AGTON FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

SEPTEMBER 2008 NUMBER 436



This photograph was taken in September 2007 when work was underway renewing the frontage of Jacksons Estate Agents at the corner of Rainham High Street and Orchard Street. Looking in various Kelly's Directories I find the shop now numbered 76, High Street listed as empty in 1908, Miss Mary Maria Lane shop-keeper in 1926 and as a Confectioners with the name Parker in 1957, Murray in 1963 and Blacker in 1967 and 1971. I wonder how many people remember these shopkeepers and the changes.

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Next Issue: October 4th 2008 Copy Date: Sept 16th, Sm Ads Sept 24th

Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller 5 Meresborough Cottages, ME8 8PP Telephone: 231307 or contact Action Forum Office, 21 Station Rd, Rainham (above Sunburst Books) Telephone: 310011 Email: af@thenet.uk.net

As this is one of the rare bright and sunny days of this Dear Editor, summer I took the opportunity this afternoon to walk across Queendown Warren. The wildflowers in late August were fantastic and clouds of butterflies flew up as I approached. I am afraid they do not stay still long enough for me to be able to identify them. I am sure Joe Ennis would have named them for you but it was still a lovely sight and particularly as I had been reading that we have a distinct lack of some of the more common varieties this year. Over the last decade much has been accomplished at this wildlife site and the Rangers and volunteers can be justly proud of their to see people who either live alone or who do not have achievements, it is a great pleasure to be able to wander across the open chalk downland often with no- family, friends and neighbours to attend. one else in sight. Views across the valley to more land Arrival time is 3.30pm and we hope many of you that has been acquired by the Trust gives the impression of miles of open countryside, only rarely can you hear the M2 motorway that is hidden in the distance to remind you that civilisation is only a stones throw away. We now have very good Country Parks in our area to enjoy entirely free of charge. It is good that Riverside attracts lots of visitors but if you prefer solitude perhaps now is the time to visit the Warren instead.

This month sees the start of the St Matthew's Concert Season for the coming year, they have an ambitious programme prepared for your enjoyment starting on the 20th September with an Evening of Gospel Music. upwards. Classes are held on Friday evenings at If you have not yet booked your tickets, don't delay, ring 372508 today. In the middle of September St Margaret's Church in Rainham is holding a Flower Festival. It is several years since the last such event and I am sure this one will be every bit as spectacular. On the Saturday during the Festival, 13th September. the church tower will be open for you to climb and admire the view. If you have never been to the top of our highest building it is worth the climb (67 steps I think) particularly on a clear day. A completely different perspective opens from the roof, the fun comes spotting your home from the air and trying to name buildings that look so different from above. September is the month when many clubs and societies return after a summer break and their programmes are featured in our Diary. Any of those listed welcome new members and if you do not like to just turn up the printed telephone number gives you a

point of contact beforehand. Why not try something new this year - it may open up a whole new chapter to your life!

It has already felt like autumn for the last few weeks but let us hope we now have a long warm spell to delay the approach of winter. Have a very good month and we will see you again in October.

Correspondence

HARVEST TEAS

The partners of members of The Lions Club of Gillingham are again arranging Harvest Teas on Sundays, 5th and 19th October.

We would like to invite Senior Citizens of the Rainham district to join us for tea and entertainment. FREE tickets are available by post from Mrs. Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham, ME8 7QX, or telephoning Brenda on 01634 379062 or Mrs. Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840.

Transport can be arranged, we would particularly like the opportunity to get out too often. Please encourage

will take the opportunity to join us and enjoy the afternoon at The Millennium Centre, Rainham; we expect to finish about 6 o'clock...

> Yours sincerely. Beryl Brenton on behalf of The Lions' partners

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Editor

There are currently vacancies in the beginners class for children (boys and girls) from 6 years of age 4.30pm at Wakeley Road. The new term starts on 12th September.

The children are taught the steps and formations of Scottish Country Dances and acquire the social skills needed to work as part of a team.

