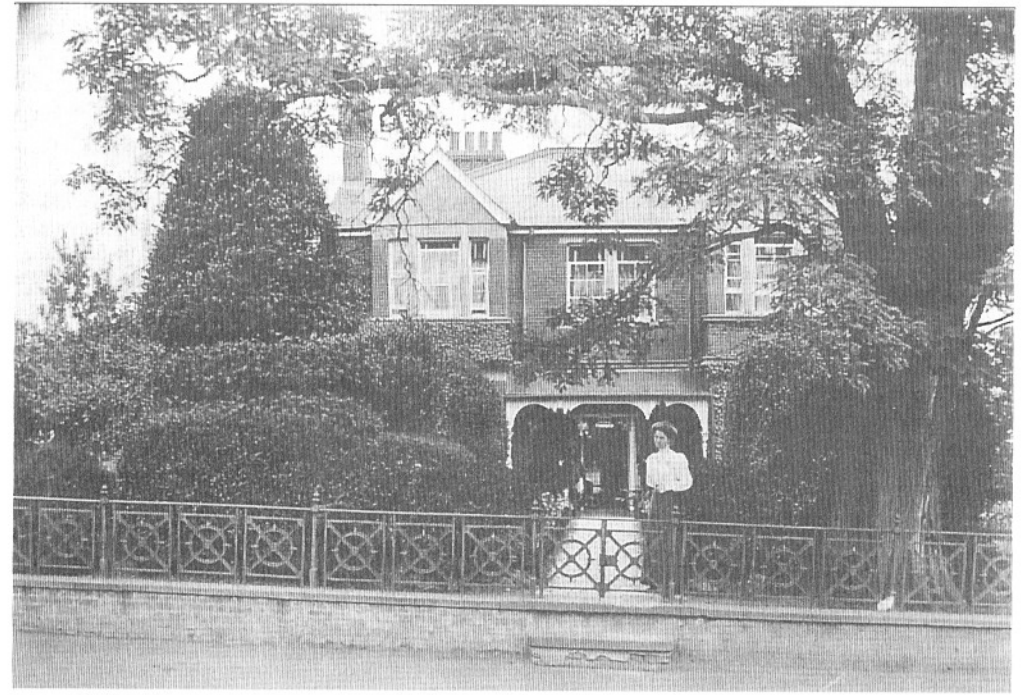


ACTION FORUM

OCTOBER 2011

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

NUMBER 470



Russells, once a farmhouse, was an attractive, elegant building. The site is now Sutton Close and part of Scott Avenue. In the 1950s this was the home of the Quinnell family as Colin Macgregor recalls in the final part of his 'Trip Down Memory Lane' on page 9. George Quinnell had six children all of whom at some time worked in his prosperous grocery business next to The Green Lion (by 1955 this had become Vye & Sons). In earlier years the family was noted for its social work in the village. Mr Quinnell served on the Council having the distinction of a road being named for him as one of the first elected councillors when Rainham left Milton Rural District to join Gillingham in 1929.

Robert J. Kitney

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Next Issue November 5th 2011
 Copy Date: Oct 18th, Sm Ads Oct 27th
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 Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller
 Action Forum Office
 21 Station Rd, Rainham ME8 7RS
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Editorial

Walking has long been considered a beneficial activity not just for the body but also for the mind. Less than a hundred years ago no one would have needed the advice to get out and walk more, walking was an essential part of life. True the railway had arrived in Rainham in 1858 immediately opening up travel prospects previously unknown. This became even easier with the arrival of the trams to Chatham in 1906. Later local buses took passengers to more rural destinations but walking still took up a fair part of each day. Travel on public transport was expensive, the penny fare to Chatham may seem insignificant to us but for a family existing on a farm workers wage it would have been a definite consideration so you walked. For the past few years we have been making a conscious effort to take more exercise, consequently several times a week I walk from Meresborough to Rainham to and from work but it is a fair weather pastime! Yet I know in the 1930s the children who lived in our house did the same walk four times a day, coming home for lunch and returning for afternoon school, whatever the weather, from the age of 5. Perhaps rising costs and shrinking budgets will prompt a return to this more healthy lifestyle and families will leave the car on the driveway and walk to school or work. I must admit I find it difficult to make myself just go out for a walk – there is always something else I should be doing – but a walk with a purpose is different. The experienced readers will see where this is going! One walk with a purpose we can recommend and encourage is the monthly door to door distribution of Action Forum. A combination of circumstances means we have several rounds for which we need willing volunteers in various parts of our distribution area, a list is on page 3. If you are able to spare one or two hours during the first week of the month and would enjoy the walk please do get in touch (01634 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net). Even if there is no round mentioned near you at the moment it is useful to know of willing volunteers as with over a hundred helpers it is a constantly changing list and each month we have people on holiday or not able to help so a reserve list is very useful. Alternatively you can always join one of the healthy walking groups which offer short walks once a week from a variety of meeting points. For longer expeditions check our diary for the local footpaths and ramblers groups outings.

