

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

MARCH 2010
NUMBER 452



This mid 1930s picture of 'The Queens Head', now a Harvester restaurant in Maidstone Road, is one of twenty or so illustrations of Wigmore included in 'A Third Picture Book of Rainham' (ISBN 9781906177027) that was published on February 13th. Copies, price £7.99, of which £4 from each sale is donated to St Margaret's Church, Rainham, are on sale at Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, a primarily second-hand bookshop which is raising money to help the Church Heritage Fund. The book is also available by mail order, ring 01634 310011 (add £2.75 P&P) or online through the internet via Abebooks.co.uk

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Editorial

A few weeks ago St Margaret's Church in Rainham held an extremely successful 'Big Open Day'. As I am sure everyone realises the church has been swathed in scaffolding for the past year whilst urgent repairs were undertaken to the roof. This is now finished but in order to make the best use of the scaffolding less urgent work to the tower has also been commissioned and this work continues, hence the need for the tower scaffolding to remain when the main body of the church was disrobed just in time for the Open Day. The idea was to thank the local community for their generosity in supporting the many appeals necessary to raise the half million needed for the repairs by showcasing all the many different aspects of church life in Rainham. I am sure the organisers spent hours planning and delegating and their efforts were rewarded by a crowded church and Millennium Centre showing a wide variety of displays. I know of several locals who were visiting the church for the first time despite having lived in Rainham most of their lives and I am pleased to say very much enjoyed the experience. I was stationed at the far eastern end in the St John the Baptist chapel guarding the local archive material on loan from the Strood centre. The stained glass above is variously called 'the Ward window' or 'the parable window'. It was designed by Francis Spear and depicts four parables (the rich man and Lazarus (sometimes called Lazarus and Dives), the good Samaritan, the sower and the talents, and has an inscription below. 'This window was given by George and Enid Ward of Caldew House in the parish in thankfulness for the safe return of their sons Dennis and Geoffrey from the World War 1939-1945 and for many other mercies'. Several visitors after studying the window asked 'Where is Caldew House?' I had to confess I did not know and could only suggest it was probably in the Rainham Mark area as Caldew Avenue is there. I have now been told that Caldew House is behind the houses that line White Hill and is reached by a trackway between the new Football Centre on the Howard School field and the first house on the hill. Thank you to those who took the trouble to supply this information. It just shows we are all still learning. Our front cover drawing last month of Pump Farm yard has raised a great deal of interest. We will be including more on this area of Rainham in the coming months as space permits but as always after our longer

than usual break we have many items to squeeze into our pages in March. Please do read on to discover many opportunities to get out and about this month, concerts, plays, walks, fairs, coffee mornings they are all here for you to enjoy and before we know it April and spring will be here. Have a good month we will see you then.

Correspondence

BREDHURST CHURCH CHARITY SHOP

Dear Editor

We were astonished today when a resident told us that he thought that the hut beside Bredhurst Village Hall was the Scout Hut! The Shop! The Shop has been there over 35 years selling adult and children's clothes, good bric-a-brac, books etc to raise funds for the Church and local charities at very reasonable prices. (Good quality items for sale also gratefully accepted.) We are open every Wednesday and Saturday from 1.30 to 3.30pm and would love to see more people. This year we are hoping for more sales as the Church roof needs urgent repairs costing £50,000 or more which for a village is astronomical!

We look forward to seeing you.

The Shop Girls(?) of Bredhurst

SILVER SURFERS

Dear Editor

I would like to advertise our new 'Silver Surfers' ICT club which will be open to parents and grandparents who are keen to keep up with the younger generation when it comes to using computers! It will cover basic computer skills, the internet and use of Office in a relaxed and informal way. No prior knowledge is necessary and the club will take place in our fully equipped ICT suite.

Silver Surfers will be on Wednesdays from 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm during school term time, starting on Wednesday 21 April until Wednesday 7 July. There will be a nominal charge of 50p to cover costs.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact the school office on 01634 338710 and we look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

Julie Trundle Bursar

Fairview Community Primary School

Email: office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

LUNCHEON CLUB - HELP NEEDED

Dear Editor

Each Thursday, at the Millennium Centre, Rainham, a freshly-cooked meal is prepared (by a group of volunteers) for about 40 very appreciative senior citizens. Unfortunately, this year, we are short of a cook for one Thursday a month and would like to hear from an enthusiastic cook or someone with experience of cooking for a large family or even in a canteen and can spare the time to help. Perhaps a pair of ladies or a couple might undertake the task together to prepare the main course and dessert. A team of six

experienced helpers are available to assist on the day. If anyone feels that they could undertake this rewarding task please contact me on 230430.

