

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

MARCH 2020  
NUMBER 562



UPPER STATION ROAD, RAINHAM.

Rainham Co-op at the top of Station Road opposite the old Church School was established in 1896 and served Rainham for over 100 years before finally closing. The building went through several refits but although this picture was taken in the 1930s it was probably still like this when Denise Hazelden began working in the haberdashery department (see Memories of Rainham on page 9). Prior to the building of Rainham Shopping Centre the Co-op was by far the largest store in Rainham and supplied most of our needs from several different locations encouraged initially by the share scheme when we quoted our members number with each purchase and later the 'blue stamps' scheme. An expensive purchase meant much licking of the many stamps received to stick them in books but they yielded good returns in 'free' gifts of your choice.

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Copy Date: March 24th

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

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

## Editorial

I am very pleased this month to include an item from one of our younger readers. Our regular contributors tend to belong to the other end of the age scale! Rose Farnsworth has written about a subject that interests her 'Things to do in the Local Area' (see page 3). Rose is 14 years of age and attends school in Rainham. We always welcome articles from our readers, whatever their age, so if you would like to contribute details of something of local interest – perhaps a club you attend or a local walk which gives you great pleasure please do email the copy for our consideration to af@thenet.uk.net

Recent events in the early part of February with two massive storms Ciara and Dennis creating havoc throughout the country – storms seem so much more personal since the Met Office started giving them names – means we really do need to consider the state our planet is in and how we can help.

The Natural History Museum are this year promoting 'Biodiversity'. A big word for what we have come to recognize is essential for survival - saving all life. The website [www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/what-is-biodiversity](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/what-is-biodiversity) states that 'Biodiversity is the name we give to the variety of all life on Earth. Bacteria to baboons, plants to people - the range of life on our planet is incredible. The causes of biodiversity loss are complicated, but we know the human population is making the problems worse. In the short time humans have been on the planet we have increasingly disrupted the balance of biodiversity through changing land use, overexploitation of resources and the impact we are having on climate. But hope isn't lost. If we act together, we can make a positive difference. Here's how to do your bit to protect nature: Eat sustainably; Reduce waste; Protect and enjoy green spaces; Reduce energy use; Travel responsibly; Make your voice heard; Use and support science; Watch what you buy' Each of the eight points is subdivided on the website so there are about 30 different, mostly common sense, ideas you can adopt immediately. The hard part will be making it a way of life and not regressing into bad habits. Do have a look and consider how you can improve your way of life. I am sure many of you will already be practising many of the ideas mentioned.

As the days get longer and we have the occasional glimpse of sunshine we can look forward to spring. Do have a very good month and we will be with you again in April.

## Correspondence

### EASTER TRAIL

Dear Editor,

We would like to advise your readers of an exciting Easter Experience for all the family which is being held in Twydall. The Churches Together in Twydall are organising an Easter trail to follow the story on Good Friday, 10th April starting at the green near Twydall car park. There is a sticker sheet for all to collect a sticker from six locations in Twydall. At each location there is part of the Easter story and craft activities with free refreshments. Everyone is encouraged to collect all six stickers and be awarded a chocolate prize. The fun starts at 10.00am and runs till 12 noon but you can start the trail at any time during that period. For more details and extra information please email or see the website [www.rcftwydall.org.uk](http://www.rcftwydall.org.uk) -see the What's On section.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Hamill- [church@rcftwydall.org.uk](mailto:church@rcftwydall.org.uk)  
On behalf of Churches Together in Twydall.

### CHARITY GRANTS

Dear Editor,

Are you a Local Medway Charity that would like some financial assistance with a small item that is needed this coming year, up to £250?

Are you a Charity of Women/Men power who may be in a position to assist us as volunteers and become friends of Rotary when we undertake fund raising events, such as our Beer and Cider Festival, being held 18th July 2020?

