

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2018
NUMBER 544



Camp School Football 1956-7. We recently received a picture of the same team from the 1957/58 season. Unfortunately that image will not reproduce well but the email included many names. I have been unable to contact David Jury who sent it but I am sure the same boys appear in this photo - so have fun spotting the individuals. They include: Derrick Cooper (middle row left hand side), Andrew Page, John Pauldige, Paul Johnson? Alan Clarke, Frank Galler (Hungarian Goalkeeper) David Jury, Barry Mullarkee, Gordon Easton, Malcom Woodruff and Paul Smitherman. The team was run by Mr Gorf later of Fairview School and played their home games at what is now Ryetop Playing fields.

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Editorial

The wall to wall sunshine of the last couple of weeks in June has been quite addictive – you begin to see the appeal of emigrating to Australia! For those of us who live in damp, cool Britain advice on how to survive is welcome. Newspaper pages are full of horror stories, bathers getting into trouble after jumping in cold water lakes, tarmac melting on the roads and tremendous moorland fires raging across tinder dry heathland. We are warned to plaster ourselves with sun cream, always wear a sun hat and sun glasses, stay in the shade during the midday sun and of course always carry a full water bottle to keep ourselves hydrated. One of the 'facts' I remember being told in my early days as a Girl Guide was 'never leave a glass bottle in the countryside' – the reason given was not that you would be a litter lout, which I could have understood, but because it could start a fire. At the age of eleven I found that hard to believe but just accepted it as an adult had told me so it must be true – it was only years later I realised that it was the sun that could ignite combustible material near the bottle by refraction of rays from the glass. Then it all made sense! A small snippet in the newspaper recently has elaborated upon this phenomenon. Apparently according to 'Weather Eye' by Paul Simons in The Times plastic water bottles, which we all carry so assiduously, can be equally as dangerous. Even a bottle left in a parked car exposed to hot sun shining through a window or windscreen can cause a fire risk. A lorry driver in America experienced just such an episode whilst eating his lunch when light refracted through a water bottle on the passenger seat and started the seat to smoulder. A similar action can happen inside a house if mirrors or ornaments are left too close to a sunny window. So far this year six fires have been attributed to make-up mirrors left near to a window. Incredibly in 2015 sun shining through a Nutella jar on a kitchen windowsill beamed on to blinds and started a large house fire in southwest London and in 2010 a car parked outside a supermarket in North Yorkshire burst into flames – the explanation – sunlight reflected by the driver's mirror set fire to the carpet in the car. Nevertheless I am sure we are all enjoying the bright sunny days even if it is sometimes very hot. It is the kind of weather when it is too good to stay indoors and we want to get out and enjoy the countryside. Make the most of it whilst it lasts and please do read

on to discover all the alfresco events arranged for July. Have a good month and we will be with you again in August.

Correspondence

MRS WENDY BEAN

Dear Editor

My mother Mrs Wendy Bean wrote to Action Forum a few years ago, and from that letter she got in touch with MANY old friends and was truly thrilled. I don't know all those people so I thought I would write to let people know that my lovely mum sadly passed away on April 11th.

Mum grew up in Rainham and her father Arthur Green owned the shop at 133 High Street, Rainham and although she spent the last 35 years in America her heart was always here in Kent. Whenever she returned to England she always had to have fish and chips and then roast lamb and runner beans, (not together) as America just didn't cook them the same!

If anyone that wrote to mum would like to get in touch then please do via my email.

Many thanks

Jayne Laming

jaynelaming2002@yahoo.co.uk

RAINHAM SCHOOL for BOYS

Dear Editor,

Referring to the photo in June Action Forum of former teachers of Rainham Secondary School, I believe it was taken during the 1940s as I spent two years at the school from 1943. In those days we had a second opportunity to advance to a Technical school. I was one of the three boys that were successful, the other two being Derek Cook and Doug Lacey.

During my time at Rainham Secondary, Mr Smith was the Headmaster and other teachers I can recall were, Mr Sneath, Mr Newell and Mr Sergeant, well before Tich Rotherman joined the staff.

There was one teacher, his name escapes me, who always carried a cane and would not hesitate to use it if he thought appropriate to do so.

