

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2019

NUMBER 555



The Bell at Bredhurst in approximately 1910. Underneath the sign the lettering declares this a Style & Winch House - Maidstone Fine Ales. In 'Off the Beaten Track' by Geoffrey Hufton he states 'The earliest known mention of The Bell is in 1753 when John Howting was licensee. It may have originally been known as The Bluebell but it was not the first pub in the parish, Horseshoes Cottage in The Street was once a pub known not unsurprisingly as 'Ye Horseshoes' and was utilised as the Manorial Court on occasions.' (See page 9).

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**AF** Next Issue August 3rd 2019  
Copy Date: July 23rd  
Editorial: Barbara Mackay Miller  
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller  
See top of page 14 for current prices.  
Action Forum Office  
4 Saracen Close, Gillingham Business Park  
ME8 0QN Tel: 01634 310011 please mention  
AF when ringing. Email: af@thenet.uk.net

## Editorial

It has been a risky business this year arranging any kind of outdoor event. Overcast, leaden skies sometimes lead to torrential downpours but more often just threaten and do not produce any lasting results. However this poses considerable problems for the organisers who have to judge whether to risk staying outside or beat a hasty retreat for whatever cover is available. School email contact lists buzz with successive messages confirming or postponing sports days and school fairs. But ultimately most events do go ahead – we British are made of sturdy stuff. It takes more than a few rain drops to deter us. It is of course disappointing when so much time and effort has gone into an event and it becomes a very damp squib – but there is always next year.

July traditionally has a host of such outdoor events arranged particularly during the first two weekends so let us hope some reliable good high pressure weather covers the country before then and of course continues right through the summer holiday period. With all the uncertainties of travel in Europe at the moment combined with the excellent summer we had at home last year I am sure many families will have opted for a stay-at-home holiday in Britain this year. Fingers crossed the weather obliges. Over the years of our family holidays, usually in Wales, it is the wet, windy and cold ones that stand out I am afraid although I am sure we must also have had many days of wonderful beach weather.

If you enjoy taking day visits to various places of interest two organisations would appreciate your help. They are arranging outings for the elderly and lonely but need almost as many able bodied volunteers to act as companions and provide assistance. Age UK (Medway) contact Sue Parker 01634 790140 and Bluebird Care (Medway) contact Gayle Holmes 01634 780909 would both be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to make new friends visiting interesting places whilst offering a useful helping hand.

A holiday spotter sheet sounds like an excellent idea to keep the family occupied on visits to Riverside or Capstone Farm Country Park. At £1 per copy, available from the visitor centres – a bargain. I am always amazed how our grandchildren will happily

spend a couple of hours racing round National Trust properties searching for very obvious clues, then fill in their sheets, all for the promise of a small prize when if we suggested reading or writing at home that would be 'boring'.

Do enjoy the summer and make the most of the good weather we do have. Have a great month. We will be with you again in August.

## Correspondence

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY for BEGINNERS

Dear Editor,  
Rainham School for Girls is offering IT support for absolute beginners.

If there are any Senior Citizens [or others] who have not joined the digital revolution and would like some help to start, our students are keen to help. We are offering 4 free one hour sessions on 18th Sept, 25th Sept, 2nd Oct and 9th Oct from 3pm – 4pm. You can bring your own device or use our computers. If you are interested phone 01634 362746 and speak to Mrs Moon.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES

Dear Editor

I am the Poppy Organiser for Hempstead Valley and appeal again to anyone who would like to help us make poppies this year, they can be knitted, crocheted or made with any type of material. We sell them to the public to help boost our sales in November. Last year with the help of our lovely knitters; Veteran's; volunteers; local school children and Cadets we collected over £20,000 which is amazing. For 2019 we hope to match the demand for the Poppy from the generous people of Medway and aim to increase our contribution to the funds needed to provide lifelong support for our Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

If you require a knitting pattern for the poppy please contact Sandra Colyer on 01634 362863 or email sandracolyer@hotmail.co.uk

Many thanks  
Sandra Colyer

RAINHAM SOCIAL CLUB

Dear Editor.

Referring to the article in the June edition of Action Forum regarding Rainham Social Club. I was interested to know that the inception of the club took place in the early 1900s together with the many facilities available to members.

