

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

AUGUST 2019

NUMBER 556



The marshes of the foreshore of the River Medway from Otterham Creek to The Strand are littered with decaying hulks, some deliberately placed as part of the defence system to prevent invasion, others just abandoned after the Second World War and later. This landing craft, possibly towed back from France, was a favourite with young boys in the mid 1940s, the photo shows Alan Major sitting on its rusting body. See his letter on page 2.

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Next Issue September 7th 2019

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Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller  
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller  
See top of page 14 for current prices.

Action Forum Office  
4 Saracen Close, Gillingham Business Park  
ME8 0QN Tel: 01634 310011 please mention  
AF when ringing. Email: af@thenet.uk.net

## Editorial

Single use plastic has recently become the latest villain in our modern world. Indeed all plastic is getting a bad press but we would find it difficult to function today without it. Various efforts by the government, corporate groups and individuals have made us much more aware of the future we are building for planet Earth by our reckless and unnecessary use of plastic. A start has been made – plastic straws and tea stirrers replaced with paper or wood, single use plastic carrier bags replaced by much thicker longer lasting versions. But even this seemingly great advance has backfired as apparently the thicker bags, which many people still regard as disposable after only one shop, use twice as much plastic as the much thinner ones previously produced. I see it when collecting rubbish in our road – true we no longer have very thin bags blowing around in the wind, they have been replaced by the thicker, bigger, more durable versions of which I now have a considerable collection at home, mostly in pristine condition, queuing up for when they are needed as rubbish collection bags – as each one lasts for several months this will take some time!

It is possible to become a single-use plastic free household but it is hard work and unfortunately expensive. Fruit and vegetables cost more sold loose but most supermarkets will now accept that you can take your own containers for these and meat and fish so you do not have to take home endless plastic trays and film wrapping. It just takes a bit of forethought and organisation on our part to go equipped with the necessary (inevitably plastic) containers. Many people do now take their own shopping bags each trip so the next step is - take bags for fruit and veg and re-useable containers for more messy items.

The whole problem is quite a conundrum that we each have to solve to the best of our ability but if we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the wonders of this world as we have been privileged to do we must do something and soon.

After this gloomy prognosis at least the weather has been great for most of July so let's hope it continues for the traditional holiday month and we can all enjoy fantastic hot sunny days. See you again in September.

## Correspondence

### 2ND WORLD WAR LANDING CRAFT

Dear Editor,

After the end of the 1939 War a D-Day landing craft, presumably brought/towed back from a French beach, lay close to the seawall between the disused cement works and Bloors Wharf, Lower Rainham, opposite an area named on some maps as Rainham Creek.

Children used to climb and play on it. I have a small Kodak box camera photograph of myself in 1945 or 46 sitting on it! I have a vague idea there were other discarded army vehicles in the area and elsewhere they were used to reinforce the seawalls and islands. Some were laid up in shipbreakers. I have been told that after having been there for a long time this particular craft gradually broke up and rusted away in the mud of the creek. Does anyone remember the story behind this craft's arrival and eventual abandonment?

Yours sincerely

Alan Major

41 Heaton Road Canterbury CT1 3PY

### ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

Dear Editor,

Chatham Grammar Association will be holding their annual Reunion Lunch on Saturday 14th September. Ticket price for CGA Members is £24 and non-members £26 (same prices as last year). Cheques payable to 'Chatham Grammar Association' please to: Mrs W Draper, Chatham Grammar Association, 37 Homefield Drive, Gillingham, ME8 8RS. Online Payment: contact draperwendy@btinternet.com Ticket cost includes welcome drinks, an amazing spread of homemade delights, both savoury and sweet and drinks on the table (non-alcoholic and alcoholic). The school will be open from 11.30am for anyone who wishes to have a wander before Lunch in the School Hall at 1.00pm. Welcome drinks will be served from 12.15pm in the Technology Block. The seating plan will be available to sign from 12.15pm. Our 'standard' tables seat six, so please notify us in advance if you are a large group. The raffle has a range of prizes - so please bring some change with you. Tickets will be £1 a strip. Proceeds from the raffle, your kind donations and surplus from the Lunch are mostly donated to the School. From donations received last year we gave £900 which will be used to provide extra funding for the Music Department. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Emma Mudge 07903 289672  
emmamudge@hotmail.com

### HOWARD SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

Over the last year or so I have enjoyed reading about people's memories of past Howard School staff. I too remember them all. However, I believe that I may be

the only person to have worked in one form or another for every Headteacher the Howard School has had.