Yours faithfully

Kay Jarvis

WRCA

Dear Editor

Wigmore Community and Residents Association WCRA will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday 16 April 2010 in the Wigmore Library starting at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend and there will be the opportunity for Residents who are not yet members to join on the night. We are very pleased that our local Councillors will be in attendance and we have also invited representatives from the Police and Council Officials. This is a great opportunity for our members to meet with and discuss their problems with our guests prior to the formal AGM activities. Please do make the effort to attend on the 16th April, why not bring a non-member to join the cost being very small at £5 for a 5 year period.

R S Dunn for WCRA

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE FAYRE

Dear Editor

Following the success of the revival of Hempstead Village Fayre in May 2009 where we raised £1,500 for the new Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital, we are pleased to say the fayre will be back for a second year on Sunday, 23rd May from 11.30am until 5.00pm. It would be lovely to see the crowds again and this year the chosen charity is the Kent Air Ambulance.

However, without good stalls our fayre would not be so much fun therefore if you have anything that you wish to showcase, sell or are a charity with a stall we would love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact Val Gorf, our Stalls Co-Ordinator 01634 230214 email hempsteadfayre@hotmail.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Tina Venus-Coppard

Secretary, Hempstead Village Fayre Committee

INDOOR BOOT FAIR

Dear Editor,

The Friends of St. Margaret's Church are holding an Indoor Boot Fair on Saturday 10th April from 9.00am until 1.00pm in The Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham. Tables will be provided at £10.00



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each but booking in advance is essential. The entrance fee is 30p, light refreshments are available and many bargains are to be had. To book, phone Lesley on 379796 or Kay on 230430. Please note that the sale of electrical goods is not permitted.

Yours faithfully,

Kay Jarvis (committee member)

SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor

As I type it is still snowing, so I want to encourage everyone to look forward to Spring! This is advance notice that there will be a great day out for all the family at the Cats Protection Bredhurst Adoption Centre in Matts Hill Road on Sunday 9th May, when we will be holding our annual Spring Craft Fair. There will be lots of local craftspeople and bargains galore, raffles and competitions, Cats Protection goods and this year we will have Scottys Circus Workshop with us for the day. Not forgetting the chance to meet some of the lovely cats looking for good homes. If anyone is interested in taking a craft table at this event to sell their wares, a limited number of tables/table spaces are available at £10 each, so contact me asap by phoning 01634 377267 or emailing me at lindalisingarten@hotmail.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Linda Lisingarten,

Friends of Bredhurst Kent Cat Adoption Centre.

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Diary 2010

No charge is made for Diary entries

Copy should be in writing either by email to alf@thenet.uk.net or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 16th March

March 5th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday 9.45am – 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.

March 5th – Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst, 7.30, 8.00 & 8.30pm. Tickets £10 (no under 8's), 01634 847747.

March 6th – City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm Central Theatre, Chatham. Beethoven – Leonora Overture, Elgar – Cello Concerto, Dvorak – 'New World' Symphony. Alice Neary cello. Tickets £9 – 13 from 01364 338338 www.crsd.org.uk

March 7th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony and Ann Faulkner at Adisham near the school, 10.00am for a 6.5 mile walk to Barham Down, bring picnic lunch, pub at the end.

March 7th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk meet Roger Danks, 01634 317993, 2.00pm at Trosley Country Park car park (charges) for 4 mile walk, no dogs.

March 7th – Sunday Service at The Centre, Farthing Corner with amazing Spiritual Medium Janis Perry From 6.30pm, entrance £1.00. Phone 366944

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

March 8th – Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Musical Surprise' talk by Karen Brown. New members of all ages are very welcome. We have a variety of speakers/activities etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting, for details contact Sue on 01634 230639.

March 9th – 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 www.thecentreonline.co.uk

March 9th – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, each Tuesday in term time 10.00 – 11.30am, Fairview Community School, details from 01634 338710.

March 9th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Mrs Alice Harms – Carrying the Mail, Visitors £2.50 anyone interested welcome, ring 01474 823606 for details.

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

March 10th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, the Forgotten People of Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon, ring 01634 232617.

March 10th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall, Demonstration 'New Beginnings' by Lisa Howarth details 01795 425700 or see www.rainhamflowerclub.ik.com

March 10 – 13th – Three Towns Theatre Company present Disney's Beauty and the Beast, The Brook Theatre, Chatham 7.30pm nightly and also at 2.30pm on Saturday. Tickets £12, (£10 for concessions) £40 for a family ticket from the theatre box office 01634 338338 or on line at www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking.

