

# ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2020  
NUMBER 563

**This may be the last issue of Action Forum.  
Do you want it to continue? See Page 2**



One hundred years ago should you have been unfortunate enough to contract a notifiable disease, the most common being diphtheria and scarlet fever often deadly for children before the days of antibiotics, the small fever cart on the right of the picture, outside the Green Lion in Rainham High Street, would have collected you for the journey to the Isolation Hospital at Keycol Hill. This was a grim 'workhouse' type building with high windows. No visitors were allowed inside so having walked from Rainham worried parents could only climb on boxes and peer through the windows in the hope of glimpsing their child. A stay of several weeks or months was not uncommon for the lucky ones who survived the infection, reminiscent of Covid 19 today.

**FENSA**  
Registered Company

## SALMON WINDOWS

Medway  
**Fair Trader**  
ASSURED

Conservatories designed and built ~ Upgrades to existing conservatory roofs  
Energy efficient 'A' rated uPVC windows & doors ~ Misted units replaced

Family run independent company

**Which?**  
Trusted trader



For advice and a very competitive quote call  
**Installers of Quality**  
**Products for 35 years**



[www.salmonwindows.co.uk](http://www.salmonwindows.co.uk)

01634 363881

**AF** If you would like more information or can help with a phoenix Action Forum please email [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) or ring 07835 859846

## Editorial

A rather different Action Forum after three months of lock down! Gone are all the dated events and Diary entries as we do not have a reliable list. For those of you who use the internet do look at the diary on [www.thenet.uk.net](http://www.thenet.uk.net). If you are organizing an event be sure to post it there. It is a free service for voluntary groups.

The logistics of producing AF are now very different and I anticipate having difficulty with the distribution - for these reasons July will be my final copy. Personally this is a line drawn for me and I will not attempt to continue after this break.

But I would very much like to see Action Forum continue so new teams are needed.

**Editorial** - compiling the material each month and producing on a desk top computer the final copy for the printers. Of course a new Editor would have a completely free hand to produce the kind of magazine they want as long as it fits the ethos of an independent community magazine (non political).

**Distribution** - Compiling and keeping the list of volunteers who help with door to door delivery up to date and recruiting new helpers as necessary. Counting the 20500 copies each month into bundles, delivering half to be collected from Sunburst Books in Station Road and driving round delivering the remainder to distributor's doorsteps. Arranging cover for those on holiday or sick.

**Door to door distributors.** We know that a number of our existing distributors are not able to continue so it seems best to present the new distribution managers with a list of those who can. If you are an existing distributor wanting to continue or a new volunteer please email [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) with your address and telephone number. If you can be mobile to cover holidays and sickness in different areas this would be particularly useful.

**Advertising Manager** to be responsible for collating the ads each month, raising invoices for renewals and ensuring payment is received. They will also be responsible for finding new advertisers as necessary. An enthusiastic group of volunteers would be ideal. If you are interested in being part of this please email [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net) with your address and telephone number or call Hamish on 07835 859 846 to discuss what is involved.

Our advertisers are one of the most important parts of

the magazine and I regret if we have to close an affordable way of introducing your business to Rainham.

It is sad that an era has to end in such a way and I do wish to thank the many people who over the past 50 years have made AF such a well-regarded local eccentricity. Without Joe Ennis, David Wood, Rosemary Dellar the late Freddie Cooper, and the many other contributors my job would have been much harder. Of course thanks are also due to the many hundreds who have regularly trudged the streets bringing a copy to your letterbox each month. Action Forum would not have been possible without you. In the hope that we may call upon your services again once life returns to normal but in case it does not our very best wishes and many, many thanks for all your help.

Barbara Mackay Miller

## The Origins of Action Forum and a proposal for the future.

When I returned to Rainham after university I joined the Rainham Help The Needy Committee, a group from St Margarets Church raising funds for crises such as the famine in Biafra caused by civil war in Nigeria. We wanted to involve more than just church members, but how could we inform them? We decided on a newsletter funded by local businesses keen to tell the rapidly growing population in the area about their services. We soon realised that selling advertising and recruiting volunteer distributors was a big task that would be much easier if we repeated it. There were, however, many other small voluntary groups in the area who wanted to publicise themselves and their events and so the concept of Action Forum as a monthly publication was born.

The first edition was published in March 1969 and distributed to 10,000 homes. 51 years later the print run has doubled to 20,500 to include the new homes that have been built in that time. The core of the magazine remains the publicity given to the many and very varied voluntary groups in the area that help to make us a community rather than just a dormitory for commuters. The Memories of Rainham, old photographs and other history articles we publish also help newcomers on modern housing estates to appreciate that they have joined a long established "village" as the oldest residents still call Rainham. I have a box of flint tools dug up in my garden proving tMeresborough was occupied in the Stone Age. I met Barbara in 1971 and persuaded her to join the AF editorial team and then to help organize the first Rainham Spectacular in May 1972. We were married in December and moved into our house in Meresborough on return from our honeymoon. As others dropped out she gradually took over sole responsibility for editing AF and learned paper paste-

up to create pages to send to the printer. Later she mastered computer technology so now each issue is emailed direct as a single file. She also took on sole responsibility for organizing the the distributors. For a few years we paid an agency to do our distribution. When we returned to volunteers we donated the money saved to St Margarets and St Matthews parishes to use locally and a third to overseas projects. Recently this has been Tools with a Mission who collect and refurbish unwanted tools and send them to African villages to help them become self sufficient. See the advert for The Medway Volunteer Workshop in Chatham that does some of this work.

In March as the Covid crisis developed it became clear that we would not be able to publish an April edition and Barbara took the decision outlined at the start of her editorial. During April she became seriously unwell and was eventually diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma and is now on chemo.

Our proposal for Action Forum is that it should come under the umbrella of a new charity / not for profit organization being set up called "Rainham Community Projects" It will take the lease of 21/23 Station Road, Rainham and provide a legal framework for other groups that fit its title.

Hamish Mackay Miller

## Rainham Community Orchard

Besides Action Forum I also help organize the Pick Your Own Apples days when the fruit is ripe late September and October. We usually open 10am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays for four weekends. I have been there every day we were open to provide continuity with many other volunteers coming in for half days. This year I must stay at home to shield Barbara while she is on chemo. If you could help to replace me please email [orchard@thenet.uk.net](mailto:orchard@thenet.uk.net) Hamish Mackay Miller

## Events in October

We hope to have a new team of volunteers in place in time to produce an October edition of Action Forum which would be published on October 3rd. If you are organizing events after this date that you would like included in the Diary please email details to [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net). Also please include your contact details.

