

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

SEPTEMBER
2019
NUMBER 557



RAINHAM COUNTY MODERN



SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. 1948

Back to school! Part of the 1948 school photograph of Rainham School for Girls, taken at the Orchard Street site. The teachers shown include from the left: Mrs Michie, Mrs Lane, Mrs Dudding, Miss Satwell, Mrs Smith (Head), next three unknown, Miss French, Mrs Todd and Miss Whitehead. If you would like a copy of the complete photograph we can supply it by email (af@thenet.uk.net) or Richard Grice has the entire photograph on disc and would be pleased to help you. He would also love to put names to as many of the pupils and staff as possible so if you think you are able to help with this please do get in touch with him 01634 363516.

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AF

Next Issue October 5th 2019
Copy Date: September 24th
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

September brings thoughts of new beginnings. Children starting school for the first time or moving on to different and bigger establishments. Most take it in their stride although all will feel some degree of trepidation come the day. A few will need much more encouragement and reassurance before they confidently settle in their new environment. Many clubs and societies having taken a month off during the summer are now raring to go once again with interesting programmes mapped out for the year ahead. We feature many of these in our Diary and editorial pages. If you are recently retired or have time on your hands now the children are at school do have a browse and see if any of the many groups or hobbies appeal to you. Most offer a few free visits for you to assess if it suits you before you actually join. Either ring beforehand or just turn up to a meeting and see how you get on. On the other hand if you help organise and run a club and you would like more members do drop us a line (email is appreciated) outlining your activities and details of your meeting time and place, we are always happy to publish this and perhaps secure you some new members. One volunteer band who have been working hard all year are the people who help at the Community Orchard. This apple orchard on the Lower Rainham Road at the junction with Lower Bloors Lane is owned by Mr Zammit but he kindly allows its use by the community. Many hours of work go into maintaining it on Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout the year. Pruning takes up much of the winter, then mowing and keeping the vegetation under control all summer before the harvest in autumn. This year a bumper crop is anticipated. The orchard has Russet and Cox apples – a good combination for the farm when it was planted, Russet ripen a few weeks before Cox so the picking was staggered. Not so convenient when organising Pick Your Own days! If you like both kinds of apple you really need to make at least a couple of visits. It is expected the Russet will be ready by the last weekend of September (ie Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th) but the Cox will probably not be at their best until well into October. If you have never experienced the peace and tranquillity picking your own fruit straight from a tree in an orchard, maintained as much for the wildlife as the crop, now is

your chance to bring the children or grandchildren and spend an hour among the butterflies, birds, insects, fox holes and badger sett selecting your own juicy apples. For up to date information on the Pick Your Own weekends watch the Community Orchard page on www.thenet.uk.net or visit their Facebook page. Even if you are not enjoying the warm sunshine picking apples in an orchard do try to make the most of our autumnal weather - all too soon winter will be on us again with dark evenings and cold days to endure for a few months. Have a good time, we will be with you again in October.

Correspondence

MR JOHN HICKS

As a postscript to Marion Sharps letter last month detailing her career at local schools Nigel Fray has responded with the following information. He attended GGS/The Howard School from 1973-80, is now Secretary of The Anchorians Association and also a Governor of The Howard School so has an obvious interest and has provided more biographical details of Mr Hicks. 'John Hicks passed away in 2016, at the age of 91. He was Headmaster of Gillingham Grammar School from 1963-1975; and the Howard School from 1975 until his retirement in 1987.'

Nigel Fray email NigelFray@aol.com

HERITAGE DAY FREE OPENING

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 14th September as part of the National Heritage Open Days the French Hospital and the Huguenot Museum on Rochester High Street will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Do come and have a look around these interesting buildings, learn more about Huguenot history and enjoy the activities.

Homemade refreshments will be served in the Common Room at The French Hospital.

