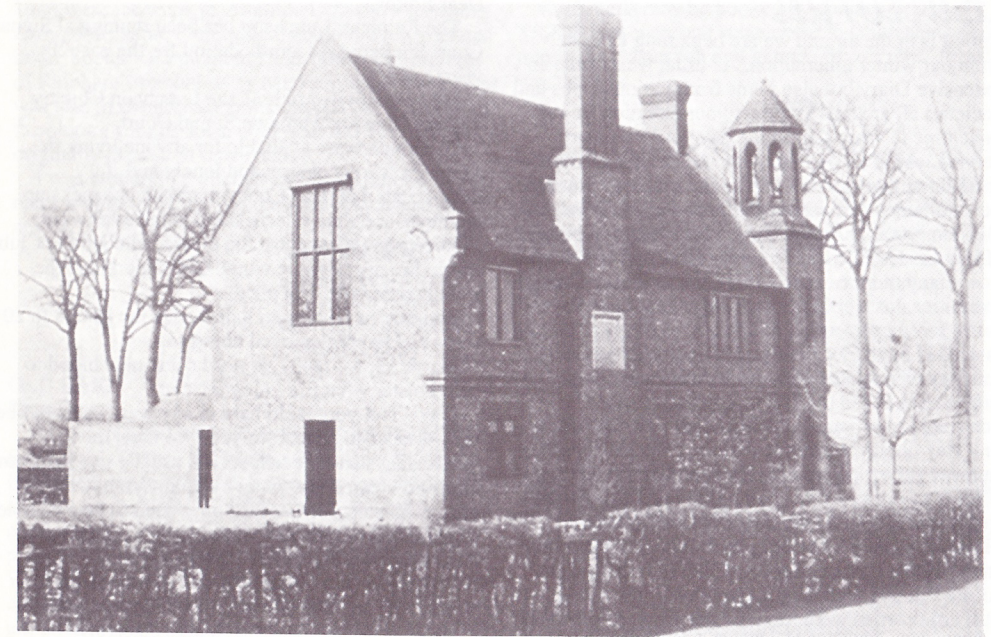


ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

MARCH 2001
NUMBER 354



The National School (later C of E) as it was originally built in 1846 at the top of Station Road on the site now occupied by Rainham Shopping Centre. Many readers will remember the building as it appeared after two extensions were built, the boys to the north in 1878 and the infants to the south in 1884. See 'Rainham a Century Ago' by Freddie Cooper on page 8.

Robert J. Kitney

Building Contractor of Repute and Distinction

BRICK EXTENSIONS AND
COMPLETE HOUSES
ALSO MAINTENANCE
DIVISION



NO JOB TOO BIG
OR TOO SMALL

Medway 363669

WHERE NO INFERIOR TRADESMEN OR MATERIALS ARE USED

AF

Next Issue: APRIL 7th
Copy Date: Mar 20th Sm Ads Mar 23rd
Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller,
5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Editorial

Spring is in the air and we are beginning to wake from our winter hibernation. As usual we include an extensive Diary but also items from various clubs and societies all anxious to attract your attention. If you have time to spare during the day your voluntary service would be welcomed by the Luncheon Club, or the Victim Support Scheme, in the evenings you can be entertained at a variety of Quiz events. 'Wine and Wisdom' and 'Quiz and Fizz' I have heard of but 'Guinness and Genius' is a new variation on a theme, how many more can there be? Craft and boot fairs, exhibitions of work, gardens and school open days all jostle for your attention and more passive assistance is needed by the local Scout group to rehouse their minibus which has outstayed its welcome on its present site. Read more about these and other activities in our pages this month. If you can help in any way do not hesitate to dial the relevant phone number – they are waiting for your call!

One anecdote has been retold to me following the query raised by a reader about the evergreen or Holmoaks that may be seen in Rainham. Apparently in the 1960s London Zoo was finding it difficult to locate suitable feed for the elephants (they possibly still do). Lorries were travelling as far as Maidstone in order to cut leafy branches from suitable trees to keep the animals healthy. Holmoaks are particularly delicious to an elephant as they contain high levels of oil, so an agreement was made for the Holmoaks at Macklands to be given a good pruning by London Zoo staff and the trimmings to be put to good use by the elephants, apparently it is not just the leaves they enjoy but quite thick branches as well.

Freddie Cooper has prepared a long article, which we will split over the next couple of months, about Rainham a Century Ago. It occurs to me we missed an opportunity, Century Road was built to celebrate 1900, perhaps we should have called one of the new roads built last year on the Otterham Brickfields 'Millennium Way'. Rainham is a very different place now from 1901 but a few glimpses can still be caught of times past. The Church is the one obvious link but sadly that is suffering from decades of make do and mend and the roof is in urgent need of repair. Rather ironic that both our local churches, St Margaret's and St Matthew's, have roof trouble and both have big

fund raising campaigns under way to try to save their buildings, if you can help either parish in any way your help will be greatly appreciated.

The sun is shining, the sky is blue, so time for a quick walk I feel, before the rain returns – again. Have a good month and enjoy the bright days, we will see you again in April.

Correspondence

RAINHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

Dear Editor,

The Rainham Luncheon has been running at Signal Court Sheltered Accommodation for the past 20 years.

We were invited to hold the Luncheon Club by Anchor Housing who own Signal Court.

The lunches are available for anyone living in Rainham who is elderly and lonely and if incapacitated an Age Concern ambulance picks up members and then returns them home afterwards.

Recently we have lost the person who led the Club and in her memory we would like to continue the weekly provision of a meal.

Some of us have been helping for the last 18 to 20 years and having enjoyed doing so.

However, we really do need some new blood to help bolster what is a going concern.

If you feel you could help in any way we would be very pleased to hear from you. We meet on Wednesdays and the helpers are usually needed from 9am and cleared and away by 2pm. We have four groups so volunteers would only need to be available every fourth week. Two of the groups contain a husband and wife, which works very well.

If you feel you could help in any way please contact me on 360937 or Ellen Stringer on 360511.

Yours sincerely
Nancy Duncan

WIGMORE GARDENS WEEKEND SATURDAY 30th JUNE & SUNDAY 1st JULY

Dear Editor,

An 'open' gardens weekend is planned to help raise funds for the St Matthew's Church 'Roof & Renew' Appeal. If any of your readers would be interested in opening their garden to visitors as part of this fundraising event and be prepared to have visitors on either one or both of these days, could they please contact me on the telephone number given below. I will be able to explain the process and outline programme to anyone who can help.

Readers who may be interested in attending the event – watch for future editions of Action Forum when details and prices will be provided.

Yours sincerely,
Bill & Sylvia Trees
(Telephone 370722)
Event Organisers

OLD FIRE STATION

Dear Editor,

I am the current owner/occupier of the Old Fire Station in Webster Road, having bought it back in 1990. I and my wife have for some time wondered about finding out more about the history of the building and its firemen. I understand the building was made around 1920, and know it was auctioned around 1980 for private use.

I did make some enquiries about four years ago at the main archive centre in Strood about details of the original building plans but was told records before 1940 were incomplete, or unlikely to show anything. Around the same time I asked about the few pictures in the books 'Old pictures', and 'More Old Pictures of Rainham', published by Meresborough Books, but was told in the bookshop that no full list was kept of the picture submissions, other than the limited credits originally printed in those books.

