

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

OCTOBER 2016  
NUMBER 525



The Parish Church of Rainham is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch. This picture shows part of the churchyard that Joe Ennis investigates in Nature Notes on page 8 this month. In 1898 three quarters of an acre of land adjoining the original churchyard was presented to the parish by Mr Daniel Wills of Garfield House, Park Road, Sittingbourne to increase the burial space. A further gift of land in 1985 was later used to build the Millennium Centre. A dedicated band of volunteers can be found most Saturday mornings maintaining the churchyard and would welcome help in this never ending task - you do not have to be a member of the church just someone who cares about our surroundings.

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AF

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## Editorial

Walking has long been recognised as an excellent form of therapy if not curing at least alleviating many ills. It is generally accepted that brisk walking outside in the fresh air is better than on a treadmill in the gym. Extravagant claims are made – if you believe the recent press reports, the single most important thing you can do to make you healthier and add years to your life is to move more and the easiest way to do that is to walk. One study reported that just half an hour a day of moderate paced walking can reduce high blood pressure and cholesterol and cut the risk of a fatal heart attack by half. Further research has concluded that walking can protect against type 2 diabetes, arthritis, depression, memory loss and even Alzheimer's. But even knowing all this I find it very difficult just to go out for a walk. There is always something else that needs doing – often involving sitting at a computer or in front of a TV screen the very worst alternatives! Apparently now many of us spend up to fourteen hours a day sitting when in years gone by we spent those hours standing or walking and were the healthier for it. I can happily walk to collect the daily newspaper and walk to work and back (when it is fine). Recently on holiday in Northumberland walking to see a waterfall, a path round a lake, a forest stroll or woodland circle to find the Gruffalo all had a purpose and were very enjoyable but just to set aside an hour or so to walk and I have a mental block. If you are like me and know you should be exercising more but need a reason to get you moving you are in luck – we can help! Each month 20,000 copies of Action Forum are delivered throughout Rainham, Wigmore, Parkwood, Bredhurst, Upchurch and Lower Halstow. We have a hundred plus band of excellent volunteer distributors who post them through your letterbox but inevitably with so many helpers just as I think all areas are fully covered illness, a broken bone, holidays, moving away or someone regretfully giving up reduces our team and we need more assistance. You can help – if you have an hour or so available usually during the first weekend of each month and would like a walk with a purpose please get in touch. A list of the specific roads that currently need distributors is on Page 3. They are grouped in areas but if you are only able to help in one of those named do contact us as every little helps. Equally useful, if you like variety, are volunteers who either have a free bus pass or are

happy to drive (or walk) to roads not immediately on their doorstep and can fill in as needed for holiday cover each month. As the majority of our distributors are of the silver haired brigade most months someone is away! Not only will you be helping Action Forum, think of the health benefits you will gain plus all the money that we previously paid for distribution is now donated to charity to date in the sixteen years since September 2000 £44,550. Lots is happening this October, Quiz Nights seem particularly popular but Concerts and some early Bazaars also put in an appearance plus of course the many walks arranged by local groups eager for your participation. Do have a very good month, we will be with you again in November.

## Correspondence

### MEMORIES OF WAR TIME

Dear Editor

In the early 1940s it was a weekly habit on Sunday evenings for my father Percy Major, his brothers George, Sidney, Charlie, Bert and sisters Hilda and Bessie with wives and husbands and children, to meet at the Major parental house 67, William Street.

My grandad Major and George sat one side of the Kitchener fire, grandma Eliza sat opposite. Around the large room sat their sons and daughters, and around the central table their grandchildren, reading comics, doing puzzles, writing etc.

