

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

JULY 2010  
NUMBER 456



I feel I should recognise these youngsters. From their badges they would appear to be a Kent Athletic Team on the back of a Gransden lorry, from or at, Rainham in 1961. As they are obviously teenagers this makes them my contemporaries but I am afraid I can not name them or the occasion. If anyone can help supply the missing information we would love to hear from you.

## Robert J. Kitney

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Next Issue August 7th 2010  
 Copy Date: July 20th, Sm Ads July 27th  
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## Editorial

In 1927 when official discussions began about the long suggested idea of Rainham become part of the Borough of Gillingham opinion was divided. The long time residents valued their links with Milton Rural District Council, Faversham Constituency and the Diocese of Canterbury. However the parish had grown steadily during the past few years and the newcomers were anxious for the improvements that Gillingham promised. Main drainage, electricity, Council houses and secondary education were all lacking in Rainham at that time and Milton had few resources to supply them. The vote in 1928 provided a victory for amalgamation and so Rainham was incorporated into the Borough of Gillingham on Easter Monday April 1st 1929. Those still smarting from the lost vote felt this was an appropriate date! However the residents did manage to rebut the final indignity when the railway company proposed re-naming Rainham Station 'Gillingham East'. Now I see we are to be known by the travelling public by this much disliked name. The hoardings surrounding the new Premier Inn construction site on the Manor Farm Restaurant ground at the junction of Maidstone Road and the A2 proudly proclaim the coming of the new 'Gillingham-East A2' Inn. Admittedly Rainham can be confused with our namesake across the river (occasionally we have received phone calls from a puzzled delivery driver unable to find Station Road as he was attempting to deliver our goods in Essex) but what is wrong with 'Rainham, Kent A2'? The owners of the restaurant did not endeavor themselves to many of us when they gave the building a makeover in the spring of 2003 completely obliterating the attractive brick work detail of the original structure. Perhaps this time they can be persuaded to rethink the name of their new motel if only for the sake of their guests. No resident of Medway asked for directions to Gillingham East would think of Rainham. July is always a busy month as almost every school, church and charity stages a garden party, fair or production before the traditional holiday month of August. Our Diary lists many of these events plus the usual list of organised walks so there is plenty to keep you occupied this month. After a rather stop and start spring varying from very cold to very wet and finally warm and sunny the vegetable garden is finally establishing itself and

perhaps we will manage to get a harvest after all. Everything seems later than usual but perhaps that is just because I am too impatient, I am sure it will happen eventually. Have a good month and we will be with you again in August.

## Correspondence

### WORLD CUP BIG SWAP

Dear Editor,

There are lots of Panini and Match Attax World Cup card and sticker collectors out there all itching to complete their sets and albums. So, as a fun event to lead up to the World Cup Final, we are opening the Community Centre at St Matthew's Church, Brewery Drive ME8 0NX, on World Cup Final Day so that all these collectors can get together and complete the sets before the Final Whistle!

The event is completely free - free entry - everyone who comes along will receive a free gift (whilst the stocks last) - free refreshments. To enhance the atmosphere we will be showing the 1966 World Cup Final! Readers can give me a ring on 01634 372508 or e-mail to the [worldcupswap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:worldcupswap@hotmail.co.uk) for more information about what will be going on. So far we have received great support from the card manufacturers and Tesco - and more sponsors are coming in.

Come and have a fun afternoon to get World Cup Day off to a great start. Let's hope England get to the final! So, we hope to see you on Sunday 11th July

Yours sincerely  
 Paul Warren

### FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Dear Editor,

The A.G.M. of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church will be held in church on Saturday 24th July at 4.00pm followed by tea and biscuits. All members and interested parties are invited to attend.

On Saturday 31st July our Garden Party will be held at 37, Edwin Road, Rainham from 12noon until 5.00pm. The entrance fee of £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children (under 5s free) will include a substantial salad meal plus dessert. There will also be a Bring & Buy, raffle and craft stalls. Please bring a garden chair if possible. All friends and would-be friends are welcome. Any enquiries phone 322193.

Yours faithfully,  
 Kay Jarvis  
 (committee member)

### PLEASE HELP FROGS

Dear Editor,

FROGS (Friends of Gambian Schools) is a small Kent based charity which supports educational development in The Gambia, through direct support of schools. Projects such as building, refurbishment and self sufficiency initiatives are administered by members living in The Gambia.

