

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

JUNE 2009  
NUMBER 444



This magnificent picture shows the Apps family from Lower Rainham preparing for cherry picking in an orchard behind Cozenton Farm probably around 1910. The long ladders and baskets were essential equipment and as you can see the women did more than their fair share of ladder work. It looks as though the younger Mr Apps spent his time bird scaring with his shotgun. We look forward to a good cherry harvest later this month. Last summer much of the fruit failed to develop after late frosts.

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Next Issue July 4th 2009

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## Editorial

The Dummy Airfield of the Second World War at Elm Court near Gibraltar Farm, Bredhurst was obviously a well known secret at the time and a big attraction to small boys who made strenuous efforts to get close enough to spy on the site. Judging by the interest still today many succeeded and live to tell the tale. I have been sent stories, a map and an aerial photograph of the site, in which you can see the planes on the perimeter of the field. Unfortunately I do not think the picture is clear enough to print. The planes were indeed plywood, the hanger canvas, the road ways shingle and old vehicles were moved around the area each day to give the impression that the field was working. These elaborate plans in fact proved a success and the ultimate compliment was paid by the Luftwaffe who bombed the field on more than one occasion, diverting their dangerous load on to farm land and away from Shorts Brothers at Rochester Esplanade who were the real target. The heavy guns based at Gibraltar Farm apparently did much damage to property in the area, shattering windows and cracking walls when they were fired. I will include some of the material this month but hope to have room for more at a later date.

I am very pleased to be able to report that we had a much better camp with our Guides this year! Well weather wise it would be difficult to top the persistent rain and consequent mud that we endured last May in Essex. About half of the girls returned for more this year, in the Ashdown Forest, and were rewarded by mostly warm and sunny days with just occasional rain and wind effects to remind us of previous experiences. Within a hectic programme involving kayaking on the reservoir, abseiling down a tower, racing down a zip wire in the woods and mastering the crate challenge we found time for a murder mystery day, a Ready Steady Cook challenge and a walk to find the Bluebell Railway and wave in true Railway Children style at the passengers. So much better were the conditions this year that the Guides were rewarded by sleeping out under the stars on our last night and enjoyed a shooting star display.

School Fete time is upon us again with several other organisations also staging events to raise much needed funds. Costs continue to rise but unfortunately many sources of income for charitable groups are falling. If

they wish to maintain their services the deficit must be covered, hence an increase in the number of Fayres and Sales. Why not enjoy a pleasant afternoon out and support one of the many included in our diary, you will be made most welcome. June promises to be a super month. Do enjoy the sunshine and make the most of this splendid time of year. Until we see you again in July have a very good month.

## Correspondence

### WIGMORE GARDENS WEEKEND

Dear Editor,

I would like to invite your readers to the bi-annual Wigmore Gardens Weekend over the 20th / 21st June. Many different gardens will be open at various times for people to wander around and enjoy. Plants and other items will be available for sale, together with excellent lunches and refreshments.

Admission into each garden on the day is £1 or you can buy a programme to enter all gardens for just £6. Details of the gardens will be posted on St Matthew's Church notice board in Brewery Drive, Wigmore and on [www.stmattswigmore.org.uk](http://www.stmattswigmore.org.uk). Programmes can be purchased in advance from me on 01634 387328. For details see [www.stmattswigmore.org.uk](http://www.stmattswigmore.org.uk). Also on Saturday evening there is a wonderful concert by internationally renown Harpist, Catrin Finch.

Kind regards

Paul Bellerby, Gardens Co-ordinator.

### OPEN GARDEN

Dear Editor,

Joan and Fred's garden, 25, Hanover Drive, Wigmore, will be open for the National Garden Scheme with a share going to Medway Macmillan Cancer Support on Sunday 28th June from 2.00 to 5.00pm. Entrance is £3, light refreshments will be available and there will be garden plants for sale.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have supported us over the years, the total we have raised for various charities now stands at £21,851.