There would be talk to and fro among the assembled throng about local matters past and present which also included 'the war' 'Eileen Packer's son had been reported missing', 'Bert Newman never got over being a prisoner of war when he came back' and so on. The family talk of 'the war' was not mainly about the latest war happening then. Their war was the 1914 – 18 conflict, because they knew so many involved in it. George Major was in the Royal Navy as he had been aboard local barges, he was on HMS Inflexible and at the Battle of Jutland. The next eldest, Sidney, was in an army regiment, among other postings he served on HMS Ganges. The other sons were too young to serve. On the walls of the room were photographs one of Uncle George in his naval uniform and another of Uncle Sid in army dress, sometimes the two sons sat under their appropriate pictures. My father remembered standing in the back garden and seeing a Zeppelin shot down in flames towards Sheerness. Occasionally the war talk did return to the present. The wireless would be put on to hear the nine o'clock news. Various comments would be made about the events mentioned. I remember one concerned the first 1000 bomber raid on Germany.

Looking back how I wish I had written down what they discussed, now a lost insight into what they had experienced but very real to them.

Yours sincerely  
Alan Major  
41 Heaton Road,

Canterbury CT1 3PY 01227 459246

### HELLO DOLLY

Dear Editor,

I would like to share with your readers information about the Three Towns Theatre Company's next show "Hello Dolly". The lavish, fun filled production brings to life many favourite songs such as Sunday Clothes, Before the Parade Passes By, Elegance and the title show stopper Hello Dolly as it tells the story of Dolly Levi and her matchmaking skills. You can find Dolly at The Brook Theatre, Chatham from 27th – 29th October at 7.30pm nightly with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office on 01634 338338,

Kind Regards,  
Gwyneth Loft

### QUIZ NIGHT

Dear Editor

Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) is holding a Quiz Night on Friday 4th November at Roko Health Club, Watling Street, Gillingham, ME8 6BY. Doors open at 7.00 for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £5 each with teams of up to eight. All drinks must be bought at the bar, all are welcome to bring snacks. Free parking is available.

To reserve a space or for more information please telephone 01634 855844, visit [www.medwayasthmahelp.co.uk/quiz-night-tickets](http://www.medwayasthmahelp.co.uk/quiz-night-tickets) or email [medwayasthmahelp@btconnect.com](mailto:medwayasthmahelp@btconnect.com).

Yours sincerely  
Fiona Pender (Coordinator)

### 'SILENT AUCTION'

Dear Editor

On Saturday 5th November at Upchurch Village Hall, there will be a 'Silent Auction' from 10.00am to 12.00noon in aid of raising funds towards the maintenance of the Hall. Entry is £2.50 per person and includes a drink and cake. Please do come along and join us if you can and maybe make a 'bid' or two. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely  
Jan Bunting and Wendy Pitts  
Upchurch Wives and WI group

### RAINHAM EVENING WI CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor

We will be having our annual Craft Fair on Saturday 12th November 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Millennium Centre, Rainham (Lower Hall).

We will have a range of craft stalls including bakes

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and preserves and a tombola table. Refreshments will also be available. All are welcome we would love to see you there.

Yours sincerely  
Christine Holder

[christine@holder4352.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:christine@holder4352.fsnet.co.uk)

### BARNARDOS CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Dear Editor

On Saturday 12th November at 7pm for a 7.30pm start we will be holding our Quiz Night at Twydall Church Hall, Gillingham. Tickets are £5 each with tables of 6 – 8 people. Please book in advance and bring your own Drink and Nibbles, Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. There is plenty of free parking. Phone 01634 233405 or 01634 375486 for booking and more information.

Many thanks  
Susan Smith-Kerr.

Rainham Barnardos Helpers Group

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# Diary 2016

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Diary Copy Date: October 25th 2016

- October 1st - Quiz night in aid of Friends of St Mary Church, Upchurch. Teams up to 8 - all ages - £4 per person - bring you own refreshments - raffle. Holywell School, Forge Lane, 7.30pm. Book 01634 366113
- October 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 (Text only) Otford Railway Station TN14 5QY GR 533594 (Fee) for a 5 mile walk. Muddy if wet 1 stile. No Dogs
- October 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet John, 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk Linton Church Car Park ME17 4AW, TQ753501 for an 8 mile moderate circular dog friendly walk finishing at 2.30pm approx. Bring picnic lunch, Pub at end.
- October 2nd - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, meet at the Visitor Centre for more details ring 01634 337432
- October 4th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm, 'Harvest Garland', New members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed, for details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com
- October 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. Growing and Using Herbs - Janet Bryant, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.
- October 6th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk by John Weir "A day in the Life of a Funeral Director" Village Hall behind All Saints Church 2.00 - 4.00pm New members always welcome phone 0758 334 3782
- October 6th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's

