AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JUNE 2018 NUMBER 543



Rainham County Secondary Schools built in Orchard Street, Rainham in 1932 to provide all the requirements for a modern Secondary education (boys school to the left and girls to the right). The masters of the Boys School pictured soon after the school opened long before 'Tich' Rotherham joined the staff in the 50s, however he may have recognised some of the long serving members. Standing from the left: ?, Mr Newell, Mr Sneath, Mr Thomas, Mr Chisholm, Mr Pharaoh, Mr Fenton. Seated: Mr Sargeant, Mr Smith (Headmaster), Mr Nye. See page 3 for more about Mr Rotherham.



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Next Issue July 7th 2018 Copy Date: June 26th

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The Hawthorn blossom has been fantastic this year, except that is in our garden where we hardly get more than half a dozen small patches of white throughout the entire tree. Still we can admire the many miles of hawthorn hedgerow enclosing the local fields and lining our lanes. The air around the hawthorn is heavy with scent and insect life. According to Jonathan Tulloch in his Nature Notebook feature in The Times the hawthorn, besides giving shelter to birds, is home to more than 300 British insect species, third only to oak, willow and birch that can claim more dependants. Apparently hawthorn is such a mainstay of the ecosystem that they are the most frequently used tree in English place names and when given the alternative old! We didn't even know we were supposed to have name of May the only plant to be named after a month. This of course is where we get the saying 'Change not a clout till May be out' referring to either the tree or the month whichever suits the occasion the

Joe Ennis writes this month (see page 8) of the 'Coronation Meadow' at Marden, one of an ambitious project undertaken by the Prince of Wales to nurture a truly outstanding wild flower meadow in every county to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 1953. On a glorious spring afternoon in May, inspired by his article, I took a sneak preview of Marden Meadow. The carpet of orchids was magnificent, we obviously hit just the right week. I do hope if you decide to visit you are able to enjoy the many other wild flowers in the meadows even if the orchids are over.

Unbelievably, I still think of it as the 'new' school, this year Rainham School for Girls is celebrating 50 years on their campus site. The Boys school moved from Orchard Street (Rainham Secondary Boys) and Third Avenue (Gillingham Grammar) to combine as a bilateral school a year earlier. If you were one of the original girls school pupils or staff in the new building in 1968 you are invited to contact the school via Ms K Moon 01634 362746 or email kmoon@rsg.org.uk for an invitation to the celebrations. Coincidentally, following David Wood's article in March, several readers have written with memories (good and bad) of 'Tich' Rotherham a long serving master at the Boys school. It seems that many of us have very long memories when it comes to our school days. Whilst the sun is shining, the sky is blue and everthing around us is fresh and green, now is the time to get out

and enjoy the 'Garden of Engfland' and all this corner of the country has to offer. Do have a very good month and we will be with you again in July.

# Correspondence

MEMORIES of RAINHAM

Dear Editor

Every now and again I see something in AF that catches my eye and I say to myself I really must write something about that, but being the lazy individual that I am I never do. But, in the last edition there were two articles and I thought, I really must get my act together. Hence, a couple of rather long stories. Story number 1: Hmmm! 'Tich' Rotherham: 'Long term serving Rainham teacher', no doubt many of your male readers who thought P.T. and football and cricket were wonderful, will remember Tich and have fond memories. Hmmm! I am not able to say the same. There was I, eleven years old in 1958, my first week at Orchard Street Secondary Modern School and not having a clue (life hasn't changed much for some of us). First week, first games lesson, football (oh, but I hate football), our first games teacher is Rotherham. Five of us didn't have football boots. We are 11 years football boots! We had plimsolls, vest, shorts, towel, all stated in a letter as sent to parents, nothing about football boots. Large numbers of parents, including my own, at that time were not very well-off (unlike teachers), and with a school uniform and all the rest were made even worse off. All five of us, a detention from this awful little man! Just like that. I didn't even know what a detention was. Parents were brought into play for that. We were 11 years old! I will never forgot that, and I never ever forgave it!

