

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

AUGUST 2004  
NUMBER 392

## Memories of Rainham



The Bargain House owned and run by the Bay family was on the corner of Station Road and the High Street, now the site of Barclays Bank. A useful shop in the early 30s, most of the wares were displayed outside, disguising the rather unattractive but functional building that had a corrugated iron roof. See page 9.

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Next Issue: September 4th 2004  
Copy Date: Aug 17th Sm Ads Aug 20th

Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller  
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller  
5 Meresborough Cottages, ME8 8PP  
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Rainham Bookshop, 17-25 Station Road  
Telephone: 371591

## Editorial

Several times in the last few weeks I have been asked if we can include an advertisement to attract new members to clubs and societies. If you are involved with such an organisation then the answer is always that as long as you are non-profit making, that is to say no one is a paid official and weekly subscriptions are just used for general expenses such as paying for the hire of a hall, then we are more than happy to include details of your club in our editorial section, either as a letter or short article, free of charge. This is exactly what Action Forum was set up to do, inform local people of events and activities in our area. As copies are delivered door to door each month to every home in Rainham, Wigmore, Parkwood, Hempstead, Bredhurst, Upchurch and Lower Halstow naturally these are the areas we are most anxious to include but sometimes neighbouring villages such as Hartlip and Newington will have a mention as they are so closely related. If you are making a profit (or hoping to!) such as dance or music lessons and slimming clubs then you will be treated as any other commercial organisation. We do not make a profit ourselves, advertising costs are set to cover the printing bill plus an amount that was previously paid for distribution but is now given to charity since we have returned to volunteer distribution. So far, since September 2000, £5,700 has been divided between the Kajiado project in Africa and St Margaret's and St Matthew's churches. Several people responded last month to help with door to door distribution but we could still do with more assistance. If you would like a walk with a purpose once a month please get in touch on either 231307 or during shop hours 371591.

Our superb photograph of the Edwards family on the front cover last month was much admired. I was hoping a relative would write giving us some history of this wonderful group but as yet no luck. If you have any information we would love to hear from you. We have a little more information to supplement yet another marvellous old photograph this month but if you know more or have other memories about Rainham do write them down, many readers love to hear about life as it used to be.

August is usually the quietest month for copy, many clubs take a break and as it is traditionally a holiday period few activities are organised, however

the Country Park Wardens are busy helping to keep you occupied if you are holidaying in sunny Rainham this year and we include a few other appeals for help and things to do. Make the most of the sunshine – when we get it – how about a walk in our lovely countryside, anyway have a good month and we will see you again in September.

## Correspondence

### DO YOU NEED SOME SPACE?

Dear Editor,

As a modern church in Parkwood, Rainham, we have three very attractive rooms to hire in addition to the church itself. We have every facility available for all your needs, a well equipped kitchen, toilets on ground floor and first floor, baby-changing facilities and an abundance of parking spaces.

Large or small groups, one-off events, if we can help, please telephone St Paul's Church on 01634 268560 Monday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm or Thursdays 12 noon to 3.00pm or leave a message and I will return your call.

Yours sincerely,  
Caroline Medhurst  
Administrator for  
St Paul's Church

### HARVEST TEA

Dear Editor,

The Lions Club of Gillingham and their partners are arranging another **Harvest Tea on Sundays 10th and 24th October.**

We would like to invite Senior Citizens of the Gillingham and Rainham area to join us for tea and entertainment.

FREE tickets are available by post from Mrs Brenda Woodrow, 53 South Avenue, Gillingham, ME8 6EF or by telephoning Medway 362851 or Mrs Melanie Banks on Medway 387991.

Transport can be arranged and we would particularly like to see people who live alone or do not have the opportunity to get out too often. Please encourage family, friends and neighbours to attend.

Arrival time is 3.30pm and we hope many of you will take the opportunity to join us and enjoy the afternoon at The Millennium Centre, Rainham.

Yours sincerely,  
Yvonne Iles, on behalf of  
The Lions Club  
of Gillingham

### HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Dear Editor,

As the summer holidays are upon us many parents might appreciate another option for entertaining their children. Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road (off the Maidstone Road, Rainham) is holding its annual Holiday Bible Club – Tuesday 24th until Friday 27th August. It runs from 10am till 12 noon

and anyone aged 5 to 11 is welcome to come along for games, songs, quizzes, Bible stories, refreshments and prices.

