

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

SEPTEMBER 2003

NUMBER 382

Memories of Rainham



Following the letter from Mrs Wiles in August about her first days at the newly built Rainham School for Girls Miss Mountain has supplied this picture of the official opening in 1932. From the left standing are the Mayoress, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, the Mayor and Mr F.J.R. Mountain (Town Clerk). Do let us know if you can name any of those seated behind the officials.

Joe Ennis will present a slide show 'Rainham Then and Now' in St Margaret's Church, Rainham, at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th September.

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Next Issue: October 4th 2003
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Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

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

Editorial

The letter from Mrs Wiles of Strood about the early days of Rainham School for Girls, that we included in August Action Forum, stimulated much discussion and interest, not least the memories of parading themselves in navy blue knickers that struck a chord with many readers. Our front cover picture this month is of the 1932 opening ceremony of the new building, also this month another reader sheds more light on the murals that are still visible on the wall of one classroom.

After the hot lazy days of August everything springs to life again with the beginning of a new school year. Adult Education hope to tempt you with a wide range of courses, it is not too late to enrol, many of the lists still have vacancies. Two conferences offer places, A Day with a Difference organised by Home Start and the third Women's Conference to be organised locally considers the theme 'The King and I' exploring relationship with God our King. Places are available for both events for those interested.

The Macmillan Nurses have had a successful fund raising year but more is still needed, so they invite you to join them in the world's biggest coffee morning either by attending an event at Rainham Cricket Club on 26th September or perhaps organising your own morning at work (we provide cakes or biscuits and ask our staff for a donation to the charity on this one day) or with a group of friends, and give the proceeds to this worthwhile cause. Few of us are untouched in some way by the work of these dedicated nurses who do so much to help people in their own homes.

Congratulations to the Cricketers for their colourful hanging basket display that has done much to improve the appearance of Rainham during these last couple of dry, hot months, whoever has looked after them deserves our thanks – it must have been a time-consuming occupation but your efforts have been much appreciated, thank you.

Lots to do this month, volunteers are again wanted for various projects, how about becoming an advisor for the Citizens Advice Bureau or a mentor for short term prisoners to help cut crime in our area or just joining one of the many societies that advertise in our diary, the choice is yours but do have a very good month and we will see you again in October.

Correspondence

HIGH STREET MURAL

Dear Editor,

I have just been passed the May issue of Action Forum and can help with some information regarding the murals on the class wall at Orchard Street School.

I was a pupil at the school until July 1945 and these murals were painted whilst I was there. I understood the artists, a boy and two girls, were past pupils who had gone to Art College on leaving Orchard Street.

The room was used for Art Classes and the teacher at that time was Miss Doris Saywell.

I vaguely remember one of the other murals depicted the hop fields, but I cannot remember if they were completed by the time I left the school. Perhaps they were done to celebrate the end of the war.

I hope this will be of help,

Yours sincerely,
Phyllis Harman
(née Stevens)
24 Headingley Road
Allington, Maidstone
Kent ME16 0HR
01622 682297

RAINHAM SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Dear Editor,

Thank you for including in the August Action Forum the most interesting article about the opening of Rainham School for Girls (boys were the other side!) in 1932 – what a marvellous opportunity in education after 11 years of age the children from Upchurch, Lower Halstow, Hartlip, Bredhurst, Hempstead, Solomon Road and Rainham Church of England Schools had – they came from excellent village schools with dedicated teachers but the children moved forward when Orchard Street School opened.

I think that you may be interested in this photograph of the opening of the school. My father, Francis J.R. Mountain (he was the newly appointed Town Clerk and Clerk of the Education Committee for Gillingham) led the proceedings accompanied by the Mayor, Aldermen, Managers and the Heads of the Schools.

At about the same time Woodlands Road School was opened by the Town Clerk and Councillors.

The Borough of Gillingham needed new Municipal Buildings and in 1933 the new Council Offices were opened by the Town Clerk and Councillors when they moved from the old Council Offices in Gardiner Street, Gillingham (now the Adult Education Centre) to the modern Municipal Buildings by Gillingham Park.

