

ACTION FORUM

SEPTEMBER 2011

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

NUMBER 469



A view of Rainham High Street pre World War II as the railings can still be seen around the War Memorial. However little else changed between this photograph and the 1960s and this is as Colin Macgregor remembers the scene as we continue his regular childhood Sunday walk on page 9. Barclays Bank moved from their original position beyond Rainham Post Office to this site in the mid 1930s. For many years W. C. Guthrie (House Furnisher) and George H. Ward & Partners (Estate Agents) traded in the two shops beneath the bank offices before Barclays reclaimed the lock up shops and expanded in the late 1960s. The International Stores have the heavy white blinds and the car is parked outside the bakers W. J. Cremer & Sons.

Robert J. Kitney

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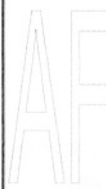
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Editorial

Until 1965 August bank holiday was celebrated on the first Monday of the month. This was changed to the last Monday, according to some reports because of a run of exceptionally bad weather in the late 50s and early 60s at the beginning of August, other accounts suggest the later date split the time between the Whit Monday and Christmas bank holidays more evenly. However it has been noted in the press this week that out of the 46 August holidays since 1965 35 have suffered bad if not appalling weather conditions highlighted in 1986 by the remnants of hurricane Charlie which swept up the English Channel that weekend complete with devastating winds and torrential rain. I remember it well as we were in Guide Camp on top of the cliffs at Dover at the time. Bank Holidays were first introduced in 1871 with only four written into the Act (Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August and Boxing Day) Christmas Day and Good Friday were traditional days of rest so it was not considered necessary to include them. In 1971 the experiment of fixing Whit Monday to the last Monday of May and moving the August date became law, quickly followed in 1974 by the introduction of New Years Day and in 1978 of the first Monday in May as additional holiday dates in the calendar. In view of the weather record for recent years perhaps it is time to revert to early August and possibly switching the early May date to the October half term week. This would spread the bank holidays more evenly over the year and also end the situation in spring when Easter is followed often only a week or two later by another holiday disrupting the schools as they return for a new term. Food for thought and as we have had no changes in over 30 years perhaps a review is overdue. However whatever the weather now is the time to make the most of the warm summer days. I am pleased that walking as a regular exercise is now recommended to all ages. The National Walking for Health Campaign (01634 331371) have short guided walks on most days of the week in our area. This is an excellent way to start on the path to fitness and eventually progress to the more challenging outings organised by the local walking groups which we advertise in our diary pages. Walking not only gets your body functioning more efficiently but also gives mental stimulus and fresh air and all for free! Why not give it a try - you can join a group or set off on your own - we have plenty of interesting local walks to

choose from. Have a very good month until we are back with you again in October.

Correspondence

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Editor,

Classes will resume in September for children from 7 to 15 years. Anyone is welcome, you do not have to be Scottish or have Scottish connections, only a wish to dance.

The pupils are taught the steps and formations for Scottish Country Dances and may be entered for the RSCDS Medal Tests when the appropriate standard is reached.

The children, and their parents, are encouraged to take part in some of the activities arranged by the Medway and District Caledonian Association which are suitable for less experienced dancers.

Classes are held on Friday evenings at Wakeley Road in Rainham and cost £2 per session, payable in advance for the 10 week term.

For further details, contact Mrs. Margaret Anne Robertson 01634 304372. For details of adult classes, visit www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk.

Yours sincerely
Barbara Meade

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Dear Editor,

I read with interest 'A Trip Down Memory Lane' especially the hole that appeared outside Beveridge The Chemist. I vividly remember the fencing round it and being very frightened when walking by. I was born in 1942 and grew up in Rainham and remember the houses with very long gardens between Quinell Street and Beveridges. One of the houses was a 'Milliners' and hats were on display in the front room window. My grandmother, who lived in Station Road, used to buy her hats there.

