

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

MAY 2009  
NUMBER 443



St Peter's Church, Bredhurst is holding a Flower Festival from 2nd to 4th May. I hope many of you will receive your copy of Action Forum in time to support the village by visiting the Church. However even if you miss this Bredhurst has several other events planned for the month including the traditional Crowning of the May King & Queen on May 9th at their School Fete, a Quiz Night that same evening and 'A Night with a Difference' on May 16th. You will be most welcome at all the events. Bredhurst also features in the article 'Memories of Rainham, Easter Primroses' on page 9.

## Robert J. Kitney

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## Editorial

When my mother gave me her latest article for Action Forum, her memories brought to life by last month's Nature Notes on Bredhurst Wood, I immediately went to Bredhurst in search of primroses. The woods around the church were carpeted with wood anemone and bluebell, violet and celandine were also visible as were red campion and stitchwort. The more cultivated wild patch opposite the church has hyacinth, daffodil, narcissi and grape hyacinth but not a primrose to be seen. Nevertheless it is a delightfully restful, secluded, spot with pleasant walks in every direction. Much hard work must go into keeping it so natural, yet tidy and litter free. The area is a real credit to the Bredhurst parishioners, well worth a visit. Your opportunity comes this first weekend in May as a Flower Festival is being held in St Peter's Church which will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm on the three days of this bank holiday weekend. You could walk from Rainham and after visiting the festival indulge in a cream tea which will be served on Saturday and Monday. I remember being told that according to DORA (Defence of the Realm Act), which was introduced in August 1914 in the early days of the First World War, innkeepers were not permitted to sell alcohol on Sunday except to bona fide travellers. A bona fide traveller was someone who had walked at least three miles. Rainham men by taking a pleasant walk through the woods beside Bredhurst Lane (Maidstone Road) were thus qualified for refreshment once they reached The Bredhurst Bell. Another reader this month remembers a dummy airfield complete with wooden planes that was constructed at Gibraltar Farm during the 1939-45 war. If anyone has more information about this we would be delighted to hear from you. We have much for you to do in May, from a picture competition to volunteering to help Hands or the Kent Air Ambulance fund raisers, concerts, amateur dramatics, boot fairs, quiz nights, sponsored walks and a plant sale. If you want to take up a new hobby we can even introduce you to a new knitting group. I am sure you will find something to interest you in our pages so do read on. The next few weeks are a lovely time of year, the blossom is at its best and everything is fresh and new with the hint of the long warm summer evenings yet to come. Do have a very good month and we will see you again in June.

## Correspondence

### GIBRALTAR FARM

Dear Editor,

Your item on Gibraltar Farm in the April issue brought back memories of its role in the Second World War.

The Gibraltar Farm Anti-Aircraft Gun Site was situated where Elm Court Garden Centre is now. Later in the war, a dummy airfield was constructed alongside with wooden planes etc.

I was a messenger in the ARP then and as our house in Bredhurst Road was between this and the Ack-Ack site half way down the path between Wigmore and Rainham Church, you can imagine the noise and falling shrapnel that we endured, especially during the Battle of Britain.

Yours sincerely,  
Ray Morley  
33 Bredhurst Road

### SCOUTING COMMEMORATIVE BROCHURE

Dear Editor,

Gillingham District Scouts celebrated its first 100 years during 2008 and has produced a brochure showing histories of the many scout groups. The brochure has thirty six pages in full colour and over 150 illustrations.

Many former Scouts in Rainham may like to purchase a copy and see if they recognise themselves in the photographs. I am sure they will bring back many happy memories. The brochure costs £5 a copy. Post, if required is £1 extra and copies are available from Iris Wynne on 01634 232006 or myself on 01634 388635.

Congratulations on the 40th birthday of Action Forum a good read every month!

Yours sincerely,  
David Lawrence  
Gillingham Scouts

### PLANT SALE

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to the local community attention, Macklands House annual plant sale which is on Saturday 23rd May from 10am until 1pm. The plants are grown by the residents and friends of Macklands House, all proceeds go into Macklands House Social Fund. A cake & bric a brac stall will also be available as well as refreshments. A wide variety of flower and vegetable plants, all available ready to plant at very competitive prices will be on sale.