If so contact us for an application form which will give you all the details and allow you to see if you qualify for one of our Community Chest Award grants. If you wish to be considered please apply now for the application form via:-  
Email: [info@rotaryclubofmedway.uk](mailto:info@rotaryclubofmedway.uk)  
Letter: Rotary Club of Medway, c/o Gillingham Golf Club, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, ME7 2AP  
Please note that the closing date for the return of the form is Monday 20th April 2020.

Yours sincerely  
Stan Cockayne

### HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE FAYRE 2020

If you would like to book a stall at the Hempstead Village Fayre to be held at Hempstead Playing Field Sunday, 17th May, 11.30am - 4.30pm please contact Val Gorf by email [valriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:valriegorf@blueyonder.co.uk) or telephone 01634 230214.

The Fayre is a great day out for all the family

### LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

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### THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

By Rose Farnsworth

In this area, activities for teens and children can be hard to find however here are some suggestions. One is the St. Margaret's Youth Club, open to years five and above, it is run by volunteers on Friday evening during term time, 7 – 8.30pm. Held at St Margaret's School the admission fee is only £1.50. Activities include table tennis, badminton and the outdoor playground. When the weather is nice, the field is in use and activities such as cricket and football are played. There are trips such as going to a trampoline park and last summer there was an inflatable activities and barbeque day which was great fun. During bad weather there are indoor activities such as crafts and sport. The hall has pool tables, table tennis tables, football, badminton and an array of other games. Youth club is a good place to socialise and make friends within a safe environment.

Another activity is going to the local Ice Bowl (Planet Ice) at Gillingham Business Park. Prices are from £8.10 off peak public skating. This is fun, I have been a few times and had good experiences and made good memories. It has a reasonably priced cafe so you can grab a snack and a drink during a break from skating. This is a fun activity which my friends and I do regularly during school holidays as it is a local and an enjoyable place with regular offers.

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Other activities in this area include the bike trails at Capstone Country Park. These consist of a mountain bike trail, 1.5km, 2.5km and a 5km trails, perfect for family bike rides. My brother has used the trails numerous times and really enjoys them as they include jumps - perfect to practice the skills for his new hobby. There are running/walking tracks (1.5km, 5km & 10km,) and also a 4.5km bridleway. Dogs are allowed and the park has easy (and free) parking.

### TALK

If any small group in Gillingham or Rainham would like a talk on the Brain Tumour Charity for a small donation to the charity please contact Mrs Olwen O'Dowd 01634 263622 [mum144@outlook.com](mailto:mum144@outlook.com) to organize a date. [www.thebraintumourcharity.org](http://www.thebraintumourcharity.org) area

### DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors are needed for:

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Lower Bloors Lane  
Langdale Close

#### Wigmore

Parkwood Green Foxburrow, Stoneacre, Knavesacre, part Long Catlis,  
Collings Walk

#### Hempstead

Pippin Croft, & Lombardy Close

#### Upchurch

Wallbridge Lane, Oak Lane Jubilee Fields, Acorn Terrace, Bishop Lane

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### Home Help Service

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| <b>At Home</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housework</li> <li>• Respite sitting</li> <li>• Well-being visits</li> <li>• Gardening/ Handyman</li> </ul> | <b>Out &amp; About</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting the shops</li> <li>• Support to appointments</li> <li>• Companionship for outings</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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# Diary 2020

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: March 24th 2020

- March 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 7 miles/11.3 km - Moderate circular finish 2.00pm, Egerton - Little Chart Ramble, Meet free Car Park off Rock Hill Rd. TN27 9DS, TQ906473 Contact: 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk Dog friendly
- March 1st - Hymns Merry and Sherry, St Michael and All Angels, Hartlip, 5.00pm. Enjoy favourite hymns chosen by the congregation, refreshments.
- March 1st - The Centre-Mind Body Spirit (new venue) evening of mediumship with Fiona Heale, Parkwood Community Centre, Parkwood Green, ME8 9LH. 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Tea and coffee afterwards. Free Parking. Entrance inc a raffle ticket: £5. See Facebook The Centre-Mind Body Spirit for information.
- March 2nd - Medway Scabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new members welcome, details 07523 124668
- March 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Talk 'More Garden, Less Impact', new members welcome. Details from secretary Ms Lynn Preston - 07931 337310 or 01634 360100.
- March 3rd - the Phoenix group invites you to 'Abundance Therapy' With Kirsty Jordan. How to create abundance in your life, £5, Blacksmiths Barn, Bredhurst, 7.30 - 9.30pm enquires 01634 376507
- March 3rd - Breast Cancer Support Group, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Medway Maritime Hospital, Area 7, Level 2. Kent Fire

