

ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

MARCH
2023

NUMBER 587

First published
March 1969

Show Time in Rainham




Does anyone know the event that was taking place in the photograph above,
or even remember attending one at a similar time?

The photo was kindly supplied by Brian Teather and shows the garden of 82 Edwin Road
back in, what looks like, the 1930's.

(see p12 for more)

FENSA Registered Company	SALMON WINDOWS	Medway Fair Trader Scheme
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		01634 363881



Next issue : March 23rd, 2023
 Copy date : March 13th, 2023
 Please contact us by email to the appropriate address and include your telephone number so we can call you if needed.
 Editor@actionforum.co.uk
 Diary@actionforum.co.uk
 Distribution@actionforum.co.uk
 Adverts@actionforum.co.uk Prices on page 14
 Postal address: 5 Meresborough Farm Cottages
 Meresborough, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 8PP

Editorial

It is so interesting collating information from so many different people and organisations. There is much going on in our area!

I look forward to the results of the Rainham First survey, enabling more to be directly accomplished for us as a local community. The health walks (p3), along with many activities taking place in the Millennium Centre, Church and Oasts (p13), show how much can be achieved when we work together. Many activities are well-attended, though there continues to be a desperate need for 'fresh blood' on many committees.

Working life and family commitments often leave little time for voluntary roles but, if early retirement has been one of your privileges, then perhaps you might consider to taking on a little more?

On that note, despite it feeling like every inch is being built on, we do have a number of beautiful green spaces, often maintained by volunteers. 'Many hands make light work'.

Referencing Jan's editorial, recent news noted that Rainham has one of the highest rates of occupancy for a High Street and shopping area - over 90%. What a claim to fame in these straitened times!

Don't forget to quickly apply for any street party road closures (p5), continue to let us know any coronation memories/anecdotes, and we look forward to feedback on local Farmers Markets.

And finally, a huge thank you for work done by Alan Stockey as he steps back from his role on AF to concentrate on work for air quality improvements in Medway and Rainham. Enjoy the challenge.

Letters to the Editor

Old Parsonage change of use?

Good evening,

I read your editorial today in which you mention the potential new lease of life in the Old Parsonage which is next door to where I live in Appletree Court. I would be interested to know what the word on the street is right now as apart from seeing the removal vans there last year, I have no idea what has happened to the business.

I do hope you can assist.

Regards, Clive Batten

Our understanding is that the gym has closed for members but the building is still being used by Reynolds for training purposes.

Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group

Dear Editor

We help people come to terms with life without their spouse/partner and make new friends who understand how they feel.

We also welcome anyone whose spouse/partner is in terminal care. Our meetings are fortnightly in St Margaret's Millennium centre on Fridays, 9.45 till 12 noon and we do understand it is a big step coming through the door to join us, especially if your bereavement is very recent.

Please ring Julie on 01634/364309 for more details and, if it will help, a chat. You can also email us on: 3rbfgroups@gmail.com.

Thank you for all the times we have been in the Dates for the Diary over the last 17 years. Rainham is very lucky to have the Action Forum and the different events that go on.

Julie Sharp

It is our pleasure to be able to advertise such wonderful activities.

Local Farmers Markets

Hi,

It would be very helpful to your readers if you could research and advise of any Farmers Markets that are available within, say, a 10-mile radii of Medway, giving detail of locations and operation times.

Thank you in anticipation,

Robin Doughty,
Maidstone Rd Wigmore Wigmore

Bear with us Mr Doughty and we'll see what we can find out! Can any of our readers help?

Hempstead Festival - Save the Date!

A date for the diary of all crafters and horticulturists - 2nd of Sept 2023 at Hempstead Community Hub (library).
Start planning this year's entry.

Last year's festival had over 200 entries in various classes. The event is open to anyone with a connection to Hempstead Village. Craft stalls are welcome to purchase a space in the courtyard of the library grounds to sell produce.

Show schedules and entry forms are available from Hempstead Library and Chapel Lane Allotment shop. Contact Hempstead Library to book a space.

More details to follow.

Rainham Health Walks

Dear Editor,
The Rainham walk from St Margaret's Church it is not every Wednesday but, in fact, is every other Wednesday (foreseeable future).

With that in mind the next official walk is on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 10:40am.
If in doubt, please contact:

walking@medway.org.uk or the church to find out more.

Another part of my role is to advertise Physical Activities on our free website, which aims to help people become more active in Medway by promoting free or low-cost activities to local people.

'The Everyday Active' website is the 'go to' website for Kent and Medway.