## Shaw Electrical Services

For all types of electrical works

Extra Sockets & Lights ~ Fuse Board Changes ~ Full Rewires  
Security & Outside Lights ~ Showers ~ Smoke Alarms

No job too small

Qualified Electrician, Reliable Service, Fully Insured,

Call Chris on: 07939 018998 or 01634 613523

For free quotations & advice

**Medway Volunteer Workshop refurbishes tools and sewing machines which are then sent to Africa to help people start sustainable enterprises**



[www.medwayvolunteerworkshop.co.uk](http://www.medwayvolunteerworkshop.co.uk)



**Can you volunteer?**

If you have practical skills and can commit to one or more half days each week please get in touch - you can make a real difference.

**Medway Volunteer Workshop, Unit 4, 105 Hopewell Drive, Chatham, Kent, ME5 7DX. Phone: 01634 670115 or email: [mvw781@gmail.com](mailto:mvw781@gmail.com)**

Medway Volunteer Workshop is a not-for-profit organisation run by unpaid volunteers.

**FOLK'S FOOTCARE** MCFHP MAFHP  
**Home Visits for All Nail Conditions**  
**Nail Trimming, Corns, Verrucae,**  
**Callus Reduction. Diabetics Treated.**

Call Mrs Heidi Folk to book your appointment on  
**07549 166031**

Saturday morning and evening appointments available.

**Berengrave Service Station**

**FREE COLLECTION SERVICE WITHIN A 5 MILE RADIUS**

<b>MOTS</b>	<b>SERVICING</b>	<b>DIAGNOSTICS</b>
<b>TYRES</b>	<b>REPAIRS</b>	<b>AIR-CON</b>

Lower Rainham Rd, Rainham, ME8 7TY [www.berengraveservicestation.com](http://www.berengraveservicestation.com) Call 01634 233619

## Home Help Service

**At Home**

- Housework
- Respite sitting
- Well-being visits
- Gardening/ Handyman

**Out & About**

- Visiting the shops
- Support to appointments
- Companionship for outings

**Take Care**  
Caring For Your Independence

Please call us on:  
**01634 316821**  
[www.takecareld.co.uk](http://www.takecareld.co.uk)

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

Assistants CRB checked, insured & referenced.



### BERENGROVE HOUSE

Originally Berengrove Park had been part of the Manor of Queencourt, comprising 485 acres of arable, pastureland, picturesque woodland and ponds situated on either side of Berengrove Lane and stretching as far as the present day Rainham railway station. It was part of the possessions of the Crown until Queen Eleanor, widow of Henry III gave it to St Katherine's Hospital in 1273.

Over the centuries Berengrove Park was mainly used as a paddock for sheep or cattle grazing until other uses were found. During the second half of the nineteenth century fetes and the Rainham Flower Show took place there. 'In 1889 the fourth annual show of fruit, flowers and vegetables, in connection

with the Rainham and District Horticultural, Poultry and Rabbit Society took place on Wednesday at Berengrove, Rainham, the pleasantly situated grounds of this residence having been kindly placed at the disposal of the committee by the Rev J.A. and the Misses Walter. The game was witnessed by many spectators, who could recline at their ease on the greensward, and sheltered from the sun by those fine old trees at Berengrove watch the cricket, and also enjoy the music so excellently discoursed by the band of the Metropolitan Police from Chatham, while away in the distance a view of the winding Medway formed a picture pleasing to contemplate.'

John Amherst Walter was the only son of William Walter, a prosperous farmer who in 1851 at the age of

46 employed 20 men, 6 women and 6 boys to tend his 300 acres. He became a magistrate, and was listed among the 'gentry' in Melville's 1858 Directory. He was known as 'Squire' Walter - people touched their caps to him. He was a Churchwarden at St Margaret's in Rainham for 28 years, and died in 1885 at the age of 80. His children remained at Berengrove, where they were well looked after by numerous servants including a coachman: their housekeeper and cook had been with the family for many years.

When Pevsner's original edition of 'West Kent and the Weald' in the 'Buildings of England' series was published in 1976, only two buildings in Rainham were thought worthy of inclusion. One was, of course, St Margaret's Church, and the other was Berengrove Park. This was briefly described as 'Red brick, Georgian. Four bays, two storeys, and a parapet. Porch on fluted Doric columns.'

Berengrove Park then consisted of 18 acres with a house, outbuildings, a garden, an orchard, and a park. During the 1920s Elizabeth, the Queen Mother regularly stayed there for an annual holiday as a guest of Lt Colonel Day of the Royal Engineers, who bought Berengrove along with Berengrove House from the Walter family in 1921 for £3,330. In the early 1930s he was the local Scoutmaster, allowing his grounds to be used for the boys' 'Revels' in 1932. He owned a donkey, whose braying sometimes alarmed strangers walking down Berengrove Lane in the dark. Rainham cricket club rented their ground from Lt Colonel Day for £15 a year but by letting it out for grazing to local farmer Mr Longley at a cost of £25 they were able to cover their costs and make a profit. However, hurdle gates had to be placed around the cricket square to protect it from the livestock that grazed on the outfield. These had to be removed and returned at the beginning and end of each game. From 1937 Colonel Arthur Iremonger, a keen cricketer, owned Berengrove Park, allowing Rainham Cricket Club to continue playing there, and holding the position of club president. He even had a tree grubbed that was situated next to the cricket square and had an indoor net constructed in the long room of Berengrove House so that the cricketers could practise

there during the winter months.

'150 Not Out - the Complete History of Rainham Cricket Club 1856-2006', by David Wood (available for Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham £15) records that the Colonel 'served in the Royal Engineers, and had participated in putting down the Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916 during his time in the British Army. He was a well-mannered, well-spoken and well-dressed gentleman who prided himself on always dressing for dinner. He was a patron of the club throughout the late 1930s-1950s and was a well-known figure in Rainham. He actually played occasional games for the club as a lower-order batsman.'

When war was declared in 1939 most of the administrative framework for the planned 1941 census had already been put in place. So although no census took place, enumerators collected details of households on September 29th 1939, and from these a National Register was compiled. On that date the only people recorded at Berengrove House were three servants, Kathleen Moran who was 21 and Florence Holdness and Annie Downie, both born in the 1880s. In January 1940 a special meeting was held at Berengrove to discuss the short term future of the Cricket Club. Petrol rationing had curtailed mowing the pitch. Club membership had to be opened to non-residents so that enough players could be found to field a team, and matches were played against Services teams rather than other local clubs, many of which had been forced to close. Col. Iremonger offered to lower the rent to help. A charity match in aid of the Red Cross was played at Berengrove between Rainham C.C. and the Cooperative Society, raising £10. *During this match Dockyard worker Frankie Bye took 8 wickets for 30 runs, and the result was a win for Rainham by 7 wickets.* Home matches later that year had to be played at Langton Playing Fields in Gillingham as the Military authorities had commandeered Berengrove Park for grazing. There were to be no more matches until after the war. When it was over Colonel Iremonger was keen to see cricket back at Berengrove, and following a public

Continued on Page 11

### Problems with your IT?

I'm an IT engineer here to help you with your pc, laptop, printer, or internet. Software licences provided incl anti-virus and office 365.