I was wondering whether any of Action Forum's readers could give me any information, stories or advice.

Yours faithfully
Mr Gary Foord
12 Webster Road,
Rainham, Gillingham,
Kent ME8 7SD.

OLD BARN ORCHESTRA

Dear Editor,

As Maistone's Old Barn Orchestra returns to the St George's Centre at Chatham Maritime, I would like to tempt your readers out to hear something special. On Saturday 31st March the orchestra continues its policy of including items of rarely played works by playing Glazunov's 4th Symphony. We simply cannot understand why this glorious piece of Russian romanticism is so infrequently played at all, let alone by local amateur orchestras: it is full of magnificent Rachmaninov-like tunes with luscious harmonies and is essentially a wonderfully happy work.

The first half of the programme comprises Mendelssohn's overture Ruy Blas and Elgar's little known but delightful Nursery Suite, and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 (students and children £3) and

this includes interval refreshments and wine. They are available by telephone 01795 843228 or 01634 376979. The concert is in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Yours sincerely
Colin Brown
Chairman

EASTER CRAFT FAIR

Dear Editor,

Great 'EGGCITEMENT'! Miers Court Primary School PTFA are holding their Annual Easter Craft Fair on Saturday 31st March, 11am to 3pm.

Craft stalls may be booked by contacting 01634 370808 and everyone is welcome to come along and join in the Easter fun and games. 'HOPPING' to see you there!

Yours sincerely
Felicity Holton

KAJIADO DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteer distributors Action Forum has donated a further £410 to the Kajiado Trust. This brings the total to £760 since last September. Roger Milton is again in Kenya using the money directly in this area of great need. Many thanks to all who help each month. If you have an hour or so to spare and like to walk with a purpose we still have some areas of Rainham, Wigmore and Hempstead that need distributors, please leave your details at Rainham Bookshop (371591) and we will be in touch when the next issue is available for delivery.

Findlay Designs

Hand Made Curtains,
Blinds, Swags & Tails plus
Quality Curtain Tracks
Supplied and Fitted

Free Curtain Design Consultation
in the comfort of your own home

For that sophisticated look Ring
Sharon Findlay DIP. Tex. Tel. **01634 262135**

SALMON WINDOWS

*A family run business for all
your double glazing needs*

- Replacement Windows & Doors
- Conservatories – Designed & Built
- Porches
- UPVC, Soffit, Fascia & Guttering
- Misted Sealed Units Replaced

For advice and very competitive quote

Medway 363881

Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

Convalescence – Respite – Short Stay Care

is available at **Rogers House Residential Home** for the elderly who are recovering from hospitalisation or for carers who wish to take a holiday.

Contact: Mrs Pam Harrington—

01634 262266

KCC Registered

Diary 2001

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
275 Wigmore Road
Wigmore
Tel: 233098

No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 20th March 2001

- March 3rd – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.10am Higham Station. Packed lunch. PH available. Approx 7 miles.
- March 3rd – City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra 'The Spirit of Spain'. 7.30pm Central Theatre, Chatham. Programme includes: Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole, Smetana and Tchaikovsky. Tickets £7.50 from 715148 or the Box Office.
- March 3rd – Boot Sale, 12 to 2.00pm, Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. Ring M. Mode 361416 for details.
- March 4th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am R.V. Riverside Country Park. 5½ miles. Dogs on leads.
- March 4th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6 miles. Meet at Bell and Jarrocks public house in Frittenden. Pub stop at end. Food available.
- March 5th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers Association. All – How we started, how we found out about this club, and how we got our wheels. Spinning. 7.30 to 9.30pm, Urchins Playgroup Buildings in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
- March 6th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, United Reformed Church, 7.30pm. 'St David's Day', a basket arrangement of fresh flowers. New members welcome. Ring 234734 for details.
- March 6th – Craft Club, 7.30 to 11.00pm, Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. Contact Valerie Lloyd 366183 for details.
- March 7th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6 miles. Meet at Iwade Church. Pub stop at end.
- March 7th – Friendship Circle. Parkwood Christian Fellowship. 2.15pm. Telephone 01634 365758.
- March 7th – Wakeley Junior School OPEN MORNING, 9.30 to 11.30am. All welcome, ring 231965 for details.
- March 7th – Medway Camcorder Club. Competition: 5 mins duration. Medway Motor Yacht Club, Medway Bridge Marina, 7.30pm. Ring 305490 for details.
- March 8th – Kindermusik Classes for babies and children by Qualified Colourstrings Teacher, at St Paul's Church Hall, Parkwood. 1.00pm to 5.30pm. Babies-18 months, 18 months-3 years, 3-4½ years, 4½ years-5½ years, and 5½-7 years. Telephone 07977 432504.
- March 8th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Birthday Tea – Entertainment by the Rainham Recorders. 2.00pm,

- St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. For further information telephone 235507.
- March 9th – Themed Evening, 8 to 11.00pm, Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. A meal, wine and quiz, ring 366183 for details.
- March 10th – Countryside Event, Winter Wader Walk. 10.30am to 12 noon, Riverside Country Park. Book in advance 378987.
- March 11th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 2.00pm R.V. Otford Village Car Park. 6 miles. No dogs.
- March 11th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.30am. 6.5 to 7 miles. Park and meet in public car park behind library in village of Marden. Pub stop at end.
- March 13th – Medway Scrabble Club. 2.00 to 4.30pm. Riverside Indoor Bowls Complex, Chatham.
- March 13th – Gillingham and District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society. Workshop – Evening Demonstrations showing the methods for successful growing, with a quiz on 'How well do you read and understand your Show Schedule'. 7.30pm, The Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham.
- March 13th – Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, Gordon Hotel, High Street, Rochester, 7.30 for 8.00pm. New members welcome, ring 366586 or 851512. Willow Pattern: fact or fantasy. Mr Robin Gurnett.
- March 13th – Rainham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, St Margaret's Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham. 2.00pm. AGM, Dartmoor Slides, Mr P. Davis. Ring 388701 for details.
- March 13th – Craft Club, Oasthouse Community Centre (see 6th March).
- March 13th – Rainham Evening Knitting Club, 8.00 to 10.00pm, Red Cross House, Orchard Street. Guest Speaker: Diane Bennett. All welcome. Ring 862673 for details.
- March 14th – Bredhurst WI. Mr Laurence Johnston – Underwater Diving. Competition: An Item in Leather. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- March 14th – Rainham Flower Club. Workshop. 7.30 to 9.30pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre.



