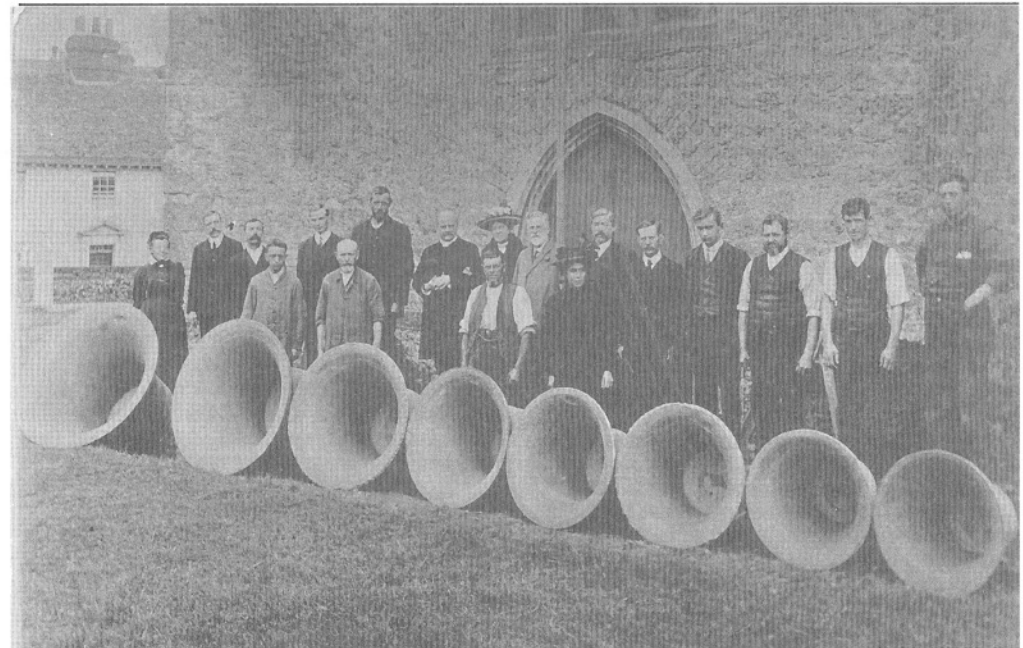


ACTION FORUM

JULY 2013
NUMBER 489

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



The bells of St Margaret's Church, Rainham. Until 1913 the tower only had 6 bells: the oldest, a tenor, replaced an earlier bell in 1582, two were added in 1601, another in 1618 (these three were cast by Robert Mot) the fifth in 1685 and the sixth in 1773.

In 1913 the two smallest bells were cast and all eight were rehung in an iron frame replacing the earlier wooden one. The cost then of restoring the six existing bells and casting the two new was £369 19s 3d. In 1982 when the frame needed more work the bill was estimated to be in the region of £4,000. Rev Tamplin (Vicar) and Mrs Tamplin, Sister Annie (Assistant) Miss Baker (cleaner) and George Green (Verger) are among the assembled people. See page 7.

Robert J. Kitney

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 Next Issue August 3rd 2013
 Copy Date: July 16th Sm Ads July 23rd
 Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller
 Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller
 Action Forum Office
 21 Station Rd, Rainham ME8 7RS
 (above Sunburst Books)
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Editorial

Thanks to a keen eyed reader who spotted herself in the picture of the Henry Street V.E. Day party which we printed on the front of last months Action Forum we can now name many of the participants, please see page 3 for those Mrs Ockenden remembered. I doubt that anybody will be able to add to the people we have already identified in the front cover picture this month. The photograph was taken one hundred years ago when a complete overhaul and refurbishment of St Margaret's Church bells took place. July 20th, St Margaret's Day, marks the centenary of the dedication in 1913. On the anniversary of the first peal to be rung, October 29th, our present bell ringers hope to complete the same peal exactly one hundred years later. Presumably in 1913 the ringers needed time to practise on the rehung bells.

Before October however we have the summer to look forward to! So far this year we have seen spectacularly little in the way of bright summer days and warm sunshine. Many of the big summer events have been and gone with almost alright weather but although it may be dry but it has just been dreary and miserable and often plain cold. The birds in our garden are certainly noticing it and eating us out of house and home with the quantity of food they are devouring. We have clutches of fledglings who entertain us with their attempts at eating, sometimes falling off the feeders, or simply sitting nearby watching to find out how to do it. They even have difficulty drinking - the young woodpeckers have yet to master the art of tipping their heads backwards in order to swallow water. However the blackbirds make full use of the water bowls spending some time on their ablutions, splashing and ducking under the water - I'm sure the parents have told them to wash behind their ears.