Call Mush on  
07542 795078 or email  
munshya@midkentit.co.uk

### P. Gillard Interior & Exterior Decorator # Plastering # Tiling

Established 30 years  
NO JOB TOO SMALL  
FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: (01634) 320846  
Mobile: 07834 851 004

### A1 Roofing Services

- TILED ROOFING
- FLAT ROOFING
- LEAD FLASHING
- PVC FASCIA / SOFITS
- FULL REPAIR SERVICE

For a prompt reliable service

01634 710539

07884 180595

enquiries@a1-roofing-services.co.uk  
www.a1-roofing-services.co.uk

### Mr. Dig-it's Garden Service

Complete maintenance  
achieved at realistic prices

For a fast friendly & very reliable service call

Tel: 01634 574676  
Mob: 07787 813512

### Happy Hounds Dog Grooming Services

15 years experience - Individual Appointments  
Clipping, Bathing, Nails & Ears  
Handled with Care, Patience & Kindness  
01634 234995 or 07776 150980

6 Childscroft Road, Rainham, Kent

### AERIALS

- TV Aerials / Freesat Systems Installed
- Extra TV / SKY Points
- TV Wall Mounting
- TV & Appliances Set Up

Call Nick 07949 588464  
or 01634 262582

AP SERVICES RAINHAM

### LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

Fully Qualified

All Works Certified and Insured

IDC INSTALLATIONS LTD

Email: info@idcinstallations.co.uk

Telephone: 01634 325164

Mobile: 07977 432799



### ACE GLAZING REPAIRS

All types of doors & windows  
fitted and repaired

Fast, Friendly, Reliable,  
All work guaranteed

FOR A FREE QUOTE CALL JAMIE

01634 329029 or  
07803 434929



• Probate Services  
• Powers of Attorney  
• Inheritance Tax Planning

**J A D**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**Not just Accountants!**

4 Bloors Lane 01634 375222  
Rainham admin@jadaccountants.co.uk  
Kent ME7 8EG www.jadaccountants.co.uk

**Boiler - tech**  
**HEATING & PLUMBING**

Boiler Servicing & Repair - Cylinders - Power Flushing  
Bathrooms - Landlords Certificates  
Cookers/Repairs & Gas Fires

Tel: 01634 230468 Mobile: 07770 784877  
boilertechservices@btinternet.com  
All work guaranteed, Genuine OAP Discounts



**Salter-Mclean & Co**  
**Accountants and Tax Consultants**

Established over 30 years we offer an efficient and personal service to all types of business as well as assistance with personal tax problems and returns

**For a free initial consultation telephone**  
**01634 361366**  
Cranford House 24a Longley Road, Rainham ME8 7RU  
**www.salter-mclean.com**

**FEMALE PAINTER & DECORATOR**  
**Friendly, Reliable and Professional Service**

Please call Joanne from  
Art Decorating Services  
for a free no obligation quotation  
on **07948 025558** or **01634 353000**  
**www.artdecoratingservices.com**

**G R ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES**  
(CIAT Registered)

Drawings prepared for :-  
- extensions - loft conversions  
- new builds - planning applications  
- building regulation applications

**07970 799036 - grarchitecturalservices@gmail.com**

**MIRANDA**  
**DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS**

WE REPAIR ALL TYPES OF DOUBLE GLAZING.  
FOR A FAST, FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
CALL THE REPAIR SPECIALISTS NOW ON

**01634 717400**  
NO JOB TOO SMALL - FREE QUOTATIONS

**GREG BRYANT**  
**CONSTRUCTION LTD**  
REGISTERED HOUSE BUILDERS

**NHBC** EXTENSIONS  
A1 RATED BY NHBC  
**01634 231321**

**WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES**

We handle everything from the initial quotation, manufacture to the installation. **We only fit quality...**

**Eden Windows**

telephone 01634 840 999  
www.edenwindows.co.uk

**T.J. BUILDERS**

All General work Undertaken, Interior Decorating  
Plastering, Laminated Flooring & Much More...

**External Work:**  
**Painting, Guttering, Fascias, Rendering, Fencing etc...**

Phone for FREE Estimates on:  
Home: **01634 581072** Mob: **07968 852558**

**Puma pvc**

Approved installers of  
Fascia Soffit Guttering Cladding  
\* 10 Year Guarantee \* Free Quotations  
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE !!

**01634 351575 / 07910 425 544**  
**www.pumapvc.co.uk**

**Beauty Room**  
Wigmore—Established 22 years

Non surgical face lifting — Facials — Waxing  
Electrolysis — Body Treatments — Reflexology  
Geleration Manicure & Pedicure—Massage  
Lava shell massage — Lash & Brow Tinting — LVL  
lashes—Lash Extensions — Monthly Special Offers  
Telephone Sally on **01634 375999** or **07957 242 268**

**BB Property Services**

Painting & Decorating, internal and  
external, Carpentry and Plumbing

Barry Baker  
barrybaker1955@gmail.com  
**07849 418 868**

## NATURE NOTES

Dear Editor,

I enjoy the articles in AF by Joe Ennis. He reminds me of my father in law, a countryman from the Midlands who I used to take on the country walks you used to feature in AF. He would spot birds and animals on these walks I was just not aware of and loved this area. When I moved to Rainham in the early 1960's, on the first morning I was awakened by the dawn chorus, quite amazing. Sadly no longer, few birds of any note appear in my garden these days. Pigeons, Crows, Magpies and Seagulls prevail. I live in Wigmore with a south facing bedroom and at dawn or just after each morning I witness over around 20 -30 minutes dozens of birds flying with some purpose in a south, south south westerly direction. There are a number of groups, some flying very high in formation, others around tree top height much more aimlessly and odd stragglers. I assume in the main they are birds who have roosted on the marshes or mud flats but am not sure. I am not sure what species they are but I would be interested to know where they are headed. I have seen odd groups return in the evening but I think the return must be over a longer period or wider area. Perhaps Joe could throw some light on this.

Regards

David Lawler

dflaw9413@yahoo.com

The Editor of Action Forum has passed, to me, a copy of your e mail to her. The flocks of birds you refer to flying over in the morning are almost certainly black headed gulls which will have been roosting on the Nor Salt Marshes in the Medway, opposite the Countryside Park, where they are surrounded by water. They are thus safe from foxes. If you draw a straight line SW from Nor Marshes and over Wigmore it leads to the arable fields on the top of the North Downs beyond Bredhurst. Here the gulls will feed on worms, leatherjackets and other invertebrates in the fields of winter wheat or oil seed rape. They sometimes fly in V shapes but on windy days formation cannot be maintained. Birds flying at a higher altitude may be gulls going to a destination further away but flocks of ducks or geese cannot be discounted. You are quite right about the flocks coming back in more straggly formations. Apart from those larger birds that you list as seeing in Wigmore you may also see jays, green woodpeckers

and flocks of jackdaws,

As for song birds, I have a blackbird singing outside the house at 4am and later. I have also heard a song thrush singing, during the day, in a tree overlooking the Skoda Garage at Hoath Lane. I do not have a big garden (I also live in Wigmore) but I hang out containers of wild bird seed, sun flower seed and suet pieces. I also put suet pieces and dried meal worms on the ground and under a protective cage for ground feeding bird like blackbirds. These feeds encourage not only blackbirds, a dunnoek, house sparrows, blue tit, robin, goldfinches and a green finch. I do not see all of these species every day. They come and go. I should add that we also attract flocks of not very welcome starlings and a cheeky long tailed field mouse which sits unconcerned in the cage stuffing himself with suet pieces.