I believe that Rainham was taken from Milton and Swale just before my family moved from Surrey to Rainham in about 1929/30 (not quite sure when) – what a pity!!! – we might still have had the beautiful

village Rainham used to be – certainly some of the old buildings would have been preserved – but Rainham would not have had main drainage!!

On retirement my father was the first lawyer to set up in private practice in Rainham.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Mountain
01634 231246

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Editor,

I should like to draw readers' attention to the Children's classes for Scottish Country Dancing which are held on Fridays from 5.30pm to 6.30pm during term time at the Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham.

The classes are open to girls and boys from 6 years of age upwards and aim to teach the steps and figures of Scottish Country Dancing. As well as providing fun and enjoyment, dancing helps to develop social skills and teamwork.

During the 10 years the classes have been running, many pupils have been successfully prepared for the International Dance Teachers Association examinations and the junior dancers have often accompanied the Senior demonstration team to functions such as Summer Fetes.

There is a modest charge of 50p per person for the classes which are run by the Medway and District Caledonian Association.

For further information, please contact Margaret Anne Robertson on 01634 304372.

Yours faithfully,
M.A. Robertson

RAINHAM THEN AND NOW

Dear Editor,

Can I please remind your readers that I shall be giving a slide show 'Rainham Then and Now' in St Margaret's Church on Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm. Admission £3 in aid of St Margaret's Church.

Freddie Cooper hopes to be there to answer questions.

Yours sincerely,
Joe Ennis
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Medway 235182

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ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH – CELEBRATES

Dear Editor,

St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, would like to invite Action Forum readers to join them in the following celebrations.

Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st September – Patronal Festival & Centenary of the Teddy Bear

Saturday 20th at 7.30pm – an evening of Live Jazz and Blues in St Matthew's Church. Admission £5 (£4 concessions). Tickets available from Ann Echlin (01732 845550) or on the door.

Sunday 21st at 3.30pm rounders and games in Wigmore Park. Followed at 4.15 by a bring and share Teddy Bears Picnic in St Matthew's Church Precinct and at 5pm a children's service in Church. Bring your favourite Teddy with you.

Sunday 5th October – Harvest Festival
9.30am Family Harvest Service in St Matthew's Church.

5.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise in St Matthew's Church followed by a Harvest Supper in the Community Centre. Tickets for the Supper are available at price £5.50 (children £3), this includes a 3 course supper and entertainment – from Paulette Pointon (01634 231650) and Avril Coomber (01634 378906). Please bring your own drink and glasses.

You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Hagger

BROWNIES

Dear Editor,

Due to a large number of older girls having to leave us, 5th Rainham Brownies will have a number of spaces come September. We meet at Riverside Primary School on Thursdays, 6-7.30pm. If any girls aged 7-10 are interested in joining us please contact 01634 360415.

Yours sincerely,
L.A. Hemsley
Brownie Guider

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Diary 2003

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
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Diary Copy Date: 16th September 2003



- September 6th – Instep Dancing. Social/Dance, Rainham School for Girls. Ballroom/Latin/Sequence, 8.00 to 11.00pm. Details 363738.
- September 6th – Bredhurst Village Show.
- September 6th – Wine and Wisdom Competition: 7.30pm in St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets are available from Bill Trees 370722 at a cost of £6 (concessions £5). Supper will be provided but please bring your own drinks and glasses.
- September 6th – Medway Folk Dance Club. 7.30 to 10.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Visitors new and experienced dancers welcome.
- September 7th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet at 10.00am, Bluebell Hill Picnic Site. 6 miles walk. No dogs.
- September 8th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Spinning. 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- September 8th – Countryside Event, Evening Talk. Smuggling by Robert Black, Riverside Country Park, 7.30pm. £1.70 per person. Book 378987.
- September 9th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm, Red Cross Centre, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Contact No. 862673.
- September 9th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Paul Heavers with a talk about Fuchsias. 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls,

