

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2016
NUMBER 522



Station Road, Rainham approximately ninety years ago. In 1926 Rainham had at least 13 Butchers shops. Here two are opposite each other on either side of 'Shakespeare' now Hothfield Road (renamed to avoid confusion with Gillingham roads when we become part of the Borough in 1929). Many Butchers were specialists but Copsey with the staff outside was a general meat supplier whilst The London Central Meat Company proclaim 'Prime Ox Beef' above their window. Both shops were still Butchers in 1971, several managers had supervised at the Central Meat Company but by 1951 William Alfred Dennis owned 78 Station Road and the shop remained with the same family for at least the next 20 years.

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AF

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Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller
Action Forum Office
4 Saracen Close, Gillingham Business Park
Gillingham ME8 0QN
Telephone: 01634 310011
Email: af@thenet.uk.net

Editorial

About a month ago I had the pleasure of accompanying our local Guides on their annual summer 'camp'. It is almost six years since I was retired from active Guiding as GirlguidingUK had strict rules in place at that time which I whole heartedly agree were very sensible. Young teenage girls need young, enthusiastic, energetic leaders not retired, world weary OAPs as their mentors. However time moves on and a combination of outrage from the baby boomers - 70 being the new 50 after all - and the difficulty of young women commuters, shift workers, working mothers being able to volunteer on a regular basis, resulting in a shortage of leaders, has meant a radical rethink among the commissioners. The rules have relaxed and so there I was back again like the original bad penny! But my how things have changed. We spent a long weekend at the PGL centre near Hailsham in Sussex. The girls took part in 10 different activities from Archery to Zip Wire and had a marvellous time. I am sure they were all exhausted and fell asleep in the car on the way home. The leaders also had a wonderful time relaxing! I have never before helped at a residential experience and come home feeling I had also enjoyed a holiday. Usually leaders are the first up, the last to bed and do all the cooking, organising and entertaining in between. Not at PGL! A group leader assigned exclusively to our party arrived at 7.30 each morning to chivvy the girls up for breakfast and only delivered them back to us after the evening entertainment had finished. We were free to join in with their activities, spectate or sit in the sun and gossip over a cup of tea as we wished. Quite a different but nevertheless enjoyable experience, I did feel rather guilty and that I should be doing something most of the time. So that in fact solved both problems, I as an older volunteer was available to 'help' and the girls had the undivided attention of the many young, enthusiastic instructors for each of the activities. Win, win all round but does this mean the end of the traditional Guide Camp? I hope not.

Another month gone and the summer holidays are nearly upon us. Do have a very good time whether you are venturing away or enjoying the delights of Kent at home - we have a lot to be grateful for in this corner of Britain so make the most of it during what we hope will be excellent weather. Have a good month we will see you again in August.

Correspondence

PAT WARNER SUITE

Dear Editor

The Pat Warner Suite is a specialist dementia day centre based in The Mackenney Centre in Gillingham. Run by Age UK Medway, the suite provides activities based around cognitive stimulation therapy for people living with dementia. Senior Carer Richard Guichard previously served as a Councillor for Rainham North ward between 1992 and 2007. At that time Richard was employed as a credit controller but, following redundancy, Richard changed career direction, moving into a role as a carer, first in the community and later at Charing House, caring for people living with dementia.

Richard has put his varied Council and work experience to good use since taking up his position at The Pat Warner Suite, and says that his previous roles involved a great deal of interaction with people from all walks of life, which has put him in good stead when developing positive relationships with clients, family members and carers, as well as social services and other organisations.

In addition to providing a day of stimulating activities for people attending the suite, their partners and loved ones are also afforded a day's respite from the pressures of caring for someone living with dementia. The Pat Warner Suite catchment area covers Rainham, Parkwood and Wigmore, as well as Twydall and Gillingham. If you are interested in finding out more you can contact Richard on 01634 380195 email richardguichard@ageukmedway.or.uk

FOETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Dear Editor

The FAS Charity Ball is raising funds and awareness to help support those with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. Gracious Events are presenting this Black Tie Event at Priestfield Stadium on Saturday 10th September at 7.00pm (Carriages 1.00am). Tickets will cost £80 per head which includes: a 4 Course Meal, all Inclusive Drinks, Live Music, Live Dancers and a special performance from The Voice finalist Jamie Johnson plus an Auction and a Raffle.

