AGTON FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

OCTOBER 2012 NUMBER 481



This month Joe Ennis ventured to Newington, and Lower Halstow to compile his Nature Notes, (see page 8). The Edith May Barge - pictured here during a snowy winter - is once again moored in Lower Halstow creek and will be re-opening an on board tea room on Thursday October 25th, 10.30am – 4.00pm, then Thursday to Sunday throughout the winter season, serving homemade cakes and light lunches. Fore more details see www.edithmay.com

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Editorial

After seven years of anticipation the Olympics have come and gone and as a country we have to move on to the next challenge. I must admit I could not raise much enthusiasm when the tickets for the games first went on sale, certainly not to compete in a bidding war only to end up with nothing at all as I understand was the fate of many hopeful spectators. But in common with a large proportion of the population when the games actually arrived I began to wish I had previously made more effort. Eventually it transpired a friend, who had been more persistent, had a spare ticket for the final session of athletic competition of the Paralympics in the main stadium. So on a gloriously hot, sunny, late summer afternoon we spent the time in the Olympic Park. I was very impressed even though this was the final day of competition everything was still running very efficiently. Despite the vast crowd the only queues were for refilling drinking water bottles and that was hardly arduous and Dear Editor offered celebrity spotting opportunities, open theatre events and banter amongst the crowd. Of course six weeks on from the opening ceremony the blooms in the wild flowers meadows, which I had been particularly interested to see, were mostly over but enough colour remained to show what a splendid sight the fire engine whenever this was needed. In summer they will be again in years to come. It will be well worth visiting the park next July. After all our GB medal achievements we only had two national competitors to cheer during the evening but several of our party were Polish and Poland achieved three medals during the session, one bronze and two golds. so we were able to join in the reflected glory during the Victory Ceremonies. As this was the concluding session all the events were finals and we were able to cheer Oscar Pistorius to victory in the T44 400 metres, a fitting finale to the Paralympics track and field competition. All in all it was a very enjoyable experience which showed Britain at its best - hats off to the volunteer Games Makers who even at eleven o'clock at night, as we made our way out of the park, were still leading sing songs and keeping the crowd entertained.

It hardly seems possible but this month we begin the long run up to Christmas with some sales and events already anticipating the festive season! Before then we have Bonfire Night and the Upchurch Family Fireworks invite you to join them in the 17th year of their celebrations at Westmoor Farm off the A2 in

Rainham on Saturday November 3rd. Various other spooky events are planned around Halloween at the end of October by Fort Ameherst. If these do not appeal we have many more events listed within our pages and in the Diary so do please read on to discover more. Have a good month - we will see you again in November.

Correspondence

BLOORS PLACE GHOST

Dear Editor

I have been doing some research into the Bloor family of Rainham for a number of years. I am particularly interested in Bloors Place itself, and in the story of Christopher Bloor's ghost. I seem to recall reading a letter in Action Forum some time ago (could be a decade!) from someone who claimed they had heard the sound of a carriage while staying on the A2 in Rainham. I don't have any further details I'm afraid, but I would very much like to know more. I would also be very interested to hear any stories that Action Forum readers might have about Bloors Place, or anything to do with the farm, its history (and ghost). It has long been my intention to write a book about it.

> Many thanks, Stephen Holley 01634 230544 e-mail eh006e6857@blueyonder.co.uk

A SOUND OF RAINHAM PAST

Living in Tufton Road a childhood sound I remember was that of the maroon rocket going off in the air with a loud bang to summon the part-time firemen to the fire station in Milton/Webster Road. In seconds they would arrive on foot, bicycle and a few by car to man this was frequently for grass alight on the railway embankment or a cornfield burning adjoining the railway line, set alight by sparks from a passing steam train. All this, of course, created great excitement among witnessing children - unless it was in school time when we would be in school being taught by your writer, Helena Thomas.

