

# ACTION FORUM

DECEMBER 2012

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

■ NUMBER 483



*We Wish You a Happy Christmas*



1st Rainham Guides Nativity Tableau c1925. The costumes were made by the Johnson sisters who dedicated much of their time to the Guide movement. Elsie the eldest was Brown Owl, Edith (Poppy) - Tawny Owl, Adelaide (Tess) - Captain, Doris - Lieutenant and Linda - Instructor. When Admiral Johnson moved his family to Rainham he built a house at the corner of London Road/Roberts Road and called it ECLADE for his six children. Colin was killed in an aircraft accident during the first World War but not whilst on active service so his name was omitted from the War Memorial which greatly upset his father.

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## Editorial

The first issue of Action Forum appeared in March 1969. Our mission statement in a pre publication sheet hoping to attract advertisers declared:

'We intend every person in Rainham and Wigmore to read Action Forum. We shall therefore deliver it free to an initial minimum of 10,000 homes, gradually covering the whole area later in the spring. We can afford to deliver free because our editorial and distribution staff is entirely voluntary. Our printing and paper costs will be covered by a maximum mix of fifty percent advertising.'

To this day, 483 issues and 43 years later, this largely remains the same however I am not sure we have ever succeeded in getting every person to read our pages! Our distribution figure has risen to 20,000 copies each month giving some indication of the changes that have happened in the area, but our editorial and distribution teams are all volunteers and we remain at roughly 50:50 editorial and advertising, which still pays our costs. Advertising costs have of course risen. In 1969 a half page cost £8.10/- and a quarter £5. Fifteen or so years ago when time was at a premium for us we decided to pay for the distribution of Action Forum. This helped us over a few years when our family and business commitments were at their height but it was never as satisfactory as our committed band of volunteers. When things calmed down a bit by September 2000 we reverted to organising the voluntary distribution. This released a section of the regular income from advertising which as Action Forum is a non profit making magazine was now available to donate to charity. Over the last 12 years we have made regular payments to three organisations, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, The Parish of South Gillingham and the Kajiado Development Trust in Kenya. A recent contribution of £1500 for each has brought the total donated to date to £28,050. Thank you very much everyone who has helped to make this possible. Over the years several hundred people have assisted. We have some very long standing deliverers, some I can think of who even gallantly rejoined the team in 2000 despite the fact that we had given them their cards when we went to commercial distribution! Your excellent, efficient help is much appreciated not only by us but also by the many residents of Rainham and Wigmore (now joined by Parkwood, Bredhurst, Upchurch and Lower Halstow) who do read Action Forum each month.

As usual the first few weeks of December are very busy, our diary is full of Christmas Fairs, parties and visits from Santa on his annual Sleigh Runs when the Lions Club of Gillingham collect for local charities. I am also happy to say that towards the big day itself we also include many dates from various local churches for Carol Services, Crib Services and Christmas Day Services including the traditional Christmas Eve Midnight and later Family events. In all the rush and preparation it is good to set aside a short while to consider the real meaning of Christmas. Have a wonderful time and we will see you again in the middle of January with our usual combined edition.

## Correspondence

### QUIET CAROL SERVICE

Dear Editor

The Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group are having a quiet Carol Service to remember their loved ones at St Peters Church Bredhurst on Sunday 9th December at 3.30pm and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Regards  
Julie Sharp  
01634 364309

### M2 ACCESS

Dear Editor

Once again the access roads on and off the M2 at Moto M2 Service Station are under threat of closure. This last happened over 10 years ago and it caused gridlock all around the towns until people took it into their own hands and pulled the barriers down allowing traffic to flow normally again. Now while I am not advocating civil disorder, I think it is time that the local wishes are taken into account.

The reasons cited for closing the access are:

1. That it is the only Service Station with access to the surrounding area. This is not true, according to the internet at least 50 other service stations have access to surrounding areas.
2. That there is a high accident rate. As many locals will tell you this is untrue. I am waiting to hear back from the Police with facts and figures.
3. That local people are complaining about the noise. The majority of people who live at the top of Mierscourt Road happily use these roads, however there will always be one or two who object.