Having worked as a shorthand-typist for Kent Education Committee at Springfield for nine years after leaving school on moving to Rainham in 1983 I approached Gillingham Borough Council: (it was pre-Medway Council in those days) in an attempt to obtain office employment in schools. A lovely lady called Mrs Mass (?Rebecca), who looked after schools' staffing needs, offered me temporary work at the old Gillingham Grammar School for Boys when it was in Third Avenue in order to make up record cards and registers for the incoming new Year 7 boys. The Head was Mr John Hicks. After that I was sent to various Gillingham Schools for short-term contracts.

Later, I was asked to go to the brand new Howard Grammar/High School to again prepare record cards and registers. John Hicks was now Head of the combined school. After employment at various schools, I ended up working 9-12 term-time only at Rainham School for Girls for several years until I left work prior to the arrival of my first daughter. I remained at home for seven years until my second daughter was five and started infant school, whereupon I worked part-time initially at Robert Napier School (in the Grammar School buildings in Third Avenue), and later in a Chatham infant school office for about eight years.

Subsequently, I became Headteacher's Secretary at the Howard School, working full time for Mr Alan Jarrett for many years. He often used to talk about taking over from Mr John Hicks. During that time, I was fortunate to meet Dorothy Howard, after whom the school was named, when she visited the school. Upon Mr Jarrett's retirement Maurice Barry (previously one of the Deputy Heads at the school) became Head. (I later changed roles and worked in the Finance Office.) When Maurice Barry left the school, Dave Smith became Head.

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I retired from full-time work in April 2007, but that summer returned to assist with examination invigilation. I have continued to be employed at the Howard School assisting with exam invigilation during the mock exams, GCSEs and A Levels, plus other exam boards' papers, so have worked for all the subsequent Heads of the school in that way. I have just completed the summer 2019 round of exam invigilation duties. Many happy memories.

Yours sincerely

Marion Sharp

51 Chalky Bank Road.

### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Parish of South Gillingham

Theme: Light and Dark

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Entries by 22nd September

Exhibition at St Pauls, Parkwood on 5th October.

Details from Colin Lovell cdmedway@gmail.com

### FARMERS MARKET

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# Diary 2019

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: August 27th 2019

August 4th -Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet John Trebill 01634 244045 Wateringbury Station  
Car Park (no charge) GR 692528 ME18 5EA for 4 mile  
undulating walk Dogs Allowed

August 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6  
miles/9.7 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes 1.15pm.  
Park and meet at West Malling village Car Park. ME19  
6AJ. TQ701569. Bring picnic lunch. Contact: Ade,  
07505895784, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

August 4th - Afternoon Tea, 3.00 - 5.00pm, St Michael  
and all Angels Church, Hartlip. Please join us for a  
relaxing afternoon of tea and homemade cakes whilst  
enjoying the peace and tranquillity of our lovely church  
yard and help us to keep our beautiful church alive.

August 4th - Sunday Service. Intuitive card readings with  
Kirstie (£5 donation) from 5.30pm. Service 6.30pm  
with guest medium Sam Baxter at The Centre Mind  
Body Spirit, Next to Travelodge, M2 Services ME8  
8PQ. All welcome £4 entrance See Facebook page for  
full information: The Centre-Mind Body Spirit.

August 5th - Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St  
Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new  
members welcome, details 07523 124668

August 6th - Breast Cancer Support Group, Medway  
Maritime Hospital Area 7, Level 2, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Kay  
Day talk on Semi Permanent Make Up, suitable for the  
members. New members welcome, for details contact  
Angela Blackwell 01634 861802, or 07761 853750

August 6th - Reiki, rahanni, spiritual, crystal and Chi  
healing given freely, donations welcome, every  
Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm and every Wed 10.00 to 11.30am  
at The Centre, Mind Body Spirit, Next to Travelodge,  
M2 Services ME8 8PQ. See Facebook page for up to  
date information: The Centre-Mind Body Spirit.

August 7th - Mallet and Badge Making, Riverside  
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon Learn useful bush  
craft and make your own mallet and a badge. Suitable  
for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, £4 per  
child ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 7th - Mini Beast Hunting, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn to  
identify creatures you find in the pond and wildflower  
meadow. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 -  
12 years. £4 per child, ring 01634 338191 to book.