Every now and again we were slippered (more correctly plimsolled) by most, but not quite all of the staff. I think everyone in our form received a whack. Most of the times (not all that many) I was whacked I never even knew what I had done wrong. Unlike many people I still believe in adolescents (and adults) being whacked (in public). Yep, I know that is totally, politically incorrect. But if you are a bully, or continually violent, or a compulsive vandal that is the only thing such an individual understands. That's called a punishment, nothing else, just punishment for not being prepared to treat other people with respect. But, running down a school corridor or not wearing a tie when it is 70 degrees in the shade. Oh, 'come on?'. I ended up being a prefect (I wouldn't have done it now) and one day at the 'bun shop' the lads were larking around (as lads do) inside. I was outside. Crash, a window gets broken. One of those inside, who shouldn't have been there was a Piers Morgan in the same class as myself. (Yep, he did become a newspaper reporter, but it's not that Piers Morgan. unbelievable). Anyway, Piers was quickly out and all the rest of us made cover stories. The lies I had to tell the headmaster, 'Rasher' Bacon. Whilst Piers wasn't a

close friend he was still a mate and that's what you do. It was an accident, not vandalism. Should those who were larking around have to pay for a new window. 'Yes, of course they should', whether then or now, but it was an accident, no-one planned to do something wrong. The amount of whacking and detentions that would have been handed out for that - the 'larkers' would probably still be in detention. I was not overfond of school.

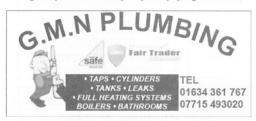
Most of us are not good at every sport, many of us are not good at any sport. Sports-wise I only enjoyed the 100 yard and 200 yard sprint. If that is what you are reasonably competent at, then get the training / teaching for that specific sport. The proper bending. weight lifting, breathing exercises. I doubt if most sports teachers then (or now?) even knew there were specific exercises you could do which may have made you that little bit faster, stronger, fitter. I now know what those specific exercises are, but only found out decades later. There was no point in muggins, a total weed, putting the shot, I could hardly lift the thing. As for playing 'team sports', Oh how I hated team sports and as for learning to swim at the Strand at 9 a.m. on an April morning. You are of course joking! The teachers, including Tich, never went into the water. I wonder why not? I was also pretty useless in the class room as well, but a few subjects, such as history I did. thankfully, enjoy.

Alan Ward

18 Fane Way, Parkwood, ME8 9TD Editor: Second Story to be included in a later issue.

#### ERIC 'TICH' ROTHERHAM

The end of the Christmas term 1949, when I left Orchard Street Boys, Mr Rotherham arrived on his hand gear change motor cycle in ore to all the boys. Until that time Mr Newell, 'Old Bert' as he was affectionately known, who could aim a piece of chalk with great precision at any boy not paying attention,



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was the sole and greatly respected art teacher. He could turn his hand to anything creative with great skill and professionalism. With the school roll increasing there was need of another art and craft specialist namely Mr Rotherham. As with the help of Mr Newell I had left Rainham Boys, after gaining an Art School Scholarship, Eric and my paths did not cross until I returned in 1957 as an Art Teacher having completed my National Service in Suez. Becoming involved as an art examination assessment chairman in the 1970s and 80s for the C.S.E and GCSE Art examinations we frequently met and due to our Rainham Boys connection became friends. Eric's great enthusiasm for creativity was an inspiration to all art and craft teachers. Sadly this is lacking today especially among head teachers who seem to consider Maths and English as the only subjects that matter.

(How wrong they are!) Recently talking to Heather Haythornthwaite, of Hazelnut Press in Rochester who taught with Eric, we agreed that the devotion he put into his pottery and other crafts is sadly deficient in schools today. If this is not resolved the world will be a poorer place. Eric Rotherham was a great role model for both staff

and students, although small (hence his nickname 'Tich') even with senior boys towering over him he was greatly respected. (Incidentally the teacher recently crowned 'Teacher of the Year' is an art teacher.)

After spending 43 very enjoyable years in secondary and art school teaching I have come out of retirement at 83 to teach drawing voluntarily at a local primary school. I have been greatly impressed with the eagerness shown by the children but also very concerned about the small amount of time devoted to creative education.

