

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

DECEMBER 2008  
NUMBER 439

 *We Wish You a Happy Christmas* 



The small cart on the right of this picture outside 'The Lion' in Rainham High Street looks very like the fever cart that was used to transport patients suffering from diphtheria or scarlet fever to the isolation hospital at Keycol in the early years of the 20th century when Rainham was part of Milton Union. This month we begin a series of articles by Audrey Perkins about Milton Union in the 19th century.

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## Editorial

We do seem to be rather good at selecting extreme weather conditions for our holidays away with the Guides. Our May camp coincided with torrential rain and we spent most of the week paddling through inches of mud. November we knew would be damp and chilly but we had not expected the sprinkling of snow that greeted us on Sunday morning. Inside a centrally heated holiday house we were able to enjoy the un-seasonal view and the girls enjoyed the experience of cooking eggy bread in the snow. Fortunately, unlike the mud, the snow rapidly vanished and caused little inconvenience but it does make you wonder what next?

Joe Ennis has been venturing a little further from home recently and this month pays a visit to our namesake Rainham, Essex. Rainham marshes have a RSPB nature reserve complete with modern Visitor Centre and all the accessories. It sounds a fantastic place to visit for anyone interested in wildlife. I have just been reading in the paper that £35 million has been pledged by the government for the first stages of a Thames Gateway parklands project that would link 22 parklands along both sides of the Thames estuary from the Olympic site in east London to Southend on the north and Faversham on the south coasts including the Isles of Grain and Sheppey. The scheme sounds ambitious, 100 miles of coastal path and reopened landing points for ferries across the estuary.

Apparently areas of industrial land, firing ranges and polluted areas would be drained, decontaminated and rejuvenated! Presumably this is all envisaged to enhance our rather bleak industrial landscape for the two weeks of the Olympic Games in 2012 but if any of the scheme is actually delivered it can only be to our advantage.

Father Christmas will be touring the area again this year with the Lions and Rotary volunteers pulling his sleigh. The annual collection for local charities last year raised a substantial sum and they hope to raise even more this month. The dates they will be in your area are in our Diary, please look out for them and give as generously as you are able. I am sure they will make plenty of noise so you know when they are approaching. To get you in the Christmas mood we include details of Carol Concerts, services and pantomimes so there is plenty to do this month as an

antidote and relaxation after your hectic shopping spree. As is our normal custom we will be producing our next edition of Action Forum as a combined January / February issue on January 17th and then back to our normal first Saturday of the month March 7th. This gives our distributors a well deserved short rest and hopefully avoids any nasty weather that may arrive. Many thanks to all the hundred plus people who help distribute Action Forum each month - your efforts are very much appreciated, we wish you, our advertisers and our readers a very happy Christmas and new year and we will see you again in January.

## Correspondence

### MEMORIES OF RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

The photograph on the front of the October 2008 edition of Action Forum looks to be taken in the late 1890s or early 1900s. This reminds me of my grandfather William Poole who was the village Policeman for Rainham during that period. He lived in Station Road with his family, wife, two daughters and seven sons. As far as I know the boys including my father all joined the Army during the first world war as part of the 15/19 Kings Royal Hussars Regiment. My father Walter Hillier Poole was on the Somme and received the Military Medal.

My grandfather was very strict with his sons and if they committed any misdeeds they were thrashed and tied to their beds for days. During his career my grandfather rose to be a Superintendent in the Police and moved all over the place finishing his time in Dartford. I would love to know if anyone has any knowledge of the Poole family, however I fear I may have left it too late to enquire!

Yours sincerely  
J Clark  
31 Bayswater Drive

### THE SEVEN SUMMITS

Dear Editor

On Saturday 24th January 2009 at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church Parkwood we have invited Jo Gambi to come and speak at what should be an inspiring event. Jo and her husband Rob, who was in remission from cancer for the second time, climbed all the highest summits in each of the seven continents and skied to both the North and the South Poles all within less than two years. Jo herself is in the Guinness Book of Records for the fastest female ascent of the 7 summits and she is also only the second British woman to have climbed Everest by the North/North East ridge. She is the author of an inspiring book of her experiences 'Holding On'.

Tickets (£6-50 which includes a pudding and coffee) are available through our Box Office: 01634 366189.

