

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

NOVEMBER 2011

NUMBER 471



Rainham Recreation Ground in the early 1900s. The land between Station Road and Scott Avenue was acquired in the late 1880s when the local Cricket and Football clubs needed permanent grounds. After lengthy negotiations with various worthy Rainham citizens and landowners 21 acres were purchased and seven donated in perpetuity to the Parish and vested in the trustees names (the Vicar, Charles Cobb, the overseers and the Guardians of the Parish) the remainder were sold. A gate at the entrance, which was locked at night, was inscribed 'Donated in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee 1887'. See page 9 for more about the Recreation Ground.

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Editorial

I hesitate to mention the fantastic weather we have been experiencing lately for fear of a jinx! But it really has been impressive, day after day of sunshine and mild conditions. We are fortunate that we do not have far to go to find native woodland which is just coming to its best for a spectacular show of autumn colours. Even driving the top section of Deanwood Drive when the sun is shining lifts the spirits with the wonderful variety of colours among the trees lining the road. Now is the time to make the most of this bonus late summer/autumn treat and get out for a rejuvenating walk in the countryside. The various walking groups we feature are always happy to welcome new ramblers but if their walks seem a bit ambitious there are several hour long walks offered each week in the area by the Healthy Walking Campaign (see page 9 for details). Again they are open to all with the particular remit of encouraging reluctant exercisers to venture out and about more and so improve their own general health without resort to medicines. Exercising, particularly in the form of a good walk in the fresh air, can help both physically and mentally, calming and refreshing enabling you to find a solution to a worrying problem or at least put it into perspective. Give it a go!

Thank you to all who have responded to our appeal for more volunteer distributors of Action Forum. Many thanks also to all our hundred plus band of regular helpers who through your generosity by donating your time and expertise have enabled us to donate a further £1,200 to each of our three charities, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, Parish of South Gillingham and Kajiado Development Trust in Kenya, (see www.kajiado-district-dev-trust.org.uk) a charity run by local (Kent) people where all the money donated is used for educational purposes in this district of Kenya. Since September 2000, when we reverted to voluntary distribution, we have given a total of £23,550 to charity. We still have a few vacancies for more help, so if you would like a reason to get out and exercise perhaps you could assist in one of the roads listed on page 3, I look forward to hearing from you on 01634 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net.

Christmas Fayres are well under way this month, all hoping for your support, so please see our Diary for a happening near you. Do have a good month and we will be with you again in December - looking forward

to Christmas - extra special this year for us as we have our first grandchild - Jamie, born 2nd October - to spoil!

Correspondence

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor,

Rainham Evening W.I. will be holding their Annual Craft Fair on November 12th at the Millennium Hall in Rainham. We will be open from 10.00am until 12 noon and admission will be 30p, children free. There will be a good selection of crafts for sale and refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome.

Yours sincerely
D Langley
01634 364702

NSPCC QUIZ NIGHT

Dear Editor

Medway NSPCC fundraising are holding a quiz night on Saturday 29th November at Mierscourt Primary School, Silverspot Close, Rainham, ME8 8JR starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £6 per person which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drink and glasses. Teams are up to 8 people. Tickets are available on the following telephone numbers 01634 388587 and 865087.

Yours sincerely
Shaun Farrell.

TO THE BARN DANCERS OF RAINHAM

Dear Friends

Thank you for your support on 15th October at the Autumn Barn Dance. Today I have sent a cheque to SDBTT for £500.00 the results of the Barn Dance and two Craft Fairs at the Millennium Centre in Rainham during October. The next event for the charity will be a Musical evening by Kingfisher Singers in the Millennium Centre March 3rd 2012. Hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely
Olwen O'Dowd

Fundraiser for Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor,

1st Wigmore Brownies would like to invite your readers to a wonderful Christmas Craft Fair being held on Saturday the 3rd of December between 12pm and 2pm at Bredhurst Primary School. Entrance is free and all proceeds will go towards unit funds. There will be an array of Christmas Crafts on offer, refreshments, mince pies, games and Christmas raffle prizes galore! Come along and see Santa himself before his busy day! There will be lots of fun for the whole family.

Best wishes,
Samantha Wingrove
Guider in Charge
1st Wigmore Brownies

THE RAINHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITY

Are you a resident of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Margaret's Rainham?

The Charity is able to make small grants to those in need who live in the Parochial area.