Having seen very few starlings all winter we now have several broods of youngsters who squabble and fight over the fat balls using up far more energy than they gain. The smaller chaffinches, gold finches and sparrows are content to keep out of the way and Hoover up the seeds and crumbs that fall to the ground. It is good to see that we still have a good selection of garden birds even if we do have to buy industrial quantities of feed.

It will soon be holiday time again so please do remember to keep an eye open in your neighbourhood for any suspicious activity, just showing a presence and being visible can help to deter the opportunist

villain. Whether you are going away or staying and enjoying our own locality do have a very good month and we will be with you again in August.

Correspondence

CENTENARY LUNCH

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Chatham Grammar Association to invite all former pupils and staff of Chatham Grammar School for Girls, which was, and still is, in Rainham Road, Chatham to our annual reunion. This year is a very important year for us, as it is the Centenary of the Association and we would like to try and bring together as many former pupils as possible.

The Centenary Lunch is to be held on Saturday 14th September, in the School Hall at CGSG, Rainham Road, Chatham. Pre-lunch drinks will be served in the Textiles room from 12.30 with lunch at 1.00pm.

We have three speakers this year: Myra Clare, a much-loved and respected teacher, and two former Head Teachers, Inge Watson and David Gundry, we are hoping for a triple treat of a trip down memory lane!

Tickets are now on sale priced £22. Applications for tickets in writing please, by September 2nd, enclosing your cheque (payable to Chatham Grammar Association) and the return address to The Treasurer, Chatham Grammar Association, 37 Homefield Drive, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 8RS.

Yours faithfully
 Wendy Draper
 (Treasurer CGA)

MEDWAY NETBALL LEAGUE

Dear Editor,

The Medway Netball league plays every week at the Rainham Netball Centre. There are about 40 teams ranging from 'mums wanting to get fit' to experienced players. We also have a 'back to netball' group, for those that need some practice before they join or form a team, and there is a junior section that plays on Saturday mornings. In the senior teams the age group ranges from 16 - 65. Some of our teams are looking for players, so if any readers are interested, we would be pleased to hear from them. Please contact me on kathy@iluvtea.co.uk.

Thank you.
 Kathy Moon

RaTS

Dear Editor

A great selection of entertainment is lined up at the Oasthouse Theatre to celebrate our Golden anniversary. Why not pop along and see: Richard III on Trial for Murder A play by Michael S Bennett on July 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th & 27th Curtain up at 8pm. Tickets £7.50

An Evening with Roy & Debbie Hudd
 Sunday 28th July, Curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets £20

Our patron will be in conversation with his Wife about his long and remarkable career in showbiz.

An evening not to be missed!

Box Office on 0844 8793224 or on-line at
www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

Yours sincerely
 Dean Caston
 Public Relations Manager

HENRY STREET V.E. DAY PARTY

Thank you to the people who contacted us with names for the partygoers featured on the front of Action Forum last month. Rita Ockenden (nee Wheeler) recognised herself - seated at the table fifth from the left - and several other family members. She has supplied the following names. They read roughly from left to right across the picture.

Starting fourth from the left, Mrs Hyland, George Wheeler, Patsy Bates, Mrs Seary, Gladys Collins, Eva Wheeler, Dick Grice, Daphne Wheeler, Rita Wheeler, Jill Hopkins, Edna Packer, Jean Packer, Beryl Payne, Audrey Grice, Bertie Fairey, Mrs Fairey, Mrs Grice, Mr Grice, George Collins and at the extreme right Jack Hyland, the owner of the building for which I gave the wrong address - it was actually on the site now occupied by 11 Henry Street.

CHILDREN'S SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Fancy yourself as the next J.K. Rowling?

Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre, in partnership with Dobbies Garden World, are holding a Children's Short Story Writing Competition Open to all children up to age 11

The top three winning stories will each receive a fantastic prize to create a wildlife or conservation garden at their school.