> John K Austin NDD(BA) ATD. Artist and Calligrapher 14 Sandown Drive



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# *Diary 2018*

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: June 26th 2018

June 2nd - Fun, Food & Craft Day, Medway Oueen Restoration, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Gillingham Pier June 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely circular walk 6 miles / 9.7km finish 1.15pm, park Sissinghurst Castle, £2 non-members, TN17 2AB, TO803375, Nice flat walk. Contact: Len, 01634 319391, lenbeadle@blueyonder.co.uk

June 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am. Meet Margaret Poll 01634 376080, Tankerton Marine Parade near café, opposite St Anne Road, toilets, CT5 2BW GR118673 for 8 mile walk to Herne Bay along coast path & return. No Dogs

June 3rd - Spring Fair, Cats Protection Adoption Centre Bredhurst, 11.00am – 3.00pm Fun for all the family, Adults £1, Children Free, Details 01634 232471

June 3rd - Afternoon Tea, St Michael and All Angels Church, Hartlip, 3.00 - 5.00pm.

June 4th - Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new members welcome, details 01634 230500

June 5th - Breast Cancer Support Group, Medway Hospital, Level 2, Area 7, 7.00 – 9.00pm. Penny Auction, details 01634 861802 or 07761 853750 June 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Russell Bowes – The Arts of the Folly. New members welcome, details from 01634 366276.

June 5th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Workshop with Viv O'Sullivan with a contemporary twist (layering), new members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed. Just come along for a friendly welcome, 01634 232998 or kayebuss@btinternet.com

June 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely circular walk 8 miles / 12.9km, finish 2.30pm Meet outside church St Nicholas-at-Wade, CT7 0NG. TR264667 Across country to Reculver Towers. No stiles, hills or mud. Bring snacks, pubs near finish. 07989 753278, graham.jenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk

June 6th Evergreen Club for over 55s meets Bredhurst Village Hall every Wednesday 2.00pm. New members welcome, ring Barry 01634 301031 or Doris 365510.

June 6th - Fish & Chip Night, Upchurch Horticultural Society, 97 Chaffes Lane 7.30pm, sean@sotamail.com June 7th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk 'Wrinkles don't matter' - Helen Tobias, All Saints Church, Hempstead 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members welcome, 07583 343 782

June 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Canterbury City' - Lenny Clark, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.

June 7th - Talk, Frankie Seeds on Preserving Produce. Stockbury Cottage Gardeners, Stockbury Village Hall, 8.00pm email sean@sotamail.com for details

June 8th - 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.

June 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Mote Park, Maidstone car park, charges apply ME15 7SU GR773553 for 4 mile Evening walk around the Park including a section of the River Lea. Dogs Allowed

June 8th - Local History Society, Byron Primary School, Gillingham, ME7 5XX, 7.15pm - Members Evening, Membership £20. Visitors £3. Tea and coffee available June 12th - Caring for Carers - Pop In, 10.00am for small charge, details Val Barrand 07947 583327 or visit website www.grlhs.org

June 9th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry, Refreshments, To book a stall (£10 each) ring 07779 366054 or email cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com

June 9th - Country Folk Evening, St Margaret's Church. Lower Halstow, 7.30pm, Vicarage Lane and support acts Joanne Louise Parker and Anna Sidney, Tickets, £10 in advance, £12 at door include refreshments Chris Mayes 01795 841425, David Hadley 01795 842654

June 9th - Quiz Night, 7.30pm start, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, Tables 6 – 8, £5 per person, BYO Food, Drinks and Glasses, Contact Mike 01634 360906, email mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

June 9th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church hall, Balmoral Road, Gill 7.30-10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner, for more information ring 366189 or 388546.

