

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2007

NUMBER 423



The late 15th century timber framed Open Hall House in Lower Rainham. One of the buildings that will feature in Joe Ennis's talk, in aid of the Heritage Fund, 'Buildings of Rainham from Medieval to Modern' on September 27th at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church.

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## Editorial

Three words are sufficient to sum up our annual Guide Camp during the half term holiday; cold, wet and windy. Despite this everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and we were better off than some – we did have a good solid hut to retreat to when it was really bad. As I listened on the car radio to the weather forecast for bank holiday Monday my heart sank, 'It is going to feel more like January than May. A maximum temperature of eleven degrees with rain and strong winds' the weather-man happily announced – we were booked to go kayaking on Weir Wood reservoir! Two years ago the water was so low in the reservoir it was quite a trek across the dried up bottom dragging the canoes. Now the water was lapping onto the grass (or mud). Given the choice eleven intrepid campers opted to go on the water, so dressed in a strange variety of old T shirts and waterproofs topped off with life jackets they took to the waves. Actually the wind luckily failed to materialise until later in the day so they just had cold and wet to enjoy. The air was so cold they assured us (note the adults did not volunteer to canoe) the water felt warm! Certainly the mud on the banks must have done as they managed to slip and slide and plaster themselves with it. It was an experience, one of those they will be able to recount at future camps together with the hurricane and the time the tents were flooded. As fickle as the weather is in May by the end of the week it was hot and sunny so we were able to bring everything home clean and dry ready for next year. At least our girls had some good days to remember. We felt very sorry for the many weekend camps, celebrating the centenary of Scouting held at that time, they had nothing but cold rain to experience.

On the premise that it can only get better many outdoor activities have been planned for July. These include Garden Parties, a favourite of Barnardo's and several churches, outdoor plays and concerts, and of course all the school Fairs and Fetes. If you prefer the security of a roof over your head perhaps the Come and Sing Haydn's Creation event on July 22nd may appeal. Due to my rather erratic editing last month I unfortunately managed to omit the telephone numbers for booking tickets from the article about the Upchurch Music Festival. This is taking place right at the beginning of July as we are published and should

anyone still need them the numbers to call are 01634 23576, 361557 or 374220. I do hope everyone managed to obtain the tickets they required and the festival is its usual success.

Our front cover picture this month is a recent photograph of the 15th century timber framed hall house in Lower Rainham. This ties in rather nicely with two items included in our pages. Joe Ennis is preparing another of his popular talks in aid of the Heritage Fund. This will take place on September 27th with the working title of 'Buildings of the Parish of St Margaret's from Medieval to Modern'. A date to reserve in your diary. We also include the final part of Stan Randall's series 'A Year in the Life of a Fruit Farmer'. As many of you will know his family have a long history as fruit growers in Lower Rainham. This month he details the pleasure and worries of the culmination of each years work – the harvest.

As always there is plenty to choose from in our Diary listings so do read on and select the items that appeal to you. Have a good month, make the most of the sunshine – when it appears – and we will see you again in August.

## Correspondence

### FAMILY REUNION

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see the front page picture of my brother, Bert Best, in your recent issue, as a five-year-old schoolboy in his class room, with his mate Charlie Goodwin. The outcome of your publication proved to be something of a miracle to us, as a family, as it was seen by our cousin whom we had not been in contact with for more than sixty years.

She left the Medway area to live in Hull, and is now living at Signal Court, Rainham, which is just around the corner from Hothfield Road where I live – and I did not know!

My cousin and I shared the same name in our youthful days, she and I were Lilian Best, and we had brothers named George Best! Our dads were brothers and must have been very close to have named two of their children the same.

My cousin Lilian will celebrate her 89th birthday in May '07 and I reach my 90th in June '07.

Many thanks to Forum for our family reunion.

Lilian Morris,  
3 Hothfield Road,  
Rainham.

### 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 14th July, 10am to 2pm. Please come along, entry is 50p for adults, children free and refreshments will be on sale.

