

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

DECEMBER 2010

NUMBER 461



We Wish You A Happy Christmas



Church House, on the right of this view of Rainham High Street from about one hundred years ago, had been the home of the Dodd family, and later Mr Seymour Wakeley, before it was requisitioned during the Second World War as a club for forces personnel stationed in this area. The house was demolished in the early 1960s and for many years the site was derelict. It is now occupied by the Healthy Living Centre and all that remains of Church House is the palm tree which grew in the garden. This is one of the pictures in 'A Third Picture Book of Rainham' available from Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road at £7.99 (£4 from each sale is donated to St Margaret's Church) online from Abebooks.co.uk or Amazon.co.uk.

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Editorial

Every year we religiously, or perhaps unreligiously would be a better word, buy cards to send to our relatives and friends with 'Christmassy' pictures of snowy winter scenes and possibly a cute robin redbreast to add a bit of colour. Throughout the Christian world, even in Australia where snow is rarely seen other than on the Snowy Mountains, the same pictures are associated with Christmas. However until last year here in the south for the past twenty years or so we had hardly a covering of snow, not one that lasted more than a couple of days and certainly not before Christmas. Last year the cycle turned and after heavy falls in December we had one of our coldest winters for a long time with deep snow on the ground for a considerable period. Judging from the Arctic blast at the end of November this year could well be shaping up and heading in the same direction. However before that we have all the fun of Christmas to enjoy. I have recently been dipping into a book written by the Yorkshire School Inspector, Gervase Phinn, in which he recounts many tales of his experiences in the Dales during the Christmas season. The title of the book is derived from a story about a young boy who insisted to the visiting parson that the baby in the Christmas story was definitely named Wayne not Jesus, he knew for certain because that was what they sang in assembly 'A Wayne in a Manger'. At one school an overheard conversation between the Headteacher and an anxious parent about the forthcoming Nativity play included in all seriousness the question 'So what's this play about then?' In another school a father complained 'You always do the same play every Christmas you want to do something different!' I am sure there will be many amusing incidents in the childrens plays this year but I am pleased our schools still herald Christmas in the traditional manner. At least the children gain some small glimpse of the reason why we celebrate and that it is not just about eating, drinking and receiving numerous presents. We include many festive related items in our pages all begging for your attention. Local charities benefit from the feeling of goodwill and again this year the Lions and Rotarians will be coming to a street near you with Father Christmas on his sleigh. All the money collected during these outings is donated to good causes including Kent Air Ambulance, Kent

Association for the Blind, Wisdom Hospice, Macmillan Nurses, Crossroads Care and the Salvation Army and is ultimately used to the benefit of local people. A complete list of the various destinations for Father Christmas is on page 13. On page 7 you will find the times of several church services for Christmas. The various special services, usually with many traditional carols, are a wonderful start to the holiday reinforcing the meaning for young children and providing us all with a quiet time for reflection in the otherwise hectic period.

Have a great time and as usual we will see you again in the middle of January with our combined Jan/Feb edition. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Correspondence

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dear Editor
 St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive 11th December 12.00noon

This year the Market will offer "A Little bit of Germany in Wigmore", and you can expect to see many of the features of a European Christmas Market both indoors and outside there will be Christmas stalls, crafts to purchase, hot lunches (gluhwein, pies, bratwurst, soup), hot chestnut and pie man, games and amusement, jewellery and charity stalls, with festive music throughout the afternoon.

Santa has promised to come and visit and he will arrive at 12.00 when Reh Chishti our local MP will open the Market. Santa will be in his grotto all afternoon and there will be a chance for the young ones (and the older ones if they wish!) to have their photo taken when they visit him. The photos will be framed and available to take away in 30 minutes! Charities are invited to apply for a FREE indoor stall - please call 01634 372508 as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

The afternoon will be topped off at 2.30pm when the Salvation Army Band will lead carols and the Christmas tree will be lit. This offers a great opportunity to get your festive Christmas underway. We hope to see AF readers at St Matthew's and we wish everyone a "Happy Christmas and Joyous New Year".