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- & Rescue Service giving a talk on Safety in the Home. New members Welcome, for details contact Angela Blackwell 01634 861802, Mobile 07761 853750
- March 3rd - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Rd, Gill, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'St. Patrick's Day' vertical arrangement. New members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed. Just come for a friendly welcome. Parking on site or public parking. For details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com
- March 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 9.25am 8 miles 12.9 km - Moderate linear finish 1.00pm, Meet and park at Hempstead Valley shopping centre, get bus outside Kent Reliance. Number 130 bus leaving at 9.29 arriving Maidstone East 9.49 free parking and toilets. ME7 3PD, TQ793633 Stop at Boxley for short pub stop or picnic lunch. Fare from Maidstone approx £4.60 (unless you have a concession). Contact: Mike, cycling39@aol.com
- March 4th - Upchurch Horticultural Society meeting 97 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch 7.30pm. Parking available, tea/coffee and biscuits.
- March 5th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, History of Seaside entertainment - Paul Harris, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details
- March 5th - and every Thursday The Centre-Mind Body Spirit Reiki, Spiritual, Crystal and Chi healing, Oast House next to Rainham train station ME8 7SG 10.00am No appointment needed, donations welcome. Free Parking. See Facebook The Centre-Mind Body Spirit
- March 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.
- March 6th - An Evening with ABBA Chique, Bredhurst Village Hall, 7.30pm, Licensed Bar and Raffle. Tickets

- £12 each from June Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116. Proceeds to the upkeep of Village Hall
- March 8th - RSPB Medway Local Group, Free walk with Nature, Oare Marshes KWT Reserve ME13 0QA, 8.00am. 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/rspbmedway/](http://www.facebook.com/rspbmedway/)
- March 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am. Meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272 Kings Wood car park in White Hill, CT4 8HQ GR 024500 for 5.5 mile walk via Molash Village. 1 Stile. No Steps. No Dogs
- March 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 6.5 miles/10.5 km - Leisurely circular finish 1.30pm, Meet White Horse Wood country park car park (off A249 top Detling Hill). Car park charge £1.50. ME14 3JE, TQ808585. Bring drink and packed lunch. Footpaths on farmland, woods, etc. Contact: Heather, 07887 750881
- March 8th - Concert, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham, 2.00pm. Gospel singer Marilyn Baker and her partner Tracy Williamson; Tickets £5 include light refreshments, from Hilda 01634 932135 or email: [gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:gillinghamparishchurch@gmail.com)
- March 9th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club, Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm, Organist - Michael Wooldridge, details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694
- March 10th - Carer's Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12noon, Dobbies Restaurant - Garden Centre, Courtney Road, Gillingham. Buy a coffee, have a chat, meet with others, information Maureen Cannon 01634 235723
- March 10th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Gillingham and District, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, ME8 6JU, side doors open 7.30pm start. Workshop Evening. All welcome, Ring 01634 852519 for details.
- March 10th - The Phoenix group invites you to 'Celebrate Holi' The Hindu festival of colour (see 3rd Mar)
- March 10th - Medway Antique & Collectors' Club, Clubhouse, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane ME8 7NA, 7.30 for 8.00pm, 'William Morris - Arts & Crafts' - Mark Lewis, 01634 851512 or just turn up
- March 11th - East Medway U3A, Small Holders Club 2 Springvale, Wigmore ME8 0JG, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Dogs Trust. New members welcome. See eastmedwayu3a or ring 07733 554719 for details.
- March 11th - Bredhurst WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm. Speaker, Dean Caston - 'A History of Royal Variety'.

