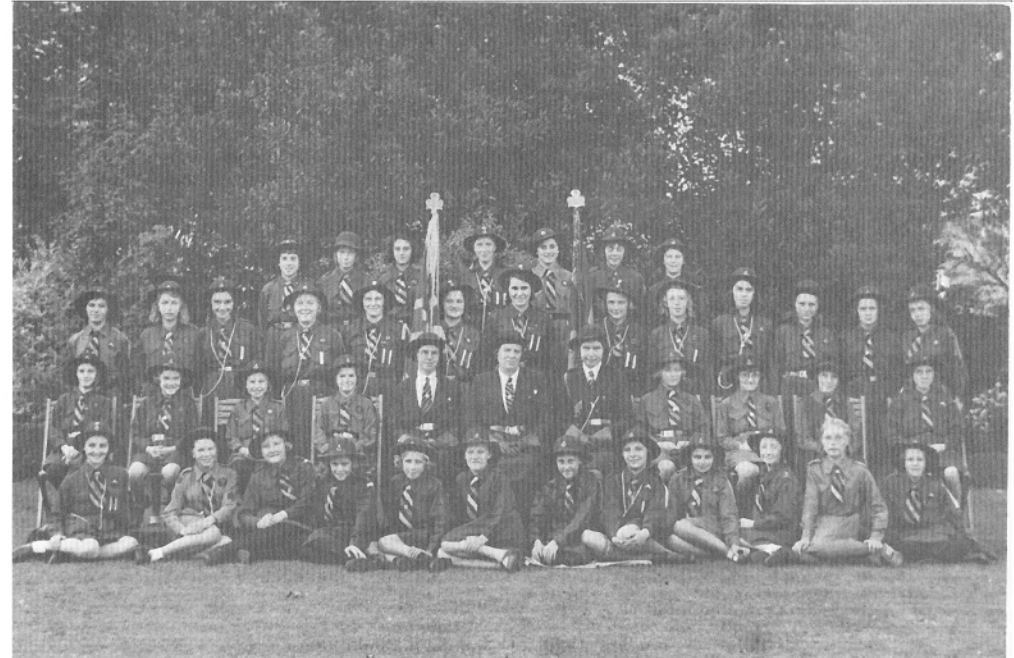


# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

OCTOBER 2010

NUMBER 459



1st Rainham Guide Company pictured in 1940 in the garden behind the old Vicarage in Rainham High Street. Our senior readers will remember this building, next to the Post Office, which was demolished in the 1950s. It had an oriel window, overlooking the street, allowing the Vicar to keep an eye on his flock. Guiding celebrates its centenary this year and the girls have all taken part in numerous exciting activities. The year of celebrations, which began for Gillingham with 'Fun in the Field' in September 2009, culminates in October when it is hoped that all members of the organisation will renew their promise simultaneously at 20:10 20/10 2010 (ten minutes past 8.00pm on 20th October 2010). Gillingham Division will be at Chatham Dockyard for this event.

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Next Issue November 6th 2010  
Copy Date: Oct 19th, Sm Ads Oct 26th  
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## Editorial

Congratulations to everyone who contacted the Whitbread Group to protest about their choice of name for the new Premier Inn being built on the Manor Farm restaurant car park in Maidstone Road. You have secured a change of heart amongst the management and instead of the proposed 'Gillingham East' the motel is to be called 'Gillingham/Rainham'. Not entirely the name I would have chosen but a great deal better than the original and at least Rainham is recognised as a place.

After a fantastic start to the summer in June unfortunately things have gone steadily downhill ever since. On the positive side we have not needed to water the garden for a couple of months but this has been because of days of disappointingly cool and overcast weather, interspersed with heavy rain showers – not the summer we have become accustomed to over the last few years. In fact it has been so gloomy on some days that the dark evenings came rapidly and we almost bypassed autumn and descended straight into winter. Luckily the year started well for gardeners and good abundant crops now being harvested are the reward for hard work.

