

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

AUGUST 2010
NUMBER 457



Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, in the early 1950s before the new church was built in front. The picture includes Mrs Pope, Mr & Mrs Brumby, Mr Stevenson and Mrs Hollybon in the back row. Mr and Mrs Spurge, Rev and Mrs Bickley, Mr and Mrs Moseley and Mr and Mrs Jewell in the front row. We would be interested if you know any other names or information about the picture.

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Next Issue September 4th 2010
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Editorial

It does not seem possible it can be summer holiday time already but sure enough the calendar tells me it is August. The perennial problem for parents of young children is how to keep them amused for six weeks without spending a fortune. We are very fortunate in this area to have a number of excellent attractions that can be visited entirely free of charge – indeed at some you would be hard pressed to spend any money – whilst others can supply the occasional ice cream treat should you wish to indulge. Some like Riverside Country Park, Capstone Farm Country Park, Berengrave Nature Reserve, Queendown Warren, Darland Banks, Rainham Recreation Ground, Cozenton Park and The Strand are within easy walking or cycling distance for older children. Others including the new White Horse Country Park at the top of Detling Hill (from here you can walk down the hill to explore the ruins of Thurnham Castle), Allington Lock, Mote Park in Maidstone, Penenden Heath and Shorne Country Park near Cobham are a short car journey away. All provide lots of space for running and exploring or playing games plus good picnic spots – ideal for a family day out. We have had several phone calls suggesting the names of the young girls featured on the front page of last month's Action Forum. Everyone agrees they belonged to Rainham Ladies Athletic Club who, under the leadership of Mr Armstrong, trained on the playing fields of the Rainham Secondary Schools in Orchard Street (now St Margaret's Infant and Junior Schools). The first person to contact us was Peggy Manktelow (now Burr) who is in the centre of the front row of the photo. She thinks they were probably appearing at Upchurch Carnival but as she was one of the youngest in the club, at the time, unfortunately can not name the others. However other callers have told us that Susan Hill (now Poynter) is front left, a very good athlete who won many events, with sisters Sandra and Carol Jackson (now Parry) beside her. Jeanette Ashby is standing behind Sandra and Margaret Morris is standing on the extreme right. Thank you to everyone who contacted us I hope I have interpreted my notes correctly! It still leaves 3 unknown girls if anyone else has any ideas. Sadly in July one of our very long standing advertisers died. Barry Hayfield first advertised in 1976 as B. Hayfield & Co Builders Ltd for plastering,

concreting, roofing, carpentry and plumbing, specialising in Property Maintenance. When Keith and Paul were born Barry changed the name to B. Hayfield & Sons. Those of us who used him were impressed with the quality of his work and the pride he took in it. In time Keith joined his father and continues the family firm with its excellent reputation. August is traditionally the holiday month when we all need to be good neighbours and keep a watchful eye on nearby property especially when people are away. But whether you intend travelling abroad, holidaying in the UK or prefer to enjoy our own small corner of the country do have a good month and we will see you all again in September.

Correspondence

JEZREELS TOWER

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the two articles on The Jezreels Tower (June & July 2010). My great grandfather, Thomas Weekes of Cuxton, obtained the cement contract for the Tower and, along with the other contractors, received no payment.

All that remains of the Weekes Cement Factory is the grand brick arch at the entrance and the family home, Tinnoth House, standing on the opposite side of Cuxton Road.

Yours faithfully
 Gillian Pilcher nee Weekes
 26 Springvale ME8 0JG

ST MARGARET'S PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
 Dear Editor,

St Margaret's Parent and Toddler Group - First Steps now have two new leaders, Zoe Cramer (327709) and Wendy Neeson (364830) who have kindly offered to run the group. We meet on Friday afternoons in term time in the Upper Hall of the Millennium Centre. On September 17th we will be celebrating our 30th birthday, all past leaders and members are very welcome to join us. Any queries please contact Frances Brown 387342.

Yours sincerely
 Frances Brown

HARVEST TEAS

Dear Editor,

Once again, the partners of The Lions Club of Gillingham are hosting Harvest Teas for Senior Citizens of the district of Rainham on Sundays 3rd and 17th October.

