

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

AUGUST 2009  
NUMBER 446



The Apps Family c.1895. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s they lived at Daisy Cottage on the Lower Rainham Road, almost opposite Berengrave Lane. It was built for them to rent by Lord Harris the owner of the nearby brickfield where Thomas Apps was employed. The picture shows Thomas and Mary Ann Apps in the centre with their eldest son Robert. In the back row are Florence, Emma, George, Lucy, Frank, Ada and Minnie and in front Roland, Mark and Silas. The 1881 census also lists daughters Martha and Eva Emily and the 1891 includes Norah. Probably a not unusually large family in those days which just shows how in a hundred years our perceptions have changed.

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Next Issue September 5th 2009  
Copy Date: Aug 18th Sm Ads Aug 26th

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## Editorial

I rather like the new word I have been hearing recently to describe a holiday spent at home 'staycation'. It neatly sums up an alternative to vacation and begins to make the mundane sound quite an adventure. I have read of families camping in their back garden, all the fun of cooking, eating and sleeping out of doors but good bathroom facilities guaranteed and no danger of being flooded out - you can always retreat if the weather becomes too dreadful. Plus you get to see all those places near to home that you have never quite got around to visiting. Kent is a fantastic county providing numerous opportunities for great days out some at typically tourist orientated prices but many others virtually for free and if you have not spent money on accommodation one or two expensive trips should not break the bank. We are fortunate to have several Country Parks well within reach, at least five within walking distance if you are having a day out, Riverside, Capstone Farm, Berengrave Nature Reserve, Darland Banks and Queendown Warren. Take a picnic and a good book and the children will soon find ways to occupy themselves, as long as you do not mind a few scraped knees and muddy clothes. Kite flying always proves popular. We never had much success with our home made efforts but it occupies a good chunk of the day trying! Alternatively dig out the bikes and try a cycle route. The one along the Saxon Shore Way through Lower Rainham and Riverside to the Strand is a very easy start, nice and flat and well away from any traffic. Use a little imagination and make the outings into adventures and you may be able to prise even the most reluctant ones, who are normally glued to their computer games, outside for some fresh air and fun. We include several items this month for your enjoyment: a Dolls House Exhibition, a Summer Concert, a Coffee Morning and for the more adventurous Ghost Tours and Paranormal events at Fort Amherst. These together with a wide selection of guided walks offered by Medway Footpaths Club and Medway Ramblers, provide you with plenty of choice for your entertainment. Whatever you are doing, vacating abroad or in Britain or staycating in Medway, let us hope for the Barbecue Summer we were promised so we can all enjoy long warm days filled with sunshine, have a very good month we will see you again in September.

## Correspondence

### GIBALTAR FARM

Dear Editor,

We were very interested in the photograph of Gibraltar Farm in the April issue of Action Forum. We have lived here for 24 years.

The house was once two cottages and part of one of had been damaged by "Big Bertha" a large gun situated on the dummy aerodrome that is now Elm Court garden centre. The damaged part was demolished while the remaining part and the other cottage were made into one house. The cottages had been built of attractive flint and brick but these had been coated in a substance at some time in the past that has proved impossible to remove.

Some years ago I saw a man taking photographs of the house and farm which he said had been his home for the first 26 years of his life. He was Ivan Chambers and was with his sister-in-law Kathy who was on holiday from New Zealand. We invited them and Ivan's wife Peggy to come to tea and they came with some lovely photo's of their young lives on the farm where Ivan's father was bailiff. They and Ivan's brother Richard were so generous with their photo's and we were delighted to have them. Sadly Ivan died soon after but Kathy and I still keep in touch.