All this is free!

For further information call Russell – 372323, Susan – 388187, or just turn up on the days.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs) Elizabeth Poynter

### HOSPITAL RADIO MEDWAY

Dear Editor,

Our previous appeals in Action Forum for help have always been most successful so once again may we acquaint your readers of our needs. Hospital Radio Medway is still open to new members, particularly if they are able to help on weekday afternoons or evenings. We are looking for help in maintaining the positions of:

Ward Representatives – meeting the patients and collecting musical requests.

Engineers – caring for the existing equipment.  
Librarians – indexing and general care of the record library.

Personal Assistants – help wherever needed.

Programme Presenters – a position achieved a little later in service.

These posts are available to anyone aged twenty years or over. We at HR Medway would be most appreciative if you could help us. Log on to our website – [hospitalradiomedway.ik.com](http://hospitalradiomedway.ik.com) – to find out more about us.

Yours sincerely,  
Don Brunton  
Membership Secretary  
Hospital Radio Medway

### WINE & WISDOM

Dear Editor,

The Parish of South Gillingham Dortmund Exchange Group are holding a Wine and Wisdom competition on Saturday September 11th starting at 7.30pm in St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. The cost per person is £6 (concessions £5) which includes supper, but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets may be obtained from Bill Trees on 370722 who will also be happy to supply any further information required.

Yours sincerely,  
David Lewis  
Chairman, Dortmund  
Exchange Group

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### UPCHURCH PICTURE BOOK

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say a big thank you to all the readers of Action Forum after a recent appeal for help with information and old photographs around Upchurch.

I am pleased to report I have been given a grant from the National Lottery, Awards for All programme, to cover the production and publishing costs to produce the book 'Upchurch in Old Picture Postcards'. The book should now be available late October or November 2004.

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Gunnill  
[mikegunnill@mac.com](mailto:mikegunnill@mac.com)  
01634 373572

### DANCE CLUB

Dear Editor,

Your readers may be interested to know that the MOUNTBATTEN DANCE CLUB has a number of vacancies and would like to invite couples to a friendly, sociable evening of Sequence/Ballroom dancing.

For more details contact Irene Smith on 01634 404228.

Yours sincerely,  
Derek Thompson  
Secretary

### CHANCERY COFFEE MORNING

Dear Editor,

On 9th July I held a Coffee Morning at 2 Childscroft Road. In spite of it being a dull, cold day, I and my 'helpers' made a clear profit of £140. This will be handed in to the Magpie Centre, Medway Hospital. I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended and assisted at the event and also to the people who contributed goods to sell and made the morning a success – thank you all.

Yours sincerely,  
B. Smith (Mrs)

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# Diary 2004

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

No charge is made for Diary entries  
Diary Copy Date: 17th August 2004

August 7th – Instep Dancing, Social Dance, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way. Ballroom, Latin, Sequence. 8.00 to 11.00pm. Details 363738.

August 8th – Countryside Event. 10.00am to 3.00pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Litter blitzers. Telephone 01634 812196 for further details.

August 8th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am Barming Station. 8 mile walk. Details 01634 317993.

August 9th – Medway Organ Club. Ryan Edwards. 7.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham. Visitors are welcome £3.

August 9th – Countryside Event. 10.00am to 12 noon or 1.30pm to 3.30pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Children's nature days. Book in advance. 01634 812196.

August 10th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Post Show Talk. 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls.

August 10th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00pm to 10.00pm, Red Cross Centre, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Details 01634 862673.

August 10th – Medway Antique & Collectors Club. Seaside Piers & Porcelain – Mr J. Haddaway. 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George's Hotel, New Road, Chatham. Visitors welcome. Details 365861.

August 10th – Countryside Event. 12 noon to 2.00pm. At Priestfield Recreation Ground. Recycling workshop. Telephone 01634 812196 for further details.

August 11th – Bredhurst WI. Molly Proctor, Flowers and Weeds in a Cottage Garden. Competition: a scarf. 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall.

August 11th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent) Workshop. 7.30 to 9.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall.

August 12th – Countryside Event. 10.00am to 3.00pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Fishing teachings. Tickets £6 per child. Book in advance on 01634 812196.