They are unable to make grants in areas which are the responsibility of statutory State Benefits but may be able to assist those who have incurred unforeseen expenses which are not covered by the benefit system. Are you involved in an organisation or project which is for the benefit of residents of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Rainham?

The Charity Commission gave approval for any surplus income to be given to other organisations and/or projects which are for the benefit of those living in the area. This year the surplus funds stand at £900. The Trustees of the Charity invite applications from those eligible.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Mr K Stevens, 10, School Lane, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7ET Telephone 01795 844304.

FAIRVIEW PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Fairview Community Primary School would like to welcome new parents to our Parent and Baby Group 'Fairview Tadpoles' on Thursdays during term time from 1.15 - 2.45pm (£2 per family). The group is for all new mums and dads particularly if you would like some adult conversation, or are a new parent who would like to continue a weekly meeting after attending a post natal group which has now finished. We offer a drink and friendly chat. For further details please contact the school office (term time only) on 01634 338710.

THE RSPB MEDWAY LOCAL GROUP TALK

November 15th, 7.30 - 10.00pm. Admission £3.00. Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, Birds of Southern Europe, Spain & Hungary by Bill Coster. For more information see www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

CAROL SERVICE

Darland District WI
Thursday, 1st December, 2.00pm
St. Peter's Church, Bredhurst,
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BARNARDOS PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENING

Friday 18th November, 8.00pm
Lower Hall, Millennium Centre, Rainham
Come and join us to celebrate a wonderful evening of fundraising with our stalls and Christmas Buffet
Bring & Buy, Raffle, Tombola, Cards & Gifts, Donations and gifts much appreciated
Admission £3.50, Children £1 Refreshments Included
Tickets are available from any committee member or phone 01634 233405 or 375486 or on the door.

OLD BARN ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

The Orchestra for Medway and Maidstone
Saturday 26th November, 7.30pm

The Pilkington Building
Universities at Medway, Chatham Maritime

Dubois: Suite Miniature
Hayden: Symphony No. 103 "Drumroll"

Weber: Bassoon Concerto

Soloist: Tom Vaughan

Beethoven: Symphony No.1

Conductor Bryan Gipps

Leader Derek Webb

Tickets £10.00 Accompanied children £1.00

Tickets: 01795 843228 or 01634 376979

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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 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 15th November

November 5th - Craft Fair, Rainham Methodist Church,
11.00am - 3.00pm. Admission 30p, 01634 389502.

November 5th - Rainham Ladies' Art Group Show,
Parkwood Community Centre, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
Admission free. New members welcome to group of
watercolour painters each Saturday 10.00am Beginners
or more experienced. Tutor in attendance to help. Ring
Barbara 01634 235733 e-mail barbara.trigg@sky.com

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 - Capstone Farm Country Park, Trim Trail,
8.45 - 9.30am, £1 pp book in advance 01634 338191

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, St Paul's Church,
Deanwood Drive, Parkwood 10.00am - 1.00pm, lively
conversation, table tennis, scrabble and much more,
details Jennie Spalding 01634 360664.

November 7th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, CRY (Cardiac
Risk in Young) talk by Frances Barnes, New members
of all ages very welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting,
details 01634 230639.

November 8th - Fairview Frogs parent/carers and toddler
group, every Tuesday in term time, 10.00 - 11.30am,
Fairview Community Primary School. Messy and fun
activities, £2 per family, ring 01634 338710 or 376270.

November 8th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club,
7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham
'Some historic Kentish towns', Visitors most welcome,
ring 01474 823606 for details.

November 9th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch
Village Hall, In - House demonstration 'Christmas at
Home', for more information ring 01795 425700 or see
www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk

November 9th - Riverside Country Park, Tiny Tots, 10am
- 2pm. Old clothes could get messy! Drop in any time,
no need to book in advance. £1 per child.

November 9th - FAME (Family and Associates of
Medway Evacuees) Millennium Centre, Rainham,
2.00pm start. Details s_evans5@blueyonder.co.uk

November 9th - 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.

November 9th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Bredhurst
Village Hall, Emmaus Medway, ring 01634 389966.

November 10th - Fairview Tadpoles parent/carers baby
and toddler group, every Thursday in term time, 1.15
- 2.45pm, Fairview Community Primary School.
Meet other mums for a chat and drink, £2 per family,
ring 01634 338710 or 376270 for details.

