

ACTION FORUM

NOVEMBER 2017
NUMBER 537

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



Some of the congregation who attended the Remembrance Day Service at Rainham War Memorial in 2015. This year the annual service will be on Sunday November 12th beginning at 10.15am in St Margaret's Church followed by a procession to the Memorial for the 2 minute silence and laying of wreaths. See page 9 for more details of the Rainham War Memorial newly registered listed status by Historic England.

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AF

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Editorial

There are certain events in all our lives that are indelible seared upon our memory. The Great Storm of 1987, or the hurricane as it came to be known, is one such. During the recent 30 year anniversary, those of us of a certain age enjoyed recounting where we were, why we remember it in such detail and how it affected us. It came as something of a shock therefore to realise that probably half the current workforce in the country had no idea what we were remembering. A combination of details combined to make that event so memorable to the senior section of the population. Weather forecasting was a primitive art then compared to today's advanced technology. Michael Fish will never live down his gentle reassurance that no hurricane was imminent as he delivered the weather bulletin just hours before the storm arrived. The main bombardment was overnight so mercifully few people were out and about or the death toll would surely have been much greater than the 18 lives that were lost. But this exacerbated the shock of waking in the morning (some of us had slept) to see the utter devastation around us. Thirty years to the day, October 16th 2017, and Ireland has experienced 'Ophelia', which began 900 miles off the coast of the Azores a week before and is the largest hurricane ever recorded so far east in the Atlantic. It had been downgraded to a storm before it hit the Irish coast but still caused havoc which we know from our experience in the south of England will take weeks to rectify the electricity and years for the infrastructure to be repaired. One good lesson learned since 1987 is that no matter how devastating the damage in the countryside appears, 95 per cent of trees were uprooted in many areas, leaving it alone with minimal intervention is best (just what is necessary for safety purposes) as now, 30 years on, you would never know the storm had happened, which is why I suppose people under 40 have no knowledge of the event. The woods have regenerated to their former splendour and the dead wood and decaying matter is providing ideal refuge for many bugs and native species. Yet another, once in a lifetime phenomena, occurred with Ophelia, the sky turned red. We are used to red sky at night and beautiful dawns but this was different, an eerie orange and yellow glow partially blocked the sun all day. Dust from the Sahara, with debris from wildfires in Portugal and Spain whipped up by Ophelia's winds spread the gloaming across the south

of England making the sky appear red and in many areas street lights came on in the middle of the day. As this was also the hottest October day, Manston recorded 23.5C, since records began in 1910 all in all October 16th will be a date to remember. We include much to do this month in our pages, the diary is bursting with bazaars and fairs, craft markets, fashion shows, pamper evenings, exhibitions, concerts, performances, quiz nights, walks, clubs and volunteering opportunities. Do please read on to discover something of interest to you and have a very good month until we see you again in December.

RAILWAY PUBLIC HOUSE

Apologies to Alan Vince for the two typos in his letter last month, entirely our error I'm afraid. The names should be Paul Garnham and Billy Huggins

Correspondence

BERENGRAVE NATURE RESERVE

Dear Editor,
I've lived in Rainham / Gillingham most of my life and have recently moved to the Berengrave Lane area. I've found your articles about Berengrave very interesting but was wondering if anyone can shed some light on the state of the nature reserve. I walk my dog there regularly and it's a fantastic asset to the area let down by neglect and now looks very sorry for itself. I recently traversed the wooden walkway, which if repaired, is a marvellous way to view the wood and the wood floor. I was told two stories about damage to the stairs. One, that it was vandalism and two that it is down to wood rot. Either way, it is a real shame that it has been left in the state it has. Can any of your readers provide more detail of the site and whether there are any plans to improve it and / or repair the walkway.