This event is Free with no need to book in advance. We hope to see you on the 14th September.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Tegg - Fundraising@frenchhospital.org.uk
01634 406 652 see www.frenchhospital.org.uk

MUSIC HALL & DINNER

Dear Editor,

The Inner Wheel Club of Gillingham are holding a Fund Raising Music Hall evening with two course dinner at Upchurch River Valley Golf Club Restaurant on Friday October 4th at 7pm for 7.30pm. We are raising Funds for our President's Charity 'MAGIC' Tickets are £20 each which includes the meal and are available from Secretary Rosemarie Barnes on 07547 250010 or email rosemarie.barnes777@gmail.com before September 22nd. Please come and join in the singing and fun. Raffle and lovely prizes for all.

'CREAM TEAS ON THE 'THE GREEN'

Gillingham Green ME7 1SS

Sunday September 8th, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

'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 in advance from Hilda 01634 932135
gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com

Free Car Parking at Saxon Way School

MEDWAY ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS' CLUB

Clubhouse, Rainham Cricket Club

Berengrave Lane ME8 7NA

Tuesday 10th September, 7.30 for 8.00pm

'Mudlarks', retrieving from the Thames mud'

For further information ring 01634 851512
or simply just turn up

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

Chatham Grammar Association

Saturday 14th September, School open from 11.30am.

Welcome drinks served 12.15pm in the Technology Block. Raffle Tickets £1 a strip. Proceeds, donations and surplus from the Lunch mostly donated to the School (£900 last year used to provide extra funding for the Music Department).

Tickets - Members £24, non-members £26 includes welcome drinks, homemade delights, both savoury and sweet, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on the table. Cheques payable to 'Chatham Grammar Association' send to Mrs W Draper, 37 Homefield Drive, Gillingham, ME8 8RS. Looking forward to seeing you there. Emma Mudge 07903 289672
emmamudge@hotmail.com

'VOICES IN HARMONY' Wigmore Voices

Saturday 14th September, 8.00pm

St Matthews Community Centre

Drewery Drive, Wigmore,

An evening of music with songs old & new

Tickets £7.50 from Sue 01634 370639.

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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Gillingham & Rainham

Twydall Evangelical Church

Goudhurst Road, Twydall ME8 6LQ.

Friday September 13th, 2.00 - 4.00pm.

The 1987 Hurricane - Bob Ogley.

Meetings usually on the 2nd Friday in the month

September to June. Annual membership £20.

Visitors £3 per meeting. Tea/Coffee available before the meeting for a small charge. For more information

contact Val Barrand on 07947 583327

or email lpusrufus@sky.com

Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham

READY, STEADY, GO!

September 19th, 20th, 21st, Curtain up 8.00pm

A musical tribute taking you on a trip down memory lane with hits from the 50's, 60's and 70's performed by Jo & Alan Godman.

Well-known classics from 3 decades which will guarantee singing along to some favourite songs!

OPERA-LELE

Saturday 28th September, Curtain up 8.00pm

Comedy opera duo accompanied by the ukulele.

George Bartle and Amanda Harkett both trained at the Royal College of Music in London. A great evening of music and fun. To book for either performance ring 0844 8793224 or on-line www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

Oasthouse Theatre, off High Street, Rainham

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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: September 24th 2019

- September 7th - Bredhurst Village Show, 2.30pm
September 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
2.00pm, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, 07847
828249 East Malling Village Field Car Park near
Railway Station (Free). GR702567 ME19 6AJ for 4
mile Afternoon Tea easy flat circular walk. No Steps.
No Stiles. No Dogs St James Church - Tea £5 - must be
booked in advance with Chris Morris
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. Contact: Geoff, geoff.rambler@me.com
September 8th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Volunteer
Conservation Task Days, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Join the
volunteers for a day, learn country park management
and help with practical tasks. Refreshments provided
but bring your own lunch and wear suitable clothing
and footwear for working outside. For information or to
register interest 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 £6, Children £2. Book in
advance from gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com or
01634 932135 Free Car Parking at Saxon Way School

