

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■

JUNE 2012

NUMBER 477



The children of Bredhurst ready for their May Day celebrations in 1911. Joe Ennis describes a similar photograph in Nature Notes this month. Both pictures are included in 'Off the Beaten Track - A Short History of Bredhurst, Wigmore, Parkwood and Hempstead' by Geoffrey Hufton, published in 1993 but now out of print.

Robert J. Kitney

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Editorial

Within the last month a new business has opened in Station Road, Rainham. Well I say a new business but actually it is a recreation of one that occupied the same premises some fifty years or so ago. It is located at 35, Station Road and in 1967 (I see from Kelly's Street Directory) it rejoiced in the name of 'Kelvinator Launderamas'. By 1971 this had become the rather less dramatic 'Prestige Launderette'. Both obviously served the same purpose providing a do it yourself laundry facility for the local population. In the mid 20th century we were still far from the age of convenience we now embrace, an automatic washing machine in your own home was considered a luxury. Even if you could afford it, it was thought wasteful of both water and power. The war time deprivations were all too fresh in the minds of many. Perhaps in this time of austerity we should recapture some of this idealism but I think most of us now would consider it a necessity not a luxury to let the machine do the work. The new owner of Rainham Launderette would love to discover the history of the original launderette. If you worked there or visited with your weekly wash and have memories of how it used to be, do get in touch they will be delighted to find out more. The Jubilee Celebrations have heralded a wave of nostalgia for everything connected with the 1950s. It is easy to reminisce with gold tinted spectacles and see everything as perfect in this bygone era but in reality the country was struggling then as it is now. However a series of national celebratory events occurred, eerily similar to the last few years, and it was hoped this would boost the national spirit of well being and set us on the road to recovery. We had a Royal Wedding in 1947 - the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip followed by a rather less elaborate London Olympics in 1948. The Festival of Britain followed in 1951 and the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Gradually in the 50s things did get better and by 1957 Harold Macmillan was telling us 'we had never had it so good' so perhaps there is hope for us yet! Thank you everyone who has contributed to the debate about the estuary airport. Opinions are strongly felt both for and against the project and the discussion will obviously continue, probably for years to come, but I am afraid we do not have room to include more in Action Forum. Once you have recovered from all the festivities at the beginning of June do look further in our pages and

decide which other events are of interest. If only we have a few fine days there are plenty of interesting walks when you can explore the beautiful countryside, and of course all the outdoor fetes, concerts and garden parties are relying on warm sunny afternoons to enhance their success, but whatever the weather do enjoy the last of the spring and we will see you again in July.

Correspondence

CORONATION DAY - JUNE 2nd 1953

Dear Editor

The afternoon before the coronation my mother and I bought a wooden grocery box from some wide boy for a king's ransom. We got the box through the crowd to our pitch in Northumberland Avenue by shouting, "Wet paint! Mind your nylons!"

Keeping our place was Jim, then aged 12, guarding our many coats, rugs, flasks, sandwiches and wads of newspaper. What bliss to take turns sitting on a box all night. We did not sleep for laughing at the jokes of cockney families.

At five on Coronation morning I was walking to the ladies' room at Charing Cross Station when I stood in Villiers Street to enjoy a minstrel show. There were no strangers that day: the whole united British Empire was represented. Back in Northumberland Avenue we were at the very front so I knew that in a few hours we would see the Queen on her way to the Abbey. While waiting I experienced the sheer bliss of sitting on a kerb with my feet in the gutter. We laughed at a fellow selling engraved miniatures of the Queen at only a halfpenny. Some people even bought his postage stamps. We cheered a news vendor shouting, "Everest climbed and not wiv a ladder!" What a success to offer to our Queen that very day.

Our part of the coronation route would take the procession going to the Abbey, but not returning. We practised cheering at pageboys in a charabanc, at the nobility and quality passing on horseback and especially at a man sweeping up after them. We cheered the Queen of Tonga, glossy black, beautiful and monumental in her open landau. There were jokes that the tiny white diplomat in attendance was her lunch.