1st Prize - £500 2nd Prize - £350 3rd Prize - £200

A selection of the best stories will also be published as a page-turning e-book, which can be downloaded for reading on computers, tablets and i-phones. Stories can be any length, up to a maximum of 500 words and on any subject you choose.

Closing date for entries is Friday 30th August 2013.

So what are you waiting for - get writing!

For more details, visit our website:

www.gillinghamvolunteercentre.com or Telephone

01634 362119 or just ask your parent or guardian to send your story to:

story@gillinghamvolunteercentre.com

(remember to include your contact details and the name of your school)

Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre are proud to be Dobbies 'Local Charity of the Year'

WIGMORE AND PARKWOOD PARISH

We would be grateful for your help.

We are conducting a census of our Parish in order to determine the Catholic population (practising and lapsed) for future planning purposes.

If there are any Catholics in your house please call 01634 364134 and leave your house number and street and if you wish your name.

The information collected will only be used for this census purpose and to ensure the church's records are up to date.

Thank you from St Augustine's Catholic Church

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Woodside, part Hoath Lane, Swain Road, The Wheelers
 Top Edwin Road

Upchurch

The Poles and The Street to the Church,
 Forge Lane, Church Farm Road

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Diary 2013

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 July

- July 6th - Upchurch Horticultural Society, Late Spring Show, Village Hall, 2.00pm, details 01634 373723.
 July 6th - Upchurch Festival of Music, St Mary's Church, 8.00pm, Upchurch Choral Society Tickets £5.00 from 01634 361508, 01634 361557 or 01634 374220
 July 6th - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Shaw Memorial Hall, Rock Avenue Gillingham, 2.00pm, Entry 20p
 July 6th - Rochester Choral Society 7.00pm, St Georges Centre, Chatham Maritime, Verdi Requiem, ring 01634 401049 or www.rochesterchoral.co.uk
 July 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Kevin Nicholas 07515 330276, at Hythe Imperial Hotel, Marine Promenade, for a 5.5 mile 'Hythe of Activity' historical walk, slopes & stiles, dogs allowed.
 July 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Karl Martin, 10.00am for 6 mile walk, Whiffen's Avenue Car Park ME4 4SF, behind Old Town Hall Chatham (Pay and Display). Circular urban walk, Bring picnic lunch.
 July 7th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park and Capstone Farm, 10.00am - 2.00pm Refreshments provided, Free register interest 01634 337432 / 338191
 July 8th - Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays 2.00 - 4.00pm details 01634 230500
 July 8th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, St Paul's Church, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome, ring 01634 366056 or 373594 for details.
 July 8th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 'Phrases & Sayings' talk by Paul Warren, plus update on FROGS. New members all ages welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting, 01634 230639.
 July 8th - Medway Organ Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.00pm for 7.30, finishing 10.00pm For more details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694
 July 9th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, The History of Amber, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00pm all visitors are made most welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boys 0147 482 3606
 July 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham Jenkinson 07989 753278, 9.40am for 10 mile Bus Pass

- Walk, Wateringbury public car park, ME18 5DD, off Bow Road for the 9.48 bus to Tonbridge, Pub at end.
 July 10th - Medway Evacuees Club, 2.00pm Millennium Centre, Rainham A talk by Gillian Ellen on the Medway Queen, all welcome £1.50 pp, 01634 372189
 July 10th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Details 01634 863034
 July 10th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Christopher Payne - Osteopath, Managing Aches & pains, ring 01634 389966 for more details.
 July 11th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church. Talk "Medway Libraries" New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907
 July 11th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Medway Foodbank, Helen Gallagher, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507 for details.
 July 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 raffle, bar, £6 all welcome, details 01634 405037
 July 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday 9.45am - 12noon to help people who have lost a loved one, join us for cuppa & chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.
 July 12th - Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) Ladies Pamper Evening, 7.00pm, Gillingham Golf Club, £4 on the door, £3 in advance, therapies from £5. For tickets 01634 855844 medwayasthmaselfhelp@btconnect.com.
 July 12th & 13th - St Paul's Drama Group comedy 'Cash on Delivery' by Michael Cooney, GMC Community Hall, Third Avenue Gillingham, 7.30pm Tickets Adults £6 & Concessions £5, 01634 852712
 July 13th - Summer Bazaar for Kent Air Ambulance, 11.00am - 2.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre.
 July 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, walking the North Downs Way (section 4) with Stephen Manning 07598 330622, 9.25 miles from Wray Lane car park Reigate RH2 9RP, ring for more information.

