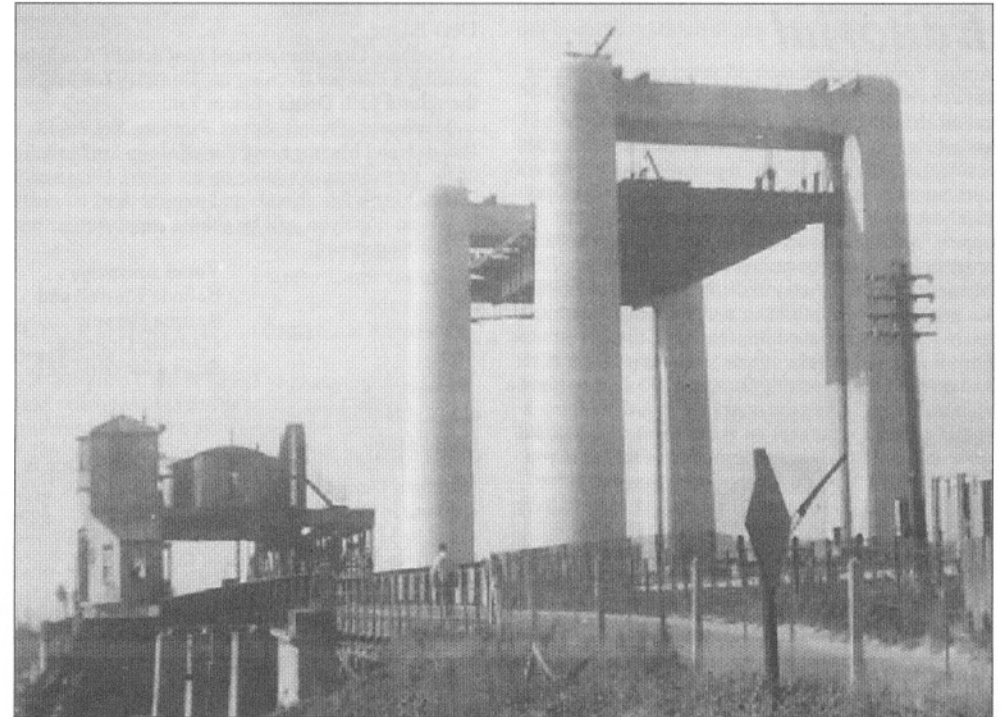


ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JUNE 2006
NUMBER 411



This picture, taken in early 1960, shows the then new Kingsferry Bridge undergoing tests just prior to completion whilst the old 1904 bridge was still in use. The fixed link Sheppey Crossing will shortly be completed and this view will be just a memory. See the article on page 7.

Robert J. Kitney

Building Contractor of Repute and Distinction

BRICK EXTENSIONS AND
COMPLETE HOUSES
ALSO MAINTENANCE
DIVISION



Medway 363669

NO JOB TOO BIG
OR TOO SMALL

WHERE **NO** INFERIOR TRADESMEN OR MATERIALS ARE USED

AF

Next Issue: July 1st 2006
Copy Date: June 13th Sm Ads Jun 16th
Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller
5 Meresborough Cottages, ME8 8PP
Telephone: 231307 or contact
Rainham Bookshop, 17-25 Station Road
Telephone: 371591
Email: barbara@rainhambookshop.co.uk

Editorial

Action Forum started over 35 years ago to publicise the activities of a group newly formed in Rainham called Help the Needy. It quickly diversified to include any information that would be useful for the residents of the area. We still provide this service and consequently are very happy to include news of any local event. All relevant dates that are sent to us appear in the diary and when space allows if a short letter or article has been included we also print that. Many people find Action Forum a useful reference for events each month but are equally interested in the 'Memories of Rainham' items our readers submit. For all articles we rely on you, we are not journalists and do not go out looking for news. So if you attend a club and would like new members or are planning a specific event in the Action Forum area which could do with publicity or have memories of this area you would like to share do get in touch. You can either use traditional post or email, we much prefer to have all information in writing with a contact phone number that can be printed for readers who want more information; this helps to keep mistakes to a minimum although unfortunately they can still sometimes occur.

This month the new Sheppey Crossing will be opened for use and the misery of queuing for Kingsferry Bridge will no longer haunt residents and those who work on the island. Coming across our front cover picture recently prompted me to find out more about the history of the Swale crossing. In just over one hundred years two Kingsferry Bridges have been built and subsequently proved inadequate for the expanding population of the Isle of Sheppey. I am sure many readers have memories of both the bridges pictured. As the older one reached the end of its life it became prone to failure, sometimes the result of a knock by a passing ship, the only way then to reach Sheerness was to go by ferry from Chatham, a tedious journey in order to reach your work. In the very hard winter of 1963 it was possible to walk underneath the bridge as the Swale froze.

This month we include many Summer Fetes and Fairs, do support your local ones if at all possible. It is a very good way to make friends and contribute something to your community, the schools and churches are all aware of their responsibility to an

area and welcome your interest. Of course the summer brings a rash of outdoor events and let us hope we can enjoy them with appropriate sunny weather not forgetting, of course, we are still desperately short of water, so rain at night sun by day would be good. Too much to hope for? We will see, have a good month until we see you again in July.

Correspondence

PAMPER EVENING

Dear Editor,

Chatham Grammar School for Girls PFA will be holding a Pamper Evening on Thursday 6th July in the school hall. Doors open at 7.00pm.

Manicures, Facials, Spray Tanning, Reflexology, Indian Head Massage and Kinesiology are but a few of the treatments available on the night. Why not bring along a few friends and join the fun!

We do hope you will be able to support this fundraising event.

Yours sincerely,
Belinda Murrell and
Katrina Harvey
Chatham Grammar
School for Girls PFA

GARDEN PARTY

Dear Editor,

The Medway Branch of Leukaemia Research is holding a Garden Party on Saturday 29th July, 2.00 to 4.00pm, in one of our members garden. Please come along to 11 Wakeley Road, Rainham, for afternoon tea, bric-a-brac, cake stall, and fun things for children. All money raised will go direct to Leukaemia Research. We look forward to seeing you.

Kind regards,
Kym McMillan 264902
Nicky Burch 264135

KENTISH PLAYERS

Dear Editor,

The KENTISH PLAYERS are delighted to announce their forthcoming musical *My Fair Lady* to be performed at the Central Theatre, Chatham, from Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th June nightly at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

My Fair Lady – the musical which shot Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison to fame, is celebrating its 50th Birthday this year. Although half a century old it still never loses its charm and is set to have you smiling with the lusty Cockney dances in Covent Garden: 'I'm getting married in the morning', the languid gavotte of the nobs in Ascot, the glitter of the Embassy Ball and the touching exaltation of 'I could have danced all night'.

Tickets are priced from £8-£11.

For further details call the Kentish Players Box Office on 01634 406271/400169.

SUMMER FETE

Dear Editor,

St Peter's Church, Bredhurst, will be holding the annual Summer Fete on Saturday 24th June, at 2pm, in the Village Hall and Playing Field, Hurstwood Road. There will be children's races and games and a wide variety of stalls, plants, cakes, books, raffles, tombola and much more. The charity shop next to the hall will also be open from 1.30pm for many bargains.

More information may be obtained from 01634 235253.

Yours sincerely,
Pam Merryweather

INDOOR BOOT FAIR

Dear Editor,

The 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group is holding an Indoor Boot Fair at St George's Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, on Saturday 24th June, 10am to 2pm. Entry is 50p for adults, children free, and refreshments will be on sale.

Yours sincerely,
Cathy Burns (Mrs)
01634 239881

FUND RAISING FOR MACMILLAN NURSES

Dear Editor,

Macmillan Cancer Relief are again having three fund raising events in June/July and I hope many of your readers will be able to support them.

On 16th June Doris Perrin will be having a coffee morning between 10am and 12 noon at the Berengrave Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. Admission £1.

On 25th June Joan and Fred Jepson are having their Open Garden again this year in the afternoon, 2.00 to 5.00pm at 25 Hanover Drive, Wigmore. Admission will be £2 and the proceeds will be going to Macmillan Cancer Relief, Medway Committee, to help with the Kent Appeal to fund more Macmillan nurses in this area.

