

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

MARCH 2009
NUMBER 441



Wakeley's Oast and Granary building beside Rainham Station was purchased for conversion to a community centre in the late 1960s. Jamie Mackay Miller, who chaired the committee set up for this purpose, died on February 19th aged 93 years. His funeral will be at Lower Hardres Church, near Canterbury on Tuesday 10th March at 3.00pm. A brief biography can be read on www.thenet.uk.net. Those who knew him are invited to contribute their memories on line.

Robert J. Kitney

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Editorial

This month we celebrate the 40th birthday of Action Forum, coincidentally, I heard on the radio today, sharing it with the birth of colour television. In early 1969 Hamish had the idea of printing a free delivery sheet, paid for by local advertising, to publicise the work of the 'Help the Needy' committee with which he was involved. Having successfully set up the advertising, production and distribution teams it seemed a waste to stop after that first edition in March and so he with the editorial team decided to produce a monthly copy which would be delivered to every door in Rainham and Wigmore (at that time 10,000 houses). After a few months Hamish went to further his education at the London College of Printing and an enthusiastic team continued the monthly magazine. By the time he returned to Rainham in the autumn of 1971 the enthusiasm had begun to wear a bit thin as the team were trying to hand print and fold the copies each month, a mammoth task! Hamish again took control and having talked me into helping we reverted to commercial printing with the first copy that carried my name as editor in December 1971 and the rest as they say is history. Over the forty years many hundreds of people have helped in a variety of ways with the production of Action Forum, some for very long periods. Christine Smith only recently retired from compiling the Diary each month after a thirty five year stint, some door to door distributors from the early days returned to help again after our brief foray with commercial distribution and continue to this day. Joe Ennis has been writing his monthly column 'Nature Notes' since January 1994 and prior to this in the 1980s we enjoyed many 'Rides from Rainham' penned by Kemsley & I, his pseudonym. Freddie Cooper was a regular contributor from the early days with his 'Memories of Rainham' series. As a result of an article in Action Forum clubs and societies have been formed, the Medway Towns Footpaths Group immediately springs to mind and many, many readers have answered appeals for volunteer help in a wide variety of causes. This is all made possible by our advertisers payments and in turn your loyal support by using their services when appropriate. Robert J. Kitney, B. Hayfield & Sons and John Weir have all been advertising with us since the 1970s. Since we returned to volunteer distribution in September 2000

the money saved has been donated to charity, the three main recipients being the Kajiado Development Trust in Kenya, St Matthew's, Wigmore and St Margaret's, Rainham parish churches. Thank you everyone who has helped in any way during the last forty years your efforts are really appreciated by very many residents and I know that copies of Action Forum are sent all over the world each month providing a small glimpse of home to many ex pats.

Sadly, celebrating in a very different way as a family, we appreciate three lives this month. On February 17th my aunt Vi Harris died peacefully but suddenly at her home of the last 70 years in Newington aged 96. Born and brought up in Rainham, the youngest of the three Cheeseman sisters, she will be remembered by some of our older readers as a member of the Rainham Historical Society. Together with her sister she enjoyed many talks, outings and holidays with the group. Two days later we had the news of the death of my father in law J. P. Mackay Miller (Jamie) after several years of gentle decline. The family moved to Macklands in Rainham in 1956 and quickly became involved in community life. One of Jamie's biggest contributions was to coordinate the purchase and subsequent conversion of Wakeley's Oast and granary beside Rainham Station, in the late 1960s, to the community centre it still remains. The necessary fund raising took several years and continued after he & Phyl moved to Norfolk in 1975 but the project was eventually completed. Other readers may remember the youth club that took place in the cellar at Macklands, a brave decision to allow youngsters the run of your property. Another two days and we heard that my aunt Mabel Thomas who had for the last few years lived at Rogers House after leaving her home in Maidstone Road had died. Some of you may remember her husband Bert Thomas who sold greengrocery around the streets of Rainham for many years initially from his horse and cart and later a small van.

As I write it is a glorious spring day, the snowdrops are out and the warm sunshine means it is very tempting to be outdoors. Enjoy the month and we will see you again in April, here's to the next 40 years.

Correspondence

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HERITAGE FUND
UPDATE

Dear Editor,
We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support and contributions that have been made to the Heritage Fund over the past four years.