When pupils have reached the required standard they may be entered for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Medal tests. Current pupils achieved excellent grades in the tests held in May.

A group of pupils performed recently at the Mierscourt School Fete and, earlier this year, at the Medway and District Caledonian Association's Annual Ceilidh.

For further information please contact Mrs Margaret Anne Robertson 304372 or Mrs Barbara Meade 372823.

> Yours sincerely Mrs B Meade

ST MATTHEW'S CONCERTS - AVE - The Adventist Vocal Ensemble Dear Editor

of St Matthew's Community Concerts: a concert series which is aimed at providing a wide range of very high quality musical entertainment at a realistic price for our local community. The programme comprises eight concerts all featuring national or international performers.

We open the season by welcoming the Adventist Vocal Ensemble, led by Ken Burton, who will be performing a range of Gospel music in an easy, warm style with shades of jazz, soul and classical.

AVE may be regularly seen and heard on BBC's TV Songs of Praise and Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday. They are an extremely popular Gospel group and are in much demand. We are privileged that they are able to perform for us.

The concert is on the 20th September and tickets are priced at £7.00. The concert commences at 7.30pm. Please contact me (for bookings or further information) at 42 The Goldings, ME8 0AX, e-mail mattsconcerts@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 372508.

Yours sincerely Paul Warren

RAMASES STUDY DAY Forensic Aspects of Ancient Egypt

Dear Editor

Ramases, the North Kent Egyptology Society, is holding a study day at Newington Village Hall on Saturday 4th October from 10.00am to 4,30pm.

We have a nationally recognised Egyptologist, Joyce Prinys Drive, Hanover & Georgian Way Filer, who will be speaking on a range of subjects connected with mummification in Ancient Egypt.

Anybody who is interested in the history of Ancient Egypt is welcome to attend. Please contact Barbara Peterken on 01795 437480 to purchase a ticket, price £21. This price includes morning and afternoon refreshments. A separate ticket for a hot lunch, with a vegetarian option at £9 can also be purchased. Anybody wishing to find out more about Ramases can also contact the secretary by email ramasesnk@hotmail.com

Yours faithfully Mrs C Warren

KNOWLEDGE & NIBBLES Dear Editor.

The Friends of St. Margaret's Church will be having September sees the first concert in the 2008/9 Season a Knowledge & Nibbles evening on Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm in the Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase. Food will be provided but please bring your own beverage. Tables of 6 to 8 people at £6 per head must be booked in advance. There will be prizes and a raffle. To book please ring 379796 or 230430.

> Yours faithfully, Kay Jarvis

THE KENTISH CAT SOCIEY

Dear Editor.

The Kentish Cat Society will be holding their 37th Championship show at the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham on Saturday 18th October. This is the first time in over forty years that the club has been in the Medway area. We expect to have over four hundred pedigree and household cats in competition and on show. There are many cat related toys and gifts on sale as well as cat charity stalls. The public are allowed into the main hall to watch the judging and view the lovely cats from 12.30pm, admission £2.00 adults plus concessions.

The Blue Peter cats Socks & Cookie will be the 'special guests' and the theme for this years show is HALLOWEEN so witches and broomsticks with pumpkins are very welcome to come and join in the

> Yours sincerely Miss H. A. Hendra 01634 362662

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Diary 2008

No charge is made for Diary entries Copy should be in writing either by email to af@thenet.uk.net or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 16th September

September 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society. Show Day, 2.00 – 4.00pm Methodist Hall, Station Road, Rainham including flowers, plants, fruit, vegetables, home made cakes & jams and handicraft, ring 231972

September 6th- Upchurch Horticultural Society, September Show, Village Hall 2.00pm, details from Mick 01795 844759 or Julia 01634 373723.

September 7th – Countryside Event, Beginner's Trees, South Wood, 9.00am – 12noon, book in advance 812196, £1 per person.