> Yours sincerely Alan Major 41 Heaton Road. Canterbury CT1 3PY

WINE AND WISDOM

Dear Editor

St Matthew's Church fund raising committee are holding a Wine and Wisdom on Saturday 24th November in St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive Wigmore. Tickets are £6 with suggested tables of 6-8 people. Bring your own food and drink. 7.00pm for 7.30 prompt start.

> Yours sincerely Alan Spearink 01634 370492 atspearink@yahoo.com

MUSICAL 'BILLY'

Dear Editor,

The Three Towns Theatre Company are proud to present their latest show "Billy". Billy is a musical based on the novel and play "Billy Liar". It was a three £502.50 from tickets and donations. Many thanks to -year smash hit at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 1974, which launched the stage career of Michael Crawford.

Billy Fisher lives with Mum, Dad and Gran in Stradhoughton and is an undertaker's clerk - but he is an inherent dreamer and in his own mind he is President of Ambrosia, a film star, a scriptwriter and anything else that happens to occur to him! However, nobody else believes him, certainly neither Barbara nor Rita, to both of whom he has promised marriage, though there is only one engagement ring! He frantically tries to lie his way out so he can run away with Liz, the only girl who understands him.

With songs such as 'Ambrosia' and 'Some of us belong to the stars', this is a funny, fast paced show.

The show is at The Brook Theatre, Chatham from 1st -3rd November at 7.30pm with a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are £12 with £10 concessions available by calling 01634 338338 more information is available on our website www.threetownstheatrecompany.co.uk

AUTUMN BAZAAR

Dear Editor

St. Margaret's Church, Rainham Autumn Bazaar. Saturday 3rd November 10.00am - 2.30pm On 13th October 1952 St. Margaret's held it's first Autumn Bazaar. Sixty years later we are still going strong and raising, with your help, vital funds for the upkeep of our Parish Church and it's pastoral care in the community! This is not just a Bazaar, it is also a pleasant break to catch up with 'chums' and chat. Perhaps over a Ploughmans Lunch or 'cuppa and cake' either before, or after, visiting the good variety of stalls and buying a winning ticket for the various raffles.

Our Vicar, Rev'd Judy will be opening the event and will be around to join in the proceedings and say hallo. (She is already aware of the special character and humour of Rainham folk!)

> See you there! Margaret Meinertzhagen Bazaar Organiser 01795 475907

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THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY

Inspired by Samantha Dickson

A Charity concert was held at St Margaret's Parish Church, Rainham on 15th September and raised all who helped.

Next Event: Charity Day Table Top Sale Holy Trinity Church Hall Twydall, Gillingham Saturday 3rd November, 12noon - 3.00pm Stalls available and refreshments will be provided Please support your local charities.

Further information contact Olwen 01634 263622

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

by Rogers & Hammerstein Presented by GDS The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone 10th - 13th October, 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.30pm Tickets £10 - £14 From Box Office 01622 758611 or book online www.ticketsource.co.uk

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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: 16th October

October 5th & 6th - 'An Evening with Billy Bragg'. celebrating 40 years in show business with a trip down memory lane, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm Tickets £10 0844 8793224 www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

October 6th - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham, 2.00pm, Admission 20p.

October 6th - 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 01634 366189 or 388546

October 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Pete & Kate Ware 07751 879003, 10.00am at Hollingbourne Railway Station for 5 mile circular walk, pubs at end.

October 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Chris Strachan & Karl Martin 10.00am at Market Car Park, Rochester for 9.5 mile walk to Wouldham steep climb to North Downs Way, bring picnic lunch.

October 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk, meet Kevin Nicholas 07515 330276, 10.00am at Eastry High Street car park near the church for 5 mile generally flat circular walk, dogs allowed.

October 7th - Bird Box and Animal Home Making. Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, £5 per home, book 01634 337432.

October 7th - The Lions Club of Gillingham Harvest Teas The Millennium Centre, Rainham, 3.30-6.00pm.For free invitation ring Brenda Woodrow 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles 01634 373840

October 8th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, St Paul's Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 373594.

October 8th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 'Norway' illustrated talk by June & Alan Parkin. New members of all ages welcome. subs £1.50 per meeting, details 01634 230639.

