

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



A beautiful sunset view of the Blackwater Estuary with the outline of Maldon and Maldon Church

February

2022

50p

The Following are our services For February 2022

6th February

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

13th February

9.30 am Silver End

11.15 am St Mary's

20th February

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

27th February

9.30 am St Francis

11.am St Mary's

4th Sunday Before Lent

Holy Communion

All Age Worship

3rd Sunday Before Lent

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

2nd Sunday Before Lent

Holy Communion

Matins

Sunday Next Before Lent

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

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The Tests of Life by Peter Hope

As some of you will know Sarah and I have recently travelled to the US to visit David my son, who lives close to Niagara Falls and the border with Canada. We had last seen David, his wife Marieke and the twins during Christmas 2019 when we held my wife Clare's memorial service on New Year's Eve. In some ways it feels like a life time ago! Fortunately, we have a regular catch up once a week over the internet using a device called a portal.

Since Covid arrived, we have booked and cancelled trips to the US twice due to closure of the US (and Canadian) borders. Then an announcement in October 2021 that the border would open from the 6th of November gave us hope. With great excitement Sarah and I booked tickets with British Airways to fly to Toronto on the 14th of December. It was at this point that the fun started! We knew that there would be the need for testing at some point but what would this involve? As the weeks passed, we listened and read all about the new rules for entering the US and particularly Canada as we had to fly into Canada before crossing the land border into the US at Niagara Falls.

As the rules continued to be updated, we were slightly confused by the changing scenario, particularly when the US changed the rules for passengers arriving by air meaning you had to have a negative PCR test within 24 hours of arriving at a US airport. The rules for Canada were different, requiring a negative test within 72 hours of arrival, so it looked like this might be easier for us as there was no requirement to demonstrate a PCR test at the US border (a loophole?). On Monday 13th Sarah and I went to Brentwood High St. and found an old shop with DAM Health on the front (was this an omen of things to come?). We had booked tests on line, deciding not to rely on postal testing, a good call as it turned out.

The tests were carried out quickly and efficiently and soon we were on our way home to finish our packing. The test results were supposed to be back by midnight the same day and at about 10 minutes to midnight my test result came back negative but nothing for Sarah! We spent the whole night dozing and watching our phones hoping her result would come through, however disappointingly it didn't. Next morning, we decided we would drive to Heathrow airport since we would probably have time to get a new test for Sarah at the airport if her test result didn't arrive. We thought we had ample time as our flight was at 5 pm in the

afternoon.

The journey to the airport was uneventful and Sarah spent most of it on the phone in a queue waiting for DAM Health customer services to answer. Eventually they did and they assured us the test was still being processed. We arrived at the airport at 12 noon and still hadn't heard from DAM Health! We found out that we could have a test at the airport promising us a result within 3 Hours. As Sarah was queuing for this speedy test the results came through from DAM Health and it was negative. Euphoria! We could go! We also managed to get the back-up test cancelled and money refunded.

I completed the necessary forms on my phone to get our boarding passes and we were on our way.

The flight over the Atlantic was wonderfully smooth and although we left three quarters of an hour late, we arrived in Toronto just 15 minutes late. Passport and customs control went very smoothly. However, in Canada all arrivals are tested for Covid (free of charge) and after queuing for an hour, we had our PCR test. We knew being tested was a possibility and had booked a stay in the airport Marriot hotel in case we tested positive as this was a designated quarantine hotel and a requirement for entry into Canada. The test results weren't back by the morning, but since the Canadians don't check people leaving via the land border, we didn't need these test results to enter the US. David came and picked us up and by early evening, we were at his house in Gasport, Niagra County, Christmas had begun!

We had a wonderful time (See pictures in the colour section) lots of family parties. The US was only just waking up to the Omicron surge at this point.

For our return journey we needed a PCR test to get back in to Canada. Fortunately, in the US the system for getting tested is quite simple we visited a local Pharmacy where they were able to process our test within 2 hours. It should be noted that the US doesn't provide its citizens with home test kits so they process a lot less PCR tests than we do since people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic) are not picked up and do not get tested.

Sarah and I headed back to Toronto (With David driving).

Our journey ended in a snow storm but the traffic kept moving (see picture). We got to the airport and got into a queue, for British Airways, which was mighty long. We thought we were in for a real

slog even though the plane did not take off for 5 hours. Fortunately, a member of British Airways staff was going along the queue checking people's documents. I informed him that although I had completed an online form called "Verify" (something British Airways require you to complete before they will issue a boarding pass) the system wouldn't let me download our boarding passes. I showed him our forms were complete and we were taken to the front of the queue then straight through into passport and customs control (after depositing our bags).