Yours sincerely,  
Cathy Burns (Mrs)  
Group Secretary

### FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

Dear Editor,

The Friends of St Margaret's Church will be holding their AGM in church at 4.00pm on Saturday 21st July followed by afternoon tea. All members and would-be friends are welcome. Our Garden Party will be held on Saturday 28th July at 37 Edwin Road, Rainham, from 12.00 until 5.00pm. Admission at £3.50 will include a salad meal plus dessert. In addition to the usual Raffle and Bring & Buy plus quiz there will be several craft stalls. Everyone is welcome (but please bring a garden chair if possible).

Kay Jarvis  
(Friends Committee)  
Tel. 01634 230430

### SUMMER FAYRE

Dear Editor,

Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood, will be holding its Summer Fayre on Saturday 14th July, 12 to 3.00pm. Bouncy Castle, Nipper Karts, plus many more activities. BBQ, hot and cold refreshments, homemade cakes. Raffle - 1st prize Italian food and wine hamper. Many more prizes to be won. Entrance 50p adults, 20p children, pre-school free. Open to all. See you there.

Regards  
Deanwood PTA

### MILESTONE IN RAINHAM HIGH STREET

Dear Editor,

I will be giving an illustrated talk, in St Margaret's Church, on Thursday 27th September. It will be about the buildings of the parish as a whole, from medieval to modern.

I want to mention, in that talk, the fate of the milestone which once stood adjacent to the forecourt of Lloyds TSB Bank on the High Street.

If anyone, therefore, knows the circumstances of this milestone's disappearance, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Yours sincerely,  
Joe Ennis  
2B Asquith Road  
01634 235182

### GARDEN PARTY

Dear Editor

Marilyn Soffe is holding her annual garden party in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on 14th July 2007 from 1.30 - 4.00 p.m. The venue this year is the

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garden of St. Matthew's Church (or in the church hall if wet), Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Marilyn's music pupils will provide entertainment. Refreshments, preserves, cakes, books, games etc. will be on sale. Entrance is £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. Do come along and help us to raise funds towards the new Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Many thanks,  
Jean Mardel

### FORGET ME KNOT by David Tristram

Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham  
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Box Office on 01634 233660  
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Robert Zeinfeld is found wandering the streets of Leicester at 4am with total amnesia. Is it just an elaborate cover-up for something else? A suspicious detective tries to get to the bottom of the mystery but the deeper he digs the more confused he gets. Beryl Lacey directs this cleverly written comedy that will guarantee to bring a smile to your face.

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# Diary 2007

No charge is made for Diary entries

Copy should be in writing either by email to [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or 5 Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 17th July

July 3rd – 8th – Upchurch Music Festival ring 233576, 361557 or 374220 for details and tickets.  
 July 7th – Fort Pitt Old Girls Association Reunion. Meet up with your friends, please contact Marion for further details on 01795 599378 evenings/weekends or visit [www.fpoga.ik.com](http://www.fpoga.ik.com)  
 July 7th – Countryside Event, Capstone Farm Fishing teaching, 9.00am – 12noon Children aged 8 – 12 years, £6.50 per child ring 812196 to book.  
 July 7th – Countryside Event, Mystery ramble Riverside Country Park, 10.00am – 12 noon £2.50 per person ring 378987 to book.  
 July 8th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Teynham near station, 6 miles, dogs on leads, ring 01795 535941 for details.  
 July 9th – Countryside Event – After-school nature club, Riverside Country Park 4.00 – 4.45pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £1 per child, ring 378987 to book.  
 July 9th – Rainham Wives. Visit to 'Kent Kids' in Canterbury, ring 230639 for details.  
 July 10th – Fuchsias & Pelargoniums, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Mini-Show & Phil Pretty Nature Quiz.  
 July 10th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club, Mr Gordon Allan – Upstairs Downstairs - Memories of Jewellery designed in Bond Street 7.30 for 8.00pm St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham. Visitors welcome £2.50 per visit, ring 365861 for details.  
 July 11th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group. 1.30 – 4.30pm The Millennium Centre, Rainham. Further information from 361024.  
 July 11th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm, Village Hall. Dorothy Gray – A light hearted look at the W.I. Competition: Souvenir of a foreign country, ring 232617 for details.