I would add that I have cherish memories of the short time I was a pupil at this school.

Yours sincerely

Vic Wickenden.

7 Streetfield Road, Rainham.

HOWARD SCHOOL

Dear Editor

I refer to the article in May Action Forum by David Wood 'Rainham Fifty Years Ago in 1968' and the editorial that month. Two statements I am afraid are incorrect.

Gillingham Grammar school closed in 1975 (after I completed my first year...), and the pupils moved to the site of Rainham Secondary Modern School, the new bi-lateral school being named the Howard School. So the new school constructed at Derwent Way in 1967 was still Rainham Secondary Modern School,

and the combining of this School and Gillingham Grammar School did not happen until later. I hope this explanation is useful.

Yours sincerely

Frank Shackleford

frank.shackleford@hotmail.co.uk

RAF CENTENARY

Dear Editor,

After my letter published in May Action Forum I have received information from a relative of his that Sidney Gulvin was, at the formation of the RAF, not living with relatives at Bredhurst shop but in Ivy Street, Rainham. As part of his RAF career he was involved when the RAF formed the Iraqi Air Force. I was also told that for a short while in the 1930s a Charles Norton taught mathematics at the Rochester Mathematical School. After some investigation I have been able to confirm he was the 'Uncle Charlie' I remember and it was very possible that was one of the reasons that he was sent to Canada on rearmament in 1939 to train Canadian aircrew.

Yours sincerely

Alan Major

41 Heaton Road Canterbury CT1 3PY

THE OAST COMMUNITY CENTRE – RAINHAM

Dear Editor,

Are you aware of the massive building at the end of Granary Close, which is the little road beside the old signal box at Rainham station?

If you think that is just a big old building languishing unloved and unused it seems that you are not alone! For some reason many people think that nothing goes on there anymore.

The Oast House beside the Railway Station is your local Community Centre which has lots of activities for all ages and interests, going on at all times of the day and evening.

The Oast is currently undergoing a lot of renovation

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You sent the very person I needed, Carol, she could have been family!

Diary 2018

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 24th 2018

July 5.6.7.12.13.14 – Oast House Theatre, Rainham, 'The

Merry Widower' by Johnnie Mortimer, 8.00pm, Box Office 0844 8793224 or www.oasthousetheatre.co.uk

July 6th & 7th – St. Paul's Drama Group, 'Allo, 'Allo by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft, 7.30pm, Gillingham

Methodist Community Hall, ME7 2LU. Tickets £6 www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk or 01634 852712

July 7th – Newington Village Festival, Noon–6.00pm, Newington School field, live bands, tug-of-war, Adults

£2, children free. Facebook: Newington Festival;

July 8th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely circular walk 7 miles / 11.3km, finish 2.00pm, Meet

Yalding war memorial at junction of Vicarage Road and the High Street. ME18 6JZ, TQ699503, Bring

picnic lunch. Pub at end with lunches available.

Contact: Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

July 8th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Harry Keane 07729 356835, Cock Inn car park,

Henley Street Luddesdown DA13 0XB GR664672 for 5.25 mile walk undulating and varied, gentle slopes

approx 50 steps and 10 stiles. No Dogs

July 8th – WW1 Walking Tour of Rochester, 10.30am, 90 minute tour led by a City of Rochester guide from front

of the Guildhall Museum, free (donations for Royal British Legion), details email geoff.rambler@me.com

July 9th – Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship Group, Millennium Centre, 2nd Monday each month to

help those in employment who have lost a loved one. Join us for a cuppa and chat, ring Julie 01634 364309.

July 9th – Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club, Parkwood Community Centre, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm,

Organist – Phil Brown, Brian Leonard 01634 234694

July 9th – Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St Matthews Church Hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX Demonstration

'Ikebana' by Diane Norman, friendly, encouraging club welcomes experienced and novice arrangers, website

www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk or ring 01634 863034

July 10th – Caring for Carers – Pop-In, 10.00 – 12noon, St. Paul's Church, Parkwood. Caring for someone, young

or old and need a break, come and join us. All welcome

July 10th – Gillingham & District Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society, 7.30pm, Mini Competition,

Rainham School for Girls, ME8 0BX. 01634 852519.