Thank you
Mr T Coote
Email revvers@hotmail.com

THREE TOWNS THEATRE COMPANY

Dear Editor,
The next production of The Three Towns Theatre Company is Gypsy. It will be at The Brook Theatre, Chatham from 9th - 11th November; shows are 7.30pm nightly with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are £13 or £11 for concessions and are available from the box office on 01634 338338. Gypsy is loosely based on the 1957 memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the famous striptease artist and focuses on her mother, Rose, a name synonymous with "the ultimate show business mother." It follows the dreams and efforts of Rose to raise two daughters to perform onstage and casts an affectionate eye on the hardships of show business life. Gypsy has been called the greatest American musical, we would love your readers to come and join us as we 'Entertain You'
Many thanks,
Gwyneth Loft

MUSIC DIRECTOR WANTED

Upchurch Choral Society requires a new Music Director from April 2018. The choir's membership currently numbers 50 people, SATB, and usually performs three concerts a year in St Mary's Church, Upchurch, accompanied on the organ and/or piano. The repertoire ranges from sacred to secular and members regularly support the church choir for big services. In July this year U.C.S. celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Originally established to augment the church choir in a performance of Handel's 'Messiah' it now includes members from other areas as well as Upchurch. Rehearsals are Fridays 8.00pm in St Mary's Church. If you are interested in working with this enthusiastic and friendly choir, please contact the secretary, Mrs Pat New, 01634 374220.

ART EXHIBITION

Paintings by Local Artists Clive Bass and John Gilson will be on show and For Sale in Rainham Library, Birling Avenue between 1st & 30th November 2017

RAINHAM ART CLUB

Local artists from the Rainham Art Club will be exhibiting their art through the month of November at Wigmore library. We are looking for new members, we meet every Monday. If you are interested please contact us by email rainhamartgroup@gmail.com

WINTER WONDERLAND

St Matthew's Church
Drewery Drive, Wigmore ME8 0NX
Saturday 4th November, 11.00am - 3.00pm
Christmas Gifts, Grand Raffle, Hot and Cold Refreshments. Father Christmas will attend on one of his first outings of the year. Admission is Free!

GRAND CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR

Saturday 11th November, 10.30am - 12.30pm
St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore ME8 0NX.

Handmade craftware, bric-a-brac & Christmas gift items at low prices! Seasonal refreshments available; free parking; entrance 20p with all proceeds to charity, so please come and support us. Details lindaligarten@hotmail.co.uk or 01634 377267.

LOCAL MEDWAY HISTORY QUIZ

Granary Close, Rainham. ME8 7SG
Saturday 11th November, 7.30pm
How much do you know about the local area? Are you

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Medway born and bred or a new comer? Do you have an interest in local history and want to learn more. A great evening is expected. A selection of local maps will also be available to view - Bar open. Tickets £12 per person include a Ploughmans supper. Teams of over 5 are £10 per person. To book tickets, visit www.oastcentre.org

PETER PAN by J M Barrie

9th, 10th & 11th November, Curtain up 8.00pm.
Matinee 4.00pm Saturday 11th November
Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham
The Ratlets (youth section of the Rainham Theatrical Society) perform this classic story of Peter Pan, a mischievous yet innocent little boy who has many adventures on the island of Neverland. Joining Peter on his adventures are Wendy Darling and her two brothers, Michael & John, his fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, and the pirate Captain Hook. A great show for all the family. Book Now!
Box Office on 0844 8793224 or on-line
www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

"A FLOWER REMEMBERED"

Upchurch Choral Society
Saturday, 11th November, 7.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Upchurch
A programme of music and readings to commemorate the day the Armistice was signed.
Ticket price: £5 Retiring collection in aid of the British Legion

DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors are needed for:
Hempstead
Meadowdown, Thistledown, Tamarind, Mulberry, Wildwood, Black Rock, Stalham, Coppice Court
Upchurch
Poot Lane, Ham Green Susans Lane
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Diary 2017

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: November 21st 2017

November - Local Rainham Art Club artists exhibiting
their art all month at Wigmore Library. New members
welcome, contact rainhamartgroup@gmail.com
November 1st - 30th - Art Exhibition, Paintings by local
artists Clive Bass and John Gilson on show and for sale
in Rainham Library, Birling Avenue
November 3rd - Ladies Pamper Evening, MASH,
Gillingham Golf Club, from 6.00pm, Tickets £3 in
advance, £4 at door. Ring 01634 855844
November 4th - Winter Wonderland, St Matthew's
Church, Wigmore 11.00am - 3.00pm, Father Christmas,
Gifts, Tombola, Toys, Grand Raffle, Jewellery, Home
Made Cakes, Hot & Cold Refreshments. Adm Free!
November 4th - Fun Evening Music & Songs, Kingfisher
Singers, 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church, Rainham,
Tickets £7 on door, Refreshments incl
November 4th - Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Twydall Lane, 7.30pm Contact 01634 377671
November 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Rochester to
Woudham, 10.00am Moderate circular walk 11 miles /
17.7 km finish 4.00pm Meet Rochester Station.
Pleasant walk crossing bridges and along river to
Woudham, very steep climb for picnic lunch, Contact:
Chris, 01634 360270, chris.strachan@live.com
November 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Lynsted.
The Street. Black Lion PH. GR 943608 ME9 0JS Park
considerately 5 Mile Historic walk " Wealthy Families
& Fashion / Fine Houses. 6 Stiles. Dogs Allowed