August 8th - Beach Craft, Riverside Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon Join a ranger on the shore line and  
let your imagination run wild, painting pebbles or  
creating sea monsters. Suitable for the whole family, £4  
per child ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 9th - 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.

August 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm  
meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Parkwood Green  
Shops Carpark, Long Catlis Road, GR 809642 ME8  
9PN for 4 mile Evening flat / easy circular walk  
through orchards and paddocks, 2 Stiles. Dogs Allowed

August 10th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, St  
Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry,  
Refreshments available, Stalls £10 each, email  
cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com or ring 07779 366054

August 11th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free walk  
with Nature, Cliffe Pools RSPB Reserve ME3 7SU  
9.00am, Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

For more details visit [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway)  
[www.facebook.com/The-RSPB-Medway-Local-Group-733548566806267/](http://www.facebook.com/The-RSPB-Medway-Local-Group-733548566806267/)

August 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 8.2  
miles/13.2 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes  
2.30pm. Meet and park in front of Oast Houses  
south of A20 at Harrietsham. (Free parking). ME17  
1AH TQ867525. Walk has views over the North  
Downs on our way to Lenham returning via Players  
Heath. Bring picnic lunch. Contact: Derek, 07768  
448633, derek.kent@blueyonder.co.uk

August 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Doreen Maguire 01634 376230 Jeskyns Country  
Park (car park £3 charge) Toilets & Cafe GR 662699  
DA12 3AN for 5 mile mainly flat walk passing  
Ashenbank Woods. Could be muddy. No Dogs

August 12th - Concert, Medway Organ & Keyboard  
Club, 50th Anniversary year, Parkwood Community  
Centre, Rainham, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm, Organist - Tim  
Flint, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694

August 12th, Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St Matthews  
Church hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX. Summer indoor  
Garden Party, see [www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk) or  
ring 01634 863034 / 01634 373928 / 01795 843180

August 13th - Beginners Fishing for Children, Capstone  
Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 -  
3.00pm. Learn the basics of fishing. All equipment  
supplied. Suitable for accompanied children aged 8 -  
12 years. £10 per child, ring 01634 338191 to book.

August 13th - Carer's Coffee Morning, 10.00am -  
12noon, Dobbies Restaurant, Courtney Road,  
Gillingham. Buy a cup of coffee, pull up a seat and  
have a chat meet with others. For further information  
please contact Maureen Cannon 01634 235723

August 13th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Gillingham  
and District, side doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start,  
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, ME8 6JU, 'Wildlife & Estuaries of North Kent' - Cllr Alan Jarrett.  
All welcome, Ring 01634852519 for details

August 14th - Flying Fish, Capstone Farm Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon, make a flying fish in the visitor  
centre with a ranger. Suitable for accompanied children  
aged 5 - 12 years, £4 per child ring 01634 338191 to  
book or just turn up on the day.

August 14th - Bredhurst WI, Bredhurst Village Hall,  
7.30pm, Speaker - Jane Muddle 'The Story Behind the  
Bags & Hats from Madagascar'. For further

information contact secretary Pam Ormiston 01634  
365789

August 15th - Big Bug Hunt, Riverside Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm. Explore the park  
in search of underwater creatures and mini-beasts.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult, £4 per child  
ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 16th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow  
Memorial Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm Games include Euchre,  
Whist, RummiKub, Domino's and more table games,  
£1.50 includes tea/coffee, biscuits and a warm welcome  
(no joining fee).

August 16th - Evenings of mediumship at The Centre  
Mind Body Spirit, next to Travelodge, M2 Services  
Rainham. ME8 8PQ with Alex Bayley. £5 entrance  
doors open 7.00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits for a small  
donation. See our Facebook page for full and up to date  
information: The Centre-Mind Body Spirit.