- More details Pam Ormiston 01634 365789
- March 11th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Fund Raising, for details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
- March 12th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Twenty shades of Grey - Colin Moat, (see 5th March).
- March 12.13.14.15.16.19.20.21. - 'Fallen Angels' by Richard Everett, Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham. Curtain up 8.00pm. Box Office 0844 8793224 or on-line [www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk)
- March 13th - Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society, Twydall Evangelical Church, Goudhurst Road, ME8 6LQ, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Upnor and the Dutch Raid - John Guy. Membership £20. Visitors £3 per meeting. Tea/coffee for a small charge. Contact Val Barrand 07947 583327 or email [lupusrufus@sky.com](mailto:lupusrufus@sky.com) or see [grlrs.org](http://grlrs.org) for more details.
- March 14th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry, Refreshments available, Stalls £10 each, email [cjdraftmarkets@yahoo.com](mailto:cjdraftmarkets@yahoo.com) or ring 07779 366054
- March 14th - Wine & Wisdom Evening, Friends of St Mary Magdalene, Gillingham, 7.30pm Prompt, Woodlands Academy ME7 2DU Free Tea & Coffee, Entry £5 per person, Bring Your Own Nibbles & Drinks. To book contact Rita McIntosh 01634 851965. If you can't make a team, come along anyway. Free parking available in the school grounds
- March 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am. Meet Mo Fleisig 07976600393 Painter's Forstal, Alma Pub ME13 0DU GR 993589 Park in Surrounding Roads, for 6 mile mainly flat walk in town and countryside including Faversham. Dogs Allowed
- March 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 7.3 miles/11.8 km - Moderate circular Finish 2.00pm, Meet and park considerably around Matfield Green. TN12 7LA, TQ658418 Bring snack for midway break.
- March 16th - Medway Scabble Club, (see 2nd March).
- March 16th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, St Paul's, Parkwood, Rainham, 7.30pm, further details please contact Chris Holder 01634 360823.
- March 17th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, ME8 9PN 7.30 - 9.45pm £4. Finland above the Arctic Circle - Roger Parker Collins. For Field Trips: [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway).

Continued on Page 11

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The Friends of St Margaret's Church  
Saturday 21st March, 7.30pm (prompt start).  
Millennium Centre, Rainham  
Tables of 8 - £4 pp Advance booking essential.  
Contact Kay 230430 or Lesley 379796.  
Please bring your own drinks & nibbles.

**SPRING CONCERT Rochester Cathedral**  
Rochester Choral Society  
Saturday 28th March, 7.00pm  
Rutter: The Gift of Life — Six Canticles of Creation  
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Tickets: £15 (navy); £7 (restricted view);  
£5 (students) Book 01634 401049  
online: www.rochesterchoral.co.uk/tickets

**QUIZ**  
Inner Wheel Club of Upchurch  
River Valley Restaurant  
Friday March 27th 6.30pm for 7pm sharp.  
Tickets £12 each to include a Fish & Chip Supper  
from Secretary Rosemarie Barnes 07547 250010  
or rosemarie.barnes777@gmail.com.

**'LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT'**  
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Saturday 28th March, 7.30pm  
Newington Village hall  
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Clare 01795 842605 or Thelma 1 Station Road  
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**BARNARDO'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

