

ACTION FORUM

MARCH 2014
NUMBER 496

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■



Rainham Co-op at 2 - 4 Station Road (now Lloyds Chemist and a Betting Shop) underwent several refits over the years from 1896 when it was established to 1979 when the building was sold as the supermarket moved across the road to the new Rainham Shopping Centre. This store closed in 1997 and is now occupied by Wilkinsons. The five men, pictured after a successful bowls tournament on the green behind Belmont House in 1938, worked together in the Grocery Department. Percy Major and George Howland are behind Charlie Grice, Len Stockley and Bob Chandler. As Alan Major wrote last month the other children also helped their fathers in the warehouse and with the daily deliveries. See the letter from Dick Grice 'Memories of Rainham' on page 3.

Robert J. Kitney

Building Contractor of Repute and Distinction

BRICK EXTENSIONS AND
COMPLETE HOUSES
ALSO MAINTENANCE
DIVISION



Medway 363669



NO JOB TOO BIG
OR TOO SMALL

WHERE **NO** INFERIOR TRADESMEN OR MATERIALS ARE USED

Editorial

Over the past few years we have see-sawed between various extremes of weather. Gone are the days when you could reliably predict the four seasons. Although this gives us plenty to talk about and the news programmes much extraordinary footage to fill their bulletins we should remember that each new crisis brings misery to individuals in our society. After this most recent couple of months of flooding many homeowners are facing the task of drying out and then refurbishing their houses only to know at the back of their minds that it could so easily all happen again next year. The pictures of flooded streets and whole villages are bad but the shots of cattle on the Somerset Levels standing knee deep in water in their supposedly dry winter shelter barns I found even worse. During the last few natural emergencies we have become accustomed to farmers explaining their problems caused by drought and excessively hot temperatures, extreme cold and deep snow cover or wind damage – but often a few months later the crops have recovered and caught up, the harvest is not as bad as predicted and somehow they have survived another year. However it does seem that this time the land will be very slow to regain its natural fertility, particularly where it has been continuously underwater for weeks on end. What we need now is a brilliant warm, sunny spring to start the process of rejuvenation. The water table is so high we could all dig ponds in our back gardens and the streams of Littlebourne, Bridge and other Kent villages will be flowing for some months to come. So roll on the spring. At least the days are appreciably longer now and when the sun shines it feels warm on your back so there is hope and summer can not be far away. Meanwhile this is the season for indoor events. Quiz Nights seem to be a topical way of fund raising at the moment. If you enjoy an evening pitting your wits against the Quiz Master we have several for you to support in March. Congratulations to the Wisdom Hospice who are celebrating their 30th birthday with a 1984 style Disco on March 28th. Fund raising is a constant worry for both the Wisdom and Demelza Hospices. They both survive and provide their invaluable service to the community simply because of the generosity of the local population. There can not be many families in Medway who have not had contact with one or the other in the last thirty years. Please support the shops and fund raising events they

hold so they are able to continue their work and be available for us all when we need them in the future. Time to think about getting into shape for the summer, there are plenty of walks organised for you to join or you could just don your wellingtons and explore the local footpaths (or more likely mudbaths) when the weather is fine. Have a good month we will be with you again in April.

Correspondence

SUNBURST BOOKS

Dear Editor,

Thought your readers may be interested in the continued success of Sunburst Books, Station Road, Rainham, in their endeavour to sell second hand books, DVD's, Videos and Vinyl Records, donated mostly by people in the Medway Towns to help with the maintenance of our local landmark the medieval church of St Margaret's, Rainham.

The shop, staffed by volunteers, is also attracting a lot of customers to our local history section which is being augmented this coming month by a new publication from Freedom Centre Publishing. Entitled Queenborough Remembered - A Story of a Town and its People this is the story of a town steeped in history covering the period between the ninth and twenty first centuries including memories of the industry and close knit community. Retailing in the shop at £7.95 it will be found in the local history section.

Another new book we are very excited about is from a local author Laurence Howard. This book is fiction called 'The Cross of Goa'. An epic adventure story much in the genre of The Da Vinci Code it is filled with intrigue, romance and suspense and ultimately reveals the great mysteries of the cosmos. It sounds like a great read. The author will be signing copies in the shop on Saturday 29th March at the special price of £4.99 (listed at £7.99 on Waterstones website).

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our supporters and especially the volunteers who give up their time to man the shop. Hope to see all your readers in the shop enjoying the many bargains to be had during the coming weeks.

Kind Regards
 Elly Symonds
 symnel@aol.com

UNUSED DRESSINGS

Dear Editor

In the December edition you printed a note from John Colam asking for unused dressings for humanitarian aid.

I have had a very good response so would like to thank you and all who have donated items. I am able to recycle any medical aid items and place them into the hands of people who are delighted to receive them and can make good use of them.

So, thank you very much!

Joyce Mitchell (Mobile) 07587 778382

BROWNIES NEED HELP

Dear Editor

1st Rainham Brownies has been enriching the lives of girls since 1921 and is now in danger of closure unless we can find someone to come along every Tuesday evening, during term time, to support the Unit Leader. Brownies is for girls aged 7 - 10 years and they do a variety of activities to raise self esteem and confidence.

You don't need any special skills, just be reliable, enthusiastic and a sense of humour helps.

Volunteering is very rewarding and can enhance your life in many different ways - so don't spend your life shopping and sat in front of the TV, come along and help build lifetime skills and memories.

All applicants will be subject to a CRB check by Girlguiding UK.

Yours sincerely
 Caroline Jennings
 Email: jennnc002@yahoo.co.uk

MEMORIES OF RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

The letter from Alan Major in last months Action Forum (Jan/Feb 2014) brought back memories to the people who knew my father and Percy Major. The photograph on the front page is of five of the men who worked at Rainham Co-op: Percy Major, George Howland, Charlie Grace, Len Stockey and Bob Chandler. Alan recalls helping his father with the delivery round to Wigmore. At that time it was the norm for children to assist their fathers wherever possible. Indeed the children looked forward to spending time with a parent who worked long hours in paid employment six days a week and probably tended the garden on Sunday. Les Stockley delivered goods to Rainham and the outlying areas of Upchurch and Meresborough. George Howland had the Maidstone Road, Hempstead and Bredhurst round and alternate days Lower Rainham. His daughter Joy Waters recalls helping during school holidays and being rewarded with a lemonade drink at the Bredhurst Bell or the Three Mariners in Lower Rainham before returning home.

Bob Chandler and my father Charlie Grice worked together in the Grocery Department of the Co-op Store at the top of Station Road in Rainham. The shop had a warehouse at the back and a large cellar beneath the ground floor. After school I would report for duty

www.SALMON WINDOWS.co.uk

Installers of quality products for 25 years

- Conservatories – designed and built
- Upgrades to existing roofs
- New energy rated "A" uPVC windows & doors
- Misted units replaced • Soffit & fascia replacements

For advice and very competitive quote:

01634 363881 / 07973860369

FENSA

MEDWAY FAIR TRADERS

helping unload deliveries in the warehouse and sending them down a slide to the cellar below for unpacking and storage. These cellars regularly flooded so all goods were kept on rollers off the floor, cardboard boxes would not do well in several inches of rain water. In those days most goods such as sugar, butter, dried fruit, biscuits etc arrived in bulk quantities and the apprentices and boys job was to weigh and repack it in stiff sugar paper bags for sale to the customer. I remember one day thinking I was weighing up icing sugar – one mouthful soon confirmed I was wrong it was actually Freedom Washing Powder!

The shop cat was a source of amusement to us – it would sit on the pipes which ran round the cellar and with uncanny accuracy in one blow swipe any passing mouse that came within reach.

The men enjoyed their work and remained with the Co-op for many years often until retirement forming a strong bond with each other. We children also remember the time with great affection, few people nowadays have the security of a 'job for life' that our fathers enjoyed.

Yours sincerely
 Dick Grice
 01634 363516

CRAFT STALL HOLDERS WANTED

for Cats Protection Bredhurst Open Day
 Sunday 1st June 2014.
 Stalls are £15

contact FOB Coordinator - Carol 0797 3677390

ART EXHIBITION

Paintings by Local Artists, Clive Bass, John Gilson and Ron Wiseman will be on show and for sale in Rainham Library, Birling Avenue between 1st and 31st March.

DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors of Action Forum are needed for: Rainham

Taswell Road, Warlingham Close
 Lower Station Road
 Roberts Road & A2 (Maidstone Rd to School)

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 310011 or email af@thenet.uk.net

Take Care

...supporting your independence

DO YOU NEED A GOOD OLD FASHIONED HOME HELP SERVICE?

Housework—Laundry—Shopping—Accompany to Appointments—Companionship—Gardener/ Handyman
 Our Community Assistants are carefully matched to you
 CRB checked, fully insured and referenced

Nominated for Pride in Medway Award 01634 316821

Diary 2014

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 8PP

Diary Copy Date: 25th March

- March 1st – 31st – Art Exhibition, Local Artists, Clive Bass, John Gilson and Ron Wiseman, Rainham Library
- March 2nd – Charity Quiz Night, Demelza Hospice, 7.45pm, 44Two Club, Featherby Road, Tickets Adults £5, Children 13 – 17 £1, call Colin 07739 394128 or email louisjamesuk@googlemail.com
- March 3rd – Medway Scrabble Club, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, alternate Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members welcome, 01634 230500
- March 3rd – Rainham Wives, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham 8.00pm, Ideas for Outings in 2014 with Kim, New members welcome, £1.50 per visit includes refreshments, details ring Sue 01634 230639.
- March 4th – Floral Art Group United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30 – 9.00pm, Basic Shapes Workshop 1, contact Kaye 01634 232998.
- March 4th – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Age-proof gardening – Malcolm Withnall, New members welcome, ring 366276 for details.
- March 6th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Village Hall, behind All Saints Church, Talk “Growing Old Disgracefully”, 2.00 – 4.00pm, New members welcome. Phone 01634366907
- March 6th – Wigmore Thursday Club, And another thing I meant to say..., Mel Rees, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, for over 50s, ring 01634 235507
- March 7th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, every Friday 9.45am – 12noon to help people who have lost a loved one, join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309
- March 7th – Ghost Tours at Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham, 7.00 & 8.30pm, approx. 1 hour, Tickets £10 per person, not suitable under 8 years, tickets visit www.fortamherst.com
- March 8th – RAMASES, 2.30pm, Newington Village Hall, Peggy Dewey Memorial Lecture ‘Ramses III – Never a dull moment!’ – John Dewey Members £6.00, Guests £8.00 at the door. Contact John Dewey 01795 472316 or ramasesnk@hotmail.com

- March 8th – Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am – 12noon, Suitable for families and groups, £2 per person 01634 338191
- March 8th – Charity Race Night & Disco in aid of The Friends of Wisdom Hospice, 7.00pm, St. George Hotel, Rochester, Tickets £7.50 with raffle, basket meals available to buy, details contact Katie on 01634 831163 or katietyler@fowh.org.uk
- March 8th – Spring Quiz, The Brain Tumour Charity, 7.30 – 10.30pm, Twydale Church Hall, Entry £5 per person, Raffle, Free Wine and Nibbles, Free Parking, Prizes for Winning Table, Contact Olwen 01634 263622
- March 8th – NSPCC Quiz Evening, Thamesview Primary School, Bloors Lane, Rainham, 7.30pm, Teams of up to 8, Tickets £7.50 pp, inc Ploughman's Supper, bring drink and glasses, Tickets 01634 231003 and 865286
- March 9th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham 07989 753278, 10.00am, car park Wye TN25 5EG for 6 mile climb out of Wye to the downs, fantastic views. Bring picnic. Pub at end with lunches available.
- March 9th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Patricia Daniels 07960 295164 (text message only) Lower Upnor car park beyond Arethusa Venture Centre for 8 mile moderate walk nearly flat, some road and over difficult river foreshore. Bring snack lunch.
- March 9th – Have a go at Coppicing, Ranscombe Farm Reserve, 10.00am – 3.00pm, 01364 292062 or email ranscombe@plantlife.org.uk
- March 9th – A Gentle Service for the Bereaved, 4.00pm, Rainham Methodist Church, Station Road, A special service to think and pray for loved ones lost no matter how long ago. Reading of names included, for further details or to include name of loved one(s) please contact 01634 374231 or nisenut@hotmail.com
- March 10th, 17th & 24th – Baby Massage Course, 10.00 – 11.00am, St Paul's Church, Parkwood £5 for entire course, contact Elaine Wheeler 01634 379360 or email baby massage@the139club.co.uk

WATERCOLOUR and CALLIGRAPHY
Beginners and Improvers
One Day Courses in 2014
Phone Jacky for details 01622 861983
www.suninthewoodcraftdays.co.uk
11th & 12th March, 17th & 18th June

- March 10th – Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham, meets 2nd Monday evening each month to help people still in employment who have lost a loved one, join us for a cuppa and chat ring Julie 01634 364309 for details
- March 10th – Rainham Wives, Board Games and Nibbles, (see 3rd Mar).
- March 10th – Medway Organ Club Concert, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30pm, Organist – Steve Hubble, ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694 for details.
- March 11th – Telling Tales – Storytelling for Adults, Hastings Arms 18 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham prompt 8.00pm start, Kate Corkery ‘Sweet Shop on the Shore’, £7, For more information ring 01634 852614
- March 11th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way ‘Inspiration for your Garden Designs’ Talk by Malcolm Withall, horticulturist from Hadlow College, information ring 01634 852519.
- March 11th – Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, History of English Cathedrals – David Carder, St George Hotel, New Road, Chatham, 7.30 for 8.00 pm all visitors are made most welcome. Enquiries medwayantiquespublicity1@virginmedia.com
- March 11th & 12th – Sun in the Wood, One Day Courses in Watercolour and Calligraphy ring 01622 861983 or see suninthewoodcraftdays.co.uk
- March 12th – East Medway U3A, Rainham Mark Social Club 2.00 – 4.00pm Speaker Brian Laverick-Smith – ‘30 years of Bover on the Hover’ see u3asites.org.uk/east-medway or ring 07895 890635
- March 12th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm Upchurch Village Hall, Demonstration ‘Sophie's Choice’ by Sophie Beany, For further information ring 01622 884657, 01795 472973 or 01634 863034
- March 12th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm Village Hall, Sandra Sharp – English Traditional dance & Music, visitors welcome, For details ring 01634 389966
- March 12th – All Saints Women's Fellowship, Hempstead Village Hall, 8.00pm, Fund Raising Event, details contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444
- March 13th – Wigmore Thursday Club, Birthday Tea with keyboard entertainment by Tom Macaulay, (6th Mar).
- March 13.14.15.20.21.22 – Oasthouse Theatre ‘We'll Always Have Paris’ by Jill Hyem, Box Office 0844 8793224 or on-line @ www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk
- March 13th – Hempstead Leisure Club, (see 6th Mar).

- March 13th – Donn Barcott Band, 44Two Sports and Social Club, Featherby Road, Gillingham, 8.30 – 11.00pm, £6, Details ring Jazz Line 01634 405037
- March 14th – Gillingham & Rainham Local History Society, Byron School, Gillingham, 7.15pm, Royal Interlude – Life in the Royal Household – Mr. P. Hartley, further information Ron Baker 01634 854982
- March 14th – MASH Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, Tickets £5, up to eight, drinks from the bar, bring own snacks, Tickets 01634 855844 email medwayasthmaselfhelp@btconnect.com
- March 15th – Craft and Produce Market, Millennium Centre, Rainham, 9.00am – 12.30pm, free entry, Refreshments available. In aid of St. Margaret's Church, contact Tony Andrews 01634 371941
- March 15th – Rainham South Councillors will be holding a surgery at Parkwood Community Centre from 9.30am – 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
- March 15th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438, Walking the North Downs Way Section 12, Etchinghill, Tolsford Close, Westfield Lane CT18 8BU for a 8.5 hard walk, ring for details, No dogs.
- March 15th – Medway Folk Dance Club, 7.30 – 10.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gill, New and experienced dancers welcome, with or without a partner, for details ring 01634 366189 or 388546.
- March 15th – Instep Dancing, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, 8.00 – 11.00pm, for Ballroom – Latin – Sequence 01634 363738 s.collins02@btinternet.com
- March 16th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Graham Starkey 01634 371948 Bekebourne Station for a 5.5 mile moderate walk, dogs allowed.
- March 16th – Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Ade 01634 306405, 10.00am at car park Snodland Community Centre. Paddlesworth Road, ME6 5DP for a 7 mile Circular walk one steep hill on route and mud if wet. Bring picnic lunch for midday break.
- March 17th – Medway Scrabble Club, (see 3rd Mar).
- March 17th – Medway Diabetes UK Meeting., 7.00 – 9.00pm, St Pauls Church, Parkwood Shopping Centre, speaker from Diabetes UK, refreshments and raffle, email medwaydiabetessupport@hotmail.co.uk or call Karen 07725 2238464
- March 17th – Rainham Wives, King William IV and Mrs Dora Jordan talk by Sheila Boyd, (see 3rd Mar).