November 5th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,
Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get
involved by helping with some practical tasks on the
site. Meet at the Volunteer Block near the Orchard car
park, Ring 01634 338191 for more information
November 6th - Monday Hub, 10.00am - 12.30pm, St
Paul's Church, Parkwood, ME8 9PN, Board games,
Table Tennis, use of Laptop and much more, Free light
refreshments, phone Jill on 01634 230780
November 6th - Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm,
St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham,
new members welcome, details 01634 230500
November 6th - Medway Towns Bridge Club, Sociable
duplicate Bridge every Mon, Tues and Fri, 7.30pm
start, St. Luke's Methodist Church Hall, City Way.
Rochester ME1 2BQ. Table money £3.50 guests, £2.50
members (£10 to join). We can usually find a partner
for you on a Monday, details 01634 375706, 840094 or
visit www.bridgewebs.com/medwaytowns
November 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,
A Year in a Cobham Garden - Nigel Gibson, Rainham
Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. New
members welcome, ring 366276 for details.
November 7th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed
Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm,
"Gun Powder Plot" - a vertical arrangement, New
members welcome, first visit free, no experience
needed, for details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or
email kayebuss@btinternet.com
November 8th - East Medway U3A, Rainham Mark
Social Club, 2.00pm, Toni Mount 'They Dared to be
Doctors' the fascinating story of the first Victorian
ladies to succeed in a man's world. Guests welcome
Cost £2. Phone 07895 890635 for further details
November 8th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Christmas Craft Fair
Maggie Helen & Pam, A chance to Christmas shop, for
details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

November 9th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's
Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Fingerprints & Murder',
Part 2 - Jack Deans, for over 50s ring 01634 234712
November 9th - Hempstead Leisure Club. All Saints
Church, Hempstead Road 2.00 - 4.00pm Talk "Broadly
Speaking" by Wilf Lower. New members always
welcome, phone 07583 343782
November 9th - 11th - Peter Pan by J M Barrie,
Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm. Matinee 4.00pm
11th, Box Office 0844 8793224 or
www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
November 9th - 11th - Three Towns Theatre Company,
Musical 'Gypsy', Brook Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm
nightly, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm. Tickets £13 (£11
cons) from box office 01634 338338.
November 10th - Gillingham and Rainham Local History
Society, Byron Primary School ME7 5XX, 7.15pm,
Medway Aircraft Preservation Society - John Gosden
Visitors welcome, details Val Barrand 07947 583327
email lupusrufus@sky.com or see www.grlhs.org
November 10th - Donn Barcott Band 'Five Live', 8.00 -
10.30pm, Brompton Conservative Club, High Street,
Gillingham, 01634 405037 or 07977 262564 for details
November 11th - Craft Market, Millennium Centre,
Rainham, 9.00am - 12.30pm, Free entry, Stalls are £10
each contact cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com or ring 07779
366054 for more details
November 11th - Grand Christmas Charity Bazaar, St
Matthew's Community Centre, Wigmore, 10.30am -
12.30pm refreshments, free parking, entrance 20p all
proceeds to charity, information Linda 01634 377267
email: lindaligarten@hotmail.co.uk
November 11th - Upchurch Choral Society 'A Flower
Remembered' 7.30pm, St. Mary's Church, Upchurch,
A programme of music and readings to commemorate
the day the Armistice was signed. Tickets £5, Retiring
collection in aid of the British Legion
November 11th - Local Medway History Quiz, Granary
Close, Rainham. ME8 7SG, 7.30pm, Tickets £12pp
including Ploughmans supper. Teams of over 5, £10pp.
A selection of local maps available to view - bar open.
To book tickets, visit www.oastcentre.org
November 11th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United
Reformed Church hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham,
7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers
welcome, with or without a partner, for more
information ring 366189 or 388546.