- September 9th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. 'S is for September', an Hogarth Curve arrangement plus 'Show Talk'. 7.30 to 9.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Gillingham.
- September 9th – Medway Antique and Collectors Club. 8.00pm, St George's Hotel, New Road Avenue, Chatham. 'Rationed Fashion 1939-1952' – Mrs Lee Ault. Ring 365861 for details.
- September 9th – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Visit to an orchard in Wateringbury. 7.00pm start at Wateringbury, details from Mike Collins. Tel: 01634 364818.
- September 10th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent). 'Christina Curtiss: Fiction, Fun & Fantasy'. 7.30 to 9.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall.
- September 10th – Bredhurst WI. Linda Steward Appearing on Masterchef. Competition: Miles from Bredhurst. 7.30pm in Bredhurst Village Hall.
- September 10th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. 1.00 to 4.00pm, non members welcome, ring 814922 for details.
- September 11th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Graham Johnson – Kent, an Unusual View, with slides. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- September 11th – Medway Kidney Support Group 'Living Donor Transplantation' talk from donors perspective and transplant co-ordinator from Guy's Hospital, London. Free, all welcome, 7.00pm. BAE SYSTEMS Airport Works, Rochester, details 365019.
- September 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th – Rainham Theatrical Society, 'The Smuggler & The Lady', a romantic musical, 8.00pm. Tickets £5 from 360506 (weekdays 9am-8.00pm).
- September 13th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. GHS AUTUMN SHOW. 2.30 to 4.30pm.
- September 13th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am, west end of Doddington by garage. 5/6 mile walk.
- September 14th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. 2.30pm, School Road, Charing. 4½ mile walk. No dogs.
- September 15th – Rainham Evening WI. Kent, an Unusual View – M.G. Johnson. Competition:

- A small SQUARE object. 7.30pm, Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
- September 17th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Mr Hale – Wildlife in Medway. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside.
- September 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Annual General Meeting. Questions and Answers. Forum Chaired by A. Wainwright. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- September 17th – Medway Camcorder Club. 5 minute competition. Theme: Boats. 7.30pm, Medway Motor Yacht Club, Medway Bridge Marina, Moor Lane, Borstal, Rochester.
- September 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Outing to Margate Theatre.
- September 18th – Rainham Afternoon WI. Working at Chelsea Hospital for Pensioners – Joy Whittington. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham.
- September 19th – Charity Golf Day, Boughton Golf Club, in aid of SSAFA. Details from 01227 830490.
- September 19th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. The Best of British. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue), Gillingham.
- September 20th – Instep Dancing (see 6th Sept)
- September 20th – Medway Folk Dance Club. (see 6th Sept)
- September 20th – An evening of Live Jazz and Blues in St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £5 (concessions £4) at the door or from Ann Echlin on 01732 845550.
- September 20th – Countryside Event, Birdwatching Cruise. Tickets £17.50 payable in advance, 378987.
- September 21st – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.30pm, Cobtree Manor car park, Aylesford. 5 mile walk.
- September 21st – St Matthew's Church Patronal Festival and the Centenary of the Teddy Bear. 3.30pm. Games for all in Wigmore Park. 4.15pm Bring and Share Teddy Bears Picnic in the Precinct, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. 5.00pm Children's Service in St Matthew's Church.

- September 22nd – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Spinning. (see 8th Sept)
- September 23rd – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. (see 9th Sept)
- September 23rd – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. Workshop. (see 9th Sept)
- September 23rd – Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Wild Orchids of Kent, an illustrated talk. 8.00pm, Marlborough Unit, Maidstone Road, Rainham. Open Meeting.
- September 25th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales Stall & Singalong. (see 11th Sept)
- September 25th – Friends of St Margaret's Church, Slide Show by Joe Ennis 'Rainham Then and Now' in the Church, 7.30pm. Admission £3. Refreshments available. Details telephone: 235182.
- September 25th – Rainham & District Dollshouse and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. Details: Mrs Wildridge, 312038.
- September 25th to 27th – Wigmore MADS 'Cash on Delivery'. Tickets £5 (con £4.50) 370639.
- September 26th – The Medway Geographical Society. Destination AITUTAKI – Mrs Jane Burton. 7.30 to 9.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
- September 26th – Macmillan Cancer Relief, Doris Perrin invites you to her Coffee Morning in support of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, 10.00 to 12 noon. £1 admission includes coffee, cake stall, preserves, raffle, etc.
- September 27th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 11.00am, Rainham Station. 5 mile walk.
- September 27th – 3rd Women's Day Conference, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham. 10.00 to 4.00pm, 'The King and I', exploring our relationship with God our King, keynote speaker Bridget Plass. Tickets £7 (conc £5). To book please phone 231071 or email womenconf3@blueyonder.co.uk
- September 27th – Wine & Wisdom, VSO Group. 7.30pm, Fairview Junior School, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £4.00, tel: 376608.