Continued on Page 11

P. Gillard
Interior & Exterior Decorator
Plastering # Tiling
Established 30 years
NO JOB TOO SMALL
FREE ESTIMATES
Tel: (01634) 320846
Mobile: 07834 851 004

A.C. Domestics
reg. 206985
Gas safety checks
Landlord certificates.
Service, repair and
installation of gas central
heating, boilers, fires, gas and
electric cookers.
01622 730960 / 07799887754

A1 Roofing Services
• TILED ROOFING
• FLAT ROOFING
• LEAD FLASHING
• PVC FASCIA / SOFITS
• FULL REPAIR SERVICE
For a prompt reliable service
01634 710539
07884 180595
enquiries@a1-roofing-services.co.uk

AERIALS
• TV Aerials/Freesat Systems Installed
• Extra TV/SKY Points
• TV Wall Mounting
TV & Appliances set up
Call Nick 07949 588464
or 01634 262582
AP SERVICES RAINHAM

Medway Bathrooms & Wetrooms
Design and Install
35 Years Experience
Fully Insured
Friendly service
Free quote
01634 387075 or 077383 66444
www.medway-bathrooms.co.uk

Whiskers Lodge Cattery
Willis Cottages, Dunn Street,
Bredhurst, ME7 3NA
Sited in a quiet rural location in an area of outstanding natural beauty, boarding is for cats only.
A completely new cattery, fully compliant with all new legislation. FAB accredited care provided.
Viewings welcomed by appointment.
Contact: Nichola
Telephone: 01634 235032
Email: info@whiskerslodge.com
Web: www.whiskerslodge.com

J|A|D CHARTERED IN COMMON SENSE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
ESTABLISHED OVER 30 YEARS

4 Bloors Lane, Rainham,
Kent ME8 7EG
Tel: 01634 375222
Fax: 01634 371318
E-Mail: admin@jadaccountants.co.uk
www.jadaccountants.co.uk

- Accounts
- Tax
- Book-keeping
- Payroll
- Audit
- Associated Services

DOIT4U Qualified technician. References available
home improvements/handyman

Bathrooms • Cloakrooms • Kitchens • Tiling • Radiators
Sockets • Flooring • Lighting • Blinds
Small jobs welcome!

Call Rob now for a free estimate!
01634 261502 | 07759 635678 | www.doit4u.org

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Using the most powerful system in the world
Carpets dry within 2 hours!
Safe for children, pets, allergy and asthma sufferers.
No solvent, detergents or enzymes!
For a free quote ring 01634 261014
HYDRO-DYNAMIX

GREG BRYANT 
CONSTRUCTION LTD
REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDERS
NHBC EXTENSIONS
AT RATED BY NHBC
01634 231321

T.J. BUILDERS
All General work Undertaken, Interior Decorating
Plastering, Laminated Flooring & Much More...
External Work:
Painting, Guttering, Fascias, Rendering,
Fencing etc...
Phone for FREE Estimates on:
Home: 01634 581072 Mob: 07968 852558

Beauty Room
Wigmore—Est 15 years
Non surgical face lifting — Facials — Waxing
Electrolysis — Manicure — Pedicure — Body Treatments
Reflexology — New Generation Manicure & Pedicure
Massage — Bridal — Make up — Lash & Brow Tinting
Lash Extensions — Monthly Special Offers
Telephone Sally on 01634 375999 or 07957 242 268

Craniosacral Therapist
Gentle and effective therapy for all ages and conditions including:
neck/ back/ joint pain ~ headaches
stress & anxiety

Sharon Cresswell RCST
01634 373344 or mob. 07896 468456
Web: www.craniosacralkent.co.uk



MIRANDA
DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS
WE REPAIR ALL TYPES OF DOUBLE GLAZING.
FOR A FAST, FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
CALL THE REPAIR SPECIALISTS NOW ON
01634 717400
NO JOB TOO SMALL — FREE QUOTATIONS

WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES
We handle everything from the initial quotation,
manufacture to the installation. **We only fit quality...**
Eden Windows
telephone 01634 840 999
www.edenwindows.co.uk

Puma pvc
Approved installers of
Fascia Soffit Guttering Cladding
* 10 Year Guarantee * Free Quotations
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE !!
CALL NOW 01634 235900
159 Edwin Road, Rainham

Paul's 1-8 Seater Taxis
..... Bookings Only
Airports - Hospitals - Days/Nights Out
Nightclubs - Friendly & Reliable
- Theatre trips - seaports
Tel 01634 268567 Mob 07904955375

Health Care for Back & Body
All types of Strains & Sprains to your Body.
Work related or Sports injuries dealt with.
Bowen Therapy, NS Technique, Massage.
Bren Barry ECBS, ITEC, NST, CNHC, IFR.
Call Me. 01634 234 835 Home visits Available
Web: www.bowenishealth.co.uk

CALLING ALL EX DOCKYARD MATEY'S
March 2014 will mark the 30th anniversary of the
closure of Chatham Dockyard. Since that time many
of you will have lost contact with some of your old
work mate's from those days. Various trades and
groups have been holding their individual reunions,
but like our group are suffering lower and lower
attendances due to us all getting older.
On Friday 2nd May there will be a reunion open to
ALL ex "yard" employees. It will take place in the
Commissioners House in the Dockyard, starting at
7.00pm until the bar closes at 11.00pm The entrance
will be £5, to cover the hire of the venue, and
refreshments.
A lot of you will still be in contact with old pals of
your own trade or group, but this get-together will
give you the chance to re-connect with pals from
other trades and groups that you previously worked
with. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone
who wants to come along, and in particular from
anyone who organises their own trade/group
reunion.
Contact Alex Routen (known to all my "yard" pals
as 'Arry) email alexrouten@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone 01634 263201 or text 07752 875882
Please pass this invitation on to any ex "matey" you
are in contact with.
Thank you; hope to see you next May 2nd.

RAMASES
(Rainham and Medway and Swale Egypt Society)
Saturday March 8th, 2.30pm
Newington Village Hall
Peggy Dewey Memorial Lecture
'Ramses III — Never a dull moment!'
John Dewey
Members £6.00 Guests £8.00
Tickets on the day at the door.
Contact ramasesnk@hotmail.com or
John Dewey 01795 472316 for more details

Neat Feet
Fully qualified & insured visiting Foot Health
Practitioner
* Corns & Hard Skin Removed
* Verruca Treatments
* Thickened & Fungal Nails
* Ingrown Toe Nails
* Diabetic & Routine foot care
Call Naomi for an appointment on:
01634 322591

Plumbing & Heating
T.R.T.
DAVID TATTON Fully qualified engineer
Installation • Maintenance • Service • Heating Systems
Gas Fires • Bathrooms • All general plumbing
• Power Flushing
Corgi Registered No. 205861
01634 262659 Mob 07901 654306

CHARITY RACE NIGHT & DISCO
in aid of The Friends of Wisdom Hospice
Saturday 8th March, 7.00pm
St. George Hotel, Rochester
The horse racing will be followed by a disco,
providing entertainment for the whole family.
Tickets £7.50 with raffle tickets and basket meals
available to buy on the night.
For tickets and further details please contact
Katie 01634 831163 or katie Tyler@fowh.org.uk