Macklands House is situated near the bottom of Station Road just before Ellison Way.

Yours sincerely,  
Pat Black Scheme Manager  
Sanctuary Hereward  
Macklands House Station Rd  
1634 366873 - Direct line  
07795506795 - Mobile

### WIGMORE CONCERT

Dear Editor,

St Matthews Community Concerts - 23rd May. The El Andaluz Quartet, Arabian and Andalusian Music. This nationally known quartet features the Oud and Derbouka in their line up supported by the violin and guitar. El Andaluz will perform a wide range of North African and Andalusian music including Andalusian Nuba, Saharan Sufi, Egyptian Belly Dance and Algerian Chabba. Come and feel the rhythms, imagine the sand under your feet - and maybe join in!!

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available from me (£7.00 each). Please phone 372508, e-mail [mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk) or drop me a line at 42 The Goldings, ME8 0AX.

Many thanks to our loyal audience who have made this second series of Community Concerts the success that it has been.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Warren

### MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Bredhurst Primary School Annual May Day Celebrations. Saturday 9th May at 2p.m. Traditional procession through the village at 1.45p.m. Lots to see & enjoy. The annual crowning of the May Queen & King. Maypole dancing, refreshments, pony rides, Barbecue, sideshows, stalls and much much more. Entrance only 50p, children Free!!!

### WINE & WISDOM EVENING

Wigmore Fellowship Saturday 9th May 7.30pm St Matthew's Church Hall. Ploughman's and Raffle, BYOB & Glass. Teams of 6-8, £6 each To book a table ring B Dunn 01634 378769 or R Berwick 01634 264290. Proceeds to Charity.

### WANTED

Spend some Time to help Save Lives. Volunteers required to serve at the Medway Magistrates Court Tea Bar. All proceeds for the Kent Air Ambulance Trust. Your time spent could help save a life. Please contact Mrs B Kenny 01634 847010

### PAMPER EVENING

Holywell School, Upchurch Friday, 15th May from 7pm Treatments including: reflexology, reiki, waxing, paraffin hand waxing, nails and lots more. We also have a psychic attending, raffle and refreshments. Come and be pampered.

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### Barnardo's Quiz Night Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm

Lower Hall, Millennium Centre, Rainham  
Tickets £4 each Tables of 6-8 book in advance  
Phone 01634 375486 or 01634 233405

### INDOOR BOOT FAIR

We are holding an indoor Boot Fair on Saturday 16th May, 10am - 2pm, at The 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group headquarters, St. Georges Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, (in front of Rainham Cricket club). Tables £10 each - please contact 01634 361061 to book. Entry is 50p for adults and free for children.

### RAINHAM METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE

Service of Prayer & Reflection  
Sunday 17th May at 4pm.

A gentle service with time and space to be still. Individual prayer for healing will be available and refreshments served afterwards.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone. For details please call Rev Sam Funnell on 239890.

### 'MR WONDERFUL' by JAMES ROBSON

Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham  
May 21:22:23:28:29:30

Curtain up at 8.00pm. Doors open at 7.30pm  
Box Office on 01634 233660.

### A NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Entertainment by Fling a man whose musical talents know no bounds and Sandra C singing all the latest chart hits. Saturday 16th May 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall. Tickets £6 from June Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116. Adults and over 14s only please. Proceeds to the upkeep of Village Hall. Please bring your own alcohol glasses and refreshments.

### QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th May 7.30 for 8.00pm  
Bredhurst Village Hall  
Tickets £7 from Pam Tuff 01634 230933.

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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](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 19th May

May 2nd - 4th - St. Peter's, Bredhurst, Flower Festival, 10am to 5pm. Cream teas Sat and Monday.

May 2nd - Upchurch Horticultural Society, Spring Plant Sale in the Paddock from 9.30am.

May 3rd - Monthly service at The Centre, Farthing Corner from 6.30pm. Healing available 5.45 - 6.15 pm, entrance £1.00, 01634 366944.

May 3rd - Special Service for those who want to learn more about Christianity, 6.30pm, Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road. Details 01634 388187.