November 12th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet Joan Weekes 01634 855522 Manor
Country Park West Malling (Charge) GR 679571
ME19 6PE 5 Mile flat walk field tracks and paths.
Could be muddy across fields. Toilets & Cafe. No Dogs
November 12th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Trosley
Country Park, 10.00am Moderate circular walk 5.5
miles / 8.9 km finish 1.00pm via Vigo Village, majority
of walk flat or gently undulating. There are some great
views. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881
November 12th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,
Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get
involved helping with practical tasks Meet at the
visitor centre, Ring 01634 337432 for more information
November 13th - Rainham Evening Bereavement
Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets
2nd Monday 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.
November 13th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard
Club, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, ME8
9PN, 7.30pm, Organist - Michael Wooldridge, details
ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694
November 13th - Rainham Flower Club, St Matthews
Church Hall, Wigmore, ME8 0NX Christmas
Workshop Tutored by Jenny Abbott & Barbara
Nancollas 7.30pm, see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk
or ring 01634 864572 / 01634 863034 / 01622 884478
November 14th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society,
7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, ME8 0BX
London's Royal Parks - James Buttress, Members £1,
Non-members £1.50, New members and visitors always
welcome, For details ring 01634 852519
November 14th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club,
8.00pm, St. George Hotel, New Road, Chatham.
'Mother of Pearl, its Production and Uses', New
members welcome, ring 01634 851512 or just turn up
November 15th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall,
Woodside, Wigmore 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members
welcome to this cheerful group, just come along or ring
01634 388912 for more information
November 15th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Village Hall,
7.30pm, The Village Shop Ann Keeble & Friends,
Please bring a packet of food for donation to Medway
Food Bank, Bring and Buy Produce Stall, New
members always welcome, ring 07791 781 910

Continued on Page 11

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CRAFT MARKET
Wigmore Smallholders Club
Saturday 18th November, 11.00am - 2.00pm
Free entry to the public
Refreshments Tea/coffee cake
Email: smallholdersclub@btconnect.com
or phone: 01634 263408 for more information

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
St.Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow
Saturday 18th November, 1.00 to 3.00pm.
Please join us at arguably the prettiest location
around for this popular event with a wide range of
crafts, gifts and home baking, including jewellery,
needlework, fountain pens, cards, local honey and
woodwork. Refreshments available. www.thesix.org
We look forward to welcoming you!

HEMPSTEAD CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday, 18th November from 11.30am to 3.30pm.
In association with Hempstead Village Fayre Group
and All Saints' Church

Lots of games, Christmas gift and craft stalls and the
grand raffle in the Village Hall. Santa's Grotto,
lunches, cakes, crafts for children, face painting and
stalls in the Church. The children's roundabout is
outside and free entry for all. Everyone welcome.

FASHION SHOW
In aid of Rotary Charities
Travelling Trends Fashion Show
Saturday 18th November, 7.00pm
Parkwood Green Community Centre
High Street Clothes. Bargains.
Come to this evening of fashion and fun and help
raise funds for our Charities.

Tickets £8 (includes a glass of fizzy) or
£10 at the door. Ring 07867 117 695 or 07540
471383 or email info@stroodrotary.org.uk

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.
Granary Close, Rainham. ME8 7SG S
Saturday 18th November, 10.00am - 1.00pm
Tables available. £10 per table.

Seasonal gift buying time and a chance to relax in
our Oast tea room and bar serving hot / cold / boozy
drinks and snacks. Money raised will go towards the
repair of the kiln wall

see www.oastcentre.org or for more information
contact Heather Woodgate email
heatherwoodgate@googlemail.com

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QUIZ NIGHT
Holywell School, Forge Lane, Upchurch
Saturday November 18th, prompt 7.00pm start.
for 'The Friends of Church of St Mary, Upchurch'.
Teams of up to 8 - all ages welcome
£5 per person - bring your own refreshments - raffle.
Reserve your table on 01634 366113 or email
lewling135@btinternet.com

QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 18th November, 7.00 for 7.30pm start
Carmel Hall, Upton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB
Tables 6 - 8, £5 pp BYO Food, Drinks and Glasses
Net proceeds jointly for Church off Sacred Heart of
Jesus, Sittingbourne and Air Ambulance
Contact - Mike 01634 360906
Email - mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MARKET
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall
Saturday 25th November, 11.00am - 3.00pm.
To be opened by Father Christmas.
Mrs. U.K. Galaxy collecting for "Dream Flights" for
Terminally Ill Children; P.D.S.A; "The Cinnamon
Trust" Raffle with truly great and generous prizes;
Home-made Christmas Cakes, Mince Pie and
Savoury Pastries, Indian Food, Refreshments:
Pre-Christmas Market which has a
Super Surprise at the end. All welcome to join us.