- September 9th, Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St
Matthews Church hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX, Workshop
Tutored by Phillipa Doucy, 'A Tied Bunch in water'
Information see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring
01634 863034 / 01634 373928 / 01795 843180
September 9th - Concert, Medway Organ & Keyboard
Club, 50th Anniversary year, Parkwood Community
Centre, Rainham, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm, Organist - John
Cooper, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694
September 10th - GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm,
United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road,
Gillingham, Your own choice / pre-show discussion,
New members welcome, first visit free, no experience
needed. Just come and receive a friendly welcome.
Parking available. For details contact Kaye Buss 01634
232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com
September 10th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society
Gillingham and District, side doors open 7pm for
7.30pm start, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane,
ME8 6JU, Rainham Then & Now' - Colin Coe, a look
back at our local town and its progression. All
welcome, Ring 01634 852519 for details
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, Please wear appropriate clothing and
footwear. For more details visit www.rspb.org.uk/
groups/medway www.facebook.com/The-RSPB-
Medway-Local-Group-733548566806267/
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, St Matthew's
Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Chalk' - Christoph Bull,
for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.
September 13th - Gillingham & Rainham Local History
Society, Twydall 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
September 14th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, St
Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry,
Refreshments available, To book a stall, £10 each,
email cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com or 07779 366054
September 14th - Annual Reunion Lunch Chatham
Grammar Association. School open from 11.30am.
Welcome drinks 12.15pm in Technology Block. Tickets
Members £24, non-members £26. Cheques payable to
'Chatham Grammar Association' to Mrs W Draper, 37
Homefield Drive, Gillingham, ME8 8RS.
September 14th - GHS Floral Art Group Autumn Show
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
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. Finishing at Canary Wharf
station. Bring a picnic. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881
September 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet Mo Fleisig 07976 600393 The
Carpenters Arms, Eastling, Park near Pub or St Marys
Church Carpark off Kettle Hill Road. GR 965565
ME13 OAZ for 5.5 mile easy walk through three
Eastling, Newnham & Doddington. Terrain includes
parkland & woodland. Pub at the end. No Dogs
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 16th - Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm,
St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham,
new members welcome, details 07523 124668
September 17th - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Surprise Us' -
do your own thing, (see 10th Sept).
September 17th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, ME8 9PM.
7.30 - 9.45pm £4, Wild Canadian Rockies - Martin
Davies. Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.
September 18th - Wigmore Ladies, Howard Hall,
Woodside, Wigmore 2.00 - 4.00pm, new members
welcome to this cheerful group, just come along or ring
01634 388912.
September 18th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm,
Village Hall, Annual General Meeting, Leslie
Wainwright, Visual Quiz- Part 2, Potato Competition,
Cards & Stationery on Sale, Bring and Buy Produce
Stall, Details John Fridd 01634 388028
September 19th - Rainham Women's Institute meet 1.45 -
4.00pm, Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre,
Granary Close. Visitors welcome for a small entry
charge per visit. Contact Lynne 01634 234997
September 19th - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Rainham
Village' - Colin Coe, (see 12th Sept).
September 19th, 20th, 21st - Ready, Steady, Go!
Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, Curtain up 8.00pm. Box
Office 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
September 20th - 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
September 22nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.15am, meet David Gaul 07719 382284 Canterbury
East Railway Station - Carpark £1 all day. GR 146573
CT1 2RB for 5.5 mile Canterbury city walk crossing 34
Bridges over the River Stour. Mostly urban flat walk
using good tarmac footpaths. No Dogs
September 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 8.5
miles/13.7 km - Moderate Circular walk finishes
2.45pm. Free parking at Hosey Common CP. Drive up
Hosey Hill from Westerham towards Chartwell.
Parking top of Hosey Hill passed houses and a green on
the left-hand-side of the B2026. TN16 1PL TQ452530,
eight stiles with dog gates. Assistance Dogs Only.
Bring a packed lunch. Contact: John W, 01634232668,
FLAME451@hotmail.co.uk

Continued on Page 11

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EAST MEDWAY U3A
September: United Services Club
171 High Street, Rainham
October/November: Smallholders Club,
2 Springvale, ME8 0JG
Every second Wednesday of Month 2.00 — 4.00pm
Details on eastmedwayu3a or phone 07733 554719
New members welcome

RAINHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Millennium Hall, Rainham
Wednesday 25th September, 7.00 for 7.30pm
'The Medway Queen Paddle Steamer'
Mark & Pamela Bathurst
Membership £10 (full member) £5 (associate)
All welcome, Visitors £2
Contact secretary Olwen O'Dowd
01634 263622 for more details.