July 11th – East Medway U3A Smallholders Club,

Springvale ME8 0JG, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Richard King – 'Around the World on a Double Decker Bus', New

members welcome, no waiting list. Free to members, £2 for visitors. 07816 159 668 or www.eastmedwayu3a

July 12th – Hempstead Leisure Club, 'Don't sneeze in the mic' Talk by Wilf Lower, 2.00pm All Saints Church,

Hempstead Rd New members welcome 07583 343 782

July 11th – Bredhurst WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Talk by Chris Wade – 'Smugglers of Kent' for further

information contact Pam Ormiston 01634 365789

July 12th – Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Three women, one man,

glamour wealth and heartbreak.' – Melanie Gibson-Barton, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.

July 13th – 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 13th – The Oast (Granary Close) 'Tales from the Riverbank', 10.00am – 12.30pm Top Hall (3 flights of stairs). Fundraising towards oast restoration project. £3

pp or £5 for 2. Tea, coffee and cake on sale. Parking

July 13th – Evening Games, Lower Halstow Village Hall, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Rummy, Chess (medium standard)

Whist, Scrabble Euchre and more, £2 adult, £1 child includes tea/coffee, squash and biscuits. All welcome

July 13th – Medway Ramblers Bat and Trap Evening, 7.00pm, Rainham Recreation Ground ME8 7SP, all

welcome, join in the fun! Bring refreshments or fish and chip shop. Micro pub 'The Prince of Ales' later to

celebrate the event over real ale. No need to book.

July 13th – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society (MKAS) Talk, 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, Will Hughes:

New Horizons – Into the Unknown – NASA's pioneering mission to explore the Kuiper Belt

July 14th – All Saints Women's Fellowship, Outing 9am from Flying Saucer-Ramsgate & Quex Park, for details

contact Rhonda Peck 07951 629444

July 14th – Craft Market, 9.00am – 12.30pm, Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry, Refreshments, stalls £10

07779 366054 or email cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com

July 14th – Friends of Riverside Primary School (FoRPS) annual Summer Fete 11.00am – 2.00pm, St Edmunds

Way, Rainham. 'Pirates and Mermaids' theme, hot and cold food and drink and local groups. For further

information email forpssecretary@gmail.com

July 14th – Upchurch Horticultural Society, Early Show in the Barn behind 97 Chaffes Lane, Upchurch, open to

the public from 2.00pm, plenty of parking available

July 14th – Summer Produce Sale and Crafts, 2.00 – 4.00pm, St. Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, home

grown, home-made produce and crafts. Refreshments and a warm welcome guaranteed! www.thesix.org.uk

July 14th – Cherry Picnic, The Vines, Rochester, 1.00 – 4.00pm See The Friends of The Vines website for

details, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support locally. Restoration House open 12noon – 5.00pm

July 14th – Cream Teas on 'The Green' Friends of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Gillingham ME7 1SS,

2.30pm – 4.30pm, Cream Teas £4, Luxury Cream Teas £6 Tickets from Hilda 01634 932135

July 14th – Harmony Summer Concert, 7.30 pm, All Saints' Church Hempstead ME7 3QG. Tickets £7 Anna Williams 01634 232776 harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk.

July 14th – Games Night, Holy Trinity, Twydall, 7.30pm start, Contact Ann 01634 377671 for more details.

July 15th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am, Meet Andy Boorman 07881 933358 Stalisfield Green Plough PH ME13 0YH GR 954530 for 6 mile splend

rural walk across slope of North Downs. Excellent views, fields could be muddy. Stiles 6. Dogs Allowed

July 15th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.30am, Leisurely circular walk 7.5 miles / 12.1km, finish 2.45pm

Leysdown – Isle of Sheppey ME12 4RJ, TR044697

Contact: Keith, 01634 364393

July 15th – Summer Fair – Twydall & District Community Association, 1.00 – 4.00pm, Beechings Field, ME8 6PZ

Rock Choir and Marching Band, Light Chasing Dome, Shepherd Neame Beer Tent, Inflatables, Beat the

Goalie, Coconut Shy, Splat the Rat, Hog Roast, Burgers Ring 07809 892883 or email: pinkdukebox@aol.com

July 16th – Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 – 4.30pm, St Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new

members welcome, details 01634 230500

July 16th – Wigmore WI, 7.30 – 9.30pm, St Matthews Community Centre, Brewery Drive, various speakers & events. Visitors Welcome, interested? Chris Ellison

01634 372976 or Barbara Strachan 01634 268611

July 16th – Rainham Evening W.I. St Paul's Church, Parkwood, 7.30pm, Mystical Medieval Garden, Mrs

Lyn Saines. All welcome, Kate Archer 01634 360797.