AUTUMN CONCERT
Old Barn Orchestra
Saturday 25th November, 7.30pm
Pilkington Building
University of Greenwich at Medway
Chatham Maritime ME4 4TB
Schubert: Symphony No 3 in D major
Mozart: Overture to "Don Giovanni"
Warlock: Capriol suite for string orchestra
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CHRISTMAS FAYRE St Peter's Bredhurst
Saturday 2nd December 2.00 - 4.00pm
Bredhurst Village Hall - Father Christmas, Grand
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES

Last October I visited the annual Apple Festival at Brogdale Farm on the outskirts of Faversham. The farm is home to the national Fruit Collection, the largest assembly of different varieties of fruit trees in the world, including 2,300 different apple varieties. The collection is not simply a living museum; it is an important gene bank for future fruit breeders. For me, the main attractions of the festival were tours of the orchards and the testing and sales of apples, but there were also talks and demonstrations, sales of locally produced food and drink (including Kentish filberts) live music and rides on a miniature railway through the orchards. Seasonal fruits were used in the desserts on offer in the cafe restaurant.

Before going on a tour of the apple orchards, I listened to a brief talk on the history of apple growing in this country. All domestic apples have their origins in the mountains on the boundary between China and Kazakhstan. They were imported into Europe via the Silk Road. The Romans brought the first domestic apples to Britain some 2,000 years ago; they were a more palatable alternative to our own small, sour, native crab apples. After the Romans left this country, the art of apple growing was mainly kept alive in a number of monasteries until the arrival of the Normans, who brought certain varieties of domestic apples from Normandy. Even so, most apples growing in England during the Middle Ages were too sour to eat and were therefore turned into cider. The situation began to change after the fruiterer of Henry VIII, Richard Harris, established this country's first large apple, pear and cherry collections at Teynham. He imported apple grafts from France and pear and cherry grafts from the Netherlands. Subsequently, market gardens spread across Kent and Essex and beyond. The 18th and 19th centuries were the golden age of English apples, when varieties such as Cox's Orange Pippin and Blenheim Orange became household names.

The talk over, I joined the next walking tour of the apple orchards. The apples pointed out to us were in various shapes, sizes and colours. Names such as

Chelmsford Wonder and Braintree Seedling were a reminder that, in the past, apple varieties were developed locally. Armed with a pocket knife, the guide handed out slices of certain apples for us to taste. We were shown a tree of red and cream apples of the variety "Decio", which is the oldest, by far, in the collection. The variety dates back to Roman times and was named after a Roman general. Unfortunately we were not allowed to taste that particular one. We were also shown a dark red apple called "Costard", which was one of the varieties introduced by the Normans. It is a sour cooking apple which, in due course, fell out of favour. The apple's Norman-French name is pronounced "Costar" and it led to the word "costermonger", a person who sells apples off a barrow. We came across a tree of Bramley's Seedling cooking apples. Ours is the only country in the world where a cooking apple is a major market variety. We British, apparently, have a unique preference for tart cooking apples. Elsewhere, including the Continental countries and the United States, apples used for culinary purposes are usually smaller than our Bramley's and are dual purpose dessert and cooking apples.

With so many people around in the orchards, I saw no birds other than over-flying wood pigeons. In the coming weeks, fieldfares, redwings, starlings and blackbirds will doubtless feed on the fallen apples. The guide told us that golden orioles that spend the summer at a location in the East Anglian fens, can sometimes be seen feeding on the autumn fruit in the orchard, whilst on their way back to Africa. Coincidentally, a friend reported to me in September of this year seeing a golden oriole, in characteristic pose in the top branches of a tree, near to the orchards to the north of the railway line. As for mammals at Brogdale, I noted the teeth marks of rabbits on a number of fallen apples, as well as the droppings of both foxes and badgers. The tour over, I headed for a large marquee. On display there were around 400 varieties of dessert apples, some 100 of which visitors could taste and buy. I tasted and subsequently bought some Cox's Orange Pippins and Egremont Russets. Britain's temperate climate enables our orchards, both traditional and modern, to produce some of the finest

tasting apples in the world. Furthermore, a cold winter, together with a sunny spring and early summer, can result in bumper crops. Cox and Russet apple trees are grown in the Rainham Community Orchard in Lower Bloor's Lane, on the junction with the Lower Rainham Road (ME8 7TP). For third year running £2000 was raised for Kent Wildlife Trust on PYO days and the rest of the crop has been sent for juicing. More volunteers to help maintain the orchard are always welcome. For more details see the Orchard page on www.thenet.uk.net.