May 3rd - Rainham Ladies Choir Help for Heroes Concert with the Central Band of the RAF, Central Theatre, Chatham, 5.00pm Tickets £10, £5 (Balcony Wings) from 01634 848580 or 338338.

May 5th - Ramblers Association walk, 6.30pm, 2.25 miles with Margaret Goatman from Motney Hill Car Park, Lower Rainham.

May 5th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 'Ikebana', ring 01634 234734

May 5th - Every Tues at The Centre, Farthing Corner, Free healing is available from 7.30 - 9.00pm. All are welcome. For details call one of our healing leaders, Alan on 01634 362121 or Dave 01634 668132

May 5th - Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, 10.00 - 11.30am each Tuesday in term time, Fairview Community School, details from 01634 338710.

May 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Nature at the Station, all welcome, ring 231972 for details.

May 7th - Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby Group, 1.15 - 2.45pm term time only, Fairview Community School, ring 01634 338710 for details.

May 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, A Kenyan Wedding by Tony & Betty Mitchell, 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive,

Wigmore. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

May 8th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, every Friday 9.30am - 12noon, Millennium Centre, ring Julie on 01634 364309.

May 8th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, 7.15pm, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. AGM and Members Evening, ring Mr R.W. Baker on 01634 854982

May 8th - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Sheridan Williams: - Fascinating facts about Solar Eclipses especially 2009, 7.45pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring Trev 077717678795 for details.

May 9th - Bredhurst Annual May Day Celebrations 2p.m. Traditional procession 1.45p.m. Entrance only 50p, children Free.

May 9th - Wigmore Fellowship, Wine & Wisdom Evening, 7.30pm, St Matthew's Church Hall, Ploughman's and Raffle, BYOB & Glass, Teams of 6-8, £6 each, ring B Dunn 01634 378769 or R Berwick 01634 264290 to book. Proceeds to Charity.

May 9th - Quiz Night, Bredhurst Village Hall, Tickets £7 (includes supper) from 01634 230933.

May 9th - Barnardo's Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Lower Hall, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Tickets £4 each, Tables of 6-8 may be booked in advance, phone 01634 375486 or 01634 233405. Bring your own drink and nibbles, Tea & Coffee available.

May 9th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing 8.00 - 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738 for details.

May 9th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 - 10.00pm. All welcome, For more information ring 366189 or 388546.

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May 9th - Indoor Craft Market, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 9.00am - 12.30pm, ring 016345 371941.

May 10th - Mountain Bike Trail, Capstone Farm Country Park, 9.00 - 10.30am. Book in advance, £1 per person, 338191.

May 10th - Bird Watching and Bird Song, Capstone Farm Country Park, 7.00am start. For beginners to intermediate, suitable for over 12s. Book in advance, £2 per person, 338191.

May 10th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 5 miles with Peter & Kate Ware 01622 738609 from Hollingbourne Station ME17 1PD.

May 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 6 miles, dogs OK, meet Alma Miles 01634 865583, 10.00am, Ightham Mote car park.

May 11th - Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Waste & Recycling un Medway' illustrated talk by Matt Feeking. New members welcome. For more details contact Sue on 01634 230639.

May 11th - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers 7.30 - 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church Hall (AGM Plant bring and buy for club funds, 01634 578294.

May 11th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, ring Julie on 01634 364309.

May 12th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Mr David Carder 'Historic Buildings of Kent'. Ring 01474 823606 for details.

May 12th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 3.5 miles, dogs OK, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 6.30pm, Anchorage House, High Street, Chatham.

May 13th - Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm, Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Resolutions meeting, ring 232617 for details.

May 13th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Outing to Beth Chatto's garden. Ring 01795 425700 or 01622 884657

May 13th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

May 15th - Pamper Evening, Holywell School,

Upchurch, 7pm. Come along for an evening of indulgence. Treatments : reflexology, reiki, waxing, paraffin hand waxing, nails and more.

May 16th - Monthly Indoor Farmers Market, Millennium Centre, 9.00am 12.30pm. Enquiries 01634 371941.

May 16th - A Night with a Difference, Bredhurst Village Hall, 8.00pm, Tickets £6 from 01634 268544, over 14s only please.