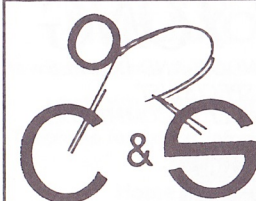
**GREG BRYANT
CONSTRUCTION
MEDWAY 231321**

**REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDER
EXTENSIONS BLOCK PAVING
ROOF CONVERSIONS**



*Free Surveys
and Estimates*

- March 14th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group. 1 to 4pm, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. More details Medway 814922.
- March 15th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 6 miles. Meet at Chilham Village Square. Pub stop at end.
- March 15th – Rainham WI. Speaker: Mr K. Black, Cardiac Resuscitation, 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Corner of Wakeley & Station Road, Rainham.
- March 15th – Kindermusik Classes (see 8th March).
- March 15th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Tesco: Talk by Sian Ansell & Sandy Houghton – Food dating and general (see 8th March).
- March 16th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society, Gillingham Adult Education Centre, 7.15 to 9.15pm. Members Choice. Ring 235612 for details.
- March 17th – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Meet 10.15am, Aylesford Station. Packed lunch. PH available. Approx 5 miles.
- March 17th – Friends of Wakeley School, Indoor Boot and Craft Fayre, 10.00 to 12 noon. Admission 30p children free. Pitches £5 in advance £6 on the day. Ring 231965 during school hours to book.
- March 17th – Quiz Night, 8.00pm start, Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. Ring 374558 for details.
- March 17th – Rainham Mark Grammar School PTFA Quiz Night, 'Guinness and Genius'. 8.00pm start at the school, max 10 per table. Tickets £4 adult, £2 student. Ring 365953 to book.
- March 18th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am R.V. East Malling Car Park, by railway bridge. 5½ miles. Dogs on leads.
- March 18th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.00am. 7 miles. Meet and park in All Saints' public car park. On the A268 in Hawkhurst.
- March 19th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Beryl: Peg Loom Weaving. Spinning (see 5th March).
- March 19th – Rainham Evening WI. 'C' Hearing Dogs. 7.30pm, Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
- March 19th – Countryside Event. Talk: 'Flowers of South East England', 7.30pm, Riverside Country Park. Book in advance 378987.



173 High Street
RAINHAM
Kent ME8 8AY
Med. 365892

**RALEIGH:DIAMOND BACK:OTHERS
ALL REPAIRS WELCOME
FAMILY SHOP EST. 25 YRS**

- March 20th – Floral Art Group, Ribbons & Things. Teach-in with Jenny and Wynne (see 6th March).
- March 21st – Bredhurst Garden Club. SPRING SHOW, Judge C.C. Andrews MBE. Jean Bowles Talk 'Plants in Medicine'. 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- March 21st – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. Annual General Meeting. Competition: Attractive Thimble. 2.00pm in the Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore.
- March 21st – RATS present a special performance of 'Dead Easy' in aid of St Margaret's Roof Appeal, £5 per ticket. Ring 360506 9am-8pm, weekdays to book.
- March 21st – Medway Camcorder Club. Special Effects and how to create them (see 7th March).
- March 22nd – Medway & District Group of HF Holidays. Social Stroll. Meet 11.00am (inside) Royal Star Arcade, Market Buildings, adjacent to Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone.
- March 22nd – Kindermusik Classes (see 8th March).
- March 22nd – Wigmore Thursday Club. Roy Langford – Talk on the Palace of Westminster (see 8th March).
- March 22nd-31st – Medway Little Theatre. 'Murder' by Anthony Shaffer. Box Office 400322.
- March 23rd – The Medway Geographical Society. Renewal of Landscape & Conservation at Rugby Cement Works. Mr Ben Cook. 7.30 to 9.00pm. Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
- March 23rd – Folk Club, 8 to 11pm, Oasthouse Community Centre, Granary Close. Ring Lynn Cass 370327 for details.
- March 24th – The National Childbirth Trust. 2.00 to 4.00pm. Nearly New Sale at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, Gillingham. Admission 30p. Sale of babies/children's toys, clothes and equipment and maternity items. Refreshments available. For further information 07950 939898 or www.nctmedway.org.uk
- March 24th – Darland House Carer Group, Darland House, Gillingham. Coffee Morning, 10.30 to 1.00pm. Refreshments, cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle, many prizes.
- March 25th – Ramblers Association. Start 10.30am. 5 miles. Meet at Chevening Church.

TV Problems?

**Linwood Home Electronics
Your Local Family Owned & Run
Retailer & Service Centre**

For All Makes of

Television, Video, DVD & Audio

Repairs & Service New TV, Video & DVD Sat

Repairs: (01634) 230261 Sales: (01634) 319960

www.linwoodhe.co.uk

70 Station Road, Rainham, Kent.

KW ELECTRONIC SERVICES

No Call Out Charge
All TV, Video, Hi Fi, Cassette/Radio, etc.
Repaired & Serviced

ALSO RECONDITIONED TV & VIDEO
FOR SALE

All work guaranteed at least 3 months

TELEPHONE; Medway 364943

DOCTOR

G.P.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Dr. M. J. MURPHY
MB, BCh

1 Crevequer Chambers
35 High Street, Rainham

Monday - Saturday

Tel: 01634 231333

- TREE MANAGEMENT
- CHIPPING
- STUMP GRINDING
- PLANTING
- MULCH
- FIREWOOD

LINDSAY
& COMPANY
TREE SURGEONS

JIM LINDSAY

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

CALLOW'S HOUSE, HAM GREEN,
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT ME9 7HE

DAVID PAYNE

Painting, Decorating and
General Maintenance
Interior & Exterior

34 Tudor Grove
Rainham, Kent. ME8 9AF

MEDWAY (01634) 234070

PRINTING

POSTER PRINTS TO A0 SIZE



SIGNS

COLOUR COPY - PRINT & SIGNS
16 STATION ROAD, RAINHAM, KENT ME8 7PH 0800 783 0974



IT Training
"Making Sense of IT"

Instructor-led Computer Training

- Microsoft Applications
- Sage
- Desktop Publishing
- Web Design
- Authorised ECDL and MOUS Testing Centre
- ILAs accepted

Tel: (01634) 71 77 97

www.zone-it.co.uk

JOHN MORLEY & CO.

Solicitors

29/31 High Street, Rainham, Kent

WILLS & PROBATE

Medway 379222

All your other legal requirements

Medway 375444

CHRIS TONG

REPLACEMENT WINDOW AND DOUBLE
GLAZING SPECIALIST
ALL WORK PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED



telephone: Medway 371172

Correspondence cont'd.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Dear Editor,

The Medway Towns Victim Support Scheme has been active in Medway for 24 years, the next training course will be starting in the Spring. Training for volunteer visitors is held over a six week period (five evenings and one Sunday). We are also looking for volunteers who are keen fundraisers. If you are interested in either being a volunteer visitor or a fundraiser please contact Janet White on 01634 401733.

Yours sincerely
Janet White

STRATFORD HOUSE

Dear Editor,

I wonder if any of your readers of my vintage can help me? My birth certificate records my place of birth as being 'Stratford House, Maidstone Road, Rainham' in 1929. I remember my late mother telling me that it was a nursing home, but she never told me where, in Maidstone Road, it was situated. Was it perhaps where the Manor Farm restaurant now stands? I remember that the gas board offices once stood there, but I have no knowledge of what preceded them.

Perhaps someone reading this may be able to help, and may even have been born at Stratford House too.

Yours sincerely
Owen Davis
111A Marshall Road
01634 233101

WINE & WISDOM EVENING

Dear Editor,

If any of your readers would be interested in testing their skills, there is to be a Wine & Wisdom Evening at the Community Centre, St Matthew's Church, on Saturday 31st March at 7.30pm, to raise funds for the St Matthew's Roof & Renewal Appeal. £5 per person - supper included.