October 9th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, AGM and Speaker St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm all visitors are made most welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 0147 482 3606

October 10th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Martyn Harrison - A-Z of Musicals, ring 01634 389966 for more details.

October 10th - Medway Poetry Group meet 40, Birling Avenue, Rainham 7.30 - 9.30pm, all interested welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

October 10th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Workshop "A few of my favourite things" Tutored by Pat Williams, For further information please telephone 01634 863034

October 10th - 13th - The Sound of Music by Rogers & Hammerstein, Presented by GDS, The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, 7.30pm, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm, Tickets £10 - £14 from Box Office 01622 758611 or book online www.ticketsource.co.uk

October 11th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Is the Yeti Real? - Rupert Matthews, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, For over 50, ring 235507 for details

October 11th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church. Speaker Robin Bush, 'Fun at the Factory'. Tea and chat, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome, Phone 01634366907.

October 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group Millennium Centre every Friday 9 45am - noon to help people who have lost their spouse/partner, join us for a cuppa & chat, ring Julie 364309 for details.

October 12th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.15pm 'My Family at War' John Wigley, information Ron Baker 01634 854982

October 12th - MKAS, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, second and last Friday each month, 7.45pm. Konrad Malin Smith - Time and Space. Details 07983 398326 or www.midkentastro.org.uk.

October 13th - 'Pumpkin Day' Friends of Bredhurst School School Fete 12noon - 2.00pm. BBQ, Cake Stall, Face Painting, Craft Activities, Teddy Tombola, Welly Chucking, Raffle & lots more!

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October 13th - Concerts @ GMC, The Chatham Citadel Band, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.00 on the door or 01634 575139

October 13th - Rainham Ladies Choir with The UK Paper Band and special guests the Minnesingers 7.30pm, Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Outlet Centre, Tickets £10 (child 12 and under £5) 01634 370797, 371880 Raffle / progs in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk

October 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk, meet Roger Norman 01634 232404, 10.00am at Kings Wood, Challock car park(1km down White Hill) for 5.5 mile walk with one slope, dogs allowed.

October 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Mike Collins 07855 929404, 10.00am at Aylesford Village car park just south of village for 12 mile walk, steep climb to the North Downs Way and descending to Wouldham, bring picnic lunch

October 14th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm Free 01634 337432

October 15th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm Millennium Centre, Rainham, From Medway to the Med - Mr Michael Bunn, competition Mis-Shaped Vegetable, ring 01634 372282 for details.

October 15th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Library Services Sarah Jenkins, (see 8th Oct).

October 15th - Rainham Wives, AGM and Harvest Supper (see 8th Oct).

October 15th to 20th - Sunburst Books, 21-23 Station Road, Rainham, Big Stock Clearance Sale, Half Price Sale of Second Hand Books, Videos, DVDs, CDs and Vinyl Records, Shop open Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm

October 15th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Lucy Allen - Stuntwoman From Titanic to Harry Potter, Visitors welcome

October 15th - Autumn Indoor Fair, Wigmore Darby & Joan Club (social club for persons over 50) 2.15pm Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, Admission 25p For details about the fair or club ring 01634 362662

October 16th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm, £3.00, A Year in Mote Park - Simon Ginnaw, For Walks see www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

October 16th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, AGM and Show schedules. Visitors welcome contact Kay Buss 01634 232998

October 17th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Ken Turner -'House Plants Care and Purchase', 7.30pm, Village Hall, 01634 233554, new members welcome.

October 18th - Rainham WI 1.45 - 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker on Doodlebugs and Rockets, Visitors welcome small charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details

October 18th - Hempstead Leisure Club, (see 11th Oct). October 18th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Fire Safety in the Home - Kent Fire Service, (see 11th Oct).