These access roads have been used for over 30 years. Until the government puts their hands in their pockets and builds new access roads on and off the M2 why not allow these roads to carry on being used. Most local councillors are against the closure as is our MP. Please write to them and state your support. Petitions are at 'The Farm Shop' Mierscourt Road, The Centre next to the Travelodge and 'Ladyfair Hair and Beauty' Rainham High Street. Please pop in and sign - make your voice felt.

Yours sincerely  
Jane Marvell

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St Margaret's Church, Rainham welcomes visitors to these special services

December 2nd, 10.30am Christingle Service  
December 2nd, 4.00pm Advent Carol Service  
December 16th 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight  
December 24th, 1.30pm & 4.00pm Crib Service  
December 24th, 11.30pm Midnight Mass Preceded by carol singing from 11.00pm  
December 25th, 9.30am Family Communion

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Granary Evangelical Church, Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham.

Saturday 22nd December, 3.00pm - Carol Service followed by festive refreshments  
Tuesday 25th December, 10.30am - Christmas Day Service followed by festive refreshments (All welcome to both services, no charge)  
Contact Pastor Rev. Danny Hawkes for more information or transport - 01634 310959

### CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday 23rd December from 6.30pm  
A beautiful Christmas service with a difference. Carols, candles, evergreens and inspirational words. A joy-full evening of Peace and Love. Drinks and food after. The Centre, Farthing Corner, (next to Travelodge, M2 Services) 01634 366944  
[www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk](http://www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk)

### BWAG CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Cantium Singers a 50 strong choir from Rochester

Thursday 6th December, 7.30pm  
Carols at St Peter's Church Bredhurst followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Grand Raffle at Green Court, The Street, Bredhurst ME7 3JY  
Tickets £6 per person (under 16 free) only in advance  
All proceeds towards conserving Bredhurst Woods.  
For more details and bookings please call  
Jim Chalmers 07870 878907 or email  
[jimchalmers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jimchalmers@hotmail.co.uk)

### THE FREGARD SINGERS Christmas Concert

Saturday 8th December, 7.30 pm  
St. Margaret's Church, Rainham.  
Tickets £5, £2 children Adults £6 on the night includes a mince pie and light refreshments.  
Tickets from Sunburst Books, Station Road or 01634 371941 and on the door  
In aid of St. Margaret's Church Projects

### SINGING ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Medway Singers Choir  
Saturday December 8th, 2.30pm  
Dobbies Garden Centre, Gillingham  
Proceeds to our chosen charity 'Hands'

### QUIET CAROL SERVICE

The Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group  
To remember loved ones  
St Peters Church, Bredhurst  
Sunday 9th December, 3.30pm - All welcome  
For more information ring 01634 364309

### MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Maidstone Choral Union  
Saturday 15th December at 7.30 pm  
Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre  
Tickets £7-£16 (Children and Students half-price)  
Ticket Secretary 01622 726193, Maidstone Museum,  
St Faith's Street - 01622 602169  
[www.maidstonechoralunion.org.uk](http://www.maidstonechoralunion.org.uk)

### THE BIG CHRISTMAS SING

A fundraiser for Christian Aid  
Friday 21st December, 7.30pm Bredhurst Village Hall  
Led by the choirs of St Peter's Church and Bredhurst Primary School singing Christmas songs and carols with plenty of opportunity for audience participation and Solo Performances

Refreshments including mulled wine and a raffle  
Tickets (in advance only) £2.50 adults, children free  
from June Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116

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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](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or 5 Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 4th January

December 3rd - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, Christmas Meal, New members of all ages very welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting, details 01634 230639.

December 3rd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Christmas Service, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 373594.

December 4th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church Balmoral Road, Christmas get together and post show discussion. Visitors welcome Kay Buss 01634 232989

December 4th - Every Tuesday 7.30 - 9.00pm, Reiki, Pyramid and Spiritual Healing freely given by our qualified team of volunteers, donations welcome. Just come along if you feel you would like or need healing. The Centre, Farthing Corner, (next to Travelodge,) 01634 366944 [www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk](http://www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk)

December 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, AGM, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

December 6th - Wigmore Thursday Club, A Celebration of Christmas - Anne Carter, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm. For over 50, 01634 235507

December 6th - Christmas Carol Concert BWAG, The Cantium Singers 7.30pm, St Peter's Church Bredhurst followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Grand Raffle at Green Court, The Street, £6 pp (under 16 free) only in advance details and bookings Jim Chalmers 07870 878907 [jimchalmers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jimchalmers@hotmail.co.uk)

December 7th - 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.