I must add that just before you get to Lloyds TSB (probably where the Tattoo Shop is) was the original Police Station. Mr Brailey, who lived in Longley Road, was the local 'bobbie' who patrolled Rainham on a bicycle. Both Mr Brailey and the bicycle seemed huge!

Yours sincerely
Ms Jacky Caston (nee Barton)

MEMORIES OF RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

Could I make one slight amendment to the Editorial concerning the history of the site called Durrell Place. I also can recall Durells garage opposite the old Gas Showrooms. Can I just point out that the pre-fab buildings formerly the Marlborough Unit was in fact initially, before being the Orchard Street School Canteen, overspill classrooms mainly for the senior boys. My last classroom in 1949 was in one of

these buildings. In 1949 those of us, and there were many, wanting a midday school dinner still had to make the long walk to old Mrs Barretts canteen at the Council School along Solomon Road as we and generations before us had, showing our clean or not so clean hands to Mrs Barrett as we entered her wooden hutted domain. I'm sure many of us can remember her angelic voice 'Say your grace dears' after a volley of 'Sit up straight, Arms folded, Stop talking that boy'!

I was also interested in Maidstone Road once being Bredhurst Lane. I was born in one of the cottages opposite the old Post Office in 1934. My birth certificate clearly states Maidstone Road. It is like Station Road was I believe once called White Horse Lane.

Yours sincerely
John K Austin
14, Sandown Drive

MONDAY HUB

Dear Editor

The Monday Hub continues to meet at St Paul's Church in Parkwood (Long Catlis Road, ME8 9PN) between 10.00am and 1.00pm. The following dates have been confirmed: 3rd and 17th Oct, 7th and 21st Nov, 5th and 19th Dec, 9th and 23rd Jan, 2012. When people ask us who The Hub is for, we say, "it's for anyone who would like to join in the conversation."

We are a diverse group of people - some are carers, they come alone or with their loved ones. We have a mum on maternity leave, grandparents sometimes call in with their charges (there are toys and activities for accompanied, pre-school children) people who work shifts, are retired, unemployed, or unwell. Everyone is welcome. If you are free on the Monday mornings listed above, why not come along, start your week with the Monday Hub? You could make up a four to play whist, play table tennis, read the paper, tackle the crossword, drink tea and coffee (all free) and meet new people. Maybe you can share a burden or lend a helping hand? Why not call in before (or after) you visit the health centre or do your shopping in Parkwood? You will be very welcome. If you would like to speak to somebody first, do phone Jennie Spalding on 360664 and somebody will arrange to meet you at the door.

Yours sincerely, The Monday Hub Team



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QUIZ NIGHT

Dear Editor,

Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 23rd September, doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at the United Services Club, High Street, Rainham, which has a licensed bar, good facilities and parking nearby. Tickets, which must be booked in advance, cost £8 per person (sorry, adults only) for teams of up to 6. The price includes a buffet, together with tea, coffee and biscuits, to book phone 01634 792131.

Yours sincerely,
Maria Jarvis Vice Chairman
Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association
www.medwaynwa.co.uk

LOCAL ART EXHIBITION

During September local botanical artist Wynne Prescott will be exhibiting her work at Rainham Library in Birling Avenue, Rainham. Wynne paints a variety of botanical subjects including flowers, fruit and vegetables and has just completed and passed a two and half year course with the Society of Botanical Artists. Her work will also be on display at the Craft Exhibition at the Millennium Centre in Rainham on October 8th, for more information www.rodwynne@hotmail.co.uk or 01634 234734.

HARVEST TEA

The partners of The Lions Club of Gillingham are holding Harvest Teas for Senior Citizens of the district on Sundays, 2nd and 23rd October, 3.30 - 6.00pm in The Millennium Centre, Rainham. We would particularly like to invite elderly people who either live alone or do not have the opportunity to get out very often. Please apply for a free invitation to Mrs Brenda Woodrow, Flat 1 Macklands House, Station Road, Rainham ME8 7QX, 01634 379062 or Mrs Yvonne Iles on 01634 373840. Transport can be arranged. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Diary 2011

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: 13th September

September 4th – Open Day, C.P. Bredhurst Cat Adoption Centre, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Matts Hill Road, free parking nearby and entrance only 50p per person.