ART EXHIBITION
Tuesday 1st — Thursday 31st October
Rainham Library

An exhibition of original paintings for sale by local
artists from the Rainham Art Group.
For more information about the group please email:
rainhamartgroup@gmail.com

FARMERS MARKET
Saturday 5th October 9.00am — 12.30pm
To celebrate harvest week
In aid of St Philips Church in Tafara, Zimbabwe
St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham
To book a stall, £10.00 each email:
mcentre@rainhamchurch.co.uk
or telephone 01634 374038

ANNUAL CONCERT Rainham Ladies Choir
Saturday 5th October 7.30pm
St. Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham.
Tickets £10, £9 concessions, Under 12 free.
Disabled parking available behind the church, Main
parking Chatham Grammar School for Girls
For more information visit our website:
www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk
Telephone 01634 262214 or 01634 370797
or email: secretary@rainhamladieschoir.org.uk

ANNUAL QUIZ
Hospital Radio Medway
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall, ME8 6JU
Saturday 5th October, 7.30pm.
Tables of 6-8, £6 per head.
Please bring your own drink & nibbles.
To book contact Eunice Norman 01634 365300

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PATCHWORK & QUILTING EXHIBITION
Twydall Sewing Together
Saturday 5th October 10.00 — 3.00pm
Twydall Church Hall. Entry £2
Display of Quilts, Demonstrations, A number of
quilts will be for sale. Large Craft Sale and Raffle
Draw 1st prize - Large Hand-Made Quilt;
2nd - £50; 3rd - Hamper.

All proceeds to MASH and Medway Magic.
Light refreshments. For more information
email chrismharvey@blueyonder.co.uk

BARN DANCE with LIVE MUSIC
In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Saturday 5th October, 7.30 - 10.30pm
The Oast Community Centre, Rainham, ME8 7SG
Suggested donation £12 Adults, £6 children.
Licensed bar (bring your own snacks)
For tickets please ring 07496 942079 or
email: macmillanmedway@gmail.com or

DROP-IN EVENING
Wigmore Community & Residents Association
Wednesday October 9th, 7.30 - 9.30pm
St Matthews Church Hall, Drewery Drive,
First 30 minutes designated to hear residents
concerns regarding traffic noise in the Wigmore.
A great opportunity to meet and discuss local issues
that really matter to you with our invited guests:
Local MP, Councillors, Council Officers and local
Community Police (all subject to availability).
Open to all Wigmore residents
(WCRA members and non-members).
Refreshments will be available.

ONE BIG FAMILY - QUIZ NIGHT
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Friday 11th October — Start 7.00pm
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