In our garden we have had good crops of all kinds of beans, peas, mangetout, carrots and various squashes of different shapes and colours – my favourites are the yellow, flying saucer shaped fruits. The tomatoes have almost resisted blight which ravaged the plants the last couple of years and we had a very good, if short lived, harvest of sweetcorn. The freezer is bursting with all this bounty and as the potatoes are also producing well we are set for the less productive winter months. I must confess I can soon have enough spinach which seems to be the only available fresh crop, apart from the odd cabbage, through the dark days before we restart the cycle in April with purple sprouting broccoli. Gardening is a time consuming hobby but very rewarding when you have a plateful of your own home grown produce. The gardening bug has been passed on to our children who all grow some vegetables, making use of pots to compensate for lack of garden. They also like to go away with full veggie boxes whenever they visit of course!

We feature much for you to enjoy this month, Craft Fairs seem popular as are the annual school and church Sales and Bazaars, and of course there are several organised walks listed in the Diary that you are very welcome to join. This is a good way to get out

and enjoy the countryside with the added bonus of meeting new friends. Whatever you choose to do during the month do make the most of any good sunny autumn days we might have—they could be the last until next spring—with that cheerful thought I wish you a happy month and we will see you again in November.

## Correspondence

WRCA

Dear Editor.

Wigmore Community and Residents Association will be holding their Autumn 'Drop In' event at Wigmore Library on 15th October between 7.30 pm and 9.30pm. This is open to all residents of Wigmore and we extend a hearty welcome to all, both existing and non members. Should non members wish to join they will be able to do so on the evening but this is not essential for admission to this event.

Our guests include our local MP, our local Councillors, Council officers and our Local Community Police. Please do your utmost to attend this is a great opportunity to speak with the guests on a one to one basis. Your participation will once again make this event a great success.

Yours sincerely  
Bob Dunn Deputy Chair WCRA

### WIGMORE DARBY & JOAN CLUB

Dear Editor,

Sometimes Oil Companies get a bad press. Well I worked for one for some 37 years and in the mid 1990s they set up a trust fund so that they could support local communities, through their employees and pensioners, who volunteered for a club or organisation. During the last year at the Wigmore Darby & Joan Club, Woodside we have welcomed about 20 new members, which put a strain on our catering equipment. I therefore appealed for a donation from the fund and I am happy to say this was successful. In this is our Diamond Jubilee Year (60 years continuous service to the local community) we would like to thank EXXON-MOBIL for their welcomed support.

Yours sincerely  
Miss H A Hendra  
(Hon Secretary)

### FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Dear Editor,

The Three Towns Theatre Company is performing Fiddler on the Roof at The Brook Theatre, Chatham, from Thursday 28th October to Saturday 30th October at 7.30pm nightly and also have a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm.

Fiddler on the Roof is a classic musical set in Tsarist Russia in 1905. It is based on Tevye and his Daughters (or Tevye the Milkman) and other tales by Sholem Aleichem. The story centres on Tevye, the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his family and religious traditions while outside influences

encroach upon their lives. He must cope with both the strong-willed actions of his three older daughters—each one's choice of husband moves further away from the customs of her faith—and with the edict of the Tsar that evicts the Jews from their village. With well known songs including "If I Were A Rich Man", "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Far From the Home I Love", this timeless classic is one not to be missed!

Tickets are on sale from the Box Office on 01634 338338, priced at £11 (£10 concessions).

Many thanks,  
Gwyneth Loft

### CRAFT FAYRE

Dear Editor

I have organised a Christmas Craft Fayre to raise money for the 4th Gillingham (Rainham) Sea Scout Group on Saturday 13th November at St. Georges Hall, Berengrave Lane from 1.00 – 4.00pm. The beavers and cubs will be selling Christmas gifts they have made and we will have other stalls selling Christmas crafts and gifts. Entry is £1 per person. Refreshments will be on sale.