August 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm northern end of Otterham Quay Lane before Three Sisters. 5 mile walk. For further details 01634 855522.

August 16th – Rainham Evening WI. Life and Works of Joyce Grenfell – Mrs Oliver. Competition: Grey. 7.30pm, Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.

August 16th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Spinning. 7.30 to 9.30pm. The Annexe, Urchins Playgroup, Marlborough Road, Gillingham.

August 16th – Countryside Event. 10.00am to 12 noon or 1.30 to 3.30pm. Children's nature days. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Book in advance 01634 812196.

August 17th – Countryside Event. 12 noon to 2.00pm. Recycling workshop. At Hillyfields Open Space. Further details 01634 812196.

August 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Mrs Janet Harris – Demonstration and Talk: 'Flower Arrangements'. 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall.

August 18th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Craft – Mrs Clift. Competition: Hand embroidered tray cloth. 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.

August 18th – Medway Camcorder Club. 5 minute competition: 'Ancient and Modern'. 7.30pm, Medway Yacht Club, Medway Bridge Marina, Manor Lane, Borstal, Rochester. Contact no. 01634 371570.

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August 19th – Countryside Event. Fishing teachings. 10.00am to 3.00pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Book in advance 01634 812196.

August 21st – Instep Dancing. (see 7th August)

August 21st – Countryside Event. Kite flying. 12 noon to 5.00pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. For further details 01634 812196.

August 21st – Quiz Evening. 7.30pm, Rainham Community Centre, Granary Close, off Station Road, Rainham. Further details 01634 710553.

August 22nd – Countryside Event. Kites over Capstone. 12 noon to 5.00pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. For further details 01634 812196.

August 22nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am Chilham Village Square. 5 mile walk. No dogs. Contact no. 01634 362743.

August 23rd – Countryside Event. Children's nature days. 10.00am to 12 noon or 1.30pm to 3.30pm. At Riverside Country Park. Details 01634 379887.

August 24th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. (see 10th August)

August 24th – Countryside Event. Recycling workshops. 12.00 noon to 2.00pm. At Rainham Recreation Ground. Details 01634 812196.

August 24th-27th – Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, Wigmore. Holiday Bible Club. 10.00am to 12 noon. Anyone aged 5-11 years welcome. Games, songs, quizzes, Bible stories, refreshments and prizes, all free.

August 26th – Rainham & District Dolls House & Miniaturist Group meet at St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. For further details telephone Sylvia on 01634 312038.

August 29th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm, Rainham Station. 5 mile walk. Contact no. 01634 374923.

August 30th – Countryside Event. Wildlife detectives. 10.30am to 3.30pm. At Capstone Farm Country Park. Details 01634 812196.

September 1st – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society. Mr J. Fiddick – Winter Preparation. 7.30pm, Cricket Club Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham.

September 1st – Medway Camcorder Club. Forget Auto and get better results in Manual. Bring

September 8th – Bredhurst WI. Julia Page – John Constable (slides). Competition: A Book Mark. 7.30pm.

September 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th & 18th – Rainham Theatrical Society present 'Nevilles Island' by Tim Firth. Curtain up at 8.00pm. Box Office 01634 360506 (Mon-Fri 9am-8pm) £5.

September 9th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Christine Pope – A Lyrical Treat on Food.

September 10th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. Details 01634 305043.

September 11th – Instep Dancing.

September 11th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. Autumn Show. 2.30 to 4.30pm. camcorders, connecting cables and instruction manuals.

September 2nd – Gillingham Flower Arrangers. Teaching evening with Viv O'Sullivan. 7.30pm, Garrison Church Hall, Mansion Row, Brompton.

September 2nd – Wigmore Thursday Club. David Elks – Talk on the PPIF. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, for people over the age of 50. Details from 235507.

September 3rd-5th – Flower Festival, St Mary's Church, Upchurch. 'Upchurch Life' presented by Rainham Flower Club. Friday and Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Sun, noon to 5.00pm. Admission free, donations to St Mary's Comfort Fund.

September 4th – Bredhurst Village Show.

September 4th – Rainham (Kent) Horticultural Society. Annual Show at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall. 2.00 to 4.00pm.

September 5th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm, School Road, Charing. 4 mile walk. No dogs. Details 01795 535941.

September 6th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. SUBS DUE. Spinning. September 7th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group. 'Harvest Time' – a miniature arrangement.