It was clear to Gilbert White, the 18th century naturalist, that swallows left Hampshire in the autumn because of the coming winter, when there would be few insects about. He knew that bats hibernated for the winter. But he had never come across any swallows in hibernation. So they had to go to a country where it was spring, to be followed by summer. But exactly where? I shall return to Gilbert White later but, in the meantime, I write about my trip, last August, to the annual open day of the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust on the east Kent coast. The President of the Trust is the irrepressible Bill Oddie. He has written that bird observation is a splendid opportunity for people to enjoy themselves together. Members of the Trust, mostly fairly elderly and a mixture of men and women, were indeed very welcoming to visitors and seemed a jolly lot. Since 1952 the Sandwich Observatory has been one of this country's foremost independent bird ringing stations. Over one million birds are ringed in Britain and Ireland each year by over 2,500 trained ringers. Small birds are temporarily caught in mist nets which are soft and elastic, so that even a fast flying bird is brought gently to a rest. A suitably sized ring, with a unique number, is carefully placed round the leg of a caught bird. It was fascinating to watch the birds being brought in from the nets at Sandwich in little cloth bags with a draw string. It was not until the bird was taken carefully out of the bag to be ringed that visitors were able to see what species they were. Whilst I was there, in late August, the 'catch' was mainly warblers – blackcaps and garden, reed and willow warblers. The main reason for ringing is to understand the movements of birds (particularly as regards migration) and to determine the survival rates of the various species of birds. Long after Gilbert White's death, ringing had shown that our swallows spend our winter in South Africa. He would doubtless have been astounded to have learned that his own beloved swallows, near his home in Hampshire, could, and did, fly to and from the furthest end of Africa. Even longer after Gilbert's death, we are still learning about migration. For example, ringing has shown that the small number of blackcaps that over-winter in this country, instead of migrating south with the great

majority of their species, are not birds that bred here in the spring, but are birds that come here for winter after having bred in central Europe.

Much more interesting is what has been discovered about the migration of the cuckoo. It has always been considered, with some confidence, that cuckoos return to Africa but it has never been clear, until fairly recently, exactly where in that vast continent. As a result of the use of very small transmitters glued to the bodies of number of adult cuckoos netted in this country, we now know, as a result of tracking by satellite, that they over-winter in central Africa and, in particular, the Congo Rain Forest. Putting rings on cuckoos over past years produced no reliable results because there appears to be few, if any naturalists netting birds in the Congo Rain Forest and any birds that die there are not likely to be found and reported on. Another interesting result from the satellite tracking is that cuckoos migrating to and from Wales and Scotland, where they are faring quite well, travel from and to the Congo via Italy. On the other hand, cuckoos migrating to and from England, where they are faring badly, travel from and to the Congo via Spain. It may be that 'English' cuckoos suffer from deaths in Spain as a result of the lack of their particular food of insects and their larvae in that country.

I had a cup of tea and a cake at the observatory and listened to illustrated lectures on the Trust's bird reserve and the flowers to be seen in the Sandwich Bay area. Unfortunately, I did not have time to see the moth trapping, which was extremely popular. I did however watch some children who had been invited to dissect owl pellets with instruments that looked suspiciously like those lined up, somewhat ominously, at the right hand of the dental surgeon. The man supervising the operations explained that barn owl pellets are best for studying because the bones they contain are remarkably intact. Kestrels digest their prey more thoroughly than owls and so bones are much less evident in their pellets. Because they take a high proportion of insect prey, kestrels' pellets can show insect remains such as wing cases and can thus be confused with those of the little owl, which also catches a lot of insects. The main ingredients of a sparrow hawk's pellets are feathers, and bones are rarely found. The children were invited to look for, in particular, skulls of mice and other small mammals.

We were shown a chart which enables those with a close interest in the subject to identify the skulls by pulling out a tooth and looking at it either under a magnifying glass or a microscope. It was stressed that the pellets of the barn owl, on the table, consisted mainly of fur and bones that had been disgorged from the owl's mouth and were not owl poo. That reassured the parents, but I do not think that the children would have cared what it was.

Joe Ennis

IS IT REALLY JUST ABOUT SINGLE USE PLASTICS? by Tanya Ferry

(Adapted from 'Greening the Family blog')

Written in response to the Editors comments on the difficulty of the effort to switch to more environmentally friendly living. (August 2019) Single use plastics are only the tip of the iceberg of our consumption affecting our environment, climate, air and water. We need to think bigger and be convinced it is in our interest and power to make small changes for a better future.

Last year for my birthday my sister brought me 'Zero free living', by Bea Johnson. Keen to learn I found lots of helpful advice, and some that is not so practical in the U.K. versus Bea's US experience. However, having made changes I started to log the amount of non-recyclable waste we were disposing of and choosing products based on how they are wrapped and where they are from.