Yours sincerely  
Chris Butt

### JACK BLANCHARD

Dear Editor,

We, at the Centre, Farthing Corner, would like to wish Action Forum a very Happy Christmas and thank you for the great job you do in being a focal point for the community.

We believe that forming a strong community spirit is the way forward in these sometimes difficult times. The Halloween party in support of Jack Blanchard and his family, (Jack, 13 years old, was severely beaten up by a large gang of youths in Parkwood and died twice in the ambulance) was a great success and we raised £300. Jack is progressing very slowly and I like to think that all the good wishes from the good people of our community will be felt by him and his family.

Thank you Action Forum and Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely  
Jane Marvell

### RAINHAM MARK

Dear Editor

Regarding Rainham Mark's early years I wonder if any older AF readers remember the allotments on the north side of London Road? The stony entrance path was between a fish and chip shop and another building possibly the first of the shops still there. As you walked along this path on the east side were a large number of allotments. Each was fenced and some were hedged and all had gates to lock. Nothing unusual in allotments but these each had a 'property' used as their shed parallel to the fence or hedge. Some were possibly 1st world war army huts, others had been knocked together from various materials especially corrugated iron. There were also old railway carriages and my maternal grandfather Joe Norton had one of these as his 'shed'. The compartments had been removed, but we still used the tip-up washbasin and the windows were raised and lowered by their leather straps, the doors had their original handles. This was 1939-40 during the war years and we used to go there during the evening and at weekends, weather permitting, to the long allotment strip which stretched right up to the back of the houses in Hawthorn Avenue. I assume all the tenants had to leave after the war and the area was cleared to provide building land for much needed housing.

Yours sincerely  
Alan Major

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### NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Dear Editor,

Bredhurst Busy B's Playgroup are holding a New Year Celebration on Wednesday 31st December 7.30pm at Bredhurst Village Hall. This will be a family event for all ages, with entertainment, a disco and karaoke. There will be a cash prize for the best adult and best child's performances in the karaoke, and a dance competition with prizes for children. Tickets priced at £7.50 for adults and £3 for children are available from June Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116. They will only be available in advance and need to be booked early to avoid disappointment. The price includes all soft drinks, snacks and sweets for the children. Please bring your own food, alcohol and glasses. All proceeds from this event will go to the ongoing upkeep of Bredhurst Village Hall.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs June Cox

### GWENDOLINE CHIPPERFIELD

Dear Editor

I am appealing for help in trying to trace any person who may have memories of Gwendoline May Bear (nee Chipperfield).

Gwendoline was born 07/08/1899. In the 1940s she lived with her father, Rudolph, at 140, Edwin Road. She worked as a governess/teacher. In 1949 she married Henry Bear and together they ran the Rainham Mark Post Office until her death aged 65 on 07/12/1964. Maybe some readers will remember Miss Chipperfield as their teacher or as Mrs Bear at the Post Office.

I would be grateful for any information at all and can be contacted by phone post or email.

Yours sincerely  
Raymond Chipperfield  
137, St Williams Way  
Thorpe St Andrew  
Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0AN

01603 431904 email: avchipperfield@yahoo.co.uk

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# Diary 2008

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

Diary Copy Date: 5th January

December 6th – Rainham Indoor Farmers Market,  
Millennium Centre, (behind the Cricketers) 9.00am  
– 12.30pm, stalls available, ring 01634 371941.

December 6th – St. Peter's Church Christmas Fayre,  
Bredhurst Village Hall 2-4pm. Entry 50p for  
Adults, children free. Attractions include Father  
Christmas, Grand Draw, Children's Activities and  
many stalls. The Charity Shop next door will also  
be open from 1.30pm, enquiries 361263.

December 6th – Deanwood Primary School, Christmas  
Fayre 12noon – 3.00pm. Adults 50p, children 20p.  
Pre school Free Visit Santa's Grotto, tombolas, hot  
and cold refreshments, book stall, cakes. Open to all.  
Details from 07817 825859

December 6th – Countryside Event, Christmas Card  
Workshop, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am –  
2.00pm, £1 per child, drop in anytime no booking.

December 6th – 4th Gillingham Sea Scout group  
pamper evening, 7.00-10.00pm, St. George's Hall  
Scout Headquarters, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. To  
book a stall at £10 each please contact me ASAP.  
Entry is £2pp in advance or £3 on the night. Julie  
Clayton 01634 361061 or 07759 539796.