Yours Sincerely  
Joe Ennis

## MEDWAY FOODBANK

Helping local people in crisis

We support those in poverty in the Medway Towns. Last year we fed 7047 people with nearly 3000 of those being children.

We use a voucher system and around 130 agencies work with us e.g. social services, schools, churches. People in need can get a voucher from an agency and exchange it for emergency food at one of our 8 foodbank centres. The food supplies give 3 meals a day for 3 days.

All food is pre-packaged, it can be donated at large Tesco and Asda stores, Morrisons Strood and some Co-op stores. You may be able to do a food collection at your place of work, club or church. Items currently needed are regularly updated on Facebook and Twitter.

## More retail outlets needed to sell Apple Juice from Rainham Community Orchard

Juiced and bottled by the award winning Owlets Fruit Farm it sells for £3.00 a litre bottle with the whole £3 donated to Kent Wildlife Trust and other conservation charities. If you are willing to stock it please email [orchard@thenet.uk.net](mailto:orchard@thenet.uk.net)

A volunteer driver to deliver to shops also needed.

**Neat Feet**

Mobile chiropody in the comfort of your own home by a qualified lady practitioner. Treatments to include \*Corns \*Callus \*Thickened Nails \*Verrucae \*Diabetics Discounts for OAPs

Tel: **01634 322591**

**Master Alarms**

WE DON'T JUST INSTALL!  
WE CHECK, UPDATE AND MAINTAIN  
**ALARMS AND CCTV**

163 Fairview Avenue, Wigmore, ME8 0PX  
Telephone: 01634 379762  
Email: [mail@masteralarms.com](mailto:mail@masteralarms.com)  
www.masteralarms.com





# Nature Notes

These are the Nature Notes that Joe had submitted for the April 2020 copy of Action Forum which was overtaken by events and did not happen.

**FUTURE OF NATURE NOTES** Joe Ennis will be placing his future Nature Notes in a newly set-up blog address "joeennisnaturenotes.wordpress.com" The first Notes will be those for April which will appear towards the end of April. All subsequent monthly Notes will also be posted towards the end of the relevant month. Joe would like to thank all of those who read his Notes and he hopes that they will continue to enjoy them in the new form of a blog.

## NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

South Wood lies between Hempstead Road and Capstone Road and is ancient semi-natural woodland. It is a quiet wood and one in which I enjoy sitting, on my portable seat, in the dappled sunshine of a spring or summer's day. In it grow some twenty-three species of tree and large shrubs, including ash, beech, field maple, hornbeam, oak, sweet chestnut and wild cherry, which are a mixture of standard and coppiced trees. In spring the beech trees burst into life with their delicate, light green leaves and the cherry trees become covered in white blossom. 'Lambs' tails', bright yellow with pollen, dangle from the coppiced hazel shrubs. Also in spring, much of the floor of the wood is carpeted in wood anemones, with their white petals, followed a little later by a sea of bluebells. Appearing in clusters are common dog violets, early purple orchids and yellow archangels. All of these flowers need to take advantage of the spring sunshine before the deciduous leaves in the canopy of the wood cut down on the light. Birds such as blue tit, great tit and great spotted woodpecker nest in the wood in spring. They, among other species, time the hatching of their eggs to coincide with the emergence of caterpillars feeding on the fresh green leaves of the oak and other trees. It is quite common to see, and hear, the fledglings of blue and great tits following their parents through the wood and calling for food. At the height of summer, South Wood, like most other woods, is comparatively quiet, in the main because birds are moulting and keeping out of sight. In late summer and early autumn jays and squirrels can be seen burying acorns and sweet chestnuts in the leaf

litter of the wood. At the same time of the year, an attractive crop of berries can be found at the western edge of the Wood, overlooking Capstone Road. They ripen in the afternoon sunshine and include those of the whitebeam, alder buckthorn, wild privet, dogwood, blackthorn, dog rose and spindle. On a bank of chalk down land adjoining Capstone Road, grow the purple flowers of knapweed and light blue ones of field scabious. The deciduous trees normally put on a good show of leaves in autumn, particularly the wild cherry trees with their red leaves. Parties of the various species of tits, sometimes accompanied by other species such as goldcrests, may be present in the wood in winter, seeking insect eggs and grubs among the trunks and branches. They are easier to spot once the leaves have fallen.

Nearly all ancient woods like South Wood are overgrown as a result of not having been managed for many years. The vast majority are no longer valuable on economic grounds and I shall explain why. In his book 'The History of the Countryside', the late Dr Oliver Rackham, the noted Cambridge botanist, explained that woodland such as that at South Wood is land on which trees have arisen naturally. Almost all natural woods were actively managed, for many hundreds of years, by the art of woodsmanship, including the widespread practice aimed at yielding successive crops of wood in perpetuity, either by coppicing or pollarding. Rackham states that the trees of a wood were divided into those that had been left to grow into a standard tree, such as an oak or ash, which yielded timber, when cut completely down, in the form of beams and planks. The remainder of the trees in a wood were classified as underwood, which included that mostly in the form of poles grown from the stools of the above mentioned coppiced or pollarded trees. Rackham tells us that woods were very valuable property. Indeed, the return from underwood alone, leaving out any valuable timber, was more than that from arable land. For at least 600 years up to Victorian times the prices of trees, both in the form of timber and underwood, either remained steady or rose in value. Nevertheless, by the middle of the 19th century, the huge demand for oak bark for tanning and timber for shipbuilding had collapsed. Unfortunately, many wood owners had been encouraged to grow oak trees at a time when demand seemed never ending and in woods like South Wood

and neighbouring East Hoath Wood it is clear that oaks that have long reached their maturity have not been felled and coppiced stools, particularly those of sweet chestnut, are now well overgrown.

It would appear that both local woods have probably not been managed since a time between the two world wars. Bearing in mind the species still growing in South Wood we can assume that timber of oak and ash was once sawn into beams and planks. Smaller cuts of ash were most probably turned into handles for hand tools. Hornbeam was made into charcoal for drying hops and for heating the blacksmith's forge. Being the hardest wood growing in Europe, hornbeam would also have been supplied to the manufacturers of cogs and pulleys, the latter of which would have been used for ships' rigging. Hazel sticks were used to make wattle fencing for enclosing sheep and also for the wattle and daub panels incorporated into timber framed houses. Sweet chestnut poles were either used as hop poles or split down the grain to make railings for fencing. It is now perhaps 90 years or so since the noise of chopping and sawing were heard in South Wood. Only the overgrown coppiced sweet chestnut trees stand as evidence that man once practised the art of woodsmanship, which yielded successive crops of wood in perpetuity, by coppicing. Woodsmen were hundreds of years ahead of their time. They were practicing what we today call sustainability.