June 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10,00am, Easy circular walk 4 miles / 6.4km finish 12.15pm, Boughton to Herne Hill, Park and meet as close as possible to the corner of The Street and Bounds Lane, ME13 9BE, TR062592, Contact: Sally and Dave, 01634 574552, smithgaul@aol.com

June 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Anne Bond 07778 302866 Pat Wells 07804 837155, Ryarsh Village Hall car park ME19 5LS GR671600 for 5.25 mile walk through woods & past Coldrum Stones site then a gradual walk up to North Downs with good views. Some stiles. No Dogs

June 11th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St Matthews Church Hall, Wigmore Diamond Anniversary Event. An extremely friendly, encouraging club, delighted to welcome both experienced and novice arrangers. See www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 863034 / 01634 373928 / 01795 843180

June 11th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club. Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm, Organist - David Ingley, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694

June 11th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets 2nd Mon each month to help those in employment who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.

12noon, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, All welcome. June 12th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St. George Hotel, New Road, Chatham. For further information ring 01634 851512 or just turn up

June 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate circular walk 8.5 miles / 13.7km, finish 2.30pm, meet at Linton Church car park - St Nicolas, Linton Hill (A229) road), ME17 4AW, TQ754501, Mostly established footpaths, farmland with a little road walking - some hills. Bring picnic lunch. Contact: John, 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk Dog friendly

June 13th - Butterflies, Plants and Trees, Riverside Country Park, 12.30—3.30pm. £3 per person, suitable for adults and children aged 12+, join a ranger on a walk to learn about flora and fauna, ring 01634 337432 for details.

June 13th Evergreen Club, (see 6th June) June 13th - East Medway U3A Smallholders Club, Springvale ME8 0JG, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Delia Taylor -ENSA Entertainments National Services Association or Every Night Something Awful, New members welcome, no waiting list. £2 for visitors, second Wed of

month. Ring 07816 159 668 or www.eastmedwayu3a June 13th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, 4.00pm, Gardening World, £5 per head for demo, tea and scone, for details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

June 13th - Bredhurst WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm, Jack Deans talk 'Fingerprints & Murder'. Details from Pam Ormiston 01634 365789

June 14th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Strawberry Tea -Margaret Springett & Phoenix Singers, (see 7th June). June 14th - Free Technology Session, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall, 2.00 - 3.30pm, Ring Hands 01634 577984 for further details.

June 15th - Rainham Afternoon Women's Institute. Speaker on 'Lord Nelson & Lady Hamilton', Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, 1.45 - 4.00pm. Ring 01634 366276 for more details.

June 16th - Upchurch Horticultural Society have a stall at the Upchurch Annual Fete to be held in the Paddock.

Continued on Page 11

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#### COUNTRY FOLK EVENING

Saturday 9th June, 7.00 for 7.30pm St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, (Access/ parking via Lapwing Drive, ME9 7DZ) Featuring - Vicarage Lane and support acts Joanne Louise Parker and Anna Sidney Tickets, £10 in advance or £12 at the door include free refreshments during interval.

#### 90TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Old Barn Orchestra Saturday 16th June, 7.30pm Rainham School for Girls Sibelius Symphony No 2 in D major Shostakovich Festival Overture Stanford Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra -Soloist Margaret Archibald Tickets: £14 (£12 for friends) from oldbarn18.brownpapertickets.com Members of the orchestra, 01634 376979 e-mail oldbarnos@gmail.com or on the door

#### SUMMER FAYRE

Meredale Independent School & Nursery Saturday 23rd June, 11.00am - 2.00pm Special Guests - Shikon Martial Arts Bouncy Castle, Decorate a Plate, Beat the Goalie, Hook the Duck, Face Paints, Ice Cream, Candyfloss, Popcorn, Refreshments and Cakes, Raffle & more. Come and enjoy the fun!