March 11th – Fairview Tadpoles, Parent and Baby Group, each Thursday in term time 1.15 – 2.45pm, Fairview Community School, 01634 338710.

March 11th – Wigmore Thursday Club, History of Rochester Castle – Norman Munn, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over 50, ring 235507.

March 11th – Medway Film Makers, 7.30pm Davis Estate Community Centre, One Minute Competition, new members welcome 01634 360401 or see www.medwayfilmmakers.com

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March 12th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, (see 5th Mar).

March 12th – Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gill, 7.15pm, 'Igtham Mote - The House and Restoration, The National Trust.' 01634 854982.

March 12th – MKAS meet at the Bredhurst Village Hall on the second and last Friday in the month. For Observing we meet on other Friday's at the Victoria Hotel, Canterbury. A.G.M.. More details by phoning Trev on 07717678795 any reasonable time or via the web site www.midkentaastro.org.uk/

March 13th – Family Fun Digital photography workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park (part 1 of 2) 9.30 – 11.30am, for accompanied children aged 6 – 12 years, £6 per child for both parts, book and pay in advance 01634 338191.

March 13th – Ramases (Rainham and Medway and Swale Egypt Society) 2.30pm, Newington Village Hall. Peggy Dewey Memorial Lecture 'Theban Royal Tombs' by John Dewey. Tickets can be purchased at the door, £8.00, disabled access available. Details from ramasesnk@hotmail.com

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

March 13th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing, 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738 or s.collins02@btinternet.com for details.

March 13th – Rochester Grammar School Choir with Rochester Youth Brass Band, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.30pm. Enjoy an evening of youngsters 'Making Music, £5 at the door or in advance on 575139

March 14th – New Meditation group from 6.30pm. Entrance £5. A guided visualization/ meditation is a time just for you, your time, your space, your experiences. The Centre, Farthing Corner. www.thecentreonline.co.uk 01634 366944

March 14th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk meet Gill Smith, 01622 710569, 10.00am at Wye

public car park for 5.5mile walk lovely views and some steep hills, no dogs.

March 14th – Dream Catchers, Riverside Country Park 11.00am – 2.00pm, book and pay in advance £1 per child 01634 337432.

March 14th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham Jenkinson at Wye public car park 10.00am for a 4.75 mile walk to Wye Downs, pub at the end.

March 15th – Wigmore WI (new group) 7:30pm Scout Hut, Edwards Close, Wigmore. Speaker Lesley Gould - Life of a Japanese Woman, ring 263405 for further details.

March 15th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Medals - Mr Jones, competition Glass, ring 372282

March 15th – Rainham Wives 'The Bee Farm' talk by Sudi Austin, (see 8th Mar).

March 16th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 'Ask the Experts', ring 01634 234734.

March 16th – The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Strood Library, 7.45 – 10.00pm, £3.00. Where Yeehaa meets Olé, Ralph Todd www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

March 17th – Tiny Tots, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am – 2.00pm, arts and crafts for younger children. For accompanied 2-5 year olds, please wear old clothes as it could get messy. No need to book, £1 per child.

March 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Colin and Linda Miles talk, 'Living with a Bonsai Fanatic' Spring Show, 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details, new members welcome.

March 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Birthday Tea entertainment by Doug Harris, (see 11th Mar).

March 18th – Rainham Women Institute 1.45 – 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Musical Boxes. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. More information from 01634 364639.

March 19th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, (see 5th Mar).

Continued on Page 11

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We have patterns for hats, gloves, scarves and tank
tops: if you would like a copy, send a sae (6"x 9") to
Square Knits, c/o 21 Wheatcroft Grove, ME8 9JF.
Instructions for blankets are as follows:-
No. 8 needles, double knitting wool, cast on 30
stitches, and knit 60 rows, this may vary according
to your tension. The squares are knitted in garter
stitch — every row knit. Please make sure that your
squares are 6"x 6" as we often sew up squares
knitted by different people and different sizes cause
problems! It is not necessary to change colours at the
end of 60 rows, as long as the finished length is the
equivalent of 10 squares or 60 inches long. It is
appreciated if a few inches of wool is left at the end
of a row for sewing up. 8 strips across makes a
whole blanket. Do please phone us if you are
delivering your knitting or if you would like it to be
collected. We can however only collect from the
Rainham, Wigmore and Hempstead areas. Very
many thanks to you all, and happy knitting in 2010!
Mary 234053 Ann 372680

COFFEE MORNING
March 20th 10.00 - 11.00am All welcome
Rainham Methodist Church, in the Hall
Cake stall, bric a brac, Traidcraft Table, coffee and
chat. Proceeds to Home and World Missions.