July 17th – RSPB Medway Local Group Illustrated Talk, Parkwood Community Centre ME8 9PN. 7.30 – 9.45pm

£4. Adventures in Alaska – Barry Wright, For Field Trips: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway.

July 17th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm, United Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road, Gill,

'Imposed Night', New members welcome, first visit free, no experience needed. Just come along for friendly

welcome. Parking, details contact Kaye Buss 01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com

July 18th – Wigmore Ladies Club, Howard Hall, Wigmore 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members welcome to this cheerful

group, just come or ring 01634 388912 for details.

July 18th – Upchurch Horticultural Society visit to a local fruit farm for tour and talk about Cherry farming.

Contact Rosemary 01634 377812 to book.

July 18th – Bredhurst Garden Club, Village Hall, 7.30pm, Julia Jarman – The Taming of Tanglewood, Sweet Pea

and Single Rose Shop, New members always welcome ring 07791 781 910 for details

July 19th – Rainham W.I. 1.45 – 4.00pm. Speaker on 'Rainham in Old Pictures' Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary Close, Visitors welcome

for small entry charge. Ring 01634 366276 for details.

Continued on Page 11

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Friday 13th July, 10.00am - 12.30pm
Fundraising History Talk
Towards the Oast restoration project
£3 per person or £5 for 2 people.
Tea, coffee and cake on sale.
First half about the various industries from
Rochester to the estuary including
Short brothers, Brennans torpedo works, cement
works and the extensive roman potteries at Upchurch
Second half the Ships that have used the Medway:
Barges, fishing boats, paddle steamers and warships
from Chatham Dockyard plus the story of the
Admiralty court which oversees activity on the river.
Parking available.

ANNUAL SUMMER FETE
Friends of Riverside Primary School (FoRPS)
Saturday 14th July, 11.00am - 2.00pm
Riverside School, St Edmunds Way, Rainham
'Pirates and Mermaids' themed event
Pirate bouncy castle and obstacle course.
Games, stalls, café, hot and cold food and drink and
performances by local community groups. For
further information email forpssecretary@gmail.com

SUMMER PRODUCE SALE AND CRAFTS
Saturday 14th 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 a
warm welcome guaranteed! www.thesix.org.uk

SUMMER CONCERT
Saturday, 14th July, 7.30 pm
All Saints' Church Hempstead ME7 3QG.
Featuring local vocal ensemble Harmony - back by
popular demand! Songs ranging from classic and
traditional, songs from shows to more modern pieces
Join us for Summer refreshments too! Tickets £7, on
sale from Anna Williams 01634 232776 or contact
harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk.

POLICE SURGERY
PCSO John Cork will be holding a Police Surgery on
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Halstow Memorial/Village Hall

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Kay Howard-Challis. 01795 844408
SUMMER BBQ SOCIAL
Friday 27th July, 8.00 - 10.00pm
Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road
Free to members and friends of Mid-Kent
Astronomical Society (MKAS)
Bring your own food for the BBQ, some buns and
alcoholic drink. Tea, coffee and squash provided.
The BBQ will definitely be lit whatever the weather!
Bring your own water rocket (2 litre fizzy drinks
bottle) to join in the competition.
See website www.midkentastro.org.uk or ring
07969 878211 for construction and rules.