These Notes are about a trip around the coast of the Isle of Thanet between Margate and Ramsgate. I was hoping to see, among other birds, ocean-going sea birds, either sheltering in Margate Harbour or passing up or down the coast out to sea. In late January, well-wrapped up, and with a cheery wave from Mrs Ennis, I was off to a wintry seaside. When I arrived at Margate the tide was out and there was little nautical activity in the Harbour. There was constant clinking noise from the yachts in their berths, as sail ropes and fittings rattled against masts in the wind. The small, variously coloured flags on the floats stacked in the fishing boats flapped furiously in the wind. A small flock of redshank feeding on a mud bank flew off with their familiar alarm call and I came across some very relaxed turnstones searching for mini-beasts amongst seaweed. But there was nothing of real interest in the harbour. No guillemots. No kittiwakes. No red throated divers. On Ramsgate Sands some intrepid residents were exercising their dogs. It was a disappointing, but not unexpected, start. I headed for Broadstairs, which is a small, quiet and charming resort. I stopped on the road overlooking the resort's little harbour in Viking Bay, formed by a horseshoe of low chalk cliffs. The beach huts were all locked up, and the swing boats and Punch and Judy stand had long been packed away. My vantage point gave me a good view of the sea but there were no passing sea birds out there. The calls of jackdaws and the raucous cries of herring gulls were the only sounds of bird life. I recommenced my journey north along the coast road which was lined with seaside villas and sycamore and holm oak trees, both species able to cope with the salty air. I passed the North Foreland Lighthouse standing at the highest point of the coastal chalk cliffs. This was followed, after a steep downhill stretch, by a large field of cauliflowers next to the North Foreland Golf Club's course. The field was a reminder that pockets of farming still exist among the urban sprawl of the Thanet towns. Grey and red-legged partridges used to be quite common among the cabbages, sprouts and cauliflowers of the chalky fields of the Isle of Thanet, but I am not sure of the present position. After a climb uphill, I stopped for lunch at the Captain

Digby public house. A nice warm blush came to my cheeks after the cold outside. From a seat by the window I had a view over Kingsgate Bay and Kingsgate Castle, a 19th century folly. I spotted a line of sinister-looking, large, black birds with long necks. They were cormorants! After an enjoyable lunch I went into the pub's garden overlooking the Bay. I spotted a group of fulmars, white head, white underneath, grey on top and lacking the black wing tips of gulls. They were gliding around, in their characteristic stiff-winged fashion, along the edges of the cliffs. They appeared to be inspecting their usual nesting sites on the cliff tops and ledges, as they tend to do as early as January. I headed for Foreness Point, the northern tip of the Isle of Thanet. The coast line of Thanet is comprised of chalk cliffs, sandy bays and rocky platforms encrusted with mussels and covered in seaweed. When the tide is out, rocky pools, which attract children with their buckets and fishing nets, are formed on the platforms. When uncovered, the platforms also provide a source of food for oyster catchers, turnstones, purple sandpipers, ringed plovers and rock pipits. Foreness Point is comprised of one of these platforms and is approached across a miniature golf course. I sat down overlooking the Point, with my binoculars, on my portable stool. In due course, I picked out both turnstone and purple sandpiper. The latter's upper feathers are faintly glassed with purple. Both species were feeding out of the wind on the leeward side of the raised platform. The two species are well camouflaged, are therefore easily overlooked and are quite tame. I was pleased to have had a good look at the birds.

I left for Margate, having given myself time for a visit to the Turner Contemporary, including a cup of tea and a cake. Unfortunately, being a Monday, it was closed. So I parked on Margate Pier, which is a functional precursor of all such seaside structures. I went into the Harbour Arms, a small pub and café, where I bought a large mug of tea and sat outside, in the afternoon sunshine and in the shelter of the pier wall. Running about under the tables was a rock pipit, which are fairly common on the seashore, but surprising to see at close quarters running among people's legs. I was about to set for home when I noticed that the tide was coming in, driving before it a large number of tiny sanderlings and small number of turnstones and redshanks. The sanderlings were

running backwards and forwards along the tide line, their little legs moving so fast that they appeared as if powered by batteries. As the cavalcade moved well into the harbour I noticed, below me, four or five more rock pipits, these ones behaving as expected, by searching for insects among decaying seaweed. As the tide lapped against the walls of the harbour, the sanderlings, turnstones and rock pipits - the redshanks having flown off - were confined to a small area of sand under the harbour wall near the clock tower. Like me, a number of visitors had followed the birds to their last stand against the tide, and the last chance to feed, before they had to fly off. It was an amazing sight and a great privilege to be able to watch tiny sanderlings, all the way from the Arctic, quite unfazed by people looking down at them. And all in dear old Margate!