September 7th – Fun in the Sun, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Riverside Country Park. Afternoon of various activities celebrating God's Creation followed by a service led by Rev Sam Funnell of Medway Methodist Circuit, ring Denise Bryant on 374231 for more information.

September 7th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Wouldham Recreation Ground, 8 miles, no dogs, ring 01634 31027(work).

September 7th - Monthly Sunday service at The Centre, Farthing Corner. Medium, - Janice Perry. Healing available after the service. 366944.

September 8th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club meet each Monday for bingo, a raffle, tea and biscuits at Howard Hall, Woodside 2.00 – 4.00pm. All over 50s welcome, ring 362662 for details.

September 8th- Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, NEW group for those still in employment, 7.15pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham. Ring Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

September 9th - Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group meets Tuesdays in term time 10.00 - 11.30am in the Foundation Stage Unit at Fairview Community Primary School, £2 per family, more details from 01634 337810 (term time).

September 9th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm St George Hotel, New Road. Chatham, Mrs M Clift – 'Buttons', Visitors

welcome, £2.50 per visit, ring John Orr 365861 for

September 9th - Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Pelargoniums at Gosbrook - David Taylor, all welcome, ring Eric Searle 01634 852519 for more information.

September 10th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

September 10th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall. Demonstration 'All that Glitters', www.rainhamflowerclub.ik.com or ring 363601 for more information.

September 10th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Kent Air Ambulance, ring 232617.

September 11th - 15th - Flower Festival, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, details from church office 362023.

September 11th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Bingo 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

September 11th - Fairview Tadpoles, Parent and Baby Group meets Thursdays in term time 1.15 -2.45pm at Fairview Community Primary School. £2 per family, more details from 01634 337810

September 11th – Countryside Event, Capstone Farm Country Park, Lets go Batty, a walk with a difference starting at dusk, £2 per person, ring 812196 to book.

September 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group meets each Friday, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 9.30am – 12noon to help people who have lost their spouse or a close relative, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie on 364309 for details.

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September 12th - Ramases A.G.M. and Illustrated talk by David Wise, travel writer. 7.30pm, Newington Village Hall, see Swale Borough Council website for ticket costs or contact ramases@hotmail.com

September 12th - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, 7.45pm, Bredhurst Village Hall (opposite the Bell PH), Peter Parish – Constellation of the month, ring Trev 077717678795 for details.

September 12th – Ouiz Night in aid of The Wisdom Hospice, Palm Cottage Social Club, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, 7.00 for 7.30pm start, Tables of 6, £5 pp bring your own nibbles, licensed bar available, details from 01634 831163.

September 13th - St Margaret's Church Rainham, Tower Opening 10.00am- 2.00pm, £1 adults, 50p children in conjunction with the Flower Festival.

September 13th – Gillingham Horticultural Society United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Autumn Show, 2.30 – 4.30pm, ring 01634 234734.

September 13th - Charity Quiz Night, proceeds to Leukaemia Research, Millennium Centre, Rainham 7.30pm start. Bring your own nibbles and drinks, tickets £5 from 264902 or 864642.

September 13th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 –10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner. For more information ring 366189 or 388546.

September 13th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent WayBallroom - Latin Sequence Dancing. 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 363738.

September 14th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 2.00pm, Boughton under Blean, 5 miles, dogs September 20th - Rainham Barnardo's Helpers ok, ring 01795 535941.

September 14th - Countryside Event, Miniature Gardens, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am -12noon £2 per child, for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, book in advance, 337432.

September 15th - Countryside Event Junior Ranger Club, 4.00-4.45pm, Riverside Country Park, for accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years, book in advance 337432 £1 per child.

September 15th - Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Welcome Back', with coffee, cake and chat after

Summer Break. New members of all ages are very welcome. We have a variety of speakers/activities etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting, this includes coffee and biscuits, for details contact Sue on 230639.