August 18th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Lynsted, The  
Street, Black Lion PH. Park considerably in the road  
near the Pub GR 943608 ME9 0JS for 6 mile Historic  
Walk 'Wealthy Families & Fashion / Fine Houses'. An  
undulating walk roads, fields, grassland and woodland,  
passing through Rodmersham. 9 Stiles. Dogs Allowed

August 18th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 12  
miles/19.3 km - Moderate Circular walk finishes  
4.30pm. Park & Meet in Cobtree Country Park, Forstal  
Road - between the A229 and Aylesford (near Malta  
Inn). £1.50 parking fee TQ743587 ME20 7AG walk  
follows the River Medway towards Aylesford before  
crossing the 'urban savanna' (quite interesting really) to  
pick up the river again at Barming Bridge. Return via  
the Medway Valley Walk. Pub with food available,  
nearby, at the end. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact: Geoff,  
geoff.rambler@me.com

August 19th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th Aug).

August 20th - Mini Beast Hunting, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm,  
Learn to identify creatures you find in the pond and  
wildflower meadow. Suitable for accompanied children  
aged 5 - 12 years. £4 per child, ring 01634 338191 to  
book.

August 21st - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk  
with Nature, Haysden Lake Country Park LNR TN11  
9BB 10.00am, (see 11th Aug).

Continued on Page 11

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Interested? Why not visit our website **www.girlguiding.org.uk** or ring 0800 169 5901 to register your interest. A unit leader or district commissioner will be in touch over the summer. Amanda Crawford - Gillingham Division Marketing and Communications Advisor

### MEDWAY SCRABBLE CLUB

alternate Mondays

August 5th & 19th, 2.00 — 4.30pm

St Stephens Church Hall,

Maidstone Road, Chatham,

new members welcome

details 07523 124668

### BEACH CRAFT - Riverside Country Park

Thursday 8th August, 10.00am — 12noon

Join a ranger on the shore line and let your imagination run wild, painting pebbles or creating sea monsters.

Suitable for the whole family, £4 per child ring **01634 337432** to book.

### CRAFT MARKET

Saturday 10th August, 9.00am — 12.30pm

St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham  
Selection of stalls including knitting, sewing, crochet, book-folding, handmade cards, jewellery, craft supplies, Usborne books and homemade cakes.

Free entry, Refreshments available

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### CONCERT

Medway Organ & Keyboard Club

50th Anniversary year

Monday August 12th, 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Parkwood Community Centre, ME8 9PN

Organist — Tim Flint

For more details ring Brian Leonard

**01634 234694**

### RAINHAM FLOWER CLUB

Monday August 12th, 7.30pm

St Matthews Church Hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX

Summer Indoor Garden Party

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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

"...there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats", Ratty (a water vole) tells Mole in "Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame. 1908

This month's Nature Notes are about a walk up the River Medway, a year or two ago, from East Farleigh (which is a few miles south of Maidstone) to Watlingbury and return by train. I parked my car in the car park of East Farleigh Station. The latter is in a delightful spot, overlooking a mediaeval, ragstone bridge which spans the Medway. The Victorian station building and the matching signal box are both clapboarded. Trains are controlled by semaphore signals and the crossing gates are operated by hand. Within the village are two public houses, St Mary's Parish Church with its shingled spire, a terrace of sixteen single storey 'hoppers' huts and a group of eight oast houses with square bases and pyramidal roofs. Altogether, East Farleigh is a quintessential Kentish Village. In walking up the Medway, which is a typical lowland English river, I planned to keep my eyes open for both water voles and kingfishers. Water voles are not very powerful swimmers and so live along slow moving rivers, among other habitats. Dense vegetation is important both for food and as cover from predators, which include grey heron, mink and pike. The vole's diet includes succulent grasses, sedges and other waterside plants. In the autumn, the voles will eat any fruit they can find but are particularly fond of apples. As it so happens, East Farleigh is in the centre of the fruit belt to the south of Maidstone. Kingfishers are usually seen as a flash of iridescent blue, skimming low and fast over the water. In July, most parent kingfishers will still be feeding their young, on small fish such as minnow, stickleback and bullhead, either in the nest or in the vicinity of it. This should increase my chances of seeing kingfishers. It was not long into my walk when I came across a lone angler and asked him what he had caught. He said that he was hoping to catch, perhaps, chubb, bream, roach or perch, but mitten crabs were stealing his bait. They are arriving in this country as stowaways on ships coming from China and are a growing menace in many rivers. He had never seen a water vole whilst fishing but, quite by coincidence, he

was sitting opposite a branch often used by a kingfisher. He pointed it out to me. I waited for a while but did not prolong my stay. Generally speaking, anglers prefer to be on their own, in the peace and quiet of the riverside. By way of contrast, the occupants of the cabin cruisers, a converted canal barge, the rowing boats and the canoes that were on the river, in the July sunshine, were clearly enjoying each other's company.