Joe Ennis

## MEMORIES OF RAINHAM continued

After an unsuccessful start to my career in the retail industry at Littlewoods in Gillingham I was lucky to find a job at Rainham Co-op. I started in the haberdashery department which was at the top of Station Road (now it is Bet Fred the bookmakers).

I loved working in the haberdashery, all manner of things were in little wooden drawers: cotton reels; buttons; elastic and needles to name but a few. The other departments were women's wear, material and perfumes. It was a very old building but had a rare quality - it was cosy. The Co-op bakery was next door. At Christmas time the bakery made sugared mice which was certainly a hit with me. A bit of nostalgia from Christmas past.

My manageress, Mrs Gladstone, was very strict but when eventually the Co.op was taken over by Dartford Invicta Co-op I managed to get a transfer to the houseware department on the top road which is now the site of The Healthy Living Centre opposite St Margaret's Church.

When the Co-op was taken over the shop changed dramatically. Mr Crayford was the manager and Mr Pigeon was the houseware manager. I started in the houseware department then got promoted to the electrical department where I stayed. It was in the days of 'blue stamps' so whatever you brought or had on HP you ended up with so many stamps which were stuck into a book. When the book was full you could spend it.

In winter when it got dark early the whole store was ablaze with lights and as you looked across the road you could see St Margarets Church also lit up - it gave you a warm feeling working there.

When the Co-op store was finally modernised in 1979 the haberdashery, women's wear and all the other departments plus the bank office moved to the main store on the High Street so we were all under the same roof. The co-op food department moved across Station Road into the new shopping precinct. It survived there for a good many years. It was a sad day when it closed in 1997 but they were just not making any money. I stayed at the Co-op until I got married. Mr Crayford closed the store on the afternoon of my wedding day so everyone could watch me getting out of the car in my wedding dress. My dad was very proud of me that February day, a bit chilly but no snow on the horizon. I walked into St Margaret's Church with a big smile on my face.

You would be right in thinking that I have an affinity with St Margarets Church having been baptised and married there, some of my family are buried in the churchyard near the old yew tree. It's a beautiful church somewhere to go to and to think.

Denise Hazelden

daisymay1016731@gmail.com

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Email: mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk

## QUIZ

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall  
Saturday 4th April, 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start.  
Teams of 6. Bring your own drink and snacks.  
Tickets £6 per person includes ploughman's.  
Information or to book 01795 844408

## EUROJAM PRESENTS

music of .... Sweet Tokyo Joe  
Saturday 4th April, 7.30pm  
United Services Club, 171 High Street, Rainham  
Tickets - £10 adult, £5 children (under 12s).  
For tickets contact - Sarah Cabella 07949 626177.

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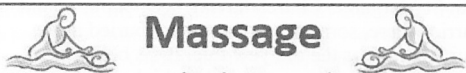
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## Diary 2020

March 17th - GHS Floral Art Group 'Mothering Sunday'  
basket. (see 3rd March).

March 18th - RSPB Medway Local Group, Free Walk  
with Nature, Church Woods Blean RSPB Reserve (CT2  
9DD) 9.30am, (see 8th March).

March 18th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall,  
Woodside, 2.00 - 4.00pm, a cheerful group of ladies  
who would love you to join them. Speakers and other  
activities as well as a lovely cuppa. Just come along or  
call 01634 388912 for further details

March 18th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village  
Hall, Katharine Hook - Title: All Things Sloe Gin and  
Chocolate, Spring Show - Judge: Alan Wainwright,  
Bring and Buy Produce Stall, Annual Subscription £10,  
Entrance £1, Visitor's £2. Details Lesley Wainwright  
07791 781910 or John Fridd 01634 388028

March 19th - Rainham Women's Institute meet 1.45 -  
4.00pm, Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre,  
Granary Close Rainham. Visitors welcome for a small  
entry charge per visit. Contact Lynne 01634 234997

March 19th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Birthday Tea -  
Harmony - Wendy Back, (see 5th March).