Yours sincerely

Joan & Fred Jepson

### GIBRALTAR FARM

Dear Editor,

Ray Morley's letter in May Action Forum mentioned a 'dummy airfield' constructed at Gibraltar Farm during the Second World War. The actual construction there was much more ambitious. Technicians from Shepperton Studios were employed to design and build a complete dummy aircraft factory, intended to divert bombing from the Short's factory at Rochester, considered a key target.

The location was immediately north of the present-day Elm Court Garden Centre. As well as an extensive 'building' constructed of canvas-covered tubing; shingle was laid to simulate service roads, complete with non-running vehicles in parking spaces. Dummy

aircraft were parked on the surrounding fields to simulate finished product awaiting shipment. There were even dummy air-raid shelters and filled-in bomb craters. The vehicles and aircraft had to be re-positioned daily to preserve the illusion of a working site.

When the Luftwaffe switched to night operations the ability of the site to attract bombs diminished and it was eventually closed down. It would be interesting to know if any traces of it are still recognisable.

Yours faithfully,  
John Ware  
Thames Avenue,

### HEMPSTEAD LEISURE CLUB

Dear Editor,

40 years ago June Morgan started a social club for villagers in Hempstead, meeting in her home, then the Pavilion in the park transferring to the Village Hall when it was built. Assisted by Irene Smith in recent years the club still thrives, and extends a big thank you to June and Irene for their efforts over the years.

Members now come from Rainham, Parkwood and surrounding areas and new ones will receive a warm welcome on Thursday afternoons. Games, cards, bingo, interesting speakers and outings are all on the coming programme, details from Vera 366907 and Eileen 329431.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Mount  
20 Shepherds Gate.

### HEMPSTEAD MILESTONE

Dear Editor,

There is what appears to be a Milestone outside 292 Hempstead Road, next door to the Garage, that is unreadable. If it is a Milestone does any one have knowledge of what it once said?

Yours sincerely  
Ken Middleton.  
[Ken.Mid@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Ken.Mid@tiscali.co.uk)

### ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CONCERT

Dear Editor,

On 20th June Catrin Finch – Internationally Renowned Harpist – will perform at St Matthew's Wigmore. Catrin will probably be best known as the Former Harpist to The Prince of Wales. She has performed regularly on the international stage and collaborates with Karl Jenkins on many of his works. It is our pleasure to welcome Catrin for the final of our

eight Community Concerts – and this will be a concert to remember. Catrin will be performing many of the 20th Century harp favourites and extracts from classical works. This is a rare opportunity to see this international star in a local setting.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are available from me (£7.00 each). Please phone 01634 372508, e-mail [mattsconcerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mattsconcerts@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 a great success.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Warren

RAINHAM METHODIST CHURCH PREMISES-  
Station Road, Rainham. Sat 20th June 11am–3pm  
Sunday 21st June - 10.30 am  
"MID SUMMER MEDLEY"

Group users of the Rainham Methodist Church premises are warmly invited to participate in a "Mid Summer Medley" to enable all who use the premises to get to know each other better; to display the gifts and talents of their group by way of stalls and demonstrations with the aim of informing the wider community of the choice of activities held within the premises and how, if they so wish, how they could become involved. Weather permitting, we hope to make use of both building and grounds. Light refreshments will be available, including a BBQ.

Sunday, 21st June, will culminate in a 'Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving' for all who meet at Rainham Methodist Church Premises and for the many gifts and talents people have and use to bring pleasure, help and assistance to others.

We hope this will be an enjoyable and fun weekend for ourselves and our local community.

For information contact either Karen Willing, 01634 578402, email [karenwilling@hotmail.com](mailto:karenwilling@hotmail.com), or Denise Bryant, Tel: 01634 374231, [nisenut@hotmail.com](mailto:nisenut@hotmail.com)

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5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 16th June

June 6th – 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.

June 6th – Fort Amherst, Dock Rd, Chatham. ME4 4UB, Over Night Paranormal Investigations, Are You Brave Enough? 8pm-3am, £35 per person, pre-booked only, (01634) 847747 or fortamherst.com

June 7th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 8 miles with Mike & Coral Patrick from Bredhurst Commuter Car Park ME8 0UL.