BEAUTY & THE BEAST
Three Towns Theatre Company are fortunate to be
the first amateur group in the area to have
permission to perform "Disney's Beauty and the
Beast". The show runs at The Brook Theatre,
Chatham from Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th
March at 7.30pm nightly and also at 2.30pm on
Saturday. Tickets £12, £10 con and £40 for a family

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INDOOR BOOT FAIR,
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Friday 19th March. 7.30pm
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Saturday 27th March from 10.00am - 12.00noon
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EASTER FAIR
Upchurch Derby and Joan Club
Upchurch Village Hall
Wednesday 31st March, doors open 1.30pm
Cake stall, craft stall, raffles and refreshments
All Welcome More details from 01634 268476

SPRING TEA PARTY
All Saints Church, Hempstead
Sunday 11th April, 3.00 - 5.00pm
Come and celebrate this beautiful season of bloom
with an afternoon of sandwiches, tea and yummy
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY
I didn't stray far during January and February, paying local visits to Gore Farm, Darland Banks and East Hoath Wood.

Gore farm, at which there is a farm shop and a restaurant, lies off Oak Lane, the road to Upchurch from the A2. Uniform rows of apple trees have replaced the mixed crops grown under the farm's previous ownership. It is good to see a Kentish fruit farmer fighting back against foreign imports but changes to the old order appear to have had a detrimental effect on certain wildlife. The grey partridges seem to have disappeared now that seed crops and cover are no longer provided for them. It also seems likely that the resident kestrels and barn owls may have trouble in finding enough voles and mice for their young, as a result of the close mowing of previously rough grassland in which the mammals would have been found. I was however pleased to see flocks of redwings, fieldfares, blackbirds and starlings feeding on the apples in the pick-your-own orchard. Almost all of these birds would be winter visitors from northern and eastern Europe where winters are generally much more severe than in this country. I visited Darland banks at a time when it was covered in snow. The rather harsh "chack chack" alarm calls of fieldfares drew my attention to their presence. Parts of Darland are thickly covered in hawthorn bushes and the birds were after the red haw berries. Also feeding on the berries were five or six blackbirds. Many of our native born blackbirds are sedentary, not straying far from the garden or other habitat in which they have established a territory. During the winter our resident population of blackbirds is augmented by visitors from northern Europe. Some stay throughout the winter but others, after varying lengths of stay, move to southern France or Spain. It is almost certain that the group of blackbirds at Darland were winter visitors. Seed eating finches such as chaffinch, goldfinch, linnet and greenfinch can be found on Darland Banks in winter, feeding on seed heads. In the deep snow of that day only the seeds of tall plants such as scabious and knapweed would have been readily accessible to

them. Flocks of finches tend to be somewhat flighty and I was unable to identify the birds I had seen.

I moved on to nearby East Hoath Wood which is composed of sweet chestnut coppiced trees and oak standards. I could find few berries on the masses of ivy growing up the trees in the wood. They appeared to have been eaten by the wood pigeons which were conspicuous by their absence during the period when the area was white over. The birds would not have been able to forage on any nearby snow covered oil seed rape plants and may well therefore have flown to the fields of cabbages and Brussels sprouts on the Isle of Thanet.

As I walked through the wood my attention was drawn to rustling in an area of leaves sheltered from the recent snowfall. Up flew a small flock of redwings to the safety of the branches of an oak tree. They had been searching for worms, having undoubtedly exhausted the local supply of holly berries. They may have been the same birds that stripped the berries off a holly tree in my own garden in a matter of days. They were cautious birds, flying into the centre of the tree and eating the berries from the inside. They did not expose themselves to potential predators by perching on the outside of the tree.

Finally, I write about our own gardens as a winter habitat for birds. We often put out nuts, seeds, fat balls or scraps and yet fail to attract any birds. However, in early winter, particularly if the weather is mild, birds may still have access to nuts, seeds, fruits and berries growing in woods, hedgerows, fields and gardens. Naturally occurring food such as grubs, insects, worms, slugs, snails, caterpillars and spiders, which the birds concerned presumably instinctively prefer, will be available until such time as heavy frost or deep snow make life difficult for them. Also birds are aware that they are vulnerable to predators such as cats and sparrow hawks at exposed bird tables, which is why they keep a constant look out whilst they are feeding. It is only in severe weather that some normally shy and cautious birds are driven by hunger to risk feeding in the open. It is not surprising that our overtures are sometimes rebuffed.