Not long after Ivan died another man, a Canadian named David Murray, was taking photos over the gate and it turned out that his ancestors, the Wyles family, had once owned this farm, Darland Farm and Bredhurst Mill besides some other properties. We keep in touch as well and I was so pleased to tell him that I had found him a living relative besides some information and old photos of Bredhurst mill plus some of the photographs that Ivan had given and he sent a snap of his ancestors with lots of details of what had happened to the family after they sold up here and emigrated to Canada. The Wyles family were very big land and property owners in this area, in fact his uncle (or great-uncle) who was a builder had Wyles Street in Gillingham named after him.

A few years after David's visit Laurel Beechey, a cousin of David's, called to try and trace her ancestry. Neither of the cousins knew that the other had been on the same trail.

In November 1959 there was a terrible fire which destroyed a great many buildings close to the house. I tried to get a copy of the report of this for the Canadians but the records were destroyed in a flood at the local newspaper offices and the council archives copy would not print out.

During some alterations we discovered a partial skeleton of a cat in the fireplace and a little further into the room part of the skull of a foal. These of course were superstitious beliefs that the cat would keep evil spirits from entering the house via the

chimney and, I believe, the horse was thought to bring good fortune to the inhabitant. It is a pity that the flints are now covered and that the thatched sheds have disappeared but though that might look pretty it is not practical in modern farming. It was so interesting while doing so many repairs and alterations to wonder about the people who had trodden the brick floors and worn them so well down in the doorways. What had their lives been like for it must have been quite a remote place in times past.

Yours sincerely  
Mr & Mrs Wills  
Gibraltar Farm, Ham Lane  
Gillingham, Kent ME73JJ

### CHATHAM GRAMMAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

Dear Editor,

Our annual reunion lunch will be held this year on Saturday 12th September in the School Hall. The Old Girls (and Boys) gather at 12.30pm to sit down for 1.00pm and enjoy a 2 course buffet style lunch (including wine with the meal). Our speaker this year is former pupil, Venu Dhupa, who has a very interesting career in the Theatre and the Arts. Tickets are £20 for non-members and include entry to a free raffle: they can be obtained by sending a cheque for £20 payable to "Chatham Grammar Association" to the Treasurer at 37 Homefield Drive, Rainham, ME8 8RS. We need to know the return address for the tickets and details of any special dietary requirements.

Yours sincerely  
Wendy Draper  
Treasurer CGA

### LEARNING SMOCKING

Dear Editor,

I have recently been teaching myself the ancient art of smocking, while I have been looking at DVD's and many books there is no substitute for talking to others who have 'smocked' and know all the wrinkles! I have made 3 children's dresses and a nightie. I wondered if any of Rainhams more mature ladies would be willing to share their knowledge with one who would like to learn from someone with experience?

I would be so grateful for any help and encouragement. Thank you.

Chris King  
12, Nursery Road,  
01634 233402

### REPAIR OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

The work on the Church Roof is progressing well behind the shroud of scaffolding and sheeting. Progress notes and photographs are being posted on the church website [www.rainhamchurch.co.uk](http://www.rainhamchurch.co.uk) under 'restoration progress' enabling readers to keep up to date and see what is going on behind the screen.

Many thanks again to everyone who has made this possible, and please support what we hope will be our last leaflet appeal, which is going out over the next few weeks. We still need some more money so that the essential repairs to the tower can follow on.

Yours sincerely  
Tony Andrews  
Chairman of the Heritage  
Fund Raising Committee

### HARVEST TEAS

Dear Editor,

Again, this year, the partners of The Lions Club of Gillingham are providing Harvest Teas for Senior Citizens of Rainham district on Sundays 27th September and 18th October.

We would particularly like to invite elderly people who either live alone or who do not have the opportunity to get out very often. Please encourage family, friends and neighbours to apply for a free invitation by writing to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1, Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham ME8 7QX, or telephoning Brenda on 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840.