Yours sincerely  
Julie 07759 539796 or [julie206@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:julie206@blueyonder.co.uk)

### ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CONCERT

Dear Editor

Raven String Quartet—Sat 16th October, 7.30pm Raven are probably the leading female string quartet in the country. They are internationally recognised and are sought after to support classical and pop artists. Their repertoire covers the truly classical and the popular classical works as well as pieces in the more modern idiom. They have recently recorded their first album. We think this is a concert not to be missed. Tickets (£7.50 each), or more details about this concert or any other in the programme from me on 01634 372508, [mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk) or by writing with a sae please, to 42 The Goldings, Rainham ME8 0AX.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Warren

### GARDEN PARTY

Dear Editor

The Friends of St Margaret's Church held their Garden Party on 31st July. After early morning light rain the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed afternoon sunshine. Thank you to the ladies of the Friends committee and the helpers who provided an

excellent array of good food with plenty of tea and coffee. Also thank you to the stallholders and to the sellers of various afternoon entertainment items. A total of £400 was made which included a very generous top up contribution by Mary and David.

Yours faithfully  
Alan Doyle (Chairman)

### BROWNIES NEED HELP

1st Rainham Brownies are desperately looking for someone to help out on a regular basis as an Assistant Guider. Being a Guider can be a very rewarding experience.

Want to find out just how resourceful you are? Want to put smiles on girls faces and to do something worthwhile with your spare time? If you want to do something much more fun than watching soaps on the telly, then being a leader is for you. Memories of Brownie adventures last a lifetime and you could be part of them. If you are aged between 18-65 and want to find out more, please contact Caroline Jennings 01634 231505.

We also have a few spaces for Brownies (girls aged 7 - 10 years) to join our unit.

### MEDWAY LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Medway League of Friends needs Volunteers. Have you got time to spare and would you like to make a difference? Have you thought about becoming a Volunteer with the League of Friends at Medway Maritime Hospital? If you would like more information please contact Margaret Gilham on 01634 830000 extension 3695.

### QUIZ NIGHT

Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) Friday 22nd October, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm start, £5 per ticket. Teams can be up to a group of eight, you can put your own team together or come along and we'll help make up a team, 01634 855844 for tickets.

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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: 19th October

October 2nd - Ladies Art Group meets every Saturday St. Barbara's Garrison Church Hall, Brompton, to paint in watercolour. Small friendly group with a tutor. New members welcome. Phone Barbara 01634 235733 or e-mail [barbara.trigg@sky.com](mailto:barbara.trigg@sky.com)

October 2nd - Oasthouse Theatre Open Day, 11.00am - 3.00pm, Tours throughout the day.

October 2nd - Charity Concert, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.30pm, Music old and new Religious and Secular. Tickets £5 available on the door or 01634 575139

October 2nd - Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing, 8.00 - 11.00pm, ring 01634 363738 or [s.collins02@btinternet.com](mailto:s.collins02@btinternet.com) for details.

October 3rd - Sunday Service with Guest Medium, all welcome. Enjoy an evening of spiritual upliftment, 6.30pm, free healing from 6.00 pm. Entrance £1 01634 366944 The Centre, Farthing Corner [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)

October 3rd - Senior Citizens Harvest Tea, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 3.30 - 6.00pm, 01634 379062 or 373840 for a free ticket.

October 3rd - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet Michelle Mulligan 01634 373769 10.00am, East Farleigh Railway Station (Free parking) for a 5.5 mile walk. No Dogs.

October 4th - Breakthrough Mid Kent Present White Caps, Tiger Crepes & Feather Boas, Chatham Central Theatre, 7.30pm Tickets £18.50/£17.50 on sale Box Office 01634 338338

October 4th - Parkwood Leisure Club, St Paul's Church, Parkwood each Monday 2.00pm. Mrs Fergusson talk 'Dogs for the Blind'. New members most welcome, contact 01634 366056 or 261098.

October 4th - Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, AGM and Harvest Supper. New members of all ages are very welcome. We have a variety of speakers, activities

etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting, includes coffee and biscuits, details ring Sue 01634 230639.

October 5th - 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.

October 5th - Every Tuesday at The Centre, Farthing Corner. Free Healing, Reiki or Spiritual available 7.30 - 9.00pm. For more information call Alan 01634 362121 [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)

October 5th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gill, Basic Shapes evening. Visitors welcome, 01634 232998.