On Saturday 24th July between 2.30 and 5.00pm, we will be opening our garden for Afternoon Tea

and Garden Party (indoors if wet!) and would like to invite all of your readers to come along.

Last year we were pleased to raise nearly £500 for the charity, so readers are invited to visit our garden enjoy a cup of tea and some home made cake and help us try to match this brilliant total. Entrance will be £2.50 and includes the cost of the refreshments.

Yours sincerely  
 Sue and Paul Warren

### CALLING AMATEUR CARPENTERS

Dear Editor,

I have a large variety of off cuts in my garage. Please ring if you would like them and come and help yourself - free.

Yours sincerely  
 Derek Bendle  
 01634 364531

### PUMP FARM

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest Stan Randall's article on Pump Farm in Action Forum No 451 (January 2010) as I was brought up at the farm, spending most of my time whilst mum was fruit picking, with granddad and nan (Pop and Sue Smith) who ran the farm from 1930. They had previously been at Little London Farm in Twydall and before that at Forresters Lodge Farm at Boughton although they were both from Dargate originally. Their eldest son Alfred who was mentioned by Stan was my dad. I was born in 1946 when he returned from North Africa via Messina, North Italy and a six week spell circling the Bay of Biscay - the whole boat was quarantined due to Smallpox - before returning to RAF Detling Aerodrome. After this experience Dad hated boats, even channel ferries were not an option.

I used to spend many a day with my dad in his beloved AEC Mammoth Major 8 wheeler fleet No 6 lorry mainly carrying reels of paper from Aylesford Paper Mill. One trip I remember in particular was four days including going through the first Mersey Tunnel to Odhams Press, Liverpool where they printed The Eagle comic. Later the company became British Road Services and Dad and his mate Tommy Knight had brand new vehicles, the pride of the fleet but they were all eventually relocated to the Aylesford depot. Pump Farm was used by several firms before becoming the home of Sommers and then King's Ferry Coaches.

Dad went to BRS Strood and later drove for me as by then I had a few lorries. He retired in 1980 and died in 1987. He never had an accident throughout his working life and was one of the old school - never late, never got lost and drove every vehicle perfectly. Many of the Medway Transport drivers were from Rainham, Frank Westaway, Freddie Moore (Dad taught him to drive), Geoff Styles, Tommy Cresser, Geoff Lewis, Frank Ackerill, Bill Ford, Don Clark and Ray Hatton (whose niece Carole is now my wife) spring to mind.

When I first started with my lorries (Terry A Smith Transport) I parked them at Pump Farm but the new style of transport articulated and heavier vehicles meant I needed to move to larger premises. After Kings Ferry Coaches moved from Pump Farm the bulldozers arrived and everything was flattened including the oast house, agricultural buildings and a grade II listed cottage. Speaking to the developers I was asked to suggest a name for the new road. I answered it could only be Pop Smith Close or Cherry Farm but these were obviously not acceptable so it became Russett Farm and I fully agree with Stan they could at least have spelt it correctly (ie Russet).

Terry A Smith  
 01634 853095

### RAINHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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# Diary 2010

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: 20th July

July 3rd - Table Top Sale Bargains Galore, St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, Wigmore 10.00am to 1.00pm  
July 3rd - Coffee Morning, Rainham Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 10.00 - 11.30am Cake stall, 'bric-a-brac', Traidcraft. Proceeds to our Relief Fund which responds to world disasters. All welcome to come for coffee.

July 3rd - Meredale Independent School and Nursery Summer Fete, Solomon Road, Rainham. 12 to 3.00pm.

July 3rd - Upchurch Choral Society, Showstoppers. St Mary's Church, Upchurch, 7.30pm. Tickets £6

July 3rd - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing, 8.00 - 11.00pm, ring 363738 or [s.collins02@btinternet.com](mailto:s.collins02@btinternet.com).

July 4th - Bredhurst Woodland Action Group, Nature Walk & Picnic, 10.30am. Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst. Free walk but £7.50 per for lunch ring Jim Chalmers 07870 878907 or Ann Callen 07976 903344

July 4th - Sunday Service with Mediums John and Sue Tonbridge from 6.30pm entrance £1. The Centre, Farthing Corner 366944 [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)

July 5th - Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Medway and the Olympics' talk by Councillor Vaughan Hewitt. New members of all ages welcome. We have a variety of speakers/activities etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting, this includes coffee and biscuits, contact Sue 230639.