May 16th - Race Night at The Centre, Farthing Corner. £3.00 per person. Bring own food and drink. All are welcome. 7.30pm For more information ring Alan on 01634 362121

May 16th - Central Theatre, Chatham 7.30pm, City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra with soloist Graeme Vinall perform Mozart Clarinet Concerto, Beethoven Eroica Symphony and Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture. Conducted by Peter Bassano. Tickets (£8-13, concessions available) on 01634 338338.

May 16th - RAMASES North Kent Egyptology Society, lecture by Dr Gareth Roberts on 'The Sea Peoples'. Newington Village Hall. Contact Annette Jones [ramases@hotmail.com](mailto:ramases@hotmail.com)

May 16th - Junior Ranger Club, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. Book in advance, £1 per child, ring 337432.

May 16th - Indoor Boot Fair, 10am - 2pm, The 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group headquarters, St. Georges Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, (in front of Rainham Cricket club). Tables are on sale at £10 each, contact Julie on 01634 361061 to book. Entry is 50p for adults and free for children.

May 17th - Cats Protection Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre, Matts Hill Road, (just outside Bredhurst village) Spring Craft Fair 11am - 4pm. Craft stalls, bric a brac, refreshments, barbeque and much more! Entrance 50p, free parking nearby. For information ring 01634 377267 or 01634 232471.

May 17th - Macmillan Cancer Support sponsored walk Penshurst Place, registration £5, 01622 600050.

Continued on Page 11

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**The Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre is  
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its team of volunteers it offers transport, gardening,  
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as recruiting and placing volunteers with other  
registered charities and community groups.  
The Board of Trustees is responsible for the  
continued existence of the organisation, to ensure it  
has professional work practices and is financially  
viable.Mark, Else and Richard are doing a good job but  
need some extra assistance. Do you think you could  
be that person? Could you help with any tasks such  
as publicity, helping with our road-show stand,  
research grant opportunities or fund-raising?  
Perhaps, if you do not want to immediately commit  
to any tasks, you could attend meetings to offer your  
opinion and ensure there is always a quorum. The  
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We are looking for people who are concerned about  
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more please call Ann Hopley on 01634 362119 or  
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Road, Rainham.**RAINHAM LIBRARY.**A knitting group will meet fortnightly at Rainham  
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more information call Mandy**CHARITY SHOP**St. Peter's, Bredhurst, Charity Shop raised £3,269  
during 2008. £30 will sponsor a nesting box for the  
Hawk & Owl Trust and £80 the education of an  
Indian child. St. Peter's has received £1,145, the  
Parish of South Gillingham £492, and the  
Samaritans, St. Dunstan's and Macmillan Cancer  
Care each received £506. The shop is open next to  
the village hall in Hurstwood Road on Wednesdays  
and Saturdays from 1.30-3.30pm.**CALENDAR COMPETITION**Help Rainham Bookshop create a Rainham 2010  
Calendar on the theme of 'What Rainham Means to  
You' Submissions of old or new photographs of  
buildings, events, views, groups or anything else that  
represents Rainham to you are welcome. £1 from  
each calendar sold will be donated to the St  
Margaret's Heritage Fund.There will be twelve winning photographs, the  
overall winning picture will be on the front cover.  
All winners will receive a free copy of the finished  
calendar plus a £30 Rainham Bookshop Voucher for  
the overall winner and a £10 Rainham Bookshop  
Voucher each for the other eleven.Closing date for entries is Friday 29th May, winners  
will be notified by 5th June. Entry forms available  
from Rainham Bookshop, 17-19 Station Road.**CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED**St Margarets Church are looking for children aged 7  
and above and adults who can sing in parts to join  
the choir. We meet for practise on Wednesday  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