March 20th - Soup 'n' Soul lunch, St Michael and all  
Angels, Hartlip monthly during winter, 12noon -  
2.00pm. Home-made soup with rolls accompanied by  
soothing music for the soul.

March 20th - The Centre-Mind Body Spirit, Iain Mason  
evening of clairvoyance new Venue Farthing Corner  
Community Centre. Burnham Walk, Rainham, ME8  
8RZ. (No stilettos heels) 7.00pm. Tea, coffee and  
biscuits. Free parking (please do not park on grass  
Entrance Fee: £5. See Facebook The Centre-Mind  
Body Spirit for information.

March 20th - Live Music for Spring, Oasthouse  
Community Centre, Rainham. 7.30pm. Broken Chanter,  
Randolph's Leap and Moonsoup. Tickets £7 on the  
door (£5 students). Advance tickets on line. Enquiries  
carefulnowpromotions@gmail.com

March 21st - Charity Coffee Morning / Cake Sale. In aid  
of Support Dogs UK and 20th Gillingham (Hempstead)  
Air Scout Group, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Scout HQ, Dukes  
Meadow Drive, Hempstead, All Invited. Free Entry,  
Donations of cakes welcome.

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March 21st - Quiz Night, The Friends of St Margaret's  
Church, 7.30pm (prompt start). Millennium Centre,  
Rainham. Tables of 8 - £4 per person. Advance booking  
essential. Contact Kay 230430 or Lesley 379796.  
Please bring your own drinks & nibbles.

March 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 6  
miles/9.7 km - Leisurely circular Finish 1.15pm,  
Medway River Walk from Allington. Park half a mile  
down Castle Road on the right just passed the second  
railway bridge. ME16 0TT, TQ748576 Bring a packed  
lunch. Assistance dogs only. Contact: John W,  
01634232668, FLAME451@hotmail.co.uk

March 25th - Rainham Historical Society, Millennium  
Hall, Rainham, 7.00 for 7.30pm 'The City of London  
Curiosities - Part II' - Stuart Robinson All welcome,  
Visitors £2, Contact Olwen O'Dowd 01634 263622

March 25th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, You'll  
Never Believe it but! - Mel Rees, (see 11th March).

March 26th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Social - Film,  
(see 5th March).

March 27th - Quiz, Inner Wheel Club of Upchurch, River  
Valley Restaurant 7pm sharp. Tickets £12 each include  
a Fish & Chip Supper from Secretary Rosemarie Barnes  
07547 250010 or rosemarie.barnes777@gmail.com.  
Good Raffle prizes, proceeds to local charity.

March 27th - Medway Geographical Society, Holy Trinity  
Church, Twydall Lane, Gillingham ME8 6TN, 7.30 -  
9.00pm. Mike White LRPS - Costa Rica - a world of  
nature. Everyone Welcome, Students free, Free parking.  
Come on the evening or Lorna Bailey 01634 572139

March 28th - 'Life is What you Make it', Newington  
Concert Party, 7.30pm, Newington Village Hall,  
Tickets £5 Alison 01795 843150, Clare 01795 842605  
or Thelma 1 Station Road, Licensed bar (waiter service)

March 28th - Spring Concert, Rochester Choral Society,  
7.00pm Rochester Cathedral Rutter: The Gift of Life -  
Six Canticles of Creation, Chilcott: Requiem, with a  
chamber ensemble. Conducted by John Hancorn.  
Tickets: £15 (nave); £7 (restricted) £5 (students) Book  
www.rochesterchoral.co.uk/tickets 01634 401049

March 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 7  
miles/11.3 km - Leisurely circular finish 2.00pm Park  
Faversham Station car park (£1 all day) ME13 8LF,  
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## Diary 2020

March 29th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk  
with Nature, Dungeness Peninsular (TN29 9NE)  
8.00am, (see 8th March).

March 29th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,  
Meet Andy Boorman 07881933358 Woolage Green  
CT4 6SE GR 236492 for 7 mile easy, could be muddy  
no stiles 3 / 3½ hours duration. Dogs Allowed

March 30th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 2nd March).