December 6th – All day – Book Sale at The Dickens  
Christmas Festival outside Rochester Library.

December 6th – Medway Folk Dance Club, United  
Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham,  
7.30 – 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers  
welcome, with or without a partner. For more  
information ring 366189 or 388546.

December 6 & 7th – Christmas Open Studio Event at  
the Old Reed Beds Studios, The Street, Lower  
Halstow, 12noon – 5.00pm daily, studio  
telephone: 01795 842481

December 7th – Countryside Event, Winter Wildlife,  
Darland Banks, 9.00am – 12noon, £1 per person,  
book in advance on 812196.

December 7th – Holywell School Upchurch  
Christmas Fair, 2.00-4.00pm. Come along for  
some festive fun. Games, tombolas, raffle,  
refreshments and lots more. Hope to see you there!

December 7th – Medway Towns Footpath Group  
walk, 10.00am, Upchurch Golf Club, 4 miles, no  
dogs, ring 01634 375821.

December 7th – Countryside Event, Christmas Card  
Workshop, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am –  
2.00pm, £1 per child, drop in anytime no booking.

December 8th – Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Hempstead.

December 8th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, NEW group for those still in employment,  
7.15pm, St Margaret's Millennium Centre,  
Rainham. Ring Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

December 8th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan  
Club meet for bingo, a raffle, tea and biscuits  
at Howard Hall, Woodside 2.00 – 4.00pm. All  
over 50s welcome, ring 362662 for details.

December 8th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and  
Weavers 7.30 – 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church  
Hall (entrance to left of the church), Christmas  
Party, ring 01634 578294 for details.

December 8th – Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm  
Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham,  
Christmas Quiz and mince pies. New members of  
all ages are very welcome. We have a variety of  
speakers/activities etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting,  
this includes coffee and biscuits, for more details  
contact Sue on 01634 230639.

December 9th – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group  
meets Tuesdays in term time 10.00 – 11.30am in  
the Foundation Stage Unit at Fairview Community  
Primary School, £2 per family, more details from  
01634 337810 (term time).

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December 9th – Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Hempstead.

December 9th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia &  
Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Rainham School for  
Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, A.G.M and  
Christmas Social Evening, all welcome ring Eric  
Searle 01634 852519 for more information.

December 10th – Bridge Drive in aid of St  
Margaret's Heritage Fund, 10.00 for 10.30am,  
Millennium Centre, Rainham, cost £10 (includes  
lunch), ring 364531 to book

December 10th – Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Fairview Avenue.

December 10th – Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm,  
40 Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome,  
ring 01634 260228 for details.

December 10th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm Village  
Hall, Hurstwood Road. Nick Downs – Festive  
musical programme ring 232617 for details.

December 10th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm  
Upchurch Village Hall. Christmas Party, ring  
363601 or [www.rainhamflowerclub.uk.com](http://www.rainhamflowerclub.uk.com) for  
more information.

December 11th – Fairview Tadpoles, Parent and Baby  
Group meets Thursdays in term time 1.15 – 2.45pm  
at Fairview Community Primary School, £2 per  
family, details from 01634 337810 (term time).

December 11th – Wigmore Thursday Club,  
Christmas Spectacular – Floral arrangements by  
Win Prescott, 2.00pm, St Matthew's Community  
Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For people over  
the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

December 11th – Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Highfield Road.

December 12th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 9.30am – 12  
noon to help people who have lost their spouse or a  
close relative, join us for a cuppa and chat ring  
Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

December 12th – Travelling Library of Christian  
books and videos, and DVD's are available for hire  
at the Methodist Church Hall, 10am to 11.30am.  
The Van calls every 2nd Friday of each month, but  
not January.

December 12th – Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Parkwood.

December 12th – Gillingham & Rainham Local  
History Society, 7.15pm, United Reformed  
Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Local  
Archaeological Finds – Mr J. Jarvis, ring Mr R.W.  
Baker on 01634 854982 for details.

December 12th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society,  
7.45pm, Bredhurst Village Hall (opposite the Bell  
PH), Christmas Meeting, ring Trev 07771 7678795  
for details.

December 13th – Countryside Event, Mountain Bike  
Trail, Capstone Country Park 9.00- 10.30am,  
suitable for all abilities, book in advance 812196,  
£1 per person.

December 13th – Rainham Indoor Craft Market,  
Millennium Centre, (behind the Cricketers)  
9.00am – 12.30pm, stalls available, ring 01634  
371941 for details.