October 19th - Jazz Gig, RAF Association Club, Dock Road, Chatham, 8.30pm, Enrico Tomasso/ Alan Barnes Ouintet, Admission £10, All Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544312743 Website Coljazz.webs.com

October 20th - Rainham South Ward Councillors will be holding a surgery at Parkwood Community Centre from 9.30am - 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

October 20th - Junior Ranger Team, Riverside Country Park, 10.00 - 11.00am For youngsters 5 - 12 years accompanied by adult, £1.50, book 01634 337432

October 20th - Pamper Day, Medway & Swale (West) Breast Cancer Support Group for Breast Cancer Patients 10.00am - 4.00pm, Medway Maritime Hospital, details 01634 825033

October 20th - The Friends Of St Margaret's Church Knowledge & Nibbles Evening, The Millennium Centre, 7.30pm (prompt) Food provided bring own drinks & glasses Tables of 8 - £6 pp Advance booking essential, Contact Kay 230430 or Lesley 379796

October 20th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th Oct). October 20th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738 email s.collins02@btinternet.com

October 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Bob & Kath Dyson 10.00am Chequers PH Old Loose Hill for 4 mile walk to Tovil ponds, pub at end.

October 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk, meet John Williams 01622 764821, 10.00am at Meopham Green for 5 mile hilly walk with 16 stiles, dogs allowed.

October 21st - BWAG, Volunteer Task Days, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Lunch and refreshments provided, Steve Wright 07801 386264 or stevewright50@btinternet.com October 21st - The Lions Club of Gillingham Harvest

Teas (see 7th Oct).

Continued on Page 11

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HARVEST TEAS

Lions Club of Gillingham Teas for Senior Citizens Sundays 7th and 21st October, 3.30 - 6.00pm. The Millennium Centre, Rainham For a free invitation write to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1, Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham ME8 7QX, or telephone Brenda on 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840. Transport can be arranged if required.

RAINHAM LADIES CHOIR

In Concert with The UK Paper Band (Sittingbourne) and special guests the Minnesingers Male Voice Choir from Wales Saturday 13th October, 7.00 for 7.30pm Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Outlet Centre, Leviathan Way, Chatham ME4 4LL Tickets £10 (child 12 and under £5) From 01634 370797, 371880 or 365806 Raffle / programmes in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk

'PUMPKIN DAY'

Friends of Bredhurst School School Fete Saturday 13th October 12noon - 2.00pm. BBQ, Cake Stall, Face Painting, Craft Activities, Teddy Tombola, Welly Chucking, Raffle & lots more! Bredhurst C E P School, Bredhurst Kent, ME7 3JY

AUTUMN INDOOR FAIR

Wigmore Darby & Joan Club (a social club for persons over 50) Monday 15th October, from 2.15pm Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore Admission 25p

Cakes, preserves, gifts, craft items, tombola, raffle, refreshments etc

For more details about the fair or club ring 01634 362662

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PAMPER DAY

Medway & Swale (West) Breast Cancer Support Group for Breast Cancer Patients Saturday October 20th, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Medway Maritime Hospital, Relexology, Reiki, Manicure, Facials etc Raffle & refreshments For information or to register please contact Breast Care Nurses 01634 825033

KNOWLEDGE & NIBBLES EVENING

The Friends Of St Margaret's Church The Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham Saturday 20th October, 7.30pm (prompt start) Food provided please bring your own drinks & glasses. Tables of 8 - £6 per person. Advance booking essential. Contact Kay 01634 230430 or Lesley 01634 379796

VICTORIAN OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

An Evening of Variety, Gaiety, Music & Song, Magic, Tribute Acts, and your favourite Sing-a-longs. Central Theatre, Chatham. For One Night Only. Saturday October 27th, 7.30pm All proceeds to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Tickets £12 and £10 from Box Office 01634 338338 or www.medwayticketslive.co.uk Come in costume to add to the atmosphere

OCTOBER CHARITY QUIZ

Saturday 27th October St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.00 for a 7.30pm start Teams of up to 8, £5 per person Bring your own drinks and nibbles Organised by the Medway Branch of The Multiple Sclerosis Society To reserve a table phone Medway Branch Helpline 01634 238502 or ring Jane 01634 374938 or email JaneMSMedway@gmail.com

