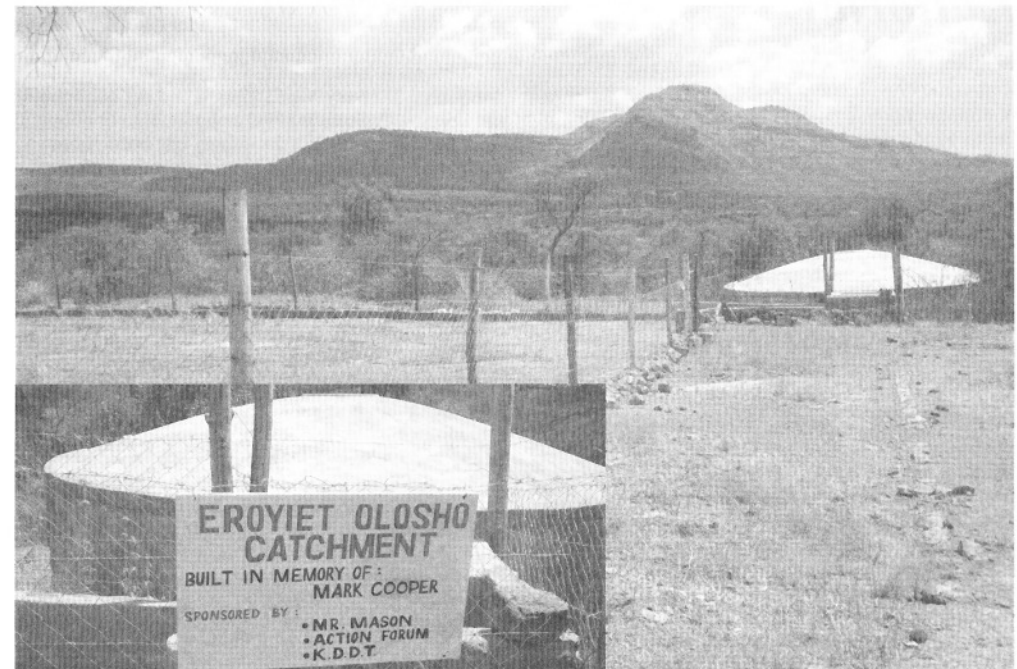


ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

MARCH 2012

NUMBER 473



Action Forum has regularly donated money to the Kajiado District of Kenya. As you can see from the notice this has most recently been used to build a water catchment tank in the Rift Valley to supply clean water to the village. A short report supplied by Roger Milton, who regularly visits the area and coordinates the fund raising, is included in the Editorial on page 2. The grateful villagers sent us gifts - a traditional brightly coloured Kenyan bangle and necklace and Roger has supplied more pictures of the project. For anyone interested these may be seen at Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham. If any school or amateur dramatic group would like the gifts we would be delighted for them to be put to good use.

Robert J. Kitney

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Next Issue April 7th 2012
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Editorial

What a difference a few days can make with our weather. One week we are shivering in sub zero temperatures with compacted snow making an ice rink of any uncleared footpaths and the next we have balmy spring days with brilliant blue skies. Let us hope the brief interlude in February is the only really wintery weather we experience this year.

Already signs of spring are appearing. Snowdrops are one of the first to flower and they make a magnificent show particularly in some Kent Churchyards where the conditions are ideal allowing them to multiply year after year. Having rescued some clumps from a border full of bloom at my aunts when the house was sold (the best time is just after they finish flowering) we are trying to encourage them to spread in our garden but the soil is not the same and progress is slow. At least we still have some this year, they have not completely disappeared, so there is hope yet.

Many people are busy preparing a variety of events for your entertainment later this year. We include details of some in this issue. For example Wigmore is to have an Arts Weekend in the summer. If you are of an artistic nature they would love you to take part. It is hoped all aspects of art will be presented so whether you paint watercolours, make patchwork quilts, create sculptures from discarded rubbish, model with clay or play in a local band the organisers are waiting to hear from you. Following a previous request for help in Action Forum a 'Flights of Fancy' exhibition is now well under way and will be open during the weekend March 31st to April 1st. Raising funds for the Air Ambulance this will celebrate 'everything that flies' so it could have an equally diverse mix as the Arts Weekend.