The late Dr Eric Treacy, one-time Bishop of Wakefield, was a well known photographer of steam engines. "A familiar picture", he once wrote in one of his books, "but I must include it. It breathes the atmosphere of a spring day on Shap." I can only hope that these Nature Notes for April will be as successful as Treacy's photograph and will breathe the atmosphere of a spring day on the marshes of the island of Elmley. The photograph shows a train of parcel vans near the hamlet of Greenholme in what is now Cumbria. The line side fields are separated by either stone walls or straggly hawthorn hedges. Clumps of sycamore trees provide some shelter from the winds. An impressive group of the Westmorland fells tower in the background. In the fields or in the higher fells, unseen by the camera, lapwing, redshank, oyster catcher, snipe and curlew would doubtless have been preparing to breed. All five of these species are present in winter on the island of Elmley (which is part of the Isle of Sheppey) but only the first three breed there. The grazing marshes of Elmley have been designated as a National Nature Reserve. The marshes are divided by a network of ditches and fresh water fleets, many of which are lined with common reed. The grassland is managed by the selective grazing of cattle and sheep so as to provide varieties of subtly different habitats. In the spring the short, grazed grassland, with scattered tussocks, encourages the resident lapwings and redshanks to breed there. I entered onto the reserve at Straymarsh Cottages and proceeded slowly along the bumpy track, making a number of stops on the way. Birds and mammals beside the track take no notice of visitors provided that they stay in their cars. In the air a couple of male lapwings were competing with each other in a courtship ritual. They were seeking to attract a mate by means of exuberant, twisting and tumbling displays, accompanied by mewing calls. These song flights are a classic herald of spring and a memorable feature of the English countryside. Other harbingers of spring are the swallow, the brown hare and the skylark. A number of newly arrived

swallows were indeed flying backwards and forwards over the grassland on both sides of the track. The Island is one of the important habitats in Kent of the hare and I came across two of them as I drove slowly along. Both were solitary and not involved in the courtship rite which has led them to be described as "mad" March hares.

Skylarks are fairly common on the grazing marshes and one very nearby encouraged me to stop for a while. The song of the skylark, as it hovers high in the air, is another evocative sound of Spring. A little further along the track, a flash of yellow caught my eye; it was the sight of a male yellow wagtail, a delightful and dainty summer visitor. This particular wagtail makes its nest in a depression in the ground in water meadows, well hidden under a cover of vegetation.

In due course I came to Kings Hill Farm, the HQ of the RSPB on the island. I then walked down to the Wellmarsh Scrape which is deliberately flooded grazing land. Crossing over a reed filled dyke on the way to a hide overlooking the scrape I heard the "plop" of a water vole as it entered the water. The reserve is a stronghold in Kent of the vole and, being used to visitors, they are quite tame.

The scrape consists of a number of little islands, surrounded by water, which are intended to give some protection from predatory mammals such as foxes and stoats. Visible from the hide were hundreds of waders including lapwing and avocets. I could hear the occasional alarm call of a redshank which is a nervous, noisy and restless bird at any time of the year. But I failed to see or hear any courtship display of a redshank or oyster catcher. What I did see, on the horizon, was the slow and lazy flight of a marsh harrier. These particular harriers are quite common on Elmley where they nest on the ground, usually in reed beds, but also in fields of rape or wheat adjoining the reserve. Their presence is not good news for nesting waders; mammals and amphibians comprise much of their diet but they also take nestlings of marshland birds. I much enjoyed my visit to Elmley but I have to say that I would have enjoyed, even more, a spring day on Shap, listening to the silence of the Westmorland

Fells, and watching the trains go by with the Bishop of Wakefield.

Joe Ennis  
PS The most direct route to the Island of Elmley is over the old lifting bridge across The Swale and not over the new flyover. For the interest of any railway enthusiasts, the engine in Treacy's photograph was an unnamed and unrebuilt Patriot (45542) helped at the back by an unidentified tanker from Tebay shed.

**MEMORIES OF RAINHAM Easter Primroses**  
Joe Ennis' Nature Notes in April's Action Forum brought back very early memories of my childhood and how we decorated St Margaret's Church for Easter in the early 1920s. Each section of the congregation took charge of its own area, the more important places like the font, the pulpit, the chancel and the south porch were the privilege of the more important people i.e. the Vicars wife, Mrs W.A.R. Ball, Mrs Scott and Mrs Richard Wakeley etc. The Sunday School turned the north porch into a beautiful Easter garden. The window at the back on the south wall by the tower was the responsibility of the Rainham Girl Guides and like the others, no doubt, we were determined that our effort should be the best. That's where Joe Ennis Bredhurst Wood comes into the story. Although primroses grew freely on the other side of Boxley Hill we only knew of them growing anywhere near us in a wood reached by crossing an open space opposite Bredhurst Church. Our design for the window included an enormous cross of primroses standing up from a garden of spring flowers.