When my Queen passed I was too excited to cheer, but sad that we would not see the return of our crowned monarch. Years later at a charity event a child asked her, "Is the crown heavy?" I remember seeing on TV that she smiled, passed on, and then turned back to the kiddie. "Yes, the crown is meant to be heavy."

The Empire is no more, the maps of the world are no longer covered in pink areas, she has shared the sorrows of family trials, and she must have often known an 'annus horribilis', as she admitted in November 2005. All the time she has felt the onus, the burden, of that heavy crown. The Queen and I both began our life's work in the same year but I have

now retired so I admire her vows to serve us throughout her life.

After the procession we left our pavement empty, knee deep in newspapers, used for keeping us warm. How often the homeless must rely on them, so I must not forget. Just once I have spent the night on the pavement, intending to sleep rough, but I was surrounded by family and crowds of hopeful, happy friendly, united people.

During the coronation period we were staying in Pimlico, sleeping by day and sightseeing at night. We saw displays of flowers from all over the British Empire; at dawn we saw the coronation coach closely as it was being serviced; and its horses groomed for the great event. We kept meeting people in court dress, complete with knee breeches, and in glorious national costumes.

On Coronation Day it had begun to rain just as we had to return to Victoria. We knew nobody with a television set, and we simply longed for sleep. Before the days of terrorist alerts some Underground trains were running.

It was eerie to be alone on the train. We belonged above with the crowds, the unity of the British Empire, the cheers. Here we were below in silence. Nobody was waiting on the platforms and we watched the name 'Westminster' as we glided past. We felt like aliens but above our heads at that very moment, for us, our Queen was being crowned.

Yours sincerely
Maggie Dunn

SAMANTHA DICKSON BRAIN TUMOUR TRUST
Dear Editor

Our Fund raising stall at Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre on Wednesday 9th May raised £60 which has been sent to SDBTT. Thank you everyone who donated. The winner of 'Guess the Sweets in a Jar' (answer 101) is Mrs K Goodman of Rainham. Our next fundraising event is on Saturday 15th September when the City of Canterbury Silver Band will visit St Margaret's Church, High Street Rainham for a concert at 7.30pm. Tickets, £9.00 each, are available from me on 01634 263622.

Yours sincerely
Olwen O'Dowd
Email: o.od@hotmail.co.uk

TRAIN NOISE
Dear Editor

I wonder if anyone else has noticed the change in train noise over the past few weeks? The noise seems louder and has a whirring quality particularly the London bound engines. It is not just as they leave the station but also on the approach to Rainham from Newington and friends have reported hearing it towards Gillingham. When I am walking it seems to me that I now hear the trains a lot sooner long before I actually see them. It affects both old and new rolling stock but not the Pullmans.

Has anyone any explanation for this I have contacted both Rail Companies but as yet have not received a reply.

Yours sincerely
Lauren Scoines
laurenscoines@blueyonder.co.uk

WOOL AND KNITTERS WANTED

A Knitting Club meets alternate Monday afternoons at Rainham Library. The next meetings are 11th & 25th June, knitting for charity and Premature Baby Units. New members are always welcome. Please leave any unwanted knitting wool at the library. For more information ring Judith Pender 01634 377474.

DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors are needed for: Edwin Road, Marshall Road and Sylvan Road Durham Road, Cambridge Road, Asquith Road and Springvale Lower Rainham Road (Pump Lane - Bloors Lane) These can all be split to small sections as necessary! If you live near any of these roads or are able to travel to them and could help for about an hour or so during the first week of each month we would be very pleased to hear from you on 01634 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net

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Diary 2012

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Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 19th June

