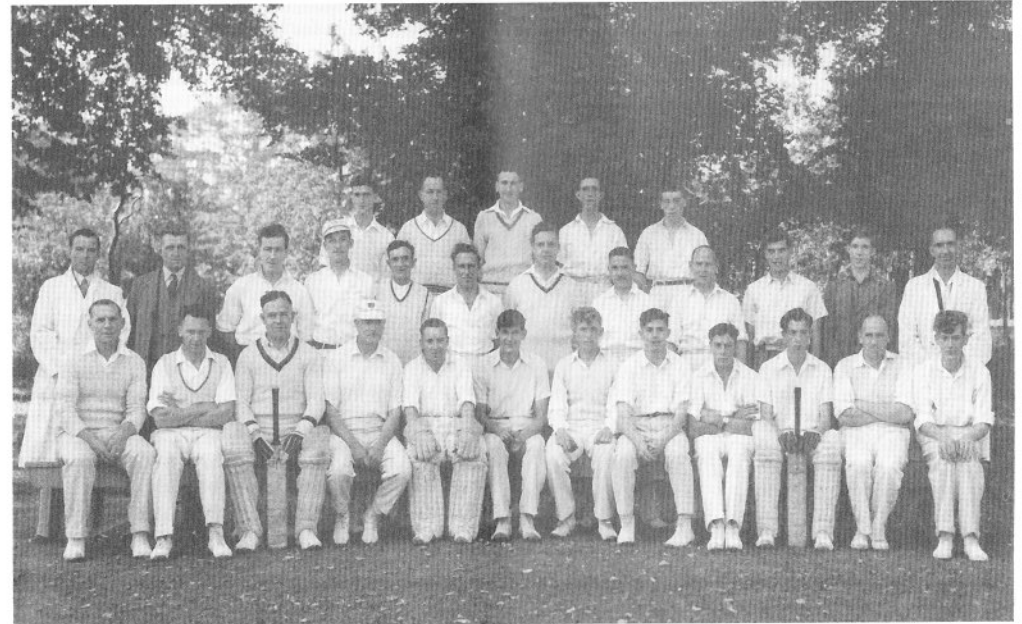


# ACTION FORUM

APRIL 2013  
NUMBER 486

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



Rainham Cricket Club Married and Singles Match 1948. The club was formed in July 1856 by two wealthy local farmers Thomas Dodd and Richard Mansfield Wakeley. James Miles another wealthy farmer allowed the club to play on a meadow at Siloam Farm. By 1890 the club were playing on Rainham Recreation Ground in Station Road although they did return to Siloam later for a few seasons. In 1923 Colonel H.E. Day gave permission to use Berengrove Park as their home ground. In 1957 G.H. Ward, a local builder, gave the park to the people of Rainham but allowed the Cricket Club to continue playing on a lease. This continues to this day - see the article on page 9. Information from '150 not out The Complete History of Rainham Cricket Club' by David Wood, published 2006, available price £15 from Sunburst Books, Station Road, Rainham.

## Robert J. Kitney

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Next Issue May 4th 2013  
Copy Date: Apr 16th, Sm Ads Apr 24th  
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Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller  
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21 Station Rd, Rainham ME8 7RS  
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## Editorial

Litter is a perennial problem and it seems to be getting worse. I hope it is because of our proximity to the motorway and fast food outlets that we have so much abandoned rubbish in our area of Meresborough but I fear it is a problem throughout Medway. From comments by other walkers I meet whilst picking up the cans, bottles and wrappers scattered on the road between our house and the M2 Service Station (our local newspaper shop) I know many individuals spend time picking up litter and yet it still appears. Most is obviously just thrown from the car when the contents have been finished – or quite often not finished. Why is it so difficult to keep it inside the car and put in your own rubbish container at home? However what I completely fail to understand is why you would load the car with an armchair and large empty box and drive to a country lane to unload it by the side of the road, as has happened this week, when the Council will perfectly happily collect it, at no charge, from your own doorstep. Alternatively the chair could have been donated to charity – it looked in good enough condition before the snow and rain came down. How do we get the message across? I feel so ashamed of our surroundings when you cannot walk more than a few yards without yet another drink can clattering beneath your feet.

