

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

JULY 2009  
NUMBER 445



Westfield Sole Farm near Lidsing probably pictured in the early 1950s. The three gentlemen in the picture are Harry Gurr (beside the duckpond) who owned Westfield Sole, Gibraltar and Capstone Farms, plus two butchers shops in Chatham, Ted Farrant leading the horse and Dick Chambers who worked for Mr Gurr at Gibraltar Farm. See page 3 for more memories of Gibraltar Farm.

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## Editorial

I could not resist using the idyllic farmyard picture of Westfield Sole Farm on the front cover this month. It is slightly out of our area as it is at the top of Boxley Hill but nevertheless receives a mention in the memories of Gibraltar Farm we include this month. The scene is so like the typical jigsaw puzzle picture of a 1950s farmyard it is hard to believe it is real. I feel fortunate that I can just remember those days when farming was one of the main employers in this area before mechanisation, particularly tractors, became the norm and hedgerows were grubbed to allow ever larger and more complex pieces of kit access to the land. After sixty years the circle has almost turned and once again the value of poppies and wild flowers in hay meadows, the use of natural fertilisers, rotation of crops, and allowing land to lie fallow every so often is appreciated, driven in not some small measure by the rapidly rising cost of all the artificial supplements modern farming demands. The introduction of a compulsory buffer strip around each arable field has helped this return to nature. As intended it allows plants and animals an undisturbed home and incidentally means walking the footpaths which border fields is much more pleasurable than when we were restricted to a three foot wide path which very quickly either became completely overgrown or almost impassable when ankle deep in mud. While the experiments continue we all reap the benefit and can enjoy the more traditional countryside of those days gone by. Even so I do not think we will ever again find such a beautiful country scene with a hand crafted hay stack, like the one pictured, next to a duckpond. Large round bales wrapped in black polythene do not have the same romantic image I'm afraid.

My apologies to the Appes family for my complete misunderstanding of their pictures, one of which we printed on the front cover last month. The only member of their family included in this photograph was Grandma (Mary Ann) Appes who is front centre next to the gentleman with the shotgun. They would be very interested to know if you can name any of the other people. They think possibly the picture was taken by someone who lived in the house and gathered all the available workers together to take this marvellous picture during the cherry harvest. I hope to

be able to include the correct family photo next month! If the thought of fresh Kentish cherries makes your mouth water you may like to join the Macmillan Cancer Support charity picnic in the Vines at Rochester on Sunday 5th July where fresh picked cherries from Upchurch will be on sale. Our pages contain many more suggestions to occupy your time this month so do read on and enjoy as many of them as you are able. Have a very good month and we will be with you again in August.

## Correspondence

### RAINHAM PREFABS

Dear Editor

If any readers of Action Forum have photographs of the post-war prefabs in Wigmore and Rainham we would love to hear from them. Our exhibition on Medway prefabs earlier this year proved extremely popular with local residents and our appeal in local newspapers led to many members of the public bringing in their photographs of prefabs in Rochester, Chatham and Strood. If you were a former resident of prefabs in Fairview Avenue, Wigmore or Rainham etc and have photographs that you are happy for us to copy and add to our collections, then please contact me at Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

Yours sincerely  
April Lambourne

01634 332714 or [april.lambourne@medway.gov.uk](mailto:april.lambourne@medway.gov.uk)

### HEMPSTEAD STONE

Dear Editor,

Thanks for printing my letter about the stone outside 292 Hempstead Road in the June edition of Action Forum. I have had an interesting reply. It seems the stone is not a Milestone but a Boundary Marker marking the boundary between Hempstead and Lidsing villages (though this boundary has now changed). The area known as Hempstead belonged to a man who lived in Highgate in London, (an absentee farm owner or landlord maybe). There is a traceable date on the stone reading 1800 or thereabouts. There seems also to be a tradition associated with the stone which required a man to go once a year to the stone with a child then hit the stone three times then hit the child. This would account for the lean of the stone perhaps. Should this be a true tradition then the man required to strike the stone could have been a tiedman beholden in some way to the absentee owner of Hempstead. If so I wonder if any of his family still reside in the area and whether or not they should be carrying on the tradition. Perhaps some of your Historical Society readers might find this an interesting challenge and investigate further with a resulting story in Action Forum.