June 3rd - Hempstead Big Lunch from 1.00pm, All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Road. Free admission.
June 3rd - St Augustine's Gillingham 'Big Lunch' details www.sagk.org.uk
June 3rd - Sunday Service with guest medium Diane Hubert, £1.00 6.30 - 8.30pm, Healing after the service at The Centre mind.body.spirit, M2 services 01634 366944 www.thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk
June 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk meet 10.00am Jeskyns Country Park for 7.5 miles, the Darnley Trail at Cobham, bring picnic lunch, pub at end.
June 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet Stephen Manning 01634 375821, 10.00am, at Hollingbourne near the Dirty Habit Pub for a 6 mile walk with steep climbs, Dogs allowed.
June 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet Joan Weekes 01634 855522, 7.00pm, at Stone Horse PH for 4.5 mile evening walk, a few slopes. No Dogs.
June 5th - St Matthews Church, Wigmore, Service of Dedication for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 10.00am, £3 per ticket 262197 or 370492.
June 5th - Wigmore residents street party, Drewery Drive, 3.00 - 6.00pm. Bring a picnic and join in the fun, free.
June 5th - Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm, United Reformed Church (rear hall), Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Workshop. Visitors welcome contact Kay Buss 01634 232998
June 5th - Every Tuesday evening Healing freely given The Centre, 7.30-9.00pm (see 3rd Jun)
June 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet 10.00am Camer Park for 5 miles through Meopham, details 01634 718895 tea bar and pubs at end.
June 6th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Fun Quiz, New members of all ages welcome, details contact Margaret Meinertzhagen 01795 475907 or Hilary Noakes 01634 364618
June 6th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm Cricket Pavilion, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, Preparing for the Show - Gordon Francis, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details

June 6th - Creative Oatmeal Clay Creatures, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Suitable for aged 5 - 12 years must be accompanied by an adult, £1.50 per child, book 01634 337432
June 7th - Parent and Child Fishing Teaching, Capstone Farm Country Park, 9.00am - 11.00am or 12noon - 2.00pm, Learn the basics of coarse fishing equipment and bait supplied. Suitable for 8 - 12 years £8 per child, book in advance 01634 338191
June 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, A Peep Behind the Doors - Julia Page, St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, 2.00pm. For over 50, ring 235507
June 7th - Hempstead Leisure Club, AGM, Hempstead Village Hall, behind Church, 2.00 - 4.00pm. New members welcome. Phone 01634 366907
June 8th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group 7.30pm AGM Upchurch Village Hall All welcome, ring 01634 317993 for details.
June 8th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre every Friday 9.45am - noon to help people who have lost their spouse/partner, join us for a cuppa & chat, ring Julie 364309 for details.
June 8th - MKAS, Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, second and last Friday each month, 7.45pm. Members Exhibition Meeting, Details 07983 398326 or visit www.midkentastro.org.uk.
June 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, ring 366189 or 388546.
June 9th - Concerts @ GMC, Medway Singers, Gillingham Methodist Church, Third Avenue 7.30pm, Tickets £5.00 on the door or 01634 575139
June 9 - 10th - Chatham & District Model Railway Club's annual Model Rail Show, The Historic Dockyard Chatham, 10.00am - 5.00pm, Tickets £7 & £5.50 Concessions, Family (2+3) £15, free parking. www.chathamshow.co.uk