I enrolled as a member in 1950 and as far as I can recall the Mineral Factory was situated in Hothfield Road together with the Coal Merchant premises directly opposite the Mineral Factory. The large House on the corner of Hothfield Road/ Station Road was the residence of Mr Miles the owner of the mineral factory. Further, I agree the Social Club was, at this time, situated in the property now occupied by a Taxi

firm and previously a 'take away'.

Then the Club subsequently moved to their current home after acquiring 78, Station Road - W.A. Dennis Family Butcher- the owner/proprietor being my Uncle. I have no recognition of a second Butcher at this location, however, there were two other butcher shops in Station Road, one at the top of the road and the other one 100 yards below the Railway lines.

Yours sincerely  
V Wickenden  
v.wickenden@sky.com

DAY TRIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bluebird Care (Medway) has started to arrange Day Trips for their Beating Isolation Group, their Customers and any Friends of Bluebird Care. We have just had our first trip to the seaside and it was such a huge success that we are looking to organise these on a regular basis. These might be to the seaside, the zoo, theatre trips, visits to local events, mystery tours, etc. We are now looking for volunteers to join us to help people get on and off the coach and generally accompany them during their trip (we use a coach with a lift so this would not be too arduous). If you would like to join us for a good day out, free of charge with a meal, and, above all, enjoy yourselves meeting new people, please contact Gayle Holmes on 01634 780909 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION TASK DAYS

Riverside Country Park

Every Thursday 10.00am – 2.00pm

Join the volunteers for a day, learn about country park management and help with practical tasks.

Refreshments provided but bring your own lunch and wear suitable clothing and footwear for working outside. For information or to register interest ring 01634 337432.

Meet at the Visitor Centre.

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HOLIDAY SPOTTER SHEETS

Riverside and Capstone Farm Country Parks

Explore the parks and use the spotter sheets to see how many birds, creatures and plants you can identify. Summer holiday fun for all the family, collect your sheet for either park at the visitor centres.

£1 per sheet, suitable for all ages

WIGMORE OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

organised by St Matthew's Church, Wigmore

Weekend 6th & 7th July

Please see church notice boards, email  
paul@bellerby.me or ring 01634 387328  
for further information.

AIR SCOUT GROUP - BEAVERS & CUBS

20th Gillingham (Hempstead) Air Scout Group meet in our own headquarters in Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead.

We currently have spaces for more young people to join us on the following evenings:

Beavers (age 6-8) Tues 5.30 - 6.30pm (Girls & Boys)

Cubs (8 - 11 years) Wed 6.00 - 7.30pm. (Boys only)

Beavers (6 - 8 years) Fri 4.45 - 5.45pm (Boys only)

Cubs (8 - 11 years) Fri 6.00 - 7.30pm. (Girls & Boys)

Please contact our Group Scout Leader Roger Lovesey on 07792 065638 for further details

DISTRIBUTION

Volunteer distributors are needed for:

Rainham

Nightingale Close, Laurel Walk, part Mierscourt Road  
Lower Rainham & Lower Road (Pump to Berengrave)  
Langdale Close

Top Lonsdale Drive

Parkwood

Lovelace & Lubbock Closes

Upchurch

Wallbridge Lane, part of Oak Lane, Jubilee Terrace

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or ring 01634 310011 (please mention Action Forum)

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Carol, she could have been family!*

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# Diary 2019

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 23rd 2019

July 6th & 7th – Wigmore Open Gardens Weekend local  
gardens of all types to explore over the weekend.

Details available via facebook: facebook.com/  
stmatthewsgardens/events or from paul@bellerby.me  
July 6th – Quiz Night Local Parkinson's Group, 6.30pm  
for 7.00pm start, Prince Arthur Indoor Bowls Club  
ME7 1UR £5 per person, Teams Up to six people,  
Licensed Bar, Raffle, Bring your own nibbles. Contact  
Larry 07709 989559 or medwagsocial@gmail.com  
July 6th & 7th – 'South Pacific' (in concert). St. Paul's  
Drama Group, Third Avenue Community Hall,  
Gillingham, ME7 2LU (opp Robert Napier School)  
7.30pm. Matinee Saturday 6th, 3.00pm. Tickets £8  
Adults & £6 Children (16 & under) from 01634 852712  
or www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk.