I suppose I should be grateful to be able to walk anywhere at the moment. The weather has been atrocious. If it is not raining, sleeting or snowing it is cold or even freezing, not what should be happening at the end of March. Optimistically we booked a weeks holiday for the end of March in sunny Oxfordshire – it seemed like a good idea at the time, last year we were talking of heat waves and prolonged drought at this time. Unfortunately it looks as though we will be experiencing the other end of the scale with rain, snow and freezing temperatures, not much fun for getting out and walking in the countryside. Always looking on the bright side, many people in the area are busy preparing for the usual spring and summer outdoor events. We include details this month for Easter Egg Hunts, a St Georges Day Fete and Music Festival, Plant Sales, Bluebell Walks, Bird Watching, and Volunteer Task days, just a few of the activities all vastly improved by fine warm weather. However should this dismal state of affairs persist there are also many other events you could enjoy safely inside in the warm. An Art Exhibition, the

inaugural meeting of a new group of U3A (University of the Third Age) Craft Fairs, Telling Tales, Quiz Nights, Concerts and a Masked Ball are all included in our pages, so plenty to do to keep you busy until we are with you again in May. Until then have a very good month.

## Correspondence

THE EMPRESS OF CANADA

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to read the article about Frank Cheal published in the last edition. My father, Charles Roberts who lived in Roberts Road, knew him when they were both in the Royal Navy and was on "The Empress of Canada" when it was torpedoed on March 13th 1943. My father and Frank Cheal used to meet each other for a drink on that date every year whenever they could until my father died in 1989.

Unlike Frank, Dad did tell us about his experiences on that night and we finally persuaded him to write them down. It is a vivid account of the event and the three days adrift in open boats 1000 miles from land on the equator before being rescued. As a 33 year-old Chief Petty Officer, Dad was in charge of one of the life boats. There were 75 in his boat, built for 50, including 45 Polish soldiers, one of whom spoke English, 18 Polish women (one with a broken leg because she jumped in at the last minute as it was leaving). He also had on board a drunken civil servant who'd managed to consume a bottle of whisky after the explosion, and a Naval Leading Seaman of 18 for whom it was the 4th time he'd been shipwrecked since the beginning of the war! Having made an area of privacy at one end of the boat for the women, Dad said they were calm, polite and helpful. Dad's main task was to allocate the water rations and thanks to the Polish officer he managed to persuade the company to let him limit the supply. The accounts describe many small acts of courage, kindness and heroism. One of his colleagues risked his own life in going to unlock the doors in the area holding the prisoners of war so that they could escape. It is not without humour. Although he was only 33, Dad was bald and during the day in the blinding heat, his head began to blister and he felt ill, a Polish lady noticed his distress and tore her petticoat into squares to make him a hat, knotting the corners. He remembered it being white with red polka dots! He found that most amusing! One Polish soldier became crazy in the heat of the sun, and dived overboard and swam round the boat for several minutes. Amazingly, the barracuda and sharks didn't get him. Nobody else tried it.

After three days they were spotted by a Catalina Flying boat which was searching for them. They knew that help was near so Dad said he gave them all a full cup of water to celebrate. They were picked up by HMS Petunia and then home on the "Mauritania". By the end of the month, he was home on leave and I remember walking up Roberts Road with my

mother to be told by a smiling baker that there was a nice surprise waiting for us! Dad had climbed up the drainpipe and let himself in through the bathroom fanlight!

Although we have these vivid and precious memories of my Father's wartime experiences, he needed to share them with shipmates who understood what it was really like. Perhaps Frank Cheal was able to talk with him about these experiences that he didn't want to share with others. Certainly, they both held March 13th as a special day and were grateful they had survived when so many friends and colleagues had been lost.

Helen Osborne  
f.osborne394@btinternet.com

### THE BALLARD FAMILY

Dear Editor,

With the building of 35 new homes to the rear of Birling Avenue and Cozenton Park, I have become interested in the "Ballard" family. Many people have snippets of information, and I've always liked those "Sun-Trap" homes popular within the Rainham area. Can anyone tell me when Ballard the Builders were at their height, and when they ceased to trade? I have a 1968 Street Plan and guide which clearly names Cozenton Park as "Berengrave Park"! I thoroughly enjoy Action Forum and feel we must continue to move Rainham's fascinating past into the future. Hopefully this may help!