July 11th – Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.  
 July 11th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall. Dem & Dine by ticket only ring 374448 or 01622 884657 for details.  
 July 12th – Wigmore Thursday Club, 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Bingo. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.  
 July 13th – MKAS 7.30pm Bredhurst Village Hall. Jason Thompson – Early Space Programmes, ring 232153 for details.  
 July 13th – Countryside Event – Peter Pan at Riverside Country Park, The Chalkfoot Theatre present JM Barries classic, £7 per adult £5 per child, ring 378987 to book.  
 July 13th – Jazz Evening, St Margaret's Church, Rainham, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 including wine & cheese from 01634 371941 or 362023.  
 July 14th – St Margaret's Infant School H.S.A Playground Table Top Fair, 10.30am – 2.30pm, free entrance, refreshments, ring 264299 or 377575 to book, £8 per table.  
 July 14th – Annual Garden Party by Marilyn Soffe in aid of Cancer Care Unit at Medway Hospital, 1.30 – 4.00pm at the Garden of St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore (Church Hall if wet). Entrance £1.50 adults, 50p children, all welcome.  
 July 14th – Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood, Summer Fayre 12.00 – 3.00pm. Entrance 50p adults, 20p children, pre-school free, all welcome.  
 July 14th – 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group, Indoor Boot Fair, St George's Hall, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Please come along,

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entry 50p adults, children free, refreshments on sale.  
 July 14th – Countryside Event – Berengrave Walk at Riverside Country Park, 1.30 – 3.30pm, brave the steep steps and boardwalks, £2.50 per person, ring 378987 to book.  
 July 15th – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Hall, Berengrave Lane, 'Garden Safari', ring 231972 for details.  
 July 15th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Shorne Country Park (car park charge), 5 miles, no dogs, ring 362743 for details.  
 July 16th – Countryside Event – After-school nature club, Capstone Farm Country Park 4.00 – 4.45pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £1 per child, ring 812196 to book.  
 July 16th – Rainham Wives, 8.00pm Garden Party at Audrey's. New members of all ages welcome, ring 230639 for details.  
 July 16th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute The Watermen of the River Thames by Molly Poulter. Comp: The Letter G, 7.30pm Platters Farm Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham, ring 364702 for details.  
 July 17th – Gillingham Horticultural Society 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 'The Italian Job' Italian Mass arrangement. New members welcome, ring 234734 for details.  
 July 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Ian Currie Illustrated Talk – Greenhouses, Gales and Global Warming! African Violet and Sweet Pea Show, 8.00pm Bredhurst Hall, ring 233554 for details.  
 July 19th – Rainham Afternoon W.I. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, ring 364639 for details.  
 July 19th – Wigmore Thursday Club – Japanese Splendour by Lesley Gould. (see 12th July)  
 July 19th – Pamper Evening, Chatham Grammar School for Girls PFA in the school hall, 6.45pm, all welcome.  
 July 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28th – Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham 'Forget Me Knot' by David Tristram 8.00pm, box office 233660.  
 July 21st – Wisdom Hospice Summer fair 11.00am – 3.00pm, 50p adults, children free.  
 July 21st – Barnardo's Garden Party, 32 Roberts Road, Rainham 2.00 – 4.00pm. Admission £2