Finally, on 15th July, Marilyn Soffe will be having her Garden Party at 55 Bredhurst Road, Wigmore, in the afternoon.

Do please come to these events with your friends and enjoy a pleasant few hours, at the same time supporting the Macmillan nurses.

Yours faithfully,
W. C. Trythall,
Chairman,

Medway Committee, Macmillan Cancer Relief

Findlay Designs

Hand Made Curtains,
Blinds, Swags & Tails and Pelmetts

Curtain Design Consultation
available in the comfort of your own home

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

KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Kent Family History Society, Medway Branch, is manning the Medway Archives at Strood Civic Centre every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am until 1.00pm. We are hoping to attract both established and new researchers of Family History to come along either for help, assistance and guidance or to share their knowledge with us. One to one friendly help and advice will be given to anyone who is experiencing difficulties or wishes to get started with this fascinating hobby. We will help you carry out in depth research at any level. John Witheridge
01634 360949

MEDWAY FOSSIL AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The Medway Mineral Fossil Fair 2006 takes place at Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, Gillingham, on 1st July 2006. The event will be in the Upstairs Community Hall (entrance next door to Thos. Cook Travel) between 10am and 4pm. Admission 80p with Children half price (we have a Lucky Dip!).

There will be a great variety of stalls displaying FOSSILS and MINERALS, most of which can be purchased at reasonable prices, so why not come along, browse and chat about this fascinating subject!

More details can be obtained at www.mlms.org.uk or phone MLMS 01634 232382.

RAINHAM & DISTRICT DOLLHOUSE & MINIATURIST GROUP present their fifth DOLLS' HOUSE EXHIBITION

at St Margaret's C of E Junior School
Orchard Street, Rainham
on the 3rd and 4th June 2006
from 10am until 4.00pm each day

For further information contact:

Sylvia on 01634 312038

Admission £2.00 adults 50p children 5-15

Family ticket £4.00

Profits will be donated to Kent Air Ambulance Trust

SALMON WINDOWS

Family run business with 20 years experience

- Conservatories – designed and built
- UPVC windows doors & porches • UPVC soffit & fascia
- Misted units replaced • Fensa document L approved
- 10 year insurance backed guarantee

For advice and very competitive quote:

01634 363881 / 07973860369

Abbeyfield

Where older people find a home in housing

DAY CARE

available for pensioners between 9.00 and 3.00pm or 6.00pm

Come and meet people – have your Hair done and Good Food

at Rogers House Residential Home

Contact: Tonia Waghorn –

01634 262266

KCC Registered

Diary 2006

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

No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 13th June

June 2nd to July 10th – Rochester West Kent Art Society. Art Exhibition of members' works in all mediums for sale at Strood Library, Bryant Road. Ring 01634 850167 for details.

June 2nd & 3rd – Medway Operas presents staged excerpts of Les Miserables, La Boheme and The Gondaliers interspersed with duets and arias from The Pearl Fishers, Madame Butterfly and others. Brook Theatre, Chatham, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from 01634 403444 or 01634 338338.

June 3rd – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am, Aylesford Station. No dogs. Contact no. 01634 331027.

June 3rd – RaTS Revellers present 'Moments from Musicals', Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, 8.00pm. Box Office 233660 (9am-8pm weekdays).

June 3rd & 4th – Dolls' House Exhibition, St Margaret's Junior School, Orchard Street, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Ring Sylvia on 312038

June 4th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.30am, Dene Park, Puttenden Road, near Tonbridge. 6.5 mile walk. Contact no. 374923.

June 5th – Rainham Wives. 'Keep Fit', a practical evening with Elaine Searle. 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham.

June 5th – Scallywags Parent, Toddler and Babies. 1.15 to 2.45pm. Details from Claire 376270.

June 5th to 10th – Family History Roadshow, Wigmore Library. Kent FHS will be in attendance on Wednesday and Saturday.

June 6th – Gillingham Horticultural Society 'FLAMING JUNE' – Interpretive Title practice night. 7.30 to 9.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.

June 7th – Rainham Horticultural Society. Colin & Linda Miles – Bonsai for 30 years. 7.15 for

7.30pm, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. New members welcome. 231972.

June 7th – Rochester & West Kent Arts Society. Workshop, Portrait Painting. 7.30 to 9.30pm, The Brook Theatre, Chatham. New members welcome. Contact no. 01634 233053.

June 7th – Medway Camcorder Club. Demonstration of Adobe Encore by David Jelly. 7.30pm, Chattenden Community Centre, Swinton Avenue, Chattenden, Rochester.

June 8th – Rainham & Wigmore Retired Civil Servants. 2.00pm, Methodist Church Hall,

June 8th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Bingo. 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over the age of 50. 235507.

June 8th – Chatham Historical Society meet at the Garrison Church Hall, Maxwell Road, Old Brompton, at 7.00 to 9.00pm. Talk: Chatham – The Future by R. Cooper, Director Regeneration and Development for Medway Council. Members £1, visitors welcome £2, easy disabled access. Ring 01634 865176 for details.

June 10th – Medway Folk Dance Club. New and experienced dancers welcome with or without a partner. 7.30 to 10.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. For further details phone 01634 366189 or 388546.

June 10th – 120 minutes Training Session for Church Stewards, 10.00am Rainham Methodist Church. If interested ring David Jebb 239890.

June 10th – 'Come as you are'. 4.00 to 5.45pm, Methodist Church, Rainham. A course exploring Christian Discipleship. Ring 239890 for details.

June 10th & 11th – The Old Reed Bed Open Studios. Ceramics and Paintings. Evening open 6.00 to 8.00pm, on Friday 9th. The Street, Lower Halstow,

ONE DAY CLASSES 2006
ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS WATERCOLOUR
★
BEGINNERS CALLIGRAPHY WITH GOLD LEAF
Treat yourself to a fun, relaxing (stress-busting)
day out in a country barn studio in Lower Halstow
July 11 - Sept 26 - Nov 14
Find us at www.suninthewoodcraftdays.co.uk
Or phone Jacky for brochure: **01622 861983**

ME9 7DY. Opposite the Three Tuns pub. 10.00am to 5.00pm. Enquiries 01795 842481.

June 11th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am, Faversham Market Place. 5 mile walk. No dogs. Contact no. 01634 364377.

June 11th – Countryside Event: Birdlife & Natural History of Darland. 8.00am, Darland Banks. £2.20 in advance ring 812196.

June 12th – Rainham Wives. 'Sorrow & Smiles of Sri Lanka', a DVD shown by David Jebb. (see 5th June)

June 12th – Countryside Event: Ladies Walk at Capstone. 10.00am to 12 noon. (see 11th June)

June 12th – Scallywags Parent, Toddler and Babies. Oral Health Promoter. 1.15 to 2.45pm.

Details from Claire 376270. All welcome.

June 13th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm, Abbeyfield (Rogers House), Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Contact no. 01634 862673.

June 13th – Medway Antique & Collectors Club. Chagall, Tudeley and Stained Glass. 7.30pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham. Contact no. 01634 365861.

June 13th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society – Colin and Linda Miles, 'Living with a Bonsai Fanatic'. 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls. Contact no. 01634 853864.

June 14th – Bredhurst WI. Judie Abbott – The Life of a Lady Cruise Director on a Luxury Liner. 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall.

June 14th – Rainham Flower Club. Workshop – On the level. 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall. Contact no. 01634 374448 or 01622 884657.

June 15th – Rainham Afternoon WI. Lyrical Treats. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,

June 15th – Wigmore Thursday Club. St Dunstan's – A Talk by Steve Pendleton. (see 8th June)

June 16th – Doris Perrin Macmillan Coffee Morning, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane. 10.00am to 12 noon, entrance £1, all welcome.

June 16th – Friends of Wisdom Hospice Tea @ Three, 3.00pm at the Hospice. £3.50 per person including tea and cakes. Details from 831163.

June 16th, 17th & 18th – The Old Reed Bed Open Studio. Details see 10th to 11th.

June 16th – Cabaret & Karaoke Night, Bredhurst Village Hall. 7.45pm. Tickets £6 adults £2 children from 268544. All welcome.

June 17th – Instep Dancing (Summer Special – ticket only). Telephone 363738.

June 17th – Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road. Summer Fayre. 12 noon to 3.00pm. Entry 50p adults, children free.