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June 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet John Williams 01622 764821, 10.00am, East Malling Village Fields Car Park 5.5 miles fairly flat. Dogs OK.
June 10th - Race for Life, Capstone Farm Country Park, 11.00am - 1.00pm, Call 08716 411111 or see www.raceforlife.org for more information
June 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet 10.00am Aldington for 6.5 miles Royal Military Canal and Saxon Shore Way, can be muddy, 07525 161766
June 10th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Free 01634 337432
June 11th - Knitting Club meets alternate Monday afternoons Rainham Library, knitting for charity and Premature Baby Units. New members always welcome. Please leave knitting wool at the library. For more information ring Judith Pender 01634 377474.
June 11th - Parkwood Leisure Club, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Party, St. Paul's Church, Deanwood Drive, Parkwood 2.00pm - 4.00pm, new members welcome ring 01634 366056 or 373594.
June 11th - An evening of Clairvoyance with the wonderful Brenda Cottingham £5.00 (see 3rd Jun).
June 11th - Rainham Wives, 8.00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham, 'Jubilee Quiz Time' with Hazel, New members of all ages very welcome, subs £1.50 per meeting, details 01634 230639.
June 12th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, 7.00pm, Meet at Chatham Waterfront Bus Station for a 3.5 mile evening walk some steep steps. No Dogs.
June 12th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, Curiosities of the City of London, Part 2, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm visitors welcome. Enquiries Miss E Boyes 01474 823606
June 13th - Junior Ranger Team, Riverside Country Park, 3.45 - 4.45pm, aged 5 - 12 years old must be accompanied by adult, £1.50, book 01634 337432
June 13th - Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Bredhurst Village Hall, Margaret Clift - Sweets & Chocolates, ring 01634 389966 for more details.
June 13th - Rainham Flower Club, Upchurch Village Hall, 7.30pm, Workshop "Turn over a new leaf" Tutored by Ann Wyatt, For further information please telephone 01634 863034
June 14th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk - Sussex Farm Meals, (see 7th Jun).
June 14th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Adventures on the Allotment - Rob Masters (see 7th Jun).

June 15th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet Chris Morris 01634 374923, 07847 828249, 7.00pm, at Turn off after garage half way down Bluebell Hill signposted for Tyland Barn for a 4 mile fairly flat, easy evening walk via Pilgrim's Way Boxley Abbey and Tyland Barn. Dogs allowed.
June 15th - Jazz Gig, RAF Association Club, Dock Road, Chatham, 8.30pm, Simon Spillet/Alan Skidmore Quintet, Admission £10, Enquiries 01634 365352 or 07544312743 Website Coljazz.webs.com
June 15th - Oast House Theatre, 'British Comedy Legends' 3 of our great comedy legends: Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson & Morecombe & Wise, light buffet, Curtain up at 8.00pm. Box Office on 0844 8793224 or on-line www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
June 16th - RSG Youth Academy, 10.00am - 12noon, 4 week course, 01634 362746 or email rya@rsg.org.uk
June 16th - Rainham South Ward Councillors Surgery, Parkwood Community Centre, 9.30am - 12noon. No appointment necessary.
June 16th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk the Darenth Valley Path with Stephen Manning Contact Stephen on 01614 375821 or email menningstephen@hotmail.co.uk for details.
June 16th - Paediatric First Aid Course, St Matthew's Church, Wigmore 10.00am - 4.00pm £20 per person email the139club@gmail.co.uk for details
June 16th & 23rd - Active Birth Workshop St Matthew's Church, Wigmore 2 day antenatal/postnatal course, 9.15am - 5.15pm £35 per couple, email the139club@gmail.co.uk for details
June 16th - Inspiring Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Summer Ball Ticket only 7.30 - 11.00pm. Enquiries 01634 363738 email s.collins02@btinternet.com
June 16th - Discovering Chalk Grassland, BWAG Training Day, 10.00am - 3.30pm For further details and bookings please call Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com
June 16th - Deanwood School Summer Fayre, 12noon - 3.00pm, Adults 50p, Children 20p, Preschoolers Free, Raffle to be drawn at 2.30pm
June 17th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet Gill Smith 01622 710569, 10.00am, at Shipbourne Upper Green Road opp the church for 5 miles undulating walk with some stiles. No Dogs.

Continued on Page 11

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HANDS
 Hands has for many years been providing practical help to the local community through support from our volunteers. Much of our work deals with the arrangement of transport for elderly and disabled clients to enable them to attend medical appointments, day-centres, shopping and social visits etc. If you would like to contribute something to your community and have tact, patience and an ability to laugh at the ludicrous side of life, why not join us as a volunteer driver? We need more drivers so that we can extend our service to more people, so if you have spare time and a car why not help us continue to help elderly or disabled people keep important appointments and be able to keep a social life. Contact Jan Excell at Hands and Gillingham Volunteer Centre on 01634 362119 or email enquiries@gillinghamvolunteercentre.com