November 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, World
Heritage Bid for Chatham - Joanne Cable, St
Matthew's Community Centre, Wigmore, 2.00pm.
For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

November 10th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, tea
& chat, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169
Hempstead Road, 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members
welcome, Phone 01634 366907

November 11th - 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 01634 364309 for details.

November 11th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society 7.15pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral
Road, Gillingham, Local Projects and Works, Wessex
Archaeology, details 01634 854982.

November 11th - MKAS, 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 07717 678795 <http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/>

November 12th - Coffee Morning Rainham Methodist
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 10.00 - 11.30am, Cake

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November 12th - Rainham Evening W.I. Annual Craft
Fair, Millennium Hall, Rainham, 10.00am - 12 noon,
admission 30p, children free, good selection of crafts
for sale, refreshments available. Everyone is welcome.
November 12th - 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.
November 12th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for
Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence
dancing 8.00 - 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738
email s.collins02@btinternet.com
November 12th - RSG Youth Academy for years 5 & 6,
10am to 12noon, details www.rsg.org.uk or ask at your
Primary School, £25 for four sessions Rainham School
for Girls, 01634 362746 email: rya@rsg.org.uk
November 13th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 794821, Haysden
Country Park (fee), 6.5 miles, Haysden Lake, Leigh
and the River Medway, dogs allowed
November 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6
miles, meet Mike at the commuter car park just north
of Bredhurst. Walk is along paths and lanes to
Queensdown Warren via Yelstead. Pub at end.
November 14th - 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.
November 14th - Diabetes UK, Medway Voluntary
Support Group, Public meeting, 7.00 - 9.00pm, St
Pauls Church Hall, Parkwood Guest Speaker on
Research, Questions & Answers - open discussion,
Refreshments available, information please email
medwaydiabetessupport@hotmail.co.uk or telephone
Karen Sheppard 07725 238464
November 14th - Rainham Wives, An Evening of Slides
with Mr Coe, (see 7th Nov).
November 15th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 10.00 pm, £3.00,
The Birds of Southern Europe, Spain & Hungary - Bill
Coster www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.
November 15th - Gillingham Horticultural Society
Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed

Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham,
Christmas Craft. Visitors welcome contact Kay Buss
01634 232998

November 16th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Laura
Smythe Illustrated Talk 'Demelza House', Gift Stall
provided by Demelza House, 7.30pm, Bredhurst
Village Hall, 01634 233554 new members welcome.

November 17th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Christmas
Card Craft, (see 10th Nov).

November 17th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Natural
Health & Beauty - Flynn's Bee Farms - Fudi Austin,
(see 10th Nov).

November 17th - Rainham Women Institute 1.45 -
4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,
Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit.
Ring 01634 366276 for details.

November 17th - Medway Film Makers, 7.30pm, Davis
Estate Community Centre - AGM, ring 01634
360401 or see www.medwayfilmmakers.com

November 18th - Barnardo's Pre-Christmas Evening,
Lower Hall, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 8.00pm,
Stalls, Christmas Buffet, Bring & Buy, Raffle,
Tombola, Cards & Gifts, Donations and gifts much
appreciated, Admission £3.50, Children £1
Refreshments Included, Tickets from committee
members 01634 233405 or 375486 or on the door.

November 19th - RSG Youth Academy (see 12th Nov).

November 19th - Craft and Produce Sale, Millennium
Centre, 9.30am - 12.30pm, Free entry to public.

November 19th - Concert @ GMC, The Kingfisher
Singers, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third
Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Tickets £5.00 on the
door or 01634 575139

November 20th - Riverside Country Park, Autumnal
Leaves, 10am-12noon. For accompanied children
aged 5-12. Drop in any time, £1 per child

November 20th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Graham Starkey 01634 371948,
Harrietsham Railway Station, 5 miles, Hilly in places
with 12 stiles, dogs allowed

November 20th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am,
6.6 miles, meet Tony and Ann 01634 406634 in
Trosley Country park (Pay & Display) some stiles and
some steep steps and slopes. Bring picnic lunch.

November 21st - Rainham Wives, Silent Auction for
our charity, (see 7th Nov).