June 17th – Healing and Wholeness Service, 4.00 to 5.00pm, Rainham Methodist Church, Station Road, Rainham. Preacher Revd David Jebb. All welcome.

June 17th – 'Come as you are', 2.00 to 3.45pm. (see 10th June)

June 18th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am, Aylesford Priory. 6 mile walk. No dogs. Contact no. 01634 581647.

June 18th – Lighthouse. All are welcome to discover about Jesus' Parable of the Talents. 4.30pm, St Matthew's Church Precinct, Drewery Drive,

June 18th – Countryside Event: Capstone Walk 10.00am to 12 noon. (see 11th June)

June 19th – Rainham Evening WI. Cooking for Royals – Linda Stewart. Competition: Purple. 7.30pm, Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road,

June 19th – Rainham Wives. 'Understanding Dyslexia'. Talk by Judith Northwood. (see 5th June)

June 19th – Countryside Event: Birdwatching Cruise, approx. 3-4 hours. Book and pay in advance £14, 01634 378987.

June 19th – Scallywags Parent, Toddler and Babies. Children's Information Service and craft activity. 1.15 to 2.45pm. Details from Claire 376270.

June 20th – The RSPB Medway Group. Talk. 7.45 to 10.00pm, Strood Library, Bryant Road.

June 20th – GHS Floral Art Group. GARLAND

MAKING – for a Summer Wedding. (see 6th June)

June 20th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 7.00pm, Shorne car park. 5 mile walk. No dogs.

Contact no. 01634 865583.

June 21st – Bredhurst Garden Club. SUMMER SUPPER. Members only.

June 21st – Rochester & West Kent Art Society. Terry Harrison, Landscapes in Acrylic.

(see 7th June)

Continued on page 11

K. Gillard & Son

(Decorators)

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

Established 30 years

NO JOB TOO SMALL

FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: (01634) 263817

Mobile: 07850 996832 /

07834 851004

A.C. Domestic

...calls at your convenience

Installation, Service, Repair of Central Heating, Gas and Electric Domestic Appliances inc Cookers, Washing Machines, Dishwashers etc. Landlords Certificates.

Over 20 years experience.

CORGI reg. 206985

01634 234963 / 07799887754



TURF • BARK • COMPOSTS
AGGREGATES
RAILWAY SLEEPERS
TOPSOIL IN BULK BAGS
(app 1 ton) OR LOOSE
RUBBISH BULK BAGS
– you fill, we collect
IDEAL FOR GARDEN CLEARANCE
ETC

LANDSCAPE PROJECTS
UNDERTAKEN

INVICTA LANDSCAPES LTD

01634 263700

AERIALS AP DIGITAL SYSTEMS

• RECEPTION PROBLEMS?

• NO CHANNEL 5?

WE CAN HELP!

• REPAIRS • EXTRA TV POINTS

• CABLE/SATELLITE TV IN ALL ROOMS

• FREE TO VIEW DIGITAL CHANNELS

• COMMUNAL SYSTEMS

FREE ESTIMATES 01634 262582

ENGINEER 07949 588464

Seymour Rogers Associates



Plans drawn for Extensions

and Loft Conversions.

Planning and Building

Regulation Approval sought.

01634 263565

231 Hempstead Road Hempstead

Gillingham Kent ME7 3QH

CARLTON VISION REPAIRS

TV – VIDEO – SAT – CD
REPAIRS

Fast Service

Reasonable Rates

No Call Out Charge

Qualified Engineer

25 Years Experience

MED 360367

J|A|D
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
*CHARTERED IN COMMON SENSE
 ESTABLISHED OVER 20 YEARS*

- Accounts
- Tax
- Book-keeping
- Payroll
- Audit
- Associated Services

4 Bloors Lane, Rainham
 Kent, ME8 7EG
 Tel: 01634 375222
 Fax: 01634 371318
 E Mail: admin@jadaccountants.co.uk
 www.jad.sage24.com

**Central Heating
 Gas Fires, Water Heaters**
TIM BOAST
 0781 455 8931
 190 Magpie Hall Road,
 Chatham, Kent ME4 5XH

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Using the most powerful system in the world
Carpets dry within 2 hours!
 Safe for children, pets, allergy and asthma sufferers.
 NO solvents, detergents or enzymes!
For a free quote ring 01634 261014
HYDRO-DYNAMIX

**GREG BRYANT
 CONSTRUCTION LTD**
 MEDWAY 231321
**REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDER
 EXTENSIONS**
N4BC Free Surveys and Estimates

MAX THE PLUMBER
 Established 30 years
BATHROOMS – GENERAL PLUMBING
 Taps etc – no job too small
 Mobile 07956 979973
 01634 231390

LADY DECORATOR
Karen Spooner
 Apprenticeship served
 Fully qualified with 15 years' experience
 All aspects of decorating undertaken
 Competitive Prices
 No job too small – Special rates for OAPs
Tel: 01634 233845 Mobile: 0778 0810 346

COLOUR COPY - PRINT & SIGNS
 8 Station Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 7PH

Quality PRINTING
 01634 262808
 0800 7830947
 e-mail: vcprints@fsbdial.co.uk **OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK**

- COLOUR COPYING & B/W
- ARTWORK, SETUP & PRINTING
- STATIONERY PRINTING
- FOIL BLOCKING
- LAMINATING TO A1
- POSTER PRINTS TO A0
- PLAN COPYING
- RUBBER STAMPS
- BOOK BINDING

**MIRANDA
 DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS**
 WE REPAIR ALL TYPES OF DOUBLE GLAZING.
 FOR A FAST, FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
 CALL THE REPAIR SPECIALISTS NOW ON
01634 575595
 NO JOB TOO SMALL – FREE QUOTATIONS

SUTTONS WITH KHILKOFF-BOULDING & CO.
 SOLICITORS
 84/86 High Street, Rainham
 Specialising in Conveyancing, Probate & Wills
 Call us today for a competitive Quote on
 MEDWAY (01634) 373333
 Other offices situated throughout Kent providing a complete professional legal service

Puma pvc
 Approved installers of
 Fascia Soffit Guttering Cladding
 * 10 Year Guarantee * Free Quotations
 WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE !!
 CALL NOW 01634 235900
 159 Edwin Road, Rainham

Paul's 1-8 Seater Taxis
 Bookings Only
 Airports - Hospitals - Days/Nights Out
 Nightclubs - Friendly & Reliable
 * Gatwick from £48.00 *
 * Heathrow from £70.00 *
 Tel 01634 268567 Mob 07904955375

Back & Body Treatments.
 Why let pain ruin your life, Break Free.
 I can help you.
 Back, Neck, Frozen Shoulder, Arms, Wrists & Legs
 I can help ease the pain of many illnesses as well.
 Bowen Therapy, Massage & Reflexology.
 Bren Barry - ESBT. BCMA. ITEC. IFR.
 Phone: 01634 234 835 Home visits Available

THE SHEPPEY CROSSING
 As the completion of the new bridge for the Sheppey Crossing fast approaches it seems timely to consider the history of the link between the Island and the rest of Kent. Before 1860 when the first permanent structure was built there existed three separate ferries between Sheppey and the mainland, two for foot passengers and a larger one, Kings Ferry, for travellers with horses and luggage. The right to levy a toll on all strangers visiting the Island had been granted by Henry IV in 1401 to help with the upkeep of the road and ferry. Gradually this right changed to include all those who crossed and also included cattle, sheep and lambs, packhorses, carts and other vehicles. The toll was finally removed on June 30th 1929 and although not everyone approved this certainly led to an increase in visitors to Sheppey in summertime. The first permanent link was constructed on behalf of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company, so that a branch line from Sittingbourne to Sheerness could be laid. This was officially opened on June 19th 1860. Two railwaymen who lived in a house on the bank of the Swale had to see the trains across, maintain the structure and raise the middle span of the bridge, a moveable viaduct, by hand to allow craft free access along the Swale. Foot passengers were still rowed across the water by boatmen for many years after the opening of this bridge, partly because of the frequent breakdowns often caused by ships colliding with the structure.