Joe Ennis

## THE ARISTOCRATIC CRICKETING TUFTON BROTHERS OF RAINHAM

In the Tufton family vault of St Margaret's church lay the remains of John and Henry Tufton who gained fame as first class cricketers over 200 years ago. Son of Sackville Tufton, the 8th Earl of Thanet and Mary Sackville, Henry Tufton succeeded his older brother Charles as the 8th Earl of Thanet in 1832. Educated at Westminster school, he joined the army and became Ensign in the 26th (Cameronian) Regiment of Foot. Later promoted to Captain, he also became a Whig MP for Rochester and then Appleby in Westmorland and Lord Lieutenant of Kent. The Tufton family owned estates in Kent, Yorkshire, Westmorland and Cumberland. Henry and John Tufton never lived permanently in Rainham, they only stayed periodically.

Henry Tufton made his first appearance in first class cricket for a Surrey and Sussex XI against an England

XI at the original Lord's ground in 1793. Cricket historian Arthur Haygarth mentions in his 'Scores and Biographies' that Tufton was a successful batsman and wicket-keeper during his short career. His most memorable performance took place against Thursday and Montpelier on July 13th 1796 when he stumped six and caught two batsmen. He played in 77 first class matches up to 1801. His final match took place against Homerton for the MCC at the original Lord's ground. After this match he retired from the game aged 26. A few years later Napoleon's army captured him while he was travelling in France but he eventually got released.

Because Henry Tufton remained single he became the last Earl of Thanet. He died on June 12th 1849 aged 75.

The honourable John Tufton, Henry's younger brother also excelled at cricket. Educated at Westminster school, he played cricket at a high level from 1793 to 1799. He is recorded in 74 matches of which 48 were first class games according to 'Cricket Archive.' He played for several clubs but mainly for Marylebone Cricket Club for whom he performed as a batsman and as a fast underarm bowler. He made his first class debut for Marylebone Cricket Club against a Kent XI at Dartford Brent on 27th and 28th June 1793.

Arthur Haygarth in his 'Scores and Biographies' records Tufton as the first player ever to be given out leg before wicket (lbw) in a first class match. This happened at Moulsey Hurst in August 1795 when Tufton played for an England XI against a Surrey XI. Bowler John Wells trapped him leg before wicket.

Before this players were recorded as being bowled if they were given out after being hit on the leg. Tufton's final first class match took place against a Surrey XI at Lord's old ground in which he scored one and four. He only had a short cricketing career which spanned 1793 to 1799. He scored 1,049 runs and took 14 wickets.

After he finished playing cricket aged 25 Tufton became MP for Appleby in Westmorland, a seat he held until he died of suspected tuberculosis in 1799. Described as a 'gentleman of extensive abilities,' in 'Memorials of the Family Tufton,' he was laid to rest in the Tufton family vault in St Margaret's church and the only visible reminder of him and his brother Henry today is Tufton Road which bears their surname.

David Wood.

CARPENTRY • DECORATING • PROBLEM SOLVING • DECKING

## CDS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Call Chris Smy

07919 270599

www.cdspropertymaintenance.freeindex.co.uk

GARDEN MAINTENANCE • FLOORING • GUTTER & FASCIA CLEANING

## CANNON

CURTAINS & BLINDS LTD

WOODEN SHUTTERS - BLINDS  
CURTAINS & TRACKING - AWNINGS  
01634 582116

M: 07896 501690 E: sales@cannon-limited.co.uk

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

**LINDSAY  
& COMPANY**  
TREE SURGEONS

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

## Kitchen & Bathroom Installation

Design-Supply-Tiling-Plumbing-Plastering-Electrics

**Demere  
Designs Ltd**

Professional Family Business  
Over 25 Years Experience  
Fully insured  
Free Quotations

Contact Simon  
Mobile: 07836610348 Landline: 01634233724  
Email: Simontwigg@me.com

## WHY MISS WORK ?

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

## BY SQUADMATIC

Free call out

OFFICE 24hrs (01634) 373515 Mobile 07702 255105

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

Theresa Elsey PFA

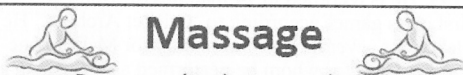
## Local Qualified Financial Adviser

With 30 years experience within Financial Services,  
I provide specialist advice in a wide range of areas  
including: Investment and Pensions Planning, Annuities,  
Protection and Inheritance Tax.

For further details contact Theresa on:

Office: 01634 264322 Mob: 07580 579031

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



## Massage

Do you need to de stress and relax?  
Ever considered massage?

Professionally qualified massage therapist

Providing relaxing, deep tissue and hot stones massage

call Nick 01634 370583 / 07701 007866

## LOCAL BUILDER

Extensions, loft conversions, General building  
Professional Reliable Service

HPR Hebditch  
Property  
Renovations Ltd

01634 615455

07721 365 630

www.hprbuilding.co.uk



## ATKINSON BOILER CARE Central Heating & Hot Water specialist

All Boilers repaired. Power Flushing. New systems.  
Gas Safety Inspections. Finance Options.

16 Boston Gardens, Rainham.  
01634 366 435 / 07754 833 250

www.loveyourboiler.co.uk



## COMPOSITE DOORS DIRECT

Composite doors are the future for doors.

Over recent years the composite door market  
has experienced massive growth as  
consumers recognise their benefits



No Salesmen. No Discounts. Just One Quality. One Price  
Windows from £325, Conservatories from £4995

PLEASE CALL MARK/ROB ON: 07973 302996 / 01634 387963

N.P.SUMMERFIELD

20 Years Experience

## CARPENTER

Kitchens, Floors, Bedrooms, Doors

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

Tel/Fax 01634 361107 Mobile 07967 300269

## B. HAYFIELD & SONS

Builders

Established 1971

All Building / Maintenance Work

Carpentry & Painting

Roofing & Plumbing

Medway 234072 or 078605 10222

## CL DECORATORS

Complete Painting & Decorating Service  
Interior / Exterior

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

12 De Mere Close, Rainham

01634 261913 Mobile 07900 190564

## Foot Health Practitioner

Corns, Hard Skin, Fungal Nail Infection,  
Ingrowing Toe Nails, Diabetic Foot Care,  
Athlete's Foot, General Nail Cutting.

In the comfort of your own home

Trudy Boulton RGN, RM, MCFHP, MBAFHP.