Continued on page 11

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Correspondence

THE REGENERATION OF RAINHAM, KENT Dear Editor,

Much has been said, and written, about the overgrown and neglected vacant land immediately to the north of our lovely parish church, 'St Margaret of Antioch', Rainham, Kent.

Plans and schemes abound, the latest seeming to be for a Medical Centre! I personally consider a medical centre on this particular prime site to be totally unnecessary. (Why not enlarge and improve the existing 'Clinic' located in Holding Street?)

It seems to me that there are plenty of doctors surgeries in Rainham's residential areas already.

May I suggest that the citizens of Rainham give very careful thought to the use of this site, almost certainly the ancient location of the original village, and bear in mind that whatever is built there – probably an eyesore – will endure for at least 100 years.

The availability of this area is a once only, golden opportunity for Medway Council to purchase the land and create a small town square here (paved over, and possibly with a few ornamental trees) for the benefit and pleasure of all the people of Rainham, in perpetuity.

New shops and other buildings could be built around the perimeter, facing into the square.

This would give the town of Rainham a centre of focus and could be the permanent location for the market on market days, used for public meetings, concerts, carnivals and fetes, and the like.

It seems to me that any small village in France, Germany, or Italy, would have done this generations ago!

How about calling it 'St Margaret's Square' or 'Antioch Square'?

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With Rainham's population approaching that of Canterbury, is it not time that our town was regenerated, and its identity restored?

Yours sincerely,
R.J. Church
63 Maidstone Road

WINE & WISDOM Dear Editor,

Medway & Maidstone VSO Group will be holding their annual Wine & Wisdom fund raising evening on Saturday 27th September at Fairview Junior School hall starting at 7.30pm. We will be providing wine, fruit juice and nibbles but ask participants to bring any other food and drink they require plus their own glasses. Tickets are £4 and teams will be a maximum of 8. If any Forum readers would like to take part please phone Pam or Phil Cole on Medway 376608 for further details and bookings. This is always a popular event so places must be reserved in advance as we have a limit on the number of tables available.

Yours sincerely
Pam Cole
Events Organiser,
Medway & Maidstone
VSO Group

MACMILLAN NURSES Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all those people who came to Joan, Fred and Tracy's Open Garden, Marilyn Soffe's Garden Party and Doris Perrin's Coffee Morning who between them raised over £2,677. Our Flag Day in Gillingham and Chatham raised £837.44. All these monies will go to the Appeal to fund more Macmillan nurses in this part of Kent. As you can see from the Diary, Doris is having another Coffee Morning on 26th September at the Rainham Cricket Club in Berengrave Lane.

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

RAINHAM THEN AND NOW, a slide show and talk by Joe Ennis, will take place in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm on September 25th. Everyone welcome, admission £3 at the door in aid of church funds.

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

August is a comparatively uneventful month in the countryside. The birds will have generally stopped singing and most species of wild flowers will have already bloomed and faded. The countryside marks time in the heat of summer prior to the changes brought about by the colder temperatures of autumn.

The seaside in August can be as quiet as the countryside generally, with perhaps just the sight and sound of the occasional gull. In order to find out what may be seen and heard at the height of summer, at the English seaside, I recently spent an afternoon at Tankerton.

Tankerton lies to the east of Whitstable. Its development began in Edwardian times and this is reflected in the design of many of its buildings. From a natural history point of view, the interest of the place lies mainly in the grass covered slopes which overlook the shingle beach and Tankerton Bay.

Some areas of grass on the slopes are closely cut by the council and others have had beach huts built upon them. But most of the slopes remain covered in rough grass and isolated bushes. The latter include hawthorn, blackthorn, wild privet and bramble. These bushes have been bent and shaped by harsh north easterly winds.