July 6th – Concert, Old Barn Orchestra, Pilkington  
Building University of Greenwich ME4 4TB. Mozart  
Overture Così Fan Tutti, Poulenc Sinfonietta,  
Mendelssohn Italian Symphony. Tickets 01634 376979  
July 7th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 6.6 miles /  
10.6 km – Leisurely circular walk, finishes 1.45pm.  
Meet Trosley Country Park. Pay & Display DA13 0SG,  
TQ632610 some stiles. Contact: 07478 337787

July 7th – RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk with  
Nature, Samphire Hoe CT17 9EL 10.00am, Please wear  
appropriate clothing and footwear. For details visit  
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway www.facebook.com/  
The-RSPB-Medway-Local-Group-733548566806267/

July 7th – Afternoon Tea, 3.00 – 5.00pm, St Michael and  
all Angels Church, Hartlip. Please join us for a relaxing  
afternoon of tea and homemade cakes whilst enjoying  
the peace and tranquillity of our lovely church yard  
with beautiful views across the orchards to Rainham  
and help us to keep our beautiful church alive.

July 7th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet John Williams 01622 764821 / 07977 614033  
Lullingstone Country Park (Charge) 526638 DA4 0JF  
for 5.5 mile hilly walk. Expect muddy sections  
according to weather conditions. 1 Stile and 20 Steps.  
Dogs Allowed

July 8th – Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 – 4.30pm, St  
Stephens Church Hall, Maidstone Road, Chatham, new  
members welcome, details 07523 124668

July 8th, Rainham Flower Club, 7.30pm, St Matthews  
Church hall, Wigmore ME8 0NX, Demonstration by  
'Billy and Botany'. Information ring 01634 863034 or  
see www.rainhamflowerclub.co.uk

July 8th – Concert, Medway Organ & Keyboard Club,  
50th Anniversary year, Parkwood Community Centre,  
Rainham, ME8 9PN, 7.30pm, Organist – Ian House,  
details ring Brian Leonard 01634 234694

July 9th – Carer's Coffee Morning, 10.00am – 12noon,  
Dobbies Restaurant – Garden Centre, Courtney Road,  
Gillingham, A member from Carers First in attendance,  
information contact Maureen Cannon 01634 235723

July 9th – Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Gillingham and  
District, side doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, Holy  
Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane, ME8 6JU, Mini  
Competition – Members issue plants will be judged. All  
welcome, Ring 01634852519 for details

July 9th – Medway Antique and Collectors' Club, 7.30 for  
8.00pm, The Clubhouse of the Rainham Cricket Club,  
Silent Auction-Phone 01634 851512 for details.  
Memberships now open at £25, for further information  
Tel: 01634 851512 or simply just turn up.

July 10th – East Medway U3A, Smallholders Club ME8  
0JG, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Barbara Stevens – 'Alternative  
Calendar Girls', Details see eastmedwayu3a website or  
ring 07733 554719, new members welcome.

July 10th – Bredhurst WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm, speaker  
Morris Chittenden – 'The Golden Years of Fleet Street'  
information secretary Pam Ormiston 01634 365789

July 11th and every Thursday – Riverside Country Park,  
Volunteer Conservation Task Days, 10.00am – 2.00pm,  
learn about country park management and help with  
practical tasks, bring your own lunch, wear suitable  
clothing and footwear for working outside. For details  
ring 01634 337432. Meet at the Visitor Centre.

July 11th – Hempstead Leisure Club, Board games, whist,  
tea and chat. All Saints Church, Hempstead Road, 2.00  
– 4.00pm. New members always welcome, phone 07583  
343 782 for more information.

July 11th – Wigmore Thursday Club, St Matthew's  
Community Centre, 2.00pm, 'Baby Boomer' – Alan  
Haines, for over 50s ring 01634 234712 for details.