Yours sincerely  
Ken Middleton.  
[Ken.Mid@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Ken.Mid@tiscali.co.uk)

### GIBRALTAR FARM

Dear Editor

My Sister-in-Law has sent me clippings from the April and June Action Forums. I was born at Gibraltar Farm in August 1940, at the height of the enemy action. I can just remember the mock airfield on top of what we called the 'banks'. It was clearly visible from our kitchen window. I seem to remember my brothers who were a good 10 years older than me taking me there to look at the 'aircraft'. There were indeed many bomb craters in the fields of the farm but my mother and father said that the only action the airfield really saw was when RAF planes in trouble tried to land. My father was bailiff to Henry Gurr and Sons who owned Gibraltar Farm, a farm at Lidsing and one at Westfield Sole at the top of Boxley Hill, as well as two butcher's shops in Chatham High Street. The farm employed two brothers John (Jack) and Fred Hogg and neither had spoken to each other for years. The farm was put under army guard because of the proximity to the gun site and one morning arriving for work one brother was challenged by the sentry to prove his identity, 'tell him who I am, Jack' said Fred - 'never seen him before replied Fred'!

The photo of Gibraltar Farm Dairy (April 2009) brought back many memories. The buildings were little altered when we left the farm in 1955. The thatched building was the dairy where milk was cooled and put into churns. It was a circular wooden building with the minimum of equipment, just a surface cooler and some troughs for washing pails and churns. The sloping roof behind the horse's head was one of two cow sheds, and the chimney stack on the skyline is Gibraltar Cottages. These were built in 1905 so the photo must post date that time.

I now live in Manchester and have not been back to Gibraltar Farm since 2001. Most of the buildings and the surrounding patchwork of field are gone.

Yours sincerely  
Richard Chambers  
[richard.chambers@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:richard.chambers@dsl.pipex.com)

### BERENGRAVE LANE ORCHARD

Dear Editor,

I have been told that my great grandfather Arthur Chapman and his family owned an orchard at the bottom of Berengrave Lane between about 1920 to 1950. I believe it was next to where the Nursery is now located. Can you tell me if there are any records

held locally, which might tell me a little more about this site, like it's proper name, and it's size etc, or even when and where it was purchased and sold?

Kind Regards  
Paul Osborn

[mugsybaker@hotmail.com](mailto:mugsybaker@hotmail.com)

### GARDEN PARTY

Dear Editor,

The Friends of St. Margaret's Church are holding a Garden Party on Saturday, 1st August at 37 Edwin Road, Rainham from 12 noon to 5pm. There will be craft stalls, a 'Bring & Buy' and a raffle. The entrance fee of £4 includes a salad meal and a dessert. All friends and supporters are welcome but please bring a garden chair if possible. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will take place in church on Saturday 18th July at 4pm followed by tea and biscuits.

Yours faithfully,  
Kay Jarvis

### BREDHURST ART, CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW

Dear Editor

Bredhurst will be holding its annual Art, Craft and Produce Show on Saturday, 5th September, at Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. Open to all residents in the Village, members of St Peter's Church, Bredhurst School and all organisations that meet in the Village Hall, including husbands, wives, children and grandchildren. Schedules can be obtained from Mrs W Keast - 01634 230325 or Mrs J Lewin - 01634 364703.

Yours sincerely  
Jenny Lewin

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[af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough,  
Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 14th July

July 4th – Old Barn Orchestra Concert in aid of  
Demelza Hospice. 7.30pm, St George's Centre,  
Chatham Maritime, tickets £8 (£1 children) from  
01795 843228 or 01634 376979.

July 4th – Mierscourt Primary School, Silverspot  
Close, School Fayre, 11am to 2pm, BBQ, crepes and  
cakes, talent show, and Hospital radio. fun and  
games, sports raffle including a signed Gills ball.  
July 4th – Upchurch Horticultural Society, July Show  
in the village hall.