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- July 13th - St. Margaret's Church of Lower Halstow, Fete, Vicarage Garden, (if wet Village Hall) 12noon - 4.00pm. More details from Kay 01795 844408
 July 13th - Cherry Picnic Time, The Vines, Rochester, In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, 1.00 - 4.00pm. Details see cherrydessert2013@gmail.com
 July 13th - Fort Pitt Old Girls Association Reunion at School, 2.00 - 6.00pm free to members, £1 non-members, light tea £1, details 01795 599378 eves, w/e
 July 13th - Upchurch Festival of Music, St Mary's Church, 8.00pm, The Afternoon Tea Group, Tickets £5.00 01634 361508, 01634 361557 or 01634 374220
 July 13th - Old Barn Orchestra Summer Concert 7.30pm Mid Kent College, Medway Campus, tickets £10 (child £1) 01795 843 228 or 01634 376979.
 July 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249 at Cliffe Woods car park by shops, for 6 mile flat easy walk around Woods, Cooling and Cliffe, dogs allowed.
 July 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Tony and Ann Faulkner 01634 406634 10.00am for 5 mile walk, East Malling ME19 6BJ meet near church. Some stiles may be muddy. No steep climbs. Bring picnic, Pubs at end.
 July 15th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Travelogue - Betty and Tony Mitchell, (see 8th July).
 July 15th - Monday Hub, St Pauls Church, Parkwood, 10.00am - 12.30pm, light refreshments, conversation, games etc. All welcome, ring 01634 230780 for details.
 July 15th - Wigmore WI, Helen Howard - Keeping snails, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 7.30pm, Visitors welcome, 01634 263405 for details.
 July 15th - Rainham Wives, Summer Meal. (see 8th July)
 July 15th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Sheila Boyd talk 'Nelson, Hero and Man', competition - Seasonal flowers from your garden real or photo, 01634 262577
 July 16th - Dementia Café, St Paul's Church, Long Catlis Road, 1.00 - 3.00pm, friendly and supportive meeting place for people with Dementia and their carers, all welcome, free refreshments details Sylvia Wolfson 07557 111060 or sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk
 July 16th - RSPB Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.00, Travels in Columbia - Barry Wright. www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.
 July 16th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Workshop with Viv O'Sullivan, ring 232998 for details.

- July 17th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Jacqueline Aviolet 'Asters' & African Violet and Sweet Pea Show, new members welcome ring 01634 233554
 July 17th - KentARA new club, 2.00pm, Scout Hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead ME7 3DW details Peter Nicholls 01892 835773 or 01843 835696.
 July 18th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Tea and chat (see 11th July).
 July 18th - Wigmore Thursday Club, A Grand Undertaking, John Weir, (see 11th July).
 July 18th - Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 - 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker on Secrets of the Walled Garden, Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276
 July 18.19.20.25.26.27 - Richard III on Trial For Murder, A Play by Michael S Bennett, 8.00pm, Oast House Theatre, Tickets £7.50, Box Office 0844 8793224 or on-line www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
 July 19th - Indoor Boot Fair, Upchurch Village Hall, 9.00 - 11.00am, Tables (Provided) £5, Refreshments available to book call Lisa 01795 428006, Entry 20p
 July 19th - Jazz Gig, Anchorian's Rugby Club, Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm Julian Marc Stringle Band Featuring Dominic Ashworth on Guitar. Admission £10, 01634 365352 or 07544 312743, all welcome
 July 20th - Rainham South Councillors surgery, Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am - 12noon, no appointment necessary
 July 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
 July 20th - Quiz Night, Oasthouse Community Centre, 7.30pm, Admission £2, Members £1.50, Rolls available 60p, details 01634 710553
 July 20th - RAMASES, An illustrated talk by Jocelyn Gohary, Newington Village Hall, 2.30 pm, Members £6.00, Guests £8.00 at the door. Ring 01795 472316 or ramasesnk@hotmail.com for more information
 July 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569 07999 858981 at Chilham car park off A252, for a 6 mile undulating walk via Godmersham Park, no dogs
 July 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Allan Buchan, 10.00am for 9.5 mile walk, Newington ME9 4JJ. Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end.