Continued on Page 11

K. Gillard

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CONCERT @ GMC
 The Kingfisher Singers
 Gillingham Methodist Church
 Third Avenue, Gillingham ME7 2LU.
 Saturday 19th November, 7.30pm
 Tickets £5.00 on the door
 or telephone Office 01634 575139

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
 W.R.V.S. Derby and Joan Club, Upchurch are
 holding their Annual Christmas Bazaar on
 Wednesday 23rd November, Upchurch Village Hall,
 at 10.00am until 12 noon. We will offer hot sausage
 rolls, home made cakes, a craft stall and much more,
 admission is free, all are welcome, we look forward
 to seeing you there. Details contact 01634 268476.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE
 Saturday 26th November, 10.30am -12.30pm
 The St. Georges Hall Scout Headquarters,
 Berengrave Lane, Rainham
 To raise funds for The 4th Gillingham (Rainham)
 Sea Scout Group.
 Entry 50p adults (children free).
 Items Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have made plus
 Phoenix Trading, Henna Tattoos and
 Home made chocolate filled Christmas Crackers.
 Refreshments available
 If you would like to book a table (at £10 each)
 please contact Julie 01634 361061.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE
 Meredale Independent Primary School,
 Solomon Road, Rainham.
 Saturday 26th November 12noon – 3.00pm.
 Traditional Christmas Fayre with something for the
 whole family. Stalls include Handcrafted books,
 handmade bags & purses, Phoenix Cards &
 Stationery, Novelty Cake Company, facepainter,
 raffle & tombola, book & gift stalls, refreshments
 and Santa's Grotto. For more information contact
 Michelle on 07973 235407.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
 Saturday 26th November - Doors open 1.30pm
 Fairview Community Primary School,
 Drewery Drive, Wigmere.
 Admission 30p (pre-school free)
 Come and visit Father Christmas in his grotto.
 Plus tombolas, games, craft, raffles, gifts & more.
 Further details - 01634 302961

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GRAND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
 C.P. Friends of Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre
 Saturday 26th November, 11.00am – 2.00pm.
 St Matthews Community Centre Hall, Drewery
 Drive, Wigmere. The biggest yet - we will be
 packing the Hall with entertainments for all ages
 at our Christmas Bazaar with lots of beautiful bric-a-
 brac, bargain books, seasonal music, cards, crafts
 and decorations, children's tombola & Santa's Lucky
 Dip, raffles, plants, fruit & veg, and glorious new
 gifts galore at low, low prices. High quality
 savouries and cakes will be also be available, so join
 us to grab lots of bargains, relax & get in the "feline
 festive" mood! Entrance only 30p.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 Platters Farm Lodge,
 Highfield Road, Rainham
 November 26th, 10.00am – 3.00pm
 Games, Toys, Toiletries, bric-a-brac books
 Refreshments, For details 01634 377579

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 Deanwood School
 Saturday, 26th November, 12noon - 3.00pm
 Adults 50p, Children 20p, Preschoolers free
 Raffle to be drawn at 2.30pm

BARNADO'S FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING
 Tuesday 29th November, 10.00am
 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham
 Admission £1 includes light refreshments
 Christmas starts here Gifts, Cards, Raffle, and much
 more. Do come and join us.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 Bredhurst Village Hall
 Saturday 3rd December, 2.00 - 4.00pm.
 Father Christmas, our traditional Grand Raffle,
 crafts, games and children's activities.
 Entrance 50p adults, children free.

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

Last October I attended the Harvest Festival at St Margaret's Church. I approached and entered the building to the joyful sounds of the church bells. The inside of the church was decorated with the fruit, flowers, nuts and berries of autumn - including apples, pears, grapes, chrysanthemums, hops, horse chestnuts, holly berries and rose hips. Propped up near the communion table were stalks of wheat and a fancy loaf of bread in the form of a sheaf of wheat. There was a large congregation and a large choir. During the service, conducted by the then curate and reader, two traditional harvest hymns were sung, "We plough the fields, and scatter" and Come, ye thankful people, come".

Harvest festivals of the kind celebrated, generally in October, in churches throughout the country date back only to 1843, when the Rev Robert Hawker invited his parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Harvest hymns composed or translated into English during Victorian times, such as "All things bright and beautiful" and the two hymns sung last year at St Margaret's Church, helped to spread and popularise the holding of harvest festivals, including the custom of decorating churches with home grown produce.