Yours sincerely
 Paul Warren

A CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Dear Editor
 Wigmore MADS present 'A Christmas Hamper'. Come and join us for an evening of Christmas music and carols on Friday 17th December at 8pm in St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore.

Book your tickets early from Sue on Medway 370639, £6 & £5 concessions.

Yours sincerely
 Sue Burrows

RAINHAM CHILDHOOD

Dear Editor,

Reading the letter from John Reed in the September 2009 issue of Action Forum about living in Wigmore as a child in the Second World War reminded me of my childhood in Rainham at the same time.

My father was in the navy and away most of the time. We lived in Orchard Street just above St Margaret's Hall (no longer there). At that time Orchard Street didn't continue right to the top as it does today but was a dirt track from Broadview Avenue up to the 'Ack Ack' station (sorry Anti Aircraft Guns) in the open area below the woods.

At the beginning of the war I was attending the Church School at the top of Station Road (also no longer there). There were no shelters at the school so if the air raid siren went children who lived close to school had to run home, that included me. We had a 'dug out' (Anderson Shelter) in the garden and spent a lot of time down there, in fact the grocer used to come down the back garden and deliver our supplies there - he wasn't afraid of air raids.

As children we used to watch the aircraft 'dog fights' and see them do a victory roll if they hit anything. After one particularly heavy raid my little brother had been sick so mother took him into the house. The boy next door and I were in our respective gardens when a plane came very low over the roofs. We thought he was one of ours and waved to him but then he climbed straight up into the sky and two objects came out of the plane. I called into the house 'Mum two little aeroplanes are coming out of this big one' then I heard the whistling noise and dashed for the shelter, they were two bombs, I believe they landed in Berengrave Lane.

Another time during a night raid a bomb was dropped on the Ack Ack Station. My! all the guns went off at once, you could hear shrapnel dropping on the roofs and a couple of days later we kids went to play in the crater. One of our games after a raid was to see who could find the largest piece of shrapnel. Of course a lot of the children had been evacuated with the teachers so school for us who stayed at home was somewhat sporadic.

Yours sincerely
 Brenda Pearson
 99 Taverners Road.

TYLAND BARN VISITOR CENTRE Sandling
 Come and visit Tyland Barn Visitor Centre which has exhibitions about wildlife and conservation with plenty of hands-on displays for children.

A variety of Kentish habitats surround this wooden 17th century barn. The park is rich in wildlife, it has a large pond, meadow, chalk bank and scrub habitats, as well as a bird watching hide and displays on composting, 'green picnics' and a wide variety of different native plant species. The car park also has recycling facilities.

While you visit have a cup of tea and a bite to eat. There is also a shop selling an extensive range of wildlife and environment related books and gifts. Opening times are: January - December: Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm. Closed at Christmas and New Year, re-opens on Saturday 8th January 2011.

1001 ARABIAN NIGHTS

A hilarious pantomime by TLC Creative
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A family of 4 (2 adults & 2 children) just £26! So book now and enjoy a great evening of family entertainment. Oh yes you will!

SAMANTHA DICKSON Brain Tumour Trust
 Thank you to all who have supported our recent fund raising activities. Tea at the Millennium Ritz raised £183 and the Barn Dance a total of £524.50, both sums have been sent to the charity. Our next event is on February 12th, a Musical Evening in St Margaret's Church.
 Olwen O'Dowd 01634 263622

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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 or

5, Meresborough Cottages, Meresborough,
Gillingham, Kent ME8

Diary Copy Date: 4th January

December 4th - Friends of St.Margaret's, Lower
Halstow, Christmas Craft and Produce Sale,
10.00am - 12.30 pm.

December 4th - Miers Court Primary School,
Sliverspot Close, Christmas Fayre, 11.00am -
2.00pm.

December 4th - Bryony School Christmas Fayre, St
Matthew's Hall, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 12- 3pm.

December 4th & 5th - Christmas Open Studio at the
Old Reed Bed Studios, 11.00am -5.00pm each day,
The Street, Lower Halstow, 01795 842481
info@oldreedbedstudios.co.uk

December 5th - Friends of St Margaret's, Lower
Halstow, Christmas Craft Activity Morning, 10.00 -
11.30am.