- Community Centre, 2.00pm, The Norman Conquest, Rupert Matthews, for over 50s ring 01634 234712
- October 7th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham every Friday 9.45am to help those who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.
- October 7th - UpARA, Village Walk, 10.00am from Village Hall, for details email Chairman David Powell davidpowell5@hotmail.co.uk
- October 7th - Hempstara Whist Afternoon, The Scout Hut, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead. 1.30pm start. Whist Players of all abilities are welcome. A partner is not required, for details call Eunice 01634 231664.
- October 7th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm - Euchre, Whist, Rummicub, Dominoes, Scrabble and a warm welcome, £1.50 entry includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.
- October 8th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, 9.00am - 12.30pm Free entry, Stalls £10 from carole@cdadswell.freereserve.co.uk or 07779 366054
- October 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 for a 9.5 mile London Capital Ring walk Stage 9, start Anerley Road, Crystal Palace via Streatham Common, finish at Wimbledon Park Underground Station, No Dogs
- October 8th - Charity Music Concert, Holy Trinity Church, Dover Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3EG in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care, 7.00pm, Tickets Adults £5, School children £1 Refreshments included, details 01634 378299 or email: jandrjackson@tiscali.co.uk
- October 8th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner, 366189 or 388546
- October 9th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm meet at the Volunteers block near the Orchard Car Park for more details ring 01634 338191

- October 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk at Birling car park behind Birling Church. ME19 5JG TQ680605 for a 6.5 mile leisurely circular walk finishing 1.30pm approx. Bring picnic lunch Pub at end with food
- October 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249 Kearsney Abbey car park CT16 3DZ GR 287438 for a 6 mile walk, steps down to Alkham. Dogs Allowed
- October 9th - Harvest Tea, partners of Gillingham Lions Club Millennium Centre, 3.30pm tickets 01634 379062 or 01634 373840. Transport can be arranged if required.
- October 10th - Medway Scrabble Club, alternate Mondays, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new members welcome, details 01634 230500
- October 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets 2nd Monday evening each month to help those still in employment who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.
- October 10th - Rainham Flower Club, second Monday each month 7.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Wigmore, Exhibition - Show off your skills, for details see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 864572 Visitors welcome.
- October 10th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm, Organist - Dirkjan Ranzijn, details ring 01634 234694
- October 11th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Small Evening Show Not Just Fuchsias & Pelis, Members £1, Non members £1.50, All Welcome ring 01634 852519
- October 12th - Medway East U3A: Rainham, 2.00pm, Rainham Mark Social Club, ME8 6YX Jack Deans will speak about Finger Prints & New Scotland Yard Visitors £1 Phone 07895 890 635 for further details
- October 12th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, 8.00pm, Hempstead Village Hall, The Guildhall Museum - Andrew Freeman, Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
- October 13th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan, Tony Mitchell, (see 6th Oct)
- October 13th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, board games, tea and chat (see 6th Oct)
- October 14th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting Upchurch Village Hall, 2.00pm, Members Free, Guests £2 for details email davidpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