We can also offer you other opportunities to get out and meet new friends amongst our articles this month. Two ladies clubs are seeking new members, a newly formed choir invites you to join them, several Quiz Nights have spaces for more teams, and a 'Mad March' Coffee Morning fund raising for Barnardo's sounds intriguing. If you would rather sit back and enjoy other people entertaining you we offer Jazz, Concerts and amateur dramatic productions so one way and another March could be a busy month. Regular readers will know that periodically we donate the money that is saved by using volunteer distributors to three good causes, Rainham & South Gillingham

Parishes and a local charity who support a village in Kenya. Roger Milton, one of the organisers of this charity has this month emailed us news about their latest work. He says:

'We visited the Eroyet Olasho Water Catchment on 7th January and were met by a delegation from the community. The catchment is located about 10 km south of Najile in the Rift Valley. We took the signboard that we had painted (listing the sponsors Mr Mason, Action Forum and KDDT) and installed it on the boundary fence as an interim measure but it will be fitted to the side of the tank at a later date. The tank was almost full and the people are very grateful to have access to clean water. The work has been completed to a very high standard and the community are keeping the area in good order.'

It is good to know that the money has been put to such good use - thank you to all who help with our door to door distribution each month. If you feel you would like to take some exercise in a good cause we still need volunteer distributors of Action Forum for a few roads in the area (see page 3 for details). Have a good month and we will see you again in April, it will be time to be planning the garden and summer will be just round the corner by then.

Correspondence

MONDAY HUB

Dear Editor

Readers of Action Forum may like to know that The Monday Hub continues to meet at St Paul's Church, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood. It is open on the following dates between 10.00am and 1.00pm, 5th and 19th March; 2nd, 16th and 30th April; 14th and 28th May. If you would like to speak to somebody before your first visit, do phone Jill Lovell on 230780 and somebody will arrange to meet you at the door. We are sure you will be pleased to "start your week at the Monday Hub".

Yours sincerely
The Monday Hub Team

"FLIGHT OF FANCY."

Dear Editor

Thanks to all who responded to our appeal in Action Forum for stories of the RAF and WAAF. We look forward to welcoming everybody to our Open Garden and "Flight of Fancy" exhibition to celebrate "everything that flies" at 23, Wimbourne Drive, Rainham, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on 31st March and 1st April. Come and raise funds for the Air Ambulance!

Yours sincerely,
Peggy and Peter Rimmer.

JUBILEE CONCERT

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article in the Jan/Feb edition of Action Forum about the celebrations held in Rainham for past royal occasions.

I organised the pageant and concert in Rainham for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and wrote a letter last January asking if any readers would be interested in helping organise a similar event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in June. I received only 2 responses! So from the lack of interest from the people of Rainham I assumed there was little desire to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and I did not pursue the idea.

I will, however, be directing a special concert at the Oasthouse theatre on May 18 & 19th to celebrate this royal milestone. For more details visit the website at www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk or call 01634 374183.

I do hope nearer the time the people of Rainham will wake up to the fact that this historic occasion is indeed a reason to celebrate and a chance to show our appreciation to the hard work and dedication our Queen has given to this country for over 60 years.

Yours sincerely
Dean Caston

MESSY CHURCH AT ST. MARGARET'S

Dear Editor

St. Margaret's Church, in Rainham High Street, will be hosting "Mussy Church" on Saturday, 31st March at 10.30am. Everyone, old and young is welcome. Mussy Church is a lively, interactive way of engaging with the Christian story and our morning will be rounded off with a "bring and share picnic." So come and enjoy!