April 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am - 7  
miles/11.3 km - Moderate circular walk finishes  
2.00pm. Meet outside St Dunstan's, Church Road, West  
Peckham. Please park considerably. ME18 5JJ,  
TQ644525. Bring nibbles. Pub at end serving lunches.  
Mostly footpaths, farm land and fairly flat. Contact:  
John, 07749 760788, [billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk)

April 2nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Botswana - Tony  
Mitchell, (see 5th March).

April 3rd - Gillingham and Rainham Local History  
Society, Toll Roads, Tunnels and Bridges - Geoff Beer,  
(see 13th March).

April 4th - Eurojam presents music of Sweet Tokyo Joe,  
7.30pm, United Services Club, High Street, Rainham  
ME8 8AY. Tickets - £10 adult, £5 children (under 12s)  
contact - Sarah Cabella 07949 626177.

April 4th - The Centre-Mind Body Spirit evening of  
mediumship with Daniel Pitt, (see 1st March).

April 4th - Quiz, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, prompt  
7.30pm start. Teams of 6. Please bring your own drink  
and snacks. Tickets £6 pp includes ploughman's,  
contact Kay Howard Challis to book 01795 844408

April 4th - The Very Model of Murder, Murder Mystery  
evening by Alternate Shadows, Newington Village  
Hall ME9 7JJ, 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Tickets £6 pp  
purchased in advance. BYO Drinks and Nibbles. Net  
proceeds for Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance  
Mike 01634 360906 [mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mikew16@blueyonder.co.uk)

April 4th - Live Music for Spring, Oasthouse Community  
Centre, The Catenary Wires, Pete Astor, and The Pastel  
Waves. (see 20th March).

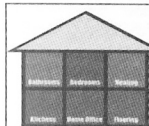
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April 4th - Barnardo's Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm start,  
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April 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am.  
Meet Frank /Mim Ewen 01634 669970 Matfield  
Green, beside Maidstone Road B2160 TN12 7JX GR  
658418 for 7.3 mile undulating walk with hilly sections,  
mud expected. Stiles & steps unknown. No Dogs

April 5th - Indoor Boot Fair, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Twydall  
Community Centre, Beechings Way, ME86PZ Tables  
£10, Refreshments available, 50p entry, Janet Duke  
07809 892883 or [pinkdukebox@aol.com](mailto:pinkdukebox@aol.com) for details.

April 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society (see 3rd March)

April 7th - Breast Cancer Support Group, A talk and  
demonstration on 'Indian Head Massage', (3rd March).

April 7th - GHS Floral Art Group 'Easter Bonnet', (see  
3rd March).

April 8th - East Medway U3A, Hypo Hounds. (11th Mar)  
April 8th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Nostalgia  
Evening, (see 11th March).

April 9th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Easter bonnet  
competition, (see 5th March).

April 10th - Good Friday Easter Experience, Churches  
Together in Twydall 10.00am - 12noon, More details  
[www.rcftwydall.org.uk](http://www.rcftwydall.org.uk), see the What's On section

April 11th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium  
Centre, (see 14th March).

April 13th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 2nd March).

April 13th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,  
Organist - Matthew Bason, (see 9th March).

April 14th - 'Medway Antique & Collectors' Club',  
'Collectable Card Cases' Margaret Huntley, (see 10th  
March).

April 14th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Back to  
Basics, advice from the expert on how to grow your  
plants - Carol Gubler, (see 10th March).

April 15th - Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall,  
Woodside, (see 18th March).

April 15th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Russell Bowes -  
Title: The Painted Garden, Bring and Buy Produce  
Stall, (see 18th March).

April 16th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Phoenix Singers -  
Margaret Springett, (see 5th March).

April 16th - Rainham Women's Institute (19th March)..

April 17th - Soup 'n' Soul lunch, St Michael and all  
Angels, Hartlip (see 20th March).

April 18th - Bredhurst Village Hall. The ultimate tribute  
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