September 15th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute meet 7.30pm Millennium Centre, Rainham, 'Cooking Demonstration Speedy Colourful Salads', ring364702

September 16th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 'Autumn Glory', new members welcome ring 01634 234734 for details.

September 16th - Every Tues at The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free healing is available from 7.30 -9.00pm. All are welcome. For more information call one of our healing leaders, Alan on 362121 or Dave 668132

September 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club, 8.00pm, Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, A.G.M. Moira Bostock - Talk 'My Life continued - In the Wrens', Potato Competition, all welcome, visitor fee £1.00, ring 233554 for details.

September 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Jeremy Clark talks about the Guildhall Museum and its artefacts, (see 11th Sept)

September 19th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, 7.15pm, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, World War II Memories - Members personal recollections, ring Mr R.W. Baker on 01634 854982 for details.

September 20th - Countryside Event, Bird Walk, Riverside Country Park, 8.00am start, £1 per person, book in advance, 337432.

Group, Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm Lower Hall, Millennium Centre. Tables of 6-8, £3 per person. Bring your own drinks & nibbles, tea & coffee available. Raffle etc. tickets 233405 or 375486.

September 20th - Chatham Grammar Association Annual Reunion Lunch, tickets £17 from 37 Homefield Drive, Rainham ME8 8RS.

September 20th – Whist Drive, 7.30pm Lower Halstow Village Hall, £3.50 including refreshments, come along and enjoy a game of cards, more information from 01795 842014.

Continued on Page 11

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THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

The Friends of St Margaret's Church held their AGM on Saturday 19th July 2008. Over the past year many fund raising activities were carried out. Funds raised over this period, excluding membership subscriptions came to £1462. This past year the friends purchased the new notice board facing the Cricketers car park and have donated £8500 towards necessary drainage repair work to the church. More members are still very much required, if you are interested contact Shirley on 01634 322193.

FLOWER FESTIVAL 'Christian Symbols in Bloom' St Margaret's Church, Rainham 11th - 15th September 2008 Preview Evening

Thursday 11th September 7.30 - 9.00pm

Cheese and Wine

Tickets £5.00 Available in advance from the church office 362023

Opening Hours of Festival Entrance £2

Friday 12th September 10.00am - 7.30pm Saturday 13th September 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tower Open 10.00am - 2.00pm £1.00 adults 50p for children (under 160 Sunday 14th September 10.30am Parish Eucharist Flower Festival open Noon - 4.00pm Monday 15th September 10.00am – 2.00pm

Come and join us for a very enjoyable event.

MEDWAY SINGERS

On Saturday 27th September, 7.30pm at Gillingham Methodist Church the Medway Singers present a varied programme of music ancient and modern sacred and secular. All welcome, proceeds are in aid of GMC's youth drop in centre.

WHIST DRIVE

September 20th – 7.30pm, Lower Halstow Village Hall, £3.50 including refreshments. Enjoy a game of cards, more information from 01795 842014.

CHARITY OUIZ NIGHT

Rainham Barnardo's Helpers Group Saturday 20th September, 7.30pm Lower Hall, Millennium Centre, Rainham Tables of 6 -8, £3 per person Bring your own drinks & nibbles Tea & Coffee available Raffle etc Do come and join us. Tickets from 01634 233405 or 375486

SPECIAL 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR CONCERT

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Saturday 11th October, 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Rainham. Tickets £6 and £3 children including light refreshments. Ring 371941, 362023 or 363629 or visit Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road. Proceeds to St. Margaret's Heritage Fund

OUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 11 October at 7pm Holywell School, Forge Lane, Upchurch Tables £8 (6-8 people) Bring your own drinks and nibbles Come along for an evening of fun and test your general knowledge! To book a table, please call Sheryl Clark on 01634 388996 or the school office on 388416.

THE VOSKRESENLJE CHOIR St Petersburg

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

This month's Nature Notes are about the natural history around the hamlet of Hucking here in the North Downs. Next month, by way of comparison, I shall record a visit to the hamlet of Saddlescombe in the South Downs.