So on Good Friday we set out with our picnic equipment in the trek cart to gather primroses at Bredhurst. True they were there, but not in great numbers so after our picnic and a rest we set to and picked every flower that dared to show its face – not one escaped.

On Saturday we tied our well watered little bunches to a big wooden cross and joined other enthusiastic decorators in Church. I well remember the busy atmosphere, with Ladies, choir, Sunday School, Girl Guides and all the others rushing about spilling water and getting in each others way. By midday the work had to be finished and order restored in time for the afternoon weddings.

In subsequent years we found that our raid on Bredhurst ceased to supply sufficient material for our

cross even when our own gardens were also denuded. So we became dependant for our window on a share of the armfuls of daffodils that Mrs Wakeley always sent from her fields at Meresborough. Her house is now Bryony School. Maybe Joe Ennis would say that we were partially, at least, responsible for the loss of primroses at Bredhurst, although such loss has also happened all around. I was thrilled to see that this year there have been small patches of primroses in the woods and banks round the Scragged Oak area. Perhaps they are coming back.

One memory leads to another and in 1940 when the school children were evacuated to South Wales some of us became involved with the local church and Sunday School. We were always eager to keep the children occupied during the holidays so we decided we would show Brynna how we decorated Rainham Church for Easter. We made a large wooden cross and on Good Friday set off for the railway embankment, where we were told the best primroses grew. They certainly did, great banks of long stemmed flowers just what we needed. The children picked baskets full with no danger of not leaving some to grow next year. The only trouble was that they were all covered in black smuts and had to be gently but thoroughly washed before we could use them. We made our cross and collected enough fish paste pots to fill with flowers to hang on the end of every pew.

Brynna had not been altogether sure that such goings on were in order for their church but on Sunday morning all agreed that the enthusiastic efforts of the children, including some of their own, added to the joy of that wartime Easter.

Helena Thomas  
Editor: On April 2nd this year Helena celebrated her 100th birthday. She was delighted with all the cards she received including, of course, one from the Queen but pride of place went to the hand made cards from children particularly one signed by all the pupils and staff at Brynna School, South Wales.

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## Diary 2009

May 17th – Rainham Methodist Church Centre,  
(corner of Station Rd & Wakeley Rd) Service of  
Prayer & Reflection, 4pm. For more details please  
call Rev Sam Funnell on 239890.

May 17th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 4  
miles with Lesley & Terry Thomson 07958574363  
from Robin Hood PH Bluebell Hill, ME5 9RJ.

May 17th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
5.5 miles, no dogs, meet John Williams 01622  
764821, 10.00am, Upnor Castle.

May 17th – Gillingham Golf Club Open Day –  
Woodlands Road, Gillingham 2:00 pm. to 6:00  
p.m. Contact Karen on 01634 853017.

May 18th – Rainham Wives, Travel Slides & Talk  
including Fiji with Terry Sullivan, (see 11th May)

May 18th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute,  
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, 364702 for details.

May 19th – GHS Floral Art Group, Petite/Miniature  
Workshop with Muriel Smailes, (see 5th May)

May 19th – RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Strood  
Library, 7.45 – 10.00pm, £3.00. Birds and their  
Habitats by David Elcombe.

May 20th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Nigel and Jane  
Blackmore – an illustrated talk 'Botswana Orphans'  
Garden', 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring  
01634 233554 for details.

May 21st – Wigmore Thursday Club, Mystery  
Animals in Kent - Neil Arnold, (see 7th May)

May 21:22:23:28:29:30th - 'Mr Wonderful' by James  
Robson, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham. Curtain up  
at 8.00pm. Box Office 01634.233660

May 22nd – Medway Geographical Society, 7.30m-  
9.00pm Adult Education Centre, Green Street,  
Gillingham, AGM followed by items from unusual  
angles – Mr Tony Mitchell, ring 362683.