Tel: 01634 371910

Mobile: 07903 793370

## CALLAWAY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

\*Kitchens \*Bathrooms \*Flooring

\*General Home Improvements

For your FREE ESTIMATE

Call 07950 613 385

## COMPLETE ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Inspections & Testing to Latest Regulations

Insured and Registered

ALSO ARTEXING—COVING—DECORATING

No Job too small—free estimates

Neil Mace

19 Gayhurst Close  
Rainham

01634 312633

07792 244 315



Continued from Page 5

meeting on April 9th 1946 that he had arranged at St Margaret's Hall it was agreed restart the Club. The Colonel offered the ground rent free for the first season, (Gillingham Corporation to mow the grass) and in October suggested that he lend the club £200 at 2½% over five years - this towards buying a motor mower and a pavilion. Local farmer and equally keen cricketer Sid Callaway gave fifty guineas: mower and pavilion (an ex-Army portacabin) were purchased. By 1949 the address of Berengrove House was officially 33 Berengrove Lane, and its residents were Colonel Iremonger and his wife Gwendoline, together with their son James. All three were registered as voters in 1952, James's name followed by the letter S indicating 'Service voter'. Shortly afterwards alterations to the building were carried out, creating some separate flats, one of which was occupied by the Culmer family, Edmund, Ivy and John. Their flat acquired a separate address in 1955 - 37 Berengrove Lane. Number 35 also came into existence, and here the residents were Colonel and Mrs Iremonger and Bridget Daly, who was perhaps their housekeeper. James Iremonger remained at the main house. Also listed there were Ruby Ingram and Sheila Lloyd, while

three other voters lived in 'Flat 33'. This was the first occasion on which the name Lloyd occurred. A few months later Charles Lloyd was also registered there: in 1956 Sheila's name had been replaced by those of Dorothy and Ellen. Other residents at 33 were Frederick and Elizabeth Atkins and Joyce Shewbridge. I wonder whether Gwendoline's health was failing by this time, for she died early in 1959. The Colonel stayed in Rainham at No.35 for only a short time. He died at Folkestone in 1970.

It seems that the large house might already have been largely converted to a Nursing Home, for by the end of 1959 the Lloyds, the Atkins and Joyce Shewbridge had been joined there by eleven other people. Some of these would have been additional staff, others patients. Dorothy Lloyd was a nurse - perhaps she had helped to care for Mrs Iremonger. 'Berengrove Park Nursing Home' flourished, the total number living at the address reaching 29 by October 1966.

The whole area had been changing too. In 1957 the Berengrove estate had been bought by builder George Ward who soon afterwards began construction of the houses in Holmoaks, High Elms and The Willows.

Continued on page 13

## TAURUS LOCKS

UK LOCKSMITH ASSOCIATION MEMBER

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

Phone Brian 01634 351244  
Mobile: 07775 423744

## MEDWAY 24 HOUR PLUMBING

Leaks—Bursts—Ball Valves  
Taps Repaired/ Replaced  
Tanks- Cisterns -Blockages  
No Job Too Small  
FAST, AFFORDABLE,  
RELIABLE

All Work Guaranteed  
Fully Insured

01634 301711  
Mob 07976 438435

## Boarding Cattery

Located in an area of  
outstanding natural  
beauty

5 Star rated  
by Local Authority  
Individual luxury heated chalets  
Larger pens available to accommodate up  
to four cats from the same household  
Viewing welcome, by appointment only please.  
www.catnapbredhurst.co.uk

Tel: 01634 386263  
Mobile: 07772 276906

Email: catnapbredhurst@yahoo.co.uk  
Elspeth, Blind Lane, Bredhurst, Kent, ME7 3JR





## RUBBISH CLEARANCE

House, garden, sheds, builders rubbish,  
Office & commercial etc. Single items from £14.95  
Light demolition Licensed Waste Carrier  
Also garden maintenance, hedge trimming etc  
Call Doug **01634 363008 / 07708 293 745**

## ZAMMIT ROOFING

EST 1982  
SLATING & TILING - LEADWORK  
CHIMNEY STACKS REPOINTED OR BUILT  
UPVC FASCIAS, SOFFITS & GUTTERS  
ALL REPAIR WORK UNDERTAKEN  
NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO BIG  
Your Local Reliable Contractor  
James Zammit  
**01634 375129 - 07802 698300**

## Chartered Tax Advisers Tax Accountants

Self Assessment • Limited Companies  
Trusts • Partnerships • Company Formations  
Advanced Tax Planning • Property portfolios  
Inheritance tax • Capital Gains Tax  
Call Sarah, Lucy or Kelly on **01634 260000**  
Phipps Anthony, 24 Station Road, Rainham, ME8 7PH

## Bredhurst Bodyshop

Car & commercial - Paintwork & repairs  
Insurance work undertaken  
bumper repairs, scratches and dents  
Call for a free quote.  
Blind Lane, Bredhurst, ME7 3JS  
**01634 264753**

## STANNAH STAIRLIFTS

Reconditioned and new Thyssen Stairlifts  
for straight or curved stairs.  
Tel Mr Derek Organ on  
**01634 374524**  
or  
**07850 262 156**  
for a free estimate.

## LUKEHURST

Come and Visit Us in Our New  
Carpet and Curtain Showroom  
Free advice and Quotations  
The Chapel, 1 Orchard Street, Rainham  
Carpets **01634 362170** Curtains **01634 387749**

## The Door Doctor

UPVC Specialist  
Handles, hinges & locks replaced  
24 hour emergency door opening  
No call out charge. Discounts for OAPs  
**01634 263539**

## AJ ROSS ELECTRICAL

Fully qualified time-served apprentice.  
Over 30 years experience  
Call Andy on **07766 457999** or  
**01634 372411**  
11 Farnham Close, Rainham, ME8 8NS  
Domestic Installer

## ROY'ALL DRIVES & PATIOS

Patios ~ Fencing ~ brickwork ~ Tarmac  
Block Paving ~ Driveways & Patio Repairs  
WEB: [www.royalldrivespatios.co.uk](http://www.royalldrivespatios.co.uk)  
EMAIL: [roy-alldandp@outlook.com](mailto:roy-alldandp@outlook.com)  
Tel: **01634 613976**  
Mob: **07495 799337**

## TV PROBLEMS?

Linwood Home Electronics  
offers a fast, efficient and simple repair service  
to all makes of TV, DVD & Audio products.  
Contact us or visit our website for more details.  
Website: [www.linwoodhe.com](http://www.linwoodhe.com)  
Telephone: **01634 230261**  
Mobile: **079 0550 7338**

## V E WHITE & CO. Solicitors

10 Parkwood Green Rainham ME8 9PN  
Medway (01634) 376555  
Your local solicitor for all aspects of family, property and  
business law including Wills & Probate, Divorce,  
Lasting Powers of Attorney, Conveyancing,  
Tenancy, Employment and Immigration.  
30 Minute Fixed Fee Consultation - from £150.00 plus VAT  
email: [enquiries@vewhitesolicitors.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vewhitesolicitors.co.uk)  
[www.vewhitesolicitors.co.uk](http://www.vewhitesolicitors.co.uk)