Morwenstow was and is a remote parish between Bude and Clovelly, whose western boundary is the Atlantic Ocean. The Rev Hawker watched the moods of the Atlantic from a hut on the immense cliffs of the parish and, under a ship's figurehead in his churchyard, he buried the bodies of dead sailors. It is quite remarkable that a festival which is celebrated throughout the Anglican world should have originated in a small, dark Norman church at the end of Cornwall and the edge of Europe.

We have been left with a pictorial record of harvest time here in Rainham, in Victorian times, in the form of a stained glass window in St Margaret's Church. At its apex there is a scene of stooks of wheat sheaves over which a native grey partridge glides with out-stretched wings. The window is a memorial to Solomon John Brice who was a farmer and one-time

church warden who died in 1904. Until relatively recently, farmers would meet at the lych gate of their local church, at Harvest Festival, each with a sheaf of corn under his arm, and would follow the choir and clergy in procession into church where they would leave their sheaves on the chancel steps.

Because of the almost universal use of combine harvesters, stooks of corn are rarely seen these days. Grey partridges are much less common than they were in Solomon's day. In his book "Notes on the Birds of Rainham", published in 1894, Walter Prentis, who was also a local farmer, notes that "the grey partridge is generally distributed in the district. Our chalk soil, with hill and valley, field and wood combined, makes excellent sport for the 1st September." Grey partridges could be seen, until fairly recently, at Gore farm in the neighbouring parish of Upchurch. The previous owner, Michael Blee, provided seed food and cover for the birds. As many readers will know, the old mosaic of different habitats has been replaced with serried rows of dwarf apple trees which have little or no wildlife value. I have however spotted grey partridges in Hartlip where there is a mixed habitat of rough ground and fields of wheat and maize. The presence of fairly tame pheasants and red legged partridges indicates that shooting rights are exercised over the areas concerned in the shooting season.

Red legged partridges are easier to spot than the native grey. They are bigger, more colourful and less timid. If caught in the open, with no cover, they will run quickly away with heads held high. If there is cover they will hold their heads down and creep away. I have been informed that, last winter, red legged partridges were occasionally seen in gardens near to Mierscourt Road, on the eastern boundary of Rainham.

In days gone by, house sparrows were perhaps the most common wild birds to be seen in wheat fields. For reason which are not clear, the population of the once common sparrow has been much reduced.

Wood pigeons are now one of the commonest birds in the countryside, being able to feed on a wide range of vegetable matter such as cabbage, young

rape plants, tree buds, cherries, cereal and holly and ivy berries. Along with rabbits, the birds are currently the farmer's worst pest, yet Walter Prentis wrote that, in Rainham, wood pigeons "are not numerous enough to be troublesome". They were doubtless widely shot. Today, nobody wants to bother making pigeon pie - apart from cooks on television.

Joe Ennis

RECREATION GROUND

Rainham's Recreation Ground, which was given to the Parish in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, was frequently in the news for various reasons during the early years of the twentieth century. In March 1901, shortly after the Queen's death, the East Kent Gazette reported that 'There is a feeling in some circles that something should be done at Rainham to perpetuate the memory of our late beloved Queen'. It had been suggested that perhaps a statue of her late Majesty should be erected at the 'Rec', funds for this purpose being raised through a series of concerts. Apparently nothing came of this idea, but perhaps the rather more practical improvements the following year happened instead: several loads of manure were placed round the shrubs, the seats and gates were painted, and the railings were 'tarred to within 12' of the gates'. Whether this meant that they were treated with black bituminous paint as a preservative, or whether this was an early attempt to prevent vandalism I don't know. 'Yobs' are not new, for in 1908 'thirteen young trees that were planted to beautify the park have been wantonly destroyed' and there had apparently been similar damage the previous year. As a result, the Gazette told its readers, 'A watch has been set to catch the miscreant, who appears to scale the railings in the dark and to break up the trees. If any of Baden Powell's boy scouts are to be found squirming around outside the Rec. at night, it will be known what they are there for'. Since this report appeared in November they would have found their watch rather chilly.

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Medway Health Walks in support of the National Walking for Health Campaign - our regular local walks are for people who need to be more active and would enjoy getting out in the company of others at some of our interesting Medway locations. Our walk leaders are fully trained and enthusiastic volunteers who have all experienced the health benefits of walking and will encourage and support you to safely include walking as a regular and enjoyable part of your new healthy lifestyle - just turn up and give it a try.