At last, we could relax, only one more test to complete, a PCR test when we got home so we could be released back into the world. Following another very comfortable flight we were home by 1 pm on the 28th December. Then the next problem the test kits I had ordered for us to take when we got home hadn't been delivered. (Stupid me of course it was another Bank Holiday!). Fortunately, they arrived the following day and the tests were posted back on the Wednesday. We were hopeful that we would get the all clear so we could leave isolation and go out for New Years Eve. On the 31st we got ourselves ready to go out, we were on tenterhooks but fortunately the results arrived at 5 pm and at last we had the all clear to enjoy New Year's Eve!

The purpose of all this is to demonstrate that our lives are all about being tested. We are tested at school; to demonstrate our academic ability; we are tested by our future employers to see if we have the skills; needed for a job. We are tested for illnesses such as Bowel and Breast Cancer; and we are tested by our fellow human beings to do the right thing.

More importantly God tests our religious resolve throughout our lives just as Jesus tested his disciple's commitment to him and his teachings.

One famous passage is in John 6:15-21

"Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by himself alone. Now when evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus' walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land

where they were going."

In this section of Scripture Jesus is seen by his disciples walking on the water, what does that mean to us today? We will see that Jesus does not always get us out of the storms of life, but He is there with us through them. Jesus gave a demonstration of His power, and then He tested His disciples to see if they learned the lesson. God is always testing us to see if we will trust Him no matter what goes on in our life. I hope you have that peace that passes all understanding because you have asked Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour and you know that when you go through the storms of life, He is in the boat with you.

I feel that in the last 2 years I have been constantly tested. Losing someone you love is the biggest test that God can place on us. Many people say "how can God let this happen"? During my wife Clare's last three years (after her cancer diagnosis) she would sometimes say "why me?" A question that none of us can answer but for me it was a very real test of my faith and in the end, faith has helped me to get through this difficult time. I will continue to be tested for all sorts of things throughout my life and there will be times when I fail a test but I know one thing God will help me through those times.

Peter Hope Church Warden

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life for each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. 'Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me?'

The Lord replied, 'My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

Anon.

A Message From Kay Spalding

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR
AMAZING SUPPORT AND KINDNESS OVER THE LAST FEW
WEEKS SINCE ROB DIED.**

A Message from our new Team Rector

Dear friends,

2022 is starting to feel as familiar as a well-worn garment. It's still winter but Spring can't be too far, we hope. So we break the pattern of these days with a celebration of love: St Valentine's Day. A secular love festival in the name of a Christian soldier who died for his faith. Christianity has an extraordinary high view of love. St John writes that God is love - and goes on to add that those who live in love live in God. Jesus tells us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. And to Love God with all our heart, and mind and strength - with all that we are.

I'd love the practical reality of love to be as simple as remembering to send a card. Or cheerfully humming along to the Beatles singing 'All you need is love.' But love is not simply an emotion or a feeling. It's a way of living. An attitude to life that is life-changing and life-affirming. One that answers us. All the issues, and difficulties and injustices, and wonder and grace about being alive. It's a way of shaping the world we live in so that our wonderful broken world may thrive and flourish. The earliest Christians, when they asked this question (what does love look like) had a person in mind too. Love looks a lot like Jesus. Jesus teaching and sharing about God in our ordinary and everyday world, in all the warmth and difficulty of our relationships. Jesus dying on a cross and still showing us God's love and compassion within all the injustice and harm and sin in how we structure our world. Jesus raised from the

dead and sitting at the right hand of God.

But they didn't just take their image of Jesus and make it the object of their worship. They tried to root this insight and experience of God in Jesus in their communities and families - which would have been as wonderful and dysfunctional as any of ours today! They had to work out what 'God-is-love-in-the-way-Jesus-shares-it' looked like in how they related to each other.

St Paul puts it this way in his remarkable Hymn to love that we know as 1 Corinthians 13.

'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

So yes, do remember to tell the person that you love that you love them. (And you don't have to wait till St Valentine's day to do this.) And be open to your love being hallowed by God.

All you need is love? Yes, absolutely! When we put it into practice... **With my love, Jonathan Team Rector**

Readings and Collects for February 2022

6th February 4th Sunday before Lent

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-end]

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Collect

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

13th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Collect.