Here in well wooded Wigmore, woodland birds such

as great spotted woodpeckers, coal tits, great tits and nuthatches can sometimes be found at bird tables. At ground level visitors can include wood pigeons, green woodpeckers and jackdaws.

Joe Ennis

SAX IN THE CITY (WELL WIGMORE ACTUALLY)!!

The National Saxophone Choir of Great Britain, make a welcome return to St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, on the 20th March. They will be presenting a concert of varied music played by the 20 sax's of the NSC. The whole saxophone family is featured in the NSC line up and if the concert they presented 2 years ago is anything to go by this will be another concert to remember and, as that was a "sell out", tickets should be booked early to avoid disappointment.

Concert tickets are £7.00 (students free) and the evening commences at 7.30pm.

Also, saxophonists of all ages and abilities are invited to join the NSC for a workshop probably during the afternoon of the 20th. At the time of writing final details are to be decided, but any sax player who is interested can contact me for details. Costs will be £3.00 for students and £10.00 for adults (including free concert entry).

Please contact me on 01634 372508 (or e-mail mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk) for tickets or workshop bookings.

Paul Warren

RECOLLECTIONS OF RAINHAM

My wife Josie and I originally from London came to Rainham in 1969. We moved into a brand new Wards mid-terraced house in Meresborough Road on what was known then as the Maryland Estate. The estate was a group of houses bordered by Miers Court Road, Meresborough Road and Bayswater Drive. There was another housing estate adjoining ours to the south with houses either side of Sandringham Road. These two small estates were surrounded by woodland and orchards all the way down to the High Street with none of Parkwood housing as we now know it. For about a year I travelled backwards and forwards to work in London before getting a job locally. My journey from home in my commuting days went past the old well the remains of which is still on the original part of Miers Court Road that has since been blocked off. Miers Court Road was nothing more than a narrow lane then with no bus service and very little traffic. A footpath towards the High Street end

from an area known locally as Monkey Island cut through the orchards and linked to another footpath, Church Path, that is still there today - this was the route I took, then across the High Street past the National School, (demolished 30 years ago) in Station Road, where the shopping centre now stands, and on down to Rainham railway station. The station was nothing like it is today. It was a brick built building with a slate roof and I remember many a time in the winter going into the waiting room, where a welcoming coal fire was burning, to get warm. The gents toilet was separate to the main building and was no more than a wall for you to use with no roof to keep you dry if it was raining. Also the platforms were much shorter than they are now. I travelled home from work using Victoria Station in London and if the train was a long one you had to get in the rear four carriages of the train to alight at Rainham. This was because the platform at Rainham was not long enough for the entire train. I remember in my first few weeks of travelling getting in the wrong end and finishing up at Sittingbourne before realising that I had missed Rainham.

That was some thirty years ago now and since 1977 I have lived in Silverspot Close and my house stands roughly half way down that footpath that led from Miers Court Road to Church Path. All the many times I walked along it those years ago I never ever dream't of houses being built there let alone living in one.

John Liney

Editor: Sadly John died on 10th April 2009. He was a very loyal distributor of Action Forum for more than 25 years, a tradition that his wife Josie still continues, she found this article amongst his papers - we are sure it will bring back memories to many other families who moved to Rainham during those years of rapid expansion in the 1960s and 70s.

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Diary 2010

- March 19th – Monthly Bumps Meal, 7.30pm. Come and have a fun, informal evening out with other expectant mums. For more information ring 08442 436 204 for information www.nctmedway.org.uk
- March 20th – The National Saxophone Choir of Great Britain, 7.30pm tickets £7.00 each from 01634 372508, mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk.
- March 21st – Book Fair, 10.00am – 2.00pm Parish Centre, Delce Road, Rochester most books 50p each or ten for £4, entry 30p
- March 20th – Rainham Methodist Church Coffee Morning, 10.00- 11.00am, in Church Hall. Cake stall, bric a brac, Traidcraft Table, coffee and chat. Proceeds to Home and World Missions.
- March 21st – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter and Kate Ware at Birling car park behind the church 10.00am for a 6 mile walk to Pilgrims Way, Trosley Court and Cleggetts Farm, pub at the end.
- March 21st – Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk meet Pearl Stevens, 07724602929, 10.00am at Meopham Green (Pitfield Drive) for 5 mile walk lovely views, hilly, no dogs.
- March 22nd – Rainham Wives, Knitting and Bring & Buy for Blythwood, Coffee & Cake. (8th Mar).
- March 24th – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 - 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228.
- March 25th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Service and Sales Table, (see 11th Mar).
- March 25th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, 01634 312038.
- March 25th – Medway Film Makers, (see 11th Mar).
- March 26th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, (see 5th Mar).
- March 26th – Medway Geographical Society, Adult

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March 26th – MKAS Dave Paulding & Nancy Springate EAD Radio Astrium. (see 12th Mar).