Tickets from Gavin Cargill (387055).

Yours sincerely
Gavin Cargill

REFLEXOLOGY

An ancient treatment that helps to relieve today's illnesses

HELP YOUR BODY TO HEAL ITSELF

Telephone for further information or to book an appointment

Home visits available

David Stride M.B.S.R., M.B.R.C.P.(Reflexology)
196 Wigmore Road, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent
ME8 0TL

Tel: 01634 365510

CARE FOR OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Dear Editor,

I read Jane Marvell's letter (January issue) with interest and am in full agreement with her views.

I would like, however, to point out (and I mean her no offence) that I can remember when the area in which she lives, the Savacentre and the surrounding housing development right down to The Flying Saucer was virgin woodland with abundant wildlife.

As young men (over 40 years ago) friends and I used to camp in these woods and I still have some memorable photographs of the area - happy days!

Yours sincerely
Terry Higgins

FRIENDS OF WAKELEY SCHOOL

We will be holding an **INDOOR BOOT AND CRAFT FAYRE** on **Saturday 17th March** at 10.00am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be available and the admission price is 30p (adult), children free.

Boot and craft pitches are available at £5.00 (in advance) and £6.00 (on the day). Anyone interested should contact the school on 231965, during school hours.

Wakeley Junior School will also be opening its doors to visitors at an **OPEN MEETING** on **Wednesday 7th March** at 9.30 to 11.30am. Visitors will be able to tour the school, which includes an up-to-date IT Suite and very successful unit for the Visually Impaired, and see staff and children at work and play. Refreshments will be available and everyone is welcome.

UPCHURCH CHORAL GROUP

presents

MUSIC FOR GOOD FRIDAY

(including Fauré's Requiem)

in St Mary's Church, Upchurch
at 7.00pm on Friday 13th April 2001

Admission by programme **£2.50**
children under 12 free

Programmes available at the door or
contact 01634 233576

eat yourself slim



with

Rosemary Conley
Diet and Fitness Clubs



For details of your local classes
Call Linda 01634 387408

Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

In February I walked across the fields and orchards to Hartlip.

From Meresborough Road I took the public footpath through Westmoor Farm. I passed an overgrown orchard in which fieldfares, redwings, starlings and chaffinches were feeding on what was left of last year's apples. Wooden boards at the ends of the rows of trees were painted with the names of the varieties concerned – 'Spartan', 'Charm', 'Worcester' and 'Discovery'.

I skirted the edge of the cherry orchard which adjoins the Meresborough Road. Underneath one tree were a couple of beehives and propped up against another were five or six long, tapering fruit-picking ladders. The cherry orchard is one of just a few which remain in the Rainham area. In the Spring the blossom will attract bees and other insects. The ripening cherries will then attract the wood pigeons, the blackbirds, the starlings and the cherry pickers in their caravans. Come July, the fruit ladders will be in use once more.

I headed for South Bush Lane across a field of maize stubble. I could see rooks, carrion crows, jackdaws and pheasants feeding, on the edge of the field, on what I assumed were grains of maize that had been left behind. Halfway across the field I disturbed a covey of grey or common partridges. They are smallish, round-bodied, game birds of a mainly grey and brown colour. When flushed grey partridges rise suddenly with a loud whirring sound and then glide low over the ground with stiff, arched wings. Despite its alternative name, the bird is no longer a common species, in part because cold, wet summers have caused high mortality among chicks.

As I crossed over South Bush Lane a flock of wood pigeons flew up with a crashing of wings. They had been feeding on the berries of ivy growing up the damson trees lining the lane. In the past such trees were set as wind breaks around orchards. Today alder, poplar or the much maligned Leyland cypress are commonly planted.

On the approach to Spade Lane I could see, through my binoculars, a mixed flock of fieldfares and redwings feeding on the red berries of a hawthorn hedge. Once the apples and the haws are gone, these winter visitors from Scandinavia will rely largely on worms and other invertebrates to be found in the surrounding fields.

In an apple orchard below Dane Lane I chanced upon another covey of partridges – this time red legged partridges. The bird is larger than the grey partridge from which it may be distinguished by its white cheeks and its heavily barred flanks of black, white and chestnut. The red legged partridge, which was introduced into this country for sporting purposes, is more inclined to run than to fly when disturbed. Both grey and red legged partridges feed mainly on vegetable matter (grain, green shoots, seeds, fruit etc) but also on worms, caterpillars and insects. The orchards and maize fields between Rainham and Hartlip were clearly good feeding grounds, at the time of my visit, for both species of partridge.

Hartlip sits on a ridge and the public footpath accordingly steepens on the approach to Hartlip Church through the apple and pear orchards. To the left of the church I could see the old vicarage and a cedar of Lebanon tree. To the right I noticed a yew tree, Hartlip school and Ridgway House. Altogether they made an attractive sight. From the graveyard of St Michael's and All Angels there is an equally pleasant view in the direction from which I had just come. On the horizon, beyond the orchards and the red tiled cottages of Spade and South Bush Lanes, stood the medieval church tower of St Margaret of Antioch.

Joe Ennis

RAINHAM A CENTURY AGO

I was studying the information on Rainham in my copy of the 1908 issue of Kelly's Directory and I realized how very useful these had been to me over the years and yet I am sure many residents do not know that copies for most years between 1890 and 1974 are available for inspection at the Gillingham reference library. Bagshaws containing similar information go back to 1870 and ceased around 1900.

Kelly's were issued annually for neighbouring areas such as Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham, it's worth remembering that information about Rainham will be in the Sittingbourne and Milton District issue before 1929. They show an alphabetical index of all residents and their address at the time and also a list of roads showing addresses and the location of residents so it's quite easy to find information about anyone living in the towns at the time. Data about institutions and activities make the issue a fund of local knowledge.

Rainham's population increased after the railway came in 1858, seven years before it was 1115 but by 1871 it had become 2082 living in 425 houses, 50 years later it was 4335. In 1908 Berengrave Lane had 5 houses, Century Road only 1 (Walter Kimmins in Ethel Villa), Roberts Road (then Robert Street) had 2 (Frederick Charlesworth and John Puxtey). Even Maidstone Road (then Bredhurst Lane) had no properties south of where Herbert Road now stands. None of the roads were numbered in sequence as there were so many empty plots so each block as built was called Terrace, Villas or Cottages and each house was numbered within that block.

Employment was largely agricultural, bricks and cement and the principal crops were fruit (mainly cherries), hops and wheat, there were a large number of market gardens. Lord Hothfield was Lord of the Manor and the Parish, previously known as Renham, which has been inhabited from ancient times as has become evident from remains found.

The Parish Council was the largest in this part of Kent being entitled to 13 members who met on the first Wednesday of each month. The Chairman was Dr F.W.H. Penfold and committees comprised Lighting and Watching (including Fire Brigade), Footpaths, Recreation Ground, Library and Reading Room and Finance.. Street Lighting was by gas and I remember Mr Holloway cycling round every evening and morning to turn on each light, he carried a stick with hook and was most expert in pulling down or pushing up the short arm just under the light almost without stopping. The Recreation Ground was presented by Lord Hothfield in 1887 to record the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. In 1908 it had a prepared cycle track and cricket pitch with water

laid on. It is of interest to note that it was open from 6am every day of the year. Rainham was very proud of its Fire Brigade formed in 1901, a motor engine was purchased in 1921 mainly from public subscription, the 22 volunteers were called out by maroon. The Parish Free Library and reading room was established at the turn of the century in the ground floor of the Temperance Hotel, Station Road (next to Paynes just south of the station). The lending Library was only open from 7 to 9pm on Mondays.