Joe Ennis

RAINHAM WAR MEMORIAL

In September Mr David Auger of Broadview Avenue, Rainham, forwarded an emailed letter from Historic England informing us that partly at his instigation the Rainham War Memorial is now a listed structure. The memorial in Rainham High Street for the soldiers of the First World War was dedicated on December 12th 1920. It is 18.5 feet high and is a replica of the Cross of Iona. The service on Remembrance Sunday (since 1939 the nearest Sunday to November 11th) is one of the largest of the year for St Margaret's Church. The number of people attending bring the traffic in Rainham to a halt for a short while. Originally the service with the two minute silence (the first to remember the dead and the second those who were left behind in the families) was celebrated on Armistice Day at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This was moved to the nearest Sunday at the outbreak of the Second World War to avoid interruption to vital war work should the day fall on a weekday.

An extract of the email is below.

'Awarded Listed Building Status'

The memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is now listed at Grade II. The entry for this building, together with a map, has been published on the National Heritage List for England, and is available for public access. Listing helps us to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future. More information on the First World War Memorials can be found at ukwarmemorials.org/. The letter is signed by Joanne Gould the Listing

Coordinator - War Memorials for Historic England The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH and further details can be found on the historic England website at www.historicengland.org.uk.

FAREWELL LADY FAIR

Well, Well, Well!

It was a sad day for me, Saturday 23rd September, when I locked the door at Lady Fair Salon in Rainham High Street for the very last time. Due to matters beyond our control we had been due to close at Christmas, but unforeseen circumstances brought the closure forward 3 months (after 46 years in business). I went to the salon in 1974 when I heard they 'wanted a girl'. I was after a Saturday job at the time, but instead, was offered an apprenticeship. What a good decision that was.

Thinking back over the years I remember all the customers, sadly some no longer with us. Many had moved down from London with young children, who we watched grow up and have families of their own. I have met so many people, shared in so much laughter, a few tears, some ups, some downs, but what a pleasure and life enhancing experience this lovely shop has been to work in.

I tried to inform all our customers that we were closing earlier than scheduled, but to any I did not contact, I apologise. I have moved just two doors down to 'Golden Essence' so do feel free to pop in and see me if you wish (business as usual)! It just leaves me to say on behalf of Jane and myself a huge Thank You to all our lovely customers past and present.

Sharon Wade

LEARN TO BE A SILVER SURFER

Rainham School for Girls are offering FREE 'Silver Surfer' sessions in November, for people who would like to learn how to 'get on line', or 'send an email' or 'use a smart phone'. Our students are the experts. Interested? Phone Mrs K Moon 01634 362746 or email kmoon@rsg.org.uk for more details.

RAINHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Rainham Shopping Centre

Friday 1st December

Fun starts at 3.45pm with lights on at 5pm by Paddington Bear and the Deputy Mayor of Medway Majorettes, choir, singing and dancing plus prizes to be won. Meet Paddington at Rainham Library 2.00pm Free, but booking essential on 01634 337799

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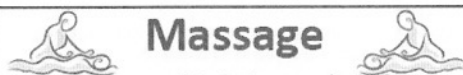
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Diary 2017

November 16th - Rainham WI 1.45 - 4.00pm. 'History of
the Royal Variety Performance' Wakeley Hall, Oast
House Community Centre, Visitors welcome for small
entry charge per visit. Ring 01634 366276 for details.

November 16th - Hempstead Leisure Club. Whist,
scrabble, board games, tea and chat (see 9th Nov)

November 16th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Musical
Entertainment - Kingfisher Singers, (see 9th Nov).