December 7th - Christmas Fayre, St Margaret's Infant School, Rainham, 3.30 - 5.30pm, free, all welcome

December 8th - Christmas Fayre, St. Matthew's Community Centre, Wigmore, all your Christmas favourites plus a display of Real Father Christmas' from around the world, 12noon - 2.00pm, for more details contact Tracy 01634 262197.

December 8th - Deanwood Primary School Christmas Fayre, 12noon - 3.00pm, Adults 50p, Children 30p, Pre school free, Photograph with Father Christmas, Tombolas, games, craft, raffle, books, gifts, home made cakes and more! Refreshments including mulled wine, burgers, hot dogs, hot chocolate and mince pies.

December 8th - The Freegard Singers Christmas Concert, 7.30 pm, St Margaret's Church, Rainham. Tickets £5, £2 children (£6 on the night) includes mince pie Tickets from Sunburst Books, Station Road or 01634 371941 and on the door.

December 8th - Medway Folk Dance Club, Christmas Dance, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, 7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome with or without a partner, for more information ring 01634 366189 or 388546

December 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, Meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821 07598 330622 for the Jubilee Greenway walk, ring for details

December 8th - Singing Round the Christmas Tree, Medway Singers Choir, 2.30pm, Dobbies Garden Centre, Gillingham Proceeds to our chosen charity 'Hands'

December 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Gillian Smith 01622 710569 at Buckhurst 2 Car Park, Suffolk Way, Sevenoaks for a 5 mile undulating walk via Knole Park, no dogs.

December 9th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 7.5 miles, Leader Mike Patrick Meet and park at the Hook and Hatchet (use far car park) at Hucking. Bring picnic lunch, Pub at end.

December 9th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm help the volunteers for the day. Refreshments provided. Free, 01634 337432

December 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Quiet Carol Service, 3.30pm to remember loved ones, St Peters Church, Bredhurst, all welcome, ring 01634 364309 for details.

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December 10th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Mothers Union Birthday Service and Tea, (see 3rd Dec)

December 10th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 - 8.15pm, Hempstead

December 10th - Rainham Wives, 'Making Christmas Posies' and mince pies. (see 3rd Dec)

December 10th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 3rd birthday party and Christmas entertainment, Visitors welcome ring 01634 263405 for details

December 11th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 - 8.15pm, Hempstead

December 11th - Derwent Way PACT at Rainham School for Girls LRC at 7.00pm

December 11th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, Christmas Meal and Entertainment St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

December 12th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 8.5 miles, Leaders Tony/Ann Faulkner 01634 406634 Meet at west end of Doddington Village bring picnic lunch, Pub at end.

December 12th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm Christmas at Home, New members always welcome, contact 07951 629444

December 12th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 - 8.15pm, Fairview Avenue

December 12th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Mr Alan Stockwell - Puppets, Pierres & Pantomime, ring 01634 389966 for more details.

December 12th - Medway Poetry Group meet 40, Birling Avenue, Rainham 7.30 - 9.30pm, all interested welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

December 13th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Carols and Songs for Christmas with The Children of Fairview School Presentation of Charity Cheque, (see 6th Dec)

December 13th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, Tea and chat, 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members welcome, 01634 366907.

December 13th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 - 8.15pm, Cheriton Road

December 13th - Donn Barcott Band, Jazz Five 5 Live, 44two Sports and Social, Featherby Road, 8.30 - 11.00pm, ring 01634 405037 for more information

December 14th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 - 8.15pm, Parkwood

December 14th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road,

7.15pm, 'The Bevin Boys' Dr. Ann Kneiff, Further information from Ron Baker 01634 854982

December 14th - MKAS, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, second and last Friday each month, 7.45pm, Christmas Meeting, details 07983 398326 or visit [www.midkentakastro.org.uk](http://www.midkentakastro.org.uk).