If transport is required to and from the venue, The Millennium Centre, Rainham, this can be arranged. Arrival time is 3.30pm and finishing at approximately 6 o'clock. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely  
Beryl Brenton  
(on behalf of The Lions' partners)

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# Diary 2009

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5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough,  
Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 18th August

August 1st - Friends of St. Margaret's Church, Garden Party at 37 Edwin Rd, 12 noon - 5pm. Entrance £4 includes a salad meal and dessert. Raffle, 'Bring & Buy', craft stalls etc.

August 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, Mike Patrick 10.00am, 7 miles. GR: TQ799629, Bredhurst ME8 0LU. Meet and park at the commuter car park just north of Bredhurst. Walk along lanes and paths to Queensdown Warren via Yelsted. Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

August 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 5 miles, no dogs, meet Pearl Stevens 07724602929, 10.00am, Hucking eastern end Church Road.

August 2nd - Sunday Service at the Centre, Farthing Corner, with Spiritual Medium, Andrew Minter. From 6.30pm, entrance £1.00, phone 01634 366944.

August 3rd & 4th - 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)

August 4th - Every Tuesday at the Centre, Farthing Corner. Free Healing, Reiki or Spiritual, is available from 7.30-9.00 pm. For more information call Alan 01634 362121.

August 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 4.5 miles, no dogs, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 6.30pm, Strood Cinema, Chariot Way.

August 4th - Monster and Critter Masks, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12noon and 2.00 - 4.00pm. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. Book in advance, £1 per child, ring 337432.

August 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Competition Night, all welcome, ring 231972 for details.

August 6th - Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm

Country Park, 9.00am - 12noon. Learn the basics of coarse fishing. Suitable for children aged 8 to 12 years. Book in advance, £8 per child, 338191.

August 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk. Geoff Ettridge 07526161766. 11.00am, 4 miles. GR: TQ953739 Minster-on-Sea. ME12 2NJ. Park and meet in sea front car park at bottom of Seaside Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness. The walk is largely on a concrete surface with a short part over 'compressed' shingle. Pub stop mid-way. Route is suitable for pushchairs, but toddlers will need to be closely supervised as there are drops into the sea.

August 7th - Ghost Tours. Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, 8.00, 8.30 & 9.00pm. Tickets £10 (no under 8's). For more information [www.fortamherst.com](http://www.fortamherst.com) or 01634 847747.

August 7th - 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.

August 7th - Evening of Clairvoyance with Diane Hubert at The Centre, Farthing Corner. 7.30pm, entrance £5. Phone 01634 366944.

August 8th - Indoor Craft Market, Millennium Centre, Rainham 9.00am - 12.30pm, ring 016345 371941 for details.

August 8th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing 8.00 - 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738.

August 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 6 miles, dogs OK, meet Roger Danks 01634 317993, 2.00pm, Selling Station.

August 9th - Ellenor Lions Hospice Open Garden 2.00 - 5.00pm, 267, Lords Wood Lane, Chatham ME5 8JU Admission £2.50, children 50p.

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August 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk. Arthur/Jan Waters. 01634 711734 10.00am 9.75miles. GR: TQ593523 Shipbourne. TN11 9PF. Meet and park at Shipbourne Common (Upper Green Road). Route is via Tinley Lodge Farm, Twelve Acre Wood, St Julians Farm, Carters Hill and Mote Farm. Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end (food available all day).

August 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

August 11th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Dr J W Reuther 'The Death and Burials of the Tudors

August 12th - Treasure Trove Trail, Riverside Country Park 11.00am 2.00pm. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. £1 per child, no need to book, drop in any time.

August 12th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

August 12th - Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm, Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Bob Ogley - Kent in the 20th Century, ring 232617 for details.

August 12th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Outing to a members garden. Ring 01795 425700 or 01622 884657.

August 14th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group (see 7th Aug).

August 15th - Monthly Indoor Farmers Market, Millennium Centre, 9.00am 12.30pm. Enquiries 01634 371941.