May 23rd – Macklands House annual plant sale. Open



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May 23rd – St Matthews Community Concert,  
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classical Arabian and Andalusian music.

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May 23rd – Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 9th  
May)

May 23rd – Instep Dancing, (see 9th May)

May 24th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am,  
5 miles with Tony & Ann Faulkner 01634  
406634 from Shipbourne Dene Park car park,  
A227 Puttenden Road TN11 9RJ.

May 24th – Hempstead Village Fayre, Playing  
Fields at Harrow Road, 11.30am–5.00pm, for  
details contact Eileen on 01634 233676

May 24th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group  
walk, 4 miles, no dogs, meet John Howard 01732  
841433, 2.00pm, West Peckham near Church.

May 27th – Mini Beast Hunt, Riverside Country  
Park, 10.00am – 12noon. For accompanied  
children aged 5 to 12 years. Book in advance, £1  
per child, ring 337432.

May 27th – Ramblers Association walk, 7.00pm,  
4.5 miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895  
Ranscombe Farm Car Park, Cuxton ME2 1LB.

May 27th – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 –  
8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road,  
Gillingham, ring 01634 260228 for details.

May 28th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Service &  
Medway Older Person's Partnership by Tricia  
Butt, (see 7th May).

May 28th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, The Howard  
Memorial Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, contact  
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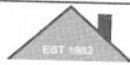
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Book in advance, £8 per child, ring 338191.

May 29th - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Mike  
Maunder: - Seeing and Photographing a Total Solar  
Eclipse, (see 8th May)

May 30th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 4.7  
miles with Susan Whiteoak 078719836173 from  
White Rock Inn, Underriver, Sevenoaks, TN15 0SB.

May 30th - Lower Halstow Memorial Hall. Whist  
Drive (each last Saturday of the month) 7.30 -  
10.00pm, £3 pay at the door. Beginners welcome.

May 31st - Ramblers Association walk, 5.00pm, 4  
miles with Sally Starbuck 07860243119 from Camer  
Country Park, Cobham DA13 0XT.

May 31st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 5  
miles, dogs OK, meet Roger Danks 01634 317993,  
2.00pm, Upper Halling, Meadow Close.

June 1st - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers  
Spinning, (see 11th May)

June 1st - Rainham Wives, More about St Dunstan's  
with Steve Pendleton, (see 11th May)

June 2nd - Ramblers Association walk, 10.30am, 4  
miles with Frank Ewen Cliffe Church ME3 7QF.

June 2nd - GHS Floral Art Group. Hand-tied in a box  
workshop, (see 5th May)

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June 3rd - Tiny Tots, Riverside Country Park,  
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June 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,  
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June 4th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.30am, 3  
miles with Clive & Diana Wraight from Chatham  
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June 4th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Roman  
Archaeology in Medway - Vic Chidgey, (see 7th)

June 6th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am &  
2.00pm, 7 miles Geoff Ettridge 07525161766  
from High Halstow Church ME3 8SL.

June 6th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 9th May)

June 7th - Ramblers Association walk 10.00am 8  
miles from Bredhurst Commuter Car Park.

June 7th - Macmillan Cancer Care Unit celebrate  
the impending opening of the Macmillan Cancer  
Care Unit at a Service of Thanks, Rochester  
Cathedral from 3pm. Call 01622 600050.

June 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths walk 6 miles,  
no dogs, 10.00am. Oare Marshes car park.

June 7th - Monthly Sunday service at The Centre,  
Farthing Corner (see May 3rd)

June 8th - Rainham Wives, 'Ability Outlet', demo  
and talk about useful gadgets with Graham  
Johnson, (see 11th May)

June 9th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club,  
Mrs Barbara Stevens 'Tales of Downe (Charles  
Darwin and village) (see 12th May)

June 13 & 14th - Old Reed Bed Studios, The Street,  
Lower Halstow, Summer Open Studio, 12-6pm  
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June 16th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,  
Strood Library, 7.45 - 10.00pm, £3.00. Butterflies  
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