Tables of 10, 12 & 14 are available or individual tickets can also be purchased. For more information and tickets please contact Grace at 07840 120586 or email grace@gracousevents.biz

ALL BALLS AND ASHES

Dear Editor

With the cricket season now in full swing, or should I say stroke play, I find I must ask the question, is cricket All Balls and Ashes? And before Wisden pick up their pens to reply. I will tell you the answer now, Yes it certainly is! For this is the name of the hilarious comedy play written by Mark Robbarts now being rehearsed by the St Paul's Drama Group at the GMC

Community Hall in Third Avenue, Gillingham, for the Group's July production. Set in Yorkshire the story tells of the hilarious antics of a group of cricketers to fulfil the wishes of their friend and team mate following his unexpected demise. St Pauls Drama Group, are fortunate to be able to boast a large group of male and female seasoned comedy actors and I feel sure from what I have already seen in rehearsals that all is set fair for yet another big comedy hit for the Group.

We at the St Paul's Drama Group would like to send our sincere thanks to all of the readers of Action Forum and our regular supporters who swelled our audiences making it an almost sell-out production of our Pantomime, Cinderella, earlier in the year.

We ask you to make a note in your diary for the 15th & 16th of July at 7.30pm. Seat prices are £6 for Adults and £5 for Seniors and children. For further information phone 01634 852712 or go on line to www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

I hope to see you all there, just keep a look out for a somewhat thick Policeman.

Keep smiling

John Sansom

john-sansom@sky.com

OPEN DAY

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 23rd July at The Centre, Mind, Body, Spirit ME88PQ we are holding an open day from 11.30am - 3.30pm. All the proceeds will be given to Treetops Animals Sanctuary, Whitstable to help them with the wonderful work they do with unwanted, neglected animals. We have been donating to Treetops for the past year and they will be bringing some of their beloved pet residents (Dave the donkey?) to visit. Please come and support us and discover this beautiful healing Sanctuary which is next to Travelodge on the M2 Services and meet the volunteers who run it. We will have therapists offering Reiki, Reflexology and aromatherapy, Healers offering crystal, spiritual and animal healing and Readers offering tarot, Crystal ball, astrology and aura readings.

There will also be stalls with herbal products, books, spiritual goods, and crafts, plus teas and coffees and cakes. Looking forwards to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Jane Marvell

enquiries@thecentre-mindbodyspirit.co.uk

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CELEBRATION - Music & Picnic at Green Court Sunday Sunday 17th July, Gates open, 3.30pm
Presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service & Concert at 4.30pm
Join BWAG for a special concert and presentation of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service by The Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent. Following the presentation, the Cantium Singers, a 50 strong choir from Rochester, will be performing in the garden of Green Court. Please bring your own picnic and rug for a very special musical event! Pimms & soft drinks available. Tickets £6 per person must be purchased in advance - tickets will not be available on the day (children under 16 free). All proceeds towards the conservation of Bredhurst Woods. For details and tickets please call Jim Chalmers on 07870 878907, Esther Huxstep on 01634 233752, email bwag@vanessajones.plus.com or visit www.bwag.org.uk to buy on line.

PRODUCE SALE AND CRAFTS

Saturday 23rd July, 2.00 - 4.00pm
St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow.
Please join us at arguably the prettiest location around at this popular event for a wide range of home grown and home made produce and crafts including jewellery, pens, wood work, needle work, cards and honey. Refreshments available and warm welcome guaranteed! www.thesix.org.uk

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Diary 2016

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: July 26th 2016

July 2nd - Summer Fayre, Miers Court Primary School,
11.00am - 2.00pm

July 2nd - Old Barn Orchestra, 7.30pm, Rainham School
for Girls, Tickets £12 Children £1 from 01795 843228 /
01634 376979 or members of the orchestra.

July 3rd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet
Tony/Ann 01634 406634 vajra.faulkner@gmail.com
Adisham rail station [parking fee]. TR233539 CT3 3JE
for a 6.5 mile leisurely walk Good views, fairly flat.
No stiles, can be muddy, bring picnic lunch.

