 'African Adventure Part 3'. Ring 233554

- March 19th – Bredhurst Women's Institute Annual Council Meeting. (see 12th March)
- March 19th – Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. Committee Rooms, First Floor, Municipal Buildings, Gillingham. £1.00 admission. Details 231755.
- March 19th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. AGM. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- March 19th – Medway Camcorder Club. 5 minute competition, basic edit, no computers! Hand made titles. (see 5th March)
- March 20th – Rainham (Afternoon) Women's Institute. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham. 'Wildlife of Swale', Mr E.G. Coleman. Ring 372479 for details.
- March 20th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Birthday Tea – Rainbow Concert Party entertain. (see 6th March)
- March 21st – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. Committee Choice. (see 7th March)
- March 22nd – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Barn Dance, St Matthew's Hall. Tickets £8 a head including Chuck Wagon Supper from 235507.
- March 22nd – HF Walk. Meet 10.30am Faversham Railway Station. Approx 8 miles, packed lunch. Leader Sue Rowden 01227 277223.
- March 22nd – Instep Dancing. (see 8th March)
- March 22nd – Darland House Carer Group, Darland Avenue, Gillingham. Coffee Morning, 10.30am to 12.30pm. Refreshments, cakes, preserves, bric-a-brac, books, tapes, CDs and plants. Good raffle. All welcome.
- March 23rd – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 10.30am. Eynsford area of Plough Inn. Dogs on leads. 5½ mile walk. Contact no 01634 85552.
- March 23rd – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. Meet and park in National Trust car park at Igham Mote. 6 mile walk. Contact no 01634 666326.
- March 24th – Countryside Event. Talk – Butterflies. Riverside Country Park, 7.30pm. £1.60. Book on 378987.
- March 24th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Continuation of Warping. (see 3rd March)

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If you are a male aged between 18 and 45 Gillingham Round Table has lots to offer. To find out more contact Martin Conn-White, 01634 309941 (7.30pm onwards), 01322 335525, email connwhite@aol.com.

## GIRLGUIDING RAINHAM SOUTH

We urgently need Brownie Leaders and Unit Helpers for two Brownie Units based at Fairview School. One Unit, which has been running for 52 years, may have to close if we can't get at least one Leader for it.

If you remember the fun you had as a Brownie then please consider offering help. For more details please ring: Lesley Dennis on 01634 234738.

## CHRISTIAN AID EVENING

St Matthew's Church, Monday 31st March,  
8.00pm

Alic Forna will be speaking about his work as the Executive Director for the Association for Rural Development in Sierra Leone. He was born in Makeni, Northern Sierra Leone and is married with five children. It will be good to hear first hand news of the conflict in this part of Africa and the progress made by the non-governmental organisations - all welcome.

More details from Frances Brown, 01634 387342.

## COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 19th March the Mayoress of Medway is holding a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief in the Committee Rooms, 1st Floor, Municipal Buildings, between 10.30 and 12 noon. Admission is £1 including coffee and biscuits. Please support us by attending and helping the work of this charity.

Ring 01634 231755 for more details.

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## WIGMORE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Calling all the men folk (young and old) of Wigmore and the local area. I should like to invite you to join the Wigmore Men's Fellowship, a local community organisation dedicated to fund raising for the local charities in our community whilst enjoying a programme of interesting talks and visits as a group of likeminded individuals. We meet at 8.00pm once a fortnight usually at the Marlborough Centre on Maidstone Road, Rainham. In the summer months most of our programme is open to all including wives and friends as we host barbeques and crazy egg races to name but two activities.

If you are interested or would like to know more please give Mike Collins a ring on Medway 364818.

## UPCHURCH PLAYERS

Once again we have met to organise next year's panto, so if you ever wanted to have a go at scenery or set design, costumes or acting, then the next step is simple - pick up the phone and give me a call. We start rehearsals in September on Monday evenings, although scenery design etc is carried out prior to this, so if you are interested in anything at all to do with the am dram scene, then please contact me for further information.

Gloria, 01634 363271

## MEDWAY EVACUEES REUNION GROUP

The next meeting of Medway Evacuees Reunion Group will be on Wednesday 5th March 2003. Time: 1.00 to 4.00pm, at the Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent.

Non-members welcome.

Jean Simmons (Sec), 01634 814922.

## WINE & WISDOM EVENING

SATURDAY 5th APRIL AT 7.30pm

If any of your readers would be interested in testing their skills, there is to be a Wine & Wisdom Evening at the Community Centre, St Matthew's Church, to raise funds for the St Matthew's Roof & Renewal Appeal. £5 per person - supper included (BYOG&D). Tickets from Gavin Cargill 387055.

## David haines

Painter decorator



133 Marshall Road Rainham Kent ME8 0AL

07956 318932

# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Seasalter is one of those places that I return to time and time again. It is a place of mud flats, shingle beach, sea wall, grazing marshes and wide open sky. Summer memories are of sailing dinghies, picnics on the shingle, ice cream at Walden's shop, the cries of redshanks and oyster catchers, blue skies and yellow horned poppies. Winter memories are of the occasional dog walker, locked-up beach huts, waders in spectacular massed flight, skeins of brent geese and cold easterly winds.