We would particularly like to invite elderly people who either live alone or who do not have the opportunity to get out very often. Please encourage family, friends or neighbours to apply for a free invitation by writing to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 11, Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham ME8 7QX, or by telephoning Brenda on 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840.

If transport is required to and from the venue, The Millennium Centre, Rainham, this can be

arranged. Arrival time is 3.30pm, finishing at approximately 6 o'clock. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely
 Beryl Brenton

(on behalf of The Lions' Partners)

BREDHURST CAT ADOPTION CENTRE

Dear Editor

There will be lots of fun for all the family at the annual Open Day of the Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre in Matts Hill Road (just outside Bredhurst Village) on Sunday 5th September from 11am - 4pm. BBC Radio Kent's top presenter Pat Marsh will officially open the event at 11.45am and will be with us through the afternoon to add to the fun!

There will be lots of entertainments, including dancing and martial arts displays, Scotty's Circus Workshop, raffles, tombola, vintage cars, face-painting, plants, a huge selection of bargain bric-a-brac, books, toys.....plus our grand Cat Photo Competition (bring your favourite snaps for a chance to win lovely rosettes) and many Cats Protection branches from around the region selling their wares. We will also have available high quality refreshments by the Cottage Bakery of Wigmore, ice-creams and a BBQ. Entrance is only 50p per person with free parking nearby. All the monies raised will go to help the many cats at the Bredhurst Adoption Centre who are looking for loving new homes. Don't miss it!

Many thanks,
 Linda Lisgarten

Secretary, Friends of Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre.

BOND & BEYOND

Dear Editor

Wigmore MADs present their autumn concert 'Bond & Beyond' on Friday 3rd September at 8.00pm in St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. It's an evening of easy listening music with favourite songs from the Bond movies to the relaxing songs of Michael Buble. Tickets are £6, (£5 conc) available from Sue on Medway 370639.

Yours sincerely
 Sue Burrows

BREDHURST ART, CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW

Dear Editor

Bredhurst will be holding its annual Art, Craft and Produce Show on Saturday, 4th September, at Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road. The show is

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. Staging will be from 9.00-11.00am. Exhibit Entrance: Adults - 30p per item, Children 10p per item.

Doors open to the public at 2.30pm. Adults 50p, Children 10p, Exhibitors free. There will be a produce sales stall and any exhibits remaining after the show will be auctioned. If you haven't entered or visited before do come along and give it a try. Looking forward to seeing you all there. If you need further information, please contact Show Chairman Mrs Wendy Keast - 01634 230325.

Yours sincerely
 Jenny Lewin

EVENING OF SUMMER SOUNDS

On behalf of members of Rainham Methodist Church, I would like to thank everyone who attended our Evening of Summer Sounds on Saturday 24th July. We certainly enjoyed ourselves, and hope that you did too. Through your generosity, the sum of £312.00 was raised, which will go towards the secondary glazing of the church windows, so thank you all very much. Denise Bryant

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Diary 2010

No charge is made for Diary entries
Copy should be in writing either by email to
alf@thenet.uk.net or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough,
Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 20th August

August 8th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Lesley & Terry Thomsan 07958 574363, 10.00am, Painters Forstall The Alma PH for a 6.25 mile fairly flat walk via Brogdale Farm and Ospringe, pub at end.

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 8th - Meditation group from 6.30. Entrance £3. A guided visualization /meditation is a time just for you, your time, space and experiences. If you have never meditated then start now. If you have meditated before then start again. The Centre, Farthing Corner. www.thecentreonline.co.uk 01634 366944

August 9th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring Julie on 01634 364309 for details.

August 10th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, Mr David Carder - Churches of Romney Marshes, Visitors £2.50 anyone interested welcome, ring 01474 823606 for details.

August 10th - Family Wildlife Walk Capstone Farm Country Park 11.00am - 12noon. Walk with a ranger. Book in advance 01634 338191, Free

August 10th - Every Tuesday at The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free Healing, Reiki or Spiritual available from 7.30 - 9.00pm. For more info. call Alan 01634 362121 www.thecentreonline.co.uk

August 11th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, My Experience of Fostering - Mrs Sue Gilbert, ring 01634 232617 for more details.