Speaking of walking if you have been along any road or street recently you have probably noticed the coloured blobs which now decorate many water stopcock covers. One reader was intrigued so emailed Southern Water to find an explanation. She had worked out that ultramarine blobs mean 'no meter', and no blob at all presumably means that they are happy with the present meter but could not determine the difference between yellow and turquoise. Although they didn't give details of what each colour meant, they explained 'Southern Water is changing the way it supplies and bills customers. Between 2010 and 2015 it aims to install meters to almost all the homes it supplies, and to change customers to metered charges. Our metering teams are currently working in the area. As well as fitting meters to properties currently unmetered, we are also replacing some older existing meters.' They will soon be in a road near you. Do enjoy the rest of our belated summer and make the most of any fine days we have. All too soon we will be battening down the hatches for winter. Have a good month. We will see you again in November.

Correspondence

KINGFISHER SINGERS CHARITY CONCERT
 Dear Editor

Kingfisher Singers are a well known Medway-based group who "sing for charity". They make no charge for their performance as long as the proceeds from a concert go to a recognised charity. Each year they select a charity of their own to support and this year it is Medway Young Carers (MYC). On Saturday 15th October, they will be performing an evening of Popular and Show Music at St Matthew's Church Drewery Drive, Wigmore ME8 0NX proceeds will be split between MYC and Friends of Gambian Schools (FROGS), both Registered Charities. Tickets are £6 (Children £3) from me. Please telephone 01634 372508, write to 42 The Goldings, Rainham ME8 0AX or thekingfishers@hotmail.co.uk. I'd like to invite your readers to come along for a great evening's entertainment and support children in Medway and in Africa.

Yours sincerely
 Paul Warren

DEMELZA MUSICAL EVENING.

On Friday 7th October there will be an evening of song and dance at United Services Club, Rainham. I am delighted to welcome Steve Dukes and Jenny Sinclair. These two superb singers have agreed to appear on behalf of Demelza Childrens Hospice. This promises to be a most enjoyable evening, whilst raising funds and awareness of Demelza at the same time. Doors open 7.30pm. For tickets and information contact Colin 01634 234973 colbee2000@aol.com or Demelza Direct 01795 845272

OLIVER – THE MUSICAL by Lionel Bart
 Gillingham Dramatic Society
 The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
 Wed 5th – Sat 8th October, 7.30pm, £12 (cons £10)
 Matinee Performance: 2.30pm, Saturday 8th, £10
 01634 372322 Theatre Box Office: 01622 753922

OASTHOUSE THEATRE

As the autumn evenings draw near are you looking for something to occupy your evenings? If you haven't visited Rainham's very own theatre why not pop along and have a tour and a drink at the bar. We are open every Tuesday and Thursday evening. You don't have to be a budding actor/actress to become a member as we need all sorts of talents to help maintain the 'world's First Oasthouse Theatre'. Better still why not come along and see our forthcoming production: 'Love & Marriage' A variety show to celebrate the recent wedding of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge 7th & 8th October
 Curtain up at 8.00pm, Box Office 08448793224
 or On-line * www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

WINE AND WISDOM
 Medway Sunlight Rotary
 St Matthew's Community Centre
 Drewery Drive, Wigmore
 Saturday 8th October, 7.00pm
 Ploughman's supper and dessert is included but please bring your own drink & glasses
 Tables of 6, Tickets £8
 All enquiries 01634 379139, 07833 103847
 or email aap@livings.eclipse.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
 Knowledge & Nibbles Evening
 Saturday 8th October, 7.30pm (prompt start)
 Food provided bring your own drinks & glasses
 Tables of 8 - £6 per person
 Advance booking essential
 Contact Kay on 230430 or Lesley on 379796