December 5th - Medway Towns Footpath Group, meet
Stephen Manning 375821, 10.00am, Upchurch Golf
Club for a 6 mile Christmas Dinner walk. No Dogs.

December 5th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike
& Coral 10.00am commuter car park, Bredhurst for
6 miles along paths and lanes to Yelsted, Pub at end.

December 5th - Tree Dressing, Riverside Country
Park, 11.00am -12.30pm. Accompanied children 5 -
12 years, No need to book, £1 per child.

December 5th - Sunday Service with special guest
Medium Diane Hubert 6.30pm at The Centre,
M2Services, Farthing Corner, Rainham ME8 8PQ,
01634 366944 www.thecentreonline.co.uk

December 5th - Holywell Primary School Christmas
Fayre, 2pm - 4 pm, All welcome to the festive fun.

December 6th - The Monday "Hub", St Paul's Church,
Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, 10am - 1pm, light
refreshments, lively conversation and much more.
Free car park, details Jennie Spalding 01634 360664

December 6th - Parkwood Leisure Club, St Paul's
Church, Parkwood each Monday 2.00pm. Mr

Endicott talk 'Police Museum'. New members
most welcome, contact 01634 366056 or 261098.

December 6th - Rainham Wives meet 8.00pm
Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham,
The Phoenix Singers. New members of all ages
are very welcome. We have a variety of
speakers/activities etc. Subs £1.50 per meeting,
this includes coffee and biscuits, for more details
contact Sue on 01634 230639.

December 7th - Healing is freely given Every
Tuesday 7.30pm and before Sunday service
6.00pm. All healers are fully insured. The Centre,
M2Services, Farthing Corner, Rainham ME8 8PQ
01634, 366944 www.thecentreonline.co.uk

December 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.

December 7th - Gillingham Horticultural Society
Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm United
Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road,
Gillingham, programme discussion for next year.
Visitors welcome Kay Buss 01634 232998.

December 8th - Friends of Demelza inaugural
group tea/coffee morning meeting. Anyone
interested in attending please contact Laura, at
Demelza on 07717 731625, or Colin 234973

December 8th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Bredhurst
Village Hall, An Evening of Laughter - Mrs
Marianne Martin, ring 01634 232617 for details.

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

December 9th - Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby
Group every Thursday in term time 1.15 - 2.45pm
Fairview Community School, 01634 338710.

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December 9th - Hempstead Leisure Club for over
50's - Games, tea and chat. Hempstead Village
Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead
Road, 2-4pm. New members welcome. Phone
01634 366907.

December 9th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Friends of
Gambian Schools - Paul Warren, St Matthew's
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore,
2.00pm. For people over 50, ring 235507.

December 10th - MKAS meet at Bredhurst Village
Hall second and last Friday each month. Christmas
Meeting. For observing they meet on the other
Fridays at the Victoria Hotel Canterbury. Details
phone Trev on 07717 678795 or see
www.midkentaastro.org.uk

December 10th - 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.

December 10th - Gillingham and Rainham Local
History Society, United Reformed Church,
Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.15pm. Mr. C. Jupp,
History of the West Kent Regiment. For more
information contact Mr Baker, 01634 854982.

December 11th - Christmas Market, St Matthew's,
Drewery Drive 12.00noon details 01634 372508.

December 11th - Rainham Ladies Choir 12noon to
2.00pm, Hempstead Valley Centre, raising money
for Macmillan Nurses

December 11th - Instep Dancing, Christmas Dance
Ticket only, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent
Way, ring 01634 363738

December 11th - Medway Folk Dance Club, United
Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham
7.30 - 10.00pm. New and experienced dancers
welcome, with or without a partner for more
information ring 366189 or 388546.

December 12th - Medway Towns Footpath Group,
meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821 10.00am,
Faversham park on the street Preston Lane /
Catherine's Drive for a 6 mile 'Up the Creek' flat
walk through Faversham. No Dogs.

December 12th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet
Marian 01795 661474, 10.00am Chestnut Street
for 4.5 mile easy walk good views. Pub at end.
December 13th - Parkwood Leisure Club. Mothers
Union Christmas Service and tea at St Matthew's
Church (see 6th Dec).