August 11th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40, Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

August 11th - Medway Urban Parks and Green Spaces Forum Open Meeting, 7.00pm, Medway Council's Gun Wharf offices, Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

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

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 12th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Jan Carroll, 10.00am, Teston Bridge car park (parking fee), for a river bank 5.5 mile walk via between Bow Bridge and Barming (some road and field). Pub at end.

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.

August 13th - 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.

August 14th - Ladies Art Group meets every Saturday morning at St. Barbara's Garrison Church Hall, Brompton, to paint in watercolour. Small friendly group with a tutor. New members of any level skill welcome. Phone Barbara 01634 235733 or e-mail barbara.trigg@sky.com for details.

August 14th - Produce Sale 10.00am to 12.30. St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow in church, variety of Home-made cakes, preserves and garden produce. local craft stalls. Refreshments.

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August 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Brenda Willson 01795 535941, 1.30pm, Bekesbourne Station Approach top section for 6 mile Cream Tea walk. No dogs.

August 15th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike & Coral Patrick, 10.00am, Teston Bridge car park (parking fee), for a river bank 5.5 mile walk via between Bow Bridge and Barming (some road and field). Pub at end.

August 16th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm Scout Hut, Edwards Close, Wigmore, ring 263405 for details.

August 16th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Members Evening, competition China, ring 372282.

August 18th - Family Friendly Walk, Riverside Country Park, Join one of the rangers for a wander round the park. Free ring 01634 337432 for details.

August 18th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Brian Self illustrated talk, 'Development of a Garden', 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details, new members welcome.

August 19th - Fishing Teaching, (see 12th Aug).

August 21st - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing, 8.00 - 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738 or s.collins02@btinternet.com for details.

August 21st - Bats from the Belfry, The Vines, Rochester from 7.30pm. Kent Wildlife Trust will lead the walk looking for bats. Meet at the Restoration House entrance. Children must be accompanied. Book in advance 01634 338191. Free

August 21st - 22nd Survival Challenge, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.30am - 10.00am. Camp out, cook your own food and learn traditional crafts. For accompanied children aged 7 plus, Book in advance 01634 338191, £20per person (includes breakfast).

August 22nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Roger Danks 01634 317993, 2.00pm, Mereworth Church for 6 mile walk. No dogs

August 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Derek Kent 07768 448633, 10.00am, Bluebell Hill picnic car park (top of hill off Common Road) for 11 mile walk via Medway Bridge, Wouldham, Burham and return uphill.

August 22nd - Rotary Club of Chatham support Clie Sargent Children with Cancer Appeal. Sponsored Walk, 9.45am from the Outlet Centre, Chatham Dockside, approx 6 miles. Teams or individuals welcome, sponsorships forms available. Contact David Oliver 01634 268707 for information.

August 24th Treasure Trove Trail, Riverside Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm For accompanied children 5 - 12, Drop in any time £1 per child.

August 25th - Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 - 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

August 26th - Mini Beast Hunt, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon. For accompanied children 5 - 12 years, Book in advance 01634 337432, £1 per child.

August 26th - Fishing Teaching, (see 12th).

August 26th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, 01634 312038.

August 28th & 29th - Dolls' House Exhibition, St Margaret's Junior School, Orchard Street, Rainham 10.00am - 4.00pm. Free entry, more information from 312038

August 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff Ettridge 07525 161766, 10.00am or 12.15pm, Eastling, Carpenters Arms PH for morning 5.5 mile or afternoon 3 mile walk. Both walks countryside no significant climbs. Pub at end, Sunday lunches booking advised 01795 890234.

August 29th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569, 10.00am, Chenevening park along road on approach to the Church for 5 mile hilly walk via. No dogs.

August 31st - Teddy Bears picnic, Riverside Country Park, 11.00am - 2.00pm. Bring your picnic and join in the fun. For accompanied children 3 - 7years, Book in advance 01634 337432,

September 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Talk on Roses - Mr Manser, new members welcome ring 231972 for details.