AUTUMN DROP IN
 Wigmore Community and Residents Association
 WCRA will be holding their autumn 'Residents Drop In' event at Wigmore Library on Friday 14th October starting at 7.30pm and aiming to finish at 9.30pm. The event is open to all residents of Wigmore both members and non-members. It will be possible for non-members to join the association on the evening if

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they so wish the cost is minimal being £5 for a full 5 years. We are expecting our local MP, local Councillors, representatives of the Council and Medway Police to be there. Please do come, you will be able to discuss, on a one to one basis, your particular concerns.
 Robert Dunn Deputy Chair WCRA

SOUTH PACIFIC

Three Towns Theatre Company are proud to present "South Pacific" at the Brook Theatre in Chatham on 27th, 28th and 29th October, nightly at 7.30pm with a Matinee on the 29th at 2.30pm. Tickets are £12 with £11 concessions available in advance by calling 07504 855826 or the box office on 01634 338338.

CRAFT FAIR

We are holding our annual Craft Fair at Rainham Methodist Church (Station Road / Wakeley Road) on Saturday November 5th, 11.00am to 3.00pm. Admission is 30p. We have spaces available for stalls at £8 each, contact Ruth on 01634 389502 to book.

DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors are needed for:
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 Beechings Way, Bloors Lane, Penshurst, Pembury
 Hempstead Road from school to the southern end
 Hempstead Road Flying Saucer to Spekes Road
 Hempstead - Lamplighters Close, Kingsdown Close
 Upchurch - Ham Green & Twinney
 If you live near any of these roads or are able to travel to them and could help for about an hour or so during the first week each month we would be very pleased to hear from you 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net

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Diary 2011

No charge is made for Diary entries

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

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 18th October

- October 1st – Chatham Grammar Association Annual Reunion 12.30pm, The School Hall, London Road
- October 1st – Sewing Together Quilt Exhibition Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Entry £2.00, Demonstrations, Raffle, Refreshments, Mrs D.M. Rayfield 01634 374335
- October 1st – 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 366189 or 388546.
- October 2nd – Capstone Farm Country Park, Mountain Bike Trail, 8.45 – 9.30am, £1 pp, book 01643 338191.
- October 2nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821, Harrietsham Railway Station, 5 miles, undulating with 12 stiles, dogs allowed
- October 2nd – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 5 miles, meet Beryl 07765 242148 by Ford/Bridge in Eynsford. Park in public car park or by river. Walk in woodland, riverside and field paths. Pubs at end.
- October 2nd – Lions Club partners Harvest Tea for senior Citizens, Millennium Centre, Rainham 3.30 – 6.00pm, ring 01634 379062 or 373840 for free ticket, transport can be arranged if necessary.
- October 3rd – The Monday Hub, St Paul's Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood 10.00am – 1.00pm, lively conversation, table tennis, scrabble and much more, details Jennie Spalding 01634 360664.
- October 3rd – Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, AGM followed by Harvest Supper, New members of all ages very welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting, 01634 230639.
- October 4th – Indoor Boot Fair Upchurch Village Hall, 10.00am – 12noon, £6 per table, 20p admission donated to Stroke Society, 01795 428006 or 07968 792354
- October 4th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Workshop with Viv O'Sullivan. Visitors welcome Kay Buss 01634 232998

- October 5th – Rainham Horticultural Society, Pleasure and pain growing Iris for Chelsea Flower Show – Sue Marshall, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. New members welcome, ring 366276.
- October 5th – 8th – Gillingham Dramatic Society 'Oliver!' the Musical by Lionel Bart, The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone 7.30pm tickets £12, £10 under 16/OAP, Sat Matinee 2.30pm £10, 01634 372322 or Theatre Box Office 01622 753922
- October 6th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Wiltshire Farm Foods – Maggie Dray, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.
- October 6th – Hempstead Leisure Club – Macmillan Nurses, Hempstead Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road, 2.00 – 4.00pm. New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907
- October 6th – Medway Film Makers, 7.30pm, Davis Estate Community Centre – Filming for history Bob Horn will show archive film from Chatham Historic Dockyard, ring 01634 360401 or see www.medwayfilmmakers.com for details.
- October 7th – Demelza Musical Evening, 7.30pm, Song and Dance, United Services Club, Rainham. Tickets £10.00 each (includes buffet) colbee2000@aol.com 01634 234973 or Demelza Direct 01795 845272
- October 7th – Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, Ghost Tour 7.30, 8.00 & 8.30pm Tour Duration 1 hour 15 minutes approx. All Tickets £10 No under 8s, Information 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com
- October 7th & 8th – 'Love & Marriage' A variety show to celebrate the recent wedding of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge, Oasthouse Theatre, Curtain up 8.00pm, Box Office on 08448 793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
- October 8th – Arts and Crafts Exhibition 10.00am – 4.00pm Millennium Centre, Rainham in conjunction with Sunburst Books Details from 01634 375325