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

20th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Readings

Genesis 2:4b-9 and 15-end

Revelations 4

Luke 8:22-25

Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

27th February 3rd Sunday next before Lent

Readings

Exodus 34:29-end

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 {37-43a}

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 50/50 Club December 2021 winners

1st Mrs S Smith 2nd Mr J Riddlestone 3rd Mrs E Peagram

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH JANUARY 2022

These notes are an abridged version of the minutes

Present: Cllrs. Abbott (Chairman), Cairns, Prime and Turner.

Also present: Parish Clerk and ECC Cllr. Playle.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first parish council meeting of 2022. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and in the hope that things would be better after the difficult circumstances of 2021.

He thanked everyone for their contributions to village life over the Christmas period, including the festive contributions and the litter cleaning stalwarts who help to keep the seemingly never-ending litter problem at bay.

To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Wright, A'Lee and Elliott.

Public Forum

ECC Cllr. Playle reported that the matters raised with him at the last RPC meeting were on-going. He referred to the planning applications regarding the waste site and Colemans Farm Quarry and also that the ECC Library consultation period remains open for comments.

Cllr. Turner reported that the Christmas Tree was donated this year and so he returned the Council's cheque. He also indicated that a Council grant would not be required for next Christmas.

Matters for Discussion

Letter for residents of The Bluebells estate

The final draft of the letter was agreed and that 60 copies of the letter be printed for distribution, which Cllr. Wright volunteered to oversee.

Tree & Bulb planting

The BDC draft Tree Planting Licence may still need amendment and the final version needs to be agreed by the RPFA. All BDC provided trees and flower bulbs are being stored by the Chairman, awaiting

agreement regarding planting.

Planning S106 'Wish List'

It was **agreed** that the following be considered for future referral to BDC, although not all suggestions were necessarily for S106: Possible Playing Field Pavilion; John Ray Walk improvements; a new streetlight on Church Road at the Church lay-by; railing fence along Beech Road/Village Green to prevent parking on the grass.

The Clerk will approach Bellway regarding the installation of a notice board and litter bins on the Bluebells estate.

New pole for CCTV cameras at the recycling site on Oak Road

A quotation is awaited from the maintenance contractor for this installation.

Replacement pads for the defibrillator

It was agreed to purchase both the adult and infant pads.

Highway Maintenance

The streetlight at The Oak junction has now been replaced after being knocked down over a year ago. All potholes have been reported to ECC Highways. There are still a number of streetlights in the parish that have not been working for months and ECC will be chased regarding these.

The following also still require attention: Litter along the A12, the missing directional sign for Rivenhall at the Henry Dixon Road/Oak Road junction, continual vehicle parking on the footway along Rickstones Road.

General Maintenance

The Chairman will inspect the footpath along the Academy boundary on Rickstones Road following reports of thorny cuttings left on the ground from hedge-cutting work.

Ongoing Planning Issues

BDC Local Plan

BDC had provided a letter from Essex Wildlife Trust, dated 29th June 2017, confirming that at the request of EWT, there has been a deselection of Local Wildlife Site Bra175 – The Old Rectory Meadows, Rectory Lane.

Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site

The Chairman had attended the latest Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site

Liaison meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and he had circulated details of the main points arising.

It was confirmed that a lot of site clearance has been carried out recently and that protected species were moved in the process. The Chairman will be following up on this. The developers, Indaver, had confirmed they will NOT be building most of the "Integrated" plant that was consented, and re-consented, between 2010 and 2016. They will not build any facility for recycling or AD (composting) and in particular, neither they nor Gent Fairhead will build the paper recycling plant, which was the "anchor" element when the Government Inspector in 2010 allowed consent, because it provided a Combined Heat and Power status for the site. It had been intended that the paper unit would have used electricity, heat and steam from the incinerator. Instead Indaver say they now want to build a plant that will process incinerator ash and that they are exploring piping steam to heat buildings in Chelmsford and Colchester. This latter point appears ridiculous as it would require pipes running for miles over private land and/or highway land. But they appear serious about it.

To make the changes Indaver want they have indicated they may bypass Essex County Council as the current relevant local planning authority and instead go via the Government as a National Infrastructure Project.

ESS/34/15/BTE/12/01 – Woodhouse Farm, Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site

It was **agreed** to write to ECC to strongly object to the excessive destruction of local flora which could result in disturbance and disruption of habitat for protected wildlife species, most notably Great Crested Newts and various Bat species.