Yours sincerely
Ann Critchley
01634 379976

ARTS WEEKEND IN WIGMORE

Dear Editor

We are planning a comprehensive Arts Weekend and Art Show during the weekend of 30th June/1st July. We are asking your readers who have an artistic skill if they are prepared to demonstrate, show or teach that skill during the Arts Weekend. Individuals or groups will be welcome: we are hoping to attract as wide a range of artistic skills as possible - from chainsaw art, through dance, painting, needlework, sculpture and music to cooking and graffiti! There will be no need to commit to the whole weekend. We want to encourage everybody to try something new or expand an interest and maybe introduce them to others who approach "art" in the same way.

We are hoping that we can have demonstrations,

formal workshops, come-and-show exhibits in addition to the formal Art Show. Early commitment or show-of-interest will enable us to formulate a varied and exciting programme, which will be advertised Medway-wide closer to "the Weekend". Any art form and any method of demonstrating, teaching or showing it will be encouraged! Participation in the weekend is free and there are no hanging fees for the art show. Space will be available indoors and out (under cover if necessary). Art sales are encouraged but we will be levying a small charge to finance the event for future years. For details and to book please contact Wigmore.arts@hotmail.co.uk 01634 372508, or write with a sae please, to 42, The Goldings, Rainham, ME8 0AX

Yours sincerely
Paul Warren

THE HIDDEN AND THE FORGOTTEN

Another Christmas is over we all had good fun and now have nothing to look forward to but the dreaded Credit Card bills! But, did we ALL have a good time? I know many who did not even remember that Christmas was approaching and that it would soon be 2012. Memory loss (Dementia) in old age is quite common. Those who suffer from this ailment depend on family members or friends to keep them abreast of daily chores or just to encourage them to do things and be more involved with the community. But what if they do not have any family members or friends? How do they then manage? The answer is, they don't! Could you afford to spare 30 minutes of your time per week, just being a companion to someone who is lonely or depressed? At HANDS we have a few volunteers already delivering this invaluable service, but we need many more. Do you think that person is you? If so, kindly contact me on the details below. Thank you so much for taking your time to read this article.

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Diary 2012

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: 13th March

March 4th - A Gentle Service for The Bereaved, Rainham
Methodist Church, 4.00pm./If you would a name(s)
included ring 01634 374231 or nisenut@hotmail.com
March 5th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, St. Paul's
Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood 2.00 - 4.00pm,
new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 261098.
March 5th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church
Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, Tools with a Mission -
talk by Trevor Cox, New members of all ages very
welcome, subs £1.50 details 01634 230639.
March 6th - Barnardo's 'Mad March' Coffee Morning,
10.00am - 12noon, Macklands House, Station Road,
Rainham Admission £1 inc refreshments, Raffle, cards,
bargain books, and 'Anything Goes' All welcome
March 6th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art
Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear
hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 'Mothers Day' living
card and Pre Show discussion. Visitors welcome
contact Kay Buss 01634 232998
March 6th - Every Tuesday 7.30 - 9.00pm Reiki and
Spiritual Healing is freely given, The Centre -Mind
Body Spirit, Farthing Corner, 01634 366944
www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk
March 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm
Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham,
Designing Your Garden - Russell Williams, New
members welcome, ring 366276 for details
March 7th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Millennium Centre,
Rainham, Talk by Jenny Monk, a tour guide at
Sissinghurst Gardens, New members of all ages
welcome, details contact Margaret Meinertzhagen
01795 475907 or Hilary Noakes 01634 364618
March 8th - Hempstead Leisure Club - Make or Bake
Fund Raising, Hempstead Village Hall, behind All
Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road, 2.00 - 4.00pm.
New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907
March 8th - Twydall Village Garden Club speaker Pippa
Greenwood from the BBC giving a talk at the Nye
Bevin Hall, Twydall Lane, 8.00pm.. Ticket only, phone
01634 374335.