December 13th – Rainham Ladies Choir with the  
Salvation Army, Carol Concert Royal Dockyard  
Church, 7.30pm, Tickets £6 (children £3) at the  
door or in advance from 01634 363627 or 373132.  
In aid of Cancer Research UK

December 13th – Carol Concert featuring the  
Medway Singers, St Augustine's RC Church,  
Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, 7.45pm, organised  
by the Union of Catholic Mothers and is in aid of  
new Macmillan Centre, Medway Hospital.  
Admission £4 inc light refreshments. For details  
please ring 233293 or 377447.

December 13th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School  
for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham. Christmas  
Dance – ticket only. 8.00 – 11.00pm, enquiries  
363738.

December 14th – Medway Towns Footpath Group  
walk, 10.00am Clowes Wood car park Gypsy  
Corner, 5 miles, no dogs, ring 01622 764821.

December 14th – Ramblers Association Medway  
Group walk 5miles, Meet and park at Newington  
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Continued on Page 11

## K. Gillard

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## LIONS & ROTARY CLUBS CHRISTMAS CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Each Christmas for the last few years members of the Lions and Rotary Clubs have toured the local streets towing their Christmas Sleigh. Their aim is to collect money that is then distributed to their charities of the year. These are usually local good causes so all the money benefits our community. The schedule for this year is listed in our Diary so please find out when Father Christmas will be visiting your street and watch out for him. I am sure you will hear when he is near. Each evening the collection begins at 6.00pm and the reindeer need to go to their beds at 8.15pm.

## CAROL CONCERT

A Carol Concert featuring the Medway Singers is to be held in St Augustine's RC Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, at 7.45pm on Saturday 13th December. This is being organised by the Union of Catholic Mothers and is in aid of our charity for the year which is the new Macmillan Centre at Medway Hospital. Admission is £4 which will include light refreshments. For further details please ring Mrs Barbara Mudd on Medway 233293 or Mrs Maureen Boulton on Medway 377447.

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC BOX

WIGMORE MADS present their annual carol concert 'MADS Christmas Music Box' on Thursday 18th December at 8pm. in St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive.

## LOOKING TO GET FIT?

**Badminton players wanted.**

Deanwood Badminton Club is looking for new players. We are a mixed, friendly club who meet Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm at The Oast House, Station Road, Rainham. For further details ring Jill Arnold on 01634 232327.

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## TRAVELLING LIBRARY

On December 12th a Travelling Library of Christian books and videos, and DVD's will be available for hire at the Methodist Church Hall, Rainham from 10am to 11.30am. The Van calls every 2nd Friday of each month, but not January.

## ST MARGARET'S HERITAGE FUND

Bridge Drive

**Wednesday December 10th,**

10.00 for 10.30am, cost including lunch £10.

To book a place for yourself (and partner)  
ring Derek Bendle 364531.

## CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Sunday December 14th, 6.30pm**

The Centre, Farthing Corner. All welcome.

Healing available before the service.

5.45 - 6.15 pm 01634 366944

## NEW MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

Dads and grandparents of course are welcome

**every Monday in December 10-1.30pm**

at The Centre, Farthing Corner. £2.00

Phone Jo Marvell for more info 01634 379078

## MEDWAY ECHO APPEAL

British Heart Foundation

Tea Dance

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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

I first visited an RSPB bird reserve, Minsmere, in 1958 whilst stationed in Suffolk. In those days written permission was needed to visit reserves and I paid ten shillings for an unescorted permit. (Escorted permits, limited to just four visitors each day, were available at fifteen shillings.) Visitors had to report to the warden's hut for directions to the hides. Cars had to be parked (not that I myself owned one) half a mile away by some old coastguard cottages. Bird watchers were advised to bring a picnic, there being no refreshment facilities. Toilets also were lacking.

In November, fifty years after my trip to Minsmere, I visited one of the latest RSPB reserves, Rainham Marshes in Essex. What a difference half a century makes. The modern, centrally heated visitor centre contains a shop, a cafe, toilets and classroom cum lecture theatre. The cafe, on the upper floor, doubles up as an observation room from where visitors can view the birds through telescopes set up by the Society. Wardens are available to give whatever help and advice may be necessary. The car park is next to the visitor centre and all of the reserve's paths and boardwalks can be used by pushchairs and wheelchairs. The centre has a friendly and sociable atmosphere and is frequently visited by local families and schools. No longer are reserves the haunt of a handful of hardy enthusiasts, clothed in assorted parkas and clutching the necessary permits.