We have our own Medway Community page which is like an online notice board:
www.everydayactivekent.org.uk/communities/medway

Brad Storey (Bradderz)

1953 Coronation Memories

Dear Editor,

In our house there was great excitement, not only were we having our first television for the event but my brother, Corporal Gordon Kitney of the Royal Horse Guards, had been chosen as one of the eight walking grooms on the Royal State Coach.

Family and friends gathered in our house in Holding Street for the big occasion.

My parents, three older sisters and I were so proud to see him walking beside the horses pulling the Queen's Coach.

Every time the Coronation is shown on TV we get to see him again and the memories come flooding back.

Susan Stedman

<p>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 Local and Experienced Practitioner</p>
--

<p>Berengrave Service Station FREE COLLECTION SERVICE WITHIN A 5 MILE RADIUS</p> <table><tr><td> MOTS</td><td> SERVICING</td><td> DIAGNOSTICS</td></tr><tr><td> TYRES</td><td> REPAIRS</td><td> AIR-CON</td></tr></table> <p>Lower Rainham Rd, Rainham, ME8 7TY www.berengraveservicestation.com Call 01634 233619</p>	MOTS	SERVICING	DIAGNOSTICS	TYRES	REPAIRS	AIR-CON
MOTS	SERVICING	DIAGNOSTICS				
TYRES	REPAIRS	AIR-CON				

<p>Shaw Electrical Services <i>For all types of electrical works</i> 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</p>

<p>COACH HOLIDAYS</p> <p>NK LOCAL PICK UPS CALL FOR 2023 BROCHURE HOLIDAYS 01795 899099</p>
--

- 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 

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

ELITE LEGAL SERVICES, SOLICITORS
Authorised and Regulated by the SRA No 658134

Specialists in Wills & Probate
Lasting Powers of Attorneys ~ Family Law

Contact: Veronica on 07568159462
info@elitelegalservices.co.uk / www.elitelegalservices.co.uk
We'll come to you if you can't come to us

Sewing Machines UK now in Gillingham
SERVICE & REPAIR SPECIALISTS TO ALL MACHINES

Suppliers & Main agents to all leading brands 

Visit our brand new showroom & haberdashery store
www.sewingmachinesuk.co.uk

Unit 1 Sabre Court Gillingham Business Park ME8 0RW
01634 312934

Free estimates & free parking

G R ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
(CIAT Registered)

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

07970 799036 - grarchitecturalservices@gmail.com

Bathrooms - Kitchens - Plumbing - Heating

All Plumbing, Heating, Bathroom & Kitchen
design & install, Wall and floor tiling

24 Hour Emergency Call Out

TJR Mobile 07825 950 731
Office 01634 328 355
tonyreid07@hotmail.com

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

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

Ladies Only Badminton
Medway Badminton Association Hall
100 Castlemaine Ave, Gillingham, ME7 2QE

Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Wednesday 10am - 12 noon
Friday 10am - 12 noon

£3 per session and 50p for shuttles
Free Parking - Free Racket Hire—Changing Facilities
Light Refreshments available - Friendly atmosphere

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

 **Massage** 
By Nick

Professionally qualified massage therapist based in Hempstead
Specialising in relaxing, deep tissue and hot stones massage.

For further details call 01634 370583/07701007866
e-mail nicallcott@outlook.com or
find me on facebook: Massage by Nick

BB Property Services

Painting & Decorating
Internal and External
Barry Baker
barrybaker1955@gmail.com
07849 418 868

Community

MARR

Mutual Aid Road Reps, aka MARR, helps those who are unable to leave their home stay connected with the outside world. Our Road Reps can help with collecting and delivering prescriptions, urgent shopping, parcels or simply by having a weekly chat with one of our friendly chatters. For those more mobile we run 'Coffee, Chat & Connect' as well as 'Walk & Talk' sessions for those who are lonely and in need of friendship.

Our aim is to bridge the gap of isolation with simple kindness and friendship. In 2022 our 'Let's Get Chatty' service won the Pride in Medway Community Service Award.

We are currently looking to recruit volunteers across Medway and in Lower Halstow & Upchurch.



If you are over the age of 18 and would like to get involved check out our website: www.mutualaidmedway.org.uk, call us on 01634 907045 or send us an email on info@mutualaidmedway.org.uk

Rainham Health Walk

Pop to St Margaret's Church fortnightly on a Wednesday morning, meeting outside the church entrance at 10:40am.



Hempstead Air Scouts need your help

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

In aid of Wisteria Cat Rescue and the 20th Gillingham (Hempstead) Air Scouts

Saturday 18th March,
10am – 1pm,
Scout HQ, Dukes Meadow Drive, Hempstead

Help us change lives with a cup of tea and a slice of cake!