June 7th – Monthly service at The Centre, Farthing Corner 6.30pm. Healing available 5.45 – 6.15 pm, Medium Robin Hodson. Entrance £1.00, 366944.

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 Group walk, 6 miles, no dogs, meet Mo Fleisig 01634 362743, 10.00am, Kent Wildlife Trust car park Oare Marshes Nature Reserve.

June 8th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 – 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

June 8th – Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham. 'Ability Outlet', demo and talk about useful gadgets with Graham Johnson. 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.

June 9th – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, 10.00 – 11.30am each Tuesday in term time, Fairview

Community School, details from 01634 338710.

June 9th – 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 01634 362121 or Dave 01634 668132

June 9th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Mrs Barbara Stevens 'Tales of Downe' (Charles Darwin and village) Ring 01474 823606.

June 10th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm, Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Mrs Margaret Knight – Memoirs of an Ordinary Woman, ring 232617 for details.

June 10th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Workshop evening 'Hot Hot Hot'. Ring 01795 425700 or 01622 884657.

June 11th – Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby Group, 1.15 – 2.45pm term time only, Fairview Community School, ring 01634 338710 for details.

June 11th – Ramblers Association walk, 7.30pm with Tony & Ann Faulkner 01634 406634, 4 miles from Rochester Priestfields Recreation Ground.

June 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.

June 11th – Hempstead Leisure Club (over 50s), Village Hall, Hempstead Road, 2.00pm, Games 2 – 4pm, details 366907 or 329431.

June 12th – 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.

June 12th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Paul Cheesman & Steve Welsted Astro Imaging 7.45

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pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 077717678795

June 13th – Indoor Craft Market, Millennium Centre, Rainham 9.00am – 12.30pm, ring 016345 371941.

June 13 & 14th – Old Reed Bed Studios, The Street, Lower Halstow, Summer Open Studio, 12-6pm each day. Ceramics by Jean Lowe, Alison Swan and Pam Dodds, Jewellery by Olivia Schlevogt, Textiles by Alison Blackburn, Contemporary Basketry by guest Stella Harding. 01795 842481.

June 14th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 4 miles with Bob & Cath Dyson from Tenterden Church TN30 6AN.

June 14th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 5 miles, dogs OK, meet Joan Weeks 01634 855522, 2.00pm, Aylesford Public car park.

June 15th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers 7.30 – 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church Hall (entrance to left of the church), Preparation of different types of fibres, ring 01634 578294 details.

June 15th – Rainham Wives, Visit to a local garden, (see 8th June).

June 15th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Where there is a Will – Chris Winter, ring 364702 for details.

June 16th – Ramblers Association walk, 6.30pm, 5 miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 from Meopham Village Green DA13 0PZ.

June 16th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 'Structures' – mechanics workshop, ring 01634 234734 for details.

June 16th – The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Strood Library, 7.45 – 10.00pm, £3.00. Butterflies of Britain Peter Kirby.

June 17th – Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

June 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Members Summer Supper, 8.00pm Bredhurst

June 17th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 5 miles, dogs OK, meet Alma Miles 01634

4865583, 7.00pm, Cock Inn PH Henley Street,

June 18th – Hempstead Leisure 'Fire Safety in the Home' Robert Irwin, (see 11th June).

June 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Strawberry Tea – Magician Tony Hanscombe, (see 11th June).

June 19th – Ramblers Association walk, 6.45pm, 4.5 miles with Geoff Ettridge 01634 848300 from Robin Hood PH, Bluebell Hill ME5 9RJ.

June 20th – Monthly Indoor Farmers Market, Millennium Centre, 9.00am 12.30pm, 371941.

June 20th – Kite Making Workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am – 2.00pm For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. Book in advance, £2.50 per child, ring 338191.

June 20th – An Evening of Clairvoyance with Janis Perry at The Centre, M2 Services, Farthing Corner, 7.30pm. Tickets only £5.00 phone 366944

June 20th – Parkwood School, Summer Fayre from 12 noon. Bouncy castles, games, Grand Prize Draw, refreshments, BBQ and much more.