July 6th - Fairview Frogs Parent & Toddler Group every Tuesday in term time 10.00 - 11.30am, activities include dressing up, craft, sand & water play, sports, picnic and beach, for details contact Fairview Community Primary School 338710

July 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Alma Miles 7.00pm, Birling Church car park for 5 mile undulating walk. Dogs allowed.

July 6th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Bastille Day - continental parallel. Visitors welcome 01634 232998.

July 6th - Every Tuesday at The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free Healing, Reiki or Spiritual, from 7.30-9.00 pm. Alan 362121 [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)

July 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Clematis - Joan Jepson, new members welcome 231972 for details.

July 7th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 at The Stone Horse PH, Dillywood Lane, Wainscott, evening 7.00pm 4 mile walk over fields and orchards. Pub at end.

July 8th - Fairview Tadpoles Parent & Baby Group, each Thursday in term time 1.15 - 2.45pm, sessions suitable for babies to just toddling, Fairview Community Primary School 01634 338710.

July 8th - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Avon Calling' - Kay Howard-Challis, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

July 8th - Hempstead Leisure Club for over 50's. Whist, scrabble etc, tea & chat. Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road, 2-4pm. New members welcome. 01634 366907.

July 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday 9.45am - 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 9th - MKAS meet at Bredhurst Village Hall second and last Friday each month, Roger Pickard: - Variable Stars and the B.A.A Variable Star section. For observing they meet on the other Friday's at the Victoria Hotel, Canterbury. More details by phoning Trev on 07717678795 [www.midkentastro.org.uk/](http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/)

July 10th - 11th - Survival Challenge, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.30am - 10.00am. Camp out in the woodland, cook your own food and learn traditional crafts. For accompanied children aged 7 plus, Book 01634 338191, £20 per person (includes breakfast).

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July 10th - 1st Wigmore Brownies, annual Mini Fete, Bredhurst School Hall, 2.00pm, raffle 3.45pm.

Selection of stalls and games, admission free.

July 10th - Fort Pitt Old Girls Reunion and AGM School open 2pm AGM 4pm. Tea available at a charge, pre booked and paid for. Contact Marion to book 01795 599378 evenings and weekends [www.fpoga.ik.com](http://www.fpoga.ik.com)

July 10th - Produce Sale 10 am to 12.30pm. St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow in church, produce, local craft stalls. & refreshments.

July 11th - St. Augustine's School Deanwood Drive, Rainham, Summer Fair, 12noon - 3.00pm. All welcome, Stalls £10, call 01634 371892. Entrance by donation at the gate.

July 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike Patrick outside Vernon Holme School, Lower Harbledown 2 miles west of Canterbury, 10.00am for a 11 mile walk.

July 11th - World Cup Big Swap, St Matthew's Church Community Centre, Wigmore 2.00 - 4.00pm. Swap your Panini and Match Attax cards and stickers, Free entrance ring 372508 [worldcupswap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:worldcupswap@hotmail.co.uk)

July 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet John Williams 01622764821, 10.00am, Scotney Castle Near Lamberhurst for 5 miles. No dogs.

July 11th - Meditation group from 6.30pm. Entrance £3. A guided visualization / meditation The Centre, Farthing Corner [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk) 366944

July 12th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 364309.

July 12th - Rainham Wives, Summer Meal. (see 5th July)  
July 13th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Members Evening, Visitors £2.50 anyone interested welcome, ring 01474 823606 for details.

July 14th - Tiny Tots Extreme, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Arts & crafts with extra mess, please wear old clothes. Drop in any time, £1 per child.

July 14th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Bob & Maureen Bassett 01634 578721 at Luton (Chatham) Recreation Ground, 7.00pm for a 4 miles Pub at end.

July 14th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, Pram & Baby Carriages of Yesteryear - Beth Huckstep, ring 01634 232617 for more details.

July 14th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40, Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

July 15th - Hempstead Leisure Club Chaplain to the Mayor - Sam Funnell (see 8th July).

July 15th - Rainham Women Institute 1.45 - 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Growing Old Disgracefully. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit, 01634 364639.

July 15th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Barry Langford, (see 8th July).