We are very pleased that there are now sufficient funds available to carry out the roof main repairs and renovation of the historic painted ceiling panels. Work will start on the 20th April using a local company, B. W. May and Sons, and will take six months. This

company is expert in the repair of old Churches. An expert conservation architect will be overseeing the project together with a project manager and a safety supervisor, all experienced in this type of work.

The Church will be partitioned to allow use for most church services and events, including funerals and weddings. Because less damage than expected was actually found the figure required for the work has been revised, this automatically results in a decrease of the amount of grant that will be provided by English Heritage.

The good news is that there is sufficient money to pay for part of the Tower renovation and we are therefore hoping to follow on with this work.

We still need about £100,000 to complete the project, but this is very achievable with continued support and then the long term future of the Church Building will be secure for the use of everyone and we can feel very proud of our great achievement.

Yours sincerely
Tony Andrews

Chairman of the Heritage Fund raising Group

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

Dear Editor,

Many fund-raising activities are taking place to repair the roof of St. Margaret's Church, Rainham, however, the repair of the rest of the church in general must continue. These are some of the objects of the Friends of St. Margaret's. Events have been planned starting with an Indoor Boot Fair on April 18th from 9am until 2pm in the Millennium Centre. Bookings at £10 per table must be made in advance by 'phoning Lesley on 379796 or Kay on 230430. Admissions will be 30p, light refreshments available.

Yours faithfully,
Kay Jarvis

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE FAYRE

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing my letter regarding the request for stalls for the Hempstead Village Fayre on 24th May this year. We had an excellent response. This time my letter is to request Mr and Mrs Hempstead to contact us. The committee felt instead of having the Fayre Princess we would do something different and we would like to have the longest married couple in Hempstead to be our guests of

honour. If any residents of Hempstead feel that they fit this bill, could they please contact Mrs Sheila Shepherd on 01634 377597 to register their claim, by April 30th at the latest so we have plenty of time to contact the winners.

Yours faithfully
Tina Venus-Coppard

WIGMORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Dear Editor

Wigmore Community and Residents Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday 24th April in the Wigmore Library starting at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend and there will be an opportunity for residents who are not yet members to join on the night.

We are very pleased that our local Councillors will be in attendance and we have also invited a number of Council Officers and Police representation.

This is a great opportunity for Wigmore Residents to meet with and discuss your concerns with our guests. Please do make the effort to attend on April 24th to support your Association.

Kind regards
Bob Dunn
for WCRA Committee.

KNOWLEDGE & KNIBBLES

Dear Editor,

Can I bring to your attention a Knowledge & Knibbles Evening that will take place on Saturday March 14th, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Tickets are £6 each and Tables of 6-8 can be booked IN ADVANCE by telephoning Anne on 01634 372680. All proceeds will be put into the Heritage Fund whose aim is to enable the repairs to the church roof to proceed this year.

Yours sincerely
Barry Kemp

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Diary 2009

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

Diary Copy Date: 17th March

March 7th – Holy Trinity Church, Twydall, Craft Fair
11.00am – 2.30pm, ring 01634 235172.

March 7th – ‘The Poetry of Laughter’, Oasthouse
Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm, ring 374183.

March 7th – St Margaret’s Spring Concert. 7.30pm in
church, A Festival of Brass & Choral Music by the
Salvation Army. Donation of £5 at the door,
suggested admission, in aid of the Heritage Fund.

March 7th – City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra
Concert, 7.30pm, Central Theatre, Chatham,
conducted by Anthony Halstead. Nielsen Helios
Overture, Ravel Mother Goose Suite, Berlioz
Symphonie Fantastique. Tickets £13-£5. Tel. 07505
643354 or 01634 338338.

March 8th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 6.5
miles from Hucking Estate car park.

March 8th – ‘The Poetry of Laughter’, Oasthouse
Theatre, Rainham, 3.00pm, ring 374183.

March 8th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am 5 miles from Upper Harbledown, dogs
OK, ring 01795 535941 for details.

March 9th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers,
7.30 – 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church Hall
(entrance to left of the church), Start of Friendship
Cushion, ring 01634 578294 for details.

March 9th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group
for those still in employment 7.15 – 9.00pm,
Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 01634
364309 for details.

March 9th – Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, “Humorous
Poetry”, with Terry Goodwin. 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 more details contact
Sue on 01634 230639.

March 10th – Fairview Frogs Toddler Group, 10.00
– 11.30am, Foundation Stage Unit, Fairview
Community School, £2 per family, details from
01634 337810 (term time).