June 20th – St Matthews Community Concert, 7.30pm tickets £7 from 372508. Catrin Finch Former Harpist to the Prince of Wales.

June 20th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin. Sequence dancing, Summer Ball ticket only. 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738 for details.

June 20th – Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th Jun) June 20th & 21st – Wigmore Garden Weekend. Many gardens open at various times over the weekend to explore and enjoy, (see letter to Editor for details)

June 20th & 21st – Old Reed Bed Studios, Summer Open Studio, (see 13th June).

June 20th & 21st – Rainham Methodist Church Premises, Station Road, Sat 11am – 3pm. Sun – 10.30 am "Mid Summer Medley". Information from Karen Willing, 01634 578402, or Denise Bryant, 01634 374231 [nisenut@hotmail.com](mailto:nisenut@hotmail.com)

June 21st – 'Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving' for all who meet at Rainham Methodist Church.

June 21st – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 5 miles with Tony & Ann Faulkner 01634 406634 from Chartham Recreation Ground CT4 7LA.

June 21st – Berengrave Walk, 10.00am – 12noon, Nature Reserve, Book £1 per person, 337432.

Continued on Page 11

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**12th UPCHURCH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**  
**July 7th - 12th 8.00pm**  
 St Mary's Church  
 7th - Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society  
 8th - Maidstone Youth String Orchestra  
 9th - Opus 32  
 11th - City of Canterbury Brass Band  
 12th - Upchurch Night, 7.00pm, featuring Holywell School,  
 Upchurch Choral Society and local talent.  
 Ticket prices £3 single individual - £15 family, all church concerts  
 Ring 01634 233576 or 374220 for more details  
**Friday 10th July - Burt Butler's Jazz Pilgrims**  
 8.00pm Upchurch Village Hall  
 Tickets £5 from 01634 360517  
 For some years now, appeals have gone out for a younger element, sympathetic to the style and format of the Festival, to come forward with a view to taking over from the current organisers, who are getting older as each festival passes. Three of the existing committee were original members when the festival began in 1988. There has been no response to this request, so the committee has reluctantly concluded that the 2009 Festival may be the last, unless new people are prepared to take over. This is a situation which would sadden organisers, performers and audience, past and present.  
 Frank Osborne  
**OLD BARN ORCHESTRA**  
 The Old Barn Orchestra may be billed as *The Orchestra for Medway and Maidstone*, but Rainham residents have a disproportionate number of players and committee members within it, including the Leader, Secretary and Vice Chairman. Therefore, their next concert is almost on home ground for many of them. On July 4th the orchestra presents a concert of American and American-influenced music

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at the St George's Centre, Chatham Maritime.  
 Barber's Adagio, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man are all home-grown in the US, as it were, and the symphony (no.2) was written by Rachmaninov, who spent a great deal of his life there.  
 In aid of Demelza Children's Hospice, the concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £8 (£1 for children) available by phoning 01795 843228 or 01634 376979.  
**MINI FETE**  
 The 1st Wigmore Brownies are holding their annual Mini Fete on Saturday the 11th of July in Bredhurst School Hall. The fun starts at 2pm, with the grand prize family raffle draw taking place at 3.45pm. There will be a selection of stalls and games including a cake stall, bric a brac, teddy tombola, face painting, refreshments and Bar-B-Q, admission is free. Come along and join in the fun and help us to raise some much needed funds for our Brownie Unit.

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**JUST IN TIME**  
 6th June, 7.30pm  
 An evening of Contemporary Big Band Music  
 Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Ave.  
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**AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE**  
 with Janis Perry  
 Saturday 20th June 7.30pm  
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# Nature Notes

## NIGHTINGALE NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

In early May I visited the Countryside Park on the Lower Rainham Road in the search for two summer migrants whose arrival I eagerly await. They are the turtle dove and the nightingale. The former can usually be found in the vicinity of the visitor centre. Last year, for example, I saw one perched on the top of a wild cherry tree overlooking the children's play area adjacent to the cafe. However, during three visits to the park, in early May, I failed to see or hear a single turtle dove and the bird's name had not appeared on the "Sightings" list at the Centre. I was becoming a little anxious, partly because of the copy date for this article was looming and partly because the numbers of visiting turtle doves to this country have fallen dramatically over the years. This may be attributed to their being shot or trapped whilst migrating over mainland Europe and to the use of herbicides on the short lived weeds such as fumitory on which they feed.