By 1904 the bridge needed replacing, it had been unsafe to lift since 1901, and the railway company hoped to replace it with a fixed bridge but the Waterway Conservators would not contemplate that and another lifting bridge had to be built to keep the Swale open to shipping. The resulting Kingsferry Bridge was a bascule bridge, that is one that has the deck hinged around one horizontal axis with a counter balance working mechanism; this was

WHY MISS WORK ?
 Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Dryers, Cookers Etc.
ALL LEADING MAKES REPAIRED Monday to Saturday 7am to 9pm
BY SQUADMATIC
 Free call out—Free estimates
OFFICE 24hrs (01634) 373515 Mobile 07702 255105
CITY & GUILDS TRAINED ENGINEER Ex R.E.M.E.

**Plumbing
 T.R.T. & Heating**
DAVID TATTON Fully qualified engineer
 Installation • Maintenance • Service • Heating Systems
 Gas Fires • Bathrooms • All general plumbing
 • Power Flushing
 Corgi Registered No. 205861
01634 262659 Mob 07901 654306

originally operated by hand but later by electricity. Traffic rattled noisily across the wooden planks of the roadway and as this platform of the tin bridge lifted to an angle of 45 degrees when open it could be clearly seen from many view points in the area. One of my earliest memories of this bridge is whilst having a family picnic, it could have been at Motney Hill. We watched the bridge open to allow a boat to pass up to Ridham Dock. It was time to go home and my mother confidently announced we would wait just until the bridge went down. An hour later we gave in as the bridge remained defiantly open. It stayed like this for the next few days as it had once again been struck by the passing ship and could not drop down until major repairs had been completed. These incidents became more and more frequent as the bridge aged and by the late 1950s it was obvious that this was not an adequate solution for the people of Sheppey. In 1956, during my first year at Sittingbourne Grammar School, I remember the staff making hurried arrangements for the 'Island Girls' to go home with friends who lived on the mainland as once again the bridge was stuck. This all changed on 20th April 1960 when the 'new' Kingsferry Bridge was officially opened by HRH The Duchess of Kent. The object was to provide reliable access to the island but this bridge also had teething problems and had to close for repairs a couple of years later. The bridge, constructed by John Howard & Co. Ltd, was 650ft long and lifted the 450 tons road and rail section vertically by counterbalance mechanisms housed in the four towers. There is only one other bridge of this design in the world. A new road had been constructed across the marshes finally eliminating the ancient bends and turns of the old road which was said to have followed the ancient trackways created by animals following the driest route across the wetlands. The new bridge dwarfed the old bridge as may be seen in our front cover picture and as the railway had also been diverted across the new structure the old bridge was soon demolished.

Nearly fifty years on and this Kingsferry Bridge was no longer adequate for modern needs and so finally a fixed four lane crossing, two in each direction, has been built 20 metres above the Swale sweeping over and dominating the old ferry crossing. Work began in the Spring of 2004 and Transport Minister David Jamieson ceremoniously broke the ground using a mechanical digger for the foundation

**ARTEX TRAINED
 TEXTURER & DECORATOR**
CEILINGS - Repaired, Replaced, Coved
DECORATING - Internal / External
Established 1988
NEIL MACE 01634 376747
 19 Gayhurst Close
 Rainham 07792 244315

Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

In the Christian calendar, Rogation Days are the three days before Ascension Day which this year fell on May 25th. Rogation days were once marked by processions (also known as perambulations) around the boundaries of each parish and by the blessings of growing crops. These processions were known as 'Beating the bounds' and were once one of this country's most ancient customs. They were concerned with the preservation of parish boundaries and committing the memory of the younger generations to these boundaries.

Boundary markers were pointed out to the youngsters, typically by the church wardens and other elders of the village, with the use of long hazel wands and then the youngsters were symbolically beaten by the wands in order to aid their memories. One of the reasons for maintaining well marked and well known parish boundaries was to avoid disputes as to which parish was entitled to the tithes from a given piece of land.

Most English parishes and their boundaries were already old by Domesday. Many a parish boundary on modern Ordnance Survey maps exactly corresponds to ancient Anglo-Saxon records of perambulations. That was probably true of the parish of St Margaret's, Rainham, until fairly recently. St Margaret's has lost territory due to the building of the M2 motorway and the creation of the parishes of South Gillingham and Twydall.

In May I myself made a perambulation of the ancient boundaries of St Margaret's parish where they follow public roads or footpaths. Unfortunately, the only stretches have public access are part of Meresborough Road, the whole of South Bush Lane and part of Canterbury Lane, all of which form sections of the eastern boundary of the parish. I found no boundary stones or other likely markers such as pollarded trees. The many stretches of elm hedge that I came across suggested that English elm trees once grew extensively in the parish and it is likely that some were planted as boundary markers.

I am not sure whether the youngsters marshalled in the past by the St Margaret's church wardens would

have noticed the flowers and other plants that they would have passed. Any birds or mammals would, I think, have been scared away by the noisy procession. Sufficient to say that, at the time of my own perambulation, as also probably in the past, the wild flowers of the parish were predominantly white. They included cow parsley, greater stitchwort, white dead nettle, Jack by the hedge and dog daisy. In addition, hawthorn and horse chestnut trees were in blossom as well as domestic fruit trees such as cherry, plum, apple and pear.

In his 'Notes of the Birds of Rainham', published in 1894, Walter Prentis notes that grey partridge, spotted flycatcher, skylark, bullfinch, lesser spotted woodpecker and wryneck, among other birds, were common in the fields and orchards around Rainham. On my own tour of the fields and orchards, the most common bird I came across was the wood pigeon, which Prentis described as 'not numerous enough to be troublesome'.

As I progressed on my walk I thought about the various parts of the parish I had passed through in recent weeks. I wondered what crops the Vicar of Rainham would be able to bless these days and to what extent his parish could still claim to be part of the Garden of England. In the north west of the parish, between Lower Twydall Lane and Lower Bloors Lane, apples, pears, winter wheat, maize and asparagus are under cultivation. In the north east, apples and pears are grown in orchards alongside Otterham Quay Lane. In the east, in the area of Mierscourt Farm and Meresborough, there are apple and pear orchards, and fields of beans and winter wheat. Although there are remnants of cherry orchards scattered throughout the parish, particularly in the area of Lower Bloors Lane, the only cherry orchards which appear to be harvested commercially are at Mierscourt Farm and near the bottom of Meresborough Road.

Soft fruit appears to be no longer grown commercially in the parish of St Margaret's and I found no sheep grazing there. [Editor: we sometimes have sheep and lambs at Meresborough but they are peripatetic, so were probably elsewhere when Joe visited.] Although there are a number of old oast houses in the parish, the last remaining hops were grown in a field at the junction of Seymour Lane and

Canterbury Lane. If it is accepted that wood was once harvested by means of coppicing, then that is another harvest that is no longer carried out in the parish. Part of Yaugher Wood which was cut off by the building of the M2 motorway, remains in the parish, but its coppiced ash, sweet chestnut and hornbeam are well overgrown and neglected. I did, however, notice bluebells and early purple orchids during my visit there in May.

If one ignores that part of the parish that is under the waters of the Medway at high tide, about half of it is now built upon and about half of it remains open land. Visits over recent weeks have revealed that much of that open land is devoted to the grazing of horses and to the growing of hay for horses. Much also consists of derelict orchards, scrub land and formerly ploughed and cultivated fields which are now weed ridden. I fear that most of the parish no longer has the characteristic features we associate with the Garden of England.

Joe Ennis

NEW LOOK FOR ADULT LEARNING IN MEDWAY

Don't miss the exciting new programme offer for 2006/7 from Medway Adult Learning Service.

They will be issuing two course directories:

- Studying for a qualification
- Learning for pleasure – personal and community development learning

Copies will be available from the local adult learning centres and libraries from the end of June. Warning: the directories will look different – new size (square) and vibrant colours.

If you have any problems finding copies you can phone 01634 338400, after 20th June.

A PLAY AND A PICNIC IN THE PADDOCK

We now have details about Chalkfoot's production of *Alice in Wonderland* on Saturday 22nd July at 5.00pm in Upchurch Paddock.

Tickets will be available from Monday 12th June at 2b Crosier Court, Upchurch – Tel: 01634 231326 and 110 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch – Tel: 01634 235420

Prices: £6.50 adults, £5.50 concs, £4.50 children. Advance prices (until 16th July): £5 adults, £4 concs, £3 children.