August 16th - Medway Ramblers Walk. Geoff Ettridge 07526161766. 10.00am, 8 miles. GR: TQ486517, Ide Hill. TN14 6JW. Meet in the front of St Mary's Church at Ide Hill. Park courteously near the Green/Church. Pub at end (Ploughmans lunches available)

August 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 4.5 miles, no dogs, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569, 10.00am, Ightham Mote.

August 17th - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers

7.30 - 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church Hall (entrance to left of the church), Summer High Tea, ring 01634 578294 for details.

August 17th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Members Evening, ring 364702 for details.

August 18th - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12noon and 2.00 - 4.00pm. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. Book in advance, £1 per child, ring 337432.

August 19th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Carolyn Brenchley Illustrated talk 'The Work of the Abbey Community Garden', 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details.

August 20th - Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm Country Park, (see 6th Aug).

August 21st - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group (see 7th Aug).

August 22nd - Coffee Morning and Garden Party in aid of FROGS (Friends of Gambian Schools) - not the slippery jumping kind! 10.00am to 12.30pm (Inside if wet!) 42 The Goldings, ME8 0AX (Tel 372508) £2.50 Entrance (includes refreshments) Bring and Buy - Raffle - FROGS Information - Gambian goods.

August 22nd - Summer Concert, St. Margaret's Church, 7.30, in support of the Heritage Fund, local soprano Elena Anastopoulos accompanied by Gavin Williams. Programme includes classical and American standards Donations at the door.

August 22nd - Instep Dancing (see 8th Aug).

August 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walk John Pointer 10.00, 8 miles. GR: TQ898522 Lenham. ME17 2PG Meet in Lenham Village Square. Park in car park or around square. Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

August 23rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 6 miles, no dogs, meet Graham Starkey 01634 371948, 10.00am, Northward Hill RSPB car park off Christmas Lane off A228.

August 23rd - Berengrave Walk, 10.00am - 12noon Berengrave Nature Reserve. Book in advance, £1 per person, 337432.

Continued on Page 11

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Gambia. Last year only 1% of the close on £9,000  
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the cost of remitting funds to The Gambia. 15  
current projects include school building, furniture  
and equipment improvement, learning and child  
feeding programmes and self sufficiency initiatives,  
such as vegetable growing.

**A MINIATURE WORLD**  
**An exhibition of dolls' houses**  
**29th & 30th August**  
St Margaret's Junior School Hall  
Orchard Street, Rainham  
Open 10.00am – 4.00pm each day  
These are not toys but are collectors' items which  
have been made or bought and assembled by  
members of Rainham and District Dollhouse and  
Miniaturists Group in roomboxes or houses  
(including a block of flats) or as stand alone  
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Light refreshments available. Free car parking on  
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**SUMMER CONCERT**  
Saturday 22nd August, 7.30pm.  
In support of St Margaret's Heritage Fund  
Local soprano ELENA ANASTOPOULOS  
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Programme includes classical and American  
standards  
St. Margaret's Church. Donations at the door

**BARN DANCE**  
September 19th, 7.30 – 10.30pm  
Millennium Centre, Rainham (Lower Hall)  
£7 per person includes supper, tea, coffee & soft  
drinks. Please contact Olwen 01634 263622 to book  
(only 70 tickets available) in aid of SDBTT  
Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust, offers of  
help very welcome.

**GRAND AUCTION**  
St Margaret's Millennium Centre.  
All proceeds to the Church Heritage Fund  
Saturday, 25th September.  
Auction of donated items at 12.30pm,  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