I commenced my search for the nightingale at Eastcourt Meadows, on the other side of Sharp's Green, where, last year, six of the birds were heard singing. For hundreds of year the meadows consisted of grazing land but, until some years ago, they were used as a municipal rubbish dump. They are now covered in scrub and are the breeding grounds, not only for nightingales, but also other birds such as whitethroat. Both of these species nest in the understorey of bramble and nettle which covers a large area of the former tip.

The flowers of the scrubland, in early May, were predominantly white. They included those of cow parsley, jack-by-the-hedge or garlic mustard, hoary cress and white dead nettle, as well as those of hawthorn, rowen and wayfaring tree.

On my walk through the scrub I witnessed the unmistakable display flights of two whitethroats. The males burst into the sky singing and then plunged back into cover. I also heard the somewhat fitful calls of two male nightingales. I decided to return to Eastcourt Meadows during an evening when, hopefully, they would be putting on a more enthusiastic performance.

A week or so later I arrived at Sharp's Green an hour before sunset, having left my car outside the soon-to-be closed park gates. The scrubland was full of bird song: I heard the calls of blackbird, song thrush, robin, dunno and chaffinch, as well as nightingale. I headed for a seat on the sea wall opposite Copperhouse Marshes. The piping calls of redshanks and oyster catchers emanated from the Medway Estuary as the birds settled down for the night. Behind me, much to my pleasant surprise, I heard the unmistakable call of a turtle dove, a soft, soporific, purring sound. It is quite distinct from the cooing calls of the collared dove and the wood pigeon. The turtle dove is typically seen perching on a bare branch and, sure enough, there it was on the bare branch of a large, partly toppled, railway poplar (or hybrid black poplar). Through my binoculars I could clearly see its pinkish breast and throat and the orange and buff chequered pattern on its wings. I was both relieved and delighted to see my first turtle dove of the new season.

I returned to my seat to watch the sun go down. Its light reflected on the exposed mud banks of the Medway, which turned from a silver colour, to yellow, to orange, and to red. As the sun disappeared below the horizon above Chatham Maritime, it was time to work my way slowly back through the scrubland towards Sharp's Green. By now the mountain bikers and dog walkers had gone home. I was on my own with the rabbits and the nightingales, of which there were about four or five. The birds are quite relaxed about human presence and one can get quite close to them without disturbing them. The male's song is a rich, loud, warble, with characteristic repetitions, including a remarkably bubbling "choc, choc, choc", and a long, high, drawn-out note slowly increasing in volume. Unfortunately, there was quite a high wind blowing during my visit and it was for this reason, I assume, that the nightingales' performances appeared to be somewhat subdued. (The mistle thrush has the alternative name of "storm cock" because he one of the few birds who is determined to sing through fierce March winds.) What I heard that evening, from the nightingales, did not appear to be their

usual tour-de-force. Even so, I continue to be amazed that such a performance, subdued or not, could come from such a shy, skulking, drab, brown bird.

Joe Ennis

## PARKWOOD SCHOOL

Parkwood School are holding their Summer Fayre on Sat 20th Jun from 12 noon. There will be bouncy castles, games, Grand Prize Draw, refreshments, BBQ and much more. Entry is by donation on the gate.

## PAMPER EVENING

We are having a Pamper evening on Thursday 26th June, 7.00 – 10.00pm at The 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group HQ, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. If you are interested in booking a stall, at £10 each, please ring Julie on 01634 361061. To attend on the evening please book your ticket, in advance, at £2 each. Please arrive early to book your treatments so as not to be disappointed. All treatments £5 or under. Refreshments and pamper products on sale throughout the evening.

## JUNE FAIR

Fairview Community Primary School,  
Drevery Drive, Wigmore.