Hucking lies in the heart of the downs, about halfway between Stockbury and Hollingbourne. It is a remote hamlet, reached along miles of single track lanes. There is a diminutive church, Norman in origin, but extensively rebuilt in Victorian times, opposite which is a terrace of tile hung cottages. The buildings of Hucking Court Farm, which once housed a herd a beef cattle, have been converted into dwellings. A yellow brick barn, formerly used by a woodsman in the making of chestnut hurdles, has also been turned into a house. Apart from the church, the only sign that this isolated spot is the heart of a local community is a red painted GR post box.

The landscape around the hamlet consists of hedged fields on a raised plateau dissected by dry valleys. Interspersed among the fields are several semi-natural woods and narrow lengths of trees called shaws. Until the recent past, Hucking was characterised, in the main, by the mediaeval Kentish pattern of small farms within a single parish. A large part of the parish consisted of the Hucking Estate which had been developed as a mixture of coppiced woodland, sheep pasture and arable farming since Norman times. Arable intensification in recent decades had resulted in the loss of many hedgerows and woodland from the estate.

In 1997 the Hucking Estate was bought by the Woodland Trust whose objective is to restore lost woods and hedges by enlarging and linking existing woodland elements. Development of native grassland is being encouraged, particularly along the dry valley in the centre of the estate.

On arrival in Hucking I parked my car in the car park provided by the Trust off Church Road. I walked in the direction of Stubs Wood across an area of grassland. A skylark was singing in the air above me and a kestrel was hovering, a short distance away, on

the lookout for voles. At the ground level of the grassland I came across a number of small copper butterflies which have a fidgety movement and rapid flight. The upper wings of the species are of a golden red colour with black spots and a dark border. Adjacent to Stubs Wood I crossed an area being replanted with native trees such as oak, field maple, yew, cherry, whitebeam and small-leaved lime. During my stroll through the wood I heard the call of a green woodpecker and spotted a couple of jays. August is a comparatively quiet month for most birds. The breeding season is over, they are moulting and keeping under cover.

Furthermore, not many flowers grow in woodland in August, because the dense leaf canopy cuts down on the light. I did however come across some foxgloves in a sunny, open glade. They are, of course, a well known and well loved plant with handsome flowers in the shape of purple-pink bells, occasionally white. In the same glade I spotted a male speckled wood. The upper wings of the butterfly are strongly patterned in orange and brown. The insect has a slow, fluttering flight and is commonly found in shady areas with dappled sunlight, such as woodland edges or clearings.

I returned to my car via the dry valley that runs through the estate. Here, among the pasture land, typical chalk downland flowers such as field scabious, common rock rose, marjoram, carline thistle and greater knapweed were in bloom. Where the valley meets Church Road I stumbled across a cast iron cover to a well. The latter would have been sunk at a point nearest to the water table but at a cost of carrying the water to the hamlet up a steep hill. Sheep and other animals would have been watered at dew ponds, one example of which stills survives, full of water, at Pond Farm. Experiments have shown that the bulk of the water in dew ponds, which were more common on the South Downs than the North, would have come from rain water rather than dew.

Once back in my car I headed for the Hook and Hatchet Inn. The way there is narrow and winding and up and down. It is an ancient road, at times in the form of a sunken lane and lined with very old

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hedges of many species. It was not built for cars and one hopes not to meet one coming in the opposite direction. Sunday lunch time is the time, in particular, to avoid all roads leading to or from the Hook and Hatchet at Hucking.

Joe Ennis

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Help Raise Money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Join the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. September 26th (or whenever suits you). Last year in Kent over 1,400 people took part and raised over £164,000. So put the kettle on and help people affected by cancer. To register call 0845 602 1246 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk.