October 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Royal Chelsea - John, new members welcome 231972.

October 6 - 9th - Gillingham Dramatic Society, Oklahoma, The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, 7.30pm, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm, Tickets £12 & £10 Matinee £10 01634 372322 Theatre Box Office 01622 758611

October 7th - Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby Group every Thursday in term time 1.15 - 2.45pm Fairview Community School, 01634 338710.

October 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Village Signs - Avice Harms, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

October 7th - Hempstead Leisure Club for over 50's - Outing, Margate, tickets available, Hempstead Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 2-4pm. New members welcome, Phone 01634 366907.

October 8th - 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.

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October 8th - MKAS meet at Bredhurst Village Hall second and last Friday each month, Professor John Zarnecki Titan, the moon that would be a planet. For observing they meet on other Fridays at the Victoria Hotel Canterbury. Details phone Trev on 07717 678795 or see [www.midkentaastro.org.uk/](http://www.midkentaastro.org.uk/)

October 8th - Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.15pm. Mrs O. Buchanan, Restoration House Rochester. Details Mr Baker, 01634 854982.

October 9th - Quiz Night, Nye Bevan Hall, Twydall Lane, 7.00pm. Supper supplied, Bar available. Tickets £6 from David Walker 572837

October 9th, 23rd & Nov 6th - Woodcraft for Adults, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Sample wood craft techniques such as pole lathing using a range of hand tools. Book in advance 01634 338191, £10 per person per session.

October 9th - Medway NCT Nearly New Sale, Rainham Email [nearlynew@nctmedway.org.uk](mailto:nearlynew@nctmedway.org.uk) Members 9.45am with card, public entry 10.15am, doors close 12noon, entrance £2.

October 9th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham 7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner for more information ring 366189 or 388546.

October 9th - Concert of Popular Music by the Kingfisher Singers, St Peters Church, Bredhurst, 7.30pm in aid of St Peters Roof Fund Tickets £7 00, £3 children from 01634 364309.

October 9th - Paranormal Investigations, Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham. Activities Start 9.00pm, Finish 3.00am approx, £45 Pre-Booked, Over 18's only. Information 01634 847747

October 10th - Friends of the Wisdom Hospice, First sponsored Hospice Walk, 6km around Capstone Park, 11.00am or 10.30am double circuit of 12km. Registration fee £5 Adults, £12 Family. Dogs welcome, on a lead. 01634 831163

October 10th - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet John Trebill 10.00am, outside Kings Arms, Church Street, Shoreham 6.5 miles, hilly no Dogs.

October 10th - Beginner's Tree, South Wood, 9.00am - 12noon. Learn to identify local woodland trees Book in advance 01634 338191, £1 per person.

October 11th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (4th)

October 11th - Rainham Wives, For Whom the Bell Tolls talk by Robin Burfoot, Town Crier, (4th).

October 11th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, ring 01634 364309.

October 12th - Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, AGM and Guest Speaker, Visitors £2.50 all interested welcome, 01474 823606 for details.

October 13th - Tiny Tots in the Woods, Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am - 2.00pm. Suitable for accompanied children 2 - 6 years, old warm clothes Drop in anytime 338191, £1 per child.

October 13th - Bredhurst W1, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, the Story of the Honey Bee - Mr D.J. Marsh, ring 01634 232617 for more details.

October 13th - Rainham Poetry Group, 7.30pm, 40, Birling Avenue, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228 for details.

October 13th - Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall, Demonstration 'Autumn Opulence' by Pam Lewis details 01795 425700

October 14th - Wigmore Thursday Club, The Flute and its Music - Karen Brown, (see 7th Oct).