Continued on Page 11

K. Gillard

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local craft stalls. Refreshments will be available.
Donations of produce (except books) would be very
welcome. See you there!

ROTARY CLUB OF CHATHAM
Please help Rotary to support the CLIC Sargent
Children with Cancer Appeal
Sponsored Walk, Sunday, 22nd August, 9.45am
from the Outlet Centre, Chatham Dockside, via
St. Mary's Island, on to the Strand and return -
approximately 6 miles. Teams of walkers or
individuals are welcomed and sponsorships forms
are available. Please contact David Oliver 01634
268707 for further information. The Walk will be
started at 10.30am by The Worshipful Mayor of
Medway, Councillor David Brake.

OPEN MEETING
Medway Urban Parks and Green Spaces Forum
Wednesday 11th August 7.00pm Medway Council's
Gun Wharf offices. Updates from friends groups of
our outdoor recreation, leisure, cultural and historic
areas and a talk by Cllr Howard Doe, who holds the
Cabinet portfolio for this area of Medway Council's
activities. Anyone interested in the use, protection
and enhancement of our local outdoor areas is
welcome to attend.

KENT AIR AMBULANCE
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Emily Bailey on 07850 354848.

DOLLS HOUSE EXHIBITION
August 28th & 29th, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
St Margaret's Junior School,
Orchard Street, Rainham Free entry.
More information from 01634 312038

SURE START CENTRE
Riverside Sure Start Children's Centre is now open
at Riverside Primary School, St Edmund's Way,
Rainham. We provide information, support and
services, including a variety of play sessions, for
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

Over two years ago I reported on a late winter visit to Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, which is near Faversham and owned by Kent Wildlife Trust. This month, by way of contrast, I write about the reserve in early summer. It consists of grazing marsh, open water scrapes created by the Trust and dykes of both brackish and fresh water. We drove through the village of Oare and along Harty Ferry Road. We parked our car near the former Watch House of HM Customs and Excise, just below the sea wall, from where we intended to take a circular walk around the eastern half of the reserve.

From the top of the wall we had uninterrupted views in all directions. We could see the new Swale Crossing, Harty Ferry Inn, Harty Church, Shellness, Whitstable, Faversham Church and the North Downs. A Thames sailing barge, with red ochre sails, was proceeding very slowly along The Swale. Billowing white clouds floated in the wide, blue sky. It was a perfect summer's day.

We set off along the sea wall in the direction of Whitstable. Below us, on the landward side, were the reed beds of one of the dykes that line the reserve. Those that are fed by fresh water from a spring are recognisable by the profusion of common and lesser reed mace (commonly called bulrush) and common reed, whilst a characteristic of the brackish dykes is the presence of sea club rush. Common reed is, of course, the nesting habitat of reed warblers, whose sharp "tac" calls we heard during our visit. Marsh frogs, grass snakes and dragon flies also inhabit the dykes. Merlins will take dragon flies, as well as small birds. We kept our eyes open, but we were not lucky enough to see one of these delightful little falcons.

From the hide overlooking Faversham Creek we had a distant view of Hall Sands in the middle of The Swale. Exposed at low tide, they were about a mile away from where we stood. Through our binoculars we could just make out a group of seals hauled up on the sands. We assumed that they were common seals. These mammals feed at sea, but regularly haul out

onto inter-tidal sandbanks in order to rest, to give birth and to suckle their pups. Female common seals give birth to a single pup in June or July each year.

The young are very well developed at birth and can swim and dive when just a few hours old. This enables the seals to breed in estuaries where sand banks are exposed for only part of the day.

We followed the sea wall alongside Faversham Creek, on the waters of which were two shelduck followed by a line of ten ducklings. The latter would probably have been hatched down a nearby, disused rabbit hole. On the mudflats of the creek were beds of a pernicious hybrid plant called cord grass. It has become quite dominant throughout North Kent, to the exclusion of many native salt marsh plants. Even so, on the higher parts of the foreshore we spotted sea aster, sea lavender, sea wormwood and golden samphire, among the more common sea purslane.