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Fisher (nee Tull)  
01634 234210  
pandmfisher@googlemail.com

### THE MONDAY HUB

Dear Editor

I am writing to invite readers of AF to The Monday Hub which meets at St Paul's Church Parkwood, on the following Mondays: 8 & 22 April; 13 & 20 May; 3 & 17 June; 1, 15 & 29 July; 5, 12 & 19 Aug; 2, 16, 30 Sep; 14 & 28 Oct; 11 & 25 Nov; 9 & 16 Dec. The Hub, now in its third year, is open from 10am – 12.30pm with light refreshments, (tea, coffee and hot chocolate - all free), lively conversations about books the day's news, what we've been doing, etc. There's table tennis, card games, Scrabble and more. Some people drop in for a coffee and to read the paper or to contribute food items for the Medway Food Bank. Come and meet us - whether you are at home due to

retirement or ill health, when you've dropped children or grandchildren off at school, before you go shopping in Parkwood or visit the health centre. Everyone is welcome. On 22nd April, the Monday Hub is hosting a fund raising coffee morning for The Alzheimer's Society. This will include a home made cake stall, a "bring and buy" table, a raffle and refreshments. We would love to welcome you on this special morning - and any of the Mondays' listed. If you would like to speak to somebody before your first visit please phone Jill on 01634 230780.

Yours sincerely  
The Monday Hub Planning Team

### RUSSIAN ADVENTURE

Dear Editor

I am going to Russia with West Kent Guides this summer. We will be visiting St Petersburg and Moscow, staying in youth hostels and carrying out a community project during our stay. I have to raise the money (£1100) myself for my trip and as part of my fundraising I am holding a quiz night on Friday 10th May, 7.30pm at the Millennium Centre, Rainham. 6-8 per table, £5 per head. The quizmaster will be Barry Kemp, choirmaster at St Margaret's Church. People should bring their own drink, nibbles, glasses and plates. Advance booking is essential, please phone Ann on 01634 372680 or Chris on 01634 234561.

Yours sincerely  
Katie Pavey

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Girlguiding Rainham South District  
Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Rainham South District is looking for adult volunteers to get involved and help run weekly sessions at Brownie and Rainbow units in Wigmore and Rainham. If you would be interested in joining Girlguiding and help to grow guiding in Kent, please contact the District Commissioner on missajc@hotmail.co.uk or 07986 782099.

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# Diary 2013

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Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 16th April

- April 2nd – 30th - Art Exhibition, Paintings by Local Artists, Clive Bass, John Gilson and Ron Wiseman on show in Rainham Library, Birling Avenue.
- April 8th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Tea and Chat, St Paul's Church, 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 373594 for details.
- April 8th – Monday Hub, St Pauls Church, Parkwood, 10.00am – 12.30pm, light refreshments, conversation, games etc, all welcome ring 01634 230780 for details.
- April 8th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday evening of each month to help people still in employment who have lost a loved one, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.
- April 8th - Medway Organ Club Concert, 2nd Monday of each month, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30, For more details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694
- April 8th - 10th April – Loopy Balloons, Learn how to make balloon models, amaze your family and friends. Free holiday activities at Hempstead Valley, 11.00am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 4.00pm daily
- April 9th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, London Ceramic Treasures from Middle Ages to Victoria, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 8.00pm all visitors most welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 01474 823606
- April 10th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Malcolm Withnall - Improved Vegetable Gardening, ring 01634 389966 for more details.
- April 10th – All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Talk: Local PCSO, Sean Brooks. New members always welcome, contact 07951 629444
- April 10th – 13th - Three Towns Theatre Company "The King and I", Brook Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm Tickets £12 (£10 cons) Family Tickets available, Box office 01634 338338, details www.threetownstheatrecompany.co.uk
- April 10th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Workshop -Table arrangements, Subs £25, Seniors £20, information phone 01622 884657, 01795 472973 or 01634 863034