July 5th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 8  
miles with Mike & Coral Patrick from Teston  
Bridge Picnic Site ME18 5BX.

July 5th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 5  
miles, no dogs, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569,  
10.00am, Ickham near Duke of William Inn.

July 5th – Join Macmillan Cancer Support in a charity  
picnic at The Vines, Rochester 2.00 – 4.00pm.  
Kentish cherries for sale, activities and face painter.  
Contact [bob.wade@medway.gov.uk](mailto:bob.wade@medway.gov.uk).

July 6th – Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist  
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Knowledge  
and Nibbles' evening. 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.

July 7th – Every Tues at The Centre, Farthing Corner.  
Free healing is available from 7.30 - 9.00pm. All are  
welcome. For information call healing leaders, Alan  
on 01634 362121 or Dave 01634 668132.

July 7th – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, 10.00 -  
11.30am each Tuesday in term time, Fairview  
Community School, details from 01634 338710.

July 7th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm  
United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road,

Gillingham. 'Craft' workshop – including Grinling  
Gibbons items, ring 01634 234734 for details.

July 7th – 12th – Upchurch Festival of Music, St  
Mary's Church, ring 01634 233576 or 374220.

July 8th – Ramblers Association walk, 7.00pm, 4.5  
miles with Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 from  
Green Man PH, Hodsell Street TN15 7LN.

July 8th – Bredhurst W.I. 7.30pm, Village Hall,  
Hurstwood Road. Mrs Pauline Dewick – A  
Fortune in Your Attic, ring 232617 for details.

July 8th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch  
Village Hall. Demonstration by Sandy Bailey, ring  
01795 425700 or 01622 884657 for information.

July 8th – Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40  
Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring  
01634 260228 for details.

July 9th – Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby  
Group, 1.15 – 2.45pm term time only, Fairview  
Community School, ring 01634 338710 for details.

July 9th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Sussex  
Farmhouse Meals, 2.00pm, St Matthew's  
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. For  
people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

July 9th – Chatham Grammar School for Girls PFA,  
Annual Fundraising Pamper Evening in the school  
hall, 6.45pm. Tickets in advance from the school  
office £2.50 each or £3 on the night.

July 9th – Hempstead Leisure Club (over 50s),  
Village Hall, Hempstead Road, 2.00pm, Games 2  
– 4pm, details 366907 or 329431.

July 10th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday  
9.30am – 12noon 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.

July 10th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Jason

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Thompson - Apollo 11 40th Anniversary 7.45pm  
Bredhurst Village Hall, ring Trev 077717678795 or  
via the web site <http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/>.

July 11th – 1st Wigmore Brownies Annual Mini Fete,  
Bredhurst School Hall, 2pm, grand prize family  
raffle 3.45pm, cake stall, bric a brac, teddy  
tombola, face painting, refreshments and Bar-B-Q,  
admission is free.

July 11th – Indoor Craft Market, Millennium Centre,  
Rainham 9.00am – 12.30pm, ring 016345 371941.

July 11th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for  
Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence  
dancing 8.00 – 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738.

July 11th – Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis  
Road, Summer Fayre, 12noon – 3.00pm, adults 50p,  
children 20p pre-school free, all welcome, please  
phone the school for details 01634 231901.

July 11th – St Matthew's Community Centre,  
Drewery Drive, Floral Dance, 7.30 for 8.00pm.  
Live music Dickie Diamond & The Replays,  
Tickets £10 (inc supper BYODAG) from 379139 or  
07833 103847.

July 12th – St George's Centre, Chatham, 7.00 pm,  
City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra with  
conductor and horn soloist Anthony Halstead  
Mozart's Horn Concerto, Handel's Water Music and  
Haydn's Surprise Symphony. Tickets £8 (£6 season  
ticket holders, £5 children) on 07505 643354.

July 12th – Berengrave Walk, 10.00am – 12noon.  
Berengrave Nature Reserve, book in advance £1  
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July 12th – Riverside Country Park 'A Countryside  
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July 12th – St. Augustine's School Deanwood Drive  
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July 12th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
3.5 miles, no dogs, meet John Howard 01732  
841433, 2.00pm, Chilham Car park off A252.