October 15th - Wigmore Community and Residents Association Autumn Drop In, Wigmore Library 7.30 - 9.30pm. Open to all residents of Wigmore

October 16th - Rainham Ladies Choir in Concert with The Medway Band, 7.30pm The Britannia Theatre Dockyard Outlet Centre. Proceeds in aid of "Help for Heroes". Tickets £8 from 01634 365806 or email: [secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk)

October 16th - SDBTT Barn Dance, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30 - 10.30pm. Tickets £8.00 inc supper. Raffle BYOB 01634 263622

October 16th - Instep Dancing, (see 2nd Oct).

October 17th - Autumn Fruits Capstone Farm Country Park 10.00am - 12noon. Autumnal ramble Book 01634 338191, £1 per person.

October 17th - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet John Williams 01622 764821 10.00am, Hothfield Common for a 6.25 mile walk with rare flora and fauna and some road walking. No Dogs.

October 17th - Senior Citizens Harvest Tea, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 3.30 - 6.00pm, 01634 379062 or 373840 for a free ticket.

Continued on Page 11

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**ZUMBA CLASS**  
 Following its popularity I am starting a new Zumba  
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 class will be FREE for people to come along and try.  
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**RAINHAM LADIES CHOIR CONCERT**  
 with The Medway Band  
 (Formerly Kent Messenger Band)  
 Saturday 16th October, 7.30pm  
 The Britannia Theatre Dockyard Outlet Centre  
 (Dickens World) Chatham Kent  
 Proceeds from the sale of Programmes & Raffle  
 will be in aid of "Help for Heroes"  
 Tickets £8 - available from 01634 365806  
 or email: [secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk)

**KINGFISHER SINGERS**  
 Concert of Popular Music at St Peters, Bredhurst by  
 the Kingfisher Singers, Saturday 9th October in aid  
 of St Peters Church New Roof Fund. Tickets £7  
 (children £3) including refreshments 01634 364309.  
 (Thank you to all who attended the concert at St  
 Margaret's Church, Rainham, sponsored by the  
 Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, we raised  
 £903 for the Youth Project)

**FIRST SPONSORED HOSPICE WALK**  
 The Friends of the Wisdom Hospice  
 Sunday 10th October.  
 6km route around Capstone Park, Gillingham.  
 Walkers start 11.00am for the 6km walk; or  
 10.30am for a double circuit of 12km.  
 Registration fee £5 for Adults, £12 for a Family  
 entry (two adults 2 children) additional child places  
 £2. Dogs welcome, but must be kept on a lead.  
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**AUTUMN BARN DANCE**  
 In aid of Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust  
 October 16th, 7.30 – 10.30pm. St Margaret's  
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 More details about club & Bazaar 01634 362662

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The other hand puppet theatre presents  
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 Sponsored by the Arts Council  
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 Tickets £4 (party of six £20)  
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**ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR**  
 Saturday 6th November 10.00am – 1.00pm  
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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

In early September I walked to Hartlip across the fields from Moor Street. Beyond Spade Lane the footpath ran through a recently harvested wheat field. I put up a large flock of wood pigeons which rose into the air with a loud clapping of wings. They would have alerted any other birds, such as any partridges, feeding on the stubble. If there were any of our native grey partridges in the field they would have squatted down, out of sight, until I had passed by. Any red legged partridges present, being quite bold in character, would have either walked or trotted away from me. But I did not notice either species.

The corn is packed so tightly in corn fields these days that very few wild flowers manage to flourish. Once the crop has been cut, however, wild flowers that have survived any herbicides that may have been applied can grow up quickly. These may include scented mayweed (white flowers), field pansies (creamy white), scarlet pimpernel (bright orange-red), field speedwell (blue) and field forget-me-not (blue). Flowers such as corn cockle, corn marigold and cornflower, which were considered pernicious weeds by the farmer and miller, are now but a distant memory for most people. They have generally disappeared because of a combination of herbicides and more effective seed cleaning by modern combined harvesters. However, the corn cockle (which has bright pink flowers with dark streaks) can be found in the corn regularly grown in Kitchen Field at Ranscombe Farm near Cuxton, which is jointly owned by Medway Council and Plantlife International. This field is believed to be the only field in the UK where corn cockle still grows in the wild.