OASTHOUSE THEATRE
We'll Always Have Paris
by Jill Hyem
March 13.14.15.20.21.22
Three women of a "certain age" gravitate to Paris. .
There's Nancy, a retired headmistress determined to
throw off the shackles. Anna, recently widowed -
and free - after years of nursing a sick husband. and
Raquel, a divorcee in search of eternal youth and a
new toy boy. A feel-good play with laughter and
tears, the promise of romance, friendship and anger,
and the advantages and disadvantages of growing
old.
Box Office on 0844 8793224 or on-line
www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

TELLING TALES
Storytelling for Adults
Hastings Arms
18 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham ME7 2YD
Tuesday 11th March
7.30pm for prompt 8.00pm start
Kate Corkery
Sweet Shop on the Shore
Out of the landscape of childhood, stories ebb and
flow through village life by the River Lee.
Enjoy what time and tide has washed ashore.
Admission £7
For more information ring 01634 852614

NEED A NEW PATIO?
Crazy Paving - Sandstone - Cobbles - Concrete
Free Quotes - Best Prices
Call 01634 616992
07921 856 214
email: info@thecrazypaver.com

MASTER ALARMS 
FAMILY BUSINESS ESTABLISHED OVER 37 YEARS
Alarms—CCTV—Access Control Medway
www.masteralarms.com **Fair Trader**
mail@masteralarms.com 
TELEPHONE: 01634 379762
Medway Council's
Trading Standards Accredited

Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY
In early January I visited the Isle of Elmley, which is part of the larger Isle of Sheppey. Most of Elmley consists of one of the finest examples of coastal grazing marshes in the country and, at over 3,000 acres, is the largest remaining area of this habitat in south east England. Elmley is owned and managed by a trust set up by the family that farms the land. It has been designated a National Nature Reserve. On my way to the reserve I crossed The Swale by the old lifting bridge, turned right at Straymarsh Cottages and drove slowly along the two mile track across the marshes towards Kings Hill Farm. I soon spotted a covey of six or so grey partridges scuttling away from me. They are a nationally rare, native, game bird. They may have been searching for worms in the sodden grassland. Winter coveys of grey partridges will soon be breaking up into pairs for the breeding season. There were also flocks of lapwing on the marshes, most of which would be winter visitors from mainland Europe. The lapwing has a habit of running a short distance, stopping to search for food and then darting forwards once more. In the air, lapwings have a slow, floppy flight. They fly in loose, wheeling flocks and appear, from a distance, to be black and white. I passed one or two lapwing that were quite close to the track and, in the winter sunshine, their upper plumage had an iridescent quality. There are two mammals that have a stronghold on Elmley and other parts of Sheppey, namely the hare and the water vole. For most of the year, hares are mainly solitary but begin to form into pairs and small groups, from late winter into early spring. The habitat of the water voles is the large water filled ditches of the marshes. I kept my eyes open for both of these mammals but saw neither of them.

In due course I reached the high ground of Kingshill Farm, the headquarters of Elmley Conservation Trust and where the visitors' car park and toilets are situated. From the farm there is a good view of the grazing marshes of the Isle of Elmley. They are divided by large ditches which drain away surplus water and prevent sheep and cattle from straying.

The marshes are grazed by sheep all year round and by cattle in the summer only. Sheep crop the grass very short, which benefits nesting lapwings in the spring and widgeons feeding on the grass in winter. Cattle leave more tussocks of grass and these are ideal sites for ground nesting birds like redshank and wagtails. The nearest hide from the car park, the one that overlooks Wellmarsh Fleet, is a return journey of three miles and so elderly visitors and those with a disability are welcome to drive to that hide. I myself took advantage of the concession. Where the track crosses over an embankment, I stopped the car and had a good look round. The view to the north was of the high ground of the Isle of Sheppey on which sits Minster Abbey and Eastchurch Parish Church. To the south was The Swale and, on the horizon, the low, grey line of the North Downs. I soon settled myself into the Wellmarsh Hide, which overlooks a shallow, water filled scrape. Here avocets nest on small islands in the spring but, at the time of my winter visit, the only birds there were six common snipe, on one of the islands, out of the wind and preening themselves in the sunshine. It was high tide on The Swale and so waders that feed in the inter tidal mud there would be roosting on the grazing marsh beyond the scrape. I could see curlew, shelduck and black tailed godwit, all of which seek out the molluscs, crustaceans and worms that can be found in the mud. Also in view were lapwing, teal and widgeon. The latter two species feed on aquatic plants growing in shallow water. Elmley is a good place at which to see raptors such as marsh harriers, common buzzards, merlins and peregrines. The harriers are easy to spot as they sail over the marshes with barely a flap. Their main prey are small mammals such as voles but other birds are wary of them and keep a close eye on them. Three times whilst I was there, ducks and waders rose suddenly into the sky in great flocks and it was likely that a merlin or peregrine had been spotted. I myself failed to pick out any intruders amongst the thousands of birds wheeling about in the sky. Peregrines attempt to strike down their prey following a stupendous dive out of the sky but merlins chase their prey in level flight. Merlins are the smallest of the European falcons and feed mainly on small birds such as skylarks,

but they can take species much larger than themselves, such as lapwing and teal, which can be found at Elmley in their thousands. Having exhausted the tea in my flask, it was time to head for home. I had spent an enjoyable afternoon overlooking an ancient coastal landscape inhabited by cattle, sheep and birds. I had also passed some time in a place of solitude, remoteness and wide open skies.

Joe Ennis

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Medway Health Walks in support of the National Walking for Health Campaign - our regular local walks are for people who need to be more active and would enjoy getting out in the company of others at some of our interesting Medway locations. Our walk leaders are fully trained and enthusiastic volunteers who have all experienced the health benefits of walking and will encourage and support you to safely include walking as a regular and enjoyable part of your new healthy lifestyle just turn up and give it a try.

Every week we offer the following walks:
Mondays meet Peter at 10.15am outside the Ship and Trades for a 60 - 90 minute "maritime walk" around St Mary's Island, Chatham.

Tuesdays meet Rob at 10.15am outside the Visitors Centre for a 45 - 90 minute "nature walk" through Riverside Country Park.

Wednesdays meet Ron at 9.30am at the junction of Star Lane/Darland Avenue for a 45 - 60 minute "scenic walk" around Darland Banks, Gillingham. Thursdays meet Barry and Barbara at 9.15am outside the surgery 13 Pump Lane, Rainham for a 45 - 60 minute "wooded walk" around Cozenton Park and Bloors Lane.

Saturdays meet Julia at 1.45pm outside Twydall Library for a 1.5 - 2hrs (including a tea stop) "country lane walk" to Riverside and back with a refreshment break on route.

For more information and other Medway Health Walks contact Hazel Gallagher on 01634 331371

CRAFT AND PRODUCE MARKET

Millennium Centre, Rainham
Saturday 15th March, 9.00am - 12.30pm
Free entry, Refreshments available
In aid of St. Margaret's Church
Contact Tony Andrews 01634 371941

- TREE MANAGEMENT
- CHIPPING
- STUMP GRINDING
- PLANTING
- MULCH
- FIREWOOD

LINDSAY & COMPANY
TREE SURGEONS

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

'A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER'S YEAR'

Talk by Robert Canis

Presented by Bredhurst Woodland Action Group
Tuesday 25th March, 7.30pm

£5.00 per person (includes refreshments)
Must be purchased in advance - Not on the door.

Bredhurst's Ancestors Mesolithic to Medieval
Presented by BWAG & HRGS

Wednesday 2nd April, 7.00pm

Richard Emmett, talk about the on-going Bredhurst Archaeological Dig

£3 per person or Free to BWAG & HRGS Members
Both events Bredhurst Village Hall Hurstwood Road,
For information and tickets call Vanessa Jones on
07813 785940, email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com
or find us on Facebook

1984 DISCO

Relive the year the Wisdom Hospice opened

Friday 28th March, 7.00pm

The Roffen Club, Rochester

Eighties Fancy Dress Theme

An evening of retro music and fashion

Tickets £15, includes a basket meal of Chicken & Chips, a 1984 Trivia Quiz and a Disco featuring all the best hits from 30 years ago

For tickets and further details please contact Katie on
01634 831163 or katietyler@fowh.org.uk

MACMILLAN SPRING FAIR

Macmillan's Spring Fair is being held in the Millennium Centre, Rainham, from 10.00am until 12.30pm on Saturday 29th March. Tables are for hire at the cost of £10 for the sale of goods, crafts, etc. If you are interested please contact Jean Mardel on 01634 388111 or Jean Higgins on 01634 233930. Proceeds from table hire and sale of refreshments to Macmillan Cancer Support.