Across Medway our home bins are emptied weekly and in Swale on alternate weeks, with food waste being collected each week. We are now often not putting rubbish out every time, as we only have a bag rather than a bin full. But on the other hand our recycling bin is overflowing! We have gone from full rubbish bins and high costs to no food wastage, and very little non recyclable waste.

So how can you be plastic free in the Medway area?

Here are some hints;

'Free of' – we have milk and fruit juice delivered in glass bottles and send them back. We have been lucky as the milk man is local and also brings recycled paper toilet roll, which uses low carbon and less water in its production. Whenever possible we buy products in glass or cans rather than plastic, but it has to be plastic that can be recycled locally (see the Waste and Recycling section of the Medway Council Website). 'Take your own' – instead of single plastic pots, in Rainham the butcher and fishmonger will fill your

own packaging. The farm shop down at the Grange fills my cloth bags (and old cotton bags) and now supplies cucumbers out of plastic wrapping. Buying in small numbers is more efficient as you buy what you need, rather than the bulk that the supermarkets decide you need. It may be cheaper to buy a bag of six peppers, rather than one or two, but how many of us use these all up by the time they start to rot? The meat and fish is often locally produced or caught and so we are supporting local businesses. Watch out for plastic accreditation as 'Towards a Plastic Free Medway' is launched under the national Surfers Against Sewage programme Plastic Free Communities. living-river.org/plastic-free-medway Tanya Ferry – Founder Living River Foundation email info@living-river.org

HARVEST TEAS

Sundays 6th & 20th October, 3.30 – 6.00pm
Millennium Centre, Rainham.

This year is the 19th year that the Lions Club of Gillingham, their partners and friends have organised Harvest Teas for the elderly and lonely people of this area. So if you or a neighbour or friend would like an invitation all you have to do is ring or write to either of the following: Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham (01634 379062) or Mrs Yvonne Iles, 311 Hempstead Road, Hempstead (01634 373840). It is free and transport to and from the Centre can be arranged.

We would love to see you there.

Beryl Brenton (for The Lions Club of Gillingham)

QUIZ NIGHT Medway Asthma Self-Help

Saturday 12th October, 7.30pm start

Roko Health Club, Watling Street, ME8 6BY.

Tickets £5 each, teams of up to eight.

All drinks must be bought at the bar but bring snacks.

Book 01634 855844 or email

medwayasthmaelfhelp@btconnect.com

KNOWLEDGE & NIBBLES EVENING

The Friends of St Margaret's Church Rainham

The Millennium Centre

Saturday 19th October, 7.30pm (prompt start).

Nibbles provided please bring your own drinks & glasses.

Tables of 8 - £6 per person

Advance booking essential.

Contact Kay on 230430 or Lesley on 379796.

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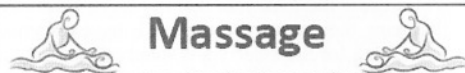
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Diary 2019