December 14th & 15th - Marie Curie Cancer Care, Christmas Collection, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, 9.00am - 5.00pm

December 15th - Winter Birds, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Suitable for beginners or those with some experience, wear stout foot-wear, Not for under 12, £1.50 per person, book 01634 337432

December 15th - Hempstead Village Hall Playgroup, Christmas Fayre 3.00 - 5.00pm, stalls. Free entry Free present from Father Christmas for all children. Everybody welcome. Further details 01634 376146

December 15th - Rainham Ladies Choir with UK Paper Band, Christmas Concert, 7.30pm Royal Dockyard Church, Chatham Historic Dockyard for Macmillan Cancer Support, Tickets adults - £7, under 12 - £3, details 01634 370797, [www.rainhamladieschoir.org](http://www.rainhamladieschoir.org)

December 15th - Medway Folk Dance Club, Christmas Ceilidh, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, 7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome with or without a partner, 01634 366189

December 15th - Rainham Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close, Quiz Night, 7.30 for 8.00pm start, Admission £3 (£1.50 members), All welcome, details 01634 710553.

December 16th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 7.5 miles, Leaders Chris/Karl Strachan/Martin, 01634 360270 Meet at Higham Railway Station - free parking, lots of wildlife around Cliffe Pools. Bring snack. Railway Tavern Lower Higham at end.

December 16th - St Margaret's Church, Rainham 6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight

December 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet John Williams 01622 764821 St Mary's Church, Frittenden 5 mile walk, Dogs allowed.

December 16th - Rustic Christmas Decoration, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon Suitable aged 4 - 10 years, £2.50 per person book 01634 338191

December 16th - Tree Dressing, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon for 5 - 12 years accompanied by an adult, £2.50 per child, book 01634 337432

Continued on Page 11

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**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
St Margaret's Infant School, Rainham  
Friday 7th December, 3.30 - 5.30pm  
Entrance is free, all welcome

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** Deanwood Primary School  
Saturday, 8th December 12noon - 3.00pm  
Entrance Adults 50p, Children 30p, Pre school - free  
Have your photograph taken with Father Christmas  
in his grotto and then find something for all the  
family with many stalls including: Tombolas, games,  
craft, raffle, books, gifts, home made cakes etc!  
Refreshments available including mulled wine,  
burgers, hot dogs, hot chocolate and mince pies.  
Adult entrance includes raffle ticket for prize drawer.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** and St Nicholas Display  
St Matthew's Church, Wigmore  
Saturday 8th December, 12.00noon - 2.00pm  
Favourite seasonal stalls - craft-work, refreshments  
etc and a display of Father Christmas' through  
history and from around the world.  
Display open Saturday 8th, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
and Sunday 9th, 11.00am - 1.00pm.  
For more information contact Tracy 01634 262197

**CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT**  
Rainham Ladies Choir with UK Paper Band,  
Saturday 15th December, 7.30pm  
Royal Dockyard Church, Chatham Dockyard  
Raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support  
Carols old and new, join in your favourites  
Tickets adults - £7, children under 12 - £3  
Further details 01634 370797, 01634 373132 or see  
the website www.rainhamladieschoir.org

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
Saturday December 15th, 3.00 - 5.00pm  
Hempstead Village Hall Playgroup.  
Variety of stalls, Free admission.  
Free present from Father Christmas for all children.  
Everybody welcome. Further details 01634 376146

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**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
Christmas Collection Hempstead Valley Centre,  
Friday 14th & Sat 15th December, 9.00am - 5.00pm  
This Christmas, Marie Curie Cancer Care is excited  
to be benefiting from ITV's annual charity appeal -  
Text Santa - on 21st December.

If you'd like to help Marie Curie we need volunteers  
for our biggest fundraising campaign The Great  
Daffodil Appeal in March, for information ring  
Fiona Dodd 01622 230745.  
To get help from Marie Curie Cancer Care, talk to  
your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse. For more  
information, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk.

**GILLINGHAM LIONS SLEIGH RUNS**  
Raising money for local charities. Santa will be in  
the following areas between 6.00 and 8.30pm.  
Mon & Tues 10th & 11th December - Hempstead  
Wednesday 12th December - Fairview Ave  
Thursday 13th December - Cheriton Road  
Fri & Mon 14th & 17th December - Parkwood  
Tuesday 18th December - Kenilworth Drive  
Wednesday 19th December - Lower Beechings  
Lions Club of Gillingham meet 1st Monday of the  
Month (Bank Holidays 2nd Monday) they are  
volunteers who aim to serve the local community  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

October, according to the poet Keats, is the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. The following month, November, is traditionally associated with foggy evenings, although no longer with "pea soups". This conventional wisdom is consistent with the view of meteorologists that mist and fog are more likely to develop during cold, clear autumn and winter nights. In November I visited Church Street, Higham, on the Hoo Peninsula. It is now a hamlet but was once a village with a parish church. It declined once a new centre of the parish grew up alongside the Gravesend to Rochester turnpike. In order to get a good view of the birds I was hoping to come across on my visit, I chose a day when there was neither mist nor fog, but was some sunshine.