BABY MASSAGE SESSIONS
 Fairview Community Primary School
 Fairview Tadpoles Parent and Baby Group
 Thursdays 1.15 – 2.45pm (term time) £2 per family
 Baby Massage Taster Sessions in June
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 157 Marshall Road, Rainham
 Sunday 1st July, 12noon – 3.00pm.
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 tea, coffee and lots more. Any enquiries contact
 friendsofbryonyschool@yahoo.com

SUMMER FAYRE
 Miers Court Primary School PTFA
 Saturday 7th July, 11.00am – 2.00pm
 Calling all ex pupils to come and join us at our
 Summer/Farewell Fayre, to say goodbye to
 Mrs McCracken (formerly Mrs Patterson)
 and Mrs Walker, who are both retiring.
 Information from Joanne Gilbey 01634 310676

RAINHAM THEATRICAL SOCIETY
 Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham
 'British Comedy Legends' Friday 15th June
 Curtain up at 8.00pm
 'Roll Britannia' A comedy by Sam Fish
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

May Day was traditionally the day of the celebration of Spring. The two symbols most associated with May Day were the blossom of the may tree (more commonly known today as the hawthorn tree) and the maypole. The flowers of the may tree were used mainly to make garlands; the white, heavily laden blossom is visually attractive but has a somewhat bitter-sweet smell. Maypoles, and their attendant dancing and merry making, were banned by the Puritans in the 17th century. However, in the late 19th century, after a long period of suppression and disinterest, maypoles came back into use as a result of encouragement by the social reformer John Ruskin and his colleagues who invented the notion of "Merrie England".

The villagers of Bredhurst have been celebrating May Day for over a hundred years. A photograph taken in 1908 shows the May Queen and other girls from the village dressed in white and with garlands of flowers around their heads. Some of the boys are wearing their best caps, jackets and knickerbockers whilst others are dressed as knights, heralds and pages. Two of the boys are holding onto the opposite ends of a long stick which is threaded through a large bundle of hawthorn blossom.

In May of last year Mrs Ennis and I joined a large crowd on the playing field of Bredhurst Church of England Primary School celebrating May Day. We watched the crowning of the May Queen, dancing round the May Pole and country dancing. The girls and boys were dressed in much the same way as their Edwardian predecessors, the girls in skirts, aprons and bonnets and the boys as minstrels, pages and swordsmen. The May Pole dancers were particularly talented, being able to create various plaited patterns around the May Pole by means of coloured streamers. Each design had a name such as "Barber's Pole", "Double Plait", "Spider's Web" and "Gypsies' Tent". May is the month not only of hawthorn blossom but also, for example, the creamy white clusters of the elder flower and the rich, tent-like blossoms of the horse chestnut tree. An attractive specimen of the

latter tree, which features on the Bredhurst village sign, stands next to the Bell Inn. Bluebells are also depicted on the sign and this prompted my wife and me to make a visit to Bredhurst Wood and see the bluebells growing there. We walked down Hurst Road, turned right near Bredhurst Church and joined a stony lane. A variety of trees line the lane as it drops below Arran Bank. The trees appear to be relics of the ancient wood through which the lane was once cut. They include oak, beech, cherry, field maple, hornbeam, white beam and yew.

Having savoured a short walk down what is a typical, ancient North Downs lane we retraced our steps to a stile and entered a hay meadow hidden in a fold of the downs. The predominant flowers, in the meadow, in early May, were ox-eye daisies but, later in the spring, flowers such as pyramidal orchid, bird's-foot trefoil and yellow rattle will be in evidence. We entered Bredhurst Wood which consists mainly of sweet chestnut, ash and hornbeam coppiced trees with some oak and beech standards. In the past, coppiced sweet chestnut would have been used for hop poles, for example, and hornbeam for charcoal. For many years the coppices were not managed and the trees became overgrown. Over the past few years, however, on the initiative of such bodies as Kent County Council, a large area of the wood has once more been coppiced and the light has been let onto the woodland floor. We came across an extensive and impressive display of the azure blue flowers of the bluebell. Among other flowers in bloom were greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, ragged robin and red campion.