December 13th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet
Mike & Coral 10.00am commuter car park,
Bredhurst for 6 miles via Scragged Oak, Pub end.

December 13th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group for those still in employment 7.15 - 9.00pm,
Millennium Centre, ring Julie on 01634 364309

December 13th - Rainham Wives, Christmas
Evening with mince pies (see 6th Dec).

December 14th - Medway Antique & Collector's
Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New
Road, Chatham, Christmas Dinner, Visitors £2.50
anyone interested welcome, ring 01474 823606.

December 16th - Hempstead Leisure Club,
Christmas Lunch at Bybrook Barn, (see 9th Dec).

December 16th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Carols
and Readings for Christmas and presentation of
Charity Cheque (see 9th Dec).

December 16th - Rainham Women Institute 1.45 -
4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road,
Christmas Meeting with a 'Bring and Share' tea.
Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit.
More information from 01634 364639.

December 17th - Wigmore MADS 'A Christmas
Hamper' Christmas music and carols, 8.00pm, St
Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive.
Tickets from Medway 370639, £6 & £5 cons.

December 18th - Rainham Ladies Choir with
Salvation Army Band Carol Concert 7.30pm
Royal Dockyard Church ring 01634 365806 or
email secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk £7 adults
£3 children Under 10

December 18th - Medway Folk Dance, (11th Dec).

December 18th - Paranormal Investigations, arrive
8.00 - 8:30pm, activities start 9.00pm, finish
3.00am approx. Tickets £45, Over 18's only, Fort
Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham. For more
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Continued on Page 11

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Christmas at St Margaret's, Rainham
 Sunday 5th December 10.30am - Christingle
 Sunday 19th December 6.30pm - Carol Service
 Christmas Eve 24th December
 1.30pm & 4.00pm - Crib Services
 11.00pm - Midnight Eucharist
 Christmas Day 9.30am - Family Eucharist
 Sunday 26th December St Stephens Day 9.30am -
 Morning Service
Roman Catholic Services, Rainham
 Tuesday 21st December Service of
 Reconciliation 8.00pm at St. Thomas's, Rainham
 Christmas Eve
 Family Mass 6.00pm (preceded by Carols) at St.
 Thomas's, Rainham
 Mass 9.00pm (preceded by Carols) at St. Peter's,
 Twydall
 Midnight Mass (preceded by Carols) at St. Thomas's,
 Rainham
 Christmas Day
 Mass 10.00am at St. Thomas's, Rainham
 Boxing Day
 Mass 9.30am at St. Thomas's, Rainham
 Mass 11.15am at St. Peter's, Twydall
 No Evening Mass
Rainham Methodist Church
 Sunday 12th December - Toy Service
 Sunday 19th December - 4.00pm Carol Service,
 Christmas Eve 24th December - Midnight
 Communion Service, 11.15pm

CAROL CONCERT
 Saturday 18th December 7.30pm
 Rainham Ladies Choir with
 The Chatham Citadel Band of the Salvation Army
 The Royal Dockyard Church
 Historic Dockyard, Chatham
 For tickets £7 adults, £3 children under 10 years
 ring 01634 365806 or email
 secretary@rainhamladies.org.uk

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 business and individuals to sign up to the Macmillan
 Centenary 100 year challenge.
 We are challenging 100 local organisations, groups
 and businesses to pledge their support to Macmillan
 during our centenary year 2011.
 From £10 - £1,000, sitting in a bath of beans,
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 We are all affected by cancer, we can all help, to
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 Liz O'Hanlon on 01622 600050 or email:
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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
 Marie Curie Cancer Care is currently recruiting
 daffodil box organisers and coordinators for our
 Great Daffodil Appeal 2011. All funds from the
 appeal raised in Kent will be spent in Kent on high
 quality nursing care to people with terminal cancer
 and other illnesses, giving people the choice of dying
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

In November I visited Shorne Wood Country Park which can be reached via the Cobham and Shorne turn off from the London bound A2. The park was once part of the Cobham Hall estate and consists of woodland, heathland and wetland. Having parked my car at the Visitor Centre I took the "Heritage Trail" through Shorne Wood, which is ancient and semi-natural and with an under storey of mainly bracken and bramble. Over the past five years the KCC has been clearing the wood of invasive rhododendron bushes and so parts of it currently look somewhat shell-shocked.