#### CONCERT 'Swing Music for All'

featuring Medway Big Band The Friends of St Margaret's Church, Rainham Saturday 23rd June, 7.30 - 10.00pm Tickets (including drinks & nibbles) £6 in advance or £7 on the night from the Church Office during office hours (Monday—Friday 9.30am - 12 noon) or contact 01634 230430 or 01634 379796

#### MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

Kentish Players Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th June, 7.30pm Central Theatre, Chatham A new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture Monty Python and the Holy Grail Book & Lyrics Eric Idle Music John Du Prez & Eric Idle Tickets £15.50 (concessions available) Box Office 338338 or www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

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#### SUMMER FAYRE

Friday 29th June 3.15pm - 5.30pm. Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road Parkwood ME8 9TX. Lots of stalls, games and refreshments. Free entry. Come and have some fun

#### THE MERRY WIDOWER

by Johnnie Mortimer Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham July 5.6.7.12.13.14, Curtain up 8.00pm Richard is taken aback when his father arrives and discusses the contents of his mother's will and it's not what he wants to hear. Together with this and his father's bad habits and womanising, tension mounts in the couple's home, whilst his father decides to embrace his life as a merry widower.

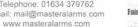
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'ALLO, 'ALLO by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft St. Paul's Drama Group proudly present a Comedy play, based on the much loved TV series. 'I shall tell you only once' the details which are :-Friday & Saturday 5th & 6th July, 7.30pm Gillingham Methodist Community Hall, Third Avenue, Gillingham, ME7 2LU. Tickets £6 Adults & £5 Concessions are available on 01634 852712 or www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk Do come & enjoy the fun.

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# Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

Marden Meadow, between Marden and Staplehurst, has been designated one of the "Coronation Meadows" which commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Oueen's coronation in June 2013. The Prince of Wales has been the inspiration behind the project to identify and nurture an outstanding wild flower meadow in every county. Marden Meadow is one of the best remaining examples of a traditional, unimproved wild flower meadow in Kent. The meadow was bought, in 1983, by Kent Wildlife Trust, from the executors of the will of a Marden farmer. For various reasons the meadow was suitable only for mowing for hay. Throughout three generations of the farming family, the meadow had been spread with a limited amount of dung, applied occasionally, and a light harrowing. It received no artificial fertilisers and the very minimum of mechanical treatment. A late cut of hay was taken each year and carted to the farm, about a mile away, where it was stored in ricks and provided winter food for livestock. In May and June, the meadow is covered with thousands of green winged orchids along with their completely unrelated, but very closely associated plant, the diminutive adder's tongue fern. The "hood" of the orchid is shot through with delicate green veining, hence the alternative name of green veined orchid. The orchids are very modest little flowers which are distributed throughout the country and sometimes, as at Marden, grow in great numbers. The majority of the orchids in the meadow are of a breathtakingly deep purple colour, although a small proportion vary from pale lilac through pink to white. The green winged orchids in the meadow grow in a relatively low sward of grasses and other flowering plants, including the widely spread meadow buttercup, with its brilliant vellow petals.

Later in the year, in high summer, there is a much higher sward of grasses and other flowering plants and the predominantly purple colour of spring has changed to the pale green of grass flowers, the white of ox-eye daisies and the yellow of hay rattle, dyers' greenwood, fleabane and bird's foot trefoil. In late July to August

the hay is cut and removed from the meadow, after which it is grazed by sheep. As one observer has put it, "The meadow contains a surviving sward of modest little orchids living in harmony with meadow grasses, herbs and ferns: they are a charming remnant of a redundant farming age." In 1999 Kent Wildlife Trust bought the two fields adjoining the original meadow; they contained few wild flowers. For the past few years, hay from that first purchased meadow, which contains thousands of wild flowers seeds, has been strewn over the immediately adjoining of the two newest fields; green winged orchids and other flowers are now growing in that field. The other field of the two, the one furthest from the original meadow, is very damp, with areas of clumps of rush, and is being grazed by sheep. H E Bates, the author of "The Darling Buds of May", moved to Kent, from his native Northamptonshire, in 1931. His recollections of childhood summers ache with regret for the lost wild flowers, butterflies and birds which used to coexist with the farmer's crop of hay. At Marden Meadow, however, one can still walk through a traditional flower-rich hay meadow of the kind that Bates recollected from his childhood.