July 3rd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
meet Roger Danks 07866 971819 Higham Station car
park (free) GR 716727 for a 6 mile Charles Dickens &
Higham circular mainly undulating walk, 2 climbs,
Dogs on leads if permitted contact walk leader

July 4th - Medway Scrabble Club, alternate Mondays,
2.00 - 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone
Road, Chatham, new members welcome, 01634 230500

July 5th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30 pm,
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Survival of
the Weediest: Ranscombe Farm's fantastic wild flowers
- Richard Moysse, New members welcome, ring 366276

July 5th - GHS Floral Art Group, United Reformed
Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gillingham, 7.30pm,
'Plain Sailing' - asymmetrical triangle with secondary
placement, New members welcome, first visit free, no
experience needed, for details contact Kaye Buss 01634
232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com

July 6th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm meet
Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Spekes Road,

Hempstead GR for a 4 mile Evening walk across the
Darland Banks returning via Star Lane, 2 steep slopes.
No stiles & No steps. Dogs on leads if permitted
July 6th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet
Frank/Mim layby in Penshurst Road (B2176) in
Penshurst TQ526438 TN11 8BN for a 7.5 mile
moderate circular walk via Chiddingstone, could be
muddy in places. Bring picnic lunch for midway break
in Chiddingstone, Pub and tea rooms at end.

July 7th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, Board games,
tea and chat. Village Hall behind the Church 2.00 -
4.00pm. New members always welcome 0758 334 3782

July 7th - Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's
Community Centre, 2.00pm, The Train that Jumped the
Gap, Richard Emmett, for over 50s ring 01634 234712

July 8th - Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group,
Millennium Centre, Rainham every Friday 9.45am to
help those who have lost a loved one. Join us for a
cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.

July 8th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting Upchurch Village
Hall, 2.00pm, Members Free, Guests £2 New Members
Welcome For details email Chairman David Powell
davidpowell5@hotmail.co.uk

July 8th - Deanwood Primary School, Summer Fayre,
3.15 - 5.30pm, Adults 50p, Children 30p, Pre-School -
Free, Contact t.kington@btinternet.com for details.

July 9th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium
Centre, 9.00am - 12.30pm Free entry, Stalls £10 from
carole@cdadswell.freemove.co.uk or 07779 366054

July 9th - 5th Annual Dog Show, Lower Halstow
Memorial Hall, 10.00am Registration, Judging 11am

July 10th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Jim
07807 896995 lewislad@hotmail.com Patixbourne
Road in Bridge, behind the Red Lion Pub, please do not
use the Pub Car Park. TR183542 CT4 5LB for a 6 mile
moderate walk through meadows and woodland, and
follow disused railway. Bring picnic lunch, Pub at end.

July 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am

meet Gill Smith 01622 679731 07999 858981 Paddock
Wood Railway Station (Fee £1) GR 671453 TN12 6ER
for a 5.5 mile flat walk, 2 stiles, Dogs on leads if
permitted contact walk leader

July 10th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside
Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Get involved by
helping with some practical tasks on the site. Meet at
the Visitor Centre, details phone 01634 337432

July 10th - Kent Sports Trust Footgolf Cup, 9.00am -
3.00pm, Upchurch River Valley Golf Course £30 each,
email office@kentsportstrust.org, call 01634 820780

July 11th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,
Parkwood Community Centre, Rainham, 7.30pm,
Organist - Reg Rawlings, Brian Leonard 01634 234694

July 11th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship
Group, Millennium Centre, Rainham meets 2nd
Monday evening each month to help those still in
employment who have lost a loved one. Join us for a
cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.

July 11th - Rainham Flower Club, second Monday each
month 7.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre,
Wigmore 'Update your Skills' part 2, for details see
www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 864572

July 12th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm,
Rainham School for Girls, Mini Show - Bring back
spring cuttings grown on for 'in house' competition,
All Welcome, ring 01634 852519

July 14th - Wigmore Thursday Club, talk by Deirdre
Munn, (see 7th July)

July 14th - Hempstead Leisure Club, "The Town Cryer"
talk by Frank Burfoot (see 7th July)

July 14th - Chatham Historical Society Lampard Centre,
Sally Port, Brompton ME7 5BU 7.15pm. 'Railway
Street, Chatham' - a talk by Brian Joyce. For details see
www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk

July 14.15.16.21.22.23 - Oast House Theatre, Rainham,
8.00pm 'Lady Killers' by Graham Lincham, Box
Office 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

July 15th - UpARA, Village Walk, 10.00am from Village
Hall, New Members Welcome (see 8th July)

July 15th - Hempstara Whist Afternoons, Scout Hut
Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead 1.30pm start.
Players of all abilities welcome, partner not required,
for details ring Eunice 01634 231664.