ESS/98/21/BTE – Colemans Farm Quarry

It was **agreed** to write to ECC with a strong objection to this application on the grounds of more waste importation, higher HGV movements and landfilling with waste. Also, copies of the RPC letter to be forwarded to both Braxted Parish Councils and Witham Town Council.

Finance

The Budget and Precept figures for 2022/23 of £16,599 and £14,000 respectively were agreed.

As a result there will be no increase in the parish council element of

the council tax.

Information exchange and items for the February agenda

The Chairman reported that all the details regarding the Open Spaces Action Plan had been forwarded to BDC.

Tree cutting work was currently being undertaken in Tarecroft Wood.

Cllr. Cairns reported that the public footpath crossing Rivenhall Oaks Golf Course was in a poor state of repair.

Cllr. Turner claimed that domestic recycling collected in Rivenhall in December was being crushed in a refuse collection vehicle which rendered recycling of various materials difficult if not impossible. The Chairman agreed to ask BDC about this. [Post meeting note – BDC confirmed the collected materials were being recycled and agreed to provide information about where materials are taken for processing].

Dates of future meetings

1st February 2022 in Rivenhall Village Hall, and 1st March 2022 at Henry Dixon Hall, both meetings starting at 7.30pm.

Hot Cross Scones! - Something a bit different for Easter (or anytime of the year)

- 500g self raising flour
- 125g caster sugar
- 125g salted butter, cubed
- 75g Sultanas
- 60g mixed peel
- 1 small apple, peeled and grated
- 1 heaped tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 egg
- 125 mls Milk
- 2 tbsp apricot jam to glaze

For the cross : 35g plain flour, 2-3tbsp water

Sieve the flour and sugar into a bowl, rub in the butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs, stir in sultanas, peel, apple and spices.

Mix the egg with the milk and gradually add, stirring gently to form a damp dough.

Turn out onto a floured surface, roll out to 4cm thick, stamp out with an 8cm cutter, (makes 8-10) put evenly spaced on a lined baking sheet.

To make the cross mix the flour and water until smooth, pipe a cross on each scone.

Bake at 190c (170c fan) for 18-20 minutes until risen and springy to the touch. When cooked, warm the apricot jam and brush over the tops to glaze.

Then all you need to do is cut 1 in half, cover it in lashings of butter, grab a cuppa, put your feet up and enjoy.



In Loving Memory of Faith Murton

1932 -2022 (a Personal account)

Faith Murton was a faithful servant of Rivenhall and St Marys' Church and will be much missed.

Faith always lived in Rivenhall ,in the same house where she was born, together with her parents and older brother Dennis who died in 2018. She attended Rivenhall school and then went on to Braintree high school, where prayers and hymns were sung every morning.

Faith was a Sunday school teacher at St. Mary's and was loved by her class children becoming a Godparent to many. She worked at the seed factory in Witham for many years. With her brother Dennis she was a regular attendee at church and choir social events. Here is a picture from 20 years ago at the Du Cane Arms in Great Braxted when she was 70. She will always be remembered for her love of her Garden which I was privileged to

have spent time in with her over recent years. All those who have known her will miss her. Peter Hope Church Warden



Faith in her Garden


Aerial Photography

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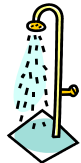
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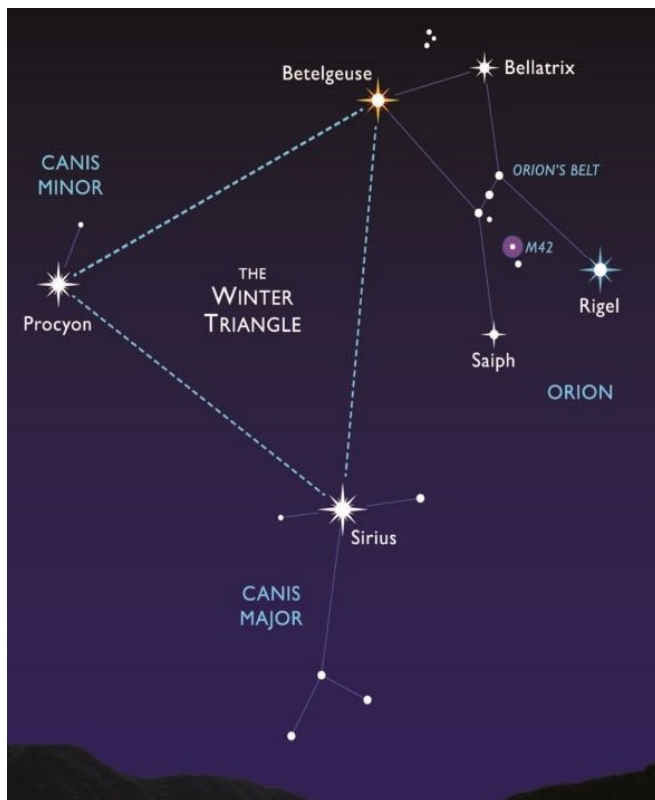
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Sky Notes February 2022