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- October 8th – Friends of St Margaret's Church, Knowledge & Nibbles Evening, Millennium Centre, 7.30pm (prompt) Food provided please BYOD, tables of 8 – £6 pp, booking essential, 230430 or 379796.
- October 8th – Wine and Wisdom, Medway Sunlight Rotary, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 7.00pm, Ploughman's supper and dessert is included BYOD Tables of 6, Tickets £8 01634 379139, aap@livings.eclipse.co.uk
- October 9th – Walk for a Healthy Medway, Rotary Club of Chatham, 7km start/finish Dickens's World, Details vibhr@yahoo.co.uk 01634 842397 or 01634 268707
- October 9th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 5 miles, meet Mike at the Hook and Hatchet Inn (use far car park) Huckling, no roads. Pub at end.
- October 9th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, Lynsted (park in village), 5 miles, flat easy walk, dogs allowed
- October 10th – Rainham Wives, Journalism after the Menopause part 1 talk by Barbara Stevens, (3rd Oct).
- October 10th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.15 – 9.00pm to help people who have lost their spouse or a close relative, join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.
- October 11th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, AGM and Guest Speaker, Visitors most welcome, ring 01474 823606 for details.
- October 12th – Rainham Poetry Group meet second Wednesday each month, 40 Birling Avenue Rainham, 7.30 – 9.30pm. All are welcome to listen or read poetry. Ring 01634 260228 for details.
- October 12th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Bredhurst Village Hall, Mrs Helen Allinson – Life in the Kentish Workhouse, ring 01634 389966 for more details.
- October 12th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall, Workshop 'Oh Gourd' Tutor Ann Wyatt, for more information ring 01795 425700 or see www.rainhamflowerclub.uk.com
- October 13th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Abbeyfields – Caring Homes – Sharon Hawes, (see 6th Oct).
- October 13th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, tea & chat, (see 6th Oct).
- October 13 – 14th – Capstone Farm Country Park, Survival Challenge, 10.30am – 10.00am next day, for accompanied children aged 7 plus, £20 per person (includes breakfast), book in advance 01643 338191.
- October 14th – MKAS, Guy Hurst – The Glory of Star Clusters, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road second and last Friday in the month, 7.45pm. For observing we meet on other Fridays at the Victoria Hotel, Canterbury. More details phone Trev on 07717 678795 or visit <http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/>
- October 14th – WCRA 'Residents Drop In', Wigmore Library, 7.30 – 9.30pm open to residents of Wigmore.
- October 14th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society 7.15pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham Ordnance Survey Map – Mr C Brown details 01634 854982.
- October 15th – Craft and Produce Sale, Millennium Centre, 9.30am – 12.30pm. Free entry to public.
- October 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.30am, Meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, Tenterden Station Car Park, 6 miles, 10.40am Steam Train to Wittersham (approx £4.50) linear walk back to Tenterden, some stiles, no dogs
- October 15th – Riverside Country Park, Junior Ranger Club, 10am – 11am. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12-years-old. Book 01634 337432. £1 per child.
- October 15th – SDBTT Autumn Barn Dance, 7.30 – 10.30pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Ticket £9.00 (includes Supper Raffle and Dancing) BYOB, Contact Olwen 01634 263622
- October 15th – Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 1st Oct).
- October 15th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing 8.00 – 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738 email s.collins02@btinternet.com
- October 16th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Meet Roger Danks 01634 317993, Faversham Railway Station, 5 miles, no dogs
- October 16th – BWAG Volunteer Task Day, 10.00am – 2.00pm, Meet Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, bring gloves and suitable clothing. Lunch and refreshments provided. For details please call Steve Wright on 07801 386264 or stevewright50@btinternet.com
- October 16th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 7 miles, meet Mike 07855 929404 at Southern Tower of Tower Bridge, London, on West Side. Bring picnic lunch. Pubs at end with meals available.
- October 17th – Rainham Wives, Arbonne Presentation with Pam Ibanez, (see 3rd Oct).