July 15th - Jazz Gig, The Theo Travis Classic Quartet,
Anchorians Rugby Club, Darland Avenue, Gillingham,
8.30pm, £10, 01634 365352 or 07544 312743

July 15th & 16th - All Balls and Ashes comedy play by
Mark Robbarts St Pauls Drama Group, GMC
Community Hall, Third Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm,
£6, 01634 852712 or www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

July 16th - Newton Village Festival 12 noon - 7.00pm,
School field, ME9 7LB Seven hours of live music,
Admission £2, under 16s free. No dogs. details 07590
464700, stalls for £15 email toymould1@sky.com or
sepr@hotmail.co.uk for tug-of-war entries.

July 16th - Summer Fete, Friends of Riverside Primary
School (FORPS), St Edmunds Way Rainham, 11.00am
- 3.00pm. Admission Free.

July 16th - Cherry Picnic, The Friends of The Vines,
Rochester, 1.00 - 4.00pm Proceeds to Macmillan
Cancer Support, All Welcome For more details see
www.friendsofthevines.co.uk

July 16th - Race Night in aid of Great Ormond Street
Hospital all welcome United Services Club, High
Street, Rainham 7.30pm, Tickets £5 each 01634 373450

July 17th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
Meet David Brown 07815 106791 Ightham Mote car
park GR 584535 TN15 0NT for a 6.5 mile undulating
walk. Could be muddy if wet. 6 Stiles, Dogs on leads if
permitted contact walk leader

July 17th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Derek
07768 448633 derek.kent@blueyonder.co.uk

Harrietham car park TQ867525 ME17 1AH for a 6.5
mile moderate circular walk Bring picnic lunch for
midway break, Pub at end.

July 17th - BWAG Celebration - Music & Picnic at
Green Court, 3.30pm Presentation 4.30pm bring your
own picnic and rug Pimms & soft drinks available.
Tickets £6 each in advance (under 16 free) details and
tickets call 07870 878907 or 01634 233752, email
bwag@vanessajones.plus.com or www.bwag.org.uk

July 18th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th July)

July 19th - Medway RSPB Local Group Talk, 7.30 -
9.45pm, Parkwood Community Centre, £3.50 The Blue
Tit - Ian Rumley-Dawson For Walks see:
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway

July 19th - GHS Floral Art Group, 'Imposed' Night -
create an arrangement, (see 5th July)

July 20th - Wigmore Ladies Club, 2.00pm, Howard Hall,
Woodside, We are a cheerful group of ladies and would
love you to join us, come along or call 01634 388912
for further details.

Continued on Page 11

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5th ANNUAL DOG SHOW
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee
Saturday 9th July 10.00am
Registration on the Day.
Judging begins at 11.00am

Show includes, Fancy Dress, Happiest Dog/Bitch,
Most Hansom Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Owner and Dog/
Bitch look a like, Agility Course and (New) Dog
races, rosettes for all 1st, seconds and third's and
Trophy's for overall winners. There will be a Bring
and Buy stall in aid of the PDSA, and monies
collected will go to the Over 60's
Christmas Function.

LADY KILLERS by Graham Lineham
Oast House Theatre, Rainham
July 14.15.16.21.22.23 Curtain up at 8pm

A gang of five diverse oddball criminal types rent a
two room apartment in an isolated house on a
London cul-de-sac from an octogenarian widow with
three pet parrots. The group's mastermind, Professor
Marcus, tells her a cover story that they are members
of an amateur string quintet and would like to use the
rooms to hone their musical skills. In reality, they
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SUMMER FETE
Friends of Riverside Primary School (FORPS),
St Edmunds Way Rainham,
Saturday 16th July from 11.00am — 3.00pm.
First public Summer Fete
Admission Free.

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cherrydessertcompetition@gmail.com

RACE NIGHT
in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital

A great fun evening, all welcome
United Services Club, High Street, Rainham
Saturday 16th July, 7.30pm start
Tickets £5 each available from Paula or Rob
in advance **01634373450**

ANNUAL SHOW
Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society
Gillingham and District
Saturday 30th July

Doors open to the public at 2.00pm
Main Hall, Rainham School for Girls,
Derwent Way, Rainham, ME8 0BX.
£1 entry. Plants for Sale, Raffle, Tombola, Key Box
and Refreshments.