July 12th – 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 – Craft Market, 9.00am – 12.30pm, St  
Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry,  
Refreshments available, To book a stall, £10 each,  
email cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com or 07779 366054

July 13th – Summer Fete, Friends of Riverside Primary  
School, St Edmunds Way Rainham, 11.00 – 2.00pm.  
Admission Free. Theme 'Big Top Spectacular'

July 13th – Family Fun Day & Church Charity Shop  
Grand Re-opening, Bredhurst Village Hall, 12noon –  
3.00pm. Entrance to Fun day 50p, Children Free,  
Enquiries June Cox 07842 216116

July 13th – Upchurch Horticultural Society Show,  
Contact: upchurchhortsoc@gmail.com  
July 13th – Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall,  
7.30pm start, £5 each, bring your own drinks & nibbles.  
Ring Ann 01634 377671 for more information

July 14th – Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Jim Gevaux 07807 896995 Faversham Guildhall,  
Market Place parking in the north end of town is free.  
Swimming Pool Carpark £4 for 4 hours GR 016613  
ME13 7AG 7.5 mile flat estuary walk on the sea wall,  
back through wharfside, where there are tea rooms at  
the walk end. No Stiles. Dogs Allowed

July 14th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am 7  
miles/11.3 km – Moderate Circular walk finishes  
2.00pm, Benenden Village Green – GR TQ808328  
TN17 4DE – Please park considerately around Green.

July 14th – Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.20am, 6.5  
miles/10.5 km – Easy Circular walk finishes 1.30pm, 34  
Bridges of Canterbury. Meet and park at Car park next  
to Canterbury East station £1 all day but check. We will  
wait for the 10.09 train from Medway Coffee shop,  
toilets in station. CT1 2RB, TR146573, tarmac  
footpaths accessible for buggies, few small steps. Sally  
and Dave, 07719382284, smithgaul@aol.com

July 14th – Capstone Farm Country Park, Volunteer  
Conservation Task Days, 10.00am – 2.00pm,  
Refreshments provided, bring your own lunch, wear  
suitable clothing and footwear for working outside. For  
information or to register interest ring 01634 338191.  
Meet volunteer block near Orchard Car Park.

July 16th – GHS Floral Art Group, 7.30 – 9.00pm, United  
Reformed Church (rear hall) Balmoral Road,  
Gillingham, 'Pond Life' – water design arrangement  
utilising a pin holder, New members welcome, first  
visit free, no experience needed. Just come along and  
receive a friendly welcome. Parking available on site or  
public parking nearby. For details contact Kaye Buss  
01634 232998 or email kayebuss@btinternet.com

July 16th – The RSPB Medway Local Group Talk,  
Parkwood Community Centre, Gillingham, 7.30 –  
9.45pm £4. Kerula: Fabulous birding in SW India –  
John Buckingham. For Walks see: www.rspb.org.uk/  
groups/medway.

July 17th – Wigmore Ladies, Howard Hall, Woodside,  
Wigmore 2.00 – 4.00pm, new members welcome to this  
cheerful group, just come along or ring 01634 388912.

July 17th – Bredhurst Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall,  
Alan Wainwright, Garden Folklore, Sweet Pea and  
Single Rose Show, Bring and Buy Produce Stall,  
Details John Fridd 01634 388028

July 18th – Rainham Women's Institute meet 1.45 – 4pm,  
Wakeley Hall, Oast House Community Centre, Granary  
Close Rainham. Visitors welcome, small entry charge  
per visit. Contact Lynne 01634 234997 for more details.

July 18th – Wigmore Thursday Club, 'Customs of Kent' –  
Mick Lynn, (see 11th July).

July 18th – Hempstead Leisure Club, AGM (see 11th  
July)

Continued on Page 11

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M2 Services Rainham. ME8 8PQ

### **AFTERNOON TEA**

Sunday 7th July, 3.00 – 5.00pm

Sunday 4th August, 3.00 – 5.00pm

St Michael and all Angels Church, Hartlip.

Please join us for a relaxing afternoon of tea and  
homemade cakes whilst enjoying the peace and  
tranquillity of our lovely church yard and help us to  
keep our beautiful church alive.

### **CRAFT MARKET**

Saturday 13th July, 9.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday 10th August, 9.00am – 12.30pm

St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham

Selection of stalls .

Free entry, Refreshments available. To book a stall,  
£10 each, email cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com  
or ring 07779 366054

### **ANNUAL PUBLIC SUMMER FETE**

Friends of Riverside Primary School (FORPS), St  
Edmunds Way Rainham, Admission Free.

Saturday 13th July, 11.00am – 2.00pm.

Theme 'Big Top Spectacular'

Come and take part in our circus skills workshop  
or dance in the disco dome. With games and  
activities, a bouncy castle and drinks and  
refreshments, there is plenty for everyone to enjoy.