All Invited.
Free Entry
Donations of cakes welcome.

Coronation Street Parties

If you wish to close your road and host a street party on the Coronation weekend applications must be submitted by **4th March**. See the Medway Council website for details.

Word on the Streets

Thanks to all who regularly check this section and pick up new routes. We also thank those who have covered holidays and illnesses.

We have a few more streets that need volunteers moving into 2023:

Rainham

Moor Park Close (90), Sunderland Dr (39), Thompson Close (26), High Dewar Rd (29)

If you are interested in helping out - even just temporarily, please do get in touch with Anne: **07791 585 998**

Exterior cleaning



Conservatory valeting
Gutter cleaning & repairs
Window cleaning
Moss removal & treatment
Jet Washing

Friendly, professional and trustworthy
Fully Insured • 60 Moor Park Close, Rainham

M: 07565 516 971
info@jbcskent.com www.jbcskent.com

FSC Electrical
Save ££££
On Electric Bills

Low Energy Lighting & Electrical Solutions
free no obligation estimates

07971 512203
Contact Fin or Mike
fsccontractors@gmail.com

Flush Drainage & Plumbing

Drain unblocking
CCTV drain surveys
Descaling
Drain repairs
Relining
Gutter Vacuuming
Root Removal

Free advice on
07956 765 418

Rainham based
info@flushdrainage.co.uk

WHY MISS WORK ?

Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Dryers, Cookers Etc.
ALL LEADING MAKES REPAIRED

BY SQUADMATIC

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

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

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

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 Pension Planning, Annuities,
Protection and Inheritance Tax.

For further details contact Theresa at:

Lombard Wealth Associates Limited
Office: 01634 264322 Mobile: 07580 579031
theresa.elsey@sjpp.co.uk www.theresaelsey.co.uk

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

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


**LINDSAY
& COMPANY**
TREE SURGEONS

TEL/FAX 01634 366923

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


... a place to grow

Ethical and Sustainable Courses in
Gardening & Crafting For details visit
www.gingerfields.co.uk

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

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



CALLAWAY

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

*Kitchens *Bathrooms *Flooring

*General Home Improvements

For your FREE ESTIMATE

Call 07950 613 385

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

FITTED
FROM £750

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

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

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

Community cont...

Last Chance for tickets

Charity Race Night for 'Sheerness RNLI'

Friday March 3rd 2023

at Upchurch River Valley Restaurant.

Tickets £12, to include a Fish & Chip Supper

Rosemarie Barnes - 07547 250 010

Medway Music Club

We have been meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month for over 50 yrs!

We open at 7.30pm and entry is £7.

Our concert dates for Spring 2023 are:

13th March, 10th April and 8th May

Every artist is a professional musician and top-class player. All styles of music are played.

The venue houses a bar, tea/coffee are served in the interval, along with home made cakes and sausage rolls. A raffle also takes place in the interval.

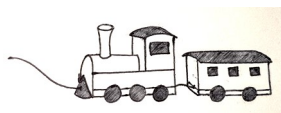
phil.burt@ntlworld.com or 07795 576294

Find us each month on p13.

Rainham Toy Exchange

Our principle is simple - you bring a toy and take a toy! Let's keep rotating toys through the community as long as possible.

Clean, unbroken and complete - leave them in the accessible container at 158 Maidstone Rd, available 24/7.



Rainham WI

We meet at Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except August) between 1.15 - 4pm.

Visitors welcome and we have just a small entry charge.

For more details contact Lynne on 01634 234997

Dig for Medway

Growing our own fruit and veg is a rewarding pleasure for those of us with gardens or allotments but could you give extra space for food crops this year? Those without gardens are faced with high inflation of food prices and, as a result, our local foodbanks are facing increased demand.

Two of them welcome fresh fruit and veg as well as processed food.

Please deliver any surpluses to either

- Micallef Jewellers in Rainham Shopping Centre during shop hours for 'Just say Hello' in Rainham

- Gillingham Street Angels, Skinner Street, Gillingham - Mon-Fri 9-1pm, Sat 9-noon

New Voting Requirements for Council Elections on May 4th

You are now able to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on the council website for the local elections taking place on May 4th, 2023

Those with valid photo ids will not need to apply for the certificate.

TPA
landscape & garden services

Providing comprehensive landscaping design, gardening improvements, and maintenance.