ART EXHIBITION
Friday 27th July - Saturday 1st September
Walderslade Village Library, ME5 9LR
Original paintings for sale in a variety of media and
styles by local artists from the Rainham Art Group,
a friendly, supportive group of artists who meet
weekly. For more information about the group please
email: rainhamartgroup@gmail.com

SPORTS & GAMES AFTERNOON
Calling All Mum's, looking for an inexpensive trip
out in the summer holidays?
St Peters Church are holding a
Childrens Sports and Games Afternoon
Saturday 4th August, 2.00 - 4.30pm
Bredhurst Village Playing Field
Races for all age groups (13 and under) with rosettes
as prizes, football goal scoring with medals and
penalty shoot-out competition for 16 years and under
(with a trophy for the winner) Bouncy Castle,
Childrens games, stall and play areas, Bar-B-Que,
Ice Cream, Refreshments and Raffle with many
prizes. Entry is free as are the races. All prices
charged will be minimal. Any proceeds to
St Peters Church. Queries to June Cox
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SUMMER ACTIVITY TRAIL
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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

The month of June is usually the last month of the breeding season for most of the song birds that nest in our gardens or neighbourhood. Heralded by the beginnings of a dawn chorus, the season can start as early as February for some of our birds. Over the years I have heard song thrushes singing, towards the end of winter, here in Wigmore, as I have gone for my morning newspaper. In the quietness of an early Sunday morning, occasionally at the same time as admiring a dramatic, red sunrise, I have been able to hear a mistle thrush singing at the top of some tall tree in Parkwood. Male birds sing in spring to attract a mate and to warn other birds of their species not to invade their territory. Mistle and song thrushes are among the first of our song birds to begin nesting. In March, some blackbirds, robins and dunlocks (hedge sparrows) have also begun to sing and nest. Once the dawn chorus gets into its stride, the blackbird is usually the first bird to be heard singing, at an hour before sunrise. The blackbirds' song is a rich warble and when a number of the birds are singing at the same time, early in the morning, it is impossible to count them, because their collective warblings merge together. Song thrushes and robins also sing whilst it is still dark or just getting light. All of the three species stop singing once it is light enough to look for food – the early bird catches the worm – but resume singing later in the day. The song thrush, blackbird and dunlock usually nest in a dense bush or hedge, particularly an evergreen one, whilst the robin typically makes a nest of leaves and moss in dense vegetation like ivy, near to the ground. That said, a pair of blackbirds and a pair of robins have nested, at the same time, at the opposite ends of a pile of logs under a lean-to in my next door neighbour's garden. The four birds maintained an uneasy relationship. In April, some blue tits, great tits, chaffinches, wrens, and green finches begin to breed. Unfortunately, predators like sparrow hawks, jays, magpies, jackdaws and carrion crows breed in the months of April and May. In the same way that blue and great tits, for example, time their breeding season so that their

young hatch once there are lots of caterpillars feeding on the leaves of the oak trees, so sparrow hawks time their breeding season so that the young of great and blue tits are out of their nests at the same time that their own youngsters are hatched and calling to be fed. We have two nest boxes that we put up for tits. A pair of blue tits nested in the one very near to a yew tree which enabled them to fly to the tree and to check that no predators were about before flying into the nest box. I tied a big wodge of sheep's wool, which had come as insulation to some frozen food, to our fence. We saw our blue tits taking bits of the wool to line their nest but were surprised that much larger pieces were being taken by larger birds or perhaps a squirrel. In the event, it was a pair of jackdaws which were nesting down the chimney of a near neighbour. In the wild, jackdaws will attempt to take wool from the backs of sheep or fur from deer.

We had two male chaffinches in our area in the spring, one already with a mate and one that was apparently still looking for one. The chaffinch's song consists of a string of notes that gets faster and faster and ends with a rollicking finale. Their nest consists of a small mossy cup lined with feathers, flecked outside with lichens and often blending imperceptibly into the fork of the small tree into which it has been built. The wren, outside the breeding season and for most of the year, is furtive in habit and unobtrusive. However, in the breeding season, it has the tendency to fly up from the undergrowth into a tree or onto a wall and to deliver an accelerated crescendo, followed by a scolding and flourishing trill. Wrens have a nest of moss, grass and dead leaves, in dense cover, normally near to the ground. The greenfinch is currently quite rare as a result of a disease picked up at bird tables. Mrs Ennis and I were however fortunate to see, from our kitchen window, a female greenfinch perched on our garden fence. Unfortunately, we did not see or hear a male greenfinch which has a twittering song ending in a monotonous, loud, wheezing note, often uttered in a display flight.