March 10th – Every Tuesday at The Centre, Farthing
Corner, Free healing is available from 7.30-
9.00pm. All are welcome. For information call one
of our healing leaders, Alan on 01634 362121 or
Dave 01634 668132.

March 10th – Medway Antique & Collector’s Club,
7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road,
Chatham, Mr Ian White ‘Paper Case’ Ring 01474
823606 for details.

March 11th – Bredhurst W.L., 7.30pm, Village Hall,
Hurstwood Road. Lesley Gould – Japanese
Festivals and Celebrations, ring 232617 for details.

March 11th – Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40
Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring
01634 260228 for details.

March 11th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm,
Upchurch Village Hall. Demonstration by Robin
White. Ring 01795 425700 or 01622 884657.

March 12th – Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby
Group, 1.15 – 2.45pm, Fairview Community
Primary School, £2 per family, details from 01634
337810 (term time)

March 12th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Witness
Service in Medway Magistrates – Shirley Tolhurst,
2.00pm, St Matthew’s Community Centre,
Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age
of 50, ring 235507 for details.

March 13th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday
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 01634 364309 for details.

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March 13th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, 7.15pm, United Reformed Church,
Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Napoleonic Defences
of the Medway – Mr Gulvin, ring Mr R.W. Baker
on 01634 854982 for details.

March 14th – Ramases - North Kent Egyptology
Society, Peggy Dewey Memorial Lecture - John
Dewey, Newington Village Hall. Contact Annette
Jones ramases@hotmail.com or see Swale Borough
Council website for details.

March 14th – Indoor Craft Market, Millennium
Centre, Rainham 9.00am – 12.30pm, ring 371941.

March 14th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for
Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence
dancing 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738.

March 14th – 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.

March 14th – Knowledge & Knibbles Evening,
7.30at the Millennium Centre, Rainham. Tickets
£6 each and Tables of 6-8 can be booked in
advance by telephoning Anne on 01634 372680.
All proceeds will be put into the Heritage Fund.

March 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am 5.5 miles from Wye Downs, no dogs, ring
01622 710669 for details.

March 15th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 8
miles from Meopham Green.

March 16th – Rainham Wives “Yoga and the Benefits
to Health”, talk by Norma, (see 9th Mar).

March 16th – Rainham Evening Women’s Institute,
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. The Craft of
Violin and Viola Making – Peter Winbard, ring
364702 for details.

March 17th – Fairview Frogs Toddler Group, (see
10th Mar).

March 17th – The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free
healing (see 10th Mar).

March 17th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm
United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road,
Gillingham. ‘Ask the Experts’, ring 01634 234734.

March 17th – The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk.

Strood Library, 7.45 – 10.00pm, £3.00. Scotland,
Wilderness on your Doorstep by Ian Rowlands.

Details www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.
March 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Spring Show
& Jackie Aviolet –talk ‘Hardy Geraniums’,
8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634
233554.

March 19th – Fairview Tadpoles - Parent and Baby
Group, (see 12th Mar).

March 19th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Birthday
Tea – Entertainment by Kingfisher Singers, (see
12th Mar).

March 19th – 21st, 26th – 28th - Oasthouse Theatre,
Rainham ‘Sand Castles’ a play by Bob Larbey.
Curtain up at 8pm.Box Office opens 9th March on
01634-233660, 8am – 8pm, weekdays only.

March 20th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group, (see 13th Mar).

March 20th – Miracle Theatre Company present the
comedy “Cat’s Cradle” by Kurt Vonnegut. 7.30pm,
Bredhurst Village Hall. Tickets £6.50 from Ann
Keeble 361263.

March 21st – Monthly Indoor Farmers Market,
Millennium Centre, 9.00am 12.30pm. Enquiries
01634 371941.

March 21st – St Matthew’s Community Concert.
7.30pm, tickets £7 from 372508. Consortium 5 -
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March 21st – Chalkfoot Theatre, Upchurch Village
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and families, 8.00pm ‘The Riddle of the Sands’ by
Erskine Childers, tickets from 231326 or 233144,
£1 each cheaper if booked in advance.

March 22nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group
walk, 10.00am 5.5 miles from Meopham Green,
no dogs, ring 0772 460 2929 for details.

March 22nd – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am,
8 miles from the front of St Mary’s Church, Ide
Hill, ring 075 2516 1766 for details.

March 23rd – Medway Spinners, Dyers and
Weavers, (see 9th Mar).