September 5th – The Monday Hub, St Paul's Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood 10.00am – 1.00pm, lively conversation, table tennis, scrabble and much more, details Jennie Spalding 01634360664.

September 6th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm United Reformed Church Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 'Get it together' pre show discussion/guidance. Visitors welcome 01634 232998

September 7th – Rainham Horticultural Society, Bulbs, corms and rhizomes – Laurie Manser, 7.30 pm, Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham. New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.

September 8th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Easy Listening Songs – Steve Erickson, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, 2.00pm. For people over the age of 50, ring 235507 for details.

September 8th – Hempstead Leisure Club – Reflexology – Sarah Crampton, Hempstead Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road, 2.00 – 4.00pm. New members welcome 01634 366907

September 8th – Medway Film Makers, 7.30pm, Davis Estate Community Centre – Steady shots without a tripod! 01634 360401 www.medwayfilmmakers.com

September 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17th – Rainham Oasthouse Theatre, Ghost Writer by David Tristram, 8.00pm, box office 08448 793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

September 9th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday 9.45am – 12noon to help people who have lost their spouse or a close relative, join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.

September 9th – Ramases AGM and illustrated talk by Dave Wise on his travels in India, 7.30pm Newington Village Hall, disabled access available, for more information contact ramasesnk@hotmail.com or John Dewey 01795 472316

September 9th – MKAS, Konrad Malin-Smith – Hydrogen, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road second and last Friday in the month, 7.45pm. For observing we meet on other Fridays at the Victoria Hotel, Canterbury. More details phone Trev on 07717 678795 or visit <http://www.midkentastro.org.uk/>

September 9th – 11th – Festival of Transport, Hempstead Valley with Kent Air Ambulance

September 10th – Bredhurst Woodland Action Group, Reptile Ramble, 10.00am – 1.00pm, Meet Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, free booking essential contact 07813 785940 bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

September 10th – Will Adams festival, Gillingham Park 11.00am – 4.30pm, see www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

September 10th – Ride and Stride, Friends of Kent Churches annual sponsored walk.

September 10th – Gillingham Horticultural Society, Autumn Show 2.30 – 4.30pm, United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Visitors welcome contact Kay Buss 01634 232998

September 10th – Coffee Morning Rainham Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 10.00 – 11.30am, Cake Stall, bric-a-brac, Traidcraft Table, Proceeds to 'Kent Churches'. All welcome

September 10th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Ballroom, Latin, Sequence dancing 8.00 – 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738 email s.collins02@btinternet.com

September 10th – MS Information Day, 10.30am to 4.00pm, The Balfour Day Centre, Pattens Lane, Rochester, call Ray 01634 238 502 to book a place

September 10th – Concerts @ GMC, Medway Concert Brass, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue, 7.30pm, Tickets £5.00 on the door or 01634 575139

September 11th – Riverside Country plastic drink bottles, and the rangers will help you turn them into bird feeders to hang in your garden. Book in advance 01634 337432 £1 per child

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September 11th – Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am. Meet Joan Weekes 01634 855522, West Malling, Manor Park 5 miles, fairly flat, dogs OK

September 11th – Capstone Farm Country Park, Kite Making Workshop, 10.00am – 2.00pm, for accompanied children aged 5 – 12 years, £2.50 per child, book in advance 01634 338191.

September 11th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.30am, 8.5 miles, meet Geoff 075 2516 1766 English Heritage car park Richborough Castle / Fort. Bring picnic lunch.

September 11th – BHF Saxon Shore Way Sponsored Walk, 2 walks 6.5 miles or 9 miles suitable for all the family, Registration 11.00am, Faversham Central Car Park Details BHF 120 High Street, Sittingbourne, 01795 425175, 01892 893918 or south@bhf.org.uk

September 11th – Friends Wisdom Hospice, Sponsored Walk, Capstone Park, 10.30am, 5km or 10km. 01634 831163 www.friendsofhwisdomhospice.org.uk

September 12th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group for those still in employment, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 7.15 – 9.00pm to help people who have lost their spouse or a close relative, join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309 for details.