**Paving - Driveways - Bespoke Gazebos
Fencing & Gates - Artificial Grass -
Turfing - Decking
Digger & Groundworks - Tree Surgery**

Call for a free quotation:
TPA office: 01634 940103
Mobile: 07547720879
Email: info@tpagardeningervices.co.uk
Facebook: @TPAgardeningerviceskent

Rainham Plumbing
Est 1978

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

TRUST
Plumbing & Heating

WE PROVIDE ALL YOUR
PLUMBING NEEDS

07956 765 418

E: TRUSTPLUMBINGANDHEATING@OUTLOOK.COM
W: WWW.TRUSTPLUMBINGANDHEATING.CO.UK

Nature Notes (Leon Roskilly)

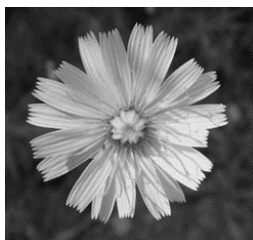
SPRING...

March and nature is awakening.

Hedgehogs, dehydrated from their winter slumber and a little confused, will be looking for water and food (a dish of clean water will be welcome in the garden).

Already bird nesting sites will be being chosen, and nesting materials gathered.

Bumblebee queens will be looking for nesting sites too, and happy to find early nectar-rich flowers; snowdrops, crocuses and, of course, the essential dandelions trying to live in our lawns and bringing a touch of beauty to an otherwise boring green monoculture, to be followed by their near relatives, and equally important, cat's ears.



The sound of the cuckoo is a traditional sound of Spring, but it's the boring call of the chiff-chaff that does it for me; the chiff-chaff and the chaffinch too.



Soon there will be butterflies and, of course, caterpillars which need to feed on something

as they themselves become food for nestlings, along with aphids and other insects (please don't spray).

Although there is delight in seeing a brilliantly coloured, newly minted butterfly resting on a freshly opened flower, a greater delight comes from understanding and supporting the whole of the ecosystem that produces such beauty and drama, the heady scents of blooms and the birdsong that fills the air now that our Spring is starting.

Time too to think ahead of what Summer may bring, and to prepare.

Plants and creatures may become desperate for water and a dish of water is both welcome and lifesaving.

And we too, happier now that the daylight hours grow longer and warmer.

With wildlife gardening becoming increasingly popular, gardeners are realising there's far more going on in their wildlife garden at night than they ever envisaged, leaving them wondering who

exactly is digging those holes, enjoying the droppings from the bird-feeders or drinking the water left out in dishes.

To provide answers

I use a basic security camera (Google Nest battery camera) to cover a large area and send alerts to my phone though it isn't activated by smaller creatures. I also have an Apeman trail camera that records to an SD card, picks up on the smallest movements and provides a lot more detail.



You can read more from Leon on his 'Wild About Rainham' webpages.

New Shine Oven Cleaning

Treat your oven to a valet
to bring back that New Look
Ovens, hobs, extractors, microwaves, BBQs.

0771 450 6996 or 01634 350025

CANNON

CURTAINS & BLINDS LTD

**WOODEN SHUTTERS - BLINDS
CURTAINS & TRACKING - AWNINGS
01634 582116**

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

The Wildlife-Friendly Garden in March

(by Victoria Golding)

Hello everyone, and welcome to my first article written this year.

I believe that getting out and doing just a little bit is a great way of getting ahead for the growing year, but I didn't. I just found the weather too much this winter.

The fatalities we have suffered are some of our big terracotta pots. The bad frosts followed heavy rains, so we are going to have to get a different type of pot as I don't want to be making the same mistake next winter!

In Wild about Gardens we are featuring the three Ps this year. These are things that we need to do without in our gardens and they are:

Peat Plastic Poisons

I will talk about them over the next couple of months, starting this month with Peat.

No Peat

You will know that peatlands are an endangered habitat and that it is wonderful for storing carbon in the ground.

We can garden without peat, especially if we make our own leaf mould and garden compost. Unfortunately, the ban on peat in composts has been delayed, so unless the compost says "Peat free", it will be in the mix. However, it is also still used commercially, so do ask for plants grown in peat-free composts.

Jobs for the month

Things are so forgiving in the garden! For example, our compost has sat there and, although it needs sieving, it is making a lovely mulch that cheers up the first flowers.

We have also had a few days of good weather to go out. Pete, my husband, and I have been

working as a pair; he is doing the weeding and tidying and I am taking the compost and putting it where he has cleared up. If you can do likewise you will be getting a good head start.

Plant of the month

Start planting seeds for later in the year.



I am trying a new (to me) plant called 'Spreading Bellflower' that I will plant into the grass to add to the other wildflowers there.

Our Online Workshops for March include: 'Using weeds and wildflowers in a traditional garden setting' and 'Nature-friendly lawns'.