Seasalter is approached through the villages of Goodnestone and Graveney. The road is narrow, twisting and undulating. During winter the hop fields adjoining the villages are of course bare, as are the cherry trees under which sheep graze. After Denley Hill Farm the Graveney Marshes and the distant sea wall come into view. On the landward side of the wall are the old coastguard cottages and one or two other isolated buildings.

My last visit was on a cold January day. In between keeping my eyes on the road ahead and my rear view mirror, I snatched glances either side of the car. On the grazing marshes to my right were hundreds of sheep. On my left flocks of lapwing and golden plovers foraged in a wheat field. As always, it was with a sense of anticipation that I approached the sea wall, since whether the tide is in or out determines the species and amount of birds that I will see.

I parked my car near the Sportsman Inn and climbed the embankment. The tide was in. There would not be many birds about. A small flock of brent geese were riding up and down in the choppy sea, waiting for the tide to go out when they could feed on eel grass. In addition, a few turnstones were running up and down the tide line looking for sand hoppers and small molluscs among the seaweed and flotsam. Turnstones are relatively tame and can often be seen in the vicinity of the Old Neptune pub at Whitstable and at Whitstable Harbour where they rummage among cockle shells that have just been

processed and discarded.

I walked in a westerly direction along the sea wall. Clumps of sea beet were visible on the shingle below me. Stretches of lichen and stonecrop were also in evidence. I disturbed small parties of skylarks and rock pipits feeding on the seeds of long-dead summer flowers.

Between the wall and the fields are wide drainage ditches in which common reed was growing. In the summer the reed beds are the breeding grounds of sedge and reed warblers and reed buntings. In the winter they are relatively lifeless but I did see, in the dykes, a little egret, a little grebe and a stonechat. The little egret is a somewhat exotic newcomer to this country, having spread from southern Europe. It has conspicuous white plumage.

The fields of the Cleve Marshes are currently arable, being used for the growing of winter wheat and forage beef. In one of the large fields I counted 70 mute swans. These birds often congregate on estuaries in the winter where they can make serious inroads into the limited stocks of eel grass. Here on the Cleve Marshes they seem to be making serious inroads into some poor farmer's winter wheat.

Almost opposite the isolated church of Harty on the Isle of Sheppey I came to Castle Coot, an area of salt marsh within a semicircle of shingle. During the summer ringed plovers and little terns nest on the shingle and Kent Wildlife Trust discourages people from straying onto the area. Even so, nesting birds suffer loss of eggs and young to foxes, gulls and carrion crows. During my visit the salt marsh, which is covered mainly with sea purslane, was host to hundreds of feeding redshank and flocks of dunlin were resting on the shingle banks.

By the time that I arrived back at the Sportsman Inn the tide was going out. Birds were flying in from all directions to take advantage of the newly-uncovered sea shore. There were oyster catcher, ringed plover, knot, dunlin, sanderling and curlew. I was only a few yards from them but as long as I remained on the landward side of the sea wall they were unconcerned about my presence. The need to eat as much as possible during the short days of winter no doubt overcame any nervousness they might have had.

It was time for a coffee at the inn. Luckily it was not a Sunday, otherwise it might have been a long wait to get served.

Joe Ennis

## THE SAGA OF 'THE CRICKETERS' CAR PARK

Five years ago, just prior to 1st April 1998, Gillingham joined Rochester upon Medway to form the new Unitary Authority called Medway. Both Councils endeavoured to ensure that their accumulated balances were allocated to projects within their respective Boroughs which is why £300,000 was set aside to complete the extension to the car park behind the Cricketers PH which had been accepted as a provision having additional urgency when the new Millennium Centre was proposed. Successive Vicars had pressed for an extension as those attending weddings and funerals were often inconvenienced and half of the lower car park was lost on market days.

The new Council did not give high priority to such a venture and to be fair there were a number of unexpected legal problems (there always are) and the endeavours of Canon Alan Vousden were of no avail until the beginning of January when part of the area was cleared. Optimistic hopes were quickly thwarted when before the month was out work ceased and the area was fenced off.

Having read of the financial problems of our 'Municipal Masters' I sensed that this might be associated with the termination of activity, fears which were confirmed when I managed to contact an officer who knew where the site was. He explained that much of the money originally allocated (£300,000) had been spent on the preliminary legal negotiations and that further progress would probably have to wait until the new financial year (1st April).

Having ascertained the background I contacted Cllr Rodney Chambers as Leader of Medway Council who was born and bred at Natal Farm now part of Upchurch Golf Course so obviously knows the area well. He explained the problems which, as a previous Chairman of Finance, I could appreciate but promised to see if it is possible to transfer funds from other Capital projects which could not start before the end

of the financial year. I feel that officers should have known what monies were available for this project before even starting as broken or delayed contracts will obviously cost more.

I have discussed the matter with the Vicar who intends to bring further pressure to bear through 'normal channels' but neither of us is over optimistic, at least frustrated visitors to the car park will know the 'official reason'. The area of the extension is very small and ratepayers will be interested to see how long it eventually takes to complete.