September 25th - Rainham Historical Society,
Millennium Hall, Rainham, 7.30pm 'The Medway
Queen Paddle Steamer' - Mark & Pamela Bathurst. All
welcome, Visitors £2, Contact Olwen 01634 263622
September 25th - All Saints Women's Fellowship,
Birthday Social, (see 11th Sept).
September 26th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Social
meeting - Film, (see 12th Sept).
September 27th - Medway Geographical Society, Holy
Trinity Church, Twydall Lane, Gillingham ME8 6TN,
7.30 - 9.00pm. Elizabeth Mooney - Everest Base Camp
- One Woman's Guide, Everyone Welcome, Students
and children free, Plenty of Free parking. Come on the
evening or contact Lorna Bailey 01634 572139
September 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
8.00am, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, 07847
828249 Rainham Railway Station, Catch 8.16am Train
to Gravesend. Ferry to Tilbury. Train to Southend.
Bring Bus Pass (for ferry) 8 mile walk back to Benfleet
then return train to Tilbury & home. Phone in advance
in case of bad weather. No Dogs
September 28th - Charity Quiz Night, Medway Sunlight
Rotary, 7.30pm start. St Mary's Island Community
Centre, ME4 3EP, Bring Food & Drink. Raising money
to train nurses in humanitarian & conflict nursing. Book
tables, max 8 - sunlightcharityquizsept.eventbrite.com
Details sunlightrotary@hotmail.com or 07930 826382
September 28th - Opera-Lele, Oasthouse Theatre,
Rainham, Curtain up 8.00pm, Box Office 0844
8793224 or on-line www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
September 29th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk
with Nature, Hampton Pier/Bishopstone Glen/Reculver
CT6 8DL, CT6 6RF, CT6 6SU, 9.00am, (11th Sept).
September 29th - Tree and Shrub ID, Riverside Country
Park, Meet at South Wood, 9.00am - 12noon. Learn to
identify trees and shrubs Suitable for interested adults
and teenagers, £4 each ring 01634 337432 to book.
September 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am,
11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate Circular walk finishes
4.00pm. Meet at Station Road Car Park, Rainham ME8
7SF. Some stiles, muddy if wet. Bring packed lunch.
Drinks afterwards at the Rose or micro pub in Rainham.
Contact: 07881 986982, kevin.lane@beis.gov.uk

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September 30th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 16th Sept).
October 1st - Breast Cancer Support Group, Medway
Maritime Hospital Area 7, Level 2, 7.00 - 9.00pm,
'Penny Auction' to raise funds for our charity. New
members welcome, for details contact Angela
Blackwell 01634 861802, or 07761 853750
October 1st - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Autumn Colours' -
Hogarth curve arrangement, (see 10th Sept).
October 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Chatting - Mel
Rees, (see 12th Sept).
October 4th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow
Memorial Hall, (see 20th Sept).
October 4th - Music Hall Evening with two course
dinner, The Inner Wheel Club of Gillingham, Upchurch
River Valley Golf Club Restaurant, 7.30pm. Tickets
£20 from Rosemarie Barnes 07547 250010 or email
rosemarie.barnes777@gmail.com before Sept 22nd.
October 5th - Farmers Market, St Margaret's Millennium
Centre, Rainham, 9.00am - 12.30pm. To celebrate
harvest week in aid of St Philips Church in Tafara,
Zimbabwe To book a stall, £10 each email:
mcentre@rainhamchurch.co.uk or 01634 374038
October 5th - Quilt Exhibition, Twydall Church Hall,
10.00 - 3.00pm, displays of the quilts made by the
group, craft table to buy gifts and a raffle. 1st prize -
large hand-made quilt, 2nd - £50, 3rd - hamper, Light
refreshments. All proceeds to MASH and Medway
Magic charities. For more information email
chrismharvey@blueyonder.co.uk
October 5th - Annual Quiz Hospital Radio Medway, Holy
Trinity Church Hall, Twydall, ME8 6JU, 7.30pm,
Tables of 6-8, £6 per head. Please bring drink &
nibbles. To book contact Eunice Norman 01634 365300
October 5th - Annual Concert Rainham Ladies Choir,
7.30pm, St. Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue,
Gillingham. Tickets £10, £9 concessions, under 12 free.
Parking Chatham Grammar School for Girls, disabled
behind church, see www.rainhamladieschoir.org.uk ring
01634 262214 or 01634 370797 or email:
secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk
October 5th - Barn Dance with live music in aid of
Macmillan Cancer Support 7.30 - 10.30pm, The Oast
Community Centre, ME8 7SG. Suggested donation £12
Adults, £6 children. Licensed bar (bring your own
snacks) tickets email: macmillanmedway@gmail.com
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Diary 2019