The Council School (now Meredale) in Solomon Road was erected in 1906 for all ages at cost of £4,500 and was considered to be 'the perfect type of a modern scholastic establishment' with 250 places which could be expanded to 400. The National School (later C of E) at the top of Station Road had been built in 1846 and was enlarged in 1878 and 1884, to hold 600 (205 Boys, 190 Girls and 205 Infants) in 1908 549 scholars were attending. Some of my contemporaries will be interested to know that even in 1908 our Head teacher, Mr G.R. Bone, and the two Miss Campbells were already on the staff and the Girls' teachers included Miss Rickells. Nearly all female staff were unmarried and I believe that it was an act of 1941 which allowed married women to be appointed. The Lower Rainham National School, built in 1876, accommodated 80 and it was full. Miss Bertha Atkins held a private school in a small hall in Church Path near the High Street.

Sgt Jenner of Station Road was in charge of two constables, Thomas Fielder and William Smith, who would have been known personally to residents.

To be continued

FLAMES OF CELEBRATION 2nd & 3rd June 2001

St Margaret's Parish Church is holding a Whitsun Exhibition of Talents, Gifts and Skills in St Margaret's new Millennium Centre.

To book your space so that you can share your talents with the rest of us, please take a form from the back of the church. We will be pleased to display all types of painting, pottery, sewing and crafts. Please note that this will be an exhibition and there will be no items for sale.

Pam Ormiston

ROOTS

☎01795 522 200

Specialist kitchen / bedroom suppliers
Appliances and ceramic tiles

Wildwinds Barn, Norton Crossroads,
Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9JY

www.roots.eu.com/af.htm

ARTEX TRAINED

TEXTURER & DECORATOR

CEILINGS - Repaired, Replaced, Coved
DECORATING - Internal / External

Established 1988

NEIL MACE

19 Gayhurst Close
Rainham

01634 376747
07970 555650

CARLTON VISION

REPAIRS

TELEVISION – VIDEO – SAT – CD
REPAIRS

Fast Service Reasonable Rates

No Call Out Charge

Qualified Engineer

25 Years Experience

MED 360367

RAINHAM CAMERAS

NEW & USED PHOTOGRAPHIC

Equipment Bought, Sold & Exchanged

** Over 38 Years Experience **

EQUIPMENT REPAIRS FILM PROCESSING
BINOCULAR & TELESCOPE SPECIALISTS

NEW SERVICE

Old Photographs Copied & Restored
Quality Hand Printing in Black & White
Or in Old Fashioned Sepia

7 Station Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 7RS
01634 239866

ASH CONSERVATORIES

Family Business — 30 Years Experience

WINDOWS — DOORS — CONSERVATORIES
FASCIAS — SOFFITS

TRADE PRICES 10 YEARS GUARANTEE

01634 366304

MUNN ACADEMY OF DANCE Dance for Fun Est 1972

Pupils 2 yrs—Professionals
Ballet, Tap, Modern Theatre,
Gym, Disco, Cheer Technique,
Drama & Singing Tuition
Adult Tap, Jazz, Disco



Exams, Shows, Competitions & Cabarets

Principal: Lesley Munn
Fellow & Examiner I.D.T.A.

MEDWAY 234168

D.H. MILLER

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS

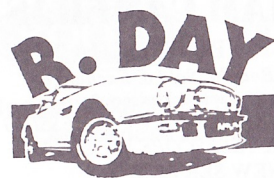
For all your Plumbing Services

HELP is on its way
Upgrading & Servicing of
old Systems a Speciality

- CENTRAL HEATING
- LUXURY BATHROOMS
& SHOWERS

MEDWAY 235831

Reg. No. 6629 36 High Street, Rainham



CAR AND COMMERCIAL BODY REPAIRS AND PAINTWORK

162 High Street, Rainham, Kent. ME8 8AT

24 Hour Recovery. 8am—6pm Tel: Medway 377803
After Hours: Tel: Medway 379396

JOHN STYLES FLAT ROOFING

Strip & Re-felt
All Work & Materials Guaranteed
Free Written Quotation
MEDWAY 374028

Cake Inspirations

14 Station Road, Rainham. 01634 375151



Decorating a cake? Come and see us.

In stock, cake boards, boxes, books,
equipment, cake decorations and

a selection of ribbons.

Tin hire also available

Housemartin Scheme Limited

Carers required for weekdays, evenings and
weekends, hours flexible. Domestic and
Personal Care help given to the elderly,
frail, mentally and physically handicapped.

Training provided — transport not
essential. Four weeks paid holiday,
enhanced payment for unsociable hours.

Telephone essential. For further details ring

Medway 01634 366528

PH INTERIORS

THE START TO FINISH
CARPENTRY ~ DECORATING AND
HOME ALTERATION SERVICE

For a reliable and professional tradesman
Call Philip Hobbs

15 Hallwood Close, Rainham, Kent

Mobile 07798 647747

RAINHAM SQUARE KNITTERS

We started knitting for Oxfam in 1964, and over the
years have completed hundreds of blankets and
children's garments. The need for them continues to
grow and we are pleased to say that during the last
year we have been kept busier than ever. This has
been largely due to the assistance we have received
from our many helpers. Bagsful of beautifully knitted
squares and strips and quantities of useful yarn have
been left at Mrs Trice's, 32 Roberts Road, sometimes
anonymously.

If you are one of our contributors please accept our
gratitude for and appreciation of your work. In one
bag back in October we found a very nice pair of
scissors, which somebody must regret losing.
Mrs Trice would be very glad to hand them back to
their owner. We are restricted to the numbers of our
group as we meet in private houses, currently at
Mrs Trice's at the above address, but if you would
care to visit us there on any second Thursday between
2.30 and 4.30pm we will gladly squeeze you in.

If you do not already knit for us and would like to
do so may I remind you that we use double knit wool
(or its equivalent) and No. 8 needles to make 6-inch
squares or strips of twelve squares changing colour
every 6 inches, or of course, if you prefer to knit a
whole blanket it will need to measure 6 feet by 4 feet
to meet Oxfam's requirements.

H.M. Thomas

DEAD EASY ASSISTS CHURCH ROOF

There's a very simple explanation to the title of this
article so read on to find out what it's all about.

We are very familiar by now with seeing
scaffolding both inside and outside St Margaret's
Church. Indeed, many expensive repairs have been
carried out and the bowed roof on the north side (by
the A2) still has to be done which will result in yet
another hefty bill.

The church is there for all the parish, think of all
the family occasions when so many have been
grateful for church services — baptisms, marriages and
funerals. Just imagine if it wasn't there any more ...
So, how about helping to contribute to the upkeep of
the church but enjoying yourself at the same time!