Follow the link to:

www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildergardens

Happy Wildlife Gardening in 2023, Victoria



You Can Make Your Own Leaf Mould (EP)

1. Collect fallen leaves each autumn and store in a breathable container or compost bin
2. Keep moist
3. Leave until the leaves have naturally broken down to reveal a dark brown light compost. Usually 12-18 months
4. Use around your garden as a mulch, top dress or seed compost

ZAMMIT ROOFING
EST 1982

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

01634 375129 - 07802 698300

Kent County Council
TRADING STANDARDS
APPROVED

Member of
Checkatrade.com
Medway
Fair Trader
scheme

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

SHOREGATE NURSERY UPCHURCH
ME9 7HG

Hanging baskets made to order or ready made.
With a huge range of summer plants to choose from.
No rip off prices!
1000's of perennials and compost always available.
Smiles and advice free!

 Open Thursday, Friday Sat. 9-5 Sunday 10-4.
Call anytime 07884453947.



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

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

Gerald
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

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**

CARPENTRY • DECORATING • PROBLEM SOLVING • DECKING

CDS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
Call Chris Smy
07919 270599
www.cdspropertymaintenance.freeindex.co.uk

GARDEN MAINTENANCE • FLOORING • GUTTER & FASCIA CLEANING

Day Claire House Clearance
House, loft, shed and garage clearance from £150
Complete bespoke service from boxing up, arranging charity donations to deep cleaning, gardening and marketing the property.
Excellent references, Registered waste carriers, Fully Insured
We service Private and Commercial properties
Contact Claire for a no obligation quote
07770929422 / colston333@sky.com

Rainham Cricket Club
are looking for new players for 2023

Indoor Nets start in January.
4 saturday Teams and one Sunday Team
Up for the challenge?

 Contact Chris on 07946712197 

LOCAL BUILDER
Extensions, loft conversions, General building
Professional Reliable Service

 **HPR** Hebdtich Property Renovations Ltd
01634 615455
07721 365 630

www.hprbuilding.co.uk  **Fair Trader**
 

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

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

 **SPJ SERVICES**
PLUMBING • HEATING • RENOVATION

Friendly professional service
Fully Insured • Free quotes

Full wet room installations
Bath to shower adaptations
Bathroom mobility adaptations
All plumbing work undertaken

Call Sean
07792 589047
spjpalin@gmail.com

PLUMBING • HEATING • RENOVATION

Climate Conversations (AS)

Fewer smoky buses on our streets

Yes, another smoky bus story, but this time one of good news!

Since our last edition, the Transport Team at Medway Council and our local ward councillor hosted a follow-up meeting with Arriva at which some significant fleet improvements were announced.

The five brand new 72 plate single-deckers are already now being seen around Medway, and I did notice one had been on the 132 service in Rainham. During February and March, we will see further improvement as Medway gets fourteen 'pre-loved' double-deckers which meet the Euro 6 lower emission standard. This is great news for Medway and Rainham and it is intended to see more of the same. As bigger cities in the UK get their new electric buses, we will benefit from their less polluting hand-me-downs.

I am indebted to Ross Elliott for his letter concerning the need for a much-reduced use of cars driving children short distances to school due to the impact it has on air pollution and congestion in Rainham at peak times. The Rainham anti-idling project also commences shortly, so if there is anyone out there would like to get involved, please email me directly at alanstockey@gmail.com

March Monthly Eco Challenge

'Consider swapping out the meat in one of your meals each week and instead using a meat alternative.'

Mobile hairdresser

Experienced fully qualified hairdresser. Full range of hair services offered in the comfort of your own home for Ladies, Gents and children.

Please contact Julie on
01634 360369
or 07961 123133

15 years of experience - Available Mon-Sat
01634 387701

South East Garage Doors
Medway Fair Trader scheme

Repair specialists
Roller doors
OAP discounts
Automation
All up & overs
Side hung doors
American-style sectional
Insurance approved

www.south-east-garage-doors.co.uk
45 Silverspot Close - Rainham - Kent - ME8 8JS

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

Mutual Aid Repair Café Coming Soon

Reduce, Refuse, Recycle, REPAIR!
Mutual Aid Road Reps Community Initiative are looking to set up a repair cafe, this coming April.
To do this we need skilled craftspeople from electronic engineers to clockmakers and seamstresses.

What is a repair cafe?

In short it's an event held each month or every other month where people can bring things to be repaired, whilst meeting people within the community and having a natter over a nice hot cuppa (and plenty of biccies!!)

How much do they cost?

The only chargeable cost would be for any replacement parts, and the opportunity exists for those in financial hardship to have these costs covered by our community initiative. Donations are welcome via our crowd-funder page:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/marr2023

How do I get involved?