- April 10th – 12th – Easter Holiday Bible Club, Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, aged 5 – 11 years welcome, 10.00am – 12noon, games stories, refreshments, all free, details lorna.collins@freeuk.com
- April 10th – Orienteering Family Fun, Riverside Country Park 10.00am – 12noon, £2 pp, book on 01634 338191
- April 11th – Beginners Fishing, Capstone Farm Country Park, 9.00 – 11.00am and 1.00 – 3.00pm, suitable for 8 – 12 years £10 per child book 01634 338191
- April 11th - Inaugural meeting of new Rainham and Gillingham U3A (University of the Third Age), Rainham Mark Social Club, 2.00pm, all welcome.
- April 11th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Fabulous Fjords of Norway, David Meredith, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507
- April 11th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, Tea and chat, 2.00 – 4.00pm, New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907
- April 11th - Donn Barcott's Five 5 Live, 8.30pm 44Two Club Featherby Road, Elaine Diane (Vocals) with special guest, songs from Great American Song Book plus a magician at your table, raffle, bar, admission £6 all welcome, details 01634 405037
- April 11th & 12th April - Arty Party, Explore your creative side. Free holiday activities at Hempstead Valley, 11.00am - 1.00pm & 2.00pm - 4.00pm daily
- April 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets every Friday 9.45am – 12noon to help people who have lost a loved one, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.
- April 12th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, information from Ron Baker 01634 854982
- April 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, Walking the North Downs Way with Stephen Manning, 11 miles Farnham Station to Shepherd's Way (free car park) Guildford GU4 8AF, Ring 01634 375821 for details.

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- April 13th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham 7.30 – 10.00pm. New & experienced dancers welcome with or without a partner, information 01634 366189 or 388546
- April 13th - Spring Craft Fair, St Margaret's Church Lower Halstow, 2.00 – 4.00pm, local crafts, home made produce, refreshments Thames Sailing barge, 'Edith May' open offering light lunches and refreshments.
- April 13th – GHS Floral Art Group, Spring Show, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gill, 01634 232998
- April 13th - Concert with UK Paper Band, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.00pm, Tickets £5, light refreshments, in aid of Action for Children ring 01634 389497 for details.
- April 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Mike Collins 07855 929404, 10.00am for 8.2 mile walk at Aylesford free car park just south of Village, one steep climb. Good view, bring picnic for stop en route.
- April 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Mo Fleisig 01634 362743 at Minnis Bay Parking (free) on promenade close to The Minnis Public House, GR 284694 for a 5 mile circular coastal walk through a bird reserve, mainly flat, could be muddy. No dogs.
- April 14th – Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park 10.00am – 12noon, £2 pp, book on 01634 337432
- April 14th - 6.30pm Monthly Sunday service with special guest Medium Vickey Diprose. Healing given after the service, The Centre, Farthing Corner, (M2 Services) www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk
- April 15th, 22nd & 29th - Baby Massage Course, St Paul's Church, Parkwood 10.00 – 11.00am, £3 for entire course, To enrol contact Elaine Wheeler 01634 379360 or email baby massage@the139club.co.uk
- April 15th – Wigmore WI, Pauline Atherton - Flower arranging, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 7.30pm, Visitors welcome, Ring 01634 263405
- April 15th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (see 8th Ap)
- April 15th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Lisa Aubrey talk 'Diamonds and the Four C's', competition - A Favourite Cuddly Toy, ring 01634 262577.
- April 16th - Dementia Café, St Paul's Church, Long Catlis Road, 1.00 – 3.00pm. A friendly and supportive meeting place for people with Dementia and their carers. Everyone welcome, free refreshments available more information Sylvia Wolfson 07557 111060 or email sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk

- April 16th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Spring Miniature, ring 232998 for details.
- April 16th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.45pm £3.00, Water Voles and Otters and AGM - John Bramley. www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.
- April 17th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Susan Scrivens illustrated talk 'A Bouquet of Old Roses', new members welcome ring 01634 233554.
- April 17th - 'Telling Tales', Storytelling for adults, Hastings Arms, 18 Lower Rainham Road, 8.00pm start, Dreamtime Stories from Australia told by the Ring of Hope Storytellers, £6.00 information 01634 852614
- April 18th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Tea and chat, (11th April 18th - Wigmore Thursday Club, The Real St George, Rupert Matthews, (see 11th April)
- April 18th - Rainham Women's Institute, Speaker Writing Victorian Crime Using Real Events, (see 11th April)
- April 19th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Club, Darland Avenue, Gillingham, at 8.30pm Geoff Mason/ Mick Foster Quintet. Admission £10, Concessions for Anchorian's club members on production of their I.D. Enquiries 01634 365352 and Mobile 07544 312743
- April 20th - Rainham South Councillors surgery at Parkwood Community Centre 9.00am- 12 noon. No appointment needed.
- April 20th - Indoor Boot Fair, St. Georges Hall Scout Headquarters, Berengrave Lane, 10.30am - 12.30pm, for 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group. 50p adults, children free, refreshments, to book a table (£10 each) 01634 361061 or julie206@blueyonder.co.uk
- April 20th – Concert by Old Barn Orchestra in aid of Demelza Hospice, 7.30pm, Pilkington Building, Universities at Medway Campus, Tickets £10.00 Children £1.00 01795 843228 or 01634 376979
- April 20th - Friends of Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre Fun Quiz Night, St Matthew's Community Centre, Wigmore, 7.30pm, £5 per head; bring own drinks and nibbles! Ann 01634 366766, tables for 6 or 8 persons
- April 20th - Kingfisher Singers The Brain Concert, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, 7.30 – 10.00pm, Refreshments and raffle, Tickets £8 (£7.50 in advance) ring Olwen 01634 263622
- April 20th – Medway Festival of Music Speech and Drama, Mid Kent College, www.medwayfestival.co.uk

Continued on Page 11

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Saturday 20th April, 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Refreshments and Raffle

Ticket £8.00 (£7.50 booked in advance)

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**VOLUNTEER TASK DAYS**

Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

Sunday 21st April, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst

If you enjoy using Bredhurst Woods, please consider  
giving a few hours to help restore and maintain the  
site. Jobs vary throughout the year and may include  
light coppicing, ground clearance, fencing and litter  
picking. Please bring gloves and wear suitable  
clothing. Lunch and refreshments provided.  
For more details please call/text Steve Wright  
(BWAG Trustee) 07801 386264 or email  
stevewright50@btinternet.com

Members & Non-Members Welcome

**AGM**

Wigmore Community & Residents Association

Friday April 26th, 7.30pm prompt - 9.30pm

All members and non members welcome to attend  
(you may join on the night)

Ward Councillors, Police Representatives and our  
local MP all hope to attend.

More details from 01634 378769

**MAYOR OF MEDWAY'S MASKED BALL**

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**VIDEO RACE NIGHT**

The Friends of St Margaret's Church

The Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham

Saturday 27th April, 7.30pm - 8 races

Please bring your own food and drinks

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Children welcome but bets can only be placed by  
those aged 16 and over

**BWAG - BLUEBELLS & CREAM TEA**

BWAG are holding bluebell walks through

Bredhurst Woods followed by cream teas in the

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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

In March I visited the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, which is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust, in order to witness some of the first signs of spring. The reserve is on the north side of the A25 between Bat & Ball and Riverhead. It was once a sand and gravel pit and is now a mixture of lakes and woodland. There is good access, for wheelchairs and buggies, to most of the reserve. Not having been before to what is a large reserve, I chose to join one of the regular walks led by a warden.

We headed first to the hide overlooking the East Lake, from where we could see, standing on low lying islands, lapwing and two species of duck - gadwall and shoveller. It appeared that these were the only birds to be seen, until the warden directed our attention to a line of vegetation in the shallow water in which a group of snipe were resting. The bird is a stockily built wader with boldly striped plumage and a very long bill. The warden explained that snipe can be relatively tame when unmolested and that these particular birds would soon be departing to breed on the moors of northern England. Before we left the hide, the warden pointed out to us a peacock butterfly hibernating in a corner of the roof. He explained that there are four stages in the life cycle of a butterfly - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult. The peacock and the brimstone, for example, hibernate as adults, whereas the orange tip and holly, among others, spend the winter as a chrysalis.