- October 14th - Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society, 7.15pm Byron Primary School, Gillingham, The Egyptians, Peter Hobbs, details 07947 583327
- October 15th - Grand Charity Autumn Bazaar, 10.30am - 12.30pm, St Matthew's Community Centre Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, (behind the Church). Entrance 20p (proceeds to SPANA). Details please contact Linda 01634 377267
- October 15th - Friends of St Margaret's Church, Knowledge & Nibbles Evening, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm (prompt). Nibbles provided bring own drinks & glasses. Tables of 8 - £6 per person - Advance booking essential. Contact 230183 or 379796.
- October 15th - Rainham Ladies Choir Concert, Methodist Church, Third Avenue, Gillingham 7.30pm, Raffle/ programmes in aid of FitzRoy supporting people with learning difficulties. Tickets £10, £8 concessions, under 10s free from 01634 370797 or 613715
- October 15th - Quiz in aid of Hospital Radio Medway, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall Lane, ME8 6JU. Tickets £5 per head, Bring your own drink & food. Tables of 6-8 can be booked on 01634 365300
- October 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Mo Fleisig 09796 600393 Emmetts Gardens car park GR 477525 TN14 6BA for a 5 mile 'Weardale Walk'. Terrain undulating with a steep slope using tracks through woodland. 4 stiles. No Dogs
- October 16th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Len, 01634 319391, lenbeadle@blueyonder.co.uk Leeds Village park at the Church (far end) ME17 1RL for a 7 mile leisurely circular walk finishing at 2.00pm
- October 16th - Harvest Tea. (see 9th Oct).
- October 17th - Wigmore WI meet St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 7.30 - 9.30pm. Please contact Chris Ellison 01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan 01634 268611 for more details.
- October 18th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.50. Natures Marvels and Natural Quarry - David Boag. For Walks see: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.
- October 18th - GHS Floral Art Group, AGM/Programme planning for 2017, (see 4th Oct)
- October 19th - Wigmore Ladies Club, 2.00pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, We are a cheerful group of ladies and would love you to join us. Just come along or call 01634 388912 for further details.

Continued on Page 11

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 email [studio@hospitalradiomedway.co.uk](mailto:studio@hospitalradiomedway.co.uk) or ring and leave a message on 01634 406865.

**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING FETE**  
 The Oast Community Centre, Rainham  
 Saturday 3rd December, 11.00am - 4.00pm  
 Raising funds towards the restoration.  
 If you would like to book a £10 Table please email  
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**CHARITY MUSIC CONCERT**  
 Holy Trinity Church, Dover Street, Sittingbourne  
 ME10 3EG.

Saturday 8th October, 7.00pm  
 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care at Med Hosp  
 and The Molly Wisdom Hospice, Rochester  
 Tickets: Adults £5, School children £1  
 (sorry, not suitable for toddlers)  
 Doors open 6.30pm. Refreshments included.  
 For details and advance booking, please ring  
 Becky Jackson 01634 378299 or email:  
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**GRAND CHARITY AUTUMN BAZAAR**  
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**KNOWLEDGE & NIBBLES EVENING**  
 The Friends of St Margaret's Church  
 Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, Rainham  
 Saturday 15th October, 7.30pm (prompt start).  
 Nibbles provided please bring  
 your own drinks & glasses.  
 Tables of 8 - £6 per person  
 Advance booking essential.  
 Contact Joan 01634 230183 or Lesley on 379796.

**QUIZ**  
 in aid of Hospital Radio Medway  
 Saturday 15th October, 7.30pm  
 Holy Trinity Church  
 Twydall Lane, Gillingham, ME8 6JU.  
 Tickets £5 per head  
 Bring your own drink & food.  
 Tables of 6-8 can be booked on  
 01634 365300 with Eunice Norman.