"Kent, Sir - everybody knows Kent - apples, cherries, hops and women".  
 "Pickwick Papers". Charles Dickens. 1812 - 1870.  
 For the purposes of Nature Notes I want to amend Dickens' above list to "apples, cherries, hops and cobnuts." In this month's Notes I write about cherries and will cover the other three products of the Garden of England in subsequent Notes.  
 The scene often associated with rural Kent, and the one that frequently appears on calendars, is that of sheep grazing among the blossoms of a traditional cherry orchard. Two such orchards are at Church Farm, Church Lane, Stockbury and Denley Hill Farm, Seasalter Road, Graveney. But the one I am writing about this month is at Park Farm, Lynsted. The latter village is south of Teynham where Henry VIII's fruiterer, Richard Harrys, established a cherry orchard in the 16th century.  
 Owned by farmer Philip Neaves, the Lynsted orchard has been designated "Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard". "Blossom Day" is celebrated there towards the end of April, when local people picnic in the orchard amongst the blossom and the lambs. "Cherry Day" is held in July when the cherries are ripe and at their best. Finally, every Halloween, the villagers congregate around a large bonfire in the centre of the orchard; the children are entertained by a story teller and play at apple bobbing and other Halloween games. Last July, Mrs Ennis and I joined the people of Lynsted for "Cherry Day". Local families were picnicking under the trees and listening to the Sittingbourne Wind Assemble. Whilst the musicians had a break, the children of Lynsted and Norton Primary School danced around the maypole. Cream teas were on sale and visitors could take part both in cherry tasting and pick their own fruit. The trees in the orchard are 55 years old and are some 25 - 30 feet in height. Except for those on the lowest branches, the cherries have to be picked by means of traditional, tall fruit ladders which, for safety reasons, have splayed feet. Years ago, the vast majority of cherry pickers were women. Wives of farm labourers,

gypsies and people from nearby towns flocked to the Kentish orchards in June and July. Most of the cherry crop was bought by London wholesalers. Some farmers would auction the right to outsiders to pick and sell cherries from their orchards and gipsy families would usually be among the bidders. Auctions were held at the Bell Inn at Sittingbourne, among other places.  
 The Lynsted orchard has about thirteen different varieties of sweet cherry, most of which are red, although some are white. The trees produce fruit from the end of May to the beginning of August. The need for successful pollination is the main reason for having a great diversity of cultivars; traditional sweet cherries will only produce fruit if pollinated by a cherry of another variety. For the purposes of pollination, there are a number of bee hives in the orchard.  
 Most old orchards, be they of apple, pear, plum or cherry, provide a home for a broad range of plants and animals. The Lynsted orchard has a typical mixed pattern of trees, open spaces, mature hedges and permanent grassland grazed by sheep. The orchard attracts a range of birds, including chaffinch, goldfinch, mistle thrush, tree creeper, stock dove, turtle dove and wren. Green and greater spotted woodpeckers probe decaying tree stumps for invertebrates. Little owls are well established and tawny owls have been noted.  
 At cherry time some birds are not very welcome. Blackbirds, thrushes, woodpeckers, rooks and starlings are very fond of cherries and Philip Neaves (the farmer) maintains that the birds take his entire crop of Merton Favourite, despite the use of bird scarers which simulate gun shots. Sufficient to say that, on 'Cherry Day' itself, the activities of the local people drove away all birds but overflying wood pigeons.  
 As for mammals and insects in the orchard, surveys have revealed the presence of common shrew, wood mouse and the rarer yellow-necked mouse. These small rodents probably remain under cover in the hedgerows during the day and forage out in the orchard at night. Rabbits are abundant. Pipistrelle bats hunt flying insects in the gaps between the trees

on warm summer evenings. Common field grasshoppers can be heard chirping in the orchard and stag beetle larvae are abundant in the fallen logs and dead wood.

As I always do whenever I visit the countryside, I took my binoculars with me to Lynsted. On this occasion they remained unused. I was quite content to do little more than sit in my folding chair, listen to the music, watch the maypole dancing and enjoy a cream tea - all in the shade of a spreading cherry tree.

Joe Ennis

## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### ST MATTHEWS COMMUNITY CONCERTS

We will be presenting six concerts during our next series and we do hope that you will find something to suit your taste!