Continued on Page 11

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www.medway.gov.uk/learning

FRANK BARTLETT R.E. 1929 - 2009
My brother Capt.(ret.) Frank Bartlett R.E. MBE was
born in 1929 at Berengrave Lane, Rainham. He
passed away on 16th January at Stafford. He was
christened at St Margaret's Church and attended
local schools and Sunday School at the Methodist
Church in Station Road, Rainham. Frank joined the
Royal Engineers as a career before retiring to
Stafford where the funeral was on February 4th.
Janet Cox 01795 520826 ronald793@btinternet.com

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FILM SHOW
The Hiding Place, (PG 12) the film of Corrie Ten
Boom's World War Two experiences, is being shown
on the "big" screen at St Paul's Church, Deanwood
Drive, Parkwood on Saturday 4th April at
7pm. Doors open at 6pm when coffee and cakes are
being served. There is no charge to see the
film. Seats can be reserved by phoning Jill Lovell,
on 01634 230780.
It seems that many have not heard of this
courageous (christian) woman. We hope that a new
generation of people will be inspired by her
story. Please note that the film is not suitable for
under 12's.

4th GILLINGHAM SEA SCOUT GROUP
We are having "An evening of Clairvoyance" on
Thursday 26th March, 7.30 - 10pm at St. Georges
Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Tickets are £5
each and MUST be booked and paid for in advance.
Refreshments will be available to buy during the
interval. To book a place please contact Julie on
01634 361061 or julie206@blueyonder.co.uk
Cheques (made payable to 4th Gillingham Sea Scout
Group) or cash to Julie Clayton c/o 206, Station
Road, Rainham, Kent. ME8 7PS.

CHALKFOOT THEATRE in Upchurch
Our box office is now open for our two plays on 21st
March.
'The Riddle of the Sands' adapted from the novel by
Erskine Childers (said to be the first modern spy
thriller at 8.00pm) and 'The Firebird' a Russian
adventure story for 4 to 11 year old children and
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Despite the fact that I have lived in Kent for many years, I have paid only a few fleeting visits to the Isle of Thanet. As a one-time commuter, the Thanet towns are more familiar to me as the last six stops on my trains home, namely, Birchington, Westgate, Margate, Broadstairs, Dympton Park and Ramsgate.

In February I decided to make amends by visiting the Isle of Thanet, the coastline of which is essentially chalk cliff with a rocky foreshore and sandy bays.

Thanet is one of the most reliable localities in Kent to see the purple sandpiper, the ring-necked parakeet and the fulmar. In winter, inclement weather conditions, particularly northerly gales, may force ocean-living birds such as red-throated divers, guillemots, kittiwakes and razorbills into the shelter of Ramsgate Harbour or the various bays around the Thanet coast. Having taken the Thanet Way, the A299, I drove through Birchington and Westgate before stopping briefly in Margate, near to the Dreamland Amusement Park. The sandy bay, well known to holiday makers for over two hundred years, was empty apart from a lone dog walker and a flock of black headed gulls. The area around the harbour appeared somewhat down at heel but there are hopes that it will benefit from the building of a Turner gallery at the end of the harbour wall.

I parked and left my car near Foreness Point, in Cliftonville, which juts out into the Thames Estuary. On a grassy headland I came across a small number of turnstones probing, presumably, for worms. They are small waders, dull brown above and white beneath, and are so named because they upend stones (and seaweed) along the shore line in search of sand hoppers and other crustaceans. They can be extremely tame.

Below the low cliffs at Foreness Point are mussel-encrusted platforms of chalk. Feeding there were some small waders which I immediately recognised, ringed plovers, and some which I didn't. A check of my bird book showed that they were purple sandpipers. Like turnstones, they are among the tamest of birds but are very inconspicuous and easily overlooked. Their upper

parts are brown and black, faintly glossed with purple. They feed near the edge of the water, running up and down the shore line with the movement of the tide.

Once back in my car, I headed a short distance inland to Northdown Park, Cliftonville. Here I met up with a locally well known flock of rose-ringed parakeets; they are descended, it is thought, from escaped cage birds. They have bright green plumage and a long tail and are the most northerly wild parrot population in the world. The birds are a serious agricultural pest in much of their African and Asia range. Evening roosts at Northdown Park are accompanied by a cacophony of loud screeching calls.