September 13th – Riverside Country Park, Junior Ranger Club, 3.45pm – 4.45pm. Book 337432. £1 per child.

September 13th – Medway Antique & Collector's Club, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 'Collecting Worcester Porcelain', Visitors most welcome, ring 01474 823606 for details.

September 14th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 9.30am, 7.5 miles, meet Mike at the commuter Car Park just north of Bredhurst. Do not forget your Bus Pass

September 14th – FAME (Family and Associates of Medway Evacuees) Millennium Centre, Rainham, 2.00pm details s.evans5@blueyonder.co.uk

September 14th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Bredhurst Village Hall, Mrs Lee Reynolds – My Life as a Tiller Girl, ring 01634 389966 for more details.

September 14th – Rainham Poetry Group meet second Wednesday each month, 40 Birling Avenue Rainham, 7.30 – 9.30pm. All welcome 01634 260228 for details.

September 14th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, Upchurch Village Hall, Demonstration by Angela Hyde 'The Planet', for more information ring 01795 425700 or see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk

September 15th – Hempstead Leisure Club – Games Tea & Chat, (see 8th Sept).

September 15th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Send a Cow – Rosemary Moor, (see 8th Sept).

September 15th – Rainham Women Institute 1.45 – 4.00pm Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Speaker on My grandmother's tale. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per visit 01634 36627

September 16th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society 7.15pm United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham The Battle of Britain – Dr J Ray details 01634 854982.

September 17th – Fabulous Fashion Show for Macmillan Breast Cancer Support Group, Community Centre, St Mary's Island, Chatham 2.00pm. Tickets £5.00 from 01634 362898 or Community Centre

September 17th – Craft and Produce Sale, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 9.30am – 12.30pm, Free entry

September 17th – Craft Fair in aid of Peters Place 2.00pm, Hartlip Village Hall, Homemade crafts including painted glass, decorated garden pots and knitted items. Refreshments £8 a table, contact Ann Lindsay 01634 578879 or see Thisispetersplace.co.uk

September 17th – Produce Sale and Crafts, St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, 10.am – 1.00pm, Refreshments available.

September 17th – Capstone Farm Country Park, Autumn Food, 10.00am – 12noon, a ramble looking for nuts, fungi, plants and berries, £1 per person, book in advance 01643 338191.

September 17th – Quiz Night, 7.30pm Lordwood Leisure Centre, North Dane Way for The Friends of Wisdom Hospice. Teams of 6, bring your own nibbles, licensed bar, Tickets £6 pp 01634 831163.

September 17th – 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.

September 18th – Berengrave Guided Walk, 10.00am – 12noon, not suitable for those with walking difficulties, may be muddy, £1 pp, book 337432.

September 18th – BWAG, Volunteer Task Day, 10.00am – 2.00pm, Meet Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, bring gloves and wear suitable clothing. refreshments details call 07801 386264 or stevewright50@btinternet.com

Continued on Page 11

K. Gillard

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RAINHAM HERITAGE EVENING
Joe Ennis will be giving a repeat of his slide show 'The buildings of the Parish of St Margaret's- Medieval to Modern' in St Margaret's Church, Rainham at 7.30pm on Thursday, 29th September. Tickets are £3 including light refreshments and are available from the church office, Sunburst Books, Station Road or 01634 371941.