You can do no better than come to the RaTS
(Rainham Theatrical Society) March production,
'Dead Easy'. A comedy thriller by Jack Popplewell.
It's a play with murder, mayhem and a cleaning lady,
so be sure to come. To book a seat, phone 360506,
from 5th March, 9am to 8pm weekdays only, and
RaTS have very kindly agreed to put on an extra
performance in aid of the church roof on Wednesday
21st March at 8pm at only £5 a ticket. It'll be a
superb evening's live entertainment.

RaTS are situated at the Oasthouse Theatre,
Stratford Lane, Rainham, behind Hidson's
Showroom. So do it now, make a note in your diaries
to book your seats on 21st March.

Ann Gray, Chairman, Friends of St Margaret's
HELP PLEASE

St Margaret's Scouts possesses a (largish) minibus.
This has been parked on a kind person's drive for
some while. It has overstayed its welcome, and the
kind person is asking us to find another home for it.

Please, is there such another kind person who has a
spare drive, or part thereof, on which we could park
it? It is only taken out three times a month in the
Summer term, and rather less in the other months of
the year.

If so, please be in touch with Derek Bendle
tel: 364531, or Richard Davies tel: 362843.

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

The Friends are holding a Boot Fair on Saturday 7th
April. A table will cost £6.00. Admission to the
public will be from 10am to 12.20pm but stall holders
are welcome to set up their table from 8.30am. This
event will be held in the new St Margaret's
Millennium Centre. Please contact Ann on 01634
372680 for bookings. Admission 25p.

QUIZ NIGHT

Rainham Mark Grammar School PTFA are holding a
Quiz Night, Guinness and Genius, in honour of
St Patrick's Day, on Saturday 17th March.

Tickets £4 adult, £2 student, max 10 per table.
7.30 for 8pm start. Bottle of wine and nibbles per
table included, bar available or bring your own.

Phone 365953 for tickets.

HMF AT HIDSONS

DO YOU REPAIR YOUR OWN CAR?

HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
OBTAIN THE PARTS
YOU NEED
AT TRADE PRICES

Discount Parts for Ford, Fiat,
Vauxhall, Rover, Nissan,
Peugeot, Renault, Volvo,
Skoda etc, etc

HMF AT HIDSONS 01634 388114

110 HIGH STREET, RAINHAM, MEDWAY, KENT

AN AUTOLA FRANCHISE OPERATED UNDER LICENSE

GORDON J. WHITING

*Waste removal cheaper than
the local council*
cooker, fridge, washing machine, etc
£5.00 each
three piece suite £15.00
double beds £10.00
- **HOUSE CLEARANCE** -
01622 720010 Mobile **07860 559459**
Licenced by K.C.C.

Absolute Beginners Watercolour

Treat yourself to a fun day out
in a country barn studio in Lower Halstow

ONE DAY CLASSES
Mar 21 Apr 11 May 16 July 18

Phone Jacky: 01622 861983

Other courses include
Calligraphy and Gold leaf

Waverley Nurseries

622 Lower Rainham Road
Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7TX
Tel 01634 232520



Available now:

*Pansies, , Prim/Poly, Hanging Baskets
Roses, Christmas Trees, Holly Wreaths
Fencing Supplied & Erected*

WHY MISS WORK ?

Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Dryers, Cookers Etc.
ALL LEADING MAKES REPAIRED
Monday to Saturday 7am to 11pm

BY SQUADMATIC

Free call out—Free estimates
OFFICE 24hrs (01634) 373515
Mobile 07702 255105

CITY & GUILDS TRAINED ENGINEER Ex.R.E.M.E.



B D L GAS SERVICES
191 Station Road, Rainham, Kent
01634 232048

*Visit your local gas showroom
for all your Gas Appliance needs*

Cookers, Fires, Surrounds
Fires on Live ! and all installation work

DA CONSTRUCTION

CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALIST

EXTENSIONS • LOFT CONVERSIONS

**GENERAL
COMMERCIAL/DOMESTIC MAINTENANCE**

City & Guilds / Institute of Carpenters
TOP QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE RATES

MR ARCHER — Tele: (01634) 389604

SUNSHINE CLEANERS

WINDOW CLEANING

**Fed up with fair-weather window
cleaners. Then call us.**

01634 372228
Mobile 07961 500737

B. HAYFIELD & SONS Builders

Established 1971

All Building / Maintenance Work

**Carpentry & Painting
Roofing & Plumbing**

Medway 234072

Diary 2001 cont.

March 25th — Medway Towns Footpath Group.
Meet 2.00pm R.V. Shipbourne Common.
5½ miles. Dogs on leads.

March 27th — Medway Scrabble Club (see 13th
March).

March 27th — Rainham Evening Knitting Club.
Demo: Grafting (see 13th March).

March 28th — Gillingham Horticultural Society,
Lloyds Social Club, Featherby Road, 8.00pm.
'Dahlia's' Mr Arthur Obray. Ring 360624 for
details.

March 29th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Service,
Sales Stall and Singalong (see 8th March).

March 29th — Tales from the Mariners. The Three
Mariners, Lower Rainham Road. 7.30pm.
£3 admission, adults only. Pamela Marre.
Ring 852614 for details.

March 30th — Gillingham Recorded Music Society,
'The Mighty Handful'. Ted Griffin
(see 16th March).

March 31st — Gillingham Horticultural Society Spring
Show, United Reformed Church, viewing 2.30 to
4.30pm, admission free. Sales Tables, Teas and
home made Refreshments, Raffle. Ring 234734 for
details.

March 31st — Easter Craft Fair, Miers Court PTFA,
11.00 to 3.00pm, Silverspot Close. Easter Fun and
Games. To book a stall or for more details ring
370808.

March 31st — Old Barn Orchestra present Glazunov's
4th Symphony, St George's Centre, Chatham
Maritime, 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (children and
students £3). Ring 01795 843228 or 01634 376979
to book. In aid of Heart of Kent Hospice.

March 31st — Wine and Wisdom Evening,
Community Centre, St Matthew's Church, 7.30pm,
in aid of Roof & Renewal Appeal. Tickets £5 per
person from 387055.

March 31st — Countryside Event, Family Nature
Quiz. 11am Riverside Country Park.

March 31st — Chatham Choral Society, Easter
Concert, Royal Dockyard Church, Chatham,
7.30pm. Tickets £6 & £5 from Christine on 361755
or at the door. Works include Fauré's Cantique de
Jean Racine, part two of Handel's Messiah and
seasonal pieces.

April 3rd — Floral Art Group. 'Join the E.C.'
(see 6th March).

April 4th — Friendship Circle. Parkwood Christian
Fellowship (see 7th March).

April 4th — Coffee Morning given by the Mayoress of
Medway in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief in the
Committee Rooms, 1st Floor Municipal Buildings,
10.30 to 12 noon. Everyone welcome, please come
and help a good cause.

April 5th — Wigmore Thursday Club. Mrs Holmes —
More adventures on her travels (see 8th March).

April 7th — Friends of St Margaret's Church, Boot
Fair, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, 10 to
12.20pm. £6 per table, ring Ann 372680 to book.
Admission 25p.

April 10th — Medway Scrabble Club
(see 13th March).

April 10th — Gillingham & District Fuchsia &
Pelargonium Society. An informative talk on
preparation of your plants for Show Day by Brian
Morrison (see 13th March).