March 27th – Spring Fayre in aid Macmillan Cancer Support 10.00am – 12noon, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Refreshments, cakes, preserves, crafts and book. Stalls available for sale of crafts, etc. £10 each to book please call 01634 233930 or 01634 401675

March 27th – Indoor Boot Fair, Village Crafts Bazaar Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, 9am to 2pm call Kay 01795 844408 or Lynne 01795 843679 - Food, Drinks, Breakfast & lunch.

March 27th – Family Fun Digital photography Part 2, (see 13th Mar).

March 27th – Instep Dancing, (see 13th Mar).

March 27th – Medway Folk Dance Club (13th Mar

March 28th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk meet John Williams, 01622 764821, 10.00am at Penenden Heath car park for 6 mile walk one steep hill, no dogs.

March 28th – Mountain Bike Trail, Capstone Farm Country Park 9.00- 10.30am, for all abilities, book and pay in advance, £1 per person 338191.

March 28th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony and Ann Faulkner at Kensing Community Hall, 10.00am for a 6.5mile walk to St Care Estate and the Downs, numerous stiles and gates, bring picnic lunch, pub at the end.

March 29th – Rainham Wives. Easter Craft Activities plus Hot Cross Buns, (see 8th Mar).

March 31st – Upchurch Derby and Joan Club, Easter Fair, Upchurch Village Hall 1.30pm. Cakes, crafts, raffles and refreshments, all welcome. More details from 01634 268476

Continued on Page 13

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April 1st - Tiny Tots, Riverside Country Park
10.00am - 2.00pm, arts and crafts for accompanied
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messy. No need to book, £1 per child.

April 1st - Wigmore Thursday Club, the Book -
Frances Barnes, (see 11th Mar).

April 2nd - Easter Bunny Hunt, Riverside Country
Park 11.00am - 3.00pm, last entry 2.30pm. For
accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, Book in
advance 01634 337432, £1 per child.

April 2nd - 5th - Fort Amherst Easter Fair, Dock Rd,
Chatham, 10.30am - 4.30pm, Adults £4 Children
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April 2nd - Upchurch Choral Society 'The Armed
Man' - A Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins, St
Mary's Church, Upchurch, 7.00pm, retiring
collection in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

April 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk
meet Stephen Manning, 01634 375821, 10.00am at
Bredhurst commuter car park for 5-6 mile walk to
Queendown Warren, dogs allowed.

April 5th - Easter Bunny Hunt, Capstone Farm
Country Park 11.00am - 3.00pm, last entry 2.30pm.
For accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, Book
in advance 01634 338191, £1 per child.

April 6th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club,
Mr Billy Buck - Georgian and Victorian Silver
Boxes, (see 9th Mar).

April 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm
Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Spring Show
- Dusty Miller, new members welcome 231972.

April 8th - Wigmore Thursday Club, 40s
Reminiscences, Shirley Goodhew, (see 11th Mar).

April 8th - Medway Film Makers, Shooters Hill
Camcorder Club visit, (see 11th Mar).

April 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group, (see 5th Mar).

April 10th - Friends of St. Margaret's Indoor Boot
Fair, Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase
9.00am until 1.00pm. Tables at £10 in advance.
Admission 30p. Light refreshments available.
Bookings to Lesley 379796 or Kay 230430.

April 11th - All Saints Church, Hempstead, Spring
Tea Party, 3.00 - 5.00pm Come and celebrate this
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competition, contact Jean Bird on 234149 for
tickets Adults £3.00, children £1.50

April 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group
Walk meet John Trebill, 01634 244045, 10.00am
at Penshurst Church 6 miles some hills, no dogs.

April 15th - Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm
Country Park 9.00am - 12noon. Suitable for
children aged 8 - 12 years, Book in advance
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April 16 - Wigmore Community and Residents
Association - AGM, 7.30 pm. at Wigmore Library.
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