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

In September of last year I walked between the churches of St Mary, Newington and St Margaret, Lower Halstow, I started my journey down Wardwell Lane, Newington which is an ancient, sunken lane lined with ash, dogwood, elderberry, holly and oak, among other trees and shrubs. The leaves of the deciduous trees were starting to turn yellow and ripening berries were evident among the foliage. In years gone by visitors came by train, car and charabanc to Newington to see, paint and photograph the cherry blossom. Although cherries figure prominently on the village sign by the side of the A2, most of the cherry orchards have now gone. However, one remains to the west of the church and a view of it, with the church tower in the background, can be had from the bottom of Wardwell Lane. At the time of my own visit a small flock of sheep was grazing under the trees of the orchard and jackdaws were strutting about looking for grubs.

I soon left the lane and walked along a public footpath beside the stream that flows into Halstow Creek. Alongside the stream is a long line of three and a half acres of disused and overgrown water cress beds through which flows water from an artesian well. At the height of production, baskets were used to transport the picked cress to market by train from Newington station. These basket were made from withies that were cut from osiers that were grown in the wet meadows alongside the stream. According to an article in a past edition of "Bygone Kent", eels were plentiful in the beds years ago and were caught and eaten. They would have found their way up the stream from the Medway and the sea. Mallards and moorhens tended to uproot the cress in search of invertebrates and were either shot and eaten or scared off with gunfire. There were so many frogs that their spawn was a nuisance. On previous visits I had seen evidence of water voles in the form of gnawed sedge stems and droppings, but not on this occasion.

I paused on the high ground of Broom Downs, whose sandy soil is riddled with rabbit burrows, and from where I had views over the Medway estuary towards

Kingsnorth power station and the cranes at Thamesport. The countryside between Newington and Lower Halstow is one of mixed farming. I could see orchards, a chicken farm and fields of wheat, maize, sheep, beef cattle and riding horses. I both heard and saw flocks of rooks and jackdaws feeding in those fields.

I regained the footpath alongside the Newington Stream at the bottom of Broom Downs and at the place where the clear spring water flowing from the deserted water cress beds empties into the stream. Crack willow trees line the banks of the stream and the trunks of the oldest and tallest of them are perforated with woodpecker holes. Both great pond sedge and common reed grow in the bed of the stream as it flows down towards Lower Halstow. Water hens use the broad leaves of the sedge in the building of their nests which sit just clear of the water. Sedge and reed warblers suspend their nests from the stems of the common reed. As I walked down the stream in the afternoon of a warm September day, I heard common frogs, which had been sunning themselves on the banks, jump back into the water with a loud plop. Earlier I had disturbed a grey heron which was clearly stalking these frogs.

The stream runs alongside the Three Tuns Public House at Lower Halstow before emptying into Halstow Creek near St Margaret of Antioch Church. Waders, gulls, ducks and geese can often be seen, at low tide, washing in or drinking the fresh water of the Newington Stream. I met up with Mrs Ennis at Halstow Quay, alongside which was moored the Thames spritsail barge Edith May, built in 1906 at Harwich. Day trips can be had in the barge and, when she is berthed at Halstow, she serves as a tea room. My wife and I did not miss the opportunity of having a cream tea on the boat. After refreshment, and before motoring home, we paid a visit to what is a tiny remnant of salt marsh at the quay; it is on the east side of the quay and adjoins the churchyard. Only sea lavender remained in bloom by the time of our September visit but, on an earlier occasion, in July, sea campion, golden samphire and sea pink or thrift were also in flower. On that hot July day we

arrived as the Edith May was about to sail on an afternoon cruise. The last cream teas had been served to those customers not remaining on board. A man, his dog and two young daughters, who had arrived in an elderly Range Rover, were swimming in the high tidal waters. Two families were enjoying a joint picnic under the churchyard wall. There was a jolly, seaside atmosphere about the place.