**AUTUMN DROP-IN**  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

This month's Notes are largely about the birds and wild flowers to be found in St Margaret's churchyard in spring and summer. In later Notes, I shall cover autumn and winter. As for mammals and reptiles, voles could at one time be found under the corrugated iron sheets that the grave diggers used to use. Today, grey squirrels are probably the only wild mammals sometimes seen in the graveyard. In the past, slow worms would occasionally be disturbed by those cutting the long grass, but they may now have disappeared for good. The wild flowers in the churchyard are typical of those to be found throughout the North Downs as a whole. Among the first signs of spring are the yellow petals of the lesser celandines growing under the overhanging branches of the horse chestnut trees in the High Street. The flowers are commonly seen in local woods. The buds of the horse chestnut trees themselves develop their characteristic stickiness in early spring. Cherry blossom, daffodils and spring snowflakes are also harbingers of the new season. Spring time is, of course, the breeding season for birds. A pair of carrion crows have established their territory in the churchyard and built their nest in one of the horse chestnut trees. Their presence may not have been welcome to the blackbirds, song thrushes, green finches and other birds that had their own nests in, or in the vicinity of, the churchyard. In the late spring, the starlings and their young ones could be seen searching for worms and leatherjackets in the mown grass of the churchyard. They would often rest on the parapets and the guy wires of the flag pole, on the top of the church tower. Another bird to be seen occasionally on the tower was a kestrel which, in the absence of small mammals, would doubtless have been prepared to swoop down on any unsuspecting starling.

One of the glories of late spring, and of the High Street, are the masses of white flowers, commonly called "candles", of the horse chestnut trees. Other late spring flowers to be found in the churchyard include common vetch, bird's foot trefoil and those two familiar and well loved species, the buttercup and the

daisy. Summer in the churchyard brings such species as creeping cinquefoil, germander speedwell or bird's eye, ox-eye daisy and wild onion or crow garlic. The latter species grows alongside the footpath from the Cricketers' Car Park to the north door of the church. Crow garlic has greenish white to pink flowers growing out of a compact cluster of bulbils. Butterflies that I noted in the summer, on a buddleia bush, were red admiral, small tortoiseshell and peacock. Other sightings, elsewhere, included holly blue, wall and meadow brown. An ornamental evergreen tree with oval leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers was an absolute magnet for swarms of bees, flies, hover flies and beetles. In the past, I used to thoroughly enjoy sitting in the churchyard on warm, sunny, summer evenings watching large numbers of swifts swooping through the air as the sun went down. However, not only in Rainham, but also throughout the country, the numbers of visiting swifts have fallen dramatically over the past few years. The cause of this seems to be mainly the cold, wet and windy weather during the birds' breeding season, which adversely affects the availability of insects. Here in Rainham, it appears that swifts are no longer nesting under the eaves of St Margaret's Church. The birds still nevertheless nest behind the wooden soffit boards at the Oast House Community Centre near the railway station and in various nooks and crannies in houses in Hawthorne Avenue. I would be grateful to hear of any other colonies, by phone, on 01634 235182. The reason why none now nest at the church may be disturbance caused by the work done on the church roof some years ago. At the back of the church, long wooden boards blocked access to the eaves but I do not think that the swifts nested on the graveyard side of the church. This is because young swifts need an unobstructed flight path when they leave the nest. If they come to ground they are doomed, unless some kind person picks them up and throws them into the air. The air space at the back of the church is obstructed by gravestones and trees. At the front, the swifts' entrances under the eaves were not obstructed by the workmen but access to them was problematical. One parent bird I saw flew in close to the ground and

under the scaffolding before flying vertically, close to the wall, and then scrambling into the cavity at the top of the wall. In the absence of scaffolding, the young birds would have had a clear flight path into the air above the High Street, unless a double-decker bus happened to be going past at the time. I fear that it may have been the scaffolding facing the High Street that caused the birds to abandon their long-used nesting site at St Margaret's. Whatever the reason, which remains uncertain, I am afraid that we may never again see a large party of juvenile swifts screaming around the church tower and over the church roofs on warm, sunny, summer evenings.