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Saturday 29th March, 7.00 for 7.30pm

HANDS & Gillingham Volunteer Centre

"Alternate Shadows" Drama Company

Dobbies Garden World Courtney Road, Gillingham
£10 per person, including a buffet supper please bring your own drinks.

Join us for a fun, mysterious evening!

Please book in advance - contact

Ann 01634 815430 or Wendy 07816 159668

TAURUS LOCKS

UK LOCKSMITH ASSOCIATION MEMBER

24 Hour Service (No call out charge)
Emergency Non-Destructive Entry
Domestic and Commercial Work
All Locks Fitted, Repaired Upgraded
Rainham Based
Free Lock Surveys and Estimates
O.A.P. Discounts
So call today for a great deal, peace of mind and security

Phone Brian 01634 351244
Mobile: 07775 423744

MEDWAY PLUMBING

Leaks—Bursts—Ball Valves

Taps Repaired/ Replaced

Tanks- Cisterns -Blockages

No Job Too Small

FAST, AFFORDABLE,

RELIABLE, 24 hour call out

All Work Guaranteed

Fully Insured

Medway Fair Trader

01634 301711

Mob 07976 438435

Boarding Cattery

Located in an area of outstanding natural beauty

Owner FAB trained

Built to FAB specifications

Individual luxury heated chalets

Larger pens available to accommodate up to four cats from the same household

Viewing welcome, by appointment only please

www.catnapbredhurst.co.uk

Tel: 01634 386263

Mobile: 07772 276906

Email: catnapbredhurst@yahoo.co.uk

Elsbeth, Blind Lane, Bredhurst, Kent, ME7 3JR



WHY MISS WORK ?

Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Dryers, Cookers Etc.
ALL LEADING MAKES REPAIRED Monday to Saturday 7am to 9pm

BY SQUADMATIC

Free call out—Free estimates
OFFICE 24hrs (01634) 373515 Mobile 07702 255105

CITY & GUILD TRAINED ENGINEER Ex R.E.M.E

Theresa Elsey Dip PFS

Local Qualified Financial Adviser

With 26 years experience within Financial Services,
I provide specialist advice in a wide range of areas
including: Savings & Investments, Pensions, Annuities,
Protection, Inheritance Tax and Long Term Care.

For further details contact Theresa on:

Office: 01634 264322 Mobile: 07580 579031

theresa.elsey@sjpp.co.uk / www.theresaelsey.co.uk

Kent Garage Doors

Your friendly local experts

Electric Roller Doors, Automation,
Sectional and Up & Over Garage Doors,
All repairs. No call out charge. Free estimates.

01634 871402 01795 459105

For 24 hour service call 07738 921296

Builders & Decorators

EXTENSIONS • GENERAL REPAIRS

PLASTERING • GARDENING

REPLACEMENT UPVC WINDOWS

Telephone: 01634 235383

86 Berengrave Lane

Rainham-Kent-ME8 7NJ

DAVID WHITE

BOILER CARE

- Member of Gas Safety Register
 - All Boiler Servicing & Maintenance undertaken, New Systems Fitted
 - Landlord Gas Safety Reports
 - Fires, Cookers, Hobs Fitted & Serviced
 - 24hr Emergency Service with NO CALL OUT FEE
- Medway 376929
Engineer 07956 630003

11+ Preparation Rainham Tuition Centre

Help is at Hand

Maths
Literacy
Reasoning

Effective tuition for children working
towards the 11+ grammar school
selection tests in Medway and Kent

05602 538 882

(local call rates)

www.rainhamtuitioncentre.co.uk

Window Fix Direct

Do you have windows
or doors that.....

Don't open or close properly?
Have condensation inside the unit?
Are draughty when closed?
Conservatory roof leak?

01634 789025 / 07950 761061

www.windowfixdirect.co.uk



N.P. SUMMERFIELD 20 Years Experience CARPENTER

Kitchens, Floors, Bedrooms, Doors

32 Swain Road, Wigmore, Gillingham,
Kent. ME8 0SN

Tel/Fax 01634 361107 Mobile 07967 300269

CARPENTRY • DECORATING • PROBLEM SOLVING • DECKING

CDS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Call Chris Smy

01634 362541 or 07919 270599

www.cdspropertymaintenance.freeindex.co.uk

GARDEN MAINTENANCE • FLOORING • GUTTER & FASCIA CLEANING

HOGWOOD Electrical

Extra lights, sockets, fuse boards & full rewires

Free earthing bonding upgrade
with every fuseboard
(on production of this advert)



Call John of Wigmore

Part P compliant

on 01634 366145 or 07799 412 819

DA CONSTRUCTION

CARPENTRY & JOINERY
SPECIALIST

EXTENSIONS LOFT
CONVERSIONS

GENERAL COMMERCIAL/
DOMESTIC MAINTENANCE

City & Guilds / Institute of Carpenters

TOP QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE
RATES

MR ARCHER - Tel: 01634 389604

Mobile 07961 839328

SOILS TESTING



DEVELOPING?

We have UKAS accreditation and offer a
fast, dependable turnaround for all soils
testing from our Gillingham Laboratory.

01634 717974

www.peterbaxterassociates.co.uk

Diary 2014

March 17th - Rainham Evening WI, 7.30pm, Millennium
Centre, Mr Glen Jones 'Kent Valour' Competition -
Badge, ring 01634 262577 for details.

March 18th - Floral Art Group, Basic Shapes Workshop
2, (see 4th Mar).

March 18th - The RSPB Medway Local Group, Talk,
Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30 - 9.45pm £3.00,
Hope for Malta's Birds - Robert Potts. For Walks see
www.medway-rspb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

March 19th - Wigmore Lecture, Paul Myles - The Real
Tom Paine, 8.00pm, Wigmore Library 01634 337799,
Tickets £3.75

March 19th - Bredhurst Garden Club 7.30pm, Village
Hall, Talk, Mr Brian Everest 'Spray Chrysanthemums'
Spring Show - Judge Mr G Chilmald, new members
welcome ring 233554 for details.

March 20th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk "Fire &
Safety Rescue", (see 6th Mar).

March 20th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Mother of Pearl,
Producers, Production & Uses, John Llewellyn Jones,
(see 6th Mar).

March 20th - Rainham Women's Institute, Methodist
Church Hall, Wakeley Road, 1.45 - 4.00pm, Members
Meeting. Visitors welcome for small entry charge per
visit, Ring 01634 366276 for details.

March 21st - Jazz Gig, Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland
Avenue, Gillingham, 8.30pm, Steve Waterman/ Matt
Wates Quintet, £10, 01634 365352 or 07544 312743

March 22nd - Creative Clay Creatures, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon Suitable for accompanied
children aged 4 - 12 years - may get messy! £3 per
child, 01634 337432

March 22nd - Paranormal Investigations at Fort Amherst,
Dock Road, Chatham, 8.00pm - 3.00am, Medium
Richard Ware, Tickets £35 over 18's only, to book
tickets visit www.fortamherst.com

March 23rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Anne Bond and Pat Wells 07778 302866 07804

LOCAL PLASTERER

ALL PLASTERING WORK UNDERTAKEN

Flat smooth Ceilings and walls.

Professional Reliable Service

01634 389675 / 07721 365 630.



HPR Ltd: The Modern Building Company
189 Bredhurst Road Wigmore.



CANNON

CURTAINS, BLINDS & CANOPIES LTD

BLINDS - CURTAINS & TRACKING
WOODEN SHUTTERS - AWNINGS

01634 582116

M: 07896 501690 E: cannon-m@sky.com

www.cannon-limited.co.uk

837155 Brogdale Farm car park for 6 mile moderate
mainly flat walk, some road walking with 4 stiles and 3
steep gradients. No dogs.

March 23rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Graham
07989 753278, 10.00am Brasted, Toys Hill National
Trust car park - free, for 6 mile Circular walk Bring
picnic lunch No pub but some options nearby.

March 24th - Rainham Wives, The Women's Land Army
talk by Ann Kneif, (see 3rd Mar).