I returned to the coast at Kingsgate Bay which is over looked by Kingsgate Castle, a 19th century folly. Among the many black headed and herring gulls flying around the bay I spotted a number of fulmars which appeared to be inspecting old nesting sites on the chalk cliffs below the castle. At one time the fulmar nested only on St Kilda; today it breeds all around the coastline where there are suitable cliffs. This expansion has been attributed to the increase in the amount of offal being disgorged by trawlers and factory ships. The fulmar's stiff winged flight pattern enables it to ride updrafts on cliffs as easily as it glides over the waves.

I retired to the Captain Digby Inn for lunch where I had a window view of Kingsgate Bay and Castle. After lunch I went just a short distance along the coast before stopping at Joss Bay and North Foreland. Here keen surfers come to show their skills and parents with children probe with their nets in the many rock pools for crabs and shrimps. On the rocky outcrops I spotted curlew, oyster catcher, turnstone and rock pipit.

I proceeded down the coast road towards Broadstairs. I passed the North Foreland Lighthouse and many seaside villas, protected from the winds by sycamore and holm oak trees. Broadstairs is the smallest, quietest and most pleasant of the Thanet resorts. It overlooks a charming little harbour in Viking Bay which is surrounded by a horseshoe of low chalk cliffs. My attention was drawn to the bird

that is perhaps most associated with seaside towns, the herring gull. Large, robust, raucous and aggressive, it is the only grey backed gull that nests on roofs in these towns.

I finally arrived at Ramsgate, a handsome resort rich in robust Victorian red brick with a large and attractive harbour. As far as I could see, no red throated divers had been driven to shelter in the harbour, no guillemots, no kittiwakes and no razorbills. It was my fault, really, for having chosen to come on a nice, warm, sunny day. Still, I had seen purple sandpipers, rose-ringed parakeets, fulmars and a little more of the Thanet towns.

Joe Ennis

NINETEENTH CENTURY RAINHAM: Part Two of titbits from Milton Union records by Audrey Perkyns.

In 1838, while there was still only one MO for the whole of Milton Union, based in Milton, difficulties could arise in parishes at the opposite end of the Union.

One late evening in November a Mrs Coulter had an accident, and the local doctor, George Dear Friend, was called to attend her. He knew he needed official authorisation to do so, so he called on both parish Overseers (answerable to the Relieving Officer at Milton), then both churchwardens; none was at home; in desperation he got the parish constable to authorise treatment, with a note to the MO to call in the morning.

Afterwards he sent in his bill to the Guardians of the Union. That was where the trouble started. The constable was not one of the officials legally recognised to authorise treatment, so the Guardians refused to pay. Dr Friend then wrote to the Poor Law Commissioners in London, on 25 November, 17 December and 13 January asking, with increasing exasperation, what he was supposed to do in this situation. The Commissioners consulted the Guardians, who now said that the case was not sufficiently urgent to have required instant attention, despite the memorial signed by the local Overseers, churchwardens and a majority of the ratepayers affirming the urgency of the case. Eventually the Commissioners chickened out and said the auditor would have to decide. In their letter the Guardians referred to 'laxity in this part of the Union'; Rainham had a bit of a reputation for being stropky.

RATS Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham Sand Castles, a play by Bob Larbey

Our next production is a gentle comedy by well-known author Bob Larbey, co-writer, with John Esmonde, of such TV classics as *Please Sir!*, *Ever Decreasing Circles*, *Brush Strokes*, and of course, *The Good Life*. His best-known play is probably *A Month of Sundays*.

Production dates March 19th – 21st, 26th – 28th
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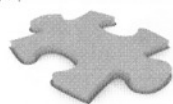
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Diary 2009

March 23rd – Rainham Wives “Fuchsias and Summer
Tubs”, talk by Mr G Puddifoot. (see 9th Mar).

March 24th – Fairview Frogs Toddler Group, (see
10th Mar).

March 24th – The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free
healing (see 10th Mar).

March 25th – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 – 8.15pm,
Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all
lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228

March 26th – Fairview Tadpoles – Parent and Baby
Group, (see 12th Mar).

March 26th – 4th Gillingham Sea Scouts “An evening
of Clairvoyance” 7.30 – 10pm, St. Georges Hall,
Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Tickets £5 each MUST
be booked and paid in advance, contact Julie on
01634 361061 or julie206@blueyonder.co.uk

March 26th – Rainham & District Dolls’ House and
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, The Howard Memorial
Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, contact 01634 312038.

March 26th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Service &
Roy Hunt Slides of Darland Banks & Butterflies,
(see 12th Mar).