Bring a picnic and something to sit on (chairs, rugs, etc) The gate will open at 4.00pm. See you on the 22nd July!

GORDON J. WHITING

House Clearance/Waste Removal
cooker, washing machine, three piece suite,
double beds, etc...
single items removed etc...

Tel: 01622 720010
Mobile: 07860 559459

Licensed by the KCC

PREMIER HEATING

Gas and Plumbing Services
Boiler Repairs
Central Heating Systems
Power Flushing
Landlord Safety Checks
General Plumbing
British Gas Trained

202200

Medway 235063
07801 967231

STEP-UP LOFT LADDERS

Looking for extra storage space?
Why not have a
quality loft ladder fitted
Choice of models to suit your needs
Also new loft hatches, loft flooring &
lighting fitted if required
Family run business

For a free quote please ring
01795 554042 or 07870 559172

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

☎ 01634 374502



**G E DRIVING
SCHOOL OF MOTORING**
Ged East D.S.A. A.D.I.



42 Sunningdale Drive
Rainham
Kent ME8 9EQ

GED EAST – D.S.A. APPROVED
Full hour lessons, Competitive rates.

BRIDGE LESSONS IN RAINHAM

Derek Bendle is offering his third season of 8 lessons commencing at 10.00am on Wednesday 4th October.

Subsequent Wednesday dates will be: Oct 11, Nov 1, 8, 22 and 29; Dec 13 and 20.

The venue, in Rainham, will be decided when numbers of students are known. As also will the cost; which will be affected by the venue. However, this will not exceed £6 per lesson, and could be less.

Some experience will be an advantage, but absolute beginners could receive some pre lessons to help them fit in. It is a great game to learn. Subsequently you will be able on a winter's afternoon to take tea with like minded folk.

Please contact Derek Bendle on 364531, leaving your name and telephone number on the ansaphone if necessary.

THE SHEPPEY CROSSING

From page 7

of the first bridge pier on 29th April 2004. Work on the £100m bridge part of the larger £300m improved M2/A249 road schemes is now almost finished and it is hoped will provide a very welcome boost for the economy of the Isle of Sheppey. Early in 2006 the Highways Agency announced a competition to name the new bridge. From 700 entries Mr Reginald Grimwade, aged 80 years and a life long resident of the island, at present living at Minster on Sea, was chosen as the winner with his suggestion of 'The Sheppey Crossing'. During the two years' construction period the progress of the new bridge has been eagerly watched by many. Of particular interest was the period in late 2005 when a jacking mechanism was used to push the steel skeleton of the road deck steadily into place from each end of the working site. Finally in October and November 2005 the last remaining sections of bridge deck from piers 7-8 and 15-17 were lifted into place and the new dual carriageway structure was complete. The 1960 Kingsferry Bridge will be maintained for use by British Rail as trains are unable to cope with the steep incline of the new fixed bridge. The bridge will also keep a road across for local traffic to use and new pathways and cycle tracks will be created for pedestrian and cyclist use, as for safety reasons they cannot use the new bridge. I wonder how long it will be before yet another bridge is needed.

Clean Break
You take the break - we'll do the cleaning

Domestic and Commercial Cleaning Services

Tel: 01634 234050

Mobile: 07802 872 782

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

Munn Academy of Dance

Pupils from age 2yrs to professional
Subjects include: Ballet, Tap, Modern, Gym,
Street Dance, Drama and Singing Tuition
Exams Shows Competitions Cabarets
Principal: Lesley Munn Fellow and Examiner I.D.T.A.
Medway 234168



CRYSTAL Curtain & Blind

Manufacturers

Quality Made to Measure Curtains - FREE Fitting
TRACKS - HOME CONSULTANCY SERVICE
Unit IB10, Elm Court, Capstone Road
Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JQ

Phone: 01634 817807 Nobody beats
Fax: 01634 408298 our prices
Mobile: 07904 587460
Email: crystal@cannon2.fsnet.co.uk

Verticals
Pleated
Rollers
Venetian
Specialist

Builders & Decorators

EXTENSIONS · GENERAL REPAIRS
PLASTERING & ARTEXING
REPLACEMENT UPVC WINDOWS

Telephone: Medway 235383
177 Wakeley Road-Rainham-Kent-ME8 8NJ

DAVID WHITE BOILER CARE

- Full Corgi Registration
 - All Boiler Servicing & Maintenance undertaken, New Systems Fitted
 - Landlord Gas Safety Reports
 - Fires, Cookers, Hobs Fitted & Serviced
 - 24hr Emergency Service with NO CALL OUT FEE
- Medway 376929**
Engineer 07956 630003

CASTLE PLASTERING SERVICES

For All aspects of plastering
Plastering over Artex a speciality
Estimates Free

Colin Hebditch

Tel: 01634 389675
Mobile: 07721 365630
MEMBER OF MEDWAY FAIR TRADER

IT'S SHOE BIZ

HIGH FASHION DESIGNER LADIES SHOES AND BOOTS
HANDBAGS AND JEWELLERY
Open 9am till 5.30pm Mon to Sat
Tel 01634 360060
37 Rainham Shopping Centre
Rainham, Gillingham



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 - 36 High Street, Rainham

NICK EASTER - CARPENTER

Kitchen design and fitting
Bathrooms - Doors - Artexing - Decking
Decorating - Fitted Wardrobes - Plastering.
All work guaranteed ~ For a free estimate:
01634 260874 mob 07778 380285
91 Elmstone Road, Rainham

DA CONSTRUCTION

CARPENTRY & JOINERY
SPECIALIST
EXTENSIONS LOFT
CONVERSIONS
GENERAL COMMERCIAL/
DOMESTIC MAINTENANCE
City & Guilds / Institute of Carpenters
TOP QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE
RATES
MR ARCHER - Tel: 01634 389604
Mobile 07961 839328

MEDWAY TREE SURGEONS

A qualified & insured service



All aspects of
tree work
incl stump grinding
Free quotations

Joel Sims

110 Birch Grove, Hempstead ME7 3RG
01634 669949 Mob 07899 995798

Diary 2006

June 21st - Medway Camcorder Club. Showing of 'Film of the Year'. (see 7th June)
June 21st to 24th - The Kentish Players present 'My Fair Lady', Central Theatre, Chatham. 7.30pm (Sat matinee 2.30pm). Tickets £8 to £11 from 01634 406271 or 400169.
June 22nd - Rainham and Wigmore Retired Civil Servants. (see 8th June)
June 22nd - Wigmore Thursday Club. Travel - Kim Evans, Premier Travel Agency. (see 8th June)
June 22nd & 24th - Wigmore MADS present a Summer Concert 'SWINGING INTO ROMANCE' 8.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Box Office 370639.
June 22nd - Kent Family History Society. Medway Trip to Family Records Centre. 9.00am to 1.00pm, Medway Archives, Civic Centre, Strood. Further information telephone 01634 722959. Email picketywitch@blueyonder.co.uk
June 22nd - Countryside Event: Know your weeds. Ranscombe Farm, donation to Plantlife £5. For details and booking ring 07849 926239.
June 24th - 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group, Indoor Boot Fair, St George's Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. 10.00 to 2.00pm. 50p adults, children free, refreshments available.
June 24th - St Peter's Church, Bredhurst, Summer Fete. 2.00pm at the Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst. Wide variety of stalls and children's races and games, charity shop next door open from 1.30pm for many bargains. Ring 235253 for details
June 24th - Fairview Community Primary School, June Fair. 1.30pm, admission 30p, pre-school free. Inflatables, games, crafts, tombolas, refreshments and more. A great fun afternoon for the family. More details 379043.
June 24th - 'Come as you are'. 4.00 to 5.00pm. (see 10th June)



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



PREMIER TRAVEL

For all your travel requirements
Discounted flights, car hire, and accommodation.
We can tailor make your holiday
Florida villas from £300pw
Call Kim or Nicky on 01634 352143
Or call into 25 Station Rd Rainham K1680