Continued on Page 11

K. Gillard



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SDBTT AUTUMN BARN DANCE

Saturday 15th October, 7.30pm to 10.30pm

St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham

Ticket £9.00 (includes Supper Raffle and Dancing)

BYOB Contact Olwen 01634 263622

VOLUNTEER TASK DAY

Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

Sunday 16th October, 10.00am – 2.00pm

Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst

Please bring gloves and wear suitable clothing.

Lunch and refreshments provided.

For details please call Steve Wright on

07801 386264 or stevewright50@btinternet.com

AUTUMN BAZAAR Wigmore Darby & Joan Club

Monday 17th October, 2.15pm

Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore

Cakes, Preserves, Gifts, Books, Christmas Goods,

Craft Items, Clothing, Tombola, Refreshments,

Raffle, All welcome, admission 25p

For further information ring 01634 362662

QUIZ NIGHT

Gillingham Horticultural Society

Thursday 20th October, 8.00pm

442 Sports Centre (formerly Lloyds Social Club)

Tables of 6 - £5 per person (Includes sausage &

chips supper). Book 01634 840735 or just turn up

Individuals welcome, Bar refreshments, raffle

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING THEATRE

On Friday, October 21st at 7.30pm in Bredhurst

Village Hall, the Kapow Theatre Company will be

presenting Kevin Tomlinson in "On the Edge", the

hit comedy show which has toured the world.

Tickets at £7.50 from 01634 361263.

WEDDING FAIR

Bredhurst, 22nd October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Planning your Big Day? St Peter's Church,

Bredhurst is hosting a Wedding Fair featuring

exhibitors from across Kent. Free entry. For your

chance to win a special prize, register in advance at:

www.gillinghamwedding.org.uk/fair

RAINHAM LADIES CHOIR in concert with The

Kent Police Band on Saturday 22nd October,

7.30pm at The Britannia Theatre, Dickens World,

Dockyard Outlet Centre Chatham, supporting

Macmillan Nurses. Tickets are £10 – please ring

01634 365806 secretary@rainhamladieschoir.org.uk.

GRAND AUTUMN BAZAAR

St. Margaret's Church Millennium Centre, Rainham

Saturday 29th October, 10.00am – 2.00pm

Stalls include cakes, bric-a-brac, toys, crafts, books,
gardening, gifts, Grand Draw and other raffles.

Enjoy our Ploughman's Lunches or tea & cake

FUNGI FORAY

Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

Sunday 30th October, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst

£3 per person to cover costs. To book your

place, please contact 07813 785940 or email

bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

PAMPER EVENING

Thursday 3rd November, 7.00 - 10.00pm

The St. Georges Hall Scout Headquarters,

Berengrave Lane, Rainham

for The 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group.

Entry £2pp payable on the door (includes a tea/

coffee/fruit juice) mini treatments available £5 each.

Please arrive at 7pm to book your treatments for the

evening. There will also be a raffle with prizes

donated by all the exhibitors and refreshments

available to buy throughout the evening. If you

would like to book a table (at £10 each) then please

contact Julie on 01634 361061.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

The Rainham Ladies' Art Group

Saturday November 5th, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham

There will be an exhibition of watercolour paintings

to view and buy, cards, jewellery, home produce and

plenty of Christmas gift ideas. Admission free.

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Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm (Beginners or more