November is usually a month of wet or foggy weather, little sunshine and dark evenings. Nevertheless, however depressing the weather may be, a walk through ancient woodland in November has its attractions. Birds can be more easily seen, partly because of lack of leaf cover and partly because many of them form into large parties, often of mixed species. Ancient woodland is also the habitat, in autumn and winter, of some spectacular fungi. Finally, the branch structure and shape of individual trees can be best studied once their leaves have fallen. During my visit, I noticed some impressive oak, beech and sweet chestnut trees.

The trunk of the oak tree extends to a considerable girth and its branches grow to be massive and wide-spreading. The bark of the tree is dark and rough. By contrast, the beech has a leaden grey, smooth bark into which lovers carve their initials. The beech has graceful, pendulous boughs and was considered by Gilbert White to be "a truly noble tree". The sweet chestnut has a stately, spreading crown and its bark runs in a spiral manner around the trunk.

In clearing the woods, the KCC have left dead and dying trees standing, unless they were alongside a visitor trail. Over four hundred species of insects can be found on an oak tree, for example, when it is alive and in leaf. Even when dead, the tree remains a home to grubs and other invertebrates, which are the food of birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches. These species, as well as members of the tit family, nest in

holes in dead trees. Furthermore, many colourful fungi can be found on dead wood and, during my walk through Shorne Wood, I came across beefsteak, bracket and honey fungus. In a part of the park that was once a clay pit, now partly covered in silver birch trees, I noted the red caps of fly agaric fungi. According to the poet Keats, Autumn was "a season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". During the first half of autumn, our ancient woodland can be a source of a variety of berries, fruit and nuts for those birds and mammals anxious to fatten up against the hardships of the coming winter. Keenly sought out are holly, yew, rowan and wild service berries; crab apples; and acorns, sweet chestnuts and beech masts. However, by November, any such bounty will be coming to an end, having been largely eaten or buried for future consumption. During my visit I did, however, come across a jay still collecting acorns in its crop for subsequent burial and two grey squirrels scratching out hideaway holes under sweet chestnut trees.

We humans also enjoy eating sweet chestnuts, those on sale in the green grocers are usually imported from countries with warmer climates than our own. Roasting takes away the bitterness of those chestnuts gathered from the wild in this country and no doubt many readers will remember the sellers of roasted chestnuts in London's West End, particularly Leicester Square.

Apart from the afore mentioned jay, I disturbed a mixed flock of blue tits and long tailed tits, whose constant calling to each other can be a sure indicator of their presence. They move about together partly in order to keep a collective eye open for sparrow hawks and partly in order to find food more easily. All three species of woodpecker can be seen at Shorne Park. I saw a great spotted woodpecker and heard a green woodpecker but failed to come across the somewhat elusive lesser spotted. Particularly in hard winters, the great spotted and lesser spotted can be seen on nut feeders. Both are largely black and white, the former being a little bigger than a starling and the latter about the same size as a house sparrow.

I ended my autumnal walk through Shore Woods at the cafe in the Visitor Centre, a distinctive building

of low flint walls and a massive, sloping roof of wooden shingles.

Joe Ennis

BALLOON OVER RAINHAM

On June 12th 1889 the Chatham & Rochester News reported that "the inhabitants of the little town of Rainham were aroused from their usual quietude by the appearance of a monster balloon to the delight of numerous onlookers a descent was made, both old and young seemed quite amazed at the novel sight". As early as 1880 a successful balloon flight had carried three passengers all the way from Ashford to Crediton in Devon.

Balloons, however, were not altogether unknown in this area, for one of the pioneers of military ballooning, Major James Templer, had bought Abbey Court Farm (then apparently known as Lidsey Farm) at Lidsing in 1883. Templer, together with Captain C.M. Watson, had started an army ballooning school at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich in 1878, using his own balloon 'Crusader' and a grant of £150 from the military authorities. The whole operation was transferred to Chatham a year later, and it was from the RE Barracks that cylinders of hydrogen were carried by wagon to Lidsing, where in accordance with Templer's orders a deep pit had been excavated near The Harrow, from which a balloon could be inflated and launched. A separate wagon carried the balloon itself, together with a drum on which was coiled the wire rope (incorporating a telephone wire) which would anchor the inflated balloon to the wagon.