A small pond on the reserve is occasionally covered in water violets, which have lilac flowers on long stems. Some relatively rare wild service trees overshadow the pond and are covered in blossom in June. The trees' fruits are very acidic but edible when they are fully ripe and were once eaten by children as sweets. All three fields at Marden are bounded by hawthorn hedges which are covered in white blossom in the month of May. Bates described May blossom as "the risen cream of all the milkiness of May time." He wrote these words in 1936, after his arrival in Kent, but he doubtless had in mind the long hawthorn hedges of the 18th century enclosure fields of his native Northamptonshire. The late Professor W G Hoskins, the author of "The Making of the English Landscape", wrote that, in May of each year, the miles of snowy hawthorn hedges of the Midland counties of England reach perfection, so dense and far reaching that the entire atmosphere is saturated with the bittersweet smell of May blossom, whichever way the wind is blowing. And so it is at Marden Meadow in May,

despite the combined scent of a profusion of green winged orchids. The reserve lies on the Marden Road, Hands & Gillingham Volunteer Centre have funding near Mountain Farm. There is a small car park at the eastern end of the reserve. The Trust's handbook your tablet, laptop, camera, smartphone or setting up notes, quite rightly, that this idyllic reserve serves to remind visitors how much of the classic English landscape of a traditional, flower-rich hay meadow has please get in touch. been lost.

Joe Ennis

#### RAINHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Following a successful move to the The Howard School, Rainham Community Choir are singing all sorts of great songs with the support of our musical director, Olivia and our pianist, Eleanor every Monday Have you been, or would you like to become, a between 7.00pm and 8.30pm

If you would like to come for a 2-week free trial you will receive a warm welcome. There are no auditions, the choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing and developing their skills along the way. Current charges are £4 per session, payable half termly in advance. For further information please check our Facebook page Rainham Community Choir or email inforainhamcommunitychoir@gmail.com.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Rainham School for Girls has been on its current site 50 years this year. As you can imagine, we are going to have a small celebration! We would like to invite any pupils or staff that were at the school 50 years ago. If you were at RSG then and would like to come to our celebration, please let us know - contact Ms K Moon phone 362746 or email kmoon@rsg.org.uk.

#### ST A'S PARENT SUPPORT GROUP ADHD

Are there any ADHD People who have a positive view of life to share during our Celebration ADHD Sunday 16th September 2.00 - 4.00pm Brompton Academy, Marlborough Road, Gillingham ME7 5HT. Call Lesley Lucock 01634 851312 email: lesley.lucock@btopenworld.com

#### STALLHOLDERS NEEDED

Annual Craft/ Gift Favre in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Saturday 27th October, 10.30am - 12.30pm St Matthews Church Hall, Drewery Drive, £10 table.

To book or for more information contact Paula 07930 595856 or Stacey 07897 007979

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Barnabas Church, Nelson Road, Gillingham

The next session at Holy Trinity Church, Twydall is

is Thursday 21st June, 12midday until 1.30pm. Please

We celebrate our Diamond Anniversary with a commemorative gala performance on Saturday, 6th October 2018 at The Woodlands Centre, Gillingham. Everyone is welcome (tickets are £5) and we would very much like to hear from former members of our choir who are able to share this event with us. If you are thinking of joining a choir, enthusiasm for singing in harmony with others is all that is needed. Don't worry if you don't read music - many of our ladies learn by ear. Why not give it a try and come along to a rehearsal to meet and listen to us? We get together every Monday at St Thomas of Canterbury

Catholic Primary School, Romany Road, Gillingham ME8 8JH from 7.30 - 9.45pm. For more information please Contact: 01634 373132 or 01634 370797 or visit our website on www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk/Join

email: secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk

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#### CAFE PROUD

The Oast Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham Most Saturdays, 11.00am - 1.00pm Relaxed and safe environment for adults with learning difficulties to socialise, sing, play games and have fun, £4 entry. £2 carers, Free Refreshments Ring 01634 375190 email info@proudpac.co.uk or Contact PROUDPAC on Facebook for more details.

PROUD PAC Proud Performing Arts Company Wednesdays 10.00am - 1.45pm Newington Village Hall. ME9 7JJ Group sessions of dancing, drama and singing Ring 01634 375190 email info@proudpac.co.uk or Contact PROUDPAC on Facebook for more details.