July 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Chris Morris 016324 374923, 7.00pm, Hucking park at Hook and Hatchet PH for 4 miles Dogs allowed.

July 16th - Organ Recital - Dr David Flood, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Canterbury Cathedral. 8.00 p.m. St. Mary's Church, Upchurch, £8, Details Frank Osborne on 01634/233576

July 17th - Barnardo's Garden Tea Party. 4, Broadview Ave, Rainham, 2.00 - 4.00pm Tickets £3 (refreshments included) at the door or 375486.

July 17th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Sally Starbuck 07860243119 at The White Rock Inn, Underriver, near Sevenoaks, evening 5.00pm 4 mile walk. One steep hill, bring picnic tea. Pub at end.

July 17th - HOPE fun day, Parkwood Green, 12pm to 5pm Inflatables, crafts, face painting, carousel etc  
July 17th - Ramases 2.30pm, Newington Village Hall. 'Seekers of the Sacred Stone' By Dylan Bickerstaffe Tickets at the door, £8.00, disabled access.

July 17th - Medway Singers and Enchant -RGGS Choir Concert, 7.30pm, St Augustine's Church, Parkwood. Tickets £8 (£5 Cons) from Josie Ryder 01634 300725 Proceeds to Alzheimer's Association.

July 17th - Fort Amherst, Dock Rd, Chatham. ME4 4UB. Over Night Paranormal Investigations "Are You Brave Enough?" 8pm-3am, £45 per person, pre-booked, over 18 only, for more information and booking 01634 847747 or [fortamherst.com](http://fortamherst.com)

July 18th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 10.00am, Lower Halstow park in Lapwing Drive for 6 miles No dogs.

July 18th - Bredhurst Woodland Action Group, Volunteer Day, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst. See [www.bwag.org.uk](http://www.bwag.org.uk) or call Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940

July 18th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 at the Castle PH, Oare, 10.00am for a 5 mile walk following Oare Creek. Pub at end.

Continued on Page 11

## K. Gillard

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**PRODUCE SALES** — dates for your diary  
 Friends of St.Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow  
 will be holding the highly successful Produce Sales  
 in the church, once again this summer. Come along  
 for a variety of Home-made Produce including  
 cakes, preserves and garden produce. We also have  
 several local craft stalls joining us. Refreshments  
 will be available. So, join us on Saturday: 10th July /  
 14th August / 18th September 10.00am to 12.30pm  
 Donations of produce (except books) would be very  
 welcome. See you there!

**SUMMER FAIR**  
 St. Augustine's School Deanwood Drive, Rainham  
 Sunday 11th July, 12noon — 3.00pm  
 BBQ, Bouncy Castle, Cake Stall, Tombola,  
 Fire Brigade, Coconut Shy, Crafts,  
 Grand Prize draw and lots more.  
 Stalls available £10. Call 01634 371892  
 Entrance by donation at the gate  
 All welcome, See you there!

**FORT PITT REUNION**  
 Fort Pitt Old Girls Reunion and AGM to be held  
 Saturday 10th July. School and grounds will be  
 open from 2pm AGM starts at 4pm. Tea will be  
 available at a charge, pre booked and paid for. Please  
 contact Marion to book 01795 599378 evenings and  
 weekends our website [www.fpoga.ik.com](http://www.fpoga.ik.com)

**ORGAN RECITAL** by Dr. David Flood  
 Organist and Master of the Choristers  
 Canterbury Cathedral  
 Friday 16th July, 8.00 p.m.  
 St. Mary's Church, Upchurch  
 Admission £8  
 The Recital is to celebrate the recent refurbishment  
 of the church organ and to raise funds towards the  
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**BARNARDO'S GARDEN TEA PARTY**  
 4, Broadview Ave, Rainham  
 Saturday 17th July, 2.00 — 4.00pm  
 Bring & Buy — Raffle — Tombola — Cake Stall —  
 Books & Plant Stall Gifts and Donations welcomed  
 Tickets £3 (refreshments included)  
 At the door or phone 01634 375486  
 All welcome for a lovely afternoon

**COFFEE MORNING**  
 Rainham Methodist Church Hall  
 Wakeley Road, Rainham  
 Saturday 3rd July 10.00 -11.30am  
 Cake stall, 'bric-a-brac', Traidcraft  
 Proceeds to our Relief Fund which responds to  
 world disasters  
 All welcome to come for coffee

**BREDHURST WOODLAND ACTION GROUP**  
 Volunteer Day Sunday 18th July, 10.00am — 2.00pm  
 Meet at Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst. Come and help  
 with restoration work in Bredhurst Woods. Jobs  
 include light coppicing, fencing repairs etc. Please  
 bring gloves and wear suitable clothing. For details  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

This month's article is partly based on notes that I took, as surreptitiously as I could, whilst watching a performance of "Midsummer Night's Dream", in the grounds of Leeds Castle, on a glorious summer's evening.