September 8th – Rainham Flower Club (Kent). Demonstration: Katherine Gledhill presents.

Continued on page 13

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## Correspondence

### POSTAL ADDRESS

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in your editorial concerning worries about an incomplete address. Firstly, Royal Mail, bless them, are no longer interested in the County as part of an address and by their own statement can deliver to your address as 5ME8 8PP because ME8 8PP is the postal code for a predetermined number of properties in your road or street, with 5 being your house within that coding. Some years ago I used this in my argument for dropping Gillingham from Rainham addresses. They said whilst quite true they would prefer us to use as much of the address as possible to make it easier for them. So you see if the full and correct post code is used on all correspondence you should receive your mail irrespective of what's included or not included in the address.

Yours sincerely,  
 Peter Weller,  
 32 Sandown Drive  
 Rainham

FUNDS RAISED AT GARDEN OPEN EVENT  
 25 AND 27 HANOVER DRIVE  
 Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help, baked cakes and visited the garden open event at 25 & 27 Hanover Drive on 27th June. Including money raised at various plants sales before the day, we raised a total of £4,060. This amount will be split equally between St Matthew's Roof & Renew Appeal and Macmillan Nurses.

We very much appreciate everyone's support.

Yours sincerely,  
 Joan, Fred & Tracy  
 Jepson

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### RAMASES

Dear Editor,

RAMASES Study Day 25th September 2004

From Conqueror to Conquered:

The Rise and Fall of the Ancient Egyptian Empire  
 RAMASES, the North Kent Egyptology Society, are  
 holding a Study Day at Newington Village Hall on  
 Saturday 25th September 2004 from 0930hrs to  
 1630hrs.

We have three nationally recognised Egyptologists  
 who will be speaking on a range of subjects on the  
 Ancient Egyptian Empire. They are Dr Aidan  
 Dodson, Dylan Bickerstaffe and Robert Partridge.

Anybody who is interested in the history of  
 Ancient Egypt is welcome to attend. Please contact  
 Mary Mickleburgh on 01795 842639 to purchase a  
 ticket, price £15. A separate ticket for a hot lunch at  
 £7 can also be purchased. The lecture ticket price  
 includes morning and afternoon refreshments.

Anybody wishing to find out more about  
 RAMASES can also contact us to find out about our  
 future programme of social events, outings and  
 lectures.

Yours faithfully,  
 C.M. Warren (Mrs)  
 33 Adelaide Drive  
 Sittingbourne  
 Kent. ME10 1YE

### MEDWAY ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE

#### Science subjects for adults

Two exciting science courses are being offered by the  
 Medway adult and community learning service at  
 their Rainham centre (Rainham Mark Grammar  
 School) this autumn. By virtue of the school's  
 specialist science status, adults can now study  
 Electronics and Human Biology.

For more information telephone 01634 338400 or  
 visit their website [www.medway.gov.uk/coursefinder/learning/home.asp](http://www.medway.gov.uk/coursefinder/learning/home.asp).

#### Reminder

Medway adult and community learning service is  
 enrolling now for their 2004/05 courses. The autumn  
 term gets underway on 13th September, with courses  
 starting throughout the year. If you do not have a  
 copy of the directory you can obtain a copy by  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

This month's Nature Notes come from Yalding. Readers may remember the television and newspaper reports of the floods in the village in October 2000. Yalding has always been vulnerable to flooding because it is situated on the confluence of the rivers Teise and Beult with the Medway. On my visit in July, however, the waters were clear and calm and a complete contrast to the muddy, raging torrent we saw on our television screens.

I started my tour at the 15th century Town Bridge in the High Street. Built of ragstone and with seven arches, it is considered the longest medieval bridge in Kent. From the bridge I looked down on the River Beult. Clumps of yellow water lilies were floating on the surface of the river; purple loosestrife and meadow sweet were in bloom on the river bank; and a pied wagtail was chasing after flies in the meadow adjoining the Beult.

I headed down Lees Road towards an area of common land alongside the River Medway called the Lees. In medieval times a weekly market and two annual fairs were held there. More recently it was remembered by the poet Edmund Blunden as a scene of cricket matches. Botanically speaking, the Lees can be described as an area of unimproved grassland. Among the many species of flowers to be found there are tansy, knapweed, lady's bedstraw, horseshoe vetch and bird's foot trefoil.