Growing among the rough grass is hog's fennel or sulphur weed which is a tall perennial plant of the carrot family. Its tiny yellow flowers, in umbrella-like heads, are open from July until September. The plant is found in few other places in Britain and Tankerton slopes have accordingly been granted the status of a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Anyone who goes to Tankerton to see this rare plant should bear in mind that it has long and narrow leaves and should not be confused with the many specimens of alexanders, another umbellifer, which also grows on the slopes and which has leaves with three lobes.

Meadow pipits nest in the grassy tussocks of Tankerton slopes although, by August, their young will have fledged. They are brownish birds with black streaks on their bodies and can sometimes be seen rising into the air above the slopes and then 'parachuting' back down into the grass.

The shingle beach at Tankerton is relatively lifeless, the most prominent plant being sea beet. It is a close relative of certain cultivated beets and, according to Richard Mabey, author of 'Food for Free', has leaves which are tangy and can be cooked as spinach.

Out at sea the only birds likely to be seen in August are black headed and herring gulls, both species accompanied by this year's juveniles and immature birds from previous years. The juveniles have an overall streaky brown plumage whilst the immature birds have varying amounts of brown feathers depending upon their ages. The herring gull is larger than the black-headed and is more raucous and aggressive. Both species can be found feeding at refuse tips and on farmland, particularly at ploughing time. In Tankerton Bay they will be searching for crabs, shrimps, fish and other sea creatures.

I have to say that there is not a lot to see at Tankerton in August, unless you are a botanist keen to see the hog's fennel in bloom. But it is a pleasant place for a stroll long the sea front in one direction and along the top of the slope in the other. For those who prefer to just sit and watch the world go by there is a nice spot on the top of the slopes overlooking 'The Street' which is a natural strip of shingle visible at low tide. It marks the eastern boundary of Whitstable oyster grounds.

The Tower Tea Gardens can be found at the Whitstable end of the slopes and the Sea View Café at the other, just above the Tankerton Bay Sailing Club.

Joe Ennis. PS I hope to see many of you at Church on Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm for my slide show on 'Rainham Then and Now'.

RAINHAM THEATRICAL SOCIETY

As part of our celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Oasthouse Theatre, the Rainham Theatrical Society is proud to present:

'The Smuggler & The Lady'

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Cost of the day: £10 per person, to include lunch.

If you would like to register your interest to either attend or receive information please contact Home-Start Medway, 46 Green Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1XA. Tel: 01634 570717, Fax: 01634 576164, email: home-start@m-way.fsnet.co.uk

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Mrs Heidi Stevens

CHANGES TO THE ART GALLERY

After a not unsuccessful year under its present management the Rainham Bookshop Open Art Gallery will close at the end of August 2003. All current and recently active exhibitors have been informed. It's the support we had that made light work of the display function.

Coming in its place is an exciting new studio offering one to one evening tuition in oil painting. Although the courses are limited, Dennis Hussey, Master Painter and Royal Limner, intends to offer further courses in pastels and special effects and, on selected Saturdays, tuition for 12-14 year-olds.

A Gallery with facilities for framing, mounting, gilding and probably a limited supply of air materials, is planned.

Most of these classes should be up and running early in September, so a visit to see what's what is highly recommended. Don't miss this valuable opportunity - it could open a whole new world to you!