We emerged from the wood upon reaching down land fields below Kemsley Street. They lie on the same continuous slope of the North Downs as Queendown Warren. Primroses and cowslips were still in bloom in the shade of the woodland trees lining the fields. We toiled up the steep slope of the fields in the heat of a warm spring day and, in due course, reached the long line of a hawthorn hedge serving as a boundary to the fields adjoining Kemsley Street and Paris Farms. H E Bates, the author of "The Darling Buds of May", wrote about

"may-trees carrying blossom as thick as Ma's lavish Jersey cream." Some of the twigs and boughs of the hawthorn bushes we passed by were indeed sagging under the weight of bunches of creamy white flowers. We wondered whether the large bundle of hawthorn flowers carried by the two Bredhurst school boys in the aforementioned photograph of 1908 were cut from one of these bushes over one hundred years ago.

Joe Ennis

HEMPSTEAD BIG LUNCH

Sunday 3rd June from 1.00pm - Free admission. All Saints Church, 169 Hempstead Rd. Bring a picnic and enjoy the many games and activities for children. Cake Stall, Craft Stall, Puppet Show, Sunbeams Toddler Music Session and more!

DIAMOND JUBILEE SERVICE & Street Party

Tuesday 5th June, St Matthews Church, Wigmore will be hosting a Service of Dedication for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee from 10.00am. Watch the service on a big screen and take part. Dress to impress and enjoy a drink and canapes afterwards. £3 per ticket 01634 262197 or 370492.

STREET PARTY

Tuesday 5th June 2012, there will be a street party for residents of the Wigmore area to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in Drewery Drive, 3.00 - 6.00pm. Bring your own picnic and join in the fun of traditional games, a sing-song and a tug-of-war with a small trophy for the winners. This is a free event so pray for fine weather and a good time out.

JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Margaret's Church, Rainham
Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th June 10.00am - 4.00pm
(from 12noon Sunday) Entry £2
Preview Evening Thursday 21st June 7.00pm
£5 (includes cheese & wine)

Church Tower Open Saturday 23rd June
10.00am - 12noon & 1.00 - 3.00pm
More information 01634 362023
office@rainhamchurch.co.uk

DIAMOND JUBILEE CONCERT

The Friends of St Margaret's Church, Rainham
Featuring Medway Big Band 'Swing Music for all'
Saturday 23rd June, 7.30 - 10.00pm
St Margaret's Church, Rainham

Tickets (including drinks & nibbles) £6 in advance or £7 on the night. Contact 01634 230430 or 230183

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HUGE ARTS WEEKEND! St Matthew's Church, Wigmore, Saturday 30th June/Sunday 1st July 10.30am to 4.00pm/11.00am to 4.00pm Free Entry, Free Art Show, Free Demos, Free Workshops
SATURDAY Art Show - Over 50 artists exhibiting - Art Sales, Art and Craft Stalls, Demonstrations and Exhibits. Come and have a try at something new - Plenty for children, Live Entertainment Throughout the Day, Free Art and Craft Workshops, Acrylic, Watercolour, Oils, Tissue Lamination, Collage, Belly Dancing, Children's Scottish Dancing Children and Adults - Telephone booking necessary.

VARIETY SHOW - 7.30pm Singing, Magic, Dance, Film, Variety Hosted by Pat Marsh and Lynsey Butler (Radio Kent). Tickets - £7.50

QUIET SUNDAY Art Show, Bring a Picnic Lunch Come along 9.30am for Arts Based Family Service
Professional Recital - 7.00pm Dichterliebe op. 48 (Song Cycle) - Robert Schumann and Songs from New Zealand - David and Christine Griffiths Internationally acclaimed New Zealand baritone and pianist Tickets - £7.50

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Programme of Events available email Wigmore.arts@hotmail.co.uk or post (sae please), 42 The Goldings, ME80AX Tel: 01634 372508 - book early for workshops

JUBILEE CONCERT - SATURDAY 7th JULY

The Old Barn Orchestra Concert at Rochester Grammar School for Girls. The programme has a London theme comprising Weber's Jubilee Overture, Eric Coates' London Suite and Rhapsody for saxophone and orchestra, Crown Imperial by William Walton & Vaughan Williams' London Symphony. Tickets £10 with acc children £1 from 01795 843228 or 01634 376979 or the National Map Centre above Sunburst Books 21 Station Rd. The concert is in aid of Demelza Children's Hospice and starts at 7.30pm.