April 13th — Upchurch Choral Group present Music
for Good Friday (including Fauré's Requiem),
St Mary's Church, Upchurch. 7.00pm, admission
£2.50. Ring 233576 to book.

Activities at the Oasthouse Community Centre,
Granary Close, Rainham. These activities take place
every week, individual events are listed in the Diary.

Sunday Oast 'Ouse' Oppers Morris Dancing,
12 to 2pm, contact Mrs Lynn Cass
370327.

Monday RWCA Bridge Club, 7.30 to 11pm,
contact Audrey Clarke 230370.
Tuesday Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness
Club, 10 to 12 noon.

A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm contact
01622 717394.
Badminton, 7 to 11pm, contact Laraine
373833.

Wednesday Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness
Club, 10 to 12 noon.
A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm, contact
01622 717394.

RWCA Whist Club, 7.30 to 11pm,
contact Mrs K. Naylor.
Thursday Kentara Line Dancing, 1.30 to 4pm,
contact Mr J.F. Smith 372288.

Weightwatchers, 5.30 to 8pm.
Rainham Chess Club, 7.30 to 11pm,
contact Tom Stonehouse 231374.

Dreamcatchers Line Dancing, 8 to
11pm, contact 300026.
Friday A1 Dancing School, 5 to 7pm, contact
01622 717394.

D.A.Price Services

Est. 1984

01634 233709/01795 842644
Mobile: **07860 733980**

**GENERAL HOUSE
MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR and EXTERIOR**

Household/Shop
Maintenance and Repairs
Decorating - Coving
Carpentry - Fence Erection
Plumbing - Bathrooms Fitted
Odd Jobs



Small Ads

Published: April 7th 2001
Copy date: March 23rd
Price: £1.65 per line
 Average 4 words to a line

Please contact H. Mackay Miller,
 5 Meresborough Cottages,
 Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP.
 Tel: 231307

THE HIDEAWAY NURSERY
 105 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch
 01634 231693
 Shrubs, Climbers, Perennials
 and seasonal bedding.
 Landscaping and general
 garden work undertaken.

REFLEXOLOGY. Holistic
 therapy to aid relaxation and help
 the body heal itself. For further
 information or to book an appoint-
 ment please contact Jenifer Carr
 MBSR on Medway 376784.

PRUNING – Trees, Hedges,
 Shrubs. Fully qualified & insured.
 Jim Lindsay – 01634 366923.

HOME TUITION ENGLISH to
 GCSE level. 11+ Coaching.
 Creative Writing a speciality.
 Jill Dixon BA Tel 234577.

RE-UPHOLSTERY
 Reasonable rates, free estimates.
 Ron James: 01795 520635.

DENTIST: RUTH LINDSAY,
 BDS. NHS dental treatment for
 elderly housebound in your own
 home. All denture work. Free
 denture repairs. Free treatment if
 on income support.
 Tel. 842566 (surgery hours).

**TREE STUMP GRINDING
 AND TREE REMOVAL
 SERVICE.** Tel Roger Alsey.
 01634 376776 for an estimate.

ST MATTHEW'S Community
 Centre available for hire.
 Medway 235518 or 370492.

**RAINHAM CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP.** Sunday Services
 10.30am and 6.30pm at Begonia
 Avenue Church, Twydall.
 Further details from Jim
 Crompton, 01634 408438.

CAN-DO/ODD JOB SERVICES
 Home Maintenance and repairs
 Odd jobs including decorating
 Ring 07711 305081 7am-7pm.

BOOKS WANTED
 Immediate Cash!
 Phone Medway 360227

CALLIGRAPHY writing for all
 occasions. Phone Karena on
 01634 377871 (after 6pm).

FIREWOOD –
 Seasoned firewood delivered for
 you to cut or split. £25 a load.
 01634 376776.

PRIME CARPET CLEANING
 ½ hour dry. Also upholstery
 cleaning. 370847.

MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Specialist Medical/Injury
 Home visits, evenings, weekends
 Fast turnaround and delivery
 Telephone Paul: 01634 366443.

CARPENTER EST. 30 YEARS
 Property maintenance including
 doors, windows, flooring, dado
 rail, and general domestic work.
 Reasonable rates.
 01634 230821 or 07940 274456.

IRONING –
 Too busy?
 Why not let me do it for you?
 Ring Eileen on 01634 372133.

ROOFING CONTRACTOR
 All types of roofing work,
 vertical tiling and guttering
 undertaken. Estimates Free.
 Phone Dave Moon on 375069.

MATHS/PHYSICS TUITION
 GCE 'A' level, GCSE etc. Private
 tuition in your home by highly
 experienced/qualified tutor,
 B.Sc.Hons, Cert. in Education.
 Please ring 01634 377267.

LOCAL YOGA CLASSES
 Relaxing, friendly atmosphere.
 Telephone Evi, 01634 233312.

**AQUAFIX HEATING &
 PLUMBING.** Boiler Servicing and
 Repairs. Landlord Safety
 Certificates. Specialising in
 Combination boilers. 24hr call out
 Tel: 01634 846871. Pager 01523
 156098. Corgi Reg. No. 175929.

GRASS CUTTING SERVICE
 Get a free estimate for cutting
 your grass. We use our own
 mowers & take away the cuttings.
 'Adaptability' Med: 235530.

P.K.B.
 All types of Gardening, Painting
 and Decorating, New Guttering
 and clearing. Pressure Washing,
 Patios, Drives, etc. No job too
 small. Phone Paul on 01634
 389108 or mobile 07740647146.

FOR A PROFESSIONAL CV
 constructed to highlight your
 skills and experience call Tina at
JADE Business Bureau.
 A full range of secretarial
 services are available: 364988.

REIKI ATTUNEMENT Levels 1,
 2 & 3 certificate and manual.
 1 Day Workshop. Learn to help
 heal yourself and your loved
 ones. Wonderfully relaxing.
 Come for a free trial Reiki
 Healing Session first. Ring Carol
 01795 844601 (Newington).

LIGHTEN YOUR DARKNESS.
 Call Barry Pickance – Electrician
 for all domestic electrical work.
 No job too small – Free estimates
 –emergency callout. Med 372739

SLIMMING WORLD CLASSES
Wigmore Mondays 7-8.30pm
 Scout Hall, Edward Close
Rainham Tuesdays 6 & 7.30pm
 Signal Court, Station Road
 Tel: Maggie 01634 235733.

**NEW LIFE COMMUNITY
 CHURCH.** Sundays 10.30am,
 Rainham Girls School, Derwent
 Way. Further details from Allan
 Smith, Medway 264410.

**PIANO, KEYBOARD, FLUTE
 tuition. Exp. teacher Med 378038**

TREE & SHRUB SURGERY
Garden Welfare & Planning.
Life Time of Experience.
Ray Wade Medway 233957.

LEAKING TAPS RESEATED
 Loft and Toilet overflows.
 Medway 262912.

**BUY DIRECT FROM THE
 FARMER** – Apples & Pears
 from our prize-winning orchards
 now available, including Cox,
 Gala, Bramley, Conference Pears
 etc. at **PUMP FARM**, Pump
 Lane (below bridge), Rainham.
 Open 6 days per week 10am-
 5pm. Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm.
 Closed Mondays only.
 (Our farmshop policy is to sell
 local/Kent produce.)