The woodland at the reserve consists mainly of alder, silver birch and two species of willow - grey and goat willow - which are known collectively as pussy willows. We saw our first sign of spring, a bumble bee, feeding on the pollen of pussy willow flowers. Almost immediately afterwards, we spotted our first butterfly of the new year, a brimstone, which may have recently come out of hibernation. This species is seen in almost every month of the year, but has a peak appearance in the first warm days of spring. Only the male sports the familiar lemon colour. The warden then led us, through some undergrowth, along a path which had been recently created by the passing of

many feet. At the end of it was a spectacular display of a bright red fungus growing on the moss covered, fallen trunk of a willow tree. The warden explained that it was a scarlet elf cap, which was rare nationally, but fairly common within the reserve. The sight of the fungus reminded me that I would not have been able to benefit from the knowledge that the warden had of the flora and fauna of the reserve, had I chosen to walk around the reserve on my own.

On the way to the North Lake, we came across a large flock of long tailed tits flitting across the ride down which we were walking. Like flying teaspoons, the tits were easily observed by all of the party and, for their part, they did not seem to be at all concerned by our presence. Less conspicuous was a tree creeper on the trunk of an oak tree and two goldfinches in a Scots pine, which were drawn to our attention by the warden. At the North Lake we settled down in a hide. Overhanging the edges of the lake were branches which serve as ideal perches for kingfishers. Despite its blue and chestnut plumage, the kingfisher is often inconspicuous when perching and is noted only once it flies away. The bird has a characteristically low, rapid and direct flight, during which it emits a shrill, piping call. We did not, I am afraid, either see or hear a kingfisher during our stay at the hide - only coot, water hen and mallard. It was of some compensation, nevertheless, that we heard one of the most welcomed sounds of spring, the call of a newly arrived summer migrant, a chiff chaff.

We headed back to the Visitor Centre along the edge of the West Lake, on which we observed the courtship display of a pair of great crested grebes, facing each other and shaking their heads. The grebe became almost extinct during Victorian times as a result of the fashion of decorating ladies' hats with the plumes of the bird. The fight to protect the great crested grebe led, in due course, to the creation of the RSPB. Ironically, it was the extraction of gravel for the building of the motorways that created many of the habitats, such as the Sevenoaks Reserve, in which they now thrive. In our walk around the edge of the West lake we passed, in sunny spots, clumps of the bright yellow flowers of the lesser celandine, another sign of spring. One of the birds that is resident, all the year

round on the reserve, is the bullfinch. The male is a handsome bird with a black head and a pink breast. However, the most common view of the bird is of its conspicuous white rump as it retreats into the nearest cover. Given the size of the group of people I walked around with, and the shyness of the bullfinch, it was not surprising that we did not see even a disappearing white rump. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and it was good to witness the growing interest among families in visiting nature reserves.

Joe Ennis

## DELIVERY A LASTING LEGACY AT BERENGROVE PARK, RAINHAM

The most visual and enduring legacy of Rainham Cricket Club is Berengrove Park.

It is recorded that the club started playing cricket at this home in the early 1920s. The original house that stood in the park was once visited by the then Duchess of York who used it as a holiday retreat. This is part of the established rich history associated with Rainham. Another is cricket which continues to be played at the ground. That it should be available for the Rainham Cricket Club were the instructions of the benefactor, Mr G H Ward who gifted the land to the Council. Now, some 90 years on, the park is still a green oasis amongst the chimney pots but only recently has the tenure been secured for the club until 2038. With this reassurance we can move forward with our goal to build a new Club Community Pavilion and car park. This is the last part of the 2006 Development Plan to improve the somewhat tired facilities for members and the community at large. An ambitious and exciting plan but we will have to raise the bar in order to survive and provide a pavilion that is a centre of cricketing excellence and a venue for the use of the community.

The members aim is to provide lasting facilities for future generations. Funding activities continue with some £20,000 (c) raised to date. Applications to funding organisation commence in 2013. The outcome of this will dictate when we can start construction, we hope for the end of 2013! £300,000 is the total target and to achieve this we will need help from all parts of the community.