CROQUET
Your Readers may be interested in a new club in the area. Croquet is a game of skill and tactics - a most sociable sport for all ages with definite health benefits. We welcome both complete beginners and existing players. A handicap system gives extra turns for beginners in order to have level play for all. If you would like the opportunity to learn the game we offer a course of 6 hours tuition for £18.00. For existing players, a warm welcome, and a chance to be in the vanguard of a new Club. We are in contact with our Local Council for a suitable site but in the meantime we play "garden croquet". The playing season is from April to September, however, we envisage a winter social programme consisting of:- Tuition, Visits to theatres, Quiz nights, Annual meal - but, of course, suggestions from members would be welcome. If you are interested please contact Marilyn or Geoff
01634 361370 email croquetokay@btinternet.com

CAPSTONE FARM PART III
Continued from August 2011
But the farm was always under threat. A note from the Ministry of Housing to Chatham's Town Clerk in August 1953 reads 'I have not forgotten the promise I made to you when I met you at the end of last month that I would look into your problems about finding a site for your houses, and in particular whether it is possible for you to get some site other than Lords Wood... 'While I do not want to seem too optimistic, I think there is a chance that the water people might be persuaded to change their mind so that you could get some land nearer the town....
At the same time Chatham Borough Council commissioned Messrs. George Webb & Co., Land Agents, to carry out a survey of the farm. They reported that 'Considering the nature of the holding, we think it is doing as well as can be expected. As you know it is mostly poor thin land and its being on the outskirts of Chatham does not make the farming of it any easier.' The agents looked at the hop field (sic - not garden) and thought the hops would be up to scratch for the year, and found the corn crops, particularly the barley, also up to average. The orchards were inspected, and although

one area had been grubbed up as arranged, it had not yet been replanted. They commented that elsewhere the young cherries had been intercropped with barley, 'quite a common practice nowadays owing to the difficulty of growing any other profitable crop between young trees, and provided it is not continued too long, we do not think you can really take exception to it.... Although the cherries have been quite profitable at Capstone in the past, it is hopeless really to regard it as a fruit farm.... The agents remarked that it was difficult to keep sheep so near the town because of dogs and trespassers, and also brought to the Council's attention the encroachment of their refuse tip. The Borough Surveyor had been asked whether in view of the acquisition of additional land for the tip, the council would pay for the farm's Dutch barn to be moved. On its current site it would soon be almost surrounded by rubbish, so any corn stored in the barn would be vulnerable to rats and fire. The cost of removal was estimated to be at least £300. The tip had been in use before 1947, and no clearly defined area had been fixed. It was still causing problems in 1974. Despite all the problems the lease was renewed on a year-to-year basis from 1961, the lessee being Mr H.F.Wills. The Council had been putting aside part of his annual rent each year as a possible 'compensation fund', should they need to reimburse the tenant for any improvements he had carried out over the years, and it was agreed that he must be given at least 12 months notice to quit. Although cherries had been grubbed up over a wide area in favour of housing during the mid-sixties, Chatham now had other plans for Capstone. When a small house known as Orchard Cottage in Capstone Road was declared unfit for habitation in 1969 the Council bought the land 'to be used eventually with Capstone Farm as a public open space'. Plans for a golf course came to nothing, and in July 1971 the Parks and Burial Committee's view was that the area could usefully become a Country Park, a vision fulfilled when Capstone Country Park was opened.

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows,"
From "Leisure" by William Henry Davies 1870 to 1940

It is 50 years ago since a local dairy farmer, Terry's of Bredhurst Road, delivered milk, butter, cream and newly laid eggs among the streets and roads of Rainham and Wigmore. There are now no dairy farmers in our area and probably less than 40 in Kent as a whole. Today all of the milk that is delivered to doorsteps in the Rainham area comes from a depot in Maidstone run by a nationwide milk processor. I was therefore surprised and delighted to read about two brothers, Vernon and Charlie Smith, who run a dairy farm and sell their milk directly to customers living in five local communities in West Kent. I wondered what the farm (Palmer's Farm) was like. Was it a mixed farm consisting of traditional farm buildings in which swallows nested? Did the cows graze in flower rich pastures? Were there roses growing over the front door of the farmhouse? I decided to find out. Palmer's Farm lies to the west of Tunbridge Wells among hills overlooking the valley of the Upper Medway. The nearest village is Fordcombe, which has a Victorian parish church, a Church of England Primary School and a public house called the Chafford Arms. It is one of the villages to which the Smith brothers daily deliver milk, along with cream, eggs and potatoes. The farm lies at the bottom of a narrow country lane. The final approach is via an unmetalled bridleway which, in part, is overshadowed by very high banks. The extensive roots of a massive oak tree on top of one of the banks spill down towards the bottom of the cutting. The bridleway is clearly as old as the tree itself, if not older.