(includes refreshments), all welcome, ring 233405 or 234053 for details.  
 July 21st – A.G.M. of the Friends of St Margaret's Church, 4.00pm in church followed by afternoon tea. Anyone is welcome to attend.  
 July 21st – Chalkfoot Theatre Company – A Picnic in the Paddock with a Play. Peter Pan 5.00pm Upchurch Paddock, gates open 4.00pm. Tickets £7.00 adults, £6.00 concessions, £5.00 children from 01634 235420 or 231326.  
 July 21st – Teddy Bears Picnic 10.00am – 12noon at Cozenton Park, Rainham. Stories, crafts, singing and dancing for children under 5 years. Bring your own picnic and Teddy! Weather permitting. To book please call 0870 460 7944 or for more information log onto [www.nctmeday.org.uk](http://www.nctmeday.org.uk). Donations welcome.  
 July 21st – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham. Ballroom – Latin – Sequence Dancing. 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 363738.  
 July 22nd – Come and Sing Haydn's Creation, St Margaret's Church, rehearsal 3.00pm, performance 6.30pm, contribution £6 towards the Heritage Fund ring 230183 or 230324 for details.  
 July 22nd – Countryside Event, Kite Workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am – 2.00pm (drop in at any time) for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £2.50 per child ring 812196 for details.  
 July 22nd – Countryside Event, Beginner's digital photography, South Wood, Hempstead 9.00am – 12noon, £2.50 per person, ring 812196 for details.  
 July 22nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.30am, Shipham Park opposite the church, 6 miles, no dogs, ring 374923 for details.  
 July 23rd – Countryside Event – After-school nature club, Riverside Country Park (see 9th July)  
 July 23rd – Countryside Event, Evening Bird Cruise ring 378987 for details.  
 July 25th – Rainham Poetry Group, (see 11th July)  
 July 26th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm The Howard Memorial Hall. Woodsie, Wigmore, ring 312038 for details.  
 July 26th – Kent Family History Society Branch AG.M. 1.30pm, Strood Library ring 01634 722959 for details, email [picketywitch@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:picketywitch@blueyonder.co.uk)  
 Continued on page 11

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**COME AND SING!**  
 Sunday 22nd July will be the third occasion on which  
 singers from all over Kent gather at St Margaret's  
 Church to join in an impromptu performance of a  
 major choral work under Barry Kemp's direction. In  
 2005 it was Handel's Messiah, last year  
 Mendelssohn's Elijah, and this summer Haydn's  
 Creation is the work planned.

Some members of the choir have 'come and sung'  
 the Creation before, most memorably at the Albert  
 Hall in the company of several thousand other voices.  
 Although we don't anticipate quite that many on this  
 occasion, we do look forward to welcoming a good  
 band of singers, whether they sing regularly in a  
 choral group or not. This is a chance for those who  
 may feel rather diffident about their musical abilities  
 to enjoy singing with others Haydn's wonderful  
 music. Perhaps you know 'The Heavens are telling  
 the glory of God', or appreciate how the composer  
 represented the different animals as they were created  
 in the accompaniment. Maybe this is a work you have  
 always wanted to hear - now is your chance.

The soloists this year will be Maggie Bloor  
 (soprano), David Clark (tenor) and Christopher  
 Winter (bass), while the organist will be Michael  
 Cooke. The rehearsal will start promptly at 3.00 p.m.  
 and the performance will begin at 6.30 p.m.

Entrance for both singers and listeners will be £6.00,  
 contributions this year again going towards the roof  
 appeal. The fee will include a glass of wine or fruit  
 juice and, for singers, light refreshments after the  
 rehearsal. Some copies will be available, but it would  
 be helpful if singers could bring their own where  
 possible. For further details please phone Joan  
 Pantony (230183) or Rosemary Dellar (230324).

**UPCHURCH MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
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 above club. Meetings take place at Rainham Social  
 Club, Station Road, Rainham, every Monday from  
 2.00 to 4.00pm. If you can help please ring Betty on  
 01634 362667.

**HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE**  
 John Vigar, local historian, is doing a course entitled  
 'History in the Landscape' on Tuesday mornings in  
 Gillingham, starting at the end of September. There  
 are still a few places left. For further information  
 please contact Mrs. Lorna Bailey on 01634 364375  
 after 6.30pm.

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ROOF**  
 I am arranging Bridge drives to help hold this roof up  
 at 10.30 for 10.45 on the following Wednesdays:  
 12 Sep; 3 Oct; 7 Nov; 5 Dec.  
 The cost will be £9, which includes lunch.  
 If you would like to come, with or without a  
 partner, please ring Derek Bendle on 364531.