Please consider if in any way you can help. For more information call in and see us at the club, or contact me Keith Chambers on 01634 361690 or 07989 799945

## THE RAINHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITY

The Charity Commission formed this charity in 1980 from six separate charities from the 'Ancient Parish of Rainham' for the benefit of persons resident in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Margaret, Rainham.

The Charity is able to make small grants to those in need who live in the above parochial area. They are unable to make grants in areas which are the responsibility of statutory State Benefits but may be able to assist those who have perhaps incurred unforeseen expenses which are not covered by the benefit system.

In 2001 the Charity Commission gave approval for any surplus income to be given as grants to other organisations and/or project which are for the general benefit of the persons in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Margaret, Rainham.

The surplus funds available for 2013 stand at £900. The Trustees of the Charity invite applications from those eligible. Further information and a grant application form may be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Mr K. G. Stevens, 10, School Lane, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7ET 01795 844304.

## ART EXHIBITION

Paintings by Local Artists, Clive Bass, John Gilson and Ron Wiseman will be on show in Rainham Library, Birling Avenue between 2nd and 30th April.

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## Diary 2013

April 20th - Quiz Night, Fort Pitt Old Girls Association,  
7.30pm, Teams up to 8, £5 per head includes supper  
Contact 01795 599378 (eves & weekend) by 18th April  
April 20th - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls,  
Derwent Way, 8.00 - 11.00pm, Ballroom - Latin -  
Sequence dancing, Enquiries 01634 363738 email  
s.colins02@btinternet.com  
April 20th - Paranormal Investigations, Fort Amherst,  
Dock Road, Activities 9.00pm, Finish 3.00am approx.,  
Medium Richard Ware, Tickets £35, Book on line Over  
18's only, details 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com  
April 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Bob/Kath  
Dyson, 10.00am for 6 mile walk Good Intent Pub,  
Farleigh Green, Ewell Lane, West Farleigh, Park  
considerately around Green, Pub at end  
April 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249 5.5  
mile walk via Kits Coty, hilly in places, No dogs.  
April 21st - BWAG Volunteer Task Day 10.00am -  
2.00pm, all welcome, meet Hurstwood Road, details  
07801 386264 or stevewright50@btinternet.com  
April 22nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Digital Audio  
Visual Show - Mr C Cole, (see 8th April)  
April 22nd - Monday Hub, Fund raising for the  
Alzheimer's Society (see 8th April)  
April 22nd - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church  
Hall, Wakeley Road, 'A Bon Marche evening' with  
Spring Fashions presented by Sam. New members of all  
ages welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting, 01634 230639.  
April 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Peter/Ann  
Green 01634 718895, 6.30pm for 4 mile walk, Village  
Hall car park, Hodsell Street (near Green Man pub), A  
short evening walk, Pub at end.  
April 24th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Charity  
Presentation: Wisdom Hospice and the Oliver Fisher  
baby unit (see 10th April)  
April 25th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed  
by Singalong, (see 11th April)