Joe Ennis

## RAINHAM AT WAR IN 1918

With the war in its fourth and final year, 24 Rainham servicemen died in 1918, the most recorded in a single year of the conflict. Early in the year Fred Swan from Ivy Street perished aboard the 'Raglan,' sunk in the Dardanelles Straits while Albert Hadlow aged 22 from Pudding Lane died after being gassed in France. Later in April several Rainham soldiers were reported missing. These included Thomas Mattocks and John Poynter from Wakeley Road, Job Barden from London Road and Frank Perry from Ivy Street. In April more fatalities included former Council School headmaster Harold Greenhalgh, killed by a shell in France, Cecil Bowra aged 20 from Station Road killed by a German shell while the funeral of Leonard Paul aged 29 from Ivy Street took place in Rainham after he had died from the effects of being gassed. Better news revealed that Archibald Rayner from Longley Road had won a commission in the City of London Regiment after twice getting wounded in France while Reg Barrett from Ivy Street aged 25 of the Lancers was mentioned in despatches for gallantry at Bourlanc Wood in France. He had spent six hours under heavy shell fire rescuing wounded men and had earlier received the Military Medal for bravery on the Somme. In February John Reeves aged 21 from William Street, serving in the Buffs also received the Military Medal.

David Wood

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Saturday 22nd October Opening 7.30pm  
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please bring your own beverage.  
To Book call Kay 01795 844408

## FAMILY BIRD WALK

Riverside Country Park  
Thursday 27th October, 10.00am - 12noon  
Learn the tools and skills of observing birds before heading out for a walk to identify as many bird species as you can. Please bring your own binoculars  
Suitable for the whole family £3 per person  
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## KINGFISHER SINGERS CONCERT

For The Brain Tumour Charity  
Saturday 29th October, 7.30 - 10.30pm  
St Margaret's Parish Church, Rainham  
Ticket £7.50 in advance £8 at the door  
Contact Olwen 01634 263622

## OPUS 32 JUKEBOX CONCERT

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In support of Upchurch Village Hall  
The Concert will take the form of a jukebox where the audience choose the pieces to be performed from a list of 100 songs. Refreshments available for purchase.  
Tickets £5 from Pat New 01634 374220 or  
Derek Boyne 01795 423854

## LADIES PAMPER EVENING

Medway Asthma Self Help (MASH) is holding a Ladies Pamper Evening at Gillingham Golf Club on Friday 18th November from 6.00pm. Tickets are £3 in advance or £4 on the door. Massage, reflexology and manicure from £5 per treatment (pay direct to stall holders). To pre-book entry tickets or if you are interested in having a stall please ring 01634 855844 or email medwayasthmaselfhelp@btconnect.com

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## Diary 2016

October 19th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village  
Hall, Peter Cox - Talk 'Selecting a Rose for a Garden',  
New Members Welcome, Details 01634 233554  
October 20th - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 - 4.00pm.  
Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary  
Close, Speaker on "Air Ambulance". Visitors welcome  
for small entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276  
October 20th - Hempstead Leisure Club, A slide show to  
be given by Colin Coe (see 6th Oct)  
October 20th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Gravesham  
Railways, Rob Poole, (see 6th Oct)  
October 21st - UpARA, Village Walk, (see 7th Oct)  
October 21st - Hempstead Whist Afternoon, (see 7th Oct)  
October 21st - Autumn Drop-In, Wigmore Community  
and Residents Association, Wigmore Library, 7.30pm,  
discuss local issues with ward councillors.  
October 21st - Jazz Gig, John Etheridge/ Christian  
Garrick Duo, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland  
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Admission £10,  
Details 01634 365352 or 07544 312743  
October 22nd - Quiz Night, Lower Halstow Memorial  
Hall - 7.30pm - Tables of 6 - £5 per person, includes  
Ploughman's Supper, please bring your own beverage.  
To book call Kay 01795 844408  
October 22nd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 8th Oct)  
October 23rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977  
614033 Perrywood (Near Selling) car park GR045556  
ME13 9RN for a 5 mile walk mostly undulating but  
hilly for the first ¾ mile. 9 Stiles & 40 Steps. Dogs OK  
October 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Heather, 07887 750881 Leydsdown Country and Coastal  
Park free car park. Toilets ME12 4RJ, TR045698 for a  
7 mile leisurely circular walk finishing at 2.00pm  
approx. Bring picnic lunch, pubs & cafes at end  
October 24th - UpARA, Coffee Morning, Upchurch  
Village Hall, 9.30am, Members £1.50, Guests £2, (see  
7th Oct)  
October 24th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 10th Oct)  
October 25th - Halloween Bats and Spiders, Riverside  
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, make your own bat  
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## Diary 2016

October 29th - Opus 32 Jukebox Concert, 7.30pm, In  
support of Upchurch Village Hall, Refreshments  
available for purchase. Tickets £5 from Pat New 01634  
374220 or Derek Boyne 01795 423854

October 30th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Jim, jimbush46@btinternet.com at Camer Park  
Meopham. DA13 0XT TQ651670 for a 10 mile  
moderate circular walk on undulating ground. Bring  
picnic lunch Pub at end.