Having turned inland, we arrived at the East Hide, which is wheelchair accessible, and which gives a very good view of the birds in or around the shallow water scrape known as East Flood. We could see, among other birds, avocet, oyster catcher, ringed plover, garganey and shoveller. But the birds that were there in their hundreds were black tailed godwits. These waders were still in breeding plumage, having just nested in Iceland. They were passing through this country, on their way south, perhaps to the Iberian Peninsular or Africa. Beef cattle were feeding on the remnants of the grazing marsh surrounding the East Flood. The tussocky grassland that their grazing produces is an ideal nesting habitat for redshank, lapwing, yellow wagtail, skylark and meadow pipit.

Whilst walking down Harty Ferry Road, on our way back to the car, we spotted a little grebe (or dabchick) on her floating nest in a dyke on the other side of the roadside fence. She was totally unconcerned about the attention she was receiving, being clearly used to bird watchers. Visitors can view the eastern half of the reserve without getting out of their cars, this being very useful for visitors with disabilities or when the weather is bitterly cold. Roadside information boards have been set up for those who need help

in identifying the birds that can be seen.

As we reached our car, we came across a group of elderly and windswept gentlemen, of ruddy complexion, who had just rowed ashore from the Thames sailing barge that we had seen earlier. In response to enquiries, we were told that the barge was the "Mirusa", built at Maldon in Essex in 1892, and the only remaining sailing barge without an engine. We were also told that, including some on Hall Sands, the crew had seen a total of 22 seals on The Swale that afternoon.

In order to be closer to Hall Sands we would have to get to the other side of Faversham Creek - but that would have to wait for another day.

Joe Ennis

ARE YOU FEELING ISOLATED OR LONELY? Would you like to come to our Social and Activity Group to meet other people who feel the same?

The Hands and Gillingham Volunteer Centre has been running the Community Friendship Scheme for nearly ten years. It was set up to support people who have become isolated or feel lonely. This may happen to people of any age and for a variety of reasons. Often a little bit of support and friendly contact is enough to get you started on making new friendships and getting involved in the wider community again. One of the ways we do this is through our Social and Activity Group.

The Group meets on the last Thursday of each month from 1.30 to 4.00pm, at the Millennium Centre, Gatekeepers Chase, Rainham. Members may like to have a game of scrabble or cards, try some sketching or craft work, or just sit back and relax with a cup of tea and have a chat with new friends. Every meeting we have a guest speaker giving a wide variety of presentations. All this will only cost £1 for the afternoon although there is also a raffle and you may want to take part in that. There is no age limit, either upper or lower, and the only rule is that people who attend show friendliness to others.

It can be somewhat overwhelming to go to a new place and we understand that, so we have volunteers who will take you under their wing until you feel settled. If you would like to know more or want to let me know you are coming so I can meet you at the door then please call me, Ann Hopley, at the Volunteer Centre on 01634 362119.

I look forward to hearing from you.

And in case any possible volunteers are reading this and would like to help with putting out chairs, making tea or acting as welcomers I would like to hear from you also!

Ann Hopley

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Themed events are running throughout the months. In August these are: Best dressed teddy competition, Colouring competition and a Nature trial in the local area (refreshment pack available to buy for a small charge).

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Diary 2010

September 2nd – Wigmore Thursday Club, Gone to the Dogs – Barbara Letchford, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507
September 2nd – Hempstead Leisure Club for over 50's – Whist, scrabble etc, tea & chat. Hempstead Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road, 2-4pm. New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907.
September 3rd – Wigmore MADs autumn concert 'Bond and Beyond' 8pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £6, £5 concessions from Sue on Medway 370639.
September 4th – Kent Air Ambulance, Grand Barn Dance, 7.30 -10.30p, St Margaret's Millennium Centre Gatekeepers Chase, Buffet Supper, Raffle, BYOB. Ticket £10 contact Mary 01634 362415
September 4th – Instep Dancing, (see 21st Aug).
September 4th – 5th Survival Challenge, (see 21st).
September 4th – Bredhurst Art, Craft and Produce show. Staging 9.00-11.00 am. Show opens 2.30 pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 230325 .
September 5th – Open Day Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre, Matts Hill Road (just outside Bredhurst Village) 11am – 4pm, 50p admission, all welcome.
September 5th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike & Coral Patrick, 10.00am, for a 5 mile walk Hucking, Hook and Hatchet PH (use far car park), no roads, Pub at end.
September 7th – Fairview Frogs parent/carer and toddler group every Tuesday in term time, 10.00 – 11.30am Fairview Community Primary School, messy and fun activities, details 01634 338710.
September 7th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham,