Drop us an email at:

info@mutualaidmedway.org.uk

or give us a call on 01634 907045 (Mon-Fri 10am-5pm)

Riverside Country Park Forum Meeting

Monday 20th March
6pm - guided walk, 7pm talk

Book this date in your diary and join us for an interesting guided walk, followed by a talk regarding the park and its updates.

Contact is via the Country Park.

Rainham History (A)

Showtime in Rainham

As previously stated, our cover photo has been kindly provided by Brian Teather. The date is unknown but it was likely taken sometime in the 1930s.

The owners of the house then were the Rosier family who, we understand, did organise garden events like these.

Below is another photo received. Note the large number of children who all seem of primary school age. They would, therefore, probably be in their 80's or early 90's now but perhaps someone may still remember the occasion(s).

If so, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps your parents or grandparents told stories about these events and you would be willing to share them?

The two photos could possibly have been taken on separate occasions and it has proved difficult to identify shared locations within the two images. They were taken from different directions, possibly at different times. High-resolution versions are available on the Rainham History website if anybody would like to study the photos in further detail:

www.rainham-history.co.uk/edwin_road

Next month we feature Finwell Road...



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
OAP Discounts

So call today for a great deal, peace of mind and security!

Phone: Brian 01634 351244

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**

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

Dates for the Diary

Request an entry in the diary (free of charge)
contact: diary@actionforum.co.uk

28th Feb - Lower Halstow Social Club, 'A Schoolgirl's War' by Mary Smith, all about Maidstone Girls Grammar during WW2, 7.30pm, £4, 01795 842272

1st Mar - Rainham Health Walk, 10.40am outside St Margaret's, followed by an active and wellbeing session inside at 12pm, walking@medway.org.uk

3rd Mar - Charity Race Night for Sheerness RNLI, Upchurch River Valley Restaurant, £12, includes fish & chip supper, Rosemarie Barnes - 07547 250010

8th Mar - East Medway u3a, 'Charles Dickens & his comic writing', 2pm, £2 for guests, sueu3acook@outlook.com

10th Mar - 'GCSE Astronomy, Astronaut Animals' with Caroline Beevis, Bredhurst Village Hall, 8pm, www.midkentaastro.org/events

12th Mar - 'Stodmarsh NNR' free guided walk with RSPB Medway, 10am, CT3 4BE, www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway

13th Mar - Medway Music Club, 7.30pm, Parkwood Community Centre, refreshments/bar, £7 entry, phil.burt@ntlworld.com or 07795 576294

16th Mar - 'Helpful hints for flower arranging' with Betty Carrol, Produce Stall and Raffle, Bredhurst Garden Club, 1.45pm, Howard Memorial Hall, £3, BYO mug, contact 07781 781910

17th Mar - 'One Big Family' Quiz Night to help the homeless, 7.30pm, Millenium Centre, £5pp, BYO, sandracoilyer@hotmail.co.uk

18th Mar - Air Scout Coffee Morning, 10-1, Scout HQ, Dukes Meadow Drive

19th Mar - Indoor Boot Fair, Twydall Community Centre, Beechings Way, ME8 6PZ, 10-1, contact Janet Duke: 07809 892883 or pinkdukebox@aol.com

20th Mar - Riverside Forum, 6-7pm for guided walk, 7pm talk, Riverside Country Park

21st Mar - RSPB talk 'North Kent Bird Migration' with Kevin Thornton, Parkwood Community Centre, 7.30pm, £4 www.rspb.org.uk/groups/medway

22nd Mar - 'The Battle of the Atlantic' with Ian Whittaker, 7pm, Rainham Historical Society, Millenium Centre, Rainham, £3, 01634 263622

24th Mar - 'Crossings of the Lower Thames and Medway' - Rob Poole, 2pm, Medway Geographical and Local History Society, new members welcome, Holy Trinity Church, Twydall, lorna_bailey576@hotmail.com/01634 572139

25th Mar - Nearly New Sale, www.nct.org.uk/medway
A Place of Welcome drop-in, St Matthew's, each Thurs 10-12, 01634 234712/geoff.hufton@hotmail.co.uk

Medway Concert Brass, every Tuesday, Hempstead, contact manager@medwayconcertbrass.uk

Evergreen Club, each Wed, 2pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, Rita on 07748 058770

East Medway u3a, 2nd Wed each month, 2pm, Smallholders Club, Wigmore, sueu3acook@outlook.com

Check out www.thenet.uk.net/events

Kent Classic & Sports Car Club, 2nd Thurs of month, Three Mariners, Lower Rainham, 01634 362612