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

This month's Nature Notes record a trip on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway from Hythe to Dungeness, along the seaward edge of the Romney Marsh. The railway's steam locomotives are restricted to a speed of 25 mph, but because they are only one third full size, and passengers are relatively low to the ground, the ride is quite exhilarating. Our view from the windows of our carriage was one of a flat landscape of fields surrounded by dykes and sewers. Some of the fields were dotted with round bales of straw, evidence of a recently harvested wheat crop. On other fields scattered sheep grazed. The Kentish ragstone towers of the mediaeval churches at Burmarsh and Newchurch were picked out in the sunshine. In the distance were the hills that formed the coastline before the marshes were claimed from the sea. Pairs of swans, some with families of well-grown cygnets, swam serenely in the dykes, which were lined with common rush and the flowers of water mint and meadow sweet. Coots, water hens and little grebes, clearly used to the passing of trains, went about their usual business. Dragonflies and damselflies were in evidence, the most noticeable being male banded damselflies with their striking dark blue bodies. Our first stop was at Dymchurch, which is a traditional, charming seaside village, very popular with families with young children. As we continued our journey we noted flocks of rooks, jackdaws and lapwings feeding or resting in the fields. We also caught a glimpse of a looker's hut, about the same size and shape as a garden shed, with red brick walls and a peg tile roof. Men who looked after sheep during the lambing season lived in them. At one time, over 300 lookers' huts were scattered across the marshes. The men would be visited at weekends by their wives and children who would bring traditional lookers' pies which could be reheated in the fireplaces in the huts. They were made of lamb cutlets, onions and potatoes and had a suet crust. Our next stop was the small, wayside station just a few minutes walk from the extensive sands of St Mary's Bay. Between the latter and New Romney, on the seaward side of the line, is The Warren, an area of sand dunes occupied largely by Littlestone Golf Links. Three species of rare animals can be found in the area. Ponds, especially those on The Warren, are the breeding sites of great crested newts. The dykes of the marshes are one of the

strongholds of the water vole in the South East and are also the home of medicinal leeches which feed on the blood of frogs, water fowl and livestock. At Greatstone-on-Sea the dark earth of the Romney Marsh gave way to the shingle of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve. The marsh flowers in turn gave way to those of the shingle - viper's bugloss and yellow homed poppy, among others. Until the latter part of the 19th century, Dungeness remained a remote place, untouched and rarely visited by outsiders because of the incidence of so called marsh fever, in reality malaria. Indeed, until comparatively recently, it could be said to be one of the last truly natural landscapes in the British Isles. However, in the 20th century, considerable damage was done to the shingle ridges and the plants and animals associated with them. The building of holiday dwellings and two nuclear power stations, military use, and water and gravel extraction have taken their toll on the unique ecology of the peninsula. The train entered onto the Dungeness Estate upon reaching the Pilot Inn. We passed wooden cottages, some still lived in by fishermen's families and others by weekenders. Fresh and smoked fish can be bought at Dungeness and sea fishing trips can be undertaken. Some visitors may consider that unrestricted building in the 1930s has resulted in a scene which looks somewhat of a shambles. However, the late Derek Jarman, who built a famous garden around his weekend cottage, was very fond of what he described as the 'otherworldly atmosphere' of Dungeness. We alighted from the train at Dungeness Station and, after a cup of tea in the Light Railway Cafe, took a leisurely stroll around. On the ground we came across wheatears and pied wagtails, in the gorse bushes linnets, in the air migrating swallows and house martins and, on the roof ridge of a cottage, a row of herring gulls. We climbed up the spiral staircase of the old light house from where we had views of Beachy Head in one direction and South Foreland Light House in the other. All too soon it was time to return to Hythe. We settled ourselves into a carriage with a party of jolly visitors from the Netherlands. They seemed to have enjoyed themselves ... and so had we.

Joe Ennis

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A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE Part 3

Continued from September 2011
Crossing Station Road we past The White Horse public house, closed at this time of the day, licensing hours on Sunday lunch time were 12 noon til 2pm, the pub is still there but it has seen many changes inside since 1955. After The White Horse, we came to the Co op stores now demolished and The Rainham Healthy Living Centre constructed on the land. There was a hall above the Co op where a couple of years earlier in 1953 a big party for us kids was held for the Coronation. It's nice to see that the old Palm tree is still at the side of the new building. I can recall looking at this tree from my school in Station Road from when I was five years old. Hutchinson's Plant Nursery was behind the Co op. Next we came to Bardens, a Greengrocers shop now The Olive Tree Restaurant. Mr Bridges big house The Old Parsonage was next, I remember him and his children riding their horses out of the stables there. This building is now a fitness centre. We walked on past The Old Parsonage to the Post Office, I believe that there were some buildings before this that later became The Post Office Sorting Office which itself has been demolished to make way for Apple Tree Court. Passing the Post Office we would walk by Cross the Jewellers, Webbs the Drapers and Mills Outfitters coming to Mountains solicitors on the corner of Ivy Street. We would cross Ivy Street and pass Oldlands Florists which is now a Tattooist and then to Greens Newsagents. Although this is now a Hairdresser you can still see the old Newsagents sign sticking out from the wall above the window. Eddie Stone turf accountant and P Duff opticians (now opposite Orchard Street) occupied the next two premises. We would then cross Pudding Road coming to Jelly's Outfitters I think this is now Hons Chinese Restaurant. Walking on we would pass D Peek photographer, Tuckers Watch Repairers, G W Elphick a sweet shop and then come to Mr Quinnell's beautiful mansion (Russells) in its grounds. The house has sadly long been demolished to make way for town houses and flats. The road that I lived in was named after Mr Quinnell who owned a grocery