With time to spare before the performance, my wife and I took a stroll around the castle's Culpepper Garden, which is the epitome of a large English cottage garden. Flower beds are arranged in an informal pattern with low box hedges as borders and, in summer, the garden is a profusion of scent and colour. During our visit there was a buzz of bees about the place. Roses were in full bloom and one particular variety caught our attention. It was "Rosa Mundi", a sweetly smelling shrub rose of a very pale pink colour with crimson stripes. Known since the 16th century, Shakespeare may well have had it in mind when he wrote that "... a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

We then sat down in the Italian Garden overlooking the Great Water. The garden is rich with Mediterranean and sub-tropical plants which provide flowers throughout the year. On or by the side of the Great Water was a large flock of mute swans and a smaller flock of black swans. House martins were feeding on insects in the air above the lake and calling to each other as they did so. Beyond the lake, sheep were grazing in parkland dotted with oak and sweet chestnut trees. A hot air balloon was rising into a clear blue sky criss-crossed with vapour trails.

In due course we made our way towards the venue for the 7.30 pm performance - the lawn in front of the former tennis pavilion. The setting was ideal, beside the diminutive River Len and surrounded by weeping willow, alder and other trees. We settled down in our seats in front of a portable booth stage of the type used in Shakespeare's day by actors on tour. Sitting on the grass immediately in front of the stage were two groups of school children who, it is pleasing to report, remained interested and attentive throughout the performance.

The evening got off to a good start when I noticed a

spotted flycatcher emerging from its presumed nesting site in the wisteria in front of the tennis pavilion. It joined its mate at the top of an alder tree from which both parents sallied forth, caught a passing insect, and then returned to their perches. Once they had a mouthful of insects they flew to their nest, undeterred and undisturbed by the players and their appreciative audience.

The wood pigeon is now one of this country's commonest birds and their display flight is accordingly a common sight during summer. I watched a couple of pigeons rising in an arc, clapping their wings and gliding down on bowed wings. The clapping sound is caused by a whiplash effect. Through the trees, I caught sight of a group of swifts scything and screaming though the evening air. The bird song all around me was a reminder that the breeding season was not yet over. I heard blackbirds, chaffinches and song thrushes, one of the latter singing until sunset.

By the second half of the play, after the picnic interval, the sun had long since disappeared below the trees and it was becoming cooler. I could hear jackdaws as they flew overhead on the way to their woodland roost, which they probably shared with the local rooks. As the evening light began to dim, the electric lights on the front of the stage started to attract moths and other insects, none of which I could readily identify. Not long ago it was common to find moths such as the garden tiger and magpie in gardens or coming to lighted windows, even in towns. But a combination of adverse effects on them has greatly reduced their numbers in recent years. Moths are important pollinators and are a key source of food for many species of bats.

The grounds of Leeds Castle are, in fact, one of the best places in the South East of England to see pipistrelle, daubenton and serotine bats, which roost during the day in the old buildings and trees within the grounds. They feed, largely after dusk, over the moat and the Great Water, in the woodland glades and over the grassland areas. The rustic tennis pavilion serves as a day roost for quite a number of bats. However, we failed to see a single bat during our sojourn on the lawn and Mrs Ennis showed no enthusiasm for a bat hunt, elsewhere on the estate,

before we went home.

So, the bats were nothing to write home about. But what about the Shakespeare? "Midsummer Night's Dream" is, of course, a comedy and the actors and actresses of the Globe Theatre on Tour, dressed in summer clothes of the 1920s, gave an enjoyable and amusing performance. It was an appropriate choice of play for a warm, mid summer's evening on the lawn and among the trees.