The use of balloons for military reconnaissance was already well-established - the French employed them during the Napoleonic Wars, and they had also proved useful during the American Civil War. When British Forces were fighting in the eastern Sudan in 1885 a detachment of balloonists from the Royal Engineers under Major Templer took part. A contemporary report related that on the 25th March 'a balloon accompanied the convoy to the zeriba [a fortified camp], and probably frightened the natives, as no attack was made'. Unfortunately high winds generally made it impossible to employ the balloon. The Chatham & Rochester News had carried an item about Major Templer in April 1888, when the soldier had been court-martialled at Brompton Barracks

charged with 'disclosing secrets of military ballooning to persons unknown' (believed to be connected with the Italian Government). But he was honourably acquitted, and obviously no stigma was attached to his name, for he married the following year.

Templer's men were unkindly referred to as 'Balloonatics', and certainly flights were not without risk. In December 1881 Templer and two others (Mr.A.Gardner and Mr Walter Powell) were carrying out meteorological observations: air temperature at different heights and amount of snow in the air. They set out from Bath and travelled over Somerset and Dorset, but as their vessel approached Bridport the wind threatened to carry it out to sea. They attempted to land and Templer jumped out, holding the valve line, and tried to release the valve. The reduction in weight lifted the balloon several feet off the ground so that when Gardner jumped, he broke his leg and the balloon rose still higher. Templer, desperately trying to maintain hold of the line, urged Powell to climb down, but the rope was torn from his hands, and Powell, himself a keen balloonist with his own balloon and a private gasworks to inflate it, was carried away, never to be seen again.

Despite such incidents many flights were very successful, as the Rainham occurrence demonstrates, and the British Army continued to experiment with both balloons and giant kites. An article in Bygone Kent (Vol.16 No.8) has several excellent photographs showing army wagons and balloons, and remarks that it was not unusual to see these over Lydd, 'with one, two, or even three men suspended from them in light baskets'. Ballooning at Lidsing, though, had ended by the close of the nineteenth century.

RAD

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The RSPB Medway Local Group Talks, Strood Library, 7.45 - 10.00pm., Admission £3.00. December 21st—Everything you've wanted to know about Trees
January 18th - Sorting Sparrow and The Finch Factor—David Darrell-Lambert
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Diary 2010

December 19th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet
Terry & Lesley 07958574363 10.00am Jeskyns
Country Park for 4 miles easy level walk to
Cobham, Pub at end.

December 19th - Medway Towns Footpath Group,
meet John Williams 01622 764821 10.00am,
Sheldwich Village Hall for a 5 mile walk via
Badlesmere Court and Shepherds Hill. No Dogs.
December 19th - A magical, candlelight, Victorian
Christmas Service. All welcome to share this
wonderful evening 6.30pm at The Centre, M2
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December 20th - The Monday "Hub", St Paul's
Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, 10am - 1pm,
light refreshments, lively conversation and much
more., details Jennie Spalding 01634 360664

December 20th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm Scout Hut,
Edwards Close, Wigmore, ring 263405 for details.

December 20th - Rainham Evening Women's
Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham,
Christmas Party, competition Ivory/Bone, 372282.

December 21st - The RSPB Medway Local Group
Talk, Strood Library, 7.45 - 10.00pm, £3.00,
Everything you've wanted to know about Trees
www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

December 21st - Santa at the Park, Riverside Country
Park, 1.00 - 4.00pm. Crafts and visit Santa, Book
in advance (by Dec 11th) 337432, £2.50 per child.
December 23rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Informal
Meeting, (see 9th Dec).

December 26th - Medway Towns Footpath Group,
meet Brenda Willson 11.00am, Ospringle Water
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December 31st - Instep Dancing, New Years Eve
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January 1st - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Geoff
07525161766 11.00am All Saints Church, Iwade
for 4 miles easy walk on the marshes, Pub at end.
January 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Jim
10.30am village hall, Otford for 8 miles along
North Downs Way, Pub at end.