Joe Ennis

WCRA AUTUMN DROP IN

Once again Wigmore Community and Residents Association will be holding their 'Autumn Drop In' event at Wigmore Library. This event is open to all residents of Wigmore and provides us with a great opportunity to meet and to speak, on a one to one basis, with our MP, our Councillors, Council Officers and Police Officers.

The event will be held on Friday 26th October, starting at 7.30pm finishing just after 9.00pm. Please do attend you should find it most interesting. We will be delighted to see you there. Bob Dunn Deputy Chair WCRA 01634 378769

TELLING TALES

Storytelling for Adults Hastings Arms 18, Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham Tuesday 30th October doors open 7.15 for prompt 8.00pm start June Peters 'Sugar Skulls and Love Spoons' Admission £6 For more information ring 01634 852614

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Saturday 3rd November 11.00am - 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham Admission 30p Spaces available £10 each contact Ruth 01634 389502

BARNARDO'S PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENING

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RSG YOUTH ACADEMY

Bookings are now being taken for the next session RSG Youth Academy, an exciting opportunity for year 5, 6 and 7 students to come to Rainham School for Girls to learn a new skill and to experience a secondary school environment whilst having fun!

A variety of courses are being offered on: Saturdays 10th, 17th, 24th November and 1st December, 10,00am to 12noon.

Please see the website for details of the courses available (www.rsg.org.uk), contact RSG office, or ask at your local Primary School.

Courses are £25 for the four sessions. Choose from Angry Birds Maths, Clay Creations, Easy Christmas Baking, Fencing, Jewellery Making, Lights Camera Action! Make Your Own Healthy Junk Food. Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Gillingham, ME8 0BX 01634 362746 email rya@rsg.org.uk

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING THEATRE

Bredhurst Village Hall Friday, November 16th, 7.30pm A toe-tapping live music and physical performance of the classic Grimm's Fairy Tale of Hansel & Gretel by the Fairgame Theatre Tickets at £8 from Ann Keeble 01634 361263

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Diary 2012

October 22nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Cards - Debbie Highams, (see 8th Oct).

October 22nd - Rainham Wives, 'Journalism after the Menopause part 2' - Barbara Stevens (see 8th Oct).

October 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 30th & 31st - Halloween Horrors Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, Tickets £5 to £20, see www.fortamherst.com 01634 847747

October 24th - Medway Poetry Group, Sunlight Centre Radio Room, reading on air from 6.00 - 8.00pm, for more information ring 01634 260228.

October 25th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed by True or False? (see 11th Oct).

October 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Helen Allinson, 'Postcard view of the Edwardian Era' (see 11th Oct).

October 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, ring 01634 312038 or 366183 for details.

October 26th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.00pm, 'Bruges is not just chocolate' - Melanie Gibson-Barton, Everyone welcome, details Pat Meredith 362683

October 26th - Wigmore Community and Residents Association, Autumn Drop In . Wigmore Library, 7.30pm, information Bob Dunn, 378769

October 26th - MKAS, Mike Foulkes - Saturn (see

October 27th - Multiple Sclerosis Society Charity Quiz, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham 7.30pm Teams up to 8, £5 pp, Bring your own drinks and nibbles, ring 01634 238502 or Jane 01634 374938 email JaneMSMedway@gmail.com

October 27th - Autumn Show, Upchurch Horticultural Society, Village Hall, 2.00pm Presentation 3.30pm, Details ring 01634 373723

October 27th - November 4th - Kent Coastal Week, Riverside Country Park, A celebration of the Kent Coast, Free or subsidised activities along 350 miles of coastline see www.coastalkent.net

October 27th - Halloween Paranormal Investigation, Activities 9.00pm, Finish 3.00am approx, Medium Richard Ware, Investigating areas of Fort Amherst not normally open to the public, Limited Tickets £35, Book on line, Over 18's only, Fort Amherst, Dock Rd, Chatham, For more Info 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com

October 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk, meet Gillian Smith 01622 710569, 10.00am at Chevening, park St Botoph's Church approach road, for 5 mile hilly walk including one steep climb, no dogs.