The last of the song birds to begin nesting, from May onwards, are the goldfinch and the blackcap. The former is a delightful little bird that can often be disturbed, in front gardens, feeding on the seeds of

groundsel, thistle or dandelion. It has a neat nest, about the size of a small coffee cup, in the fork of a branch in a small tree. There was a goldfinch's nest in the garden of a neighbour and one in a tree on the edge of the pavement in Broadview Avenue. The male typically emits a silvery, tinkly song from a television aerial. Most blackcaps are summer visitors but some have become residents as a result of our recent, relatively mild winters. I have often seen or heard a male in a large walnut tree along the alleyway leading to Woodside Post Office. The male's song is a clear, strong, melodious warble. Growing over the garden fence near the walnut tree is a long run of bramble. If he had found a mate, the blackcap may have had a nest in the bramble, which is a favourite nesting habitat of the species. The bramble produces luscious blackberries in the summer, on which warblers like blackcaps fatten up before migrating. So, as usual, I shall have to leave some of the blackberries to the blackcaps or the blackbirds or the wood pigeons.

Joe Ennis

MEMORIES OF RAINHAM continued from June Story number 2.

The two paintings of St. Mary Magdalene's Chapel, Lidsing, on the front cover of the March AF are, when you actually see them, pretty dire. They were painted by a local artist and photographer, Henry Hill. At a later date, it was he who photographed the chapel the day before its demolition in 1885. Rather than local dignitaries, I have always regarded the individuals in the photograph as being the demolition team, but I may well be wrong. There are three stories in regard the church bell. One that it went to a local factory, second that it went to the Royal Dockyard, Chatham, supposedly to the Dockyard Church, and third that it was acquired by R. Batchelor of Darland Farm. Way, way back (1980ish) I attended an adult education course on using local archives. There were only about six of us in the class and one evening we were taken to Gillingham Library where they have a small archive store. We were let loose amongst all the photographs, etc and my eyes began to open up as to just how much material there is which most of us never see. The two paintings were there. Years later (1996ish) I began writing an article for *Archaeologia Cantiana* (the Journal of the Kent Archaeological Society) on the chapel and asked the library if I could photograph the paintings. The answer, 'What paintings? We don't have

any such paintings.' 'Groannnnnn'. I wrote to the late, great Ron Baldwin to ask if he knew where they had gone (hoping I hadn't dreamt of their existence). Ron knew everything about Gillingham (see his *Gillingham Chronicles*). 'Alan, what paintings?' I thought, 'Surely I cannot be the only person who knows about them?' Anyway Ron went down to the library and a thorough search was made and they were found. So, I was the only person (at that time) who knew they existed, but what do I then get.

'Photographs have to be done by a professional photographer and they will cost £12 each and there will be another fee (££30) to publish them'. This has to be another of lives jokes. The archivists / librarians only knew they existed because of muggins. Load of bureaucratic nonsense. Even as late as the mid-1990s I wouldn't have had £50 to spare! It would have taken me less than five minutes to take the photographs. I wouldn't even have needed to touch the paintings. Then the information could have been shared with anyone else who may have been interested.

Admittedly I was sent some colour photocopies, but for personal use only. So when the article was finally published (A.C. Volume 120) the paintings didn't appear. There were however, three drawings and the photograph of the chapel in that article and they show considerably more architectural detail than either of the paintings. A much shorter version of that article, without illustrations, appeared in Action Forum (1999) numbers 338 and 339.

If any reader should want a copy of the longer article an A5 or A4 stamped addressed envelope (probably three second class stamps needed) to 18 Fane Way, Parkwood, Rainham, Kent. ME8 9TD and I will attempt to remember to send a copy.

Alan Ward

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Diary 2018

July 19th - Hempstead Leisure Club, board games, tea
and chat (see 12th July)

July 19th - Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Starfish Malawi' -
Maggie Mitchell, (see 12th July)

July 19th - Free Technology Session, St Barnabas
Church, Nelson Road, Gillingham, 2.00 - 3.30pm. Ring
Hands 01634 577984 for further details.