July 12th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 4.5

miles with Lesley & Terry Thomson 0795874363  
Cliffe Woods Parkside Road car park ME3 8HX.

July 13th – Medway Spinners, Dyers and Weavers  
7.30 – 9.30pm, Balmoral Road Church Hall  
(entrance to left of the church), Friendship  
Cushion part 2, ring 01634 578294 for details.

July 13th – Rainham Wives, Upchurch walk and  
meal. (see 6th July).

July 13th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group  
for those still in employment 7.15 – 9.00pm,  
Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 01634  
364309 for details.

July 13th – 17th – Wigmore Evangelical Free Church  
'Champions Challenge' 4.15 – 6.15pm. Free to all  
from FS2 (Reception) up to Y6. Join us at for all  
sorts of fun! Phone 01634 372323 for information.

July 14th – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, (see 7th  
July).

July 14th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club,  
7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road,  
Chatham, Members' talks. Ring 01474 823606.

July 14th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 5.5  
miles, dogs OK, meet Alma Miles 01634 865583,  
7.00pm, St Mary's Church, Lower Higham.

July 14th – Talk by publisher Simon Cox and actor  
Gordon Griffin on how audiobooks are created,  
Strood Library, 2.30pm, no charge but please book  
01634 335890.

July 15th – Bredhurst Garden Club, African Violet  
& Sweet Pea Show & H.C. Newman Illustrated  
talk 'ABC of Pruning', 8.00pm Bredhurst Village  
Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details.

July 16th – Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby  
Group, (see 9th July).

July 16th – Hempstead Leisure Club 'Egg-citing  
Eggs' Jacqui Manktelow, (see 9th July).

July 16th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Police Support  
Officer for Wigmore Rebecca Flood, (see 9th Jul).

July 17th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, (see 10th July).

July 18th – Hope Fun Day, Parkwood Green, 12noon  
to 5pm. Bouncy castles, face painting, and lots of  
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Continued on Page 11

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**HOME COUNTIES HERITAGE**  
John Vigar, well known author and historian is  
running a 20 week course in Gillingham on Tuesday  
mornings starting on 22nd September entitled 'Home  
Counties Heritage'. For further details please contact  
Mrs. Lorna Bailey on 364375 after 6.30pm.

**WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT AUDIOBOOKS?**  
Talk by publisher Simon Cox and actor Gordon  
Griffin on how audiobooks are created at Strood  
Library 2.30pm, Tuesday 14th July.  
There is no charge but please contact the library to  
book a place - 01634 335890.

**PAMPER NIGHT**  
Chatham Grammar School for Girls PFA annual  
fundraising Pamper Evening is on Thursday 9th July  
from 6.45pm in the school hall. Manicures, Spray  
Tanning, Ear Piercing, Reflexology, Indian Head  
Massage, Alexander Technique, Aurora Therapy,  
Japanese Hand Massage are but a few of the  
treatments that will be available on the night. There  
will be opportunities to purchase beauty products,  
jewellery and other gifts. Tickets can be purchased  
in advance from the school office for £2.50 each or  
£3 on the night.

**FUN DAY**  
Hope Fun Day, Parkwood Green,  
18th July, 12noon to 5pm.  
Bouncy castles, face painting, and lots of  
entertainment. Details from 07756 278342

**COME TO A FLORAL DANCE**  
St Matthew's Community Hall, Brewery Drive,  
Wigmore. Saturday 11th July 7.30 for 8.00pm Live  
music with DICKIE DIAMOND & THE REPLAYS  
Tickets only £10 to include supper & dessert  
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716543. Visit [www.contact-the-elderly.org](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org)  
Email: [suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org](mailto:suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org)

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Sunday 12th July, 7.00pm,  
St George's Centre, Chatham  
City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra with  
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Music and Haydn's Surprise Symphony.  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