October 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Mike Collins 07855 929404,10.00am Richmond Tube Station for 9 mile walk along the Thames Path to Putney, flat and easy but may be muddy.

October 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Geoff Ettridge 07525 161766, 10.00am Pluckley Railway Station for 6.75 mile walk to the 3 most haunted villages in Kent, pub at end.

October 30th - Family Discovery Walk, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon £1.50 per person, Book in advance 01634 337432

October 30th - Telling Tales, Storytelling for Adults, Hastings Arms, 18, Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, prompt 8.00pm start. June Peters - 'Sugar Skulls and Love Spoons' Admission £6, information ring 01634 852614

October 31st - Marvellous Mammals, Capstone Farm Country Park, 9.00 - 11.00am Suitable for 10 years plus & adults, £1.50 pp book 338191

October 31st - Halloween Spirit Walk, 8.00pm for 2 hours (approx) Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, £12.50, Book on line, No under 18's ring 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com

November 1st - 3rd - Three Towns Theatre "Billy" Brook Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm - Sat matinee 2.30pm, Tickets £12 (£10 con) 01634 338338 www.threetownstheatrecompany.co.uk

November 3rd - Bonfire and Fireworks Night, Great Lines Heritage Park, 7.00pm Free no need to book

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Diary 2012

November 3rd - Guy Making, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am – 12noon Demonstrate your creativity and make the best guy for bonfire night Bring some old clothes to dress your scarecrow, stuffing provided, Suitable for aged 5 – 12 years must be accompanied by an adult, £2.50 per child, book 01634 337432

November 3rd - St. Margaret's Autumn Bazaar. 10.00am - 2.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Various stalls, raffles, Ploughmans Stall donations 01795 475907

November 3rd - Craft Fair, 11.00am – 2.30pm, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham, Admission 30p, Spaces available £10 each contact Ruth 01634 389502

November 3rd - Upchurch Family Fireworks, Westmoor Farm off the A2 in Rainham, ME8 8QF, Gates open 5.30pm £5 under 16, £7 Adult, £20 Family Ticket Car parkfree, pay at gate, www.upchurchfireworks.co.uk or email info@upchurchfireworks.co.uk

November 3rd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th Oct). November 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Mike Patrick, 10.00am south of for 8 mile walk to Harty Church Short pub stop or picnic stop halfway. Pubs, cafes and other entertainment in Leysdown at end.

November 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Walk, meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164, 10.00am at Strood Civic Centre Car Park (Charges allow 4 hours) for 6.5 mile 6 bridges walk mainly flat two thirds tarmac, 1 stile, opportunity to visit Temple Manor, no dogs.

November 5th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Newington

November 5th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Newington Concert Party, (see 8th Oct).

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November 6th - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Remembrance' own choice arrangement. (see 16th Oct).

November 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Allan Buchan, 10.00am at Newington car park (behind Acorn Car Wash on A2) for 10 mile walk Circular, mainly flat via Lower Halstow, Otterham Quay and Breach. Bring picnic lunch

November 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society,7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, Woodland Trust – John Harvey, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

November 8th - Donn Barcott Band, Jazz Five 5 Live, 44two Sports and Social, Featherby Road, Gillingham, 8.30 – 11.00pm, Licensed Bar, Quality Raffle, Light Bites at the Table, Special Guests, Ring 01634 405037 for more information

November 9th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, 'Kentish Ghosts' Dennis Chambers, (see 12th Oct).

November 9th - MKAS, Ian King, (see 12th Oct).

November 9th - Barnardo's Pre-Christmas Evening,
8.00pm, Millennium Centre, Special Buffet, Bring &
Buy, Raffle, Tombola, Cards & Gifts, Donations and
gifts appreciated. Tickets £3.50, children £1
(includes refreshments) from committee members
01634 233405, 375486 or on the door.

November 10th, 17th, 24th & Dec 1st - RSG Youth Academy, Rainham School for Girls, 10.00am to 12noon. See www.rsg.org.uk or ring 01634 362746, email rya@rsg.org.uk for details

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