Daylight expands rapidly throughout February such that by the end of the month the Sun rises at 6.45am and sets at 5.35pm. Daylight is expanding by 4 minutes each day and the Sun reaches 30 degrees above the horizon at midday by the end of February. This is double its height at the Winter Solstice in December.

Jupiter become lost in the evening twilight this month as it starts to pass 'behind' the Sun as seen along our line of sight.

Venus is a bright pre-dawn object throughout the month low down in the South East.

Full Moon is on the night of the 16th February. The January 'Wolf' Full moon coincided with clear skies allowing walks by

moonlight. This is best done along routes you are familiar with and allowing eyes to adapt to night vision for a while before heading off. For February we have the 'Snow Full Moon'. So far this winter it has been relatively mild and open so we may have to use our imagination regarding snow.

The best periods for star gazing in darker skies will be early and late in the month. The constellation of Orion 'The Hunter' is in the South at 7pm in late February, followed by the 'Dogs' of Canis Major and Minor. Canis Major (Greater Dog) contains the brightest star in the sky, Sirius, and is located to the lower left of Orion. This constellation does look a bit like a dog, but Canis Minor (Lesser Dog) to the left of Orion is simply made up of the bright star Procyon and a scattering of faint stars – and so is one of the least sensible of the ancient constellations in terms of what is supposed to represent.

The 3 bright stars Sirius, Procyon and Betelgeuse in Orion make up the 'Winter Triangle'. Like Sirius, Procyon is 'in our neighbourhood' at a distance of 11 light years from our Solar System. Both Procyon and Sirius are binaries, with their companions being white dwarf stars - tiny hot and dense remnants of stars that have run out of hydrogen fuel. A small piece of a white dwarf star the size of a sugar cube would weigh several tonnes.

In December the James Webb Space Telescope was launched and all its elements including the sun-shield and the telescope mirror have been unfolded and locked into position. This has been a remarkable achievement given the complexity involved. The space telescope has now reached its final position in a gravitationally stable location about a million miles from the Earth. Over the next few months scientists will be commissioning the telescope before it starts what will hopefully be years of service, observing deeper into space than ever before.

Sky Watcher



Here follow some pictures from the editors visit to the US during Christmas 2021. These accompany the lead article in the magazine. some people have said that my son Davd's house looks like it was used in the "Home Alone" movie.

This building came into being in about 1836 as a Quaker Friends Meeting House. The outside walls are laced with large field cobbles of varying sizes shapes and colours. The corner quoins are of grey sandstone. It was originally a simple building in the true Quaker tradition. and to the west may be seen the old Friends Cemetery. It was later bought by Emma Reed.

When Emma first purchased the Church she toured Europe to obtain ideas on how to design the Estate. The fireplace tools and the handirons in the fireplace came from a 15th century castle in Scotland. She had the second story built with the dormers, had a cellar hand dug, added the swimming pool, the gardens walls and driveway. In the early 1920s the house was a tourist home for the ultra wealthy and elite and was called "Cobblehurst on the Ridge"

E. Cobblehurst/Monter House (circa 1839)-Ext. & Interior 8856 Ridge Rd. Gasport



Driving Back to Toronto on 27th December plus the Waterfall at GASPORT and the View across Lake Ontario towards Toronto from the US side of Niagra falls