Continued on Page 11

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RAINHAM BELLS –
100th ANNIVERSARY 1913 - 2013
 Saturday 20th July, St Margaret's Day, will be the
 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the bells
 following their augmentation from six to eight. A
 complete new steel frame was installed and each bell
 had new fittings at this time, the original having been
 made of oak. The two new bells, the trebles, had
 been cast by Taylors at their Loughborough bell-
 foundry. All the costs of this augmentation were met
 by the parishioners of Rainham.
 The first peal on the new ring of eight bells was on
 29th October 1913. A peal attempt will be made on
 the Tuesday morning of 29th October 2013 to
 celebrate the anniversary. The same method
 Grandsire Triples and composition Holt's 10 part
 will be rung.

Tim Wraight
 Rainham Tower Captain

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LADIES PAMPER EVENING
 Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) is holding a
 Ladies Pamper Evening on Friday 12th July starting
 at 7.00pm at Gillingham Golf Club. Free parking,
 entry £4 on the door or £3 in advance. Enjoy a range
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LOWER HALSTOW FETE
 Saturday 13th July from 12 noon to 4.00pm
 St. Margaret's Church of Lower Halstow Fete
 Vicarage Garden, Vicarage Lane,
 (or if it's raining in the Village Hall, School Lane).
 Hog Loin Roast and BBQ, Flower Arranging and
 Vegetable Competitions, Beautiful Potted Plants for
 Sale, Children's Fancy Dress Competition
 Teas and Home Made Cakes, Cake Raffle, Coconut
 Shy and Beer Tent. Live Music By Jef Pedley (he
 played in the 1960's group of Screaming Lord
 Sutch) and Keith Howard (he used to be the lead
 singer of the 1960's group called The Honey
 Combs). Details from Kay on 01795 844408

CHARITY SUMMER BAZAAR
 for Kent Air Ambulance.
 Put on by Tesco Retired Staff RSA.
 Saturday 13th July, 11.00am – 2.30pm.
 Parkwood Community Centre, Parkwood Green

SUMMER CONCERT
 Old Barn Orchestra
 Saturday 13th July, 7.30pm
 Mid Kent College, Medway Campus
 Medway Road, Gillingham ME7 1FN
 Donizetti: Don Pasquale, Jarnfeldt: Praeludium
 Grieg: Norwegian Dances
 Schumann: Symphony No 3 'Rhenish'
 Elgar: Serenade for Strings
 Bryan Gippis - Conductor, Derek Webb - Leader
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 or members of the orchestra.

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 Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham.
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

In June of last year Mrs Ennis and I made two cruises on the River Medway, from Chatham Dockyard, in the paddle steamer Kingswear Castle. We went downstream to Darnet Fort, near Kingsnorth Power Station, on the first cruise and upstream to Wouldham on the second.

Soon after commencing our downstream trip we noted a raft of shelduck on the water at the entrance to Whitewall Creek. Shelduck are the classic ducks of inter-tidal flats and coastal estuaries. In June or July, most of the adult population of shelduck in this country fly to Heligoland Bight, off the coast of Germany, in order to moult. The Bight's massive expanses of shallow tidal flats give the birds relative safety during their vulnerable period of flightlessness. The ducks we saw may well have nested in underground cavities on the banks of Whitehall Creek. If that was the case, a small number of adult "minders" would be staying behind on the estuary in order to look after several broods of ducklings, which would be gathered together in one large "creche".

We noted three cormorants sunning themselves on buoys floating on the river. These days the Medway is a fairly clean river, despite its occasionally muddy appearance. Bass, cod, whiting, flounder and Dover sole, among other fish, can be caught there. Fish-eating great crested grebes and herons are also attracted to the river, especially in winter, when other stretches of water are frozen over. Common seals can be observed in the Medway, but we were sailing at high tide and the mammals are more likely to be seen at low tide, when they haul themselves out onto exposed sand or mud banks in order to rest.

After passing Upnor and rounding St Mary's Island, we sailed down the main channel between Hoo and Nor Marshes. The latter were once surrounded by an embankment to keep out the sea water and served as grazing land for sheep. However, its sea walls having been breached by rising sea levels, it is now an RSPB bird reserve. The black headed gulls one sees flying over Rainham in the morning, in order to feed on the Downs, return here in the evening to roost.

We sat under a light blue sky dotted with fluffy clouds as we enjoyed a cup of tea bought on board.