ANNEKE'S FLORAL DESIGN
 A complete co-ordinated Service
 of unique Flower Designs for
 Your Wedding, Venue &
 Reception. Phone 01634 364123
 for brochure
 flowers@annekes.co.uk
15% DISCOUNT until 31.3.01.

THE GRANARY CHURCH
 Rainham Evangelical,
 Rainham Community Centre,
 Granary Close
 Sunday – 10.15am
 Other meetings in homes.
 Pastor: The Rev. P.S. Harper.
 Details Tel 01795 844031

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE HALL
 To Hire Ring Med. 374732.

DISCO – professional enter-
 tainment for any occasion.
 'The Black Pepper Roadshow'
 Jim Lindsay 375552.

NEED A PLUMBER?
**For that small job or annoying
 leak tel: 234149.**

D.A.C. GARDEN SERVICE
 General Garden Maintenance
 undertaken. No job too small.
 Tel: 01634 371005.

**WEDDINGS, PARTIES,
 RE-UNIONS** etc? Quality Bed
 and Breakfast, non smoking,
 at 'Condor House', Bredhurst.
 Tel: 01634 232988.

**JOHN INNES SEED &
 POTTING COMPOST** always
 available. 20 kilo bag: £2.50.
 Also 300 litre Grower Bales of
 Peat: £9.50. Meresborough
 Nursery – Medway 231639.

**GCSE SCIENCE &
 A-Level Biology Tuition.**
 Call 01634 377871.

CHIROPODIST J. JUDGE
 A.Ch.P. Home Visits. Med: 361720

**PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP,** Parkwood Green
 Sunday Service 10.15am to
 12 noon. Further details from
 Richard Hayton (01634) 235799.

MATHEMATICS TUITION
 Secondary, GCSE, A level by
 experienced tutor-B.Sc.Hons.
 A Level Assistant Examiner.
 Tel: Medway 233374.

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL
Recently refurbished with
 facilities for the disabled,
 including induction loop for the
 hard of hearing. Ideal hall for
Weddings, parties and meetings
 Attractive setting–Ample parking
 To book phone: **01634 364859**

**WIGMORE EVANGELICAL
 FREE CHURCH,** Durham Road.
 Sundays 11am and 6.30pm,
 Treasure Seekers and
 Ambassadors 10am. Bible
 Study and Prayer Meeting:
 Tuesday 7.45pm. Visitors
 Welcome. Pastor Rev T.J. Wood
 Medway 388187.

For STANNAH STAIRLIFTS
new or reconditioned. Also
electrical work carried out.
Tel: Contact for Electrical
01634 374524 for free estimate.

SEMI RETIRED LOCAL MAN
 Available for Home Maintenance
 & repairs including decorating,
 sheds, gutters, odd jobs, grass
 cutting etc. Ring 375061.

LAWNMOWER SERVICE
 Sharpening and all Garden
 Machinery repairs. Med 361217.

ADVERTISING RATES
 With the continuing building of new houses in the area we have
 increased our print run to 20,000.
 1/8th page One issue: £31.00
 Three issues: £85.50
 Twelve issues: £323.00

Small Ads per line per issue: £1.65
 Concessionary rates for Small Ads are available for Charities.
 All rates are on the basis of prepayment. Please make cheques
 payable to Action Forum and send to 5 Meresborough Cottages,
 Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8PP. Copy date is usually
 the penultimate Saturday each month, for publication the first
 Saturday of the next month.

SOPHISTICATS as well as being
 the most comprehensive gift
 shop in the area, we have built up
 a reputation for our first class
PICTURE FRAMING service.
 Be it tapestry, collage, print, oil
 or medals, you will always find
 advice on hand as to the best way
 of presenting them at 31 Station
 Road, Rainham. Tel. 361436.

TAPE/SLIDE SHOWS. Kent
 Villages etc. Ideal for club
 evenings, usually available at
 short notice. £15 per evening.
 Mr C. Coe, Medway 361240.

SPAIN – COSTA BLANCA
 Individually designed Villa,
 2 Double Bedrooms and
 2 Bathrooms, Lounge with Sofa
 Bed, Dining Room & F/F Kitchen.
 10x5m private pool & BBQ.
 Covered and uncovered terraces.
 Close to restaurants, shops, sea
 and golf. Available all year round.
 Phone Med: 318781.

**SEWING ALTERATIONS/
 REPAIRS.** Broken zip, hem too
 long? Reasonable rates.
 Ring 01634 264334.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?
 Maybe I can help.
 Repairs, upgrades, advice, etc.
 In your own home.
 Reasonable rates. 01634 230655.
ASTROLOGY 20 yrs experience.
 Tarot–Meditation Groups–Reiki–
 Indian head massage.
 Sincere qualified practitioners.
 01634 371788.

PAINTER/DECORATOR
 30 years' experience.
 Tel: Doug Marchant
 01634 373016 or 07930 627241
 for free estimate.

**MIKE O'BRIEN
INSURANCE SERVICES**
(Independent Intermediary)

HOUSEHOLD & CAR INSURANCE
TRAVEL & COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Serving the people of Rainham
since 1969

01634 373757

or email on www.lowcost-insurance.net

33 Station Road Rainham Kent

IT'S YOUR MOVE ...
AND WE HAVE A MORTGAGE TO SUIT
*Status & Non-status Mortgages
Buy To Let Mortgages, 100% Mortgages
Re-mortgages*

Call Michael O'Brien Insurance Services
for a free consultation (01634-302701)
33 Station Road, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RS

A member of DBS Financial Management PLC which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
THE FIA DO NOT REGULATE MORTGAGES
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON
MORTGAGES OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT



**WINDMILL
RADIO
TAXIS**

Call us FREE on

0800 582582

24 hour service



SHOWROOM 39 HIGH STREET, RAINHAM
Carpets, Rugs and Vinyl Supplies
HOME SELECTION SERVICE

Available Daytime. Evenings & Weekends

Medway 234882

*THE SHOP WHERE
NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE*

**PLANNING A HOLIDAY ?
OR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WALK ?**

As an Ordnance Survey National Stockist
we stock maps for the whole country.

Also maps and guides for holidays
throughout the world.

RAINHAM BOOKSHOP

17-25 Station Road, Rainham

01634 371591 Fax 01634 262114

Email shop@rainhambookshop.co.uk



Established 1971
REPAIRS. GUTTERING. VERTICAL TILING. FLAT ROOFS. NEW ROOFS

For Free Estimates telephone:

01634 375069

Day and Evenings

**No Job too LARGE or SMALL
WE DO THEM "ALL"**

In time of need ...

JOHN WEIR

Funeral Directors

A private family owned and run business

- 24 hour Personal Service
- Home visits if preferred
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Monumental Masons
- Pre-arranged Funeral Plans
- Horse Drawn Hearse available

01634 373111

130 High Street, Rainham
Kent ME8 8AR

01634 855558

127 Watling Street
Gillingham, Kent ME7 2YY
Car parking available

01634 408777

25 New Road, Chatham
Kent ME4 4QJ
Car parking available