For Free quote ring  
Mick Eardley  
**01634 264266**

Licensed Waste Carrier  
Fully Insured

## M & D DECKING

Decking and Gardening Services  
Paths, Patios, Turling, Patio Cleaning,  
Garden Clearance, Garden gates made to measure,  
Mowing weekly—fortnightly.  
Odd Jobs and much more  
No job too small  
Prompt and Reliable Service



Continued from page 11

The cricket field, though, was presented by a Mr Baker to the people of Rainham.  
Kelly's Directory in 1965 described 'Berengrove Park Nursing Home' as 'specialising in the care of the elderly', and in the charge of Mrs Dorothy Lloyd: the same information was given in the 1967 edition. But two years later Mrs Lloyd's establishment, keeping its name, had moved to 45 Park Avenue, Gillingham. At Berengrove Lane, however, Col. Charles Lloyd (had the Kelly compilers mixed up Mr Lloyd with Colonel Iremonger?) was apparently still at No. 33, and there

was an Edward Carpenter at 33b. Then came the entry 'Here is Holmoaks', followed by Morris Stedman at 35 and Rainham Cricket Club at 37, immediately before the railway bridge.

I have been unable so far to discover exactly when Berengrove House was demolished, but it was obviously round about 1970. I would be most grateful for any definite information about this, and would also appreciate hearing from anyone whose older relatives worked or stayed there. Though gone from Rainham, Berengrove Park Nursing Home continued to thrive at its new address at 45 Park Avenue, Gillingham, where 30 names in addition to those of Charles and Dorothy Lloyd and Frederick (no Elizabeth) Atkins were registered that year. Dorothy's name appeared for the last time in 1973, Charles's in about 1982. The home has grown to incorporate No. 43, and is currently registered to provide nursing care and support for up to 36 people, many with complex health needs, including diabetes, stroke, Parkinson's disease and dementia.  
RAD ring **01634 230324** or [rad@dellar.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rad@dellar.fsnet.co.uk)

## Kent Garage Doors

Your friendly local experts  
Electric Roller Doors, Automation,  
Sectional and Up & Over Garage Doors,  
All repairs. No call out charge. Free estimates.  
**01634 511571 01795 459105**  
For 24 hour service call **07738 921296**

**Kitchens & Bathrooms**  
Complete home improvement service  
Call Now for your free, no  
obligation design consultation  
**01634 648007**  
[www.kitchensandbathroomskent.com](http://www.kitchensandbathroomskent.com)

Bathrooms	Bedrooms	Heating
Kitchens	Home Office	Flooring

## Electrical Vehicle Charging Points

OLEV Approved Installer  
Hopkins Electrical (Rainham based)  
[www.hopkins-electrical.co.uk](http://www.hopkins-electrical.co.uk)  
**01634 235465 or 07592 577521**  
E:[damien@hopkins-electrical.co.uk](mailto:damien@hopkins-electrical.co.uk)

## Small Ads

**Price:** £2.50 per line per month  
Box Ads: £30.00 per month  
£84.00 3 months paid in advance  
Please email wording & your address to [af@thenet.uk.net](mailto:af@thenet.uk.net)

**MOWERS serviced & sharpened.**  
Free collection – very prompt. Call 01634 613011 or 07523 669 034.  
[davidmedlockmowers@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmedlockmowers@hotmail.com)

**MR FLAT PACK**  
All flat packs assembled at reasonable prices. Free quotes. Please ring Alan on 07500 157 285.

**LUKE MILES PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Available for any Occasion  
Contact mobile 07453 671571  
[LukeMilesPhotography@gmail.com](mailto:LukeMilesPhotography@gmail.com)

**GARDEN FENCING, WINTER Tidy-Ups.** ALSO General garden maintenance, Mowing, strimming, pruning, weeding. Local.  
Call John 07917 108 867

**MEMORIES OF UPCHURCH**  
By David Wood. With over 300 pages & 200 photos, this is the first detailed history of the village. Available at £15.00 in the Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 7RS.

**GIRLS PAMPER PARTIES 376270**  
[www.sparklesgitterparty.co.uk](http://www.sparklesgitterparty.co.uk)

**VINYL RECORDS WANTED FOR cash.** Rap, Soul, Funk, Jazz, Reggae, etc. Phone Shaun on 07795 436 140  
Leave message if no reply.

**HOUSE REPAIRS & Repainting**  
Over 30 years experience  
Call Steve on 07931 864 346

**J. DIDDAMS DECORATING**  
All aspects of painting both interior & exterior. High quality at reasonable prices. Tel: 07841 675 253

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

**RALPH THE GARDENER.**  
Mowing, edging, weeding, pruning, planting, digging and tidying.  
Competitive rates.  
07415 151 015 or 01634 361505.

**LOGS - Seasoned hardwoods**  
£70/m<sup>3</sup> (≈250 logs), ½m<sup>3</sup> £40  
Delivered- Jim 07795 278081

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

**PICK YOUR OWN APPLES**  
Rainham Community Orchard late September / October. Join their FB page to see announcements of the dates when the fruit is ripe.

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

**ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES**  
Accounts, VAT, Tax Returns, Payroll. If you have a problem just give us a call. We come to you and the first consultation is free.  
Phone Michael on 01634 304948.

**GARDEN ADVICE IN YOUR own garden.** Professional & friendly.  
01634 260765 [www.gardenity.co.uk](http://www.gardenity.co.uk)

**HOLIDAY PHOTOS / VIDEOS**  
need to be edited? Contact [georgemeegan@gmail.com](mailto:georgemeegan@gmail.com)

**BALLROOM / LATIN DANCING!**  
We will be starting social distancing private lessons as soon as allowed, get a head start ready to join classes when they resume! We can also do wedding dances. Give me a call for a chat, or email us. Julie 07983397439  
[latinfeverdance.co.uk](http://latinfeverdance.co.uk)

**VARIOUS SIZED ROOMS for hire**  
for groups and functions in The Oast Community Centre next to Rainham Station. Reasonable rates. For viewing and details call 07717 624 342 or email [enquiries@oastcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@oastcentre.org)  
[www.oastcentre.org](http://www.oastcentre.org)  
Facebook: @TheOast Rainham.

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

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

**PARKWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** Parkwood Green, Rainham. ME8 9PN. For details of church services and activities please go to [www.PCFbaptist.co.uk](http://www.PCFbaptist.co.uk) or phone the Administrator, Mrs Betty Abraham 01634 372384.

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

**VOLUNTEER BOOKSELLERS**  
needed to work 4 hours a week in Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road, Rainham, incl Saturdays. The shop is stocked with donated books and raises money for St Margaret's Church. For more details call Gavin Strudley on 07957 884 335 or 01634 261643.