This month's Nature Notes are about a journey made along the Pilgrims Way between Wrotham, Kemsing, Otford and Chevening. To give readers their bearings, Wrotham lies in the shadow of the tall and slender telecommunications mast one sees on the top of the downs as one travels west on the M20 towards the M26 and Chevening lies to the north of the junction of the M26 with the M25. Wrotham was once an important village on the turnpike Road between London, Maidstone and Folkestone. Here a cock horse or two would be hired to help carts and stage coaches up Wrotham Hill. In the early days of motoring the steep hill remained a problem, causing many an overheated engine. Once one reached the top, however, one had (and still has) the finest view in the county. In the foreground of the view is the Vale of Kent and, with Sevenoaks at its centre, the Ragstone Range. On the horizon is Ashdown Forest and Crowborough Beacon in the High Weald and Battle Ridge to the north of Hastings. We left Wrotham along the Pilgrims Way which, on its passage through Kent, runs along the bottom of the escarpment of the North Downs. The leaves on the trees on the downs varied in colour from the white of whitebeam, to the light green of field maple and beech, and to the dark green of yew. Sheep were grazing on some of the open slopes. The fields on both sides of the track were lined largely with oaks trees and had been set with either wheat or oil seed rape. In one field of wheat red poppies proliferated. Above another a number of swifts were hawking for flies; they were likely to be non-breeding yearlings. As for the rape fields, they may have been less barren than they appeared to be. Sedge warblers, reed buntings and whitethroats have been found nesting among the tangle of stems and linnets and tree sparrows have been seen feeding on ripening rape seeds. The hedges lining the ancient Pilgrims way are also likely to be old, particularly since they are composed of a large variety of trees and shrubs. These include blackthorn, dogwood, field maple, hawthorn, hazel and privet. Hedges along the track are cut regularly, in the main because they would otherwise be a hazard along a road which is so narrow and winding. The approach to Kemsing is through a tunnel of beech and

other trees which, in summer, bring some welcome shade to those walking along the Pilgrims Way. Kemsing is a pretty village with a well cared for look about it. We took a small detour to have a look at the large Victorian house that served as a youth hostel for many years. The former cycle shed was readily identifiable. The Youth Hostels Association, The Ramblers' Association and the Cyclists' Touring Club were all formed in the days when rambling and cycling were extremely popular and before the motor car became widely affordable. At one time there were four youth hostels within easy reach of the Kent stretch of the Pilgrims Way. Those at Crockham Hill, Kemsing, and Doddington have closed; only that at Canterbury remains open. High above the village is the Kemsing Down nature reserve which is managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. I made a lone ascent to the top, after which I sat down for a well earned rest. The slope is most certainly steeper than the days when I did conservation work there. I spotted some typical flowers of chalk downland, including common rock-rose, small scabious and yellow wort. Dog and field roses were in bloom among the scrub on both sides of me. On this warm summer day grasshoppers and crickets could be heard chirping in the grassland; brown argus and common blue butterflies fluttered over it. A yellow hammer kept repeating its familiar call. Otford, which is a thriving commuter village, was our next stop. It boasts the only listed village pond in the country. The pond's semi-domestic ducks are not however of any natural history interest. What we did come across, nevertheless, was a small colony of house martins, which are charming and delightful birds, nesting under the eaves of a row of terraced houses. A walk to the end of the High Street brought us to a tributary of the River Darent, by the side of which was growing fools' watercress and lesser water parsnip. We crossed over the Darent, the fields on each side of which were dotted with sheep, and then over the M25 towards the red brick hamlet of Chevening. We had timed our visit along the Pilgrims Way to coincide with the opening of the grounds of Chevening House, the 18th century country retreat of the Foreign Secretary of the day. The union jack was flying from the top of the Kentish ragstone tower of St Botolph's Church and the six bells were being rung. The House itself lies in a parkland of

oak, common lime and beech trees, among which dairy cows graze. Swallows were swooping back and forth over the grassland. Having inspected the gardens we had a walk around the lake which was fringed with meadow sweet, water mint, water betony and yellow loosestrife. We then sat with great ceremony on the Foreign Secretary's well-cared-for lawn and had tea and cakes laid on by the Trustees of the Chevening Estate.