My first sight of the farm coincided with the pleasant smell of milk emanating from the dairy cum bottling plant. The farm house is of red brick and hanging red tiles. It has a massive central chimney and windows of attractively patterned, leaded lights. Under the outer

walls of the house may be a mediaeval Wealden-type hall house with a wooden frame. Although there was a front garden, there were no roses around the front door! From the bridleway I could see little more than three or four large, relatively modern barns, which presumably served, collectively, as milking parlour, shelter for the cattle in winter and storage for hay, straw and farming implements. Disused vehicles and other agricultural machinery lay scattered around the farm, rusting away. An abandoned Massey Ferguson combine harvester indicated that Palmer's Farm was once a mixed one, that is, it grew and harvested wheat as well as rearing livestock. The scene was a reminder that, these days, farm buildings are by necessity utilitarian and that the priority of farmers, and dairy farmers in particular, is to keep their farms profitable rather than tidy.

I took a public footpath to the River Medway. It was clear that the fields adjoining the river, being subject to occasional or regular flooding, had never been ploughed and were serving as permanent pasture. Growing there were white clover, daisy, yarrow, ribwort plantain, common sorrel and dandelion, among other plants. Most dairy herds consist solely of black and white Friesian or Holstein-Friesian cows and it was a pleasant surprise, therefore, to see what I assumed to be some red poll and Ayrshire cows grazing with the Friesians in the Smith's herd. The cows stood or sat in the shade of a row of oak trees, chewing the cud and watching me with much curiosity. It was also a delight to see swallows hawking for flies among the herd. Some of the birds had short tails, were clearly young ones and had presumably been hatched at nests at Palmer's Farm. I took a stroll along the Medway which was lined with alders and some massive White Willows. Growing along the river bank were water figwort or betony, golden saxifrage, purple loosestrife, comfrey, gipsywort and water forget-me-not. In the fields on the other side of the river sheep were grazing and keeping a close eye on me. Beyond were the wooded hills of the High Weald.

I have to say that I was a little disappointed that there were no traditional farm buildings at Palmer's

Farm, or at least none that I could see. However, I should not have been surprised. Two one-time dairy farms in the Rainham area, Manor Farm at Dunn Street, Bredhurst and Queendown Farm at Matts Hill, overlooking Queendown Warren, had (and still have) buildings similar to those at Palmer's Farm. The reality is that any traditional farm buildings that have survived and are in good repair are more likely to be found on farms owned by investment bankers than dairy farmers. At those farms, four wheeled drive vehicles are likely to be garaged in any former cart sheds; and well-groomed ponies and horses are likely to be seen grazing in fields where Primrose, Buttercup, Daisy and the rest of the herd once stood and stared and chewed the cud.

Joe Ennis
PS Readers may like to know that I am repeating my slide show "The Buildings of the Parish of St Margaret's from Mediaeval to Modern" on Thursday 29th Sept, in St Margaret's Church, at 7.30pm.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE Part 2

By Colin Macgregor - Continued from August 2011
My Sunday errand, in the 1950s, to collect milk from the farm in Mierscourt Road continues at Rainham Library, which was a tiny shop unlike the grand new one that was later built in Birling Avenue, next to what is now Lloyds TSB Bank. After the library we came to Josephine's the hairdressers where my mum used to get her hair done and at the end of this block was Holdings the Greengrocer. I remember old Mr Holding weighing vegetables on his brass scales. Moving past Holdings we came to a slight recess with Frank Rose and Son Grocers, Frank Rule Stationers and Greens Cycles (Patrick Duff's Opticians today). There was a big house next to Greens, Coningsby House, which has long been demolished and Grey Fox Estate Agents building has since replaced it. There was a small farm next, the farm house was set back off the High Street, Mr and Mrs French lived here and they must have kept chickens because Mrs French used to sit at her front gate selling eggs. Past the farm was Barretts Motor Cars and then The Forge Garage all these buildings were demolished to make way for the entrance to Rainham Shopping Precinct.