19th September 2009 - "The Best of British" - "Old Time Music Hall" and "Last Night of the Proms" with Mantissa Opera and Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society - Wave Your Flags Down at the Old Bull and Bush;

10th October 2009 - Voskreseniye Ensemble - A choral evening of unaccompanied Russian Folk and Scared Music performed by an octet from St Petersburg conservatoire;

21st November 2009 - Kasai Masai - Traditional sound from the remote equatorial villages of Africa (Kasai - The River: Masai - The Tribe)

20th March 2010 - The National Saxophone Choir of Great Britain - A welcome return to 20 sax's in concert - not to be missed - book early.

24th April 2010 - The Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir - One of Kent's leading male voice ensembles perform a variety of popular works.

29th May 2010 - Rachel Bennet (Piano) and Andrew Thomas (Flute) are the Bechstein Duo - well known modern and classical pieces performed by these talented conservatoire trained musicians.

Each 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.

Our last series was a great success - we do hope to see you again!

Paul Warren  
 01634 372508

## DO YOU HAVE PRIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

### Medway Lions Club needs your help!

Since 1967 Medway Lions Club has engaged with the Medway community providing a service to improve the quality of life for many. Over that period the Club with the support of the public has raised something in the region of £1m, the majority of which has been spent in the Medway Towns in support of local organisations; youth groups senior citizens parties; individual cases of hardship; and our special appeal to provide treats for Children With Life Threatening Illnesses. We also support our international community by working actively to help conquer blindness, provide youth opportunities, humanitarian aid to the children of Gomel through our shoebox appeal, respond to disasters and so much more. But after 42 years the Club may have to close unless new members can be found which would have a devastating impact on the Medway Towns.

Could you become part of the pride and become more aware of the needs of your community and have the opportunity to make a difference? Having a hand on role creates fun and fellowship which really encapsulates the spirit of being a Lion. We also have a regular social programme.

Medway Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organisation. It is recognised worldwide for its services to the blind and visually impaired. We also provided to support for young people by recognising their efforts and providing them with opportunities to learn, achieve and grow. Every pound raised by Lions goes directly to charity. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that you couldn't do on your own.

If you are interested in finding out more about Medway Lions please either telephone us on 0845 833 9517, email us via our contacts page (<http://medwaylions105se.org>) or come along to a meeting. We meet at 8.00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Monday (Tuesday if following a Bank Holiday) at the St. George Hotel, 7 - 8 New Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 6BB. Come along, meet us, and find out what we do. A warm welcome awaits you.

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## Diary 2009

August 25th – 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.

August 26th – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 – 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

August 27th – Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm Country Park, (see 6th Aug).

August 27th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, The Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, contact 01634 312038 for details.

August 28th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group (see 7th Aug).

August 29th & 30th – A Miniature World, An exhibition of dolls' houses, St Margaret's Junior School Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. Open 10.00am – 4.00pm each day For information contact Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038 or swildridge@blueyonder.co.uk

August 30th – Paranormal Investigations, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham. Arrive 8-8:30pm Enter Tunnels 8:30pm. Activities start 9pm finish 3am. Tickets £35, must be pre-booked, over 18's only. For more information [www.fortamherst.com](http://www.fortamherst.com) or (01634 847747).

August 30th – Medway Ramblers Walk Mike Patrick. 10.00am, 6.5miles. GR: TQ837582 Huckling. ME17 1QS. Meet and park at Hook and Hatchet Inn (far car park). Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

August 30th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 7 miles, no dogs, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 10.00am, The Harvel Hike car park Trosley Country Park car park charge.

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September 1st – Teddy Bears' Picnic, Riverside Country Park, 11.00am – 2.00pm. For accompanied children aged 3 – 7 years. Bring your picnic and teddy bear. Book in advance, £2.50 per child, 01634 337432.

September 1st – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. "Ask the Experts", ring 01634 234734 for details.