CANCER CARE UNIT

Macmillan seeking help to raise funds for a new Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital by 2009. Would your club, group or association be able to help raise funds for the new unit? From quiz nights to collections to party's to Charity of the Year Support, we are here to assist your fundraising activity and make it a success. Email Liz on: eohanlon@macmillan.org.uk

WCRA

Once again Wigmore Community and Residents Association are holding their Autumn 'Drop In' at Wigmore Library on Friday 3rd October. The evening starts at 7.30pm aiming to end about 9.00. The evening is open to all residents of Wigmore, not only our members, however it will be possible to join the Association if any resident so wished. This event is a unique opportunity to meet with and discuss matters with your Ward Councillors, Ward Community Police Officers, Council officers for Road Safety and Community Safety, all of which have been invited to attend. Please do attend and make the evening a great success. We the Committee

> Bob Dunn For WCRA Committee

look forward to seeing you there.

ST MARGARETS CHURCH RAINHAM TOWER OPENING

Saturday 13th September, 10am to 2pm Come and see the best view in Rainham - only chance in 2008. Adults £1 Children 50pm

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CHATHAM GRAMMAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON

This is a reminder to former pupils and staff of Chatham Grammar School for Girls that the Annual Reunion Lunch is to be held this year on Saturday 20th September. Tickets are available at £17 each for non-members of the Association and can be obtained from the Treasurer at 37, Homefield Drive, Rainham ME8 8RS. Demand for tickets is expected to be higher than usual this year, as we are promoting the lunch on the Internet, so early ticket applications are advised.

Wendy Draper

CHARITY OUIZ NIGHT

All proceed to Leukaemia Research Millennium Centre, Rainham Saturday 13th September Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start Bring your own nibbles and drinks Tickets £5.00 For details please contact Kym 264902 or Dot 864642

ST MARGARET'S HERITAGE FUND

Bridge Drives will be held in aid of this fund on the following autumn Wednesdays:

September 24th, October 8th, November 5th and December 10th, 10.45 for 11.00am, cost including lunch £10, proceeds to the Heritage Fund. To book a place for yourself (and partner) ring Derek Bendle 364531.

GHS AUTUMN SHOW

Gillingham Horticultural Society are holding their Autumn Show on Saturday 13th September at the United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham from 2-30pm- 4-30pm.

There will be a wide variety of exhibits, fruit and vegetables; domestic and crafts and flowers; as well as beautiful floral designs from the societies Floral

There will be a sales table with preserves and other goodies as well as an auction at the end where you can pick up a bargain from the exhibits. We offer a warm welcome to everyone -free admittance and new members would be especially welcome to come and meet us.

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Diary 2008

September 20th – St Matthews Community Concert, 7.30pm tickets £7 from 372508. The Adventist Vocal Ensemble, An evening of Gospel music.

September 20th & 21st - Countryside Event, Survival Challenge, 12noon –12noon, £8 per person, camp out at Capstone, for children aged 7 plus (accompanying adult for each child), book in advance 812196.

September 21st - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 2.00pm, Staplehurst Station, 6 miles, dogs ok, ring 01634 374923.

September 21st - Peace Day. Special event at The Centre, Farthing Corner, 6.30pm please come along children are very welcome and be part of a global movement to bring PEACE FOR ONE DAY, Ring 366944 or www.thecentreonline for details.

September 22nd - Rainham Wives Talk by our 'Neighbourhood Community Support Officer' S.

Harrall, (see 15th Sept).

September 24th - Bridge Drive in aid of St Margaret's Heritage Fund, 10.00 for 10.30am. Millennium Centre, Rainham, cost £10 (includes lunch), ring 364531 to book.

September 24th - Rainham Poetry Group, Sunlight Centre Radio Room 5.45 – 8.15pm, ring 260228. September 25th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service

and Quiz, (see 11th Sept)

September 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30 for 8.00pm, The Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, Wigmore. contact 01634 312038 for details.

September 26th - Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning 10.00 until 12.00, Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. Entrance £1 includes a cup of tea/coffee. Preserves, cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle for sale. Proceeds to the new chemotherapy unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.