Higham was one of a number of villages situated on the high ground of the peninsula overlooking the grazing marshes adjacent to the Thames estuary. These fresh water marshes were created, from the Middle Ages onwards, by the building of a succession of embankments which kept out the sea water of the estuary. The marshes were and still are drained by a network of dykes and fleets. Traditionally, the marshes have been used for the grazing of cattle and sheep and the growing of grass for hay. In recent years, the marshes have additionally been used for the grazing of ponies and, after improvements to drainage, the growing of cereals. Charles Dickens walked regularly on the north Kent marshes and based parts of his novel "Great Expectations" on the area. His daughter Katie was married at St Mary's Church, Higham in 1863.

I commenced my walk alongside that ancient church, which is now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. Nearby is a farm, whose buildings overlie the foundations of a Benedictine Priory, the long-closed Sun Inn and a straggles of cottages. I entered onto Higham Marshes as I crossed over the Hundred of Hoo Railway line, which is used to transport containers to and from Thamesport, whose cranes can be seen from Rainham. I walked alongside a wide dyke which was lined with common reed,

spiked rush and greater pond sedge, among other aquatic plants. As I did so, I disturbed a grey heron and a little egret. At a time when frogs are in hibernation, both birds would have been on the lookout for fish and small mammals like water voles. During the spring, herons and little egrets nest in the oak trees of the nearby RSPB bird reserve of Northwood Hill.

Dickens refers to alder trees and pollards (pollarded willows) in "Great Expectations". Alder trees tend to grow beside water and the fact that alders seem no longer to thrive on the marshes suggest that the latter were more water-logged in his day than they are now. That being so the marshes were also probably more misty in the 19th century because of the damper ground conditions.

Film makers' images of Magwitch, the escaped prisoner in the above novel, appearing out of the mist, are therefore likely to be true to life.

The tide was in as I reached the embankment overlooking the Thames Estuary. This estuary and those of the Medway and Swale are among the most important feeding grounds in Europe for overwintering geese, duck and waders. Birds migrate here, typically from areas within the Arctic Circle, because of our comparatively mild winters. The intertidal mud and sand flats of the above three estuaries are rich in lugworms and rag worms, crustaceans such as crabs and shrimps and molluscs such as snails and cockles. These invertebrates are food for shelduck, for example, and waders such as oyster catcher, redshank and curlew. Brent geese feed on the eel grass that grows on the mudflats. When the tide is in, these geese, ducks and waders roost on the grazing marshes and on the high parts of shingle spits and salt marshes that remain above water. It is when flocks of the smaller waders such as knot and dunlin flock together prior to roosting, that they wheel spectacularly in the sky, resembling smoke when seen from a distance. Facing inland from my position on the embankment, I could see rooks and jackdaws probing for worms or leatherjackets in the damp earth of the grazing marshes. At dusk they would be heading for the wood at Northwood Hill where they would roost together. I also spotted a couple of marsh harriers soaring lazily

in the sky, on the lookout for voles. Harriers will take small birds but not ones as large as most waders. On the way back across Shorne Marshes I came across a mixed flock of teal and widgeon feeding upon vegetation in a shallow, water filled depression. I also saw a pair of mute swans, three coots and a little grebe on a deserted stretch of the old Thames-Medway canal. Finally, I disturbed a flock of redwings and fieldfares (winter visitors from Scandinavia) feeding on the berries of hawthorns growing on the embankment of the Hundred of Hoo Railway. Soon after I arrived back at St Mary's Church a Class 66 Co-Diesel hauling a long train of containers thundered by about 200 yards away. Had any Dickens devotees been visiting the churchyard in search of the scene of Magwitch's confrontation with young Pip, they would doubtless have found the incursion of the seemingly endless train somewhat incongruous.

Joe Ennis

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## TOTS 'N' ALL

Tots 'n' All has been run by Wigmore Evangelical Free Church in Durham Road for more than 15 years. When it began it served a real need in the community and over the years it has been a delight to meet each new family.