March 25th - BWAG Presents Robert Canis talk 'A
Nature Photographer's Year', 7.30pm, Bredhurst
Village Hall, £5 pp Not available on the door, tickets
call Vanessa Jones 07813 785940, email
bwag@vanessajones.plus.com or find us on Facebook

March 26th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Arthur/Jan
01634 711734, 10.00am Car Park behind Birling
Church, Snodland Road, for 4.3 mile walk, one steep
climb. Pub at end with lunches available.

March 26th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Medway
Archives and Local Studies Centre - Alison Cable, (see
12th Mar).

March 27th - Wigmore Thursday Club, Service followed
by "Fair Trade", (see 6th Mar).

March 27th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Tea, chat and
games, (see 6th Mar).

March 27th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and
Miniaturist Group, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside,
7.30pm, Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038 for details.

March 28th - 1984 Disco, Relive the year the Wisdom
Hospice opened, 7.00pm The Roffen Club, Rochester,
Tickets 01634 831163 or katietyler@fowh.org.uk

March 28th - Medway Geographical Society, Byron
Primary School, Gillingham, 7.30 - 9.00pm, 'Kia Ora'
greetings from New Zealand - Dave Meredith, All
welcome, contact 01634 362683

March 29th - Macmillan's Spring Fair, Millennium
Centre, Rainham, 10.00am - 12.30pm. Tables for hire,
£10 - 01634 388111 or Jean Higgins 01634 233930.
Proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.

March 29th - Music Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church,
Twydall, 7.15pm, £5 per head, Bring your own drinks
and nibbles, Ring 01634 377671 for more details

ADP Building & Carpentry Ltd

For all your Building and Carpentry
Needs. No Job Too Small

Free Quotes

Contact ADP on

01634 234371 or 07590 322 662

CL DECORATORS

Complete Painting & Decorating Service
Interior / Exterior

Paperhanging, Specialising in Hall, Stairs and Landing
For Your Free No Obligation Quote

12 De Mere Close, Rainham

01634 261913 Mobile 07900 190564

STUMPMASTERS

Professional Tree Care

All tree work undertaken. Stump grinding specialists
Local Authority Approved. Medway Fair Trader Member
Free quotes and advice. Fully qualified & insured.
SEASONED LOGS & CHIPPINGS FOR SALE
FREE DELIVERY

01634 361472 or 07789 632438

ZAMMIT ROOFING

SLATING & TILING - LEADWORK
CHIMNEY STACKS REPOINTED OR BUILT
UPVC FASCIAS, SOFFITS & GUTTERS
ALL REPAIR WORK UNDERTAKEN
NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO BIG
Your Local Reliable Contractor
James Zammit
01634 375129 - 07802 698300



Security Installation and Maintenance

- CCTV & Intruder Alarms
- Fire Alarms
- Access Control
- Automated Gates/Barriers

t 01634 387762
m 07711 082415

Total Security Services

Bredhurst Bodyshop

Car & commercial - Paintwork & repairs
Insurance work undertaken, from small
scratches to complete respray.
Call for a free quote.

Blind Lane, Bredhurst, ME7 3JS
01634 264753



STANNAH STAIRLIFTS

Reconditioned and new Thyssen Stairlifts
for straight or curved stairs.

Tel Mr Derek Organ on

01634 374524

or

07850 262 156

for a free estimate.

The Door Doctor

UPVC Specialist

Handles, hinges & locks replaced
24 hour emergency door opening

No call out charge. Discounts for OAPs

01634 263539

AJ ROSS ELECTRICAL

Fully qualified time-served apprentice.
Over 30 years experience

Call Andy on 07766 457999 or

01634 372411

11 Farnham Close, Rainham, ME8 8NS

Domestic Installer



ANDY SHEPHERD

KITCHEN DESIGNER LTD

Suppliers and Installers of Quality

Bathrooms

Bedrooms

Kitchens

Tel/Fax 01634 379423

www.andyshepherdkitchens.co.uk



TV PROBLEMS?

Linwood Home Electronics

offers a fast, efficient and simple repair service
to all makes of TV, DVD & Audio products.

Contact us or visit our website for more details.

Website: www.linwoodhe.com

Telephone: 01634 230261

Mobile: 079 0550 7338

Linwood
Home Electronics
Est. 1982

PAMPERED AND POLISHED

Gellux Manicures Pedicures Waxing

Eyelash & Eyebrow Tinting Facials

Mandy 01634 370697 / 07849 276057

8 years qualified - Wigmore based

For Free quote ring
Mick Eardley
01634 264266

Licensed Waste Carrier
Fully Insured

M & D DECKING

Decking and Gardening Services

Paths, Patios, Turfing, Patio Cleaning,

Garden Clearance, Garden gates made to measure,

Mowing weekly—fortnightly.

Odd Jobs and much more

No job too small

Prompt and Reliable Service

Diary 2014

March 29th - KAA Barn Dance, Millennium Hall,
Rainham, 7.30 - 10.30pm, refreshments & raffle
BYOB. Tickets £10 from Mary 01634 362415

March 29th - Concert, Rochester Choral Society directed
by Roger Sayer, 7.00pm, Rochester Cathedral, Tickets
£18; £14; £7 (unreserved) Students £5 from
tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk or 01634 401049.

March 29th - Murder Mystery Evening, 7.30pm, Dobbies
Garden World in aid of HANDS, Alternate Shadows,
£10 pp inc supper bring your own drinks, book in
advance Ann 01634 815430 or Wendy 07816 159668

March 29th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 15th Mar).
March 29th - Fort Pitt Old Girls Association Quiz Night,
at school, 7.30pm. Teams up to 8, £5 per head includes
supper 01795 599378 or 01634 847060 (eves & w/e)

March 30th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet John Williams 01622 764821 Teston Bridge car
park for 5 mile moderate walk along . Dogs OK

March 30th - Medway Ramblers Walk, meet Brian/Linda
07708 033544, 10.00am front of Cobham Church for a
6.5 mile walk Three steep climbs and stiles. Bring
picnic lunch, Pub at end with lunches available.

March 31st - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 3rd Mar).
April 1st - Floral Art Group, Wedding Craft, (4th Mar).
April 1st - Rainham Horticultural Society, Spring Show -
Judge: Dusty Miller, (see 4th Mar)

April 2nd - Bredhurst's Ancestors 7.00pm, Bredhurst
Village Hall, £3 pp call 07813 785940, email
bwag@vanessajones.plus.com or find us on Facebook

April 3rd - Hempstead Leisure Club, Talk
"Reincarnation", (see 6th Mar).
April 3rd - Wigmore Thursday Club, Encaustic Wax Art,
Evelyn Harmon, (see 6th Mar).

April 4th - Ghost Tours 8.00 & 9.00pm (see 7th Mar)
April 5th - Quiz Night, Friends of Bredhurst - Cats
Protection, 7.30pm, St Matthews Church Hall, Drewery
Drive, Tickets £5 pp Tables of 6 - 8, Bring your own
drinks and nibbles, To book contact Ann 01634 366766

April 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,

Meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Chartham Village
Hall, Rattington Street beside river for a 5 mile
moderate walk, some hills and a few stiles.

April 6th - Volunteer Task Day, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 2.00pm, Refreshments provided, meet at the
Visitor Centre, 01634 337432

April 7th - Rainham Wives, Making Spring Posies and
Hot Cross Buns, (see 3rd Mar).

April 8th - Orienteering Family Fun, Riverside Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon Test your map reading skills,
Suitable families and groups, £2 pp 01634 337432

April 8th - Gillingham & District Fuchsia & Pelargonium
Society, Fuchsia Bonsai Talk by Nancy and Arthur
Phillips, (see 11th Mar).

April 8th - Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, British
Clock Towers - Mike Bundoock, (see 11th Mar).

April 9th - Family Bushcraft Day, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, No experience
necessary. Suitable for adults and accompanied
children, £11 per person 01634 338191

April 9th - Mini-Beast Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep
Netting, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or
1.00 - 3.00pm, Suitable for accompanied children aged
5 - 12 years £3 per child, Book 01634 337432

April 9th - Rainham Flower Club, Workshop tutored by
Robin White, (see 12th Mar).

April 9th - Bredhurst WI, Lesley Gould - Japanese
Festivals & Celebrations, (see 12th Mar).