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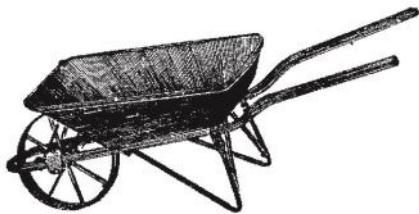
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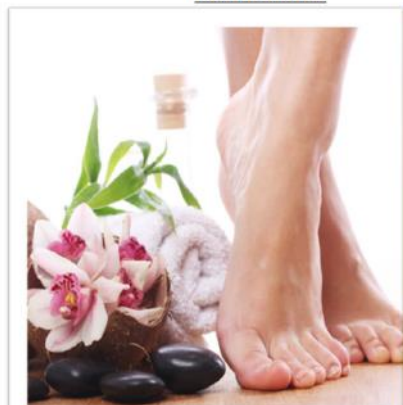
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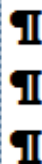
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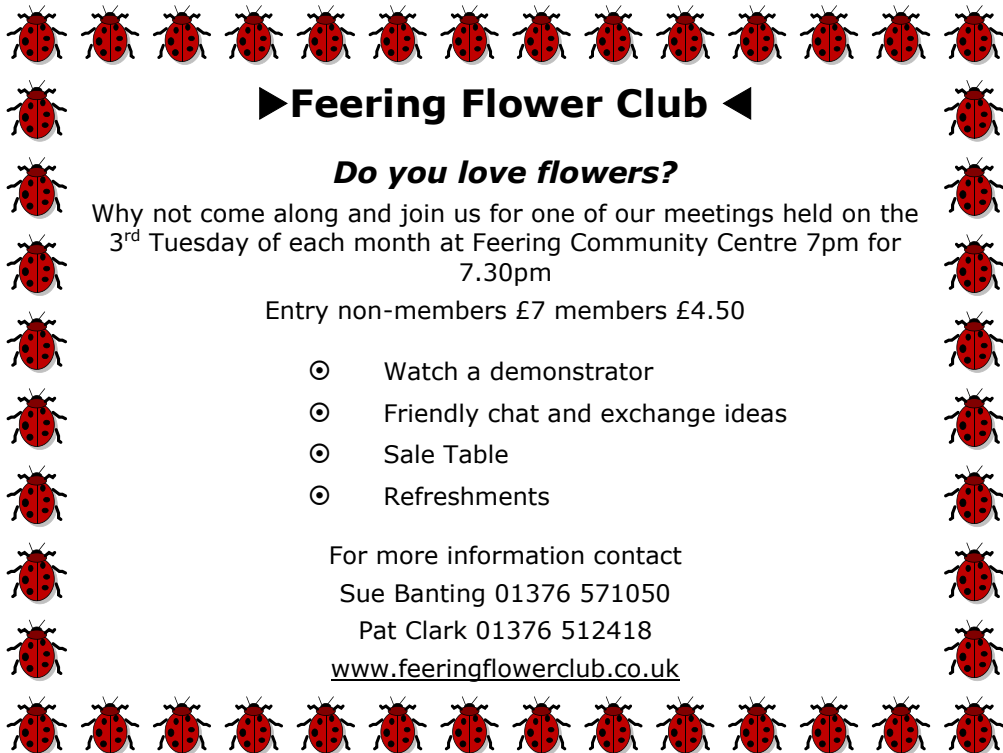
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Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

Last month we looked at the Rivenhall Review and the interview with Mr. Taber which I hope many of you found of interest. This month we are going down memory lane of Fred Bull who was born and grew up in Rivenhall End. This is from one of the articles that Fred wrote for the Review over the years and at the time of writing this in 1962 lived in Barking and the magazine was posted to him after his brother read it from Thundersley! I am sure many of you will remember the Bull family and this is his memories of 'Fred Bull's Schooldays':

I wonder if Sam and Jim Ager remember the day when Sam was laying a trail of gunpowder on the top of the wall facing his house and, before he had finished laying it, Jim (I think it was) put a match to it and nearly blew poor Sam's head off?

Another trick which gave us a lot of fun was to tie a piece of string to the doorknobs of adjacent houses, leaving the string very slack. We would knock on both doors at the same time, hide and watch results. First one door would open, tightening the string, and then the second door opened it would close the first one quickly. We could only play this trick when it was dark!

A popular game was to make a nice neat parcel, tie a piece of string to it and place the parcel on the path close to the hedge. We would pass the string through the hedge, hide and await events. Presently someone would come along, see the parcel, and stoop to pick it up, which would be the signal for us to pull the string. The parcel would fly into the hedge, much to the surprise of the would-be picker-up! Many fell for this trick but I paid for it when one dear old lady, Mrs Gunton by name, nearly had a fit when she was caught. She told my sister who gave me a right good tanning which, of course, served me right. I should add that my Mother died when I was seven years old and my sister, who was a proper 'battle-axe', used to keep house. I don't remember Father ever boxing my ears but sister made up for his shortcomings in

this direction.