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Diary 2003

September 28th - Medway Towns Footpath Group.
Meet 2.00pm, Kings Hall, Herne Bay. 5 mile walk.
September 28th - Countryside Event, Hay Day,
2.00 to 3.00pm, help make the hay at Capstone
Park. Warm clothes and stout boots. Details from
812196.
October 1st - Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society.
Mrs E. Thomas - A Year in the Small Garden. 7.15
for 7.30pm, Berengrave Cricket Club Clubhouse,
Berengrave Lane, Rainham.
October 3rd - Lower Halstow Village Hall. **TRAD
JAZZ**, 8.00pm. For details telephone 01795
842701.
October 3rd - Gillingham Recorded Music Society.
John Philip Sousa: the American March King.
(see 19th Sept)
October 4th - Instep Dancing. (see 6th Sept)
October 4th - Medway Folk Dance Club (see 6th
Sept)
October 5th - Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet
10.00am, Borough Green Rec. Ground car park on
A25. 6 mile walk. No dogs.
October 5th - Medway & District Group of
HF Holidays. Meet 10.30am Sole Street Station.
7.5 mile walk.
October 5th - St Matthew's Church Family Harvest
Festival, 9.30am. Harvest Songs 5.00pm followed
by Harvest Supper in the Community Centre.
Tickets £5.50 (children £3) from 231650 or
378906. Please bring your own drink and glasses.
October 6th - Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers
Association. Kathleen: Taking African Art into
New Dimensions. (see 8th Sept)



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October 7th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral
Art Group. AGM and planning for 2004.
(see 9th Sept)

October 7th - Wigmore Men's Fellowship. Stage
Steak. 8.00pm at a local restaurant. Closed meeting
October 8th - Rainham Flower Club (Kent).
Workshop.

October 10th - Gillingham and Rainham Local
History Society. Extra-ordinary General Meeting.
Hostelries of Rochester. 7.15pm, Adult Education
Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.

October 10th - Parkwood Schools' Bingo Night at
Parkwood Junior School Hall, Deanwood Drive,
Rainham. Doors open 7.30 for 8.00pm start. Adults
only. £1 admission.

October 10th - 'Old Rainham' talk by Freddie
Cooper, Oasthouse Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets £3
from 374183.

October 11th - Autumn Barn Dance at St Matthew's
Community Centre. Dancing to Distracted Times.
Fund Raising Event (ticket only) 01634 362843.

October 12th & 19th - Harvest Tea for Senior
Citizens, ring 362851 or 387991 or write to
53 South Avenue, Gillingham ME8 6EF for free
tickets.

GILLINGHAM RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY
meet on alternate Friday evenings, 7.15, commencing
September 19th, in St Augustine's Church Room in
Watling Street (top of Rock Avenue). Our
programme this season includes several visiting
speakers and we welcome visitors and new members.
Those interested can contact the Hon. Secretary,
Miss J. Stewart, on 01634 852905.

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THE KING AND I ... Exploring our relationship with God our King

Women living and working in Medway and beyond are invited to attend a **Women's Day Conference** on **Saturday 27th September 2003**. It is to be held in the St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham, Gillingham (behind St Margaret's Church in Rainham). **It will begin at 10am finishing at 4pm.**

The day has been organised by a group of women who live and worship in Medway. It costs £7.00 (or £5 concessions) – participants need to bring a packed lunch and drinks will be provided.

The keynote talks will be given by **Bridget Plass**, who is well known as a Christian writer and speaker.

This is the third conference in Medway and it has become very popular. One participant said of last year's conference: 'I was not sure what to expect and was moved and founds lots of new people to share with.'

Please reserve your place in advance. For further information and booking forms, please contact Tricia Butt, Tel: 01634 231071 or email Jill Lovell at womenconf3@blueyonder.co.uk

BINGO NIGHT

Dear Editor,

We would like to invite your readers to our Bingo Night, which will be held in Park Wood Junior School hall on Friday 10th October, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

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This is to be an Adults Only event and the admission price is £1 per person. There will be a licensed bar throughout the evening, although we suggest people bring their own nibbles, and a raffle between the games.

We have a retired bingo caller calling the numbers for us so it promises to be a fun-filled evening!

All proceeds raised go directly to both the Infant and Junior Schools so we hope everyone will come along and join in and remember, the more people that come along the bigger the prize money will be!

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Spicer

Secretary of Parkwood
Schools Association

RAINHAM THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Dear Editor,

The Rainham Theatrical Society are delighted that Freddie Cooper will be visiting the Oasthouse Theatre on Friday 10th October to give a talk on 'Old Rainham'. The talk will commence at 7.30pm and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions after the talk. Freddie has extensive knowledge of Rainham and regularly writes for the Action Forum, so this promises to be an evening not to be missed.

Tickets will be available from 1st September on 01634 374183, priced £3.

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