Stopping places on my journey to Watlingbury were the wooden Barming Bridge, which is now confined to pedestrians; the mediaeval, Kentish ragstone Teston Bridge and Teston Lock and Weir. There was also Teston Countryside Park where I queued for an ice cream. I noted bird's foot trefoil, meadow vetchling and creeping buttercup in the open grasslands at the Park. A kestrel was hovering above the grassland in a search for voles or shrews. The final stopping place was the ancient Waregrave's Wood which consists mainly of coppiced ash with oak standards and which has an impressive display of bluebells in the spring. Flowers in bloom along the riverbank included purple loosestrife, water figwort or water betony, hemp agrimony, great willow herb or codlins and cream and meadow sweet. The latter has creamy white flowers and is a particular delight. Floating in the water itself were yellow water lilies. I came across a pair of mute swans with three cygnets. Black headed gulls were flying back and forth in the search for any dead fish floating on the water. I heard the calls of a nuthatch, a green woodpecker and a great spotted woodpecker. I was able to admire a number of dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. But I saw no kingfisher and no water vole.

Long rows of boats moored on both banks of the river heralded my impending arrival at Bow Bridge Marina and Watlingbury Station. The latter has an idyllic position beside the Medway. It is an intact, rural station complete with station building (in mock Tudor style), station master's house, goods shed and signal box, all of which date back to the South Eastern Railway and Victorian times. At the time of the nationalisation of the railways, in 1948, there were about 10,000 manually operated signal boxes throughout the country. By 2012 there were less than 500 and not all of these were operational. Many of the surviving boxes have become endearing and much loved landmarks and a number have been given listed

building status by English Heritage, including the box at Watlingbury and four others on the Medway Valley Line. My train was due to arrive soon and the railwayman had left his box, built in 1894 by Saxby and Farmer, to close the gates to traffic. It occurred to me that operational signal boxes like that at Watlingbury were even more rare than the elusive water vole.

Joe Ennis

## SMELLS AND SOUNDS OF RAINHAM PAST

**Editor:** Trawling through my computer recently I came across this article written by my mother Helena Thomas for Action Forum probably in about 2010 (she died aged 105 in May 2014) which I had forgotten. She is describing the Rainham of her childhood just before and during the First World War.

We have pictures, surviving artefacts and personal memories to remind us of how Rainham looked in the past but the smells and sounds of our childhood are not so easily recollected. If however they are sometimes re-encountered there is nothing that so instantly carries us back to the past. The air over Rainham in common with the rest of the inhabited countryside must have been redolent of smoke and horse manure, we have no regrets of their passing but they have been replaced by more noxious fumes from petrol driven traffic.

Most of our lost smells were seasonal such as the drying of hops in September or the sweet scent of the cherry orchards in May. The fields between Longley Road and Berengrave Lane were for most of the summer full of the scent of Mr Longleys roses even though it had to compete with the smoke from the trains. At one time there were four bakers in Rainham who gave their neighbourhood a whiff of freshly baked bread. If we walked towards Upchurch we could not miss the pungent smoke of the burning bricks, and to wander across the field paths at certain times told us that fish or shoddy had been applied as manure. Even less pleasant smells occasionally met us, one being from the ubiquitous cesspool emptier before Gillingham provided us with main drainage and another fortunately less frequent horror was the stench from the lorry loads of foetid bones on their way to the Queenborough glue factory - Ugh!

Let us pass quickly to the subject of sound. In general Rainham was a quieter place than it is now so that we could hear the striking of the church clock and the