When it was time for me to leave the Workmen's Hall Infant School, my father insisted that all his children should go to the Kelvedon Church School because the teacher in Rivenhall School was a lady teacher and he seemed to have a poor opinion of lady teachers. The schoolmaster at Kelvedon was a Mr. Thorn. Guess his nickname? Yes, you're right... 'Pricky'. He was a good master and knew how to use a cane. I don't think we worried him too much for he passed away only a year or two ago, and he was in his nineties. When Mr. Pratchett came to the Rivenhall School my father let my younger brother and I change schools and I can truly say that under him they were my happiest schooldays. I never played truant under him which is more than I can say when I was at my previous school.

Mr. Pratchett was a great botanist and he introduced botany classes in our lessons and that was one of the things I really loved. I won the botany prize, the two or three years I was at his school. We always had botany and history (which I also liked) on Fridays and I generally finished at the top of the class but when Monday came, what with spelling writing, geometry and arithmetic, I generally finished near the bottom and stayed there until Friday came around again. I am sorry to say that I am not much better at these subjects even now – at least my children tell me so, and I am sure they are right!

Another highlight for us youngsters was the Witham Annual Fair. We used to save up our coopers weeks before the event came. I made sure I would have money because I would gather the water cress from the brook at the back of our house, bundle it up, walk into Witham and sell it at a penny a bunch. We would also walk into Witham and buy a halfpenny worth of chips and a pennyworth of fish from Mr. Cutts' shop and have a good blow out! I'll bet Bob Huxter, Jim and Sam Ager, Gander Gooch, the Pye brothers and a few more lads of the village will remember it?

One of the things that have changed an awful lot since my

young days is the style of dressing, both male and female. A boy never wore long trousers while at school and girls never wore long dresses but, when they left school, one would go the long skirts and it would be considered indelicate to show an ankle; and to show the knee – well, well, we won't say anymore!! Then the ladies used to wear what they called a bustle. It was made of whalebone with canvas stretched over it – half moon in shape – and was worn over the hips, making a lady's measurements not a bit like they are today. The top and middle sections would compare favourably with those of today but the bottom section would be around sixty inches! My sister used to wear one of these things and one day, seeing it lying around I thought it would make a good net to catch the tiddlers in the brook so I tied a pole to it and tried my luck. But the only thing I caught was darned good hiding when she found out!

Notes: The Bull family lived between where the BP station is now and Kelvedon Park (Durwards Hall). Looking at the 1891 census Frederick was 7 years old and lived with father Josiah age 44 and his siblings Josiah (13) Eltie (10) Maurice (4) and his the sister who was his father's stepdaughter Rhoda Rust age 26 and house keeper. Fred's mother Harriet aged 40 in 1881, must of died just before the census as he said she died when he was 7. Also it mentions in the 1881 name roll two other siblings Clara (5) and Minnie (8) Bull.

John Muir (1838 -1914)

At the end of November 2021, with my trusty backpack I ventured over the boarder to Linlithgow in West Lothian, Scotland. Linlithgow Palace was the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots and I had visited that some years before; but that was not my reason for being there. I was in Linlithgow to continue my exploration of the John Muir Way which is a 134 mile long distance footpath from Dunbar on the east coast to Helensburgh on the west coast (I had previously walked the eastern end from Dunbar to South Queensferry).

In sunny but very cold weather I first strolled from Linlithgow

railway station northwards over to the historic town of Bo'ness on the Firth of Forth - Borrowstounness to give its rarely used full name! There I stayed in a lovely bed-and breakfast. Bo'ness was the site of a Roman fort near the Antonine Wall but in more recent times it was known for its salt making, its fishing, its coal mining, its port and harbour, its shipbuilding and its ship breaking. Apart from metalworking, most of these industries are long-gone and Bo'ness is now primarily a commuter town for Edinburgh and Falkirk. I spent that afternoon exploring the town.

My second day of walking was again along the John Muir Way, this time from Bo'ness to South Queensferry. Again the sky was cloudless but it was so, so cold! I passed the village of Blackness and admired its haunting castle out on a rocky promontory (it featured in the film "Outlander", representing Fort William). Almost from the start of day two I would regularly see glimpses of the three Forth bridges at Queensferry. As the temperature plunged to zero, I passed through the gardens of beautiful Hopetoun House then entered the town where a hearty bowl of hot broth and a welcoming beer were much enjoyed at the Ferry Inn. Then it was up to Dalmeny station and a train to Arbroath where I stayed with a great friend of mine for five wonderful days. Mind you, these also included heavy snowfall and Storm Arwen!