September 2nd – Teddy Bears' Picnic, Capstone Farm Country Park, 11.00am – 2.00pm. For accompanied children aged 3 – 7 years. Bring your picnic and teddy bear. Book in advance, £2.50 per child, 01634 338191.

September 2nd – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Carving Walking Sticks, all welcome, ring 231972 for details.

September 3rd – Wigmore Thursday Club, Revd Chris Butt talks about his sabbatical, 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

September 4th – Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst (see 7th Aug).

September 4th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group (see 7th Aug).

September 5th – Bredhurst Art, Craft and Produce Show, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Schedules from Mrs W Keast - 01634 230325 or Mrs J Lewin 01634 364703. Staging will be from 9.00 – 11.00 am. Exhibit Entrance: Adults - 30p per item, Children 10p per item. All very welcome Doors open to the public at 2.30pm. Adults 50p, Children 10p, Exhibitors free. There will be a produce sales stall and any exhibits remaining after the show will be auctioned.

Continued on Page 13

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## Diary 2009

September 5th - Upchurch Horticultural Society  
September Show in the village hall.

September 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society,  
Summer Show, Millennium Centre, ring 231972.

September 5th - Evening of Trance with Robin  
Hodson at The Centre, Farthing Corner. 7.30pm -  
approx 9.30pm, cost £5. Please book early by  
calling the centre. 01634 366944

September 6th - Bird Walk, Riverside Country Park,  
8.00 - 10.00am. Book in advance £1 per person  
01634 337432.

September 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk Marian  
Gilham. 10.00am, 7.5miles. GR: TQ922648

Sittingbourne. ME10 3NL. Meet near the Central  
Park Stadium in Sittingbourne. Bring picnic lunch.

September 8th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club,  
Mrs Pauline Dewick 'A fortune in your attic' (see  
11th Aug).

September 8th - Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group,  
10.00 - 11.30am each Tuesday in term time,  
Fairview Community School, details from 338710.

September 9th - Tiny Tots, Riverside Country Park  
10.00am - 2.00pm. Arts and crafts for younger  
children suitable for accompanied children aged 2 to  
5 years. Drop in any time £1 per child.

September 9th - Rainham Flower Club,  
Demonstration by Jane Edmonds. (see 12th Aug).

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September 9th - Bredhurst W.I. Mrs Anita Jones -  
Handkerchiefs a Brief History, (see 12th Aug).

September 9th - Rainham Poetry Group (12th Aug).

September 10th - Fairview Tadpoles Parent and  
Baby Group, 1.15 - 2.45pm every Thursday term  
time only, Fairview Community School, ring  
01634 338710 for details.

September 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club,  
Waterwise by Southern Water - Kate Baker.

September 11th - RAMASES North Kent  
Egyptology Society, AGM, Newington Village  
Hall. Contact Annette Jones  
[ramases@hotmail.com](mailto:ramases@hotmail.com) or see Swale Borough  
Council website for details.

September 12th - Chatham Grammar Association  
Reunion, 1.00pm lunch, tickets £20 non-members  
from 37, Homefield Drive, Rainham ME8 8RS

September 12th - Indoor Craft Market, Millennium  
Centre, Rainham 9.00am - 12.30pm, ring 016345  
371941 for details.

September 12th - GHS Floral Art Group, United  
Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road,  
Gillingham. Autumn Show, ring 01634 234734

September 12th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Village  
Show, Bredhurst Village Hall, doors open  
2.00pm, ring 01634 233554 for details.

September 19th - Barn Dance 7.30 - 10.30pm.  
Millennium Centre, Rainham (Lower Hall) £7 per  
person includes supper, tea, coffee & soft drinks.  
Please contact Olwen 01634 263622 to book  
(only 70 tickets available) in aid of SDBTT  
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September 19th - St Matthew's Concert "The Best  
of British" - "Old Time Music Hall" and "Last  
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Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral. 7.30pm tickets are  
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