Rainham Bereavement Friendship Group, Friday AM, Julie on 01634 364309

Medway Scrabble Club, alternate Mons, St Stephen's, Maidstone Road, Chatham, 07523 124668

Upchurch Choral Society, St Mary's, 7.30pm, suerossiter@waitrose.com or 01634 234780

Rainham WI, 3rd Thurs of month, open from 1pm, Berengrave Cricket Club, contact 01634 234997

Hempstead Players community theatre group, 18+, 07421 817158/thehempsteadplayers.co.uk

Oast House Community Choir, every Tues, 10-11.30, Rainham Oast, £5, Bob Carling on 07800 522724

Bredhurst Art Group, each Thurs, 1.00-3.15pm, contact Barbara on 07974 205656.

Wigmore RVS Darby & Joan Club, each Mon, 2-4, Hannah Hendra on 01634 362662

Rainham & District Dollhouse & Miniaturist Group, last Thurs of month, 7.30pm, Howard Hall, Wigmore, 01634 264295 or rainhamdhkent@gmail.com

Lower Halstow short mat bowls club, each Mon 2-4, Wed 7.30-9.30, glenyslovell@hotmail.com/01795 842376

Knit and Natter, every Tues, 12-2pm, Rainham Mark Social Club, ME8 6YX, bring your craft, come and chat

Hempstead Valley Short Mat Bowls Club, contact Joy on 01622 693101

Medway Model Club, each Fri 7-10pm, all ages, Holy Trinity, Twydall, contact kimmmary18@hotmail.com

Upchurch Horticultural Society, 1st Wed each month, 97 Chaffes Lane, contact: upchurchsociety@gmail.com

Rainham Community Choir, every Mon 7pm, Rainham Oast, £4.50, contact cldmedway@gmail.com

Breathe Easy Medway (for those with COPD), 1st Tues of month, 1-3pm, Twydall Community Centre, ME8 6TQ, secretary@BreatheEasyMedway.co.uk or 07775 461573

Scottish Country Dancing, every Mon, 1.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, www.medwaycaledonians.co.uk

Rainham Volleyball Club, Tues 7-9pm, Sun 6-8pm, Rainham Girls, contact 07772 593674

Crafty Friends 6.30pm, every Mon, Rainham Oast Community Centre, contact wilsons2@aol.com

Rainham Chess Club, 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 7.30pm, Rainham Oast, Rob - 07890 938544

Rainham Horticultural Society, 1st Tues each month, 7.15pm, Rainham Cricket Club, 07931 337310/Rainham.kent.horticultural@gmail.com

Profits from Action Forum are always distributed between a number of charities. Recent recipients have been St Margaret's, St Matthews, Tools with A Mission, Rainham Eco-hub and the Community Hero awards.

Small Ads

Price: £2.75 per line per month
Box Ads: £33.00 per month
£90.00 3 months paid in advance
Please email wording & your address.
See p2 for contact details & copy dates

PIANO LESSONS 01634 312366
Qualified, experienced teacher. ABRSM grades etc. Enhanced DBS. Online and 1-2-1. (Ages 7+)

VINTAGE MOTORBIKES
wanted for cash in any condition. Please call Mike on 01634 230417 or 07774 111057

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

S.W GARDENING SERVICES
Lawns mowed and general maintenance including gutter cleaning
Please call 07572 954145

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING
Come and join our friendly school and enjoy the world of dance.
Wed or Fri eves, all beginners welcome.
First lesson free. Please see our website for details www.latinfeverdance.co.uk or contact Julie on 07983 397439

TONY'S PLUMBING SERVICES
No call out fee.
Bathroom and Kitchen refits.
Call 01634 374332 or 07961 951254

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

DENTURE REPAIRS
Covid-secure service by established quality Rainham Laboratory.
Tel: Mardale 01634 263766

RALPH THE GARDENER.
Mowing, edging, weeding, pruning, planting, digging and tidying.
Competitive rates.
07415 151015 or 01634 361505

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

NICK'S GARDENING SERVICE,
Lawns mowed and general garden maintenance in Hempstead and Wigmore area. Please call 01634 370583 or 07701 007866

SMALL ALTERATIONS & repairs
Hems, zips, seams etc.
Very reasonable prices. Call Margaret 01634 363315 / 07766 980732

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

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 734570 / 07970 759404

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL
Ideal for Weddings, Parties & Meetings. Facilities for the Disabled.
Attractive Setting - Ample car parking.
To book go to upvh.co.uk or call 07368 461507

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
Visitors are always welcome.
Pastor Rev T.J. Wood - 01634 388187