March 8th -10th & 15th - 17th - 'Kindertransport' by
Diana Samuels, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm.
Tickets 0844 8793224 www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
March 9th - MKAS, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood
Road, second and last Friday each month, 7.45pm.
Annual General Meeting. Details Trev 07717 678795
or http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/
March 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group
Millennium Centre every Friday 9.45am to noon, to
help people who have lost their spouse/partner, join
us for a cuppa & chat, ring Julie 364309 for details.
March 9th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society 7.15pm, United Reformed Church, Balmoral
Road, Gillingham, Smuggling, Mr. C. Baldwin,
details 01634 854982.
March 9th - An evening of Clairvoyance with special
guest Medium Robin Hodson, 7.30 - 9.00pm, £5.00,
(see 6th Mar).
March 10th - Riverside Country Park, Family Discovery
Walk, 10.00am - 12noon £1.50 per person, Book in
advance 01634 337432
March 10th - RAMASES Lecture, 2.30pm, Newington
Village Hall - John Dewey 'The Princes' Tombs in
the Valley of the Queens' - tickets Members £6.00
Guests £8.00 from B Peterken 10, Sydney Avenue,
Sittingbourne, ME10 1XX or on the door, more
details ramasesnk@hotmail.com or 01795 472316
March 10th - Fort Pitt Old Girls Association Quiz Night
at school, 7 for 7.30pm. Teams up to 8, £5 per head
includes Ploughman's supper, Contact 01795 599378
(eves and weekend) by 8th March to book a table
March 10th - Wine & Wisdom, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Wigmore, 7.00pm, Bring Your
Own Food and Drinks Tickets £5, from 01634
379139 or 07833 103847 aap@livings.eclipse.co.uk
March 10th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls,
Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634
363738 email s.collins02@btinternet.com

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March 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike
10.00am for 7.5 mile walk at Higham Rail Station free
parking. Pub at end
March 11th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Otford Railway Station (charges) for
Solar system walk, 5 miles, no dogs
March 12th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Young
Professional Singer, (see 5th Mar).
March 12th - Rainham Wives, Flowers for Emma - talk
and slides wit Sue & John Pearce, (see 5th Mar).
March 13th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,
History of Maritime Painting, St George Hotel, New
Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. All visitors most
welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 0147 482 3606
March 13th - Telling Tales, Storytelling for Adults,
8.00pm, Hastings Arms, 18 Lower Rainham Road,
Tales from the Emerald Isle by Kate Corkey with
Ramona Egle Celtic Harp, Low Whistle and Violin £6,
details 01634 852614 email tony.ed@mac.com
March 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Frank/Mim
10.00am for 7.75 miles Goudhurst by the village pond.
Circular walk to Lamberhurst, (could be muddy).
Bring Picnic lunch, Pub at end.
March 14th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Sheila
Boyd - To Marry an English Lord, ring 01634 389966
March 14th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village
Hall, 7.30pm, Demonstration by David Thompson
Titled "Pot Luck" information 01634 863034
March 15th - Hempstead Leisure Club - Games, Tea &
Chat (see 8th Mar).
March 15th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed
by Birthday Tea & entertainment, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 2.00pm. For
people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.
March 15th - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 -
4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,
Rainham, Speaker on The Trials and Tribulations of a
Public Speaker, Visitors welcome for small entry
charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details
March 16th - Jazz at the RAF Association Club, Dock
Road, Chatham, top trumpeter Quentin Collins
8.30pm admission £10, enquiries 01634 365352.
March 17th - 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 17th - Rainham South Ward Councillors
Surgery, Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am -
12noon, no appointment necessary.
March 17th - Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall,
Rainham, 10.00 - 11.00am, Cake Stall, Bric-a-Brac
and Traidcraft Table, all welcome for coffee & chat.
March 17th - Concert, Old Barn Orchestra, 7.30pm,
Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone, Tickets £10 (acc
children £1) 01634 376979 www.oldbarnos.co.uk
March 18th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821, Perry
Wood, 4 miles, a Crafty walk, dogs allowed
March 18th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, help the Park volunteers,
learn what they do and talk to them. Refreshments
provided. Free, register interest 01634 337432
March 18th - Junior Ranger Team, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, school holidays for
pond dipping, mini-beast hunting, mammal surveying,
habitat building and bird watching. For age 8 - 12
years old, £2.50 per child, book 01634 338191
March 18th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Bob/Kath
10.00am for 5.5 mile walk at Cock Horse PH,
Detling. Walk to Thurnham and Coldblow Hill, many
steep climbs and many steps, Pub at end.
March 18th - SDBIT Songs and Sandwiches Afternoon
Tea, 3.30 - 6.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham,
Ticket, £5, Contact Olwen 01634 263622 for tickets
March 19th - Parkwood Leisure Club, 'London is
Stranger Than Fiction' a talk (see 5th Mar).
March 19th - Rainham Wives, Growing Old
Disgracefully - talk by June Faulkner, (see 5th Mar).
March 19th - Medway Diabetes Group public meeting,
St Pauls Church Hall, Parkwood, 7.00pm, call 07725
238464 or edwaydiabetesupport@hotmail.co.uk
March 19th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm Millennium Centre, Rainham, Magic of the
Middle East - Mrs Ann Hall, competition Favourite
Place, Picture or Postcard, details 01634 372282
March 19th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthews
Community Centre, Veronica Wiseman - Kent Air
Ambulance, Visitors welcome ring 01634 263405
March 20th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 10.00pm, £3.00,
Travels with a Camera - Brett Lewis. For Walks see
www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