The place name "Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre" is somewhat of a misnomer, partly because the reserve also takes in Wennington and Aveley Marshes and partly because the visitor centre is in Purfleet. The three marshes as a whole were created from saltings of the River Thames by the building of an embankment in the 14th century to keep out tidal waters. The marshes served for hundreds of years as rich grazing grounds for sheep and cattle. Just before the First World War, however, the War Office requisitioned a large area of the marshes for use as firing ranges. Subsequently, other parts of the marshes were used - and still are - as a dump for household waste and dredging from the bed of the River Thames.

A few years ago the Ministry of Defence closed down the firing ranges and planned to sell the land for development, it being in The Thames Gateway, an area intended by the Government for regeneration. However, the RSPB, the Environment Agency, English Nature and the two local authorities considered that the marshes could best be regenerated through their use as a nature reserve and the MoD was persuaded to sell the land to the RSPB. The Society is now well into the long job of restoring the marsh land it now owns back to its former glory, after the removal of one hundred year's accumulated rubbish and unexploded shells. Only Aveley Marsh is at present open to the public; I made my own journey there through the Dartford Tunnel, turning left at the A1306 to Rainham and then left again, along the A1090 to Purfleet for just two hundred yards, before coming to the entrance to the reserve on my right.

From the first floor observation room of the centre I had a good view of the marsh. Cattle were grazing there, as they would have done in mediaeval times. The RSPB is restoring the dykes which serve both to drain the marshes of excess water and to contain the cattle. The latter in turn help to create tussocky grassland which is used by breeding birds such as lapwing, redshank, skylark, yellow wagtail and meadow pipit. Taking advantage of one of the telescopes, I had good views of flocks of widgeon, teal and black tailed godwits feeding either on the grassland or in shallow areas of water. In due course I took the circular walk around the reserve. I noted a couple of water voles in one of the dykes, the area having one of the largest and densest populations of the mammals in the UK. Oyster catchers, little egrets and avocets, with their white or black and white plumage, stood out the clearest among the many waders, on what was a dull November day.

I returned to the centre and had a cup of tea in the cafe. In autumn and winter flocks of waders not only gather on the reserve to feed, especially when the river mud is covered by the tide, but they also fly in, at dusk, when they roost collectively in large numbers. Prior to roosting, species such as knot and

dunlin wheel spectacularly in the sky resembling, at a distance, drifts of smoke. Unfortunately, on this occasion, there was to be no evening performance to round off an enjoyable visit.

Joe Ennis

**NINETEENTH CENTURY RAINHAM:** extracts from the records of Milton Union by Audrey Perkyns

Audrey Perkyns was Head of History at Chatham Grammar School for Girls until she retired to Northumberland, but she has maintained her interest in Rainham and especially in Milton Union, which some older residents may remember. It was suggested that she might like to share some of her research with Action Forum readers, a proposal to which she happily agreed. Five articles have been forthcoming, all of which will be included during the coming months. This is the first of the series.

The Milton Union was a group of eighteen parishes formed in 1835 under the new Poor Law. It was administered by an elected Board of Guardians under the supervision of a central authority in London. The information in these articles has been drawn from correspondence between these two bodies, from the Minutes of the Board of Guardians, and from the Annual Reports of the Central Authority (Parliamentary Papers).

Medical Officers were appointed by the Union to provide general services to paupers, with extras payable for surgery and midwifery. In 1836 the Guardians tried to save money by appointing only one Medical Officer for the whole area. Like the Union's Relieving Officer he was based at Milton, at the far east end of the Union, so Rainham, at the far west end, was a long way from medical help. Each parish still had elected overseers who could authorise assistance in an emergency until the Relieving Officer could be informed.

In February 1837 Edward Usher, a pauper aged 15, in the service of Mr Smart of Bloors Farm in Rainham, had a serious accident, breaking his femur. Mr Smart employed the first surgeon available, rather than the Medical Officer of the Union, to treat him. Edward's widowed mother had remarried and the two families together had eight children under 16 and could not afford the surgeon's bill, so an argument developed about who should pay it. An appeal to London led to

the decision that the ratepayers could not be expected to pay a doctor not employed by the Union, so the cost must fall on Mr Smart. Such was the sort of problem which could arise over a century before the NHS existed.