April 9th - All Saints Women's Fellowship, Filming at
Chatham Historic Dockyard - Scott Belcher, (12th Mar)

April 12th - Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall,
£7.50 including hot supper (BYOB) Ring Pam Tuff
07969 878211, Proceeds to hall funds

April 12th - Concert, 7.30pm, St. George's Centre,
Chatham Maritime, £10 in advance £12 on door or from
01795 843228, 01634 376979 or oldbarnos@gmail.com

April 12th - Instep Dancing, (see 15th Mar).

April 12th - Medway Folk Dance Club, (see 15th Mar).
April 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 Cliff Woods car park
for 5.5 mile moderate undulating walk, may be muddy.

COMPLETE ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Inspections & Testing to Latest Regulations

Insured and Registered

ALSO ARTEXING—COVING—DECORATING

No Job too small—free estimates

Neil Mace

19 Gayhurst Close
Rainham

01634 312633
07792 244 315

V E WHITE & CO.

Solicitors

10 Parkwood Green Rainham ME8 9PN

Medway (01634) 376555

For a complete legal service

Contact us or pop in for a competitive quote

Saturday/evening appointments may be available

email: enquiries@vewhitesolicitors.co.uk

To advertise your business in Action Forum
please email your details to af@thenet.uk.net

or call Hamish on 01634 310011

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The cost is £28.00 for one month or

£78.00 for three months.

Small Ads are also available. See page14.

CHAWNER

Plastering

Skimming, Coving, Rendering,
Drywall board work, Floor Screeding,
Decorative Mouldings, Repairs

Tel: 01634 379822

Mob: 07897 498189

Free Surveys & Quotes



LUKEHURST

Come and Visit Us in Our New
Carpet and Curtain Showroom
Free advice and Quotations

The Chapel, 1 Orchard Street, Rainham
Carpets 01634 362170 Curtains 01634 387749

Small Ads

Price: £2.30 per line per month
Box Ads: £28.00 per month
£78.00 3 months paid in advance
See p2 for contact details & copy dates

HATHA YOGA – ALL ABILITIES
welcome. De-stress and improve well being. Call Dorothy on 01622 661 229 or 07577 890 891.

LOCAL LADY will help with all
your pet animal/bird needs, i.e., daily or holiday visits to feed or exercise, general welfare & vet appointments etc. Kind and reliable. CRB checked. Call Diane at Petpals (01634) 234922

NICK'S GARDENING SERVICE.
Lawns mowed and general garden maintenance in Hempstead and Wigmore area. Please call 01634 370583 or 07701 007 866

THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY
gift! A luxury home beauty treatment www.beauty-treats-at-home.co.uk
Call Emma 07592 569636

Family Celebrant – Renewing of
Vows; hand fasting; naming ceremonies. Yvonne 077 88 791 677

HAIR BY SUE. Professional Mobile
Hairdresser. Competitive rates.
01634 370323 or 07817 825 859

SEAMSTRESS. 25+ YEARS
experience. Alteration of Wedding, Bridesmaids & Prom Dresses. Also other alterations. Call Inger Phillips 01634 230468 or 07867 974 846

Sparkles GLITTER PARTY.co.uk
Girls' Pamper Parties 01634 376270.

John's MOBILE CAR CLEANING
Standard wash & wax from £5. Full valet from £7.50. Call 01634 304648

PET PORTRAITS. Your favourite
pet photos transformed into beautiful hand drawn portraits in pencil and ink. See www.davidmwoodrow.com or call David on 07590 501 420.

LADY DECORATOR. Neat & tidy.
Call Debbie 01634 61 1919

GARDENING TLC:- Lady Gardener
Garden maintenance: digging, pruning, mowing etc. Baskets & pots refilled. Chris 01634 372844 / 0796 3842 503

YOGA Classes /DANCE Meditation
Join us to improve health & wellbeing. Beginners welcome. Call Evi 01634 317463 Website www.freed-om.co.uk

TBF CARPENTRY SERVICES
Customised furniture for home or garden, decking, and any household carpentry jobs, including flat pack furniture assembly / installation. See www.tbfcarpentry.co.uk
Ring 01634 306387 or 07824 430537

MASSAGE / BEAUTY / Spray Tan
Extensive range of treatments. Very competitive prices. Rainham area. Call Jan 01634 377522 / 07930 378834.

SMALL ALTERATIONS & repairs
Hems, zips, seams etc. Very reasonable prices. Call Margaret 01634 363315 / 07766 980 732

RUBBISH CLEARANCE
House, garden, sheds, builders rubbish commercial etc. Single items from £14.95 Also garden maintenance. Call Doug 01634 363008 / 07708 293 745

INTERIOR DECORATOR.
Quality guaranteed.
Tel Jim Jefferys 01634 378157 for a free no obligation estimate.

TJC FENCING & DECKING.
Fencing repairs & erection. All types of decking undertaken. 01634 364985 079580 72928

RUGGED CARPET CLEANING
Competitive prices, fully insured.
For free quote Tel 07591 563 114

New Shine OVEN CLEANING
High quality, deep clean, oven cleaning. Treat your oven to a valet to bring back that New Look! 01634 350025 / 0771 450 6996

PLUMBING, HEATING &
Handyman services. No job too small. No call out charge. Call Andy 01634 377138 or 07870 168 516

GENERAL GARDEN
Maintenance. All year round service. Grass mowing, hedge cutting, weeding & tidying. Established 10 years Friendly service. 01634 378763.

DENTURE REPAIRS
While you wait service by established quality Rainham Laboratory.
Tel: Mardale 01634 263766

KEY STAGE 2/3 LITERACY
support for strugglers, ASD, Dyslexia or 11+. Call Hilary Harris BA (Hons) QTS 01634 234105 / 07866 315 471

STEJEN COMPUTER SERVICES
Repairs, upgrades, troubleshooting. No fix, no fee.

City & Guilds qualified engineer. Phone Steven 01634 302624 Mob 07775 793738

MATHS TUITION to GCSE and
A Level. Former Head of Maths.
33 years' experience. 01634 234732.

GET SLIM FOR EASTER Slimming
World, Hempstead Infants School.
Thursdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm. Call 370390 or 0774 226 1053.

COMPUTER HELP for Beginners
Everything from taking it out of the box to sending your first E-mail.
Call PC-Aid on 07905 440433

MATHS TUITION GCSE & A Level
by a current teacher. 20+ years' experience. Phone 01634 378199.

BALLROOM, LATIN & Sequence
Dance Classes. New adult beginners' lessons Rainham area. Wed & Fri evenings. First lesson FREE. For more info call Julie 07983 397 439

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
All gardening work undertaken. Grass cutting, hedge cutting, tree work, fencing. Patios, decking, design & build available. 01634 364985 07930 183466.

BANJO TUITION 5 string & tenor
Fun, easy to learn, all ages, 1-2-1 or group lessons. Graham 01634 260281

RALPH'S BARN DANCE
Calling to CDs. Tel 01634 375481

TUITION
Revision and support for:- GCSE English and Maths, KS2, 3 and 4 boosters, 11+. We cater for all abilities from yr3 to yr11. We are fully qualified, CRB checked teachers.
Contact 01634 712062/ 07921 636154

DISCO – professional entertainment for any occasion. "The Black Pepper Roadshow". Jim Lindsay 01634 375552.

LANDSCAPE & PROPERTY
Maintenance, Tree & Conifer Surgery, Felling, Lopping, Topping, Hedge Cutting, Sheds, Garages, Gardens Cleared, Sheds Repaired and Refelted, Fencing repairs. No Job too Small. Free advice and estimates for a first class job. Friendly, professional service. Call Colin: 01634 261749, 07970 759404.

MOBILE FOOT CARE
Nail trimming, reduction of thickened nails, removal of corns and hard skin, ingrowing nails. For treatment in the comfort of your home by registered and insured practitioner contact Ann on 07880 893614

STUMP GRINDING & TREE
SURGERY. Roger Alsey 01634 376776 (Wigmore)

RALPH THE GARDENER.
Mowing, edging, weeding, pruning, planting, digging, tidying.
01634 361505.