Joe Ennis

**NINETEENTH CENTURY RAINHAM: titbits from Milton Union records by Audrey Perkyns.** In 1842, on instructions from London, the Board of Guardians of the Milton Union appointed three separate Poor Law Medical Officers (MOs), one being for the parishes of Rainham, Lower Halstow, Hartlip and Upchurch. Since much illness resulted from poverty and malnutrition they could recommend the provision of mutton or spirits (gin or brandy). All their services had to be authorised by Poor Law officers, principally the Relieving Officer at Milton, but in an emergency by the overseers of the parishes. All the MOs were in constant trouble with the Guardians, most frequently for inefficiency with the paper work (weekly lists for the board meetings and quarterly returns). Sometimes they were reprimanded for failing to provide an adequate service or for other offences.

Dr John Friend, MO from 1842, finally exasperated them beyond endurance by giving an order for mutton to a butcher other than the official one whose tender had been accepted by the board. He was asked to resign in 1850.

Dr George Henty, 1850-65, was reprimanded after he had a quarrel with one of the Rainham Guardians about a false entry in his report book.

Dr Henry Penfold was appointed in 1865. In 1866 the Guardians enquired if he had attended Elizabeth White who was sent to the workhouse by the Rainham overseer while in labour and her baby was delivered in a cart en route. His reply is lost, but he was not reprimanded on this occasion.

In 1874 the Rainham overseer with two assistants brought a sick man to the workhouse at 1.00 a.m., on Dr Penfold's orders. The workhouse officers were woken; they found the man simply drunk; he admitted he had been for three days, and he left the next morning. The Guardians remonstrated with the

MO: 'this is not the first time from the Rainham District in which expense and much trouble has been unnecessarily incurred'. Dr Penfold's reply states that he was concerned about the man's general condition (he seems to have feared hypothermia), and said he would have incurred public censure if the man had died.

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## CHARITY PICNIC

Join Macmillan Cancer Support in a charity picnic at The Vines, Rochester on Sunday 5th July from 2.00 - 4.00pm. Activities and face painting and David of Rickhamfields Farm will be selling local Kentish cherries. For more details contact [bob.wade@medway.gov.uk](mailto:bob.wade@medway.gov.uk)

## BARNARDO'S GARDEN TEA PARTY

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## Diary 2009

July 18th – Bearsted Choral Society Summer Concert.  
The Pirates of Penzance, Leeds Parish Church, 7.30  
pm. Tickets £7 (£4 students) from 01634 666730 or  
on the door

July 18th – RAMASES North Kent Egyptology  
Society, lecture by Prof. Barry Kemp 'Amarna's  
people: rich, poor, busy and suffering', Newington  
Village Hall. [ramases@hotmail.com](mailto:ramases@hotmail.com) or see Swale  
Borough Council website for details.

July 18th – Friends of St. Margaret's Church AGM at  
4pm in church followed by tea & biscuits.

July 18th – Monthly Indoor Farmers Market,  
Millennium Centre, 9.00am 12.30pm. Enquiries  
01634 371941.

July 19th – Mountain Bike Trail, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 9.00 – 10.30am. Book in advance, £1  
per person, 338191.

July 19th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 5  
miles with Margaret Goatman from Horsmonden  
Spit Roast PH. TN12 8HT.

July 19th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
5.5 miles, no dogs, meet John Williams 01622  
764821, 10.00am, Manor Park, West Malling car  
park charge.

July 20th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute,  
7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham. Floral  
Simple Propagation – Laurie Manser, ring 364702.

July 21st – Fairview Frogs, Toddler Group, (see 7th  
July).

July 21st – GHS Floral Art Group, Contemporary  
/Modern workshop with Jill Flaxman, (see 7th  
July).

July 21st – The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,  
Strood Library, 7.45 – 10.00pm, £3.00.  
Birdwatching in Israel, Brian Nobbs.

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July 22nd – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 – 8.15pm,  
Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham,  
all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228.

July 23rd – Wigmore Thursday Club, My Year in  
Journalism around Downe Village by Barbara  
Stevens, (see 9th July).