Joe Ennis

## THE JEZREELS TOWER part 2 (continued from June 2010)

Although he firmly believed in his own immortality, James Jezreel died at the age of 45 in 1885 and is buried in the Grange Road Cemetery. His funeral was attended by more than 4000 people. After his death Clarissa was proclaimed Queen Esther the Virgin and Mother of Israel but the group became troubled. In particular one American, Noah Drew, a wealthy landowner had sold everything so that he and his family could follow Jezreel to England and now found themselves in abject poverty. Drew publicly denounced the sect and told all who would listen his grievances. His ranting encouraged a crowd of some 500 people who set upon a group of Jezreelites who were marching through New Brompton. The incident needed Police reinforcements to disperse the crowd and drew the attention of the London newspapers.

Queen Esther was not immortal either and she died in 1888 aged 28 of kidney disease. Buried in Grange Road her funeral was only attended by 40 people highlighting the decline in popularity of the group. After her death it was revealed to the sect that although £30,000 had been spent on building the Tower, another £30,000 was needed for completion. In addition contractors were owed a great deal of money. This was thought to be the reason why death had come to Jezreel and his wife as they were obviously unsuitable to be taken to Heaven in the final gathering.

In 1897 the Tower and surrounding land was put up for sale but it was 6 years before a buyer could be found. With falling numbers the sect fell behind with the rent and in 1905 the owners ordered the demolition of the Tower. Attempts were made to liquidate the materials but so well built was the Tower that these attempts failed with contractors

made bankrupt. The iron and steel frame was cut out by Hall & Sons of Rochester who were declared desecrators of a Holy place. Strange to say, that soon after Mr. Hall died adding to theories that all who tried to bring the Tower down were doomed!

The whole site was purchased by the Cooperative Society in 1920 and the Canterbury Street buildings were converted into shops and a shoe repair factory. A painting was made of the Tower by Tristram Hillier in 1937 which now hangs in the Tate. During WWII the Tower was used as a fire plotting point and a broadcasting station. The Canterbury Street buildings were finally demolished in 2008 after years of dereliction. The Tower was eventually raised to the ground in 1961 and became the site of the Jubilee clip factory. However, as before, misfortune accompanied its destruction when a worker on the site was killed.

It is interesting to note that one of Jezreels followers Benjamin Purnell and his wife Mary went on to found one of America's most famous communal societies 'The Israelite House of David'.

Maureen Wade

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## Diary 2010

- July 18th – Berengrave Nature Reserve Walk, 10.00am – 12noon. Meet at entrance just below Chalky Bank Road. Book in advance 01634 337432, £1 per person.
- July 19th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Musical Instruments – Norman Blow, comp Fabric, 372282.
- July 19th – Wigmore WI, 7.30pm Scout Hut, Edwards Close, Wigmore, ring 263405 for details.
- July 20th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Joan Weekes 01634 8555229, 7.00pm, Wouldham All Saints Church please park courteously in the Street for 3.5 mile undulating walk. Dogs allowed.
- July 20th – GHS Floral Art Group, Leaf Manipulation – with Carol G. (see 6th July).
- July 21st – Bredhurst Garden Club, Mr L Manser illustrated talk, 'Sweet Peas' African Violet & Sweet Pea Show, 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details, new members welcome.
- July 21st – Hempstead Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting 8.15 pm. All residents invited
- July 22nd – Pamper Evening 7.00 - 10.00pm, St. Georges Hall, Berengrave Lane. In aid of 4th Gillingham Sea Scout Group. Refreshments. Tickets £2 in advance (please phone or email to book). All treatments £5 each or less. Contact Julie 01634 361061
- July 22nd – Wigmore Thursday Club, Bingo, (see 8th)
- July 22nd – Hempstead Leisure Club Whist, card games, scrabble etc (see 8th July).
- July 24th – Forest Skills, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am – 12noon. Traditional forest crafts for accompanied children aged 8 – 13 years. Book in advance 01634 338191, £3 per child.
- July 24th – A.G.M. of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church, in church, 4.00pm followed by tea & biscuits.
- July 24th – Instep Dancing, (see 3rd July).
- July 24th – Help FROGS (Friends of Gambian Schools) Afternoon Tea, 2.30 – 5.00pm at 42, The Goldings, 372508 Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments.