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## Diary 2008

December 14th - 6.30pm, Our special Christmas  
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December 15th - Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan  
Club. Christmas tea and special raffle (see 8th  
Dec).

December 15th - Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Parkwood.

December 16th - Fairview Frogs, (see 9th Dec).

December 16th - Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Kenilworth Drive.

December 17th - Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Lower Beechings Way.

December 18th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Carols &  
Readings, (see 11th Dec).

December 18th - Fairview Tadpoles, (see 11th Dec).

December 18th - WIGMORE MADS present their  
annual carol concert 'MADS Christmas Music Box'  
8pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery  
Drive. Tickets £6 & £5 concessions available from  
Sue on Medway 370639.

December 18th - Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Twydall.

December 19th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, (see 12th Dec).

December 19th - Lions Sleigh Run, 6.00pm to  
8.15pm, Twydall.

December 20th - Countryside Event, Santa at the  
Park, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 4.00pm,  
£3 per child, drop in anytime no need to book.

December 20th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th  
Dec).

December 21st - Medway Towns Footpath Group  
walk, 2.00pm, The Street Boughton (near White  
Horse Inn), 5.25 miles, dogs ok, ring 317993.



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December 21st - Countryside Event, Santa at the  
Park, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am -  
4.00pm, £3 per child, drop in anytime no need to  
book.

December 26th - Ramblers Association Medway  
Group walk, 4.5 miles. Meet 10.00am at the  
Commuter Car Park just north of Bredhurst.

December 28th - Medway Towns Footpath Group  
walk, 10.00am, Pluckley, 5 miles, no dogs, ring  
01622 710669.

December 31st - Bredhurst Busy B's Playgroup,  
New Year Celebration, 7.30pm, Bredhurst  
Village Hall. Family event for all ages.  
Entertainment, a disco and karaoke. Tickets  
£7.50 adults, £3 children 01634 268544 or 07842  
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December 31st - Instep Dancing, Rainham School  
for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham. New Years  
Eve Dance - ticket only. 8.00 - 11.00pm,  
enquiries 363738.

January 1st - Ramblers Association Medway  
Group walk, 5 miles. Meet 10.30am at Boxley  
Parish Church. Geoff Ettridge 075 2516 1766

January 3rd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 6th  
Dec).

January 9th - Gillingham & Rainham Local  
History Society, 7.15pm, United Reformed  
Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Sailing  
Barges - Mr Farnham, ring Mr R.W. Baker on  
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January 9th - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society,  
Peter Parish - Constellation of the month, (see  
12th Dec).

Continued on Page 13

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## Diary 2008

January 12th - Rainham Wives "New Year Party".  
 (see 8th Dec)  
 January 12th - Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers,  
 Spinning. (see 8th Dec).  
 January 13th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral  
 Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church  
 (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 'Using up  
 leftovers' new members welcome ring 01634  
 234734 for details.  
 January 13th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club,  
 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road,  
 Chatham, Mrs Julia Page 'A Titan Struggle: the  
 foundation of the Royal Academy'. Ring 01474  
 823606 for details.  
 January 14th - Bredhurst W.I. Mr John Endicott -  
 Kent Police Museum. (see 10th Dec).  
 January 17th - Instep Dancing. (see 13th Dec).  
 January 17th - Medway Folk Dance Club. (see 6th  
 Dec).  
 January 19th - Rainham Wives "Just a Minute" with  
 Margaret and Sandy. (see 8th Dec)  
 January 21st - Bredhurst Garden Club, 8.00pm,  
 Bredhurst Village Hall, Terry Clare Illustrated talk  
 'A Year in the Life of a Bee Keeper' & Hyacinth  
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 January 21st - Medway Echo Appeal, British Heart  
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January 23rd - Medway Geographical Society,  
 7.30m- 9.00pm Adult Education Centre, Green  
 Street, Gillingham, Visit to South Island, New  
 Zealand - Mr Brian Self, ring 362683 for more  
 details.

January 24th - St Paul's Church Parkwood have  
 invited Jo Gambi to come and speak at what  
 should be an inspiring event. 'The Seven  
 Summits' 7.30pm, all welcome.

January 26th - Rainham Wives, Fish & Chip  
 Supper, plus Bring & Buy for our charity. (see  
 8th Dec)

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