\*\*\*\*\*

### APPLE JUICE FROM RAINHAM COMMUNITY ORCHARD AVAILABLE

\*\*\*\*\*  
**APPLE JUICE FROM RAINHAM**  
Community Orchard is now available at £3.00 per litre bottle from Sunburst Books, 21 Station Road: Snaffles, 4 The Street, Upchurch, Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, Westmoor Farm Nursery (on the A2), Mierscourt Farm Shop or from the orchard 10-12 am Tues & Thurs. For more information see the orchard page on [www.thenet.uk.net](http://www.thenet.uk.net) or FB page.

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

**C&J CLEARANCE Houses,**  
Garages lofts, sheds gardens cleared. Green waste shredding. Individual items or complete houses. Rubbish clearance carried out efficiently. Professional, reliable, prompt & friendly service. Free estimates. No job too small. KCC & Environment Agency registered. 01634 261749  
Mob 07812 734 570/ 07970 759 404.

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

**RAINHAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.** Sunday Services 10.30am at Begonia Avenue Church, Twydall. Further details from 07434 672418.

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

**WIGMORE EVANGELICAL Free Church,** Durham Rd. Sunday services 11am (with children's activities) and 6.30pm. For details of other weekly meetings including children's and youth work please see our website: [wigmorefreechurch.org.uk](http://wigmorefreechurch.org.uk)  
Visitors are always welcome.  
Pastor Rev T.J. Wood. 01634 388187

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP**  
with the PYO days in the Rainham Community Orchard and to help maintain the orchard throughout the year. Email [orchard@thenet.uk.net](mailto:orchard@thenet.uk.net) Or contact via their FB page

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

## What are YOU doing for the wildlife in your garden?

There is a major crisis with a massive decline in the number of insects in this country. They are at the bottom of the food chain for many of our birds and small mammals and so they are in decline as well. Farmers rely on bees and other insects to pollinate many of their crops. Every garden, however small can help reverse this decline. Leave parts of it untidy to become a wildlife habitat. Let your garden waste rot down in a corner. Leave at least some of your lawn unmown to let daises, dandelions, clover etc to flower.  
For much more information see [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Gefion Dog Training Club



Classes held Wednesday evenings at  
Oast Community Centre,  
Granary Close, Rainham

All breeds and ages are welcome.  
We run Kennel Club Good Citizen  
Classes at all levels.

Call Teresa on 07738 032607  
or 01233 758309

for more information on classes  
and dates of courses.

[www.ronmillsdogtraining.co.uk](http://www.ronmillsdogtraining.co.uk)

### DAVID WHITE Boilercare

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

**Medway 376929**  
**Engineer 07956 630003**

### Grooming by Honey

**Qualified, professional one to one Grooming for your cats and dogs**

Fully insured  
For an App.  
call



**07745 329873**

### ROOFING REPAIRS

Roofing Repairs / Strip & Re-tile  
GRP (Fibreglass) Flat Roofing  
Roof Windows / Skylights

#### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Guttering / Fascias / Soffits  
Interior & Exterior Painting  
Fencing / Paving / Decking

Call Nick: 07949 588464  
01634 262582

**AP Services RAINHAM**

### CERFACE Ltd FOR TILES

**WE'VE GOT IT!**  
If you are looking for: - Elegant, Contemporary, Victorian, or Classic tiles.  
Porcelain - Marble - Ceramic  
Mosaic - Stone - Glass.

look no further!  
**Supply & Fit Service**

Showroom: 272 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5XR  
[WWW.CERFACE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CERFACE.CO.UK)  
Contact us on **01634 571000**  
for more information and opening hours.

### CALLAWAY KITCHENS

**TOP QUALITY KITCHENS at AFFORDABLE PRICES**  
Fully Installed or Supply Only  
Also available

Replacement Kitchen Doors  
Made to Measure Worktops, Sinks, Taps, Appliances!  
For Free estimates and Design

**Call - 01634 262396**  
**07970 678895**

### LOCKSMITH

call  
[Loyal-Locksmiths.co.uk](http://Loyal-Locksmiths.co.uk)

for a trusted locksmith and carpentry service for all your doors and windows.  
UPVC/timber.

**Tel 07986 464970**

### Whiskers Lodge Cattery

Willis Cottages, Dunn Street, Bredhurst, ME7 3NA  
Situating in a quiet rural location in an area of outstanding natural beauty, boarding is for cats only.  
A completely new cattery, fully compliant with all new legislation. FAB accredited care provided.  
Viewings welcomed by appointment.



Contact: Nicola  
Telephone: 01634 235032  
Email: [info@whiskerslodge.com](mailto:info@whiskerslodge.com)  
Web: [www.whiskerslodge.com](http://www.whiskerslodge.com)

### GARAGE DOORS Repairs & Automation

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

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

**GDA**  
GARAGE DOOR ASSOCIATION  
Fair Trader

**01634 244452**  
[www.garagedoors4you.co.uk](http://www.garagedoors4you.co.uk)



## SUNBURST BOOKS

21 & 23 Station Road, Rainham ME8 7RS 01634 261643

**NOW OPEN 10am to 2pm Mon-Sat** *only to customers wearing face covering.*

We have a wide ranging stock of donated second hand books, DVDs, VHS and vinyl. Also local history books and books by local authors.

### Apple Juice stockists for Rainham Community Orchard

We would like to open longer hours but need more volunteers to serve in the shop. If you can help please call Gavin Strudley on 07957 884 335

H  
P  
H  
Est  
1983

**Hallett's  
Plumbing &  
Heating**

*Chris Hallett*

[www.hallettplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.hallettplumbingandheating.co.uk)

**Central Heating, Boiler Servicing, Breakdowns**  
47 Lakewood Drive, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0NS  
**01634 370697 07711 362898**

Est. 1971



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

For free estimates telephone: **01634 375069**  
No Job too LARGE or SMALL – We do them "all"

### HOGWOOD Electrical

Extra lights, sockets,  
fuse boards & full rewires  
Periodic inspections,  
NICEIC Registered

Call John of Wigmore  
on **01634 366145** or **07799 412 819**

### NICK EASTER – CARPENTER Kitchen design and fitting

Extensions – Bathrooms – Doors  
Fitted Wardrobes – Plastering.

Electrics from rewires to extra sockets

All work guaranteed ~ For a free estimate:  
**01634 260874 mob 07778 380285**

91 Elmstone Road, Rainham



**CRYSTAL**  
CURTAIN & BLIND MANUFACTURERS LTD

FREE NO  
OBLIGATION  
QUOTATION

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

### Paul's 1 - 8 Seater Taxis

.....Bookings Only.....

Airports - Hospitals - Days/Nights Out  
Nightclubs - Friendly & Reliable

- Theatre trips - seaports

Tel **01634 727272** Mob **07904955375**

[www.eightseatertaxi.co.uk](http://www.eightseatertaxi.co.uk)

*In time of need ...*

## JOHN WEIR

### Funeral Directors

A private family owned and run business

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

**01634 373111**

130-132 High Street  
Rainham  
Kent ME8 8AR

**01634 855558**

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

**01634 408777**

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

**01634 386999**

31 Parkwood Green  
Parkwood  
Kent ME8 9PW