June 24th - Friends of Wisdom Hospice Grand Summer Ball, Priestfield Banqueting Suite, Gillingham Football Club. 7.30pm.
From £45 per person. Ring 831163.
June 24th - Medway Folk Dance Club. (see 10th June)
June 25th - Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet 10.00am, Frittenden Park. 5 mile walk. Contact no. 01622 710569.
June 25th - Countryside Event: Farmland and woods of Ranscombe Farm. Free, for further details and booking ring 07849 926239.
June 25th - Joan and Fred Jepson Open Garden for Macmillan Cancer Relief, 2.00 to 5.00pm, 25 Hanover Drive, Wigmore. Admission £2.
June 25th - Holywell Primary School Summer Fete, Forge Lane, Upchurch, from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Come along for fun for all the family with a 'World Cup 2006' football theme and a chance to win a Gillingham FC signed football.
June 25th - Countryside Event: Riverside Country Fair. 12 noon to 5.00pm. Fun for all the family. £1 admission. Ring 378987 for details.
June 26th - Rainham Wives. 'Books, books, books!'. Sharing favourites. (see 5th June)
June 26th - Scallywags Parent, Toddler and Babies, craft activity. 1.15 to 2.45pm. Details from 376270.
June 27th - Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. (see 13th June)
June 29th - Wigmore Thursday Club. Service and Singalong. (see 8th June)
June 29th - Rainham & District Dollhouse & Miniaturists Group. 7.30 to 10.00pm, St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, London Road, Rainham. More information from Sylvia 235760.
July 1st - Medway Fossil and Mineral Society Fair, Upstairs Community Hall, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Adults 80p children 40p. Ring 01634 232382 for details.

Continued on page 13

MEDWAY PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING LTD

City & Guilds 2377 trained staff
Latest Test Equipment used - Sub-contract Testing undertaken
Factories, hotels, shops, care homes, offices, etc.
Please contact us for free survey, quotation or further information
Tel/Fax: 01634 388966 Mobile: 07817 671802
Email: info@medwaypattesting.co.uk
Web: www.medwaypattesting.co.uk

Y & L DECORATORS

Complete Painting & Decorating Service
Interior / Exterior
Paperhanging, Specialising in Hall, Stairs and Landing

For Your Free No Obligation Quote

12 De Mere Close, Rainham
01634 261913 Mobile 07900 190564

B D L GAS SERVICES LTD
 191 Station Road, Rainham, Kent
01634 232048 www.bdlgasservices.co.uk
*Visit your local gas showroom
 for all your Gas Appliance needs*
 Cookers, Fires, Surrounds
 Fires on Live! and all installation work



Corgi
 reg.no.
 120326

Net Connect
 Computer Services

www.net-connect-it.co.uk

Tel: (01634) 324023

Mobile: 07952 147405

For all your Computer Requirements

- Hardware • Networking • Software Development
- MS Office Specialist • Web Development

Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Solutions
 Developer and MS Office Certified Specialist

S.B. BRICKWORK LTD

BRICKWORK SPECIALISTS AND
 GENERAL BUILDERS

Free Estimates and Advice

All types of work undertaken

Telephone: 01634 263416

YOUR LOCAL RELIABLE BUILDER

D.A.Price Services (Est.1984)

Tel: 01634 233709/01795 842644

Mobile: 07860 733 980

GENERAL HOUSE MAINTENANCE
 INTERIOR and EXTERIOR



Household/shop Maintenance and Repairs
 Decorating - Coving - Carpentry -

Fence Erection - Plumbing - Bathrooms Fitted - Odd jobs

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

**LINDSAY
 & COMPANY**
 TREE SURGEONS

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

**J.B.
 Plasterer & Decorator**

20 years' experience - Free quotation

All works guaranteed

Phone Jim: 01634 863497

Mobile: 07779987633

Grigson Ceramics

Specialists in Walls, Floors
 Slate, Terracotta and Mosaics

Supplied and Fixed
 or labour only

01634 235714

AGS CERAMICS & BATHROOMS

- ♦ Walls, Floors, Mosaic, Natural Stone etc.
- ♦ Wood & Laminate Floors Fitted
- ♦ Complete Bathroom Refurbishment

Telephone: 07816 472668

Answerphone: 01634 232266

Paul Dexter



FASCIA PLASTICS
 FASCIAS - SOFFITS - BARGEBOARDS - CLADDING - GUTTERING

Where Quality Counts!
 Removal of Old Timber
 Maintenance Free Exteriors
 Full Ventilation with Bird Guard
01634 321202
 243 Edwin Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 0JL

CARPENTER & JOINER

For all aspects of carpentry work
 Domestic and commercial
 Including doors, lofts, staircases, skirting,
 partitioning & ceilings.

For free estimates call Barry on
 07957 415515 or 01634 327243

JAMES & BECKETT

Solicitors

MATRIMONIAL

Nadia Beckett

WILLS & PROBATE

Hilary Laundon

27 High Street Rainham

01634 263774

M & D DECKING

DECKING AND GARDENING SERVICES

Prompt and reliable service offered

Paths, weeding, hedge trimming, general
 Tidying & clearing.

Rainham based, ring me for a free quote.

Mick Eardley ... 01634 264266



Diary 2006

July 1st - 'Come as you are'. 4.00 to 5.00pm.
 (see 10th June)

July 2nd - Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet
 10.00am, Queendown Warren. 5 mile walk.

No dogs. Contact no. 01634 317948.

July 3rd - Rainham Wives. Local Walk.

July 4th - GHS Floral Art Group. 'BELLA FLORA'

- an Italian Mass arrangement. (see 6th June)

July 4th - Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet
 7.00pm, Lower Halstow Park. 4.5 mile walk.

Contact no. 01634 865583.

July 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society.

Dr John Hughes. (see 7th June)

July 5th - Rainham Horticultural Club. 7.30pm,

Cricket Club Hall, Berengrave Lane. New

members welcome. Ring 231972 for details.

Talk: Dr John Hughes, Alpines of Chile.

July 6th - Wigmore Thursday Club. Osteoporosis -

PMK SOLUTIONS

INTERIOR, EXTERIOR PAINTER & DECORATOR

Free estimates and friendly advice

Phone/fax 01634 262864

or 07851 718867



SB PLASTERING

All aspects of plastering, rendering,
 pebble dashing, screeding and
 skimming undertaken.

For free estimates call Scott on
 01634 306995 or 07855 149612

PH INTERIORS

THE START TO FINISH CARPENTRY ~ DECORATING
 AND HOME ALTERATION SERVICE

For a reliable and professional tradesman

Call 01634 327019 - Philip Hobbs

15 Hallwood Close, Rainham, Kent

Mobile 07798 647747

HOUSEMARTINS

Established 16 years

Our staff are experienced, reliable, and fully insured to carry out the
 following: HOUSEWORK, COOKING, SHOPPING, LAUNDRY,

IRONING. Collecting PRESCRIPTIONS etc. We also offer

OFFICE CLEANING, 1-off SPRING CLEAN and "BLITZ"

Call Pamela for further details.

MEDWAY 366528

Talk by Special Nurse Gwen Worcester.

July 6th - Gillingham Flower Arrangers. Teaching
 Evening. 7.30pm, St Barbara's (Garrison) Church,
 Mansion Row, Brompton.

July 6th - Chatham Grammar School for Girls.

PFA Pamper Evening. 7.00pm in the school hall.

Manicures, Facials, Spray Tanning, Reflexology,

July 8th - Instep Dancing. Social Dance, Rainham

School for Girls, Derwent Way. Ballroom, Latin,

Sequence. 8.00 to 11.00pm.

July 8th - Riverside Primary School, St Edmund's

Way, Rainham. Summer Fair. 10.00am to

12.30pm, 50p entry under 12s free. Craft stalls,

games, bouncy castle, archery, plus more, fun for

all the family. Ring 301567 for details.

July 8th - 'Come as you are'. 2.00 to 3.45pm.

(see 10th June)

July 8th - Countryside Event: Berengrave Walk,

10.00am to 12 noon, Berengrave Nature Reserve.

£2.20 per person, ring 378987 to book.

July 9th - Medway Towns Footpath Group. Meet

2.00pm, Lower Upnor car park. 5.5 mile walk.

No dogs. Contact no. 01634 374923.

July 9th - Countryside Event: Kite Making, Capstone

Farm Country Park. Suitable for 5-12 years, £2.50

per child (must be accompanied by an adult).

Ring 812196 to book.

July 11th - Medway Antique & Collectors Club.

Introduction to Sir Edwin Lutyens.