business next to The Green Lion and was also, I believe, a local councillor. Following Mr Quinnell's house we would reach Scott Avenue. Many of my school friends lived in this road in the pre fabricated flat roofed houses that have since been replaced by modern homes. We crossed the entrance to Scott Avenue passing Gilberts Builders and Panda Press coming to The British Legion now called The United Services Club. Then we would pass a few more shops [Editor: from Kelly's Directory 1957 - William Swan general stores, Frederick Howard secondhand furniture, Mrs B Bibby draper] the last one being The Chocolate Box. We would cross the main road here to Merscourt Road and the farm was just a short way up the road on the right. It was now time to walk back home with the milk but that journey is to be told another time. I'm sure many of you who read this article will remember some of the people and places that I have mentioned and I am sure that I will have missed a few and apologise in advance. I hope you enjoyed my trip down Memory Lane in old Rainham.

Colin Macgregor

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Diary 2011

October 17th – The Monday Hub, (see 3rd Oct).

October 17th – Autumn Bazaar, Wigmore Darby & Joan
Club 2.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, All welcome,
admission 25p, 01634 362662

October 17th – Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore,
Barbara Stevens - Stories from my year in Journalism,
Visitors welcome ring 01634 263405 for details.

October 17th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Challenges of
Leprosy – Margaret Phillips, ring 372282 for details.

October 17th – 21st – Insect Week, raise money with
Insect related topics for Kent Wildlife Trust ring
01622 662012 suzzanne.emson@kentwildlife.org.uk

October 18th – RSPB Medway local group talk 7.30 -
10.00pm, Admission £3.00 Parkwood Community
Centre, Gillingham, Wildlife Photography – David
Featherbe www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

October 18th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral
Art Group, AGM and planning, (see 4th Oct).

October 19th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Brian Self
Illustrated Talk 'Fruit in the Garden', 7.30pm, Village
Hall, ring 01634 233554, new members welcome.

October 20th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Outing to
Dungeness – seats available, Phone 01634 366907

October 20th – Wigmore Thursday Club, The Stone-
throwing Poltergeist – Rupert Matthews, (see 6th Oct).

October 20th – Rainham Women Institute 1.45 – 4.00pm
Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker
on Shades and Zephyrs. Visitors welcome for small
entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 36627 for details.

October 20th – Medway Film Makers, (see 6th Oct).

October 20th – Quiz Night, Gillingham Horticultural
Society, 8.00pm, 442 Sports Centre (top Featherby
Road) tables of 6, £5 pp, individuals welcome, incl
sausage & chips, 01634 840735 or just turn up.

October 21st – Applause rural touring theatre, 7.30pm in
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October 22nd – St Peter's Wedding Fair, Bredhurst
Village Hall & Church, 10.00am - 4.00pm, free
entry www.gillinghamwedding.org.uk/fair

October 22nd – Rainham Ladies Choir with The Kent
Police Band Concert, 7.30pm Britannia Theatre,
Dickensworld, for Macmillan Nurses. Tickets £10,
01634 365806 secretary@rainhamladieschoir.org.uk

October 23rd – Capstone Farm Country Park, Trim
Trail, 8.45 – 9.30am, £1 pp book in advance 338191

October 23rd – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Mo Fleisig 01634 362743,
Chartham (park in Village Hall car park), 5 miles,
North Downs Way one slight incline, no dogs

October 23rd – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 5
miles, meet Jim 01795 429192 in Otford village car
park, small incline. Bring snack. Pub or Cafe at end.

October 23rd – Lions Club partners Harvest Tea for
senior Citizens, (see 2nd Oct).