Reflecting the bright sunshine, the waters of the Medway were a greeny blue colour, whilst sea purslane and other maritime plants gave the islands in the estuary a shade of light green. The Kingswear Castle turned round between Hoo and Darnet Forts and headed back to Chatham.

On our cruise upstream, we passed the former dockyard's quarter mile long Georgian warehouses, before coming across a flock of mute swans on the edge of the river below Riverside Gardens. It would appear to be a place where members of the public feed the swans. By ancient custom and law, all mute swans belong to the Crown, their meat being once much prized for festive and state occasions. The Crown did, however, grant rights to certain persons and bodies to keep their own flocks. However, only two London livery companies and the swannery at Abbotsbury in Dorset still retain those rights. It would appear that the swans that congregate at Chatham are the property of HM The Queen, as Seigneur of Swans.

We rounded Chatham Ness and Gashouse Point and sailed under the three Medway bridges, beyond which the countryside widens out into the Medway Gap. On the starboard side the Downs rise up steeply from the riverbank and are heavily wooded. On the port side, is the low lying land of the Wouldham Marshes, which are grazed by cattle. Beyond the marshes, fields of wheat sweep gently up towards the distant escarpment of the North Downs.

For the first time in both trips, the river bank takes on a rural atmosphere. Plants in view included common reed, marsh mallow, sea aster, common chord grass, sea couch grass and sea club-rush. A family was having as picnic on the river bank and gave us a cheery wave. Beyond the embankment came the calls of jackdaws as they searched for worms in the riverside fields. I noticed a common buzzard circling in the air above the marshes. Years ago one would have had to go to the West Country to see one of these birds. All they really need is a supply of rabbits and a tree to nest in, so they are now quite common here in Kent.

At Wouldham the steamer did a three point turn before

heading back to Chatham. A high tide in June may not be the best time to see the birds of the Medway Estuary. There is something to be said, however, for simply listening to the soporific sounds of the paddles splashing into the water and the steady rhythm of the compound steam engine and watching the scenery go by.

In December of last year the Kingswear Castle was towed back to her original home on the River Dart in Devon, from where she will continue to take passengers on river trips.

Joe Ennis

KentARA

The Kent Active Retirement Association is proposing to open another Active Retirement Club at the Scout Hall, Dukes Meadow, Hempstead, ME7 3DW on Wednesday 17th July 2013 at 2.00pm. The hall is large enough for a fair sized club, there are parking facilities at the hall and there is reasonable public transport.

All retired or semi-retired men and women over the age of 50 are welcome.

There are already 83 such clubs throughout Kent with a combined membership in excess of 12,000. The nearest existing clubs to the one proposed are at Wigmore, Medway, Walderslade and Rainham. In fact the Wigmore club was opened less than a year ago with very many people disappointed that they could not join as it was full up upon opening. At that time I promised that I would endeavour to open another club in close proximity and this is the culmination of that promise.

This article has been written before a public meeting was held in June, but indications are that this would be successful and that the club would be viable. This new club will provide members with the chance to join in the various activities without having to travel the distance to another such club. We owe our success to the many and varied activities offered by the clubs, including line dancing, short mat bowls, holidays and outings. Basically, providing there are sufficient numbers to justify offering an activity, the club will try to offer it.

We are a non-profit making organisation and try to ensure that activities can be offered to anyone, regardless of their financial circumstances. Please direct all enquiries to Peter Nicholls 01892 835773 or Derek Weyman 01843 835696.

ANNUAL REUNION

Fort Pitt Old Girls Association
Saturday 13th July 2.00 – 6.00pm
Fort Pitt Grammar School, Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham
Come and look around the school and meet up with old friends

All former students and friends/family welcome. The event is free to members, £1 for non-members. A light tea will be available to members and non-members for £1. For more information ring 01795 599378 eves and weekends

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Diary 2013

July 22nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Kingfisher Singles,
(see 8th July).

July 22nd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 8th July).

July 23th - Upchurch Festival of Music, St Mary's
Church, The Afternoon Tea Group, Tickets £5.00 from
01634 361508, 01634 361557 or 01634 374220

July 25th - Beginners Fishing, Capstone Farm Country
Park, 9.00 - 11.00am or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn basics of
course fishing with rangers, beginners and wanting to
improve. All equipment and bait supplied. accompanied
children 8 - 12 years. £10, 01634 338191 to book

July 25th - Mini-beast Hunt, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, for accompanied
children 5 - 12 years, £2 per child 01634 337432

July 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Summer Lunch (see
11th July).