March 26th – Wigmore MADS present a concert
Springtime Serenade, 8pm in St Matthews
Community Centre, Wigmore. Tickets £6/£5 concs.
available from Sue on Medway 370639.

March 27th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group, (see 13th Mar).

March 27th – Demelza House Quiz Night 7.00pm
Rainham United Services Club, £5.00 per ticket,
teams of 6. Licensed bar – bring own nibbles,
details 01634 234973.

March 27th – Medway Geographical Society, 7.30m-
9.00pm Adult Education Centre, Green Street,
Gillingham, Aspects of Japan – Mrs Sue Haydock,
ring 362683 for more details.



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March 28th – Park Wood Junior School Reunion,
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person www.parkwoods.co.uk or call 07964
345693.

March 28th – Folk Dance Club, (see 14th Mar).

March 28th – Instep Dancing, (see 14th Mar).

March 28th – Easter Bazaar at Fairview
Community Primary School, Drewery
Drive, Wigmore. 1.30pm. Admission 30p (pre-
school free. Come along and visit the Easter
Bunny! Plus tombolas, games, crafts,
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March 29th – Ramblers Association walk,
10.00am, 6.5 miles from Chatham Railway
Station, ring 01634 406634 for details.

March 29th – Medway Towns Footpath Group
walk, 10.00am 5.5 miles from Westerham (car
park off A25), no dogs, ring 01622 764821.

March 29th – Medway Towns Footpath Group
walk, 2.00pm 1.5 miles from Rochester Castle
steps, no dogs, ring 01732 841433 for details.

March 30th – Rainham Wives “String of Pearls”,
talk by Mrs Etheridge. (see 9th Mar).

March 31st – Fairview Frogs Toddler Group, (see
10th Mar).

March 31st – The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free
healing (see 10th Mar).

April 1st – Mayor’s Coffee Morning in aid of
Macmillan Cancer Support, 10.00am -12.00noon
in the Mayor’s Parlour, Council Offices, Gun
Wharf, Chatham. No public parking available on
site. Lots of Easter crafts and cakes. Do support
us if you can.

April 1st – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,
Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Spring Show,
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Continued on Page 13

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April 2nd - Freedom of Spirit, Easter Special,
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 Rainham, phone 317411 or 07946718244.
 April 2nd- Fairview Tadpoles - Parent and Baby
 Group. (see 12th Mar).
 April 2nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Safer
 Communities - Sarah Elliott. (see 12th Mar).
 April 3rd - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,
 (see 13th Mar).
 April 3rd - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
 Society, Windmills and Watermills - Mr P Jarvis,
 (see 13th Mar).
 April 4th - Craft Workshop, St Matthew's Church,
 Wigmore, 9.30am - 1.00pm, ring 01634 379139 or
 01634 232478 for details.
 April 4th - Crossroads Quiz Night in aid of Medway's
 disabled, tables of 8, tickets £5, Rainham School for
 Girls. 01634 365316.
 April 4th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed
 Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Spring
 Show, ring 01634 234734 for details.
 April 4th - The Hiding Place, (PG 12) the film of
 Corrie Ten Boom's World War Two experiences, St
 Paul's Church, Deanwood Drive,
 Parkwood, 7.00pm. No charge to see the film, book

by phoning Jill Lovell, on 01634 230780.
 April 5th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
 10.30am 5 miles from Cobham Public car park,
 dogs OK, ring 01634 855522 for details.
 April 6th - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers,
 Navaho Plying, (see 9th Mar).
 April 7th - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Easter Basket',
 (see 17th Mar).
 April 8th - AGM Medway Fundraising Committee
 for Macmillan Cancer Support, RATS Theatre,
 Rainham, 7pm for 7.30 pm followed by
 refreshments and a raffle. All welcome.
 April 8th - Rainham Flower Club, Workshop
 evening 'Fruits and Foliage'. (see 11th Mar).
 April 8th - Rainham Poetry Group, (see 11th Mar).
 April 8th - Bredhurst W.I. Mrs Sue Hollings -
 Cooking the Italian Way, (see 11th Mar).
 April 9th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Journey
 through the wildlife in Kent by Fred Booth, (see
 12th Mar).
 April 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship
 Group, (see 13th Mar).
 April 11th - Indoor Craft Market, Millennium
 Centre, Rainham 9.00am - 12.30pm, 371941.
 April 18th - Friends of St. Margaret's Indoor Boot
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