tolling bell which gave us the sex and age of a recently dead parishioner. We heard our church bells much more frequently and when the wind was in the right direction those of Hartlip too. We heard without noting the clanging of the frequent trams and the rattle of horse and cart on our rough roads. The sound of small children at play with their tops, hoops, skipping ropes and singing games blended with the whistling of delivery boys who made good use of their bicycle bells. Cars were less prevalent but the engines were noisier and the hooters used more. Sometimes lose dogs barked fiercely as they were chased off. The railway station may have been less busy but it was much noisier. The old steam trains rattled through or if stopping chugged to a halt with a clanging of buffers, porters shouted and trundled iron wheeled trolleys to load and unload luggage, before slamming doors in time for the guards whistle so the engine driver knew to get up steam for the off. The clattering of the signals started and closed the cacophony till the next train was due. Household coal arrived by train and added to the station noise with the necessary shunting of engines and shovelling of coal. Newspapers also arrived by train and although the collection and sorting was quiet enough the subsequent calls of 'Get the latest' 'Read all about it' and the repetitive 'Evening News', or whatever paper it was the vendor carried filled the air. Other itinerant callers were the Sunday Shrimp man with his cry 'Just come ashore' and the rag and bone man who let us know he was on his way. For a time after the 1918 demobilisation street singers walked through the village and the occasional violin or barrel organ was heard, times were hard then and unemployment rife. Other music was provided by the Salvation Army band which accompanied the street corner services. In the summer the Parish Church would hold services around the village or in the school playground at the top of Station Road till the trams were brought round the corner from the High Street and the area became too busy. To be continued.

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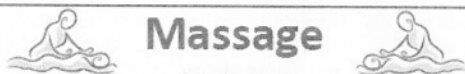
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## Diary 2019

August 21st - Beginners Fishing for Children, (see 13th Aug).

August 21st - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall, John Hughes, Behind the Scenes at Kew, Fuchsia in Bloom & Dahlia Show, Bring and Buy Produce Stall, Details John Fridd 01634 388028

August 22nd - Mallet and Badge Making, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn useful bush craft and make your own mallet and a badge. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, £4 per child ring 01634 338191 to book

August 25th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk with Nature, Rye Harbour TN31 7TU 10.00am, (see 11th Aug).

August 25th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 5.5 miles/8.8 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes 1.00pm. Park and meet in the car park Teston Bridge Country Park. Teston Lane. ME18 5BX. TQ707533 parking charges, Toilets available. Walk upstream, cross the bridge and head downstream via West Farleigh and Kettle Corner to Teston. Bring picnic lunch. Contact: Ade, 07505895784, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

August 25th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 / 07847 828249 Godstone Village Green outside White Hart PH GR 350515 RH9 8DU for 6 mile undulating walk across fields, grassland & through woods also along riverbank & tracks with short lengths of roads, 2 stiles. Dogs Allowed

August 27th - Ted's Picnic, Riverside Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm Bring a picnic and a teddy bear and join in the fun. Storytelling and games. Suitable for accompanied children aged 3 - 7 years, £5 per child ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 28th - Kite Making Workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon make a kite in the visitor centre with a ranger then fly it in Capstones bracing winds, Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, £5 per kite, ring 01634 338191 to book.

August 29th - Ted's Picnic, Capstone Farm Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm Bring a picnic and a teddy bear and join in the fun. Storytelling and games. Suitable for accompanied children aged 3 - 7 years, £5 per child ring 01634 338191 to book.

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August 31st - Splash for Mash Sponsored Swim, Medway Asthma Self-Help, Roko Health Club, Watling Street, Gillingham, ME8 6BY, book in slots of half an hour between 2.00 and 6.00pm Contact 01634 855844 / medwayasthmahelp@btconnect.com or www.medwayasthmahelp.co.uk/splash-for-mash.

September 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6 miles/9.7 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes 1.15pm Meet at Hollingbourne Station Car Park. Parking charge may apply ME17 1FZ, TQ836548 bring picnic lunch. Tony/Ann, 07478337787 vajra.faulkner@gmail.com

September 1st - Summer Fair, Cats Adoption Centre Bredhurst, 11.00am - 3.00pm, Fun for all the family, Crafts stalls, Bric-a-Brac, Raffle, Live Music, Refreshments, BBQ, Ice cream, Kids corner with inflatable slide and obstacle course. Come and join the fun and see our lovely cats! Adults £1, Children Free! Free parking nearby. Details 01634 232471

September 1st - Afternoon Tea, 3.00 - 5.00pm, St Michael and all Angels Church, Hartlip (see 4th Aug).

September 2nd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 5th Aug).

September 3rd - Breast Cancer Support Group, Amoena are hosting a lingerie evening, items suitable for our members. (see 6th Aug).

September 4th - Upchurch Horticultural Society monthly meeting, 7.30pm, at 97 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch, to discuss the planning for the September Show. Contact: upchurchhortsoc@gmail.com

September 5th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Nat West' - Abigail Avens, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.