JUBILEE CONCERT

St Mary's Church, Upchurch Sat 14th July, 7.30pm
Upchurch Society and Bearsted Choral Society
Mozart's 'Coronation Mass', Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and Elgar's 'Coronation Ode'
Refreshments available during interval
Tickets £8 (students £4) from Evelyn Veale 01634 234047 or Liz Walters 01634 361897

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Diary 2012

June 17th – Medway Ramblers Walk meet 10.00am
Linton for 8.5miles around Boughton Monchelsea,
bring picnic lunch.

June 17th – Bredhurst Woodland Action Group,
Volunteer Task Days, Third Sunday Every Month
10.00am – 2.00pm, Meet at Hurstwood Road, 07801
386264 or email stevewright50@btinternet.com

June 18th – Parkwood Leisure Club, Bingo, (11th Jun).

June 18th – Wigmore WI, 7.30pm, St Matthews
Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Ian Porter - Jack
the Ripper, Visitors welcome ring 01634 263405

June 18th – Rainham Wives, 'Hearing Dogs for the
Deaf' return visit by Paul Ledger & Yorick, (11th Jun).

June 18th – Rainham Evening Women's Institute,
7.30pm Millennium Centre, Rainham, The Alternative
Calendar Girls – Mrs Barbara Stevens, competition
Childs Book, ring 01634 372282 for more details.

June 19th – RSPB Talk, Parkwood Community Centre,
7.30pm, £3, 'Kruger National Park' Don Wilks.

June 19th – Gillingham Horticultural Society Floral Art
Group, 'Imposes' night. (see 5th Jun).

June 21st – Rainham Women's Institute 1.45 – 4.00pm
Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham.
Speaker on The Story of English Cheeses, Visitors
welcome for small entry charge. Ring 01634 366276

June 21st – Wigmore Thursday Club, Strawberry Tea and
Entertainment, (see 7th Jun).

June 21st – Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, Tea &
Chat (see 7th Jun).

June 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th, 30th – Rainham Theatrical
Society, 'Roll Britannia' A comedy by Sam Fish,
Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham, Curtain up 8.00pm. Box
Office 0844 8793224 www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

June 21st – The Centre, Wellness Night 7.30 – 9.00pm
with Alison Lavington £4.00 (see 3rd Jun).

June 21st – 24th – Jubilee Flower Festival, St Margaret's
Church, Rainham, 10.00am – 4.00pm (from 12noon
Sunday) Entry £2.00, Preview Thursday 7.00pm £5

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June 22nd – Summer Ball in aid of Peters Place,
8.00pm, United Services Club, Rainham, £10 per
couple or £6 per ticket, Disco and buffet included.
For more information and tickets contact Rose
01634 570443 or Ann 01634 578879.

June 23rd – Twydale Primary School, Romany Road,
Gillingham, Fete, 11.00am, opened at 12 noon by
Danny Kedwell from Gillingham FC, many varied
stalls for all the family, refreshments available

June 23rd – June Fair, Fairview Community Primary
School, Drewery Drive, Doors open 1.30pm,
Admission 50p adults, 30p children (pre-school
free) Further details 01634 377912

June 23rd – Kasbah Short Breaks Life Skills Project
For 16 – 19 years with mild or moderate additional
needs, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 11.00am –
2.00pm, £2 contribution. Ring 07505 489049 or
07758 703627 or shortbreaks@kasbah.org.uk

June 23rd – Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 9th Jun).