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY
Centre, Wigmore - modernized centre with main hall, meeting rooms and kitchen available for hire.
Disabled access and hearing aid loop.
To book, phone 01634 235507

MEDWAY VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

We have speakers who can give 10 or 30 min presentations on the work we do to provide tools and sewing machines for people in Africa, so enabling them to have a trade and earn a living. The presentation comes with a display of the goods we send, together with brochures providing further information. Please contact Trevor Cox on 01634 670115 or mvw781@gmail.com

LOGS - Seasoned hardwoods
£100/m³ (≈250 logs), ½m³ £50
Delivered - Jim 07795 278081

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

City Way Construction

Friendly, Reliable and Professional Service

Extensions

Bathroom & Kitchen Fitting

General Building

Property Maintenance

Call Russell on 07979510371
citywayconstruction@aol.com

Goldfinch Tree Surgery

All aspects of tree work undertaken
Hedge trimming and garden services
Free quotations and fully insured,
Est. 1996

01795 435139 07799644904
goldfinchtreesurgery@googlemail.com

DAY EXCURSIONS BY COACH



LOCAL PICK UPS

01795 899099

Victor Plumber

LOCAL RELIABLE

No call out charge

Leaks - Taps - Sinks
W/Cs - Ball Valves
Radiators - etc.

Please call:-
0781 530 0908

"Love Your Home Handyman Service"

Plumbing/Electrical
General work around the Home & Garden
All work considered
DBS Registered 001717488000

Call Peter: 07814 036 725
myhandyman@btinternet.com

SUNBURST BOOKS

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

**OPEN 9am to 3pm
Mon - Sat**

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

More donations welcome, particularly of paperback fiction, our best-selling category.

**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 or email sunburstbookshop@gmail.com



WESTMOOR NURSERIES



(on the A2, Moor Street, Rainham, ME8 8QF)

Your local Plant Nursery for:

TURF ~ TOPSOIL ~ SHRUBS ~ PERENNIALS

LOCAL PRODUCE, INCLUDING:

WESTMOOR HONEY

LOCAL JAMS, EGGS, FRUIT JUICES,

CHARCOAL, CHIMNEA/FIREPIT LOGS ETC

SMOKELESS 25 Kg, ROCK SALT

Opening times:

Mon-Fri 9 – 5.30; Sat 9 – 4.30; Sun 10 – 3.30

sales@westmoornurseries.co.uk

01634 378886

**MRS MERTON'S TEA ROOM
AND WESTMOOR FARM SHOP
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

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



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

Contact us on **01634 571000**
for more information and opening hours.

LOCKSMITH

call

Loyal-Locksmiths.co.uk

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

Tel 07986 464970

TILLYS ART

Friendly Adult Beginners and Intermediate tutored art group sessions are available now.

Specialising in Watercolour, Acrylics, Pastels and Drawing.

For more information go to our website

www.tillys-art.co.uk

paula@tillys-art.co.uk

or telephone 07722892638

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

China Health Spa

Professionally qualified therapists in Rainham.

*Full Body Relaxing Massage,
Deep Tissue Massage,
Hot Stone Massage,
Reflexology and Cupping.....*

07703 777370

www.kenthealthmassagespa.com
140 High Street, Rainham ME8 8AR

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 or 07970 678895

**H
P
H**
Est
1983

**Hallett's
Plumbing &
Heating**


Chris Hallett

www.hallettplumbingandheating.co.uk

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

Est. 1971

**DAVE MOON
ROOFING**

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.

Electricians from rewires to extra sockets
All work guaranteed ~ For a free estimate:
01634 260874 mob 07778 380285
91 Elmstone Road, Rainham



 **CRYSTAL**
CURTAIN & BLIND MANUFACTURERS LTD

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION

Made to Measure Curtains and all Soft Furnishings
Curtain Poles & Finials • Net Curtains • Tracks
All types of Blinds • Digital Print Blinds • Awnings

Call **01634 817807** for an appointment or visit our showroom
Unit 8, Invicta Business Centre
Bredgar Road, Gillingham ME8 6PG
M: 07956 398531, E: sales@crystalcurtains.co.uk, W: www.crystalcurtains.co.uk

 **A Star Security Systems**

A family run business with over 20 years' experience we supply install & maintain Intruder alarms, cctv, door intercom, access control & fire alarms for the home & business. Control and view your systems on our dedicated smart phone & tablet apps.
Alarm and cctv systems fitted from £450 + vat

01634 540710 facebook.com/Astarintruderandcctv
email astarsecurity@btconnect.com

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 2YJ
Car parking available

01634 408777

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

01634 386999

31 Parkwood Green
Parkwood
Kent ME8 9PW