From the Lees I had a good view of Yalding and its surroundings. The village was once at the heart of the Vale of Kent's fruit and hop industries. Today no hops are grown or processed in Yalding although fruit trees are still in evidence. Some farmers are clearly diversifying for I noticed lavender growing in a south facing field on the ragstone ridge overlooking Yalding. It was reminiscent of Norfolk and even, on this hot July day, the South of France. As I stood on the common swifts were screaming in the sky above my head.

A number of anglers were sitting patiently by the Medway. I was told that they were fishing for chubb or roach. As for bird life, I came across black headed

gulls, water hens, mallards, a pair of mute swans and a common tern. The latter is a summer visitor to this country and can often be seen flying steadily above inland waters on the look-out for small fish. Once it has seen a potential victim the tern will hover whilst making its aim and then plunge into the water.

I stepped onto Twyford Bridge which spans the Medway. It is one of Kent's finest medieval bridges, having four arches and dating back to at least 1325. There was quite a holiday atmosphere on and around the bridge. Older children were swimming in the river and younger ones were paddling in the shallow waters away from the main flow of the river. It seemed as though all of Maidstone and his family were there. The Old Anchor Inn and the tea room on Teapot Island seemed to be doing a roaring trade. I decided to settle for somewhere a little quieter and headed for the restaurant at the organic garden on the other side of Yalding.

Joe Ennis

## PARLIAMENTARY RECOGNITION FOR RAINHAM

The announcement that the Boundary Commission has recommended that the Parliamentary Constituency of Rainham will, after the next General Election, be known as Gillingham and Rainham will give Rainham its long overdue recognition and be welcomed by many residents.

Gillingham Borough Council embraced the area administered previously by Rainham Parish Council from 1st April 1929 under an extension of the Boundary Act 1928. That covered an area from the River to Bredhurst and from South Bush Lane to the back garden fences of the houses on the western side of Edwin Road, up through Springvale towards Bredhurst on a line which now would pass through the Church land in Drewery Drive.

Rainham had previously been on the extremity of the western boundary of Milton Regis Urban District Council and part of the Parliamentary Division of Faversham. Mr Adam Maitland was our last MP. We were transferred from the Diocese of Canterbury to Rochester in the 1930s having previously been part of the Rural Deanery and Petty Sessions of Sittingbourne. All our religious and public

attachments were to the east and Rainham news was reported in the 'East Kent Gazette' and 'Kent Messenger'. From 1906 until 1926 we had tram connections to the Medway Towns but through history we had been Men and Maids of Kent whereas Gillingham residents were Kentish Men. It is clear to me that the Municipal and Parliamentary boundary previously referred to, rather than the River Medway, was the actual boundary between the ancient Kingdoms of East and West Kent.

Seventy-five years ago Gillingham wanted room to expand now it is estimated that Rainham has half the population of its previous parent borough.

Mr Clark says that he hopes that the ancient enmity between the two halves of the borough will now cease but I fear that this is unlikely to be realised whilst those on the eastern extremity feel that, despite all the endeavours of their representatives, they are 'the forgotten outpost of the new Empire'. It was always thus even when Gillingham Council were our masters except when two of its most senior officers lived with us, we got quite a lot done in those few years, including Cozenton Park! Although I accept that members determine the level of rate income I believe that Officers mainly decide the priority of expenditure and I can only hope that with Parliamentary recognition, they will now realise that a very significant number of ratepayers live in the 'Outpost'.

I am sure that Mr Paul Clark, MP, had parental encouragement to include Rainham within the Constituency's name for many of his ancestors rest within the Parish. I knew all those back until his maternal great grandparents, Mr and Mrs Alfred Thomas Warner, who lived in Lime Kiln Cottage, an old bungalow adjacent to his wood yard in Maidstone Road (then Bredhurst Lane) between Harvey and Nursery Roads.

Freddie Cooper

## URGENTLY WANTED: A VOLUNTEER OR TWO

For two hours on a Saturday morning to load/unload newspapers to/from a small van. This work raises much needed funds for a Community charity.

An active (possibly recently retired) person would be welcome to join our small team; not necessarily every Saturday. Please telephone Derek Bendle 364531.