**BARNARDO'S GARDEN PARTY**  
**on Saturday 21st July 2007**  
**at 32 Roberts Road, Rainham**  
**from 2.00 to 4.00pm - Admission £2.00**  
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**PAMPER NIGHT**  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

Each June, certain private gardens in the precinct of Canterbury Cathedral are open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. They include the gardens of the Archdeaconry and the Deanery. The Archdeaconry is perhaps the most picturesque of the buildings in the precinct. It consists of a mixture of flint, ragstone and red brick and was constructed from the remains of the refectory and kitchens of the former Christ Church Priory.

A wild flower garden has been created under a large and spreading copper beech tree next to the Archdeaconry. At the time of our visit, foxgloves, red campion and green alkanet were the predominant species in bloom. Roses were scrambling up the ancient walls surrounding the garden and growing on the walls themselves were a mixture of domestic and wild flowers including antirrhinum, wallflower, red valerian and pellitory-of-the-wall. Ferns such as polipody and maidenhair spleenwort had also found themselves a space on the walls where they could thrive.

Within the five gardens as a whole we came across, among other trees, medlar, walnut and common mulberry. Along with quince, they make up a quartet of trees often planted in the past at the corners of herb gardens and orchards. The medlar, walnut and common mulberry trees we saw at Canterbury may well be descended from specimens planted when the gardens of the precinct were cultivated by the Benedictine monks of the dissolved Christ Church Priory.

The fruit of the medlar is pear shaped and is yellowish brown. Medlars are gathered in October when they are still hard and sour. They are stored until they become soft when they are either made into jelly or eaten as a dessert. They taste a little like baked apple.

English walnuts can be pickled in vinegar whilst the green plum-like husk is still fleshy. Alternatively, the walnut can be left until it is ripe when the husk rots away, exposing the wrinkled shell of the nut.

The fruit of the common mulberry turns from green

to red to black. Although it has an unusual flavour, some people like to eat it raw, but it is more often used in jam and wine making. The common mulberry tree is often found in gardens of old country houses, serving as the centre piece of a lawn.

Above our heads, as we inspected the gardens one by one, we caught the sight or heard the calls of house martins, jackdaws, herring gulls and swifts. With their distinctive blue-black and white plumage, house martins are one of the most conspicuous of all of our summer visitors. Most householders who have house martins nesting under the eaves of their homes feel privileged to have the birds return to the same site year after year. In Canterbury house martins doubtless obtain the mud they need to build or repair their nests from the many building sites that currently exist in the centre of the city. House martins basking on a sunlit roof prior to departure to Africa in September or October are a classic sign of Autumn.

The jackdaw has an irrepressible jauntiness both in the air and on the ground and a reputation for guile and intelligence. It is an intensely social bird and nests in belfries, down chimneys, in holes in trees and on the towers of ancient buildings. A colony of jackdaws nests in holes in the walls of Canterbury Cathedral in which scaffolding poles were once inserted, among other nooks and crannies on the building.

The herring gull is the species which we automatically associate with the word 'seagull' and its resounding cries are reminiscent of the seaside. Herring gulls started nesting on the roofs of buildings in the 1920s and their presence is often deemed unpopular by homeowners. The birds' favourite food includes molluscs and crabs although they have a very catholic diet. In Canterbury they doubtless take advantage of food dropped or discarded by the thousands of visitors to the city.

In June the yearling swifts (the ones not yet breeding) gather together, particularly in the evenings, to perform wild displays as they chase each other in the sky above Canterbury. These gatherings are known as screaming parties and are a fitting finale to a wonderful summer's day.

Joe Ennis

## The final part of Stan Randall's series about a year in the life of a fruit farmer THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR

And so we reach the last stage of our yearly quest to harvest and sell enough fruit to keep us solvent. Routine weed and pest control continues until gathering the crop becomes a full time job. Now the help of the women in the family is needed together with casual workers. Women generally make the best pickers of soft fruit and many are very good ladder workers. Men were in demand for their ability to move and set ladders, especially in the taller trees, and up until the 1960s and 70s many local shift workers found part-time work on fruit farms for a few weeks, but as cherry growing declined and more dwarf hard fruit trees were planted women pickers predominated.