November 17th - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club,
Darland Avenue, Gillingham, 8.00pm, The Jazz All
Stars featuring Steve Waterman trumpet, Julian Marc
Stringle clarinet/ saxes, John Donaldson piano, Alec
Dankworth bass and Clark Tracey drums. Admission
£12, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544 312743

November 18th - Meet the Councillors, Rainham South
Ward at 3:16 Cafe Parkwood, 10.00am - 12 noon No
appointment necessary.

November 18th - Christmas Bazaar, Granary Close,
Rainham. ME8 7SG, 10.00am - 1.00pm Tables £10
available. Seasonal gifts, Oast tea room and bar serving
hot / cold / boozy drinks and snacks. Money towards
the repair of the kiln wall, see www.oastcentre.org

November 18th - Craft Market at Smallholders club. 2
Springvale, 11.00am - 2.00pm Free entry. Enquiries
smallholdersclub@btconnect.com or 01634 263408

November 18th - Hempstead Christmas Fayre, All Saints'
Church and Hempstead Village Hall, 11.30am -
3.30pm, free entry for all.

November 18th - Christmas Craft Fair, St. Margaret's
Church, Lower Halstow, 1.00 - 3.00pm. Refreshments,
crafts, gifts, jewellery, fountain pens, cards, local
honey, woodwork and home baking. www.thesix.org

November 18th - Quiz Night, Holywell School, Forge
Lane, Upchurch, 7.00pm, for 'Friends of St Mary'.
Teams up to 8 - all ages, £5 pp - bring refreshments -
raffle. Book 01634 366113 lewling135@btinternet.com

November 18th - Autumn Concert, Rochester Choral
Society and Sinfonietta, 7.00pm, Rochester Cathedral,
Tickets £15 nave; £7 restricted; £5 student Book
www.rochesterchoral.co.uk/tickets ring 01634 401049

November 18th - Quiz Night, Carmel Hall, Upton Lane,
Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 7.30pm start Tables 6 - 8, £5
pp BYO Food, Drinks and Glasses, Contact - Mike
01634 360906 mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

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November 18th - Travelling Trends Fashion Show,
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Centre, Tickets £8 (includes fizzy) or £10 at the door.
Ring 07867 117 695 or email info@stroodrotary.org.uk

November 19th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Minster,
Swale, 10.00am Leisurely circular walk 5.5 miles / 8.9
km finish 1.00pm Park on the Leas ME12 2NL. Meet
on seafront grass, No stiles, gentle inclines, pub open
from 9am Contact: John & Lesley, 07801 537317,
lesley.fielding43@gmail.com

November 19th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Medway
Valley Rail Trail - Strood, 10.30am Leisurely circular
walk 4.7 miles / 7.6 km finish 1.15pm Meet outside
Strood Station ME2 4DR in conjunction with Kent
Community Rail Partnership, views across the river to
historic Rochester. Mostly roads but the parks can be
muddy. Bring snack for short break. Contact: Graham,
07989 753278, graham.jenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk

November 19th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am meet David Brown 07815 106791 Filston
Lane. Car Park. Shoreham GR 518615 TN14 7RS for 6
mile circular walk - Shoreham / Otford (including Solar
System) Hilly walk using roads, fields, grassland,
woodland and tracks. 1 stile. 7 steps. Dogs Allowed
November 20th - December 3rd - Hempstead Valley
Christmas Gift Fayre, speciality stalls, selling a wide
variety of traditional and unique gifts. See
www.hempsteadvalley.com

November 20th - Monday Hub, (see 6th Nov).

November 20th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 6th Nov).

November 20th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, St
Paul's Church, Parkwood, 7.30pm, Speaker Alan
Haines "A Kick up the Sixties" All welcome, ring Kate
Archer 01634 360797 or just come along.

November 20th - Wigmore WI Meet every 3rd Monday in
the month 7.30 - 9.30pm, St Matthew's Community
Centre, Wigmore, interested please ring Chris Ellison on
01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan on 01634 268611

November 21st - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45 pm £3.50.
Behind the scenes RSPB Minsmere - Adam Rowlands
For Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

November 21st - GHS Floral Art Group, Christmas Door
Wreath/Swag (artificial and/or preserved (see 7th Nov).

November 22nd - All Saints Women's Fellowship,
Christmas Meal, (see 8th Nov).