We would then come to Barlow's The Cobbler and next to him was Rainham Radio. My friend from school, Roger Rouse lived with his parents in the flat above the shop. After Rainham Radio was the Reed

Brothers Barbers shop and then Cremers the cake shop where, on a Monday they used to sell out of date cakes for a penny this was probably the only chance I got to have a cake in those days. Passing Cremers, we came to The International Stores this was quite a big grocery store probably what we would call a small Supermarket today. Looking opposite here across the High Street was The Royal Cinema or the Bug Hutch as we called it. This building is now Lukehursts furniture store but you can still see the roof of the old cinema. After The International Stores was Guthries (I think they sold carpets and furniture), Ward & Partners and then another of our remaining businesses, Barclays Bank on the corner of Station Road. To be continued

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Saturday 24th September 11.00am - 3.00pm
See Rainham from the top of the tower
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HARTLIP HISTORY WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday, 24th & 25th September
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Diary 2011

September 18th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6.5 miles, meet Geoff 075 2516 1766 Westminster Field car park off The Street, Horton Kirby. Pub at end.

September 18th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Volunteer Taster Day, 10.00am – 2.00pm come and help, refreshments, free, book in advance 338191.

September 18th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 2.00pm, Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, Oad Street near Sittingbourne, 3.5 miles, easy walk, no dogs

September 19th - The Monday Hub, (see 5th Sept).

September 19th - Rainham Evening Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Growing Old Disgracefully - Jane Faulkner, competition Wool, ring 372282 for details.

September 19th - Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, David Hatcher - From policing emergencies in the UK to delivering disaster relief worldwide, Visitors welcome ring 01634 263405 for details.

September 20th - Bird Watching, 7.00 – 10.00am, Berengrave to Motney walk, please wear old clothes and stout footwear, suitable for beginners but not under 12s, no need to book.

September 20th - The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk, Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 – 10.00pm £3.00, RSPB in the South East - Chris Corrigan www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

September 20th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, Autumn Glory a foliage only arrangement (see 6th Sept).

September 21st - Riverside & Capstone Farm Country Parks, Tiny Tots, 10am-1pm Arts and crafts for accompanied children aged 2 to 5-years-old. Please wear old clothes, as it could get messy! Drop in any time, no need to book in advance. £1 per child.

September 21st - Bredhurst Garden Club, AGM, Potato Competition, N Adams slides - Climbing Goudkoro Peak, Kashmir, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, details

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September 22nd - Wigmore Thursday Club, An Alaskan Adventure - Mike Collins, (see 8th Sept).

September 22nd - Hempstead Leisure Club -

Buckingham Palace - Peter Hartley, (see 8th Sept).

September 22nd - Medway Film Makers, Be a film judge: what do they look for? Why do they never agree? (see 8th Sept).

September 23rd - "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" Macmillan Cancer Support 10.00am - 12 noon, Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Entrance £1.00 (includes tea/coffee), Preserves, cakes, bric a brac, books and plants for sale at great prices.