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# **Diary 2018**

June 16th - Old Barn Orchestra, 90th Anniversary Concert, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way ME8 0BX Tickets: £14 (£12 for friends) from members of the orchestra, 01634 376979 e-mail oldbarnos@gmail.com or on the door

June 17th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Brian Gevaux 01634 235883, Lower Halstow, Lapwing Drive ME9 7DZ GR585674 for 5 mile walk via Saxon Shore Way, Upchurch and golf course using

footpaths and roads. Dogs Allowed

June 17th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely circular walk 5 miles / 8.1km, finish 12.45pm meet at the Guildhall in Faversham's Market Place, ME13 7AG, TR015613, A little town walking and footpaths parts of the Saxon Shore Way. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881 June 18th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th June).

June 18th - Rainham Evening WI, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, 7.30pm, 'Women of the First World War', Anna Astin, All welcome, Kate Archer 01634 360797.

June 18th - Wigmore WI, 7.30 - 9.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive, various speakers & events. Visitors Welcome, contact Chris Ellson 01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan 01634 268611

June 19th - RSPB Medway Local Group Illustrated Talk, Parkwood Community Centre ME8 9PN, 7.30 -9.45pm, £4, Broadwater Warren: How to make a Nature Reserve - Alan Loweth, For Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

June 19th - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Beside the Seaside' a seascape arrangement, (see 5th June).

June 20th Evergreen Club (see 6th June)

June 20th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall, Woodside, 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members welcome to this cheerful group, just come along or ring 01634 388912 for more information

June 20th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 7.00pm, Leisurely circular walk 4 miles / 6.4km finish 9.15pm, Evening Walk - Sandling, Meet Yew Tree PH Sandling ME14 3DB, TO757584 woodland paths and fields, 4 stiles Len, 01634 319391, lenbeadle@bluevonder.co.uk

June 20th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Village Hall, 7.00pm, Summer Supper, New members always welcome ring 07791 781 910 for details

June 21st - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 - 4.00pm. Speaker on 'National Trust Owletts' Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Visitors welcome (small charge). Ring 01634 366276

June 21st- Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Two Guide dogs' -Angela Brigenshaw, (see 7th June).

June 21st - Hempstead Leisure Club, AGM, games, tea and chat (see 7th June)

June 21st - Free Technology Session, St Barnabas Church, Nelson Road, Gillingham, 2.00 - 3.30pm. Ring Hands 01634 577984 for further details.

June 22nd & 23rd - 12noon onwards, Oast Kent Beer Festival at Oast Community Centre, Granary Close, ME8 7SG. 40 Kent beers & ciders as well as live music to raise funds for the Oast and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Oast Centre opening. More information at www.rainham-kent.co.uk

June 23rd - Dog Show, Lower Halstow Village Hall June 23rd - Summer Fayre, Friends of Meredale Independent School & Nursery, 11.00am - 2.00pm

June 23rd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 9th June). June 23rd - Friends of St Margaret's Church Rainham, Medway Big Band 'Swing Music for All' in Church, 7.30 - 10.00pm, Tickets (including drinks & nibbles) Church office (Mon-Fri 9.30am-12 noon), or 01634 230430 or 01634 379796, £6 advance or £7 on the night

June 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate circular walk 6.5 miles / 10/5km, finish 1.30pm Meet Charing Railway Station, TN27 0AW, TQ950492 Bring picnic lunch for midway break. Contact: Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

June 24th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977 614033, Hollingbourne Station ME17 1TX GR834550 for 4.5 mile undulating walk using roads, tracks, fields. grassland & woodland, 4 stiles and 6 steps, Could be muddy after rain. Dogs Allowed

June 24th - Cream Teas on 'The Green' Friends of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham Green ME7 1SS, 2.30 - 4.30pm, Cream Teas £4, Luxury Cream Teas £6. Tickets from Hilda 01634 932135

June 27th Evergreen Club (see 6th June)

June 27th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, 7.00 for 7.15pm, Speaker 'Produced In Kent' United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, ME7 4PU, £2 Members £3 Non Members, details Call Sandie 07962 277330

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# **Diary 2018**

June 27th – All Saints Women's Fellowship, Walk – Malta Inn 6.00pm, details Rhonda Peck 07951 629444 June 27th - 30th - Kentish Players, Monty Python's 'Spamalot', 7.30pm, Central Theatre, Chatham, Tickets £15.50 (concessions available) from Box Office 01634 338338 or www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

June 28th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Social Meeting, (see 7th June).