We have watched the children develop and grow and eventually move on. We have also enjoyed welcoming back old families with new additions! God has allowed us to build relationships, pray for families and provide a safe place for all, but everything comes to an end at some point and that time has come for Tots 'n' All.

The leaders are beginning new challenges and the church would like to concentrate resources on other

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activities in the local community of Wigmore. Tots 'n' All will officially close its doors on December 14th and our Christmas party will also be our farewell party.

Thank you to all who have come along over the years to support us. Thank you for all the fun you and your families have given us. We wish you all the best for the future. Please be assured of our continued prayers and know that you are more than welcome at any activities or events that go on here at Wigmore.

## QUIZ NIGHTS

The Rainham Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close, holds Quiz Nights on every third Saturday of the month. Admission is £3 (£1.50 for members). Everyone is welcome, the next few dates will be: December 15th, January 19th and February 16th at 7.30 for 8.00pm start. For more information ring Maggi on 01634 710553, we look forward to seeing you.

## SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Medway & District Caledonian Association The MDCA is a Club where Scottish Country Dancing is taught and danced and meets regularly at: Brethurst Village Hall, Monday 1.30 - 3.45pm St Mary's Community Centre, St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime, Tuesday for inexperienced dancers 8.00 - 10.00pm and Thursday for a Club Dance 8.00 - 10.15pm.

Rainham Methodist Church Hall, Children's Class (aged 6 & above) Friday 4.30 - 6.30pm. (Contact Margaret Ann Robertson 01634 304372)

We also have more formal dances throughout the year as well as a large Hogmanay Party and in January a formal Burns Dinner.

The contact number for main enquiries is Lis Bowden 01474 822919 www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk

## BELLY DANCING CLASSES

St Margaret's Millennium Centre are hoping to hold Belly Dancing classes in the New Year. If you are interested in attending a taster session on Friday 18th January at 12.15pm (upper hall) please contact the office on 01634 374038 (between 9.00am - 12.30pm Monday - Friday) or email mcentre.walsh@btconnect.com to book.

Loose comfortable clothing/fitness wear, ballet pumps or bare feet required.

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## Diary 2012

December 16th - BWAG, Volunteer Task Days,  
10.00am – 2.00pm, Meet Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst,  
Lunch provided, details please call/text Steve Wright  
07801 386264 or email stevewright50@btinternet.com  
December 17th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 –  
8.15pm, Parkwood  
December 17th - Rainham Evening WI, 7.30pm,  
Millennium Centre, Rainham, Christmas Party,  
competition Christmas Decoration, ring 01634 372282  
December 18th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 –  
8.15pm, Kenilworth Drive  
December 18th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,  
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.00,  
How Birds Work – John Buckingham. For Walks see  
www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.  
December 19th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 –  
8.15pm, Lower Beechings Way  
December 20th - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 –  
8.15pm, Twydall  
December 20th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Informal  
Meeting, (see 6th Dec)  
December 20th - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 -  
4.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,  
Rainham, Christmas Party, Visitors welcome for small  
entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details  
December 20th - Hempstead Leisure Club, "Memory  
Lane" Xmas music and cards, (see 13th Dec)  
December 21st - Lions Club Santa Sleigh Run, 6.00 –  
8.15pm, Twydall  
December 21st - The Big Christmas Sing for Christian  
Aid, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall Tickets (in  
advance only) £2.50 adults, children free from June  
Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116  
December 21st - 7.30 for 8.00pm, Winter Magical  
Candlelight Solstice Celebration. £4.00 The Centre,  
Farthing Corner, (next to Travelodge) 01634 366944  
December 22nd - The Granary Evangelical Church,  
Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham, Carol

Service 3.00pm, All welcome, Contact Rev Danny  
Hawkes details or transport 01634 310959  
December 22nd – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for  
Girls, Derwent Way, Christmas Dance, Ticket only  
7.30 – 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738 email  
s.collins02@btinternet.com

December 23rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 Lapwing  
Drive, Lower Halstow, 4 mile flat walk, refreshments  
Edith May Barge, Dogs allowed.

December 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 9.2  
miles, Leaders Arthur/Jan Waters 01634 711734 Meet  
car park, Chilham on A252 Bring a picnic lunch, Pubs  
at end.