### **THE VINES CHERRY PICNIC**

Saturday 13th July 1.00 – 4.00pm

The Friends of The Vines invite you to relax in the  
park, bring a picnic and your reusable water bottle!  
Buy delicious local cherries and light refreshments,  
join in family activities and money raised goes to  
Macmillan Cancer Support at Medway Maritime  
Hospital. Enter the Fruit Dessert Competition to win  
a £50 voucher from Smoke and Liquor the renowned  
Rochester eating establishment. For details see the  
Friends of The Vines website or Facebook page.

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 13th July, 7.30pm start

Holy Trinity Church, Twydall

£5 each, bring your own drinks & nibbles

Ring Ann 01634 377671

for tickets and more information

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### **SUMMER CRAFT FAIR**

Saturday 20th July 2.00pm – 4.00pm

St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow

We look forward to welcoming visitors old and new  
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To raise funds for Twydall Community Centre

Beechings Way, Gillingham. ME8 6ZP

Saturday 20th July, 7.00 for 7.30pm start

Teams of up to 6, £7.50 per person

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veggie burger & chips supper)

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

To book a table call Janet Duke

07809 892883

e-mail pinkdukebox@aol.com

### **'SUMMER SERENADE'**

Upchurch Choral Society

Saturday 20th July, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Upchurch

Music by Mozart and Rutter, including Rutter's

'The Sprig of Thyme'

Refreshments will be available at the interval.

Entry £10 on the door, children free.

Contact Sue Rossiter 01634 234780 for more details

### **CONCERT Rainham Ladies Choir**

with guest saxophonist Suzanne Francis

St. Augustine's Church

Rock Avenue, Gillingham.

Friday July 26th, 7.30pm start.

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### **GARDEN OPEN FOR CHARITY**

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### **FLYING FISH**

Capstone Farm Country Park

Wednesday 14th August, 10.00am – 12noon

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# Nature Notes

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

The twin towers of the remains of St Mary's Church at Reculver, on the Kent coast beyond Herne Bay, are a landmark for those travelling to the Thanet towns, whether by rail or road. The towers are at the heart of the Reculver Countryside Park which consists of important natural habitats, including soft, sandy cliffs in which sand martins breed. I had heard that a recent survey of the cliffs had found one hundred and ninety holes, each occupied by a pair of sand martins. My main aim in revisiting the Park was therefore to see the birds for myself. Sand martins, which are delightful little birds, are among the earliest of the migrants to return to this country in the spring. They can often be spotted, hawking for insects in mid-March, above the surface of lakes and reservoirs. The moat at Leeds Castle is a favourite "pit stop" for some of the migrants. They dig their nesting holes in sandy banks through the combined action of their tiny feet and beaks. The colony which I enjoyed watching at Reculver and which was within a short distance of the car park, seem to have been able to use their previous year's holes. But sometimes a cliff fall over the winter forces them to start digging again in the spring. There is always an endless buzz around a colony of sand martins, both audible and visual. At the time of my visit to the Reculver colony, there was a flurry of parents around the nesting holes, withholding food, and encouraging those birds that were capable of flying to pluck up courage and jump. Sand martins can have two and even three broods whilst they are here and, at the Countryside Park, the young are fed on insects which are attracted to either the rotting seaweed on the tide line or to the wild flowers on the extensive meadow that stretches along the tops of the cliffs between Reculver and Bishopstone. This meadow is one of the few remaining large meadows in Kent of natural (unimproved) grassland containing a wide variety of wild flowers. I sat on a bench on the edge of the meadow in order to admire the flowers and to identify and list them. They included buttercup, red and white clover, bird's foot trefoil (bacon and eggs), meadow vetchling, common vetch and yarrow. The meadow is mowed around September, once the flowers have seeded and the ground nesting birds have done breeding. During the

nesting season Canterbury City Council erect notices asking that dogs should not be allowed to run in the meadow and disturb the birds. The mowing is done by a farmer who subsequently turns over the cut hay to dry it and then bales it for feeding to livestock. The ground nesting birds include skylarks and meadow pipits, one or two of which I was able to see quite clearly, with my binoculars, high in the blue sky of what was a wonderful June day.