June 23rd – Friends of St Margaret's Church Rainham,
Diamond Jubilee Concert featuring Medway Big
Band 'Swing Music for all' in Church 7.30-10.00pm,
Tickets (including drinks & nibbles) £6 in advance,
£7 on the night, Contact 230430 or 230183

June 23rd – Rochester Choral Society with Rochester
Sinfonietta, directed by Roger Sayer, 7.00pm,
Rochester Cathedral, Mendelssohn's "Elijah".
Tickets: £18; £14 & £7 (students £3) from 01634
401049 or tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk

June 23rd – RAMASES Lecture, 2.30pm, Newington
Village Hall - Lucia Gahli 'Creation Mythology of
Ancient Egypt' - tickets Members £6.00 Guests
£8.00, more details ramasesnk@hotmail.com or
from John Dewey 01795 472316

June 24th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk,
meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941 965272,
10.00am, at Reculver, Bishopstone Lane car park
for 7 mile flat, coastal walk. No Dogs.

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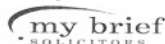


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Diary 2012

June 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet 10.00am at
Wye for 7.5 miles along North Downs, bring picnic,
pus at end.

June 25th - Knitting Club (see 11th Jun).

June 25th - Parkwood Leisure Club, AGM (see 11th Jun).

June 25th - Rainham Wives, Slides with Mr Coe, (11th)

June 28th - Hempstead Leisure Club, "London is
Stranger Than Fiction" - George Wildridge (7th Jun).

June 28th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed by
a Singalong, (see 7th Jun).

June 28th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, 7.30pm,
ring 01634 312038 or 366183 for details.

June 29th - MKAS, Rodney Buckland - The Square
Kilometre array revealing the big picture (see 8th Jun).

June 29 & 30th - "Tom, Dick & Harry", St. Paul's Drama
Group comedy farce by Ray and Michael Cooney,

7.30pm Community Hall, Third Avenue, Gillingham,
Tickets £6 Adults, £5 Conc. Box Office 01634 8527

June 30th - Experimental Sharing Group, 7.30 - 9.00pm
with Robin Hodson sharing his knowledge of the Soble
Experiment, The Centre (see 3rd Jun).

June 30th - July 1st - Huge Arts Weekend St Matthew's
Church, Wigmore ring 01634 372508 for details

July 1st - Medway Ramblers Walks, 10.00am Meet at
Chartham for 5 miles along North Downs Way, A few
styles and several gradients. Bring a picnic lunch, Pub at
end (Artichoke Inn) with lunches available.

July 1st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group walk, meet

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July 1st - Bryony School's Summer Fete, 157 Marshall
Road, Rainham 12 - 3.00pm Lots of fun for
everyone see friendsofbryonyschool@ymail.com

July 2nd - Parkwood Leisure Club, Strawberry Tea -
Music with Duo, (see 11th Jun).

July 2nd - Rainham Wives, 'Musical Quiz, presented
by Margaret (see 11th Jun).

July 3rd - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Happy Birthday' -
own arrangement and discussion (see 5th Jun).

July 4th - Rainham Horticultural Society, Summerhill
Farm, 100 years farming - Dennis Vickers, (6th Jun).

July 5th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Games, Tea &
Chat, (see 7th Jun).

July 7th - Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall,
Rainham, 10.00 - 11.00am, all welcome, proceeds
to Relief Fund for world disasters.

July 7th - Mierscourt Summer Fayre, 11.00am -
2.00pm Farewell to Mrs McCracken and Mrs Walker
details 01634310676

July 7th - Jubilee Concert, Old Barn Orchestra,
Rochester Grammar School for Girls, 7.30pm,
Tickets £10 (children £1) 01795 843228 or 01634
376979, in aid of Demelza Children's Hospice.

July 14th - Jubilee Concert, St Mary's Church,
Upchurch, 7.30pm, Upchurch Society and Bearsted
Choral Society, Conducted by Peter Ashley,
Refreshments Tickets £8

July 14th - Hits, Flicks & Broadway, Gillingham
Dramatic Society, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall
Tickets £6, 01634 372322



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