July 25th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,
7.30pm, ring Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038

July 25th - GHS, Star Meadow Sports Club, Darland
Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm, Summertime BBQ and
Family Quiz, details www.gillinghamhs.org.uk

July 28th - Upchurch Farmers Market, 10.00am - 1.00pm,
Village Hall, Variety of stalls, details 01634 361040

July 28th - Beer Festival at Rainham Cricket Club,
Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Help raise funds for new
community clubhouse. 30 beers, 10 ciders, cocktails,
BBQ, games, etc. Non members welcome. Details
www.rainhamcricketclub.com/news.

July 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
meet Lindsay Floyd and Margaret Norman 07743
702049 07780 517785 at car park by Hever Castle, for
a 4 mile walk, 19 stiles, dogs allowed

July 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Ade Ballard
01634 306405, 10.00am for 5.5 mile walk at East
Malling TQ703569. Park in public car park in High
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July 28th - An Evening with Roy & Debbie Hudd,
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0844 8793224 or on-line www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

July 29th - Monday Hub, (see 15th July).

July 29th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Party, (see 8th July).

August 1st - Treasure Trove Trail, Riverside Country
Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm, a fun quiz around the park,
small prize for every child that enters. Suitable for
accompanied children 5 - 12 years, £3, 01634 337432

August 1st - Beginners Fishing, (see 25th July).

August 3rd - Jumble Sale, St Augustine's Shaw Memorial
Hall, Rock Avenue Gillingham, 2.00pm Admission 20p

August 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 Jeskyns Country
park car park, 6 mile figure of eight walk, undulating,
no stiles, some steps and may be muddy, dogs allowed.

August 4th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, M2 Services,
Sunday Service 6.30pm, Linda Hotchkins.

August 5th - Monday Hub, (see 15th July).

August 6th - Dementia Café, (see 16th July).

August 6th - Wildflowers, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon, Not suitable for children under 12
years old. £2 per person 01634 337432

August 6th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Test your
orienteering skills. Suitable for groups, families and
individuals, £2 per person 01634 338191

August 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Competition
Night, 7.30pm, Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. New
members welcome, ring 01634 366276 for details.

August 7th - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Suitable for
children aged 4 - 12 years, £2 per child, 01634 337432

August 7th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead
Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm Afternoon Tea, Charity
Event, details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

August 8th - Beginners Fishing, (see 25th July).

August 8th - Donn Barcott's Five 5 Live, (see 11th July).

August 10th - NSPCC Cream Tea, 41 Woodside,
Rainham, 1.30 - 4.30pm, Tickets £3.50 (including
refreshments) available on the day, stay as long as you
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Diary 2013

August 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet Pearl Stevens 02274 602929 at Camer
Country Park, Meopham, for a 5 mile undulating walk
mainly through fields, no dogs

August 12th - Monday Hub, (see 15th July).

August 12th - Medway Organ Club Concert, (see 8th
July).

August 13th - Mini-beast Hunt, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn to identify
the creatures. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5
- 12 years, £2 per child 01634 337432

August 13th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,
Club Members' Silent Auction, (see 9th July).

August 14th - Bredhurst WI, Walk, Cream Tea & Quiz,
(see 10th July).

August 14th - Rainham Flower Club, Workshop using
wool etc. (see 10th July).

August 14th - Teddy Bears Picnic, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm

Bring your picnic and join in the fun, storytelling, fun and
games. Suitable for accompanied children aged 3 - 7
years £3 per child 01634 338191

August 15th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm
Country park, 10.00am - 12noon, Test your
orienteering skills. Suitable for groups, families and
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August 16th - Centre of Mind Body & Spirit, Farthing
Corner M2 Services, Clairvoyant Evening, 7.30pm,
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August 16th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Clark Tracey Quintet
featuring Henry Amburg-Jennings on trumpet. Entry
£10, Details 01634 365352 or 07544 312743.

August 17th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, walking
the North Downs Way (section 5) with Stephen Manning
07598 330622, 11.5 miles from near West Hawke,
Gangers Hill, Oxted CR3 7AD, street parking no
weekend restriction, ring for more information.

August 17th - Quiz Night, Oasthouse Community Centre,
7.30pm, Admission £2, Members £1.50, Rolls available
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