Saturday June 27th 1.30pm

Admission 30p (pre-school free)

Games, tombolas, crockery smash, entertainment, refreshments & so much more!

For more information call Nic 01634 302961

## RAMASES

North Kent Egyptology Society,  
Saturday, June 27th, Newington Village Hall.  
Lecture by Charlotte Booth 'A Woman called Taimhotep – Intrigue of a Ptolemaic Family',  
Contact Annette Jones [ramases@hotmail.com](mailto:ramases@hotmail.com)

## SUMMER FETE

Holywell School, Upchurch  
Sunday, 28th June 11am - 2pm  
Come along to Holywell's Summer Fete where lots of fun is sure to be had! Many stalls including: tombolas, hook-a-duck, hoopla, raffle, face painting, crafts and lots more. We have a band playing, a beer tent, BBQ, and other refreshments. Giant inflatable slide, bouncy castle, pets corner and the fire brigade! A promise auction will be held towards the end. So, don't miss out and come and have some fun!

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## STRAWBERRY & CREAM TEA MORNING

Wednesday, June 24th 10.15am – 12.15pm  
Millennium Centre, Rainham (Upper Hall)  
Please contact Olwen on 01634 263622 to book your free entry ticket in aid of SDBTT (Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust). Offers of help very welcome.

## OLDIES CLUB

Oldies Club is a Dog Rescue that is seeking forever homes for older dogs. If you know of someone or would like to adopt a more mature dog yourself please ring 0844 586 8656 or find us at [www.oldies.org.uk](http://www.oldies.org.uk)

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**MIERSCOURT SCHOOL FAYRE**  
July 4th - 11am to 2pm at Mierscourt Primary School, Silverspot Close. We have BBQ, crepes and cakes with a school talent show, and Hospital radio providing some of the entertainment. Traditional and new fun and games with a sports raffle including a signed Gills ball.

## Medway Branch, MS Society CHARITY WALK

Shorne Woods Country Park  
4th July, 9.30am.

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Contact Maggi on 01634 710553

for more information and sponsorship forms.

## SUMMER FAYRE

Deanwood School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood  
Saturday 11th July, 12noon -3.00pm.  
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## Diary 2009

- June 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 6.5 miles, dogs OK, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, 10.00am, Beltring just past Hop Farm.
- June 22nd - Rainham Wives 'Looking at Past Events' & local quiz with Hazel (see 8th June).
- June 23rd - Ramblers Association walk, 7.00pm, 4 miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 from Camer Park Cobham DA13 0XU.
- June 23rd - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 50th Anniversary Demonstration-Robin White 'Anniversaries', ring 01634 234734
- June 24th - Strawberry & Cream Coffee Morning, 10.15am - 12.15pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham (Upper Hall), contact Olwen 01634 263622 to book your free entry ticket, in aid of SDBTT
- June 24th - Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 - 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228.
- June 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club (over 50s), Games 2 - 4pm, (see 11th June).
- June 25th - Ramblers Association walk, 7.30pm, 4 miles with Tony & Ann Faulkner 01634 406634 from Rochester Priestfields Recreation Ground.
- June 25th - The Historic Parks of Rochester Walk, 10.00 - 11.30am Start at The War Memorial, Rochester High Street. Book in advance on 01634 338191 for this free event.
- June 25th - Tiny Tots, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10am-2pm, Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 to 5. Drop in any time, £1 per child.
- June 25th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service & Singalong, (see 11th June).
- June 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, The Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, contact 01634 312038.