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April 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Outing (see 11th)  
April 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,  
7.30pm, details Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038  
April 26th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Mike Collins  
07855 929404, 9.00pm for 4.5 mile night walk, park  
considerately in Detling village, bring torch, finish  
11.30pm. Allergy Warning: Walk may contain hills!  
April 26th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron  
Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm,  
Earthquakes and Volcanoes - Dr Mahbub Karim,  
Everyone welcome, details Pat Meredith 01634 362683  
April 26th - Macmillan Cancer Support, Medway  
Fundraising Committee AGM, 7.00pm, RaTS, Oast  
House Theatre, Refreshments, Raffle, All Welcome  
April 26th - Wigmore Community & Residents  
Association AGM, 7.30pm, all welcome (join on the  
night). Ward Councillors, Police Representatives and  
local MP hope to attend, details 01634 378769  
April 27th - Upchurch Horticultural Society, Spring Plant  
Market, The Paddock, Upchurch 9.00am - 12.30pm  
April 27th - St George's Day Fete & Music Festival, noon  
- 9.00pm, Newton Primary School playing field,  
details 01795 843334, sukicalder@hotmail.com or  
www.facebook.com/Newington.Fete.and.Festival  
April 27th - Mayor of Medway's Masked Ball, Corn  
Exchange, Rochester. All profits to the Mayor of  
Medway's charities appeal. Details 01634 332404  
April 27th - Video Race Night, Friends of St Margaret's  
Church, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm, 8 races,  
bring your own food and drinks, Tickets £5 or £4 in  
advance Contact Kay 230430 or Joan 230183, Children  
welcome but bets only placed by aged 16 and over  
April 27th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 13th April)  
April 27th & 28th - BWAG - Bluebells & Cream Tea  
Weekend, 2.00pm each day, Tickets £6 per person must  
be purchased in advance (under 16 free), Jim Chalmers  
07870 878907 or email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com  
April 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Tony/Ann  
Faulkner 01634 406634, 10.00am for 6.5 mile walk at  
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April 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
meet Pearl Stevens 02274 602929 at Camer Park car  
park, Meopham, GR 650670 for a 5.5 mile undulating  
walk through fields and orchards, No dogs.

April 22nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Quiz (see 8th Ap)  
April 29th - Rainham Wives, 'The Victoria Palace'  
illustrated talk by Dean Caston. (see 22nd April)

May 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Geoff Ettridge  
07525 161766 5.00am for 4 mile May Day Sunrise  
walk at Mickey's Diner - off Chatham bound A229,  
Bluebell Hill visit Kits Coty and Little Kits Coty before  
climbing back to Diner for breakfast

May 2nd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk "Theatrical  
Tales" (see 11th April)

May 2nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, TV's Golden Years,  
Wilfred Lower, (see 11th April)

May 3rd - Ghost Tours, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Tour  
Times 8.00 - 9.00pm, All Tickets £10, Book on line,  
No under 8's, 01634 847747 www.fortamherst.com

May 4th - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Shaw Memorial  
Hall, Rock Avenue Gillingham, 2.00pm Entry 20p

May 4th - Beginners Bird Watching (spring), Riverside  
Country Park 11.00am - 12noon (classroom) 1.00 -  
3.00pm (field based), £3 per person, not suitable for  
under 12 years, book on 01634 337432

May 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Allan Buchan  
10.00am for 5 mile walk in Lapwing Drive (Creek end),  
Lower Halstow TQ858674 ME9 7EF Brief coffee stop  
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May 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Talk The Four  
Gardens of the RHS - Graham Usher, 7.30pm Rainham  
Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. New  
members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

May 7th - GHS Floral Art Group, Wendy's Pew Ends,  
(see 16th April)

May 10th - Quiz night, send Katie to Russia with the  
Guides, 7.30pm Millennium Centre, Rainham. Bring  
your own drink, nibbles, glasses and plates. 6-8 per  
table, advance booking essential, Tickets £5 per head,  
Phone Ann 01634 372680 or Chris 01634 234561.

May 11th - RAMASES, An illustrated talk by Jan Picton  
'Secrets of the Harem Palace: recent work at Gurob',  
Newington Village Hall, 2.30pm, Members £6.00,  
Guests £8.00, Tickets at door. ramasesnk@hotmail.com  
or John Dewey 01795 472316 for more information

May 12th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park  
10.00am - 12noon, £2 pp, book on 01634 337432

May 12th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Mike Collins  
07855 929404 10.00am for 8 mile walk at London -  
Richmond Tube Station TQ179747 TW9 1DN Possible  
Pub lunch bookable at start or bring a picnic.

May 13th - Medway Organ Club Concert, (see 8th April)

May 13th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, (8th  
May 14th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,  
Valuations, (see 9th April)

May 15th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Bea Auger - Audio  
Visual Sequences 'Galapagos Islands' (see 10th April)

May 17th - Jazz Gig, (see 19th April)

May 18th - Wigmore Mads, Spring Concert 'Put on a  
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See p2 for contact details & copy dates

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**Old Photographs of Rainham** available as postcards at 40p each from Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham. Prints at A5, A4 and A3 also available from The National Map Centre above the shop. To view the current selection see www.thenet.uk.net

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