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- July 24th – Rainham Methodist Church., Corner of Station Road/Wakeley Road. An Evening of Summer Sounds, Featuring Roger Luxton's Dance Band and Supporting Acts. 7.30pm, Refreshment, Tickets £3.50 from Denise 01634 374231. Proceeds towards Secondary Double Glazing of Church Windows. Deputy Mayor of Medway attending.
- July 25th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 2.00pm, Strood Cinema, Chariot Way for 4.5 mile walk. No dogs.
- July 25th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Lesley & Terry Thompson 07958574363 at Lullingstone Park Visitors Centre, 10am for 6.5 mile walk. Pubs.
- July 25th – Beginners Butterflies, Darland Banks, 10am – 12noon. Book in advance 338191, £1 each.
- July 26th – Summer Fayre, Deanwood Primary School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood 12noon – 3.00pm. Many Stalls, Games, Cakes, BBQ, Admission Adults 50p, Children 20p Pre-school Free. Stalls £12, ring 231901.
- July 27th – Mini Beast Hunt, Riverside Country Park 10.00am – 12noon. For accompanied children 5 – 12 years, Book in advance 01634 337432, £1 each.
- July 28th – Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 - 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228.
- July 28th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Peter & Ann Green 01634 718895 at Luddesdown Village Hall (near the Church), evening 6.30pm for a 4 mile pleasant countryside walk. Pub at end.
- July 28th – RSPB North Kent Marshes, Ick "r" us Inc - RSPB Northward Hill, Bromhey Farm, Cooling near Rochester. Gates open at 6.00pm for picnics performance 7.30pm. Tickets £11 (cons) Box office 01323 501260 [www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk) Please bring your own seats or rugs.
- July 29th – Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, 01634 312038.

Continued on Page 13

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## Diary 2010

July 29th - Hempstead Leisure Club Summer Lunch. (see 8th July).

July 29th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am - 2.00pm. A simple course suitable for groups, families and individuals. Book in advance 01634 338191, £1 per person.

July 30th - MKAS Martin Morgan Taylor: - Astronomical Alignments of Maltese Temples or Observatories. (see 9th July).

July 30th - Liz Adamson Author of many self help books. This workshop is entertaining and fun at the same time as being life transforming. The Centre, Farthing Corner. 7.30pm, £5.00, 366944 [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)

July 31st - Friends of St Margaret's, Rainham, Garden Party 37, Edwin Road, Rainham from 12noon - 5.00pm. £4.00 adults, £2.00 children (under-5's free) substantial salad & dessert. Bring & Buy, raffle and craft stalls. Please bring a garden chair. All welcome. 322193.

August 1st - Mini Beast Hunt, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am - 12noon. For accompanied children 5 - 12 years. Book in advance 01634 338191, £1 per child.

August 1st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Pearl Stevens 07724 602929, 10.00am, Camer Park for 6 mile hilly walk with countryside views and some stiles. No dogs.

August 3rd - Family Fun Trail Challenge, Capstone Farm Country Park. For accompanied children 5 - 12 years. Drop in any time no need to book 01634 338191, £1 per child.

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August 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Competition Night, (see 7th July).

August 5th - Monster and Critter Masks, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon & 2.00 - 4.00pm For accompanied children 5 - 12 years, Book in advance 01634 337432, £1 per child.

August 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Patricia Daniel 01634 331027, 10.00am, Wouldham park in Recreation Ground for 9 mile hilly walk via Burham and Nashenden. No dogs.

August 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment (see 12th July).

August 10th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, Mr David Carder - Churches of Romney Marshes, (see 13th July).

August 10th - Family Wildlife Walk Capstone Farm Country Park 11.00am - 12noon. Walk with a ranger. Book in advance 01634 338191, Free August 11th - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12noon. For accompanied children 5 - 12 years, Book in advance 01634 337432, £1 per child.

August 11th - Bredhurst WI, My Experience of Fostering - Mrs Sue Gilbert, (see 14th July).

August 11th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall, Demonstration 'In pursuit of happiness' by Sylvia Cheeseman details 01795 425700 or see [www.rainhamflowerclub.uk.com](http://www.rainhamflowerclub.uk.com)

August 12th - Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm Country Park, 9.00am - 12noon. Learn the basics of course fishing for children aged 8 - 12 years, Book in advance 01634 338191, £8 per child.

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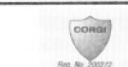
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