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September 8th – Rainham Flower Club, Workshop evening 'Take a chance' (see 11th Aug).
September 8th – Rainham Poetry Group, (see 11th)
September 8th – Bredhurst WI, Marie Curie Foundation – Mrs A Menezil, (see 11th Aug).
September 9th – Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby Group, every Thursday in term time 1.15—2.45pm, Fairview Community School, 338710.
September 9.10.11.16.17 & 18th – Oast House Theatre 'Silhouette' A thriller by Simon Brett. Curtain up at 8.00pm. Box Office 0844 8793224
September 10th – Ramases, Newington Village Hall. A.G.M. Details ramasesnk@hotmail.com
September 10th – MKAS meet at Bredhurst Village Hall second and last Friday each month, Chris Lintott. For observing they meet on other Fridays at the Victoria Hotel Canterbury. Details Trev 07717 678795 www.midkentakastro.org.uk/
September 11th – Gillingham Methodist Church Third Avenue, 7.30pm, KM Band in aid of Development projects. Tickets £5 available on the door or 01634 575139
September 11th – Friends of Kent Churches. Annual Cycle Ride or Walk. Raise money Kent's Churches www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk
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DALEKS

As co-editor of the *Doctor Who* magazine *Nothing at the End of the Lane* (www.nothing-lane.co.uk) and a resident of Rainham for over 30 years (now in Lordswood!), I was fascinated to see Sheila Ralph's letter and photograph in November's *Action Forum*, about the Daleks visit to the fete at Wakeley Road Junior School in the 1960s!

Sheila had thought the fete may have been in 1964, but a quick look at the photograph showed that it must have been later. In their first two appearances in *Doctor Who*, the Daleks had two plain metal bands around their middle, where the sucker arm and gun are. For their third appearance, the design was changed to the vertical slats (supposedly solar panels). The production of this story, called *The Chase*, didn't finish recording until 4 June 1965, so the fete would have to have been after that, as the BBC wouldn't have allowed their Daleks to go anywhere until then. After ploughing through the *Chatham Standard* and the *Chatham, Gillingham & Rochester News* for 1965 at the Medway Archive, it's been possible to positively identify the Wakeley Road fete that Sheila attended as being held on Saturday 17 July 1965, with the proceeds going to building a new swimming pool for the school.

I wonder if *Action Forum* readers might be able to

help with other local *Doctor Who* memories ...

A month prior to their appearance at Wakeley Road, the Kent Messenger brought four Daleks and a model spaceship to Chatham Town Hall on 17 & 18 June 1965 before transferring them over to the Maidstone Corn Exchange the following week (21-23 June). It would be very interesting to find anyone who has photographs of these appearances or can supply the date of a fete at Parkwood Junior School, which was opened by the Daleks creator, Terry Nation who brought along a couple of Daleks. Next, when we first moved to Rainham, we lived in Chart Place and everyday on my walk to school, I passed the Southern Water reservoir at the top of Maidstone Road (next to Lime Court) which had an old concrete Police Box perched on top of its grassy bank. It was there for a good few years, but I never understood how it got there in the first place. Does anyone know?

Finally, *Doctor Who* was filmed a few times in the Medway area - at the Berry Wiggins plant in Hoo in 1970, at the caves at Stonehouse Farm, Frindsbury in 1972 and onboard the decommissioned Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, *Robert Dundas* at Chatham Dockyard also in 1972. If anyone has any photographs or cine footage of filming taking place, I'd love to know!

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