As I sat on the bench, with my eyes mainly on the sand martins skimming over the meadow, I noticed that, usually in twos, some came to the ground, walked for a few steps and then flew up once more. I can only surmise that they were young birds experiencing walking on their own two feet. I could not fail to see two fulmars gliding backwards and forwards along the edge of the cliff and just a foot or so above it. The birds' stiff-winged flight pattern enables them to ride up-draughts on cliffs as readily as they glide over waves when at sea. According to Richard Mabey's book "Birds Britannica", fulmars are the epitome of endless grace. They look like seagulls but they are, in fact, petrels. Fulmars do not breed until they are six or seven years old and those two that I saw were almost certainly juveniles. At one time the species bred only on St Kilda but, today, they nest all around the coastline where there are suitable cliffs. Here in Kent, they nest on the chalk cliffs at North Foreland on the isle of Thanet and at St Margaret's Bay near Dover. By September, all of our nesting fulmars will have returned to a life on the ocean.

The seashore at Reculver consists of mud and sand interspersed with surrogate rocks in the form of concrete blocks and granite boulders. In between the seaweed covered rocks are pools left behind when the tide goes out. Two families were exploring these pools and I was keen to know what they had found but I was fearful of slipping on the seaweed. Some three or four years ago, Mrs Ennis and I joined a hunt for seashore "mini beats" organised by Kent Wildlife Trust, who lent fishing nets and plastic buckets to those who did not bring any of their own. On the rocks we found whelks, limpets, mussels and a sea anemone. In the pools we came across crabs, common shrimps, a star fish and a common blenny, which is a salt water version of the fresh water bullhead. There was a common hermit crab, which takes over the empty shell of a dog whelk or winkle. Bladder wrack was the

commonest seaweed; it has spherical gas-filled bladders along the fronds, thus permitting the plant to float upright when the tide is in. When squeezed, the bladders explode with a loud "pop", much to the delight of children. We picked up razor shells, a mermaids' purse (which is the egg case of a dog fish), a common whelk egg case (which resembles a bunch of shrivelled grapes) and some cuttlefish bone (which supports the long soft body of the cuttlefish). I do hope that the two above mentioned families had just a successful and enjoyable hunt for seaside "mini beasts" that Mrs Ennis and I once had.

Joe Ennis

## BREDHURST

"Bredhurst is a small village about four miles from Chatham. This, with the hamlet of Kemsley, engaged the attention of the Itinerant Society, and they established a Sunday School, and after a time, in 1822, commenced preaching the gospel to the villagers. In 1827 a small chapel was erected; and the means of grace thus afforded have continued to be present. This station affords indications of God's favour to the people, and they evince their high estimation of the gospel. The Sunday School contains about forty children, the congregation is good, and the Lord's Supper is administered to seven or eight members of this village church, to which three or four were added during the year 1856. A spirit of divine love prevails among the people; and it is believed that there are others whose hearts are influenced by faith in Jesus Christ, the fruit of the Spirit of God."

From Timpson's 'Church History of Kent', 1859.

Bredhurst's church of St Peter dates back to the 11th century, but by the time Edward Hasted visited in 1798 it had been so neglected that 'the whole of it is now in a ruinous state, without doors or windows', and the floor of the nave was sinking into the crypt below. He found two gravestones on the floor of the side chapel, and though their brasses were missing they were said to belong to the Kemsley family, after whom Kemsley Street is named. Despite its poor state the church remained in use, presumably after some repairs had been carried out. Boards showing the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed were erected high on the stone arch which separates the chancel from the nave in 1827 - the same year in which the Nonconformist Chapel was opened. It was

not until 1866 that St Peter's was fully restored. The Itinerant Societies were Nonconformists who went about preaching, just as the Wesleys, founders of Methodism, had done. During the early nineteenth century there were societies in Yorkshire, in London, Bristol and towns throughout the country. Some were Baptists, others Congregationalists. It seems that the visitors to Bredhurst came from Chatham, for Dr Andrew Ashbee, quoting from 'The Church Book of the Independents', writes:-

"The gospel was introduced into Snodland by agents of the Chatham Itinerant Society about the year 1822. At first worship was conducted in a cottage and afterwards a chapel, capable of accommodating about 200 persons was fitted up..."

A sketchmap drawn by the Vicar of Bredhurst in about 1900 shows the Congregational Chapel in The Street, just north of The Bell, so not far from Kemsley Street. Regular services were held in the chapel for well over a century, but later it was converted to a small house named Chapel Cottage, which is still there.