For further information phone **01634 852519**

CHARITY PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION.
Saturday 23rd July Activities 9pm - 3am approx.
Fort Amherst, Dock Road, Chatham.
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

In Early June I boarded the motor vessel Julie-Sue, at Otterham Quay, for a bird watching trip among the islands of the Medway Estuary to the north of Lower Halstow. Including the skipper (Ray Wade, who is ex Royal Navy), there were eleven bird watchers on board, so eleven pairs of ears and eyes. Our main aim was to see the nesting sites of two species of gull and two of tern. As we headed down Otterham Creek, Motney Hill peninsula was on our port side and Horsham Marsh on our starboard. Those with much better hearing than me announced that they could hear the calls of lesser whitethroat, reed bunting and Cetti's warbler in the reeds and scrub below Motney Hill. I myself spotted a swallow (my favourite summer visitor) on an overhead line at the sewage works. A number of the birds nest in the open-ended buildings at the works and are probably the only nesting swallows in the parish of St Margaret's, Rainham. Horsham Marsh is grazed by cattle and sheep and is, in part at least, a privately owned nature reserve. In the spring, short grazing grassland, with scattered tussocks, encourages birds such as lapwing, redshank and skylark to breed there. Indeed we saw or heard all three species whilst passing by Horsham Marsh. We noted three common terns flying above the marsh, the first time that anybody aboard had seen them there. As we passed by the "candle snuffer" spire of St Mary Upchurch, a female cuckoo, rufous brown in colour, flew over our heads on the way to the marsh. There she would doubtless be looking for the nests of foster parents to hatch her next egg and bring up her next chick. We also saw Upchurch's resident raven being mobbed by a carrion crow. It is not clear whether the raven is male or female but it is unlikely to find a mate down here in Kent.

Heading North, we passed Stayhills Marsh and Greenborough Marshes - only the highest points of which were above water - and turned starboard into Sharfleet Creek, which had the best oyster grounds in the Medway in Victorian times. In due course we sailed into Stangate Creek, which is opposite the row of cranes that can be seen from Rainham. Here, in the

early 19th century, ex Royal Navy hulks were moored. They housed prisoners of the Napoleonic Wars, convicts and sailors in quarantine. We proceeded into the main channel of the Medway and sailed slowly past Burntwick Island, the principal nesting site of the gulls and terns that we had come to see. The first signs of the black headed gulls' presence on the island were hundreds of birds wheeling around in the air, apparently aimlessly. The first sounds were a raucous babble of screeching. From our position on the boat, we were not able to see the young gulls in their nests among the sea purslane. In years gone by, the eggs and plump chicks of black headed gulls were valued for their human consumption. Local communities jealously guarded their rights of harvest over long established colonies. There is a colony of Mediterranean gulls, which have spread northward from the sea of the same name. They have occupied the best nesting sites on the highest points of the island and have forced the black headed gulls to nest on the lower ground, which can flood during unusually high tides.

Common and Sandwich terns are elegant summer visitors to this country and spend the winter along the west African coast. Both species nest on raised ridges on the island. A tern colony has the air of hectic activity about it. Intruders, be they man, gull or crow, are swooped upon with a great deal of noise and pugnacity. Both species of tern catch fish by plunging into the water. They are fond of young herrings (commonly called sprats or white bait) which feed closely inshore. Sometimes they can be seen diving for young fish which are being herded by sea bass into shallow water, where they would find it harder to escape from their predators. The common tern also takes shrimps and other crustaceans from along the shoreline. The skipper said that it had been a good year for the common terns. The Sandwich terns have also been doing well; there are some two hundred females nesting on the island. The species was named after the town here in Kent where they were first identified; they have a shaggy black crown reminiscent of a punk's haircut. We watched male terns bringing in sand eels from their feeding grounds in the Thames Estuary, including around Herne Bay.

This involves a round trip of some 50 to 60 miles. Many of the returning birds try to avoid being ambushed by black headed and other gulls for their sand eels by not flying directly to their nests. Lurking about were a handful of evil looking herring gulls, lesser black backed gulls and great black backed gulls, all of which were on the lookout for unattended chicks, including any of the two smaller species of gull. We noted that one or two pairs of redshank and oyster catcher had chosen, surprisingly, to breed amongst the noise, commotion, drama and anarchy that exists on Burntwick Island. (Ray Wade runs bird watching and fishing trips throughout the year. Please ring 233957 after 7pm.)