Continued on Page 11

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RAINHAM WIVES
 We would like to draw attention to our Rainham
 Wives Club which meet in the Millennium Centre,
 Rainham, on the first Wednesday of every month at
 8.00p.m. We always enjoy a good evening together.
 The group originated in 1965 through a number of
 'mums' who met during the Holding St. Clinic
 sessions. When they no longer needed to attend the
 clinic it was decided to form a group to get together
 to carry on chatting! Each month we have a series of
 interesting speakers, meals out, Bring and buys etc.
 So ladies, once a month, bung your knitting back in
 the bag, switch the T.V over to the football channel
 and spend the evening with us! No age restrictions,
 just remember to bring your sense of humour along!
 You are assured of a warm welcome and we look
 forward to seeing you.
 For further details contact: Hon.Secs.
 Margaret Meinertzhagen 01795 475907
 Hilary Noakes 01634 364618

APPEAL FOR HELP
 The Historical research Group of Sittingbourne
 (HRGS) is very keen to learn the whereabouts of
 some pottery and other finds discovered near
 Hurstwood Farm at Bredhurst by Mr L.A. Griffiths,
 who conducted an archaeological survey there in
 1964. Mr Griffiths once lived in Gillingham and then
 moved to Sussex. Efforts to locate him or the finds
 have as yet proved unsuccessful. The group has
 recently re-excavated Mr Griffiths' site where they
 hope to find evidence of a medieval manor house.
 Large amounts of flint and tile have been re-
 discovered and carefully recorded. If you think you
 may know of Mr Griffiths, or you have information
 that may help locate the artefacts, please call Richard
 Emmett 07778 793079 email richard@hrgs.co.uk

OLD BARN ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY
 Saturday 17th March, 7.30pm
 The Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone
 Karelia Suite Op 11 - Jean Sibelius
 Danse macabre - Camille Saint-Saëns
 Symphony No 1 in C minor Op 68 –
 Johannes Brahms
 Concerto for Flute and Orchestra No 1 in G
 K 313 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
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 Jane, she supply's needle skills tuition for a variety
 of projects - materials are £10.00 + £5.00 tuition,
 then £5.00 thereafter for the length of the project.
 Maybe she could help with an idea you have in mind
 Come along & join us for good company, creativity,
 tea & biscuits 50p, details ring Pat 01634 366873.