September 23rd - Upchurch Short Mat Bowls Cub, 2nd Pizza & Ponder Quiz Night, Village Hall, prompt 7.30pm, Teams of 6, £40 per table, deposit £10 per table BYOD, 01634 388425 or 373723

September 23rd - Quiz Night Neighbourhood Watch, 7.30pm, United Services Club, Rainham teams of 6, £8 per person (adults only) includes refreshments tickets must be booked in advance 01634 792131

September 23rd - Medway Geographical Society, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.00pm 'Norway's Path to Independence' - Fred Walker Everyone Welcome, For more information contact 01634 362683

September 24th - Tower Open Day, St Margaret's Church, 11.00am – 3.00pm, admission £1

September 24th - September Serenade, Friends of Hartlip Church Favourites from opera, stage and screen sung by Rachael Curtis and friends St. Michael & All Angels, Hartlip, 7.00pm, Adults £5, children free ring 01795 842835 for tickets

September 24 & 25th - Hartlip History Weekend, 1.00 - 5.00pm, Hartlip Parish Church, The Street, Entry free, Exhibits, photos, stories of old Hartlip - as well as tea and cakes. All welcome, Enquiries: Peter Blandon 01795 843086

September 25th - Capstone Farm Country Park, Trim Trail, 8.45 – 9.30am, £1 pp book 01634 338191

September 25th - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk, 10.00am, Meet Roger Norman 01634 232404, Mote Park, off School Lane, Maidstone, 5.5 miles, undulating by River Len and Lenham, no dogs

September 25th - Riverside Country Park, Kite making workshop, 10am – 1pm. For accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years. Book in advance 01634 337432. £2.50 per child

September 25th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 5.5 miles, meet Sue 07719 836173 King's Head PH Sutton Valence, corner of the main street and A274. Mainly flat Pubs with lunches available at end.

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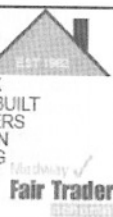
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Diary 2011

September 25th - The Capstone Festival, 11.00am -
4.00pm Free see www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

September 28th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Talk
entitled "Tales from the Potting Shed" - by Jean Griffin
of Radio Kent's Sunday Gardening programme,
7.30pm, United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road,
Gillingham, £2 members, £2.50 non members.

September 29th - Hempstead Leisure Club - Games Tea
& Chat, (see 8th Sept).

September 29th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service
followed by Singalong, (see 8th Sept).

September 29th - Repeat of Joe Ennis slide show 'The
Buildings of the Parish of St Margaret's - Medieval to
Modern' in Church, 7.30pm, Tickets £3 including light
refreshments from church office, Sunburst Books,
Station Road or 01634 371941.

September 29th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Hall, Woodside 7.30pm,
ring 01634 312038 for details.

September 30th - Wigmore MADS 'September Showcase'
A Pot Pourri of popular songs St Matthews Community
Centre, Drewery Drive, 8.00pm Tickets £6, £5 conc
from Sue 01634 370639

September 30th - MKAS, Peter Parish - Constellation of
the month, (see 9th Sept).

October 1st - Pamper Day, Medway & Swale (West)
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Breast Cancer Patients, Medway Maritime Hospital,
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inc lunch, ramasesnk@hotmail.com 01795 472316.

October 1st - Chatham Grammar Association Annual
Reunion 12.30pm, The School Hall, London Road,
tickets £22 from 37 Homefield Drive, ME8 8RS

October 1st - Sewing Together Quilt Exhibition Holy
Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, 10.am - 4.00pm,
£2.00 dmrayfield@googlemail.com 01634 374335

October 1st - Riverside Country Park, Bird Box and
Animal Home Making, 10am - 12noon. Book in
advance, £5 per home.

October 1st - Medway Folk Dance Club, (17th Sept).

October 2nd - Capstone Farm Country Park, Mountain
Bike Trail, (see 4th Sept).

October 2nd - Medway Towns Footpath Group walk,
10.00am, Meet John Williams 01622 764821,
Harrietsham Railway Station, 5 miles, undulating
with 12 stiles, dogs allowed

October 2nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 5
miles, meet Beryl 07765 242148 by Ford Eynsford.
Park in public car park or by river. Pubs at end.

October 2nd - Lions Club partners Harvest Tea for
senior Citizens, Millennium Centre, Rainham 3.30 -
6.00pm, ring 01634 379062 or 373840 for free ticket,
transport can be arranged if necessary.

October 5th - 8th - Gillingham Dramatic Society
'Oliver!' Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone 7.30pm tickets
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