A corn field flower that has survived in much greater profusion is the common poppy. It can still be regularly seen in the light, chalky soils below the escarpment of the North Downs. Last year corn fields between the bottom of Blue Bell Hill and Boxley were a solid mass of red. The farmer told me that he had not seen so many poppies in the 44 years that he had been farming. Many of the flowers were purple opium poppies which were last legally grown as a crop in the

1830s and the purple variety had therefore grown from seed sown some 180 or more years ago. The farmer told me that he has planted opium poppy seeds in his garden but they revert to the red colour after a while. So the large numbers of opium poppies of last year were not from seeds of poppies that had been growing in those fields in recent years.

I continued on my walk to Hartlip and, upon reaching Dane Lane, the distinctive autumnal smell of fallen poplar leaves was very evident. I came across further evidence of autumn as I walked down Dane Lane in a semi-circular direction towards Hartlip Church - the fruits of elderberry, dog rose, hawthorn, bramble, holly and damson, in varying stages of maturity. At the church lych-gate I reflected on the institutions that still exist for the use of the villagers. Apart from the church, there is a Methodist Chapel, a C of E Primary School, a public house and a village hall. At one time both a parson and a vicar lived in the parish, as is evidenced by the "Old Parsonage" and the "Old Vicarage", both imposing buildings. Today the vicar of Hartlip is shared with Stockbury, Upchurch, Lower Halstow, Iwade and Newington and lives in a modest, modern house in Newington.

I recommenced my walk along The Street and made a short diversion to the site of the allotments next to the village hall. Here were growing potatoes, leeks, runner beans and tomatoes, among other crops, and there were very colourful displays of dahlias and chrysanthemums. Just after the Methodist Chapel I turned right into Place Lane. At Place Farm I noted a number of pheasants scratching around for food as nonchalantly as farmyard chickens. They had clearly been raised domestically and were destined for the pot once the shooting season began in the autumn. Across the road I picked out, with my binoculars, a covey of eight red legged partridges feeding among the stubble along the edge of a field of maize, which I assume had been planted as cover for game birds. Observations made during this walk and previous ones showed that, unlike our own parish of St Margaret's, that of St Michael, Hartlip remains almost totally rural. The hop fields have gone but there are apple, pear, plum and cherry orchards. Our neighbouring parish can, I think, still claim to be part

of the Garden of England unless you believe the claims made in a BBC TV "Country File" programme that the Vale of Evesham now deserves that title.

Joe Ennis

Editor: After we published the picture of Wigmore Evangelical Free Church on the front of our August edition Phill Firmin, a member of the Church, emailed the following interesting article which was first published in a local paper in the late 1940s.

## EFFORTS OF WIGMORE FREE-CHURCH EVANGELISTS

One of the few pre-fabricated churches in the country, the Wigmore Evangelical Free Church at Durham Road, Rainham, which was opened by the Mayor of Gillingham (Alderman P J. Bruce) last week, consists of three ex Army wooden huts erected in the shape of a "T."

Behind the opening of this unique building for worship, is a story of perseverance and faith which goes back to 1942.

The secretary, Mr. R. Jewell of 127, Marshall Road, Rainham, who is a Baptist had to travel several miles to his nearest church near the Shaldars Arms, Gillingham, until he and his wife decided in 1942 to hold services at their home.

"We had 10 people at our first service but we had many more afterwards," Mr. Jewell told our reporter.

He went on to explain that two years ago it was decided to start raising money for some sort of building in the district, but the chief difficulty had been the finding of suitable huts.

After 12 months' correspondence with the Army authorities we still could get nothing, and then a friend saw an advertisement in the "Kent Messenger" advertising three huts for sale near Cranbrook.

They originally belonged to Dulwich College for evacuation purposes, and then, they had been taken over by the Army.

"They were transported to Durham Road last autumn where they were re-erected, lined with fire-proof material and re-decorated," Mr. Jewell said.

The church has electricity for heating and lighting. The centre section which comprises two of the huts, measures 60ft. by 15ft., and there is seating accommodation for 150, although at the opening, there were many more than that number present, and chairs had to be brought in from St. Matthews Church.