## THE BARGAIN HOUSE

The Bargain House came to Rainham in 1924. Mr Bays, the grandfather of Jonathan Baynes who now manages the Gillingham shop in King Street, came to Gillingham in 1910 and opened his first shop in Burnt Oak Terrace. The move to Rainham expanded the business and replaced a similar shop on this site owned by G. Hooker. The Bargain House was quite a feature in pre-war Rainham having a prominent position in the centre of the village. The building was far from attractive - the roof was corrugated iron - but it was one of the most useful places. The shop stocked a whole range of hardware, it had wicker baskets hanging outside and tin buckets and baths full of blocks of soap and packets inside. One Rainham girl, Miss Betty Fullager, started as an assistant in the shop at the top of Station Road on leaving school in 1926 aged 14 and stayed with the same business all her working life transferring to Gillingham when The Bargain House closed and only retiring from the King Street shop in the late 1970s. Betty Fullager was better known to her contemporaries as Sugar Fullager, the nickname given to her when she first joined 1st Rainham Guides. The shop prospered in Rainham, only closing when the land was purchased by Barclays Bank to build their grand new building in 1936.

## SOCIAL BRIDGE

I am offering eight lessons on a Thursday in Basic Acro for Beginners from 30th September. The lessons will be held at the Millennium Centre in Rainham from 10.00am to 12 noon. The cost of £40 may be paid in two instalments. Contact Derek Bendle on 364531 for more information.

## PLAYBOX IN PARKWOOD

Playbox is an opportunity provided by the Medway adult and community learning service (family learning) for parents, grandparents and carers to meet with their toddlers on a weekly basis for an exciting and fun packed morning or afternoon. There are educational activities, story time and music time; there are also occasional guest speakers bringing interesting topics for discussion. Playbox has been running successfully in two venues in Medway this year and more are being organised.

Playbox comes to Parkwood in September. For more information contact Hanife Dacosta on 01634 338456.



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Hands has for many years been providing practical help to the local community through support from our volunteers, much of our work deals with the arrangement of transport for elderly and disabled clients to enable them to attend medical appointments, day-centres, shopping and social visits etc.

At the moment we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to work within our office for one morning a week, able to answer the telephone and do some administration work, training and on-going support are given.

For more information please contact Pauline MacTaggart at the Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Bureau on Medway 338653 or email us at gillinghamvb@hotmail.com.

## FLOWER FESTIVAL AT ST MARY'S, UPCHURCH

Rainham Flower Club is delighted to be presenting -  
'UPCHURCH LIFE - in flowers'  
at St Mary's Church, Upchurch  
3rd to 5th September 2004  
Friday to Saturday 10am-5pm  
Sunday Noon-5pm  
Children from Holywell School  
have also created exhibits for the festival.  
Admission is free, but donations towards  
St Mary's Comfort Fund  
would be much appreciated as the church is in need  
of new toilet and kitchen facilities.  
Rainham Flower Club was once again successful at  
the Chelsea Flower Show this year, winning both a  
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work of its members.



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## BROWNIES

Within the Rainham South District are Brownie Units who desperately need help with their weekly meetings. These Units are held on either a Monday or Thursday evening. Each Unit has a Guider in charge, but need Assistant Guiders (training provided) and Unit Helpers. These are both thriving Brownie Packs but they do need help urgently.

For more information please ring: Leslie Dennis  
(District Commissioner) 01634 234738.

## MULBERRY HARBOUR

I would like to know if any of your readers worked on the Mulberry Harbour during the war. The reason for asking is, does anybody remember if they worked with Ernie Bartlett, my later father, on this project.

Ernie Bartlett worked at Kemps the Builders of Station Road, Rainham, then changed to work for Ward Brothers of Gillingham.

Please contact Janet Cox, 01795 520826, if you have any information regarding this subject.

## MARLBOROUGH HOUSE

The distinctive granite mounds outside Marlborough House in Rainham High Street are to be transformed with planting over the summer period. Medway Council recently installed railings to make the site more private and secure and asked Groundwork Medway Swale Charitable Trust to improve the look of the whole area. The mounds were originally a water feature which never functioned properly and no longer works. The design team at Groundwork, in discussion with the residents and Manager at Marlborough House, have decided to keep the shape of the mounds and make a feature out of them with low maintenance tree and shrub planting. This will help to reduce the noise and pollution from the heavy traffic, and soften the look of the overall area.

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