Joe Ennis

THE RAINHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The annual event began in 2013 when Rainham Cricket Club introduced a beer festival to raise money for a proposed new purpose built community clubhouse. The idea was to replace the existing building which had been constructed in 1975 with something bigger and more modern that could benefit the cricket club and the local community.

The Events Committee thought up the idea of a beer festival which has taken place every July for the past three years. It has attracted big crowds in excess of 1,000 people who have had a wide choice of 30 different ales and 10 ciders served from barrels in a large marquee at the Berengrove Lane end of the ground.

Rainham Cricket Club members have put everything into place and have served in the marquee and in the clubhouse bar while the beer and cider have been provided and transported to the ground by a company from Nottingham.

Some customers have brought their own chairs and tables to relax on the grounds of Berengrove Park while fun facilities such as a bouncy castle and a punch and Judy show have been provided for children. Other features have included an all-day barbecue, a coconut shy and live groups such as 'Bad Pandas' and 'Taking Care of Vegas' who have performed 'golden oldies' from the past. In 2015 an Elvis Presley impersonator performed songs and mingled amongst customers to keep them entertained while in the same year Gillingham Football Club Gems cheerleader group were due to perform dance routines but rain unfortunately intervened.

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The beer festival has proven to be a big money spinner for Rainham Cricket Club, similar to their annual bonfire and fireworks evening at Berengrove Park which became a highly successful and well attended event during the 1970s and early 1980s.

In 2016 the beer festival will take place at Berengrove Park on Sunday July 24th and is open from 12 noon until 10pm. Performers due to appear include 'Bad Pandas', 'Taking Care of Vegas' and the 'GFC Gems' cheerleaders. Support for the event will help finance the community clubhouse along with sponsorship, donations and other club fund raising events. When complete the new clubhouse will be a big boost for Rainham Cricket Club who compete in the Kent County Cricket League and it will be available for different community events, local organisations, businesses and clubs as an attractive, spacious and comfortable venue in the area.

David Wood.

NEWINGTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL

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- July 20th - Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Daniel Denness - Talk 'Growing Hardy Orchids', Sweet Pea and Single Rose Show, New Members Welcome, Ring 01634 233554 for more details
- July 21st - Rainham Women's Institute, 1.45 - 4.00pm, Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Rainham. Speaker on "History of Dolls Houses", Visitors welcome for small charge 01634 366276
- July 21st - Hempstead Leisure Club, Whist, Board games, tea and chat (see 7th July)
- July 21st - Wigmore Thursday Club, History of the Royal Variety Performance, Dean Caston, (see 7th July)
- July 23rd - Open Day 11.30-3.30pm with tarot, crystal ball, astrology etc All proceeds to Treetops animal Sanctuary. The Centre-Mind, Body, Spirit, next to Travelodge, M2 Services. Farthing Corner. ME88PQ
- July 23rd - Produce Sale and Crafts, 2.00 - 4.00pm, St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, home made produce and crafts. Refreshments available and warm welcome guaranteed! www.thesix.org.uk
- July 23rd - Charity Paranormal Investigation, Fort Amherst. Dock Road. Chatham. Glass Work, Table Tipping, Dowsing, Writing Board and much more Resident medium, Richard Ware. Activities start 9.00pm ends 3.00am approx. Tickets £35 per person Over 18's only Book on line at www.fortamherst.com
- July 24th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Geoff 07525161766 geoff.rambler@me.com Bexley railway station in Old Bexley TQ494 735 DA5 1AQ for a 5.5 mile easy walk Pub at end.
- July 24th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Andy Boorman 07881933358 Chatham Village Hall car park GR 107552 for a 4.5 mile easy walk with 2 moderate climbs, Pub at end. Dogs on leads if permitted contact walk leader
- July 24th - Beer Festival, Berengrove Park 12 noon until 10.00pm, all welcome
- July 26th - UpARA, Coffee Morning, Upchurch Village