FRIENDS OF HEMPSTEAD LIBRARY
 We hope to set up a Friends group for Hempstead
 Library. The Friends support the library service in a
 number of ways including helping at events..
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 chair of the Friends of Medway Libraries, for more
 information by email at scfield@blueyonder.co.uk or
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

In late January I visited two of the nature reserves of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, those at Cliffe and Dungeness. The former is one of the Society's newest reserves and the latter is its oldest. They are similar in that thousands of waders and wildfowl, mostly from abroad, spend the winter at each reserve. However, the landscapes of which the reserves are comprised are very different.

The Cliffe reserve lies on the Hoo Peninsula, to the south west of Cliffe village, and was once under threat as the site of London's fourth airport. Although there are plans for a visitor centre at the reserve, the public facilities currently amount to little more than a fairly large car park. However, the RSPB has had to carry out a lot of work before it could open the reserve, such as the removal of fly-tipped rubbish, contaminated soil and burnt-out cars. Having parked my car, I headed for a view-point called "The Pinnacle", which is a pyramid chalk cliff left over from quarrying. From there I had an aerial view of the reserve which consists of fresh water, saline and brackish pools interspersed with scrubby bushes and grassy marshlands. The pools have been created by the digging of clay for the one-time cement industry. I could see hundreds of avocet, lapwing, black tailed godwit, wigeon and dunlin feeding on the edges of the pools. At high tide large flocks of waders such as dunlin wheel in from the mud banks along the Thames to roost on the islands in the pools. Unfortunately I was not there at the right time to witness any spectacular aerial displays.

I did not tarry too long on the view-point, as I was exposed to a bitterly cold, northerly wind. I could hear jackdaws calling to each other on the other side of "The Pinnacle" as they perched in the sunshine and out of the wind. Having descended to ground level, I took a short walk between two of the pools where lots of little grebes (or dabchicks) were diving, I assumed, for fish. As I returned to my car I made a mental note to visit the reserve in the spring, when the weather should be kinder, and when I hoped to be able to hear the calls of turtle doves and nightingales in the scrubby areas of the reserve. The latter is planned to

become the RSPB's flagship reserve on the north Kent Coast, with the necessary public facilities. In the meantime, the nearest toilets and places of refreshment for visitors are at Cliffe village and Cooling.

The headland of Dungeness juts into the English Channel between Folkestone and Hastings. It forms the largest shingle formation of its kind in Europe. Not unnaturally, the RSPB's reserve there consists largely of shingle, but also includes fresh water pools, grassland and reed beds. The Society's association with Dungeness dates back to 1905 when two "watchers" were appointed to guard birds breeding there, including stone curlew and Kentish plover. The entrance to the reserve is on the Dungeness Road about half way between Lydd and the coast. My January visit had got off to a good start upon seeing a large flock of Bewick's swans in a field adjoining the Dungeness Road. The swans are winter visitors from arctic Russia.

Hopefully, visitors to the Cliffe reserve will, in due course, enjoy the same facilities as are provided at Dungeness, namely, a visitor centre with a well-stocked shop, toilets and disabled access. The centre overlooks Burrowes Pit, the largest of the fresh water pools. Here one can sit, in warmth and comfort, and watch the birds through plate glass windows. During my own visit I noted ducks such as shoveller, wigeon, pintail, teal and pochard. I was told by a lady volunteer at the centre that a bittern was present in the reed beds at Denge Marsh. So I followed a group of birdwatchers with telescopes slung over their shoulders as they headed for the hide overlooking the marsh. It was almost standing room only when I got there but, I found myself a seat, and my neighbour kindly pointed out the bittern to me. It was the first of the species that I had ever seen. The bird is a large, tawny and brown marsh heron which is normally very secretive and difficult to spot. As I completed the circular walk around the reserve, a large flock of lapwing flew overhead, identified by their characteristically slow, floppy flight.