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- June 26th - Pamper evening, 7 - 10pm, 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group HQ, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Book in advance, at £2 each, 01634 361061. All treatments £5 or under. Refreshments and pamper products on sale.
- June 26th - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Peter Parish - Constellation of the month Leo, Saturn & Telescope Workshop, (see 12th June).
- June 27th - Ramblers Association walk, 8.30am, 17.5 miles with Geoff Ettridge 07525161766 from Faversham Sheperd Neame Visitor Centre.
- June 27th - June Fair, Fairview Community Primary School, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 1.30pm Admission 30p(pre-school free) Games, tombolas, crockery smash, entertainment, refreshments & so much more 01634 302961.
- June 27th - Ramases - North Kent Egyptology Society, lecture by Charlotte Booth, Newington Village Hall. Contact ramases@hotmail.com
- June 27 - 28th - Survival Challenge, Capstone Farm Country Park, For children aged 7 plus, one accompanying adult per child unless pre-arranged. Book in advance on 01634 338191. £20 per person (includes breakfast).
- June 28th - Holywell School, Upchurch, Summer Fete, 11am - 2pm, tombolas, hook-a-duck, hoopla, raffle, face painting, crafts and more.
- June 28th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 5.5 miles with Susan Whiteoak 07719836173 from Loose Green on Old Loose Hill
- June 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group 5.5 miles, dogs OK, Chris Morris 01634 374923, 10.00am, Farthing Common (off B2068).
- June 28th - Open Garden 25, Hanover drive, Wigmore, In aid of National Garden Scheme & Macmillan Cancer Support, 2.00 - 5.00pm, £3 admission. Light refreshments, garden plants.

Continued on Page 13

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## Diary 2009

June 29th - Rainham Wives 'Chaplain to the Mayor'  
part 2 with Sam Funnell, (see 8th June).

June 29th - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers  
(see 15th June).

June 30th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
3.5 miles, dogs OK, meet Chris Morris 01634  
374923, 7.00pm, crown Point Inn Nr Ightham.

July 1st - Ramblers Association walk, 7.00pm, 4  
miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 from  
Cobham Church DA12 3BZ.

July 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,  
Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Fruit and Trees,  
all welcome, ring 231972 for details.

July 2nd - Hempstead Leisure Club (over 50s), 'Pearl  
Stringing' Christine Etheridge, (see 11th June).

July 4th - Old Barn Orchestra Concert in aid of  
Demelza Hospice. 7.30pm, St George's Centre,  
Chatham Maritime, tickets £8 (£1 children) from  
01795 843228 or 01634 376979.

July 4th - Mierscourt Primary School, Silverspot  
Close, School Fayre, 11am to 2pm, BBQ many stalls  
sports raffle with a signed Gills ball.

July 4th - Upchurch Horticultural Society, July Show  
in the village hall.

July 5th - Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 8  
miles with Mike & Coral Patrick from Teston  
Bridge Picnic Site ME18 5BX.

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July 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
5 miles, no dogs, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569,  
10.00am, Ickham near Duke of William Inn.

July 6th - Rainham Wives 'Knowledge and  
Nibbles' evening, (see 8th June).

July 7th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm  
United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road,  
Gillingham. 'Craft' workshop - including  
Grinling Gibbons items, ring 01634 234734.

July 7 - 12th - Upchurch Festival of Music, St  
Mary's Church See details on page 7.

July 8th - Ramblers Association walk, 7.00pm, 4.5  
miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895  
from Green Man PH, Hodsell Street TN15 7LN.

July 8th - Bredhurst W.I. Mrs Pauline Dewick - A  
Fortune in Your Attic, (see 10th June).

July 8th - Rainham Flower Club, Demonstration by  
Sandy Bailey, (see 10th June).

July 11th - 1st Wigmore Brownies Annual Mini  
Fete, Bredhurst School Hall, 2pm, grand prize  
family raffle 3.45pm, cake stall, bric a brac, teddy  
tombola, face painting, refreshments and Bar-B-  
Q, admission is free.

July 11th - Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis  
Road, Summer Fayre, 12noon - 3.00pm, adults  
50p, children 20p pre-school free, all welcome,  
please phone the school for details 01634  
231901.

July 11th - St Matthew's Community Centre,  
Drewery Drive, Floral Dance, 7.30 for 8.00pm.  
Live music Dickie Diamond & The Replays,  
Tickets £10 (inc supper BYODAG) from 379139  
or 07833 103847.

July 12th - St George's Centre, Chatham, 7.00 pm,  
City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra with  
conductor and horn soloist Anthony Halstead  
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