- Hall, 9.30am, Members £1.50, Guests £2, (see 8th July)
- July 27th - Beginners Fishing for Children, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Learn the basics of fishing. All equipment and bait supplied, suitable for accompanied children aged 8 to 12 years old. £11 per child To book phone 01634 338191
- July 27th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, 7.15pm, Cheese Tasting Evening using own grown salads and vegetables. United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Details 07801 568157.
- July 28th - Things with Wings, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon (choose either 10am or 11am start) £3 per child. For details phone 01634 337432
- July 28th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Summer Lunch with David and Rona to entertain (see 7th July)
- July 28th - Rainham & District Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group, 7.30pm, Howard Memorial Hall, all welcome, details Sylvia Wildridge 01634 312038.
- July 29th - Hempstara Whist Afternoons, (see 15th July)
- July 30th - Annual Show Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 2.00pm, Main Hall, Rainham School for Girls, For details ring 01634 852519
- July 30th - Peters Place Garden Party, 3.00pm, GMC Community Centre Hall and Gardens, Third Avenue, Gillingham, stalls available details Ann 01634 578879.
- July 31st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am meet Jim 07807 896995 lewislad@hotmail.com Hythe outside Sainsbury's Supermarket TR156347 CT21 5AS for a 7.5 mile moderate stroll, coffee and pubs at the end.
- July 31st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am meet Lindsay Floyd 07743 702049 Andy Boorman 07881933358 Evington Village Hall, Wye end of Hastingleigh village GR 098449 for a 6 mile walk. Some steep slopes. Lunch can be booked at the Devil's Kneading Trough restaurant (01233 813212) Dogs on leads if permitted contact walk leader
- August 1st - Medway Scramble Club, (see 4th July)
- August 2nd - Mini Beast Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep Netting, Capstone Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £3 per child. To book phone 01634 338191

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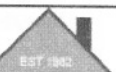
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August 2nd - Rainham Horticultural Society, Competition
Night, (see 5th July)
August 3rd - Mallet Making, Capstone Farm Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon, Suitable for the whole family,
£3 per person. To book phone 01634 338191
August 5th - UpARA, Village Walk, 10.00am from
Village Hall, (see 8th July)
August 5th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow Memorial
Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm - Euchre, Whist, Rummicub,
Dominoes, Scrabble and a warm welcome, £1.50 entry
includes cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. No Joining Fee
August 7th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am
meet Roger Norman 01634 232404 07941965272
Goathurst Common car park at crossroads with
Nightingale Lane, Sevenoaks GR 497519 TN14 6JA for
a 6 mile undulating walk with 2 steeper slopes. 3 stiles
Dogs on leads if permitted contact walk leader
August 7th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day, Riverside
Country Park, (see 10th July)
August 8th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship
Group, (see 11th July)
August 8th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,
Organist - Paul Carman, (see 4th July)
August 8th - Rainham Flower Club, (see 11th July)
August 9th - Big Bug Hunt, Pond Dipping and Sweep
Netting, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon or
1.00 - 3.00pm. Children must be accompanied by an
adult. £3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432
August 9th - Willow Weaving, Capstone Farm Country
Park, 10.00am - 12noon Use willow to make different
objects like a star or a basket. Suitable for the whole
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August 9th - Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 'Secrets
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August 10th - Orienteering Family Fun, Capstone Farm
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groups, families and individuals after a bit of adventure.
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August 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm,
meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Parkwood
Green, Gillingham GR 809642 ME8 9PN for a 4 mile
Evening flat walk, 2 stiles, Dogs on leads if permitted
August 12th - UpARA, Monthly Meeting (see 8th July)
August 13th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group Meet
Stephen Manning 07551 712438 London Capital Ring
Walk -stage 7 Start Woolwich for a 9.5 mile walk via
Falconwood finish at Marvels Lane, Grove Park
August 13th - Craft Market, St Margaret's Millennium
Centre, (see 9th July)
August 14th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, meet John Williams 01622 764821 07977
614033 Shipbourne Upper Green Road, opposite
church and Chaser Pub GR 592522 TN11 9PE for a 5.5
mile hilly walk with 15 stiles. Dogs on leads if
permitted contact walk leader
August 15th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 4th July)
August 16th - Wildlife Faces, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon Join the rangers and make your very
own wildlife face of your favourite Riverside creature,
£3 per child. To book phone 01634 337432
August 17th - Butterflies and Bush Crickets, Capstone
Farm Country Park, 10.00am - 2.00pm, Suitable for the
whole family. £3 per person, To book 01634 338191
August 17th - Wigmore Ladies Club, (see 20th July)
August 17th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Janet Bryant -
Talk 'Ponds and Water Gardens', Pelargonium Show,
(see 20th July)
August 19th - UpARA, Village Walk, (see 15th July)

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