I decided to head for Dungeness Point, near the nuclear power stations, because guillemots, razor bills, kittiwakes

and gannets had been reported to be feeding in the sea off The Point. When I arrived there anglers were fishing from the water's edge along the bottom of the shingle bank and birdwatchers were lined up along the top. Apparently, fishing boats had been coming across large shoals of whiting and school bass, which were attracting the sea birds. A birdwatcher I met in the hide invited me to view the birds through his telescope, since it was difficult to hold my binoculars steady in the strong wind. To complete my comparison with Cliffe, I should add that hungry visitors to Dungeness can obtain fish and chip lunches at The Pilot Inn, The Britannia Inn and (at weekends only in winter) The Light Railway Cafe. Joe Ennis

SQUARE KNITS

We have again been able to take very many blankets, tank tops and other knitted goodies to Blythwood, and are very grateful to all who knit for us. Unfortunately our limited storage facilities have now dried up, so, from now on, could you please take your knitting to the Methodist Church Hall in Wakeley Road, where a group meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, between 10am and midday, but not in August or December. Please do not leave knitting at any other time.

If anyone would like to knit blankets, you need no. 8 needles, DK wool, cast on 30 stitches, knit 60 rows, this should give a 6 inch square, depending on tension. 10 squares makes one strip, 8 such strips makes one blanket. Strips can be knitted in one long length, changing colour only when at the end of the ball of wool. If knitting squares for us to sew up, please leave ends long enough for sewing up. Our thanks to all our loyal knitters, and happy knitting in 2012.

Mary 234053 Madeline 375486

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TELLING TALES

Storytelling for Adults

Hastings Arms, 18 Lower Rainham Road, Tuesday 13th March, 7.30 for 8.00pm

Tales from the Emerald Isle
Admission £6. Details from Tony Edwards 01634 852614 email tony.ed@mac.com

'A BIRD-IN-THE-HAND - YES REALLY!'

Sunday, 25th March, 10am - 1pm

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Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st March, 7.30pm

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MACMILLAN SPRING FAIR

Saturday 31st March, 9.30am – 12noon.

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By Eric and Mini

Saturday 31st March, 7.00pm

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Diary 2012

March 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham 07989 753278, 9.45am for 12 mile linear bus pass walk at Wateringbury public car park off Bow Road to catch 9.53am bus. Bring Picnic lunch, pub at end.
March 21st - Bredhurst Garden Club, Spring Show, Margaret Clift Demonstration 7.30pm, Village Hall, 01634 233554, new members welcome.
March 22nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Experiences of a Hospital Guide, David Webster, (see 15th Mar).
March 23rd - Medway Geographical Society, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.00pm 'An Egyptian Experience' - Joanne Cable, Everyone Welcome, information 01634 362683
March 24th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, 2.30 – 4.30pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Spring Show, All welcome contact Kay Buss 01634 232998
March 24th - Junior Ranger Team, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am – 11.00am, study nature at the park. monthly activities, For age 5 – 12 years must be accompanied, £1.50 per child, book 01634 337432
March 24th - "Crucifixion" (Stainer) Come and Sing Rochester Choral Society, 7.00pm rehearsal 4.30pm, Rochester Cathedral, Tickets: £14, Details: 01634 401049 www.rochesterchoral.co.uk
March 24th - Indoor Boot Fair 10.00m – 2.00pm, St Mary The Virgin Church, Newington, Tables £10, 01795 842478 laneatborden@btinternet.com
March 25th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, Oare Marshes Visitors Centre, 5.5 miles, muddy, no dogs
March 25th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike 10.00am, at Bredhurst commuter car park, 7 miles to Queendown Warren. Bring Picnic lunch, Pub at end.
March 26th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Lifeboats a talk by R.N.L.I. (see 5th Mar).
March 26th - Rainham Wives, Recipe Swap & Tasting, (see 5th Mar).