December 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 5  
miles Leader Graham Jenkinson 07989 753278 Meet at  
Camer Country Park near Sole Street, Pub at end with  
lunches available.

December 23rd - Candlelit Christmas Service from  
6.30pm, The Centre, (see 21st Dec)

December 24th - St Margaret's Church, Rainham 1.30pm  
& 4.00pm, Crib Service, 11.30pm, Midnight Mass  
preceded by carols from 11.00pm

December 25th - The Granary Evangelical Church,  
Community Centre, 10.30am, Christmas Day Service  
followed by refreshments (see 22nd Dec)

December 25th - St Margaret's Church, Rainham 9.30am,  
Family Communion

December 27th - Junior Ranger Team, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 10.00am – 12noon, For 8 – 12 years old,  
£2.50 per child, book 01634 338191

December 30th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 7  
miles, Leaders Ade/Val Ballard 01634 306405 Meet on  
the green at the top of Lee Road in Snodland. One steep  
climb, Bring picnic lunch.

December 30th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet  
Stephen Manning 01634 375821 Riverside Country  
Park, 4.5 mile easy stroll dogs allowed.

December 31st – Instep Dancing, NYE Dance (22nd Dec)  
January 1st - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.30am, 5.7  
miles, Leaders Tony/Ann Faulkner 01634 406634, Park  
at Eridge Station, several stiles. Bring picnic lunch

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## Diary 2013

January 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, A Holiday in  
Burma - Tony Mitchell, (see 6th Dec)

January 5th - Medway Folk Dance Club, New Year  
Dance, (see 15th Dec)

January 6th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 8  
miles, Leader Mike Collins 07855 929404 Meet at  
Jeslyn's Country Park, Cobham. Bring picnic lunch

January 6th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 3 mile,  
Leader Madge Goatman Meet Motney Hill car park

January 8th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,  
Police Memorabilia, (see 11th Dec)

January 9th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 4.2  
miles, Leaders Arthur/Jan Waters 01634 711734, Meet  
Meopham Green, on A227. Pub at end.

January 9th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 9.30am, 8 miles,  
Leader Mike Patrick Bredhurst to Maidstone Linear

Bus Pass Walk. Meet Commuter Car Park, Bredhurst.

January 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Bingo, (see 6th)

January 11th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History  
Society 'Maunsell Forts' Frank Turner, (see 14th Dec)

January 11.12.17.18.19.24.25.26. 31 & 1 & 2 February -  
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January 13th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 7.5  
miles, Leader Jim Bushnell Meet Wye car park. Bring a  
picnic lunch, pubs at the end.

January 14th - Rainham Wives, New Year Party, (3rd)

January 16th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 9

miles, Leader Mike Patrick Meet Ulcombe church car  
park (voluntary fee) Good views.

January 16th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village  
Hall, Vanessa Jones 'BWAG' & Hyacinth Show, new  
members welcome ring 01634 233554 for details.

January 17th - Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 -  
4.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,  
Rainham, Speaker on Flynn's Bee Farm, Visitors  
welcome for small charge. Ring 01634 366276

January 17th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Quiz and  
Humour - Doug Webster, (see 6th Dec)

January 18th - St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Belly  
Dancing classes taster session 12.15pm contact 01634  
374038 (9.00am -12.30pm Mon-Fri) or email  
mcentre.walsh@btconnect.com to book.

January 19th - Rainham Oasthouse Quiz Night, (15th)

January 19th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 15th)

January 20th - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am, 5  
miles, Leaders Pete/Kate Ware, Meet at the car park  
behind Birling Church. Pub at end

January 21st - Rainham Wives, 'Your Local Travel  
Agent', ideas for days out and holidays (see 3rd Dec)

January 21st - Rainham Evening WI, Glen Jones talk  
'Kent Valour', competition - Auction Unwanted  
Christmas Gifts (see 17th Dec)

January 22nd - GHS Floral Art Group, New Year -  
New Handbag! (floral handbag) (see 4th Dec)

January 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walks, 9.25am  
Hempstead Valley for bus to Maidstone, return walk  
8.5 miles, Leader Mike Patrick, bring picnic, bus pass.

January 23rd - All Saints Women's Fellowship Talk:  
From Estate Agent to Toastmaster, John Oakley. (see  
5th Dec)

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