## RAD

### FAMILY FUN DAY & GRAND RE-OPENING CHURCH CHARITY SHOP

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Proceeds from the shop to St Peters Church and from Fun Day to Bredhurst Village Hall  
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### BEGINNERS FISHING FOR CHILDREN

Capstone Farm Country Park

Tues 30th July, Tues 13th & Wed 21st August  
10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm

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## Diary 2019

July 19th - Games Afternoon, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Lower  
Halstow Memorial Hall, Euchre, Rummy, Cub, Dominos,  
Whist and more, £1.50 each includes a cup of tea/  
coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

July 20th - Fundraising Quiz Night for Twydale  
Community Centre, Beechings Way, ME8 6ZP, 7.30pm  
start, Teams of up to 6, £7.50 per person (includes a  
sausage & chip or veggie burger & chips supper) Bring  
your own drinks and nibbles. To book a table call Janet  
Duke 07809 892883 or e-mail pinkdukebox@aol.com

July 20th - Summer Craft Fair, 2.00 - 4.00pm, St  
Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow. Refreshments  
available. A warm welcome as always!

July 20th - 'Summer Serenade', Upchurch Choral  
Society, 7.30pm, St Mary's church, Upchurch. Music  
by Mozart and Rutter, including Rutter's 'The Sprig of  
Thyme' Refreshments available at the interval. Entry  
£10 on the door, children free. Contact Sue Rossiter  
01634 234780 for more details

July 21st - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6.5  
miles/10.5 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes  
2.30pm, park Cobtree Manor Park, Aylesford ME20  
7AG, café and toilet facilities. Parking £1.50 all day.  
TQ743587. Walk via Friars (Priory) 'All Ford Car  
Show' - £3 Adults. Bring picnic lunch. Dog friendly,  
John, 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk

July 21st - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet David Brown 07815106791 Oldbury Recreation  
Ground (off A25 / Ightham Bypass). GR 590564 TN15  
9DD 5 mile circular walk around Borough Green and  
Ightham. Undulating walk. Dogs Allowed

July 22nd - Medway Scrabble Club, 2.00 - 4.30pm, (see  
8th July).

July 25th - Mini Beast Hunting, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10am - 12noon and 1 - 3pm. Learn to identify  
creatures. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 -  
12 years, £4 per child, ring 01634 338191 to book.

July 25th - Hempstead Leisure Club, Summer Lunch with  
the Kingfisher Choir. Next meeting will be September  
5th (see 11th July)

July 26th - Games Evening, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Lower  
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July 26th - Concert, St. Augustine's Church, Rock  
Avenue, Gillingham, 7.30pm start, Rainham Ladies  
Choir with guest saxophonist Suzanne Francis. All  
welcome to this community event.

July 27th & 28th - National Garden Scheme, Garden  
Open for Charity, Woodlands Road Allotments, 48  
Tangmere Close, Gillingham ME7 2TN, 12noon -  
4.00pm both days, details John Jones 07886 601727

July 28th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free Walk with  
Nature, Oare Marshes Kent Wildlife Trust ME13 0QA,  
8.00am, (see 7th July).

July 28th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Margaret Crouch 01634 376080 Seathorpe Ave  
off Wards Hill Road, Merryman's Hill, Minster,  
Sheppey. Car Park or road side parking. Gr 954737  
ME12 2LT for 5 mile fairly flat walk. Route includes  
Bartons Point and Sheerness. Dogs Allowed

July 28th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 7.7  
miles/12.4 km - Moderate Circular walk finishes  
2.15pm approx. Meet Egerton free village Car Park off  
Rock Hill Road. TN27 9DW, TQ906472 some stiles  
and a fairly steep hill. Bring picnic lunch. The Barrow  
House serves lunches at Egerton, best to book. Contact:  
John, 07749 760788, billingsjc@blueyonder.co.uk

July 30th - Beginners Fishing for Children, Capstone  
Farm Country Park, 10am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm.  
Learn the basics of fishing with a ranger. All equipment  
supplied. Suitable for accompanied children aged 8 -  
12 years. £10 per child, ring 01634 338191 to book.

July 31st - 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.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, £4 per child  
ring 01634 337432 to book.