September 26th - Medway Geographical Society,



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7.30m- 9.00pm Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, Alaskan Adventure - Mr Mike Collins, ring 362683 for more details.

September 26th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Dr Caroline Smith, (see 12th Sept).

September 26th - Indulgence Evening in aid of The Wisdom Hospice, 7.00-10.30pm, £3 per person, treatments from £5, details from 01634 831163.

September 27th - Upchurch Horticultural Society, Autumn Plant Market, 6 Oak Lane at 10am. Details Mick on 01795 844759 or Julia on 01634 373723.

September 27th - Rainham Indoor Craft Market. Millennium Centre, (behind the Cricketers) 9.00am - 12.30pm, stalls available, ring 01634

September 27th – The Medway Singers present a varied programme of music Gillingham Methodist Church, 7.30pm. Proceeds to GMC youth drop in centre.

September 27th -Folk Dance Club, (see 13th Sept). September 27th — Instep Dancing, (see 13th Sept). September 28th - Countryside Event, Capstone Farm Country Park, Mountain Bike Trail, 9 -

10.30am, £1 per person book in advance 812196. September 28th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 2.00pmNewnham (near George Inn), 6.5 miles, dogs ok, ring 01634 317993.

September 28th - Countryside Event, Bird Box and Animal House Making, Riverside Country Park, 10am - 2pm, £5 per home, drop in any time, 337432.

September 29th - Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 8th Sept)

September 29th - Countryside Event, Junior Ranger Club, (see 15th Sept).

September 29th - Rainham Wives, AGM and Ploughman's Supper. (see 15th Sept).

Continued on Page 13

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Diary 2008

October 1st — Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Hall, Berengrave Lane, Members Suggestion Night, ring 231972 for details

October 2nd – Wigmore Thursday Club, Slides & talk about Antarctica by Bea Auger, (see 11th Sept)

October 3rd - Wigmore Community and Residents Association, Autumn 'Drop In' Wigmore Library, 7.30pm. All welcome.

October 4th – Rainham Indoor Farmers Market, Millennium Centre, (behind the Cricketers) 9.00am – 12.30pm, stalls available, ring 01634 371941.

October 4th – Ramases Study Day on Aspects of Mummification hosted by Joyce Filer. 10.00am, advance booking essential. Newington Village Hall, tickets price £21 from 01795 437480 or contact ramasesnk@hotmail.com

October 5th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Sheldwich Village Hall, 5 miles, no dogs,

ring 01622 764821.

October 5th - The Lions Club of Gillingham Harvest Tea, 3.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Ring 379062 or 373840 for tickets and information.

October 8th – Bridge Drive in aid of St Margaret's Heritage Fund, 10.00 for 10.30am, Millennium Centre, Rainham, cost £10 (includes lunch), ring 364531 to book

October 8th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Annual Meeting, ring 232617. October 10th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History

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Society, Old Time Music Halls - Mr Moore, (see

19th Sept).

October 11th - The Friends of St. Margaret's Church, Knowledge & Nibbles Evening 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase. Food provided, please bring your own beverage. Tables of 6 to 8 people £6 per head must be booked in advance 379796 or 230430. There will be prizes and a raffle.

October 11th - Quiz Night, 7pm, Holywell School, Forge Lane, Upchurch. Tables £8 (6-8 people). Bring your own drinks and nibbles. To book call Sheryl Clark 01634 388996 or the school office on 388416.

October 11th – Special 50th Anniversary Year Concert by Rainham Ladies Choir, 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Rainham. Tickets £6 and £3 children including light refreshments. Tel. 371941, 362023 or 363629 or visit Sunburst Books 21 Station Road. Proceeds to St. Margaret's Heritage Fund.

October 11th – St Matthews Community Concert, 7.30pm tickets £7 from 372508. The Metropolitan Ensemble Flute, violin and cello trio - popular and classical pieces in a unique style.

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