October 25th – Riverside Country Park, Autumnal
Leaves, 10am-12noon. For accompanied children
aged 5–12. Drop in any time, £1 per child

October 26th – Riverside Country Park, Family
Discovery Walk, 10-12noon. Book, Free.

October 27th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Hall, Woodside 7.30pm,
ring 01634 312038 for details.

October 27th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, tea
& chat, (see 6th Oct).

October 27th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Service &
"Take Care" – help in the home, (see 6th Oct).

October 27th – Riverside Country Park, Halloween
Walk, 6.15 – 7.15pm and 7.30-8.30pm. Children
aged 5 to 12-years-old. Book 01634 337432, £3 pp

October 27 – 29th – Three Towns Theatre Company,
South Pacific, Brook Theatre, Chatham, nightly
7.30pm, Matinee 29th, 2.30pm, Tickets £12
07504 855826 or box office 01634 338338.

October 28th – MKAS, Peter Parish - Constellation of
the month, (see 14th Oct).

October 28th – Medway Geographical Society, Adult
Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, 7.30 –
9.00pm 'Walking in Tuscany' - Mike Collins,
Everyone Welcome, contact 01634 362683

October 29th – Grand Autumn Bazaar, St. Margaret's
Church Millennium Centre Rainham, 10.00am –
2.00pm. Many stalls, refreshments, all welcome.

October 29th – Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham,
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Diary 2011

October 29th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 1st Oct).
October 30th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 6
miles, meet Arthur/Jan 01634 711734 at National Trust
Car Park Ightham Mote (free), Mote Road, Ivy Hatch,
Sevenoaks. Pub at end with food.
October 30th - BWAG, Fungi Foray, 10.30 - 1.30pm,
Meet Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, £3 pp to cover costs
book 07813 785940 bwag@vanessaajones.plus.com
October 30th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Allington, park 50yds before Allington
Castle (not Mid Kent Shopping Centre), 8 - 8.5 miles,
flat, some tarmac, bring packed lunch, no dogs
October 31st - Rainham Wives, South Island New
Zealand talk and slides June & Alan Parkin, (3rd Oct).
November 1st - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral
Art Group, 'Witches Return' arrangement. (4th Oct).
November 1st - Indoor Boot Fair Upchurch (see 4th Oct)
November 2nd - Rainham Horticultural Society, Slides
and music - Ian Jenkins, (see 5th Oct).
November 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, The History of
Guy Fawkes - Anne Carter, (see 6th Oct).
November 3rd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Swiss
Cheese, (see 6th Oct).
November 3rd - Medway Film Makers, (see 6th Oct).
November 3rd - Pamper Evening, 7.00 - 1.00pm, St.
Georges Hall Scout Headquarters, Berengrave Lane,
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refreshments Tables £10 each contact 01634 361061.
November 4th - Fort Amherst, Ghost Tour (7th Oct).

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November 5th - Riverside Country Park, Scarecrow
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years, £2.50 per child book in advance 337432.
November 5th - Annual Craft Fair, Rainham Methodist
Church, 11.00am - 3.00pm. Admission 30p. Spaces
available for stalls £8, contact Ruth 01634 389502
November 5th - Rainham Ladies' Art Group Arts &
Craft Show, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham
10.00am - 4.00pm. Admission free. Ring Barbara
01634 235733 or e-mail barbara.trigg@sky.com
November 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 4.5
miles, meet Peter/Ann 01634 718895 for Walk &
Lunch at Jeskyns Country Park just off the A2.
November 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 7
miles, meet Jim 01795 429192 in Wye village car
park (near church). Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.
November 6th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Penenden Heath Car Park, 6.5 miles,
undulating, no dogs
November 7th - The Monday Hub, (see 3rd Oct).
November 9th - Rainham Flower Club, In - House
demonstration 'Christmas at Home', (see 12th Oct).
November 9th - FAME (Family and Associates of
Medway Evacuees) Millennium Centre, Rainham, 2
.00pm start. For details s_evans5@blueyonder.co.uk
November 12th - Coffee Morning Rainham Methodist
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 10.00 - 11.30am,
Proceeds Church Funds. All welcome
November 12th - Rainham Evening W.I. Annual Craft
Fair, Millennium Hall, Rainham, 10.00am - 12 noon,
admission 30p, children free, Everyone welcome.

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