October 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272
Penenden Heath. Maidstone GR 772573 ME14 2DH for
5 mile undulating walk via Boxley vineyards using
minor roads, fields, grassland and woodland. 3 Stiles.
No Steps. Muddy if wet. No Dogs
October 6th - RSPB Medway Local Group Walk with
Nature, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory CT13 9PF,
8.00am, (see 11th Sept).
October 6th - Indoor Boot Fair, 10.00am - 1.00pm,
Twydall Community Centre, Beechings Way ME8 6ZP
Tables £10, refreshments available, 50p entry. Details
Janet Duke 07809 892883 or pinkdukebox@aol.com
October 6th - Lions Harvest Tea, Millennium Centre, ring
379062 or 373840 for invitation (see page 3 for details)
October 8th - Rainham Horticultural Society meets first
Tuesday each month (not January), 7.15 for 7.30pm,
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham.
New members welcome. Details from secretary Ms
Lynn Preston - 07931 337310 or 01634 360100.
October 8th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society, 'The Lost
Empires' Wilf Lower, The Last Days of Music Hall and
Variety in Medway, (see 10th Sept).
October 8th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club,
Annual General Meeting, (see 10th Sept).
October 9th - East Medway U3A, Smallholders
Club ME8 0JG, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Jim Preston -
'Rochester Airport', Details see eastmedwayu3a
website or ring 07733 554719, new members welcome.
October 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Teddy
Boys and Mini Skirts - Andrew Theobald, (11th Sept).
October 9th - Wigmore Community & Residents
Association Drop-In Evening - 7.30 - 9.30pm, St
Matthews Church Hall, ME8 0PD, first 30 minutes
concerns regarding traffic noise in Wigmore. Open to
all Wigmore residents. Refreshments available.
October 10th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Tony Mitchell,
(see 12th Sept).

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October 11th - One Big Family, Helping the Homeless,
Quiz Night, Tables of 8 - Start 7.00pm, Tickets £7
includes ploughmans, Bring own drinks. St Margaret's
Millennium Centre, Rainham ME8 9BH Contact:
01634 362863 or sandracolyer@hotmail.co.uk
October 12th - Rainham Evening WI Craft Fair, 10.00am
- 2.00pm, St Paul's Church, Parkwood, refreshments,
crafts, raffle, tombola, preserves, cakes, plants,
jewellery and children's crafts. Free entry and free
parking. Ring 01634 365303 for more details
October 12th - Autumn Quiz Night, Medway Asthma Self
- Help 7.30pm start, Roko Health Club, Watling Street,
ME8 6BY. Tickets £5 each, teams up to 8, ring 01634
855844, email medwayasthmaseelfhelp@btconnect.com
October 12th - Alternate Shadows Murder Mystery,
7.30pm start, Newington Village Hall. Tickets £6 pp in
advance, BYO drinks and nibbles, 01634 360906
or mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk
October 18th - Peter's Place Quiz, 7.00 - 10.00pm, The
Oast, Granary Close, Rainham, Bar available. £5 per
person. Food included. 6 people per team to book a
table please ring 01634 570443 or 01634 578879
October 19th - Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Twydall Community
Centre, ME8 6ZP Teams of up to 6 £7.50 per person
includes burger & chips supper, bring own drinks and
nibbles. Raffle. Please contact Janet Duke to book your
team on 07809 892883 or pinkdukebox@aol.com
October 19th - Knowledge & Nibbles Eve Friends of St
Margaret's Church Rainham, Millennium Centre,
7.30pm (prompt) Nibbles provided bring own drinks &
glasses. Tables of 8 - £6 per person. Advance booking
essential. Contact Kay 230430 or Lesley 379796.
October 26th - 'Party Night', Bredhurst Village Hall,
7.30pm. Donna D'Sylva brings you 60's - 90's Rock n
Roll, Soul, Motown, Swing and Pop. Tickets £10 in
advance from Ray tsurridge@tiscali.co.uk or 01634
268998. Fully licenced bar until 11.30pm.
October 26th - Barnardo's Charity Quiz Night, 7pm for
7.30pm start, Twydall Church Hall, Gillingham, Tickets
£5 each, Tables of 6-8, Book in advance. Bring your
own drink and nibbles, Free Tea, Coffee and Biscuits,
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