Every week we offer the following health walks:
Mondays meet Gillian at 10.15am outside the Ship and Trades for a 45-60 minute "maritime walk" around St Mary's Island, Chatham.
Tuesdays meet Rob at 10.15am outside the Visitors Centre for a 45-90 minute "nature walk" through Riverside Country Park, Gillingham
Wednesdays meet Ron at 9.30am at the junction of Star Lane/Darland Avenue for a 45-60 minute "scenic walk" around Darland Banks, Gillingham.
Thursdays meet Barry and Barbara at 9.15am outside the surgery 13 Pump Lane, Rainham for a 45-60 minute "wooded walk" around Cozonten Park and Berengrave Community Woodland.
Saturdays meet Julia at 2.00pm outside Twydall Library for a 90 minute "country lane walk" to Riverside and back with a refreshment break on route
For more information and other Medway Health Walks contact Hazel Gallagher on 01634 331371 or go on line and try 'Natural England/wfh/Find a Walk', enter your post code and find a health walk near you.

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Diary 2011

November 21st – The Monday Hub (see 7th Nov).

November 21st – Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore,
Margaret Clift – Chocolates and Sweets, Visitors
welcome ring 01634 263405 for details.

November 21st – Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Kent Air
Ambulance, competition Towelling, ring 372282

November 22nd – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6.2
miles, meet Tony and Ann 01634 406634 in Trosley
Country park (Pay & Display). There will be some
styles and some steep slopes. Bring picnic lunch.

November 23rd – Capstone Farm Country Park, Tiny
Tots, 10.00am – 1.00pm, suitable for accompanied 2-5
years, please wear old clothes, £1 per child, drop in
any time no need to book.

November 23rd – W.R.V.S. Derby and Joan Club
Upchurch Annual Christmas Bazaar, Village Hall,
10.00 – 12noon Hot sausage rolls, home made cake
stall, craft stall and many more, admission free

November 24th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Service
followed by "Life before a Dog Collar" – Bonnie
Appleton, (see 10th Nov).

November 24th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, tea,
chat and cake sale, (see 10th Nov).

November 24th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Hall, Woodside 7.30pm,
ring 01634 312038 for details.

November 25th – Medway Geographical Society, Adult
Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, 7.30 –
9.00pm 'Work of the Medway Countryside
Partnership' – Mary Tate, Everyone Welcome, For
more information contact 01634 362683

November 25th – MKAS, Naz Rajan and Mike Phillips –
The end of the Space Shuttle (see 11th Nov).

November 26th – Deanwood School Christmas Fayre,
12noon – 3.00pm, Adults 50p, Children 20p,
Preschoolers free, Raffle to be drawn at 2.30pm

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November 26th – RSG Youth Academy (12th Nov).

November 26th – Christmas Bazaar, Fairview

Community Primary School, Wigmore Doors open
1.30pm, Admission 30p (pre-school free) Father
Christmas in his grotto, tombolas, games, craft,
raffles, gifts & more. Further details 01634 302961

November 26th – Christmas Fayre, Platters Farm
Lodge, Highfield Road, 10.00am – 3.00pm Games,
Toys, Toiletries, bric-a-brac books and much more.
Refreshments available details 01634 377579

November 26th – Christmas Craft Fayre, St. Georges
Hall Scout Headquarters, Berengrave Lane,
10.30am – 12.30pm, for 4th Gillingham (Rainham)
Sea Scout Group Entry 50p adults (children free).
Phoenix trading, Henna Tattoos and Home made
chocolate filled Christmas Crackers Refreshments,
Tables (at £10 each) contact Julie 01634 361061.

November 26th – Meredale Independent Primary
School, Solomon Road, Traditional Christmas Craft
Fayre, 12noon – 3.00pm, Handcrafted books,
handmade bags & purses, Phoenix Cards &
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raffle & tombola, book & gift stalls, refreshments
and Santa's Grotto Details Michelle 07973 235407