July 20th - Police Surgery, PCSO John Cork, 3 - 4.00pm,
Lower Halstow Village Hall. 01795 844408 for details.

July 20th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm,
Meet Stephen Manning 07551712438, Trosley Country
Park, Waterlow Road, Vigo Village, car park charges

DA13 0SG GR 635612 for 3/4 mile Woodland wander.
Route depends on weather conditions. Dogs Allowed

July 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely
circular walk 5 miles / 8.1km, finish 12.45pm New

Members - Welcome - 'Give it a go event' meet car park
Blue Bell Hill ME5 9RG, TQ743621, Bring snack and

water. Find out what Medway Ramblers has to offer -
you may like it and want to join. Contact: John, 07749

760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk Dog friendly

July 22nd - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Leisurely
circular walk 6 miles / 9.7km, finish 1.15pm East

Malling, Park in free public car park in the High Street,
ME19 6AG, TQ702570 easy flattish walk. Bring picnic

lunch. Pub lunches available at end - booking advisable.
Contact: Ade, 01634 306405, adeballard@yahoo.co.uk

July 22nd - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Lindsay Floyd 07743 702049, Hand & Sceptre

PH, London Road, Southborough Common, park in
Pennington Road car park TN4 0RJ GR577428 for 4.5

mile walk. 1 steep slope can be slippery. Field / grass
walking, crosses railway track, 8 stiles. Dogs Allowed

July 22nd - Harmony Summer Concert, 2.00 - 4.00pm,
Friends of the Guildhall Museum, 17 High Street,

Rochester ME1 1PY. Entrance free, donations for
Rotary Club Children's Hospice Holidays, details,

harmonykent@hotmail.co.uk or 07816 159668

July 23rd - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 16th July)

July 24th - Free Technology Session, Holy Trinity
Church, Twydall, 2 - 3.30pm. Hands 01634 577984

July 25th - Things with Wings, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon, craft activity, £3 per child, suitable

for the whole family. Ring 01634 337432 to book.

July 25th - Gillingham Horticultural Society, 7.15pm,
Strawberry and Cream Tea, United Reformed Church
Hall, Balmoral Road, Gill ME7 4PU, £2 Members £3

Non Members, details Call Sandie 07962 277330

July 26th - Beginners Fishing, Capstone Farm Country
Park, 10am - 12noon & 1 - 3.00pm, Learn the basics of

fishing, beginners and improvers. All equipment
supplied. Limited number. £10 per child, accompanied

children 8 - 12 years. Ring 01634 338191 to book.

July 26th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Summer Lunch with
Kingfisher Choir (see 12th July)

July 27th - Sept 1st - Art Exhibition, Walderslade Village
Library, original paintings for sale by local artists from

Rainham Art Group. rainhamartgroup@gmail.com

July 27th - WW1 Walking Tour of Rochester from front
of the Guildhall Museum, 2.30pm, 90 minute tour led

by City of Rochester guide, free, donations welcome for
Royal British Legion. details geoff.rambler@me.com

July 27th - Summer BBQ Social Mid-Kent Astronomical
Society (MKAS), 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall,

Bring own food, buns and alcoholic. Tea, coffee and
squash provided. Bring water rocket (2 litre fizzy drinks

bottle) to join in the competition. 07969 878211 or
www.midkentastro.org.uk for construction and rules.

July 29th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, Moderate
circular walk 9 miles / 14.5km, finish 3.00pm Ightham

Mote park at the top end of car park, £2 non-members
TN15 0NU, TQ584537 a few steep climbs. Bring picnic

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July 29th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847 828249

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Tandridge & the Greensand Way. 2 Stiles. Dogs OK

July 31st - Beach Craft, Riverside Country Park, 10.00am
- 12noon, Paint shells and pebbles. £3 per child,

suitable for whole family. Ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 1st - Ted's Picnic, Capstone Farm Country Park,
11.00am - 2.00pm, Bring a picnic and a teddy bear and

join in the fun. £4 per child, suitable for accompanied
children aged 3 to 7 years. Ring 01634 338191 to book.