(see 13th June)

STUMPMASTERS

Professional Tree Care

All tree work undertaken. Stump grinding specialists

Local Authority Approved. Medway Fair Trader Member

Free quotes and advice. Fully qualified & insured.

LOGS FOR SALE

01634 361472 or 07789 632438

V.E. WHITE & CO.

Solicitors

10 Parkwood Green, Rainham, Kent ME8 9PN

Medway (01634) 376555

For a complete legal service

Contact us or pop in for a competitive quote

Saturday/evening appointments may be available

ORCHARD WINDOWS

Manufacturers & Installers of Quality PCV Products

TRADE - DIY - GLASS UNITS

Windows - Patio Doors - French Doors

Stable Doors - Conservatories - Porches

6 ORCHARD STREET, RAINHAM

MEDWAY 261757

Small Ads

Published: July 1st
Copy date: June 19th
Price: £2.00 per line
 Average 4 words to a line
 Box Ads: £25.00 per month
 £69.00 3 months paid in advance

Please contact H. Mackay Miller,
 5 Meresborough Cottages,
 Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP
 or Rainham Bookshop.

CARPENTER EST 30 YEARS
 Property maintenance including doors,
 windows, flooring, roofing, general
 building/lofts/extensions. 01634 230821
 or 07950 802370.

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

DENTIST: RUTH LINDSAY,
 BDS. Home visits for elderly
 housebound. Dentures made and
 repaired. Free of charge for people
 receiving guaranteed pension credit.
 Tel. 842566 (surgery hours).

RAINHAM CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP. Sunday Services
 10.30am and 6.30pm at Begonia Avenue
 Church, Twyddall.
 Further details from Jim
 Crompton, 01634 302631.

BRISTLES Painters & Decorators
 City & Guilds qualified. Contact
 Lorna 01634 683605 or Barbara
 01622 682736 or mobile 0777 986
 3977.

M&R GARDEN SERVICES
 01634 267387 Mob 0781865 6733.

Chiropodist J. Judge M.InstCh.P.
 Home Visits - Clinic. Corns, Calluses,
 Ingrowing Nails. Med 361720.

DISCO - professional entertainment
 for any occasion. 'The Black Pepper
 Roadshow. Jim Lindsay 375552.

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY
 Centre, Wigmore - excellent
 modernised centre with main hall and
 meeting rooms available for hire at
 competitive rates. Full disabled
 access, hearing aid loop, excellent
 kitchen. To book phone 01634 374463
 or 233478.

KENT MAINTENANCE Services
 Any property maintenance undertaken
 Please call Scott Furnell on
 01634 375219 or 07834 340269.

CARPETS, VINYL & DESIGNER
 FLOORING. Your local specialist in
 domestic and commercial flooring.
 Home Selection Service, M.A. Murr
 & Sons, 30 Broomcroft Road,
 Rainham, Kent. Tel 01634 263235
 Mob 07973 637855.

LES GENERAL BUILDER
 All building work. Repointing, Patios,
 Drives, Walls, Garages. No job too
 small. Free estimates. Phone Les on
 01634 264388.

LANDSCAPE & PROPERTY
 Maintenance, Tree & Conifer Surgery,
 Felling, Lopping, Topping, Hedge
 Cutting, Sheds, Garages, Gardens
 Cleared, Sheds Repaired and Refelted,
 all types Fencing. No Job too Small.
 Free advice and estimates for a first
 class job. Friendly, professional
 service. Call Colin: 01634 261749,
 07970 759404.

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.

PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP, Parkwood Green.
 Sunday Morning Service is at
 10.30am to 12 noon. For any other
 details about the Fellowship and its
 activities, please contact Richard
 Hayton, 01634 235799.

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.

STUMP GRINDING & TREE
 SURGERY. Roger Alsey
 01634 376776 (Wigmore)

HEMPSTEAD PAVILION
 PLAYGROUP. Places available for
 2½-5 years. OFSTED registered/
 inspected. Qualified staff. Phone
 Medway 234718 (9-12), 316315
 (eves). Registered Charity No.
 1077736.

GENERAL GARDEN
 Maintenance. Grass mowing, hedge
 cutting, weeding & tidying. Friendly
 service. 01634 378763.

LEAKING TAPS RE-SEATED
 Loft & toilet overflows repaired.
 01634 262912 Mob 07790 496387.

PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN
 FELLOWSHIP PRE-SCHOOL
 For children from 2½ to 5 years.
 Enquiries please phone 01634 366574.

OSBORNE HOME & GARDEN
 All aspects of property improvements
 & maintenance work undertaken. We
 also provide a handyman service for
 those smaller jobs that you never get
 around to. Just call Tony on 01634
 575491 or (mob) 0770 928 9665

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

BOILER-TECH SERVICES
 Heating, Plumbing
 Boiler servicing & repairs
 Gas fires, cooker repairs
 LPG and oil. All work guaranteed
 Special rates for OAP
 CORGI REGISTERED No. 13480
 Tel No. 01634 230468
 Mobile 07770 784877.

PROMPT HEATING & PLUMBING
 45 years' experience.
 Tel John 01634 578732 or
 Mobile 07821 763582.

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL
 Ideal for Weddings, Parties and
 Meetings. Facilities for the
 Disabled. Attractive Setting -
 Ample car parking.
 To book phone 01634 364859.

RUBBISH CLEARANCE
 Grass cutting. Graves tidied and
 maintained.
 Scrap metal taken.
 No job too small.
 Ring Debbie on 07836 585911.

D.I.S.C.O. - ANY OCCASION
 Reliable - Professional - Reasonable.
 Dave Allan - Mob 07732 704521 or
 01634 372061.

MEDWAY MOBILE CYCLE
 REPAIRS. Free collection & return.
 Call Ray (previously of C&S Bikes)
 on Medway 314631.

T.J. BUILDERS
 Interior Decorating, Plastering
 and much more.
 External work: Painting, Guttering,
 Fascias, Rendering, etc.
 01634 581072 Mob 07968 852558.

JAMIE MAY UPHOLSTERY
 High quality traditional and modern
 upholstery. All types of upholstery and
 repair work undertaken.
 Tel: 01795 424457 Mob 07838 219342.

BOUNCY CASTLE & GIANT
 GAME HIRE. For bookings and
 enquiries phone the Castle Crew on
 01634 388049 or mob 07913 926752.

FOR STANNAH STAIRLIFTS
 reconditioned and new Thyssen Stairlifts
 for straight or curved stairs. Tel
 Mr Derek Organ on 01634 374524 or
 07850 262 156 for a free estimate.

BRICKWORK
 Extensions, Conservatory Bases,
 Patios, Drives, General Maintenance.
 Rob 01634 572613/07939 666035.

JOHN INNES SEED & POTTING
 compost always available. 20 kilo bag
 £2.60. Also 300 litre Grower Bales of
 Peat £9.50. Meresborough Nursery.
 Medway 231639.

MATHEMATICS TUITION
 GCSE and A Level
 By experienced tutor - B.sc.Hons,
 A level marking experience.
 Telephone Medway 233374

TRUGREEN LAWN CARE
 Your lawn means more!
 Fertilisation, weed and moss control.
 Aeration, Scarification.
 For a free analysis and quote
 Phone Andy 01634 360429

LAWNMOWER SERVICE
 Sharpening and Repairs. 01634 361217.

AJ ROSS ELECTRICAL
 21 years exp. Work carried out to
 current regs. Extra sockets to full
 rewires. Call Andy on 07766 457999
 or 01634 372411. 11 Farnham Close,
 Rainham ME8 8NS.

SCRAPBOOK SISTERS
 For all your scrapbooking & cardmaking
 needs. 1B Norreys Road, Rainham.
 01634 366355 or
 www.scrapbooksisters.co.uk

TUITION FOR YEARS 3 to 11
 * 11+ Preparation and Practice
 * Key Stage 2 and 3
 * GCSE Maths, English and Science
 * Educational support & guided revision
 Contact 01634 310653.

STEJEN COMPUTER SERVICES
 Repairs, upgrades, troubleshooting.
 No fix, no fee.
 City & Guilds qualified engineer. Phone
 Steven 01634 302624 Mob 07775 793738

C & N ROOFING. All roofing
 and roofing repairs. Local friendly
 service. Free estimates. 01634 234194 or
 07971 968971.