November 26th – Grand Christmas Bazaar, C.P.
Friends of Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre, 11.00am
– 2.00pm, St Matthews Community Centre Hall,
Wigmore, beautiful bric-a-brac, bargain books,
seasonal music, cards, crafts and decorations,
childrens' tombola & Santa's Lucky Dip, raffles,
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November 26th – Old Barn Orchestral Society,
7.30pm, The Pilkington Building, Universities at
Medway, Chatham Maritime, Dubois: Suite
Miniature, Hayden: Symphony No. 103 "Drumroll",
Weber: Bassoon Concerto, Soloist: Tom Vaughan,
Beethoven: Symphony No. 1, Conductor Bryan
Gipps, Leader Derek Webb, Tickets £10.00
Accompanied children £1.00 from 01795 843228 or
01634 376979 www.oldbarnos.co.uk, In aid of
Demelza Children's Hospice

November 26th – Medway Folk Dance Club (12th Nov)
November 27th – Capstone Farm Country Park,
Mountain Bike Trail, 8.45 – 9.30am, A short trail
with some big hills and ramps, £1 per person, book
in advance 01643 338191.

November 27th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am,
5.5miles, meet Sally in car park in Upper Green
Road opposite Shipbourne Church, off A227 at
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November 27th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Mo Fleisig 01634 632743, Chilham,
park in car park off A252 before the Village Square, 6
miles, hilly in places, several stiles, no dogs
November 28th - Rainham Wives, West Coast USA talk
and slides with Chris Wade, (see 7th Nov).
November 29th - Medway NSPCC Quiz Night,
Mierscourt Primary School, 7.30pm. Tickets £6 pp
includes Ploughman's Supper. Bring your own drink
Teams of 8 Tickets 01634 388587 and 865087.
November 29th - Barnardo's Festive Coffee Morning
Macklands House, Station Road, 10.00am Admission
£1 includes light refreshments Gifts, Cards, Raffle, etc
November 30th - Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham,
Junior Ghost Tour, 7.00pm 1 hour 15 minutes approx.
All Tickets £6 for accompanied children 8 - 16 years,
Information 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com
November 30th - BWAG Talk on Woodland
Archaeology - Lyn Palmer, 7.30pm Bredhurst Village
Hall, members free, £3 non-members at the door details
07813 785940 or bwag@vanessajones.plus.com
December 1st - Wigmore Thursday Club, Forest
Fragrances - John Coppen, (see 10th Nov).
December 1st - Hempstead Leisure Club, Christmas
lunch outing, (see 10th Nov).
December 1st - Darland District WI, Carol Service, St.
Peter's Church, Bredhurst, 2.00pm, all welcome
December 1st - Medway Film Makers (see 17th Nov).
December 3rd - RSG Youth Academy (see 12th Nov).

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December 3rd - Barn Dance, 7.30 - 10.30pm In aid of
Kent Air Ambulance, Millennium Centre, Rainham,
Caller - Supper - BYOB, Raffle / Auction, Tickets
£10 phone Mary 01634 362415

December 3rd - 1st Wigmore Brownies, Christmas
Craft Fair, 12noon - 2.00pm, Bredhurst Primary
School. Entrance free,
December 3rd - St. Peter's Christmas Fayre, Bredhurst
Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Father Christmas,
December 3rd & 4th - Old Reed Bed Studios, The
Street Lower Halstow, Open, 11.00am - 5.00pm
details 01795 842481 info@oldreedbedstudios.co.uk
December 4th - St Margaret's Church, Rainham,
10.30am 'Christingle Service'
December 4th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Trim
Trail, 8.45 - 9.30am, £1 pp book 01634 338191
December 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony
/Ann 01634 406634, 10.00am for 5.5 miles at
Boughton Street outside the White Horse Inn. Bring
snack. Pub at end with meals available.
December 4th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Chris Morris 374923, Upchurch Golf
Club, Christmas Dinner Walk, 4 miles, no dogs
December 4th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821,
Parkwood Shops, 6 miles, undulating some lane /
street walking via Quendown Warren, no dogs
December 4th - Riverside Country Park, Tree Dressing,
11am - 1pm. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12-
years-old. No need to book just turn up, £1 per child
December 8th - BWAG Carol Concert, 7.30pm, St
Peter's Church, Bredhurst, tickets £6 pp (under 16
free) only in advance from 07813 785940
December 9th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, The Victorian Ropery, (see 11th Nov).
December 10th - Gillingham Methodist Church, Third
Avenue, Christmas Tree Festival, 10.00am -
4.00pm with stalls & refreshments, Free admission.
December 10th - Children's Christmas Party, The
Centre (by M2 Service Area) 2.00 - 4.00pm—up to
10 years old, food and a gift from Father Christmas
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