March 28th - Junior Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, 7.00pm, 1 hour 15 minutes Tickets £6, For children aged 8 – 16 years, information ring 01634 847747, or see www.fortamherst.com
March 28th - 31st - "Annie" Brook Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm, Matinee 31st March, 2.30pm Tickets £12, £10 cons family tickets 07504 855826 for details
March 29th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed by a Singalong, (see 15th Mar).
March 29th - Hempstead Leisure Club – Games, Tea & Chat (see 8th Mar).
March 29th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, ring 01634 312038 or 366183
March 30th - MKAS, Greg Smye Rumsby - 12756 (see 9th Mar).
March 31st - Capstone Bushcraft Day, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am – 3.00pm, learn bushcraft skills, mallet making, fire building, wild food foraging, open fire, whistle making and more. Suitable for adults and children over 7 years, £10 per person, book in advance 01634 338191
March 31st - Indoor Crafts Bazaar and Boot Fair, 9.00am - 1.00pm, Lower Halstow Village Hall to book a table call 01795 844408 or 01795 843679.
March 31st - St. Margaret's Church, Rainham, Messy Church, 10.30am, old and young welcome to a lively Christian story, bring and share picnic details Ann Critchley 01634 379976
March 31st - Macmillan, Spring Fair, 9.30am - 12.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. For tables (cost £10) contact 01634 388111 or 01634 233930.
March 31st - Concert by Eric and Mini, 7.00pm, Methodist Church, Station Road, Rainham, Tickets £5 for Action for Children details 01634 389497
March 31st - St Matthews Community Centre, Dance to Live Music, 8.00 – 11.00pm, £5 a ticket. Bring your own refreshments, tickets 01634 387425, tombola.
March 31st - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 17th Mar).

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Diary 2012

March 31st & April 1st - Open Garden and "Flight of
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4.00pm, raising funds for the Air Ambulance
April 1st - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park,
(see 18th Mar).
April 1st - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Mo Fleisig 01634 362743, Chartham
Village Hall car park, 5 miles, North Downs Way via
Orchards and Woodland, one slight incline, no dogs
April 1st - Service with guest Mediums, 6.30 - 8.30pm,
Raffle, tea and coffee after the service. Entrance £1
Healing is always available after the service. The
Centre - Mind Body Spirit, Farthing Corner, 01634
366944 www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk
April 2nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Easter Service, (see
5th Mar).
April 2nd - Rainham Wives, Easter Posies & Hot Cross
Buns, (see 5th Mar).
April 3rd - GHS Floral Art Group, Basic Shapes -
workshop with Carol. (see 6th Mar).
April 4th - Easter Bunny Hunt, Riverside Country Park,
11.00am - 3.00pm. Track the bunny through the park
with a fun quiz trail, small prize for every child who
enters, for 5 - 12 years, must be accompanied by an
adult. £2 per child, book in advance 01634 337432
April 4th - Rainham Wives, Talk by Barry Euden,
Registrar, (see 7th Mar).
April 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Spring Show -
Judge: Dusty Miller, (see 7th Mar).

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April 5th - Wigmore Thursday Club, An Easter Talk -
Ted Hurst, (see 15th Mar).
April 5th - Hempstead Leisure Club - Clinical
Hypnotherapy - Gerry Pannett (see 8th Mar).
April 6th - Easter Bunny Hunt, Capstone Farm Country
Park, book in advance 01634 338191 (see 4th Mar).
April 6th - Upchurch Choral Society, Conductor Helen
Osborne, Organist Sue Rossiter, Handel's Messiah,
7.00pm, St Mary's Church, Entrance free, Retiring
collection for Leukaemia Research, All welcome.
April 6th - Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst, Dock Road,
Chatham, 7.30 - 8.30pm, 1 hour 15 minutes approx,
Tickets £10, No under 8's details 01634 847747,
Book on line or in the Caveyard Café, Pre Booking is
advised or see www.fortamherst.com
April 6th - Evening of Clairvoyance with Brenda
Cottingham, (see 9th Mar).
April 7th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821,
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