October 10th - Medway Scrabble Club, alternate  
Mondays, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall,  
Maidstone Road, Chatham, new members welcome,  
details 01634 230500

October 30th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,  
10.00am, meet Anne Bond & Pat Wells 07778 302866  
07804 837155 Leeds Church car park GR825533  
ME17 1RL for a 5.5 mile walk via Stoneacre and back  
through fields and orchards. 5 Stiles. 1 Steep hill. Could  
be muddy being the time of year. No Dogs

November 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, Barking  
up the wrong tree - Chris Lane, (see 4th Oct)

November 1st - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Catherine  
Wheel' a contemporary/ manipulated leaf arrangement,  
(see 4th Oct)

November 3rd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk "The  
Vicars Life" (see 6th Oct)

November 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, My Life in  
Broadcasting, Richard King, (see 6th Oct)

November 4th - Games Afternoon, (see 7th Oct)

November 4th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting (see 14th Oct)  
November 4th - Quiz Night, Medway Asthma Self-Help,  
Roko Health Club, Gillingham, ME8 6BY, 7.30pm  
start. Tickets £5 each, teams up to 8. All drinks must be  
bought at the bar bring own snacks. Free parking.  
Details 01634 855844

November 5th - 'Silent Auction' Upchurch Village Hall,  
10.00 to 12.00noon in aid of Hall maintenance. Entry  
£2.50 pp includes a drink and cake.

November 5th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 8th Oct)

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November 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 9.50am meet  
Graham, graham.jenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk 07989  
753278, promptly in Wateringbury public car park off  
Bow Road near traffic lights. ME18 5DD, TQ691534  
for a 10 mile moderate linear walk along the River  
Medway finishing at 3.00pm approx. 10.00am bus to  
Tonbridge. lunch close to Tea Pot island. Bring picnic

November 6th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,  
Capstone Farm Country Park, (see 9th Oct)

November 7th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 10th Oct)  
November 8th - Fuchsias and Pelargonium Society,  
'Putting Your Fuchsias to Bed' Sid Garcia, (see 11th)

November 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Jim, jimbush46@btinternet.com Challock Community  
Hall. TN25 4AT TR012506 for a 5 mile leisurely  
circular walk finishing at 12.45pm approx. bring picnic  
for midday break. Pub at end.

November 9th - Medway East U3A: Rainham, Dean  
Caston Talk 'The Royal Variety Performance the shows  
and its stars.' (see 12th Oct)

November 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Life in  
Soviet Russia 1970-90 - Irina Fridman, (see 12th Oct)

November 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Update from  
Serbia, Phil Shorthouse, (see 6th Oct)

November 11th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting (7th Oct)

November 12th - Annual Craft Fair, 10.00am to  
12.30pm, Millennium Centre Rainham (Lower Hall).  
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November 12th - Craft Fair, Smallholders Club, 2  
Springvale, 11.00am - 2.00pm Free entry. Stalls  
available to rent. Enquiries ring 01634 263408 or email  
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November 12th - Barnardos Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm  
start, Twydall Church Hall, Gillingham, Tickets £5  
each Tables 6-8, Book in advance, 01634 233405 or  
01634 375486, Bring your own Drink and Nibbles

November 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet  
Tony/Ann, 01634 406634, vajra.faulkner@tesco.net  
Boughton Street Village Hall car park, ME13 9AD,  
TR054595 for a 5.5 mile walk. Snack stop on route.  
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