July 23rd – Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm  
Country Park, 9.00am – 12noon. Learn the  
basics of coarse fishing. Suitable for children  
aged 8 to 12 years. Book in advance, £8 per  
child, ring 338191.

July 24th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, (see 10th July).

July 25th – Barnardo's Garden Tea Party, 32,  
Roberts Road, Rainham, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Bring &  
Buy, Raffle, Cake Stall, Book & Plant Stalls,  
Gifts and donations welcomed. Tickets £2.50 at  
the door (Refreshments included). Telephone  
233405 or 234053 for more information.

July 25th – Summer Fete, 2.00 – 4.00pm,  
Newington Court Care Home, Keycol Hill,  
Newington. Please come and join us, enjoy the  
stalls and have some fun. Admission is free, and  
there will be plenty for your children to do. We  
also have lots of old LP's (Records) on sale too!

July 26th – Ramblers Association walk, 10.00am, 7  
miles with Mim & Frank Ewen from Headcorn  
Church, TN27 9NH.

July 26th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group  
walk, 6 miles, no dogs, meet Stephen Manning  
01634 375821, 10.00am, lower Halstow,  
Lapwing Drive.

July 30th – Fishing Teaching, (see 23rd July).  
July 30th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and  
Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, The Howard  
Memorial Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, contact  
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Continued on Page 13

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## Diary 2009

July 31st - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,  
(see 10th July).

July 31st - Mid-Kent Astronomical Society, Peter  
Parish, Constellation of the month (Cygnus and  
Lyra) (see 10th July).

July 31st - August 3rd - Flower Festival by  
Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group.  
Gillingham United Reformed Church, Balmoral  
Road, 10 am to 4 pm (2nd Aug 2.00 to 5.30pm) Free  
donations to RNLI and Kent Air Ambulance.

August 1st - Friends of St. Margaret's Church, Garden  
Party at 37 Edwin Rd, 12 noon - 5pm. Entrance £4  
includes a salad meal and dessert. Raffle stalls etc.

August 2nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
5 miles, no dogs, meet Pearl Stevens 07724602929,  
10.00am, Hucking eastern end Church Road.

August 3rd & 4th - Survival Challenge, Capstone  
Farm Country Park for children aged 7 plus, one  
accompanying adult per child unless pre-arranged.  
Book in advance on 01634 338191 £20 per person  
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August 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,  
4.5 miles, no dogs, meet Stephen Manning 01634  
375821, 6.30pm, Strood Cinema, Chariot Way.

August 4th - Monster and Critter Masks, Riverside  
Country Park 10.00am - 12noon and 2.00 - 4.00pm.  
For accompanied children aged 5 to 12 years. Book

in advance, £1 per child, ring 337432.

August 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society,  
7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane,  
Competition Night, all welcome, ring 231972

August 6th - Fishing Teaching, (see 23rd July).

August 7th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, (see 10th July).

August 8th - Indoor Craft Market, (see 11th July).

August 8th - Instep Dancing, (see 11th July).

August 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group  
walk, 6 miles, dogs OK, meet Roger Danks 01634  
317993, 2.00pm, Selling Station.

August 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group for those still in employment (see 13th July)  
August 11th - Medway Antique & Collector's  
Club, Dr J W Reuther 'The Death and Burials of  
the Tudors' (see 14th July).

August 12th - Treasure Trove Trail, Riverside  
Country Park 11.00am 2.00pm. For accompanied  
children aged 5 to 12 years. £1 per child, no need  
to book, drop in any time.

August 12th - Rainham Poetry Group, (see 8th Jul)  
August 12th - Bredhurst W.I. Bob Ogley - Kent in  
the 20th Century, (see 8th July).

August 12th - Rainham Flower Club, Outing to a  
members garden. (see 8th July).

August 14th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship  
Group, (see 10th July).

August 15th - Monthly Indoor Farmers Market,  
(see 18th July).

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**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.

**BUILDER & DECORATOR** Any job considered. Roger Clay. Telephone 01634 361596

**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.

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