Even if Spring has been kind there can be trouble ahead – indeed there will be for sure if you grow cherries. As the crop ripens bird damage can be disastrous, particularly when caused by starlings. Attacking in flocks they squabble and slash at everything in sight, and can leave a tree dripping in juice in no time. Attempts to shift them have included shaking football rattles, or tins full of stones, gas cannons and fireworks on a slow burning rope, and the ultimate weapon, a shotgun. The other major problem is rain, several hours of which can split even semi-ripe fruit as can a short thunderstorm. I remember one in particular. We had just begun picking a black variety, Gaucher, which was usually more resistant to splitting than most, when a storm blew up just before 3 o'clock. We dashed to the shed and had an early tea break, emerging about 20 minutes later to hot sunshine. Returning to the tree we found at least 80% damage, and it was obviously going to be uneconomic to continue. Split cherries are not marketable, and they soon rot on the tree spoiling any sound fruit that remains.

Late frosts, severe enough to damage blossom or even blacken fruitlets, are not too common on the lower lying land near the river, but one such did occur on the 17th May 1935. Surprisingly a few places suffered only slightly, and Father had what I believe was his best year financially. Cold damp weather seems a bigger problem, and can result in poor pollination or, by halting the growth of tiny fruits for even a short period can cause later natural thinning to be excessive. In any case, the variation in crop volumes year on year can be great; we've picked

as low as a couple of hundred to as many as 2,500 twelve pound trays of Victoria plums from the same orchards.

Other problems? As we had boundaries on both road and footpaths we suffered quite badly from scrumping, including once some soldiers standing on the top of their lorry in the lane! It was not so much what people took as the damage they did to trees and fences that annoyed us most. One Sunday evening in the 1950s, relaxing in Pump Lane with some friends after a hard weekend cherry picking, I watched in horror as about thirty or so boxes of our best Naps fell off the lowered tail board of our local haulier Mr Elliott's pre-war Bedford 5-tonner as it groaned past us. The 'chip' baskets, made by the splendidly named British Basket and Besto Co., had been stacked too high, and the lower ones had sagged as gravity overtook the strength of containers. Alan dashed off to get some replacements and we all mucked in to salvage what we could. Remarkably little damage had occurred, and we found we now had 101 boxes where 100 had been loaded! And surprisingly, when we received the sale return from the Covent Garden agent no adverse comments were included.

As the season progresses, from gooseberries and currants, through the worry of cherries, the more relaxing picking of damsons and plums, I always found the stress reducing all the while, and apple and pear gathering very enjoyable. And as the last Comice pear is carefully packed in your picking basket, you can think to yourself, 'this is where we came in twelve months ago'.

Stan Randall

## JAZZ EVENING

St. Margaret's Heritage Fund is presenting an evening of Traditional Jazz including hymns and spirituals by the Jazz Advocates with vocals by Viv Rogers. The concert is being held in St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm on Friday 13th July 2007.

Tickets are £10 including Wine and Cheese and can be obtained from the church office or by phone on 01634 371941 or 362023.

The Jazz Advocates are well known around Kent and this promises to be a special evening.

Regrettably time is running out for the church with a large section of the ceiling having to be removed before it fell and our window to run events in the church to raise money for essential structural repairs is now becoming limited.



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## Diary 2007

July 27th - Friends of Medway Libraries, ex-library book and video sale outside at Chatham Library 11.00.a.m. - 3.00.p.m. Do come along and bring the sun with you!  
July 27th - MKAS Peter Parish - Constellation of the month, (see 13th July).  
July 28th - Garden Party, 37 Edwin Road, Rainham, 12.00 - 5.00pm. Friends of St Margaret's Church. Raffle, stalls etc, £3.50 to include salad meal & dessert. All welcome, ring 230430 for details.  
July 28th - Fuchsias & Pelargoniums Show, 2.00pm Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, £1 entry, children free.  
July 29th - Countryside Event - Extreme Medway, Capstone Farm Country park 10.00am - 5.00pm. Try a wide range of extreme sports, skiing to paintballing, quad biking to abseiling. Ring 331447 for details, tickets - £5 over 13 years, £3 under 13, spectators free.  
July 29th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Hollingbourne by 'Dirty Habit' PH new bridge, 6.5 miles, no dogs, ring 375821 for details.  
July 30th - Countryside Event - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12 noon or 1.30 - 3.30pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £2.50 per child, ring 378987 to book.  
July 31st - Countryside Event - Forest Crafts workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12 noon or 1.30 - 3.30pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £2.50 per child, ring 812196 to book.  
August 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, Competition Night, (see July 15th)  
August 2nd - Countryside Event - Monster and critter masks. Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 2.00pm (drop in any time), for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £1 per child, ring 378987