August 1st - Willow Weaving, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm, Suitable  
for beginner adults and children from age 8. £5 each,  
ring 01634 338191 to book.

August 2nd - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow  
Memorial Hall, (see 19th July).

August 4th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet John Trebill 01634 244045 Wateringbury Station  
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## Diary 2019

August 4th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 6  
miles/9.7 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes 1.15pm  
approx. West Malling Hike. Park and meet at the  
Village Car Park. ME19 6AJ. TQ701569. Bring picnic  
lunch. King & Queen pub at the end may be serving  
lunches. (Booking advised). Contact: Ade,  
07505895784, [adeballard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adeballard@yahoo.co.uk)  
August 4th - Afternoon Tea, 3.00 - 5.00pm, St Michael  
and all Angels Church, Hartlip (see 7th July).  
August 5th - Medway Scrabble Club, (see 8th July).  
August 6th - Breast Cancer Support Group, Medway  
Maritime Hospital Area 7, Level 2, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Kay  
Day will give a talk on Semi Permanent Make Up,  
suitable for the members. New members welcome,  
Angela Blackwell 01634 861802, or 07761 853750  
August 7th - Mallet and Badge Making, Riverside  
Country Park, 10.00am - 12noon Learn useful bush  
craft and make your own mallet and a badge. Suitable  
for accompanied children aged 5 - 12 years, £4 per  
child ring 01634 337432 to book.  
August 7th - Mini Beast Hunting, Capstone Farm Country  
Park, 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00 - 3.00pm, Learn to  
identify creatures you find in the pond and wildflower  
meadow. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 -  
12 years. £4 per child, ring 01634 338191 to book.  
August 8th - Beach Craft, Riverside Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon let your imagination run wild,  
painting pebbles or creating sea monsters. Suitable for  
whole family, £4 per child ring 01634 337432 to book.  
August 9th - 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 9th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 6.30pm  
meet Stephen Manning 07551 712438 Parkwood Green  
Shops Carpark, Long Catlis Road, Gillingham. GR  
809642 ME8 9PN for 4 mile Evening flat / easy circular  
walk through Foxburrow Wood to Meresborough  
through orchards and paddocks. 2 Stiles. Dogs Allowed

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August 10th - Craft Market, 9.00am - 12.30pm, St  
Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham, Free entry,  
Refreshments available. To book a stall, £10 each,  
email [cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com](mailto:cjdcraftmarkets@yahoo.com) or 07779 366054  
August 11th - RSPB Medway Local Group Free walk  
with Nature, Cliffe Pools RSPB Reserve ME3 7SU  
9.00am, (see 7th July).  
August 11th - Medway Ramblers Walk, 10.00am, 8.2  
miles/13.2 km - Leisurely Circular walk finishes  
2.30pm approx. Harrietsham Hike Meet and park in  
front of fake Oast Houses south of A20. (Free parking).  
ME17 1AH TQ867525 Bring picnic lunch. Contact:  
Derek, 07768 448633, [derek.kent@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:derek.kent@blueyonder.co.uk)  
August 11th - Medway Towns Footpaths Group, 10.00am  
meet Doreen Maguire 01634 376230 Jeskyns Country  
Park (£3 charge) Toilets & Cafe GR 662699 DA12  
3AN for 5 mile mainly flat walk passing Ashenbank  
Woods. Could be muddy. No Dogs  
August 12th - Concert, Medway Organ & Keyboard  
Club, 50th Anniversary year, 7.30pm, Organist - Tim  
Flint, (see 8th July).  
August 12th - Rainham Flower Club, Summer Indoor  
Garden Party, (see 8th July).  
August 13th - Beginners Fishing for Children, Capstone  
Farm Country Park, (see 30th July).  
August 13th - Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society Gillingham  
and District, 'Wildlife & Estuaries of North Kent' -  
Cllr Alan Jerrett (see 9th July).  
August 14th - Flying Fish, Capstone Farm Country Park,  
10.00am - 12noon, make a flying fish in the visitor  
centre with a ranger. Suitable for accompanied children  
aged 5 - 12 years, £4 per child ring 01634 338191 to  
book or just turn up on the day.  
August 14th - East Medway U3A, Lite Meeting, (see 10th  
July).  
August 15th - 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.  
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August 16th - Games Afternoon, Lower Halstow  
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