TONY'S PLUMBING SERVICES.
No call out fee.
Bathroom and Kitchen refits.
Call 01634 374332 or 07961 951 254

MAN & VAN at competitive rates.
www.vanworker.co.uk. 01634 365427

FUNERAL CELEBRANT – bespoke ceremonies for all Funerals, green, secular, burials and cremations.
Yvonne 077 88 791 677

BRISTLES Painters & Decorators
City & Guilds qualified. Contact Lorna 01634 683605 or Barbara 01622 682736 or mob 0777 986 3977.

CATS SORTED Cats visited, fed & pampered whilst you are away. Contact Gill – 01634 233571 or 07999 979 202

DENTURE REPAIRS.
Same day service by registered technician. Home collection & delivery included. 01634 387824

DRUMS, PIANO & PERCUSSION,
lessons. 19 years' experience.
Roan Kearsey-Lawson. MA, MA, BAHons. ISM member. 01634 365453

RAINHAM CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP. Sunday Services
10.30am at Begonia Avenue Church, Twydale. Further details from 01634 302631.

CHIROPODIST JOHN JUDGE
M.Inst.Ch.P. Home Visits – Clinic.
Corns, Calluses, Ingrowing Nails.
01634 361720.

CINE FILMS & SLIDES transferred
to DVD. We also want old cine projectors & films. 01634 230799.

PC TROUBLESHOOTERS solving all your computer problems. 01634 362294. I come to you eves & weekends. No fix no fee.

WATERLOO PLUMBING & Heating.
No job too small. Over 30 years' experience. 07712 760 147

PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP. Parkwood Green.
Sunday Morning Service is at 10.30am to 12 noon. For any other details about the Fellowship and its activities, please contact Richard Hayton, 01634 235799.

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES
Accounts, VAT, Tax Returns, Payroll. If you have a problem just give us a call. We come to you and the first consultation is free.
Phone Michael on 01634 816093.

THE WINDOW WIZARD.
Replacement glass, hinges & handles.
UPVC specialist. 01634 871808.

WIGMORE EVANGELICAL Free
Church, Durham Rd. Sunday services 11am and 6.30pm, Treasure Seekers (3-11 yrs) Sunday 10am. Bible Study & Prayers Tues 7.30pm. Friday Club (school years 1-5) 6.15. Fri Club Extra (years 7-10) 7.30. Visitors welcome.
Pastor Rev T.J. Wood. 01634 388187.

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Phone Jane on 07973 370296.
Specialising in cutting & blow-drying.

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY
Centre, Wigmore – modernised centre with main hall, meeting rooms and kitchen available for hire. Disabled access and hearing aid loop. To book phone 01634 231350.

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL
Ideal for Weddings, Parties & Meetings. Facilities for the Disabled.
Attractive Setting – Ample car parking.
To book phone 01634 364859.

SMALL PET BOARDING & DOG
walking. Home visits – insured – Police checked, local collection & delivery.
Claire 01634 230921 / 07775 946065
www.snowwitchbirmans.co.uk

GARDEN TIDY UPS.
Garden clearance, turfing, mowing, lawn repair, hedges trimmed. City & Guilds qualified. Shane 01634 300313 or 079234 76573

Old Photographs of Rainham available as postcards at 40p each from Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham. Prints at A5, A4 and A3 also available from The National Map Centre above the shop. To view the current selection see www.thenet.uk.net

MEMORIES OF UPCHURCH
By David Wood. Over 300 pages & 200 photos. £15.00 in Sunburst Books, 21-23 Station Road, Rainham.

RAINHAM CRICKET CLUB David Wood's book "150 Not Out" is a history of the club 1856 to 2006. Available from Sunburst Books 21-23 Station Road, Rainham at £15.00

Third Picture Book of RAINHAM by Barbara Mackay Miller and Rosemary Dellar £7.99. Over 180 old photos, maps etc with extended captions. Available in Sunburst Books 21 Station Road, Rainham. For mail order please call 01634 310011.

VOLUNTEER BOOKSELLERS
needed to work 4 hours a week in Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham, including Saturdays. The shop is stocked with donated books (more always welcome) and raises money for St Margaret's Church. For more details call Elly Symonds on 01634 375325.

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?
Feeling sad, low, depressed or suicidal? Ring Samaritans 01634 730981 7 days a week, 24 hours.

NEVER MISS AN AF copy date
Download and print the free 2014 Action Forum Year Planner from www.thenet.uk.net. It shows all the copy and publication dates for 2014.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Roofing Repairs/Strip & Re-tile
Fascias / Soffits / Guttering
Roof Windows/Skylights
Interior & Exterior Painting
Sheds / Decking / Handyman

Call Nick: 07949 588464
01634 262582

AP Services RAINHAM

LADY DECORATOR Karen Spooner

Apprenticeship served
Fully qualified with
20 years' experience

All aspects of decorating undertaken

Competitive Prices

No job too small – Special rates for OAPs

Tel: 01634 233845

Mobile: 0778 0810 316

LOCKSMITH

call
Loyal-Locksmiths.co.uk
for a trusted locksmith and
carpentry service for all your
doors and windows.
UPVC/timber.

Tel 07986 464970

GARAGE DOORS

Repairs & Automation
All makes Supplied and Fitted
Roller & Sectional Specialist
All Repairs
Supply only & DIY

We also Supply & Fit Soffits, Fascias,
Awnings and Window Shutters.

GDA
GARAGE DOOR ASSOCIATES

01634 244452
www.garagedoors4you.co.uk

JOHN STYLES FLAT ROOFING

Strip & Re-felt
All Work & Materials Guaranteed
Also General Roof Repairs
Free Written Quotation
MEDWAY 374028
Mobile: 07810 583 882

SUNBURST BOOKS

21 & 23 Station Road, Rainham
Come and browse amongst our constantly
changing selection of good quality used
Books, DVD's, Videos and Vinyl Records
All at fantastically low prices.

Ink Cartridges Now in Stock

Good Local History area of brand new books
All profits support St Margaret's Church, Rainham
Donations of books always welcome in the shop
9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday

H
P
H
Est
1983

Hallett's
Plumbing &
Heating
CENTRAL HEATING

Chris Hallett

Boiler Servicing, Breakdowns & Luxury Bathrooms
47 Lakewood Drive, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0NS
01634 370697 07711 362898



Est. 1971



REPAIRS, GUTTERING, VERTICAL TILING, FLAT ROOFS, NEW ROOFS

For free estimates telephone: **01634 375069**

No Job too LARGE or SMALL - We do them "all"

B. HAYFIELD & SONS

Builders
Established 1971
All Building / Maintenance Work
Carpentry & Painting
Roofing & Plumbing
Medway 234072 or 078605 10222

NICK EASTER - CARPENTER

Kitchen design and fitting
Extensions - Bathrooms - Doors
Fitted Wardrobes - Plastering.
Electrics from rewires to extra sockets
All work guaranteed ~ For a free estimate:
01634 260874 mob 07778 380285
91 Elmstone Road, Rainham



CRYSTAL
CURTAIN & BLIND MANUFACTURERS LTD

FREE NO
OBLIGATION
QUOTATION

Made to Measure Curtains and all Soft Furnishings
Curtain Poles & Finials • Net Curtains • Tracks
All types of Blinds • Digital Print Blinds • Awnings
Call **01634 817807** for an appointment or visit our showroom
Unit 8, Invicta Business Centre
Bredgar Road, Gillingham ME8 6PG
M: 07956 398531, E: sales@crystalcurtains.co.uk, W: www.crystalcurtains.co.uk

S.B Plastering & Construction Services

All aspects of plastering rendering, pebble dashing,
skimming, screeding and coving. Insurance repairs.
All work Guaranteed.
Over 25 years experience.

Call Scott
07515 630545 or 01634 360661

In time of need ...

JOHN WEIR

Funeral Directors

A private family owned and run business

- 24 hour Personal Service
- Home visits if preferred
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Monumental Masons
- Pre-arranged Funeral Plans
- Horse Drawn Hearse available



01634 373111

130-132 High Street
Rainham
Kent ME8 8AR

01634 855558

127 Watling Street
Gillingham, Kent ME7 2YY
Car parking available

01634 408777

25 New Road, Chatham
Kent ME4 4QJ
Car parking available

01634 386999

31 Parkwood Green
Parkwood
Kent ME8 9PW