January 3rd - The Monday "Hub", (see 20th Dec).
January 7,8,13,14,15,20,21,22,28,29th - The
Oasthouse Theatre, 1001 Arabian Nights,
8.00pm Saturday matinees 2.00 & 5.00pm
Tickets available on 0844 8793224

January 6th - Wigmore Thursday Club,
Gillingham Lions - Chris Isles, (see 9th Dec).

January 8th - Medway Folk Dance, (11th Dec).

January 9th - Medway Ramblers Walk meet Tony
& Ann 01634 406634 10.00am Teapot Museum.
Yalding for 6 miles in Medway Valley, Pub at
end prebook 01622 814359 or bring picnic lunch

January 10th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship
Group for those still in employment (13th Dec).

January 11th - Medway Antique & Collector's
Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm. St George Hotel, New
Road, Chatham, 'Soldier, sailor will you marry
me?', Visitors welcome, ring 01474 823606.

January 13th - Wigmore Thursday Club,
Humorous Poetry - Terry Godwin (see 9th Dec)

January 14th - Gillingham and Rainham Local
History Society, Mr. Lower, Music Halls and
Theatres in the Post War Years. (see 10th Dec).

January 14th - MKAS, Peter Parish - Constellation
of the month (see 10th Dec).

January 16th - Medway Ramblers Walk, choice of
two walks meet Beryl & Sally 07765242148

10.00am Eynsford bridge for 5.5 miles riverside
walk, Pub at end or meet Jan & Arthur 01634
711734 10.00am Leicester Square, Penshurst for
11.5 miles via Hever, Chiddingstone and
Morden, bring picnic lunch, Pub at end

January 17th - The Monday "Hub", (see 20th Dec).

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Diary 2011

January 17th - Rainham Wives, New Year Party (see 6th Dec).
January 18th - GHS Floral Art Group, Sharing talents - what are you good at? (see 7th Dec).
January 18th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Strood Library, 7.45 - 10.00pm, £3.00, Sorting Sparrow and The Finch Factor—David Darrell-Lambert (see 21st Dec).
January 19th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Andy Garland Illustrated talk 'Allotments', Hyacinth Show, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, 01634 233554 for details, new members welcome.
January 20th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Friends, Faith and Feasts - Sylvia Hart (see 9th Dec).
January 20th - Rainham Women Institute, Speaker on London is stranger than fiction. (see 16th Dec).
January 22nd - Medway Folk Dance Club, (11th Dec).
January 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Mike & Coral 10.00am commuter car park, Bredhurst for 6.5 miles via Darland, Capstone, bring snack Pub at end
January 28th - Medway Geographical Society, 7.30 - 9.00pm, Gillingham Adult Education Centre, Green Street, 'Wheels on the bike go round and round' Journey through Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand - Sue Hendy, all welcome details 01634 362683.
January 30th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Jim 10.00am Maypole PH Borden for 5 mile mystery tour, Pub at end

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Monday 13th December, Rotary - Franklin Road,
Tuesday 14th December, Lions - Hempstead
Tuesday 14th December, Rotary - Rainham Station
Wednesday 15th December, Lions - Fairview Ave
Wednesday 15th December, Rotary - Yeoman Drive, Gillingham

Thursday 16th December, Lions - Lower Beechings
Thursday 16th December, Rotary - Marshall Road,
Friday 17th December, Lions - Kenilworth Drive
Friday 17th December, Rotary - Canterbury Street,
Saturday 18th December, Rotary - Dockyard Outlet Centre 9.00am - 6.00pm

Monday 20th December, Lions - Twydall
Monday 20th December, Rotary - Eastcourt Lane, Gillingham

Tuesday 21st December, Lions - Twydall
Wednesday 22nd December, Lions - Parkwood
Wednesday 22nd December, Rotary - Woodlands Road, Gillingham

Thursday 23rd December, Lions - Parkwood
Thursday 23rd December, Rotary - Napier Road,
Friday 24th December, Rotary - Barnsole Road, Gillingham

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