August 2nd - Mallet & Badge Making, Capstone Farm
Country Park, 10am - 12noon and 1 - 3.00pm £3 per

child, accompanied children 5 to 12. 01634 338191

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Diary 2018

August 3rd - 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.

August 4th - Rainham Historical Society outing to Sussex
Seaside, Cost £46 members, £47 non-members, Pick-up
Luhurst, High Street, Rainham, 9am, Barnsole Road,
9.15am, ring Mrs Val Ware 01634 366276 to book.

August 4th - Sports & Games Afternoon, Bredhurst
Village Playing Field, 2.00 - 4.30pm, Races for all age
groups (13 and under) Refreshments and Raffle. Entry
and races free. Any proceeds to St Peters Church.
Queries June Cox 01634 268544 or 07842 216116

August 4th - Annual Show, Fuchsia and Pelargonium
Society Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, ME8
6JU. Open to the public 2.00pm. Details 01634 852519.

August 5th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am,
Meet Doreen Maguire 01634 376230, Manor Park
Country Park car park, St Leonards Street, West
Malling toilets and café ME19 6PE GR678571 for 5
mile walk. Could be muddy. Dogs Allowed

August 5th - Afternoon Tea, St Michael and all Angels
Church, Hartlip, 3 - 5.00pm, relaxing afternoon of tea
and homemade cakes whilst enjoying the peace and
tranquillity of our lovely church yard.

August 7th - Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm,
Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Competition
Night. New members welcome, details 01634 366276.

August 8th - Big Bug Hunt, Riverside Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon or 1.00 - 3.00pm, Explore the park
in search of underwater creatures and mini-beasts. £3
per child must be accompanied by adult. 01634 337432

August 8th - East Medway U3A, Leslie Allman - Life in a
Victorian Rookery in the 1840s, (see 11th July)

August 9th - Beginners Fishing, (see 26th July)

August 9th - Mallet & Badge Making, Riverside Country
Park, 10am - 12noon, learn to use hand tools correctly.
£3 per child, suitable for accompanied children aged 5
to 12 years. Ring 01634 337432 to book.

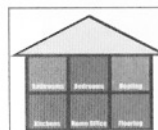
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August 10th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm
Meet Stephen Manning 07551712438, Dockside Outlet
car park outside the Cinema ME4 4LL GR764697 for 3
mile easy stroll around St Mary's Island. Dogs Allowed

August 11th - Craft Market, (see 14th July)

August 12th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, Meet Chris Morris 01634 374923 07847
828249, Cobham Village public car park DA12 3BN
GR670685 for 5 mile walk via Lower & Upper Bush.
Undulating walk, possibly some stiles. Dogs Allowed

August 12th - Volunteer Conservation Task Day,
Capstone Farm Country Park, 10am - 2.00pm Help
with practical tasks on the site. Meet at the visitor
centre, Ring 01634 338191 for more information

August 13th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 16th July)

August 13th - Rainham Flower Club, Practical Evening -
'Ikebana' (see 9th July)

August 13th - Concert Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,
Organist - Chiho Sunamoto, (see 9th July)

August 13th - Rainham Evening Bereavement Friendship
Group, (see 9th July)

August 14th - Butterflies and Bush Crickets, Capstone
Farm Country Park, 10am - 12noon and 1 - 3.00pm,
see how many different types you can spot, then make
your own butterfly or cricket (see 2nd Aug)

August 15th - Flying Fish, Capstone Farm Country Park,
10.00am - 12noon, make an amazing flying fish, just
turn up. £3 per child,

August 15th - Wigmore Ladies Club, (see 18th July)

August 15th - Bredhurst Garden Club, Sue Turner Title:
The Social History of the Potato, Pelargonium and
Dahlia Show (see 18th July)

August 16th - Ted's Picnic, Riverside Country Park,
11.00am - 2.00pm, Bring a picnic and a teddy bear and
join in the fun. Storytelling, fun and games. £4 per
child, suitable for accompanied children aged 3 to 7
years. Ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 19th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group,
10.00am, Meet John Trebille 01634 244045 Halling
Community Centre car park or nearby roads ME2 1BS
GR705639 for 6.5 mile circular walk Steep climb up to
North Downs. Dogs Allowed

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