Mr. Jewell said that the building had cost £1,600

and so far £600 had been raised from bring-and-buy sales and gifts. After the Mayor had officially opened the church door, he entered the church, followed by the congregation. A service was conducted by the Rev. S. A. Hart, of West Norwood.

Tea was served afterwards, at which the Rev. F. W. Jordan (vicar of Rainham) and local Nonconformist ministers were present.

"We have no resident minister at the Church yet, but we have local preachers, and I shall probably help out," Mr. Jewell said with a smile of achievement.

Sunday School classes have been started and the church has its own hymn books.

Organist is Mrs. Spurge, who is over 80.

*Footnote: This was originally a newspaper article circa 1946 and we know Mr Jewell went to be with our Lord on the 4th April 1950.*

*Unfortunately we do not know which newspaper but intend to give credit once and if resolved. If any reader can help with this enquiry please contact us.*

## FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

The Upchurch Horticultural Society's final Flower and Produce Show for this year will be held in the Upchurch Village Hall on Saturday 30th October and opens to the public at 2.00pm. The presentation of prizes will commence at around 3.45pm followed by the sale of produce and flowers just after 4.00pm. More details Maxine 01634366822

## MEDWAY NCT NEARLY NEW SALE

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Rebecca May Photography (see website)

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## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Three Towns Theatre Company proudly presents "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Brook Theatre, Chatham from 28th / 30th October, nightly at 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 30th. Tickets are £11 (£10 concessions) available from the box office by calling 01634 338338.

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## Diary 2010

- October 17th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Lesley & Terry Thomson 07958 574363, 10.00am, Boughton White Horse PH for a 5.25 mile walk via Mount Ephraim, Herne Hill, Dargate and Boughton-under-Blean, Pub at end.
- October 18th - Rainham Wives Rationed Fashions talk by Lee Ault, (see 4th Oct).
- October 18th - Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club, Autumn Bazaar, 2.15pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore, details 01634 362662
- October 18th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Madeline Bathgate - talk, (see 4th Oct).
- October 18th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Women Famous/Infamous - Chris McCooley, competition Stone, ring 372282 for details.
- October 19th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, AGM and planning 2011, (5th).
- October 19th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Strood Library, 7.45 - 10.00 £3.00. Life through the Lens, Brett Lewis.
- October 20th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Mr J Fishenden illustrated talk, 'Delphiniums from seed to flower', 8.00pm Bredhurst Village Hall, ring 01634 233554 for details, new members welcome.
- October 21st - Hempstead Leisure Club - Little Egypt to American Super Star - Ann Hall, (7th).
- October 21st - Wigmore Thursday Club, Slide Show - Roy Hunt, (see 7th Oct).
- October 21st - Psychic Night with Marcus Cinganelli, 8.00 - 10.00pm - Parkwood School, Rainham, £10 pp. To book call 01622 622012 or email community@kentwildlife.org.uk Light refreshments. Proceeds to Kent Wildlife Trust.
- October 21st - Rainham Women Institute 1.45 - 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Cheese Demonstration. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit. Details 364639.

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- October 22nd - Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) Quiz Night St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm start, £5 per ticket, Teams of eight, 01634 855844 for tickets.
- October 22nd - Medway Geographical Society, 7.30 - 9.00pm, Gillingham Adult Education Centre, Green Street, 'India, past and present' - David Tovey, all welcome details 01634 362683.
- October 23rd - the other hand puppet theatre presents Henry VIII Show, Lower Halstow Hall 4.00pm, Tickets £4 - party of six £20, from 01795 843681 email cpe@claxfield.co.uk
- October 23rd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 9th October 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, Meet Susan Whiteoak 07719 836173, 10.00am, Bearsted Village Green for a 4.5 mile walk via Pilgrims Way, Pub at end.
- October 24th - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet at Linton Church car park 10.00am, for a 5.5 mile undulating walk Dogs allowed.
- October 25th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Harvest meal out, (see 4th Oct).
- October 26th - Autumnal Leaves, Riverside Country Park 10.00am - 12noon. Accompanied children 4 - 12 years, No need to book, £1 per child.
- October 27th - Rainham Poetry Group, 5.45 - 8.15pm, Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, all lovers of poetry welcome, ring 01634 260228
- October 28th - Halloween Walk, Riverside Country Park 5.30-6.30pm & 7.00 - 8.00pm. Prepare to be scared out of your skin. Accompanied children 5 - 12 years, Book 01634 337432, £3 per person.
- October 28th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service and "Origins of Sayings" - Paul Warren, (7th).
- October 28th - Hempstead Leisure Club- whist, scrabble, games, tea & chat, (see 7th Oct).
- October 28th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, 7.30pm, 01634 312038.