June 28th - Hempstead Leisure Club, whist, scrabble, board games, tea and chat. (see 7th June).

June 28th – Jazz at the Hastings, 8.00 - 10.30pm, Lower Rainham Road, ring 01634 405037 for details.

June 29th - Summer Fayre, 3.15pm – 5.30pm, Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood. Lots of stalls, games and refreshments. Free entry. Have fun!

June 30th – Rainham Historical Society outing to Marlow

June 30th – Rainham Historical Society outing to Marlow & Henley & River Thames Cruise, Bring packed lunch. Cost £45 non-members, Pick-up Lukehurst, High Street, Rainham, 8.00am, and Barnsole Road, 8.15am, ring Mrs Val Ware 01634 366276 to book.

July İst - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272, Marden Village Library car park for 5 mile very flat walk only muddy if wet. 2 stiles No steps. No Dogs

July 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate circular walk 7.3 miles / 11.8km, finish 2.00pm Cranbrook to Sissinghurst Castle, meet car park Jockey Lane, Cranbrook. TN17 3JX, TQ776362, Lunch stop Sissinghurst, pubs at end, David, 07815 106791, brown2918@gmail.com

July 1st - Afternoon Tea, St Michael and all Angels Church, Hartlip, (see 3rd June).

July 2nd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th June). July 3rd - Breast Cancer Support Group, AGM and a general chat, (see 5th June).

July 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Society, Steve Harmer – 'History of Sissinghurst Castle Garden'. (see 5th June). July 3rd - GHS Floral Art Group, 'On a level' – a horizontal arrangement, (see 5th June).

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July 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely linear walk 6.5 miles / 10.5km, Crab & Winkle Way returning by frequent bus. Park All Saints Close near Whitstable station. CT5 1SB, TR115663 Reasonably flat – no stiles, Contact: Graham, 07989 753278, graham.jenkinson@bluevonder.co.uk

July 5th & 6th - St. Paul's Drama Group, 'Allo, 'Allo by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft, 7.30pm, Gillingham Methodist Community Hall, Third Avenue, Gillingham. ME7 2LU. Tickets £6 Adults, £5 Concessions from www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk or 01634 852712

July 5.6.7.12.13.14 – Oast House Theatre, Rainham, 'The Merry Widower' by Johnnie Mortimer, 8.00pm, Box Office 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

July 7th - Newington Village Festival, Noon - 6.00pm, Newington School field, family entertainment: live bands, annual tug-of-war, Adults £2, children free. Fbook: Newington Festival; Twitter: @NewingtonFest

July 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely circular walk 7 miles / 11.3km, finish 2.00pm, Meet Yalding war memorial junction Vicarage Road and High Street. ME18 6JZ, TQ699503, Bring picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches . Contact: Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

July 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Harry Keane 07729 356835, Cock Inn car park, Henley Street Luddesdown DA13 0XB GR664672 for 5.25 mile walk, approx 50 steps and 10 stiles. No Dogs July 9th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship Group, (see 11th June).

July 9th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club, Organist - Phil Brown, (see 11th June).

July 9th - Rainham Flower Club, Demonstration 'Ikebana' by Diane Norman (see 11th June).

July 10th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, Visit to Quex Park, ring 01634 851512.

July 11th - East Medway U3A, Richard King - 'Around the World on a Double Decker Bus', (see 13th June).

July 13th - The Oast (Granary Close) 'Tales from the Riverbank', 10.00am - 12.30pm Top Hall (up 3 flights of stairs). Fundraising Talk towards Oast restoration. £3 per person or £5 for 2. Refreshments for sale. Parking.

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