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August 3rd - Countryside Event - Teddy Bears Picnic, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 2.00pm, for accompanied children 3 - 7 years, £2.50 per child, ring 378987 to book.  
August 6th - Countryside Event - Treasure Trove Trail, Riverside Country Park 11.00am - 2.00pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £2.50 per child, ring 378987 to book, or drop in any time to do the trail £1 per child.  
August 7th - Countryside Event Pond Life at Capstone Farm Country Park. Four one hour sessions 10am, 11am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm, for accompanied children 5 -12 years, £1 per child, ring 812196 to book.  
August 8th - Bredhurst W.I.. Games, Competition Summer Flower, (see 11th July)  
August 8th - Rainham Poetry Group, (see 11th July).  
August 8th - Rainham Flower Club, Workshop. Tutored by Jenny Ponsford & Gill Flaxman, (see 11th July).  
August 9th - Countryside Event Children's Fishing Teaching, Capstone farm Country Park 9.00am - 12 noon and 1.00 - 4.00pm, suitable aged 8 -12 years, £6.50 per child ring 812196 to book.  
August 10th - Countryside Event - Marine Day, Riverside Country Park 12 noon -3.00pm, ring 378987 for details.  
August 11th - Instep Dancing, (see 21st July).  
August 14th - Fuchsias & Pelargoniums, 7.30pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Post Show talk by the Judges.  
August 14th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, Environmental Buildings from the Past; from wattle and daub to brick, (see 10th July)  
August 15th - Countryside Event - Buggy Walk, Riverside Country Park 10.00-11.00am, £1 per person under fives free, ring 378987 for details.  
August 15th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Dr Peter Brandham - Illustrated Talk 'The U.S. Desert Experience, 8.00pm Bredhurst Hall, ring 233554 for details.

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 GOODWIN Alfred Ernest. Born London- Stoker 1st Class 301046 H.M.S. "Bulwark" Royal Navy  
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 LOCKYER William.- Driver 92200, 287th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers  
 PACKER Jack (John) Edward.- Deck hand 3183SD H.M. Trawler "Repro" Royal Naval Reserve  
 RAYNER Sidney Robert. Born Chelsea- Sapper 1000, No. 2 Kent Fortress Company, Royal Engineers  
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SMITH Frederick. Possibly born Rainham- Private G/6454 8th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal WK Reg)  
 SWAN Frederick Charles. Born Rainham- Stoker 1st Class SS/104622 (RFR/CH/B/8411) H.M.S. "Raglan"  
 YOUNG Frederick.- Royal Navy (No other information available)  
 Relatives are requested to contact The Chairman,  
 Friends of Berengrave, Tel: 01634 233014 or e-mail  
[friendsberengrave@btinternet.com](mailto:friendsberengrave@btinternet.com) for further information

For your information, FoB have recently acquired a historical artefact in the form of a memorial plaque to the men mentioned above. We have permission from Medway Council to permanently display this plaque in the visitor centre at Riverside Country Park. There will be an official unveiling of the plaque, with the Mayors of Medway and Gravesham present. It would be nice if we could also invite any surviving relatives of those who lost their lives.

Regards,  
 Brian Baker  
 Chairman (FoB)

Tel: 01634 233014 Mob: 07802 214 378

### BOOK AND VIDEO SALE

Friends of Medway Libraries are holding an ex-library book and video sale outside at CHATHAM LIBRARY on Friday July 27th, 11.00.a.m. - 3.00.p.m.

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