September 6th - 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.

September 6th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, (see 16th Aug).

September 7th - Bredhurst Village Show, 2.30pm

September 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 7.5 miles/12.1 km - Moderate Circular walk finishes 2.15pm. Park in Sandling Road, NOT pub car park. Meet at the Lower Bell PH, ME20 7EF TQ748606. Walk via Boxley Abbey, Pilgrims Way and River Medway, return through Cobtree Manor Park - the site of the old Maidstone Zoo. Contact: Geoff, geoff.rambler@me.com

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September 8th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Volunteer  
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wear suitable clothing and footwear for working  
outside. For information ring 01634 338191. Meet  
volunteer block near Orchard Car Park.  
September 8th - Cream Teas on the 'The Green',  
Gillingham Green ME7 1SS, 2.30pm - 4.30pm. In aid  
of 'The Friends' of St Mary Magdalene Church, Cream  
Tea £4, Luxury Cream Tea to include a glass of  
Prosecco £6, Children's tea £2. Please book tickets in  
advance from Hilda 01634 932135  
[gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com) Free Car Parking  
at Saxon Way School  
September 9th, Rainham Flower Club, Workshop Tutored  
by Phillippa Doucy, 'A Tied Bunch in water' (see 12th  
Aug).  
September 9th - Concert, Medway Organ & Keyboard  
Club, Organist - John Cooper, (see 12th Aug).  
September 10th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm,  
United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road,  
Gillingham, Your own choice / pre-show discussion,  
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email [kayebuss@btinternet.com](mailto:kayebuss@btinternet.com)  
September 10th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society,  
Rainham Then & Now' - Colin Coe, a look back at our  
local town and its progression, (see 13th Aug).  
September 10th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,  
7.30 for 8.00pm, The Clubhouse of the Rainham  
Cricket Club, 'Mudlarks', retrieving from the Thames  
mud'. Memberships now open at £25, for further  
information Tel: 01634 851512 or simply just turn up.  
September 11th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk  
with Nature, Riverside Country Park, Gillingham ME7  
2XH 9.30am, (see 11th Aug).

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September 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,  
Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, 6.00pm, The Baby  
Boomer Nostalgia Show - Alan Haines, for details  
contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444  
September 12th - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Chalk'-  
Christoph Bull (see 5th Sept).  
September 13th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History  
Society, Twydale Evangelical Church, Goudhurst Road  
ME8 6LQ 2.00 - 4.00pm. The 1987 Hurricane - Bob  
Ogley. Annual membership is £20. Visitors £3 per  
meeting. Tea/Coffee available before the meeting for a  
small charge. For more information contact Val  
Barrand 07947 583327 or email [lupusrufus@sky.com](mailto:lupusrufus@sky.com)  
September 14th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium  
Centre, (see 10th Aug).  
September 14th - Annual Reunion Lunch Chatham  
Grammar Association from 11.30am. Welcome drinks  
12.15pm in Technology Block. Tickets - Members £24,  
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Grammar Association' to Mrs W Draper, 37 Homefield  
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September 14th - Upchurch Horticultural Society  
September Show in the Barn to the rear of 97 Chaffes  
Lane, Exhibits to be displayed by 11.00am, Ample  
Parking, Refreshments, Raffle, 50p Plant Sale, Auction  
of Exhibits. Contact: [upchurchhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:upchurchhortsoc@gmail.com)  
September 14th - Wigmore Voices 'Voices in Harmony',  
8.00pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery  
Drive, Wigmore, An evening of music with songs old  
& new. Tickets £7.50 from Sue 01634 370639.  
September 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.20am, 7.5  
miles/12.1 km - Easy Linear walk finishes 2.00pm.  
Meet Blackheath train station ticket area SE3 9LE for  
10.20am train TQ396759. Finish Canary Wharf tube  
station. Bring a picnic. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881  
September 16th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th Aug).  
September 16th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, St  
Paul's Church Parkwood, Rainham, 7.30pm. 'It's your  
duty to be beautiful' All Welcome, for further details  
contact Chris Holder 01634 360823.  
September 17th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm,  
'Surprise Us' - do your own thing, (see 10th Sept).

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See [www.thenet.uk.net](http://www.thenet.uk.net) or FB page for dates  
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