Freddie Cooper, 12.2.03

Stop Press. It is now understood that money has been allocated in next year's council budgets, so work should recommence in April.

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## RAINHAM BOOKSHOP GALLERY

Besides the monthly changing displays – and within that a fresh themed exhibition each month – one artist will be singled out as the Featured Artist starting in February '03 with Betty Howe, followed by Jim Peters in March, Sandra Dixon in April and Phillip Tyrill in May. Plans are that this will continued in this vein in the future.

John Evans

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## Diary 2003

March 25th — Rainham Evening Knitting Machine Club. (see 11th March)

March 27th — Rainham & District Dollshouse Group. 7.30pm, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall. Details from 312038.

March 27th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales Stall and Beetle. (see 6th March)

March 28th — The Medway Geographical Society. Uzbekistan, Miss E. Crowhurst. 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.

March 29th — HF Walk. Meet 10.15am Frittenden Village Hall. Approx. 7 miles, packed lunch.

March 29th — New Exhibition, Rainham Bookshop Gallery.

March 29th — Medway Folk Dance Club. Les & Mike. (see 1st March)

March 29th — Spring Concert, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, 7.30pm. Christine Hubbard featuring love songs from the shows and operas. Tickets £5 from 235056.

March 29th — Rainham Flower Club. 'Fleurtings', a Floral Art Competition. 2.00 to 6.00pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Admission £1.50, presentations 5.30pm.

March 29th — Countryside Event. Children's Nature Day, 10.30 to 12 noon, Riverside Country Park. £1.50 per child age 5-12 years (under 8 must be accompanied by an adult). Craft activities. Book on 378987.

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March 30th — Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 2.00pm. Park against Sheerness Dockwall near Whelans. 5 mile walk. No dogs. Contact no. 01732 841433.

March 30th — Medway Towns Footpath Group. Start 10.00am. Meet at West Peckham Church. 7.5 mile

March 31st — Christian Aid Evening, St Matthew's Church, 8.00pm. All welcome. Details from 387342.

April 1st — Wigmore Men's Fellowship. 'On the Carpet'. (see 4th March)

April 1st — Floral Art Group. Show Talk and Charity Sales Table. (see 4th March)

April 3rd-5th — Medway Little Theatre present 'The Wild Goose Chase' by Derek Benfield (Young Actors' Studio). 7.30pm. Box Office 400322.

April 4th — Mantissa Opera present an Opera Gala, St Margaret's Church, Rochester, 7.30pm. Including Magic Flute, La Bohème, Pearlfishers, Carmen and more. Tickets £10 (£8 conc) from 575842.

April 4th — Gillingham Recorded Music Society. An Evening with Bs. (see 7th March)

April 5th — Gillingham Horticultural Society Spring Show. 2.30 to 4.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.

April 5th — Wakeley School Music Quiz Night. 7.30pm, tables of 8, tickets £3.50 per person (adults only) from 231965 in school hours.

April 5th — Wine & Wisdom Evening, St Matthew's Community Centre, 7.30pm. £5 per person, supper incl (BYOD). 387055 to book.

Craft Club meet every second Tuesday each month at Rainham Christian Fellowship. Wyndall. New faces welcome. Details from 260463.

Upchurch Parent & Toddlers meet every Friday in Upchurch Village Hall, 10.00 to 11.30am. Refreshments provided. £1.50 per session. Details from 375280 during sessions.

Rainham & District Dollshouse and Miniaturist Group meet on the last Thursday of each month (except December) from 7.30pm at the St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. More details from Mrs Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038.

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### ST MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH WHITSUN FLAMES OF CREATION

It hardly seems possible that another year has gone by and already it's time to write about our third Arts and Crafts Exhibition which is to be held on 7th and 8th June 2003. So if you, like me, didn't know when Whitsun is, you do now! Last year's exhibition proved to be a spectacular success and although we had expected to hold only two such shows, by popular demand we are now preparing for another and plans are already going ahead for 2004. I have said before that it never ceases to amaze me how much hidden talent there is in Rainham, so now we are asking all of you art and craft folk to enter some items into the exhibition. This not just a Church thing, we hope that all people in Rainham and the surrounding areas will join us in celebrating the great wealth of local talent. Last year a number of people who do not attend Church entered both art and craft items and the exhibition was richly enhanced by this. So I'm hoping that now the word is getting round, we will be able to welcome many more of you talented folk I know are out there.

Forms for items to be entered will be available from the end of February from the Church Office 10.00 to 3.00pm Monday to Friday, and at the back of the Church after all services. I said the first year that we wouldn't be able to improve on the exhibition standard and was proved wrong. I am now anticipating another great weekend.

Please ring me on 01634 365789 should you have any queries.

Pam Ormiston

### WIGMORE COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 29th April 2003 commencing at 7.30pm. The venue will be the Main Hall, Fairview Avenue Junior School, Drewery Drive, Wigmore.

The guest speakers are expected to include Mr Paul Clark, Mr Chambers Leader of Medway Council and representatives from both the Police and Medway Council Community Safety.

All existing members will be welcome, new members can join on the night.

More details from R.S. Dunn, 01634 378769.

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