LAMINATE FLOORING FITTED
 Friendly, reliable and tidy!
 No job too small.
 Call Lyndsey on 07786 990813.

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
 Phone Jane on 07973 370296.
 Specialising in cutting & blow-drying.

HI-FI REPAIR SERVICE
 From basic stereos to high-end. Also
 modifications. Call Tom 01634 370919.

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES
 Accounts, VAT, Tax Returns,
 Payroll. If you have a problem
 just give us a call. We come to you
 and the first consultation is free.
 Phone Michael on 01634 328537.

BLINDS FOR THE HOME &
 OFFICE. All types of blinds - massive
 choice. Free home survey & quotation.
 01634 322222.

PJ PLUMBING
 Bathroom suites, tiling, general
 plumbing. Med 388342/07913 012848.

SPAIN VILLA, Costa Blanca
 3 bed, 2 bath, air con, Sky TV,
 com pool, close beach. From £250pw.
 Tel: 01634 300804

RALPH'S BARN DANCE
 Call 01634 375481

TOTAL TILING
 Kitchens & Bathrooms. Walls & Floors.
 Call Pat on 07984 817409.

PONDS VACUUM CLEANED,
 cleared & maintained. 01634 360708.

MAKING MOVIES 4U
 For your occasion or documentary.
 Creative - Different - Competitive.
 Call 01634 360401/371570
 www.videofour.co.uk.

PRESSED FOR TIME
 Pet and smoke free environment for
 ironing services. Call Sandra on
 01795 842097 or 07811 606988

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
 All gardening work undertaken. Grass
 cutting, hedge cutting, tree work,
 fencing, Patios, decking, design & build
 available. 01634 364985 07930 183466.

BROKEN DENTURES
 Collected - Repaired - Delivered.
 Call 01634 387824.

SALTER-McLEAN & CO.
 A long-established accountancy practice
 offering an efficient and personal service
 to all types of business as well as
 assistance with personal tax problems
 and returns. For a free initial consultation
 Tel: Medway (01634) 313866.

FOOT CARE. HOME VISITS
 Registered foot health practitioner.
 Samantha Newton. 01634 371626

SPARKLES PARTIES. GIRLS'
 Makeovers. Create Jewellery, Makeup,
 hairstyles, Karaoke, Goodybags.
 Adaptable! 376270.

CALLIGRAPHY WRITING
 for all occasions - weddings, parties etc.
 Phone Karna on 01622 632643.

FLORIDA VILLA, 10 mins Disney
 5 bed, 3bath, pool & spa,
 Games room, lakeside. From £600 pw.
 Tel 01634 300804

THE HIDEAWAY NURSERY
 Trees, shrubs, climbers, roses,
 perennials, bedding, hanging baskets.
 Pots & compost etc. Garden design,
 landscaping & maintenance service. 105
 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch. 01634 231693.
 www.thehideawaynursery.co.uk

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR, AD1 Pass
 Plus. Experienced. Reliable. £18 hr,
 £170 for 10 prepaid. Gift vouchers avail.
 www.jigsawdrivingschool.co.uk
 Tel 01634 378018 or 07930 957859

THE VILLAGE PLUMBER
 For all your plumbing needs.
 City & Guilds qualified. IPHE member.
 Matthew Woods. Tel 07913 146272
 01795 423361

LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS
 Every Tuesday afternoon 1-2.30 pm.
 No need to book. Bredhurst Village Hall,
 Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst.
 www.latinfeverdance.co.uk
 Tel 07985 448945

PIANO/KEYBOARD LESSONS
 Relaxed and Reasonable.
 Pam Ormiston 01634 365789.

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR A.D.I.
 Hourly lessons, Pass Plus or intensive
 training. £18 hr - £170 for 10 prepaid.
 Reliable and patient. 01634 264915 or
 07979 501477

LOCKSMITH - call Loyal Locks
 for a trusted locksmith and carpentry
 service for all your doors and windows.
 UPVC/timber. Tel 07986 464970.

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE AND
 Karatecise. Learn to protect yourself and
 keep fit. Nice friendly atmosphere,
 beginners welcome. Hempstead Village
 Hall Thursdays 7.30-9.00 pm.
 Tel 01634 264915 or just come along

SAXOPHONE AND CLARINET
 LESSONS. From Licensed KCC
 teacher. Instruments available for hire.
 Call John Berreen A.L.C.M., L.L.C.M.
 Medway 234317.

PAMPERED AND POLISHED
 Mobile Manicures and Pedicures.
 Waxing: home based but ring for mobile
 treatments. Mandy 01634 370697 or
 07849 276057

VIOLIN, CLARINET &
 Saxophone tuition. Qualified teacher,
 reasonable rates.
 Phone Roy Hunt 01634 366656.

INTERIOR DECORATOR.
 Quality guaranteed.
 Tel Jim Jefferys 01634 378157
 for a free no obligation estimate.

JENNY CLAIRVOYANT. TAROT
 Readings. Over 20 years experience
 offering insightful tarot readings guiding
 you through your present and into your
 future. Call Jenny on 01634 310624 to
 arrange your private consultation.

BLOOMING GARDEN Maintenance
 All gardening work undertaken: Hedge
 cutting, Pruning, Creosoting, Bush
 clearance. Phone Paul 01634 260171
 Mob 07941 907124

PC TROUBLESHOOTERS
 Solving all your computer problems.
 Tel 362294

REIDECE PAINTER & Decorator
 All aspects undertaken. Qualified City &
 Guilds. Free estimates. Tel 079572
 48495 or 01634 361418

JOBS AROUND THE HOUSE
 Painting, decorating, laminate flooring,
 tiling etc. Reliable & Trustworthy. No
 job too small. Mick 01634 234610
 Mobile 0794 128 6451

MOBILE BOOK-KEEPING Services
 Computerised and Manual
 VAT returns and Training
 Zoe McCrow 01634 370176

BEGINNERS ART LESSONS
 Techniques, demos, projects,
 slide shows & refreshments.
 Reasonable & friendly classes.
 Rainham, Weds 7-9.30pm.
 Bookings & info 01634 309822

JOHN STYLES FLAT ROOFING

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

RAINHAM BOOKSHOP

Saturday 10th June
GRAND RE-OPENING

Music from "Tapestry"
11.45am to 1.45pm

****Storytelling for children at 3pm****

Come & join in the fun !!

17-25 Station Rd. Rainham Tel: 01634 371591



**Hallett's
Plumbing &
Heating**
EST. 1983

Chris Hallett

CENTRAL HEATING,
Boiler Servicing, Breakdowns & Luxury Bathrooms
47 Lakewood Drive, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0NS
01634 370697 07711 362898



Reg. No. 200272

Est. 1971



**DAVE MOON
ROOFING**

REPAIRS, GUTTERING, VERTICAL TILING, FLAT ROOFS, NEW ROOFS

For free estimates telephone: **01634 375069**
No Job too LARGE or SMALL - We do them "all"

B. HAYFIELD & SONS

Builders
Established 1971
All Building / Maintenance Work
Carpentry & Painting
Roofing & Plumbing
Medway 234072

FAIRVIEW ESTATE AGENTS

157 Fairview Avenue, Wigmore, Rainham, Kent. ME8 0PX
'The answer to all your property needs'
*RESIDENTIAL SALES *LETTINGS
*PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
CONTACT MICHAEL TURNER FOR DETAILS
TELEPHONE: 01634 377825



ROOTS

Kitchens Bedrooms Bathrooms

Fitted Furniture and
Appliances. Design,
Supply & Install
or Supply Only

Vine Farm, Stockers Hill, Boughton-under-Blean,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AB
Tel: 01227 751130 www.rootskitchens.co.uk

The Finance Centre (Rainham)
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER
6 Cranford House, 24a Longley Road, Rainham, Kent. ME8 7RU
Tel: 01634 370009 Fax: 01634 361166 Mobile: 07961 334561
Email: barry@thefinancecentre.fsbusiness.co.uk
Barry James MLIA(dip) CeMAP
A member of positivesolutions which is regulated
by the Financial Services Authority

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

130-132 High Street
Rainham
Kent ME8 8AR

01634 855558

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

01634 408777

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

01634 386999

31 Parkwood Green
Parkwood
Kent ME8 9PW