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Diary 2017

November 22nd - Gillingham Horticultural Society,
 Annual Prize-giving, 7.15pm United Reformed Church
 Hall, Balmoral Road, Gill, all welcome, refreshments,
 £2 membs £3 non-membs, Sandie 07962 277330
 November 22nd - Rainham Historical Society,
 Millennium Hall, 7.30pm, The Topsy-Turvy World of
 Misericords, All welcome, Contact secretary Olwen
 O'Dowd 01634 366276 for more details.
 November 23rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'A Swipe at
 the '70s' - Alan Haines, (see 9th Nov).
 November 23rd - Hempstead Leisure Club. Talk "Mercy
 Ships" by Dr Hornsey (see 9th Nov)
 November 24th - Medway Geographical Society, 7.30,
 Rob Poole - The Fens by Steam and Sail, Holy Trinity
 Church, Twydall Lane, Gillingham ME8 6TN, all
 welcome, just come or ring Lorna Bailey 01634 572139
 November 25th - Lower Halstow Christmas Market,
 Memorial Hall, 11.00am - 3.00pm opened by Father
 Christmas. All welcome
 November 25th - Christmas Fayre, St. Mary Magdalene,
 Gillingham Green ME7 1SS, 11.00am - 2.00pm, Free
 November 25th - Christmas Fair, St Michael and All
 Angels, Hartlip, 12noon - 3.00pm, Village Hall.
 Homemade Soups with bread. Tea and Coffee, variety
 of stalls and our usual Grand Raffle.
 November 25th - RAMASES Society Wine and Wisdom
 evening, non-Egypt related, Newington Village Hall,
 2.30pm, £8 advance £9 on the day, contact
 annette.crowder65@gmail.com or 07476 636803.
 November 25th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (11th Nov).
 November 25th - Autumn Concert, Old Barn Orchestra,
 7.30pm, Pilkington Building University of Greenwich,
 ME4 4TB, Tickets £14 from members, on the door or
 oldbarnos@gmail.com or ring 01634 376979
 November 26th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Dinner Walk -
 Upchurch, 10.00am Leisurely circular walk 5.5 miles /
 8.9 km Park and meet at the Barnyard Restaurant, Gore
 Farm in Oak Lane. Meal must have been pre-booked.
 November 26th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,

10.00am meet John Trebill 01634 244045 Charing,
 School Road, Car Park. GR 954494 TN27 0JN for 5 1/2
 Miles Heritage Trail walk, Fairly flat using roads,
 tracks, fields and woodland. Dogs Allowed
 November 30th - Hempstead Leisure Club. Whist,
 scrabble, board games, tea and chat (see 9th Nov)
 November 30th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Social
 Meeting, (see 9th Nov).
 November 30th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
 Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall,
 Woodside, All welcome, more details 01634 312038
 December 1st - Rainham Christmas lights, Shopping
 Centre, 3.45pm, lights on 5.00pm, book to meet
 Paddington on 01634 337799.
 December 2nd - St Peter's Church Christmas Fayre,
 Bredhurst Village Hall 2.00 - 4.00pm. Father
 Christmas, Grand Draw, many traditional stalls, St
 Peter's Pantry, Tombola, Crafts, Games, Gifts,
 Cakes, Refreshments and BBQ, Entry Free
 December 2nd - Medway Folk Dance Club, Christmas
 Dance, (see 11th Nov).
 December 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
 10.00am meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 River
 Valley Upchurch Golf Course Christmas Lunch Walk
 GR 838666 ME9 7AY 3 1/2 mile easy pre - lunch stroll
 via Meresborough. Lunch Must be booked in advance
 with Joan Weekes. No Dogs
 December 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, Hosey Hill to
 Chartwell via Toy's Hill, 10.00am, Leisurely circular
 walk 6 miles / 9.7 km finish 1.15pm Meet and park at
 Hosey Hill Car Park off B2026 TN16 1PJ, TQ452531
 bring picnic John Watts, FLAME451@hotmail.co.uk
 December 3rd - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,
 Capstone Farm Country Park, (see 5th Nov).
 December 5th - GHS Floral Art Group, Workshop 5 -
 Pomander, (see 7th Nov).
 December 8th - St Margaret's Infant School PTA
 Christmas Fayre, 3.40 - 5.15pm, All welcome
 December 9th - Christmas Concert, 7.00pm, Gillingham
 Methodist Church, ME7 2LU, Gillingham Male Voice
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 sing, Tickets at the door £5, Refreshments

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