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## Diary 2010

October 28 - 30th - Three Towns Theatre Company  
"Fiddler on the Roof" Brook Theatre, Chatham,  
7.30pm, matinee 2.30pm Saturday, Tickets £11 (£10  
concessions) from the box office 01634 338338.  
October 29th - 'Walking Natures Way' interactive talk  
by Tracey Fryer .£5.00 7.30pm The Centre, Farthing  
Corner, 01634 36694 [www.thecentreonline.co.uk](http://www.thecentreonline.co.uk)  
October 29th - MKAS Peter Parish - Constellation of  
the month. (see 8th Oct).  
October 30th - St Margaret's Church, Annual Grand  
Autumn Bazaar, Millennium Centre, 10.00am -  
2.30pm, Many stalls, Grand Raffle, Ploughmans  
Lunches, 01795 475907 for information / donations.  
October 30th - Upchurch Horticultural Society's  
Flower and Produce Show Upchurch Village Hall  
2.00pm, sale of produce 4.00pm. 01634366822  
October 30th - Instep Dancing, (see 2nd Oct).  
October 30th - Halloween Paranormal Investigations  
Special, Open 7.40pm, Activities 9pm - 3am Approx,  
Tickets £60, Over 18's only Fort Amherst, Dock Road,  
Chatham, 01634 847747 [www.fortamherst.com](http://www.fortamherst.com)  
October 31st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Derek  
Kent 07768 448633, 10.00am, Charing Railway Car  
Park (may be charge) for an 8.5 mile walk via  
Lenham Forstall, Cobham Farm, Stalisfield Green  
return down Charing Hill.  
October 31st - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet  
Gill Smith 01622 710569 07999 828981 10.00am.

Frittenden near the Church for a 5 mile flat walk  
via Sissinghurst Castle. No Dogs.  
October 31st - Scarecrow Making, Riverside  
Country Park, 10.00am - 1.00pm. Bring old  
clothes to dress scarecrow - stuffing provided.  
Accompanied children 5 - 12, £2.50 per child.  
October 31st - Spooktakular Halloween Party, The  
Centre, Farthing Corner, under 10's, 2.30-  
4.30pm £5.00 per child. Must bring an adult.  
Ticket only. Phone Jane 01634 376507  
November 1st - Parkwood Leisure Club, Mr  
Endicott talk 'Police Museum' (see 4th Oct).  
November 1st - Rainham Wives - 'A Shopping  
Trip in Downe in a Bygone Era' talk by Barbara  
Stevens, (see 4th Oct).  
November 2nd - Gillingham Horticultural Society  
Floral Art Group, Fireworks - a polychromatic  
arrangement any shape, (see 5th Oct).  
November 3rd - Rainham Horticultural Society,  
Sweet Pea - Mr Philip Johnson, (see 6th Oct).  
November 4th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Slides -  
Canada and Alaska - Tony Mitchell, (see 7th).  
November 4th - Hempstead Leisure Club - Music  
Hall & Theatre - Wilf Lower, (see 7th Oct).  
November 6th - Charity Concert, Gillingham  
Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.30pm 'Just  
in Time' Jazz and swing music to suit all  
tastes. Tickets £5 on the door or 01634 575139  
November 6th - Annual Craft Fair 10.00am -  
1.00pm, Rainham Methodist Church Hall,  
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