But my reason for this article was to tell you about John Muir. He was a proud Scot, a farmer, inventor, naturalist, explorer, writer and conservationist who was born in the red sandstone Scottish coastal town of Dunbar. With his family he migrated to Wisconsin in the USA, later moved to California. He conversed with Presidents and is renowned for influencing Theodore Roosevelt to create many massive American national parks, not least of which is the Grand Canyon National Park.

So from humble Scottish beginnings, John Muir became America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. His lobbying and his inspiration are behind the creation of many of the world's later National Parks including those in our own country.

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

The first Club meeting to be held in 2022 will be on Tuesday 8th February, 7.30pm in Rivenhall Village Hall. Our speaker will be Jackie Allen who will be 'Exploring Georgia' with us. Jackie is well travelled and experienced and her talks are always interesting. I'm sure this one will be no different.

Competitions will be: Horticultural — a bowl of flowering bulbs. Domestic — 3 cup cakes for Valentines Day. Flower of the month. Photograph of the month (flowers. Gardens).

Entrance is £2 to include refreshment. The annual membership subscription is now due. £5 (adult) £1 (junior) and includes your Schedule Booklet. We are a small but friendly Club and welcome new members and visitors. We look forward to seeing you.

The December 2021 Christmas social evening on the 14th December, was enjoyed by all with a buffet supplied by the members. The tombola , with a large number of gifts, quickly sold out and the large hamper, donated by Don Scott, was won by Vivienne Dee. Karen's table won the quiz and the auction of flowers and a table arrangement raised £ 10.

It was, however, with great sadness that it was announced that Faith Murton had passed away on the 12th December. Faith, together with her late brother Dennis, had lived in the village all her life and contributed greatly to the success of the gardening club and village life and although in latter times she had suffered with ill health, she will be greatly missed.

The Committee and Club members wish you all a very happy and healthy 2022. as we all look forward to some warmth and colour in the garden. For further information contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781.

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The Rivenhall Millennium Committee

The Santa Sleigh and the carol singing on the green at Christmas were very successful thanks to the support of so many villagers. But absolutely astonishing were the number of donations given, many anonymously, and some of very significant size. You know who you are - a very big thank-you to you all. Because of your generosity we can now continue to deliver a 2022 programme of village events.

The first of these will be a village fête on Rivenhall green to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will be on the afternoon of Sunday 5th June starting at 2pm. Local stallholders are welcome to make enquiries via our Chairman Bob Turner on 01376-513659. We are seeking volunteers to help set-up then take down the facilities, and also to bring gazebos and tents - our British weather can sometimes be challenging so better safe than sorry!! Also, is there anyone locally who might be able to run a Bar-B-Q? Music will be provided by the Chelmsford Silver Band, our wonderful local professional singer Charlie Staunton, and several members of the Essex Caledonian Pipe Band ~ not all at the same time!

On Saturday 29 October we hope to host our (normally) annual Race Night in Rivenhall Village Hall. This is generally sold-out quickly so look out for that and please book early - but not yet! This is our main fund-raising event of the year so it would be wonderful if after a two-year break, we can return the Famous Rivenhall Races once more to our village and we promise everyone an additional hours sleep that night (the clocks change!)

Christmas tree, Santa Sleigh and carols on the green are again planned for December but we do not want to think about those just yet.

End to End Nature Care.

Unfortunately the ongoing Covid situation meant we had to forego any activity in January but all being well things can return to normal in February. To that end at 8pm on **Wednesday 23rd February 2022** we are meeting for a talk on "**Flint**". The speaker, Ros Mercer, is currently putting the finishing touches on a new book about Essex geology which she is writing with her husband and co-worker Ian. She is an enthusiastic proponent of the study of geological science in the county and in 2000 Ros and Ian were awarded the Halstead Medal by the Geologists' Association for their achievements as 'ambassadors in the promotion of geology, contributing to education at all levels. We are fortunate to be able to host such an eminent speaker.

We see so much flint in Essex we can be rather blasé about it. Gravel pits such as that at Rivenhall Airfield contain huge amounts of it. Back in the history of the human race it was an important commodity during (and after) the stone age. Flints found miles away from where it occurs naturally demonstrate that stone age people were travelling and trading over significant distances. But do you know how flint is formed? Where it comes from? And how old it is? The subject of flint formation has been a source of controversy over the years; Ros will explain why and also describe how it is thought the mystery has now been solved once and for all. She will also describe the various forms in which it can be found and the occasional fossils it can contain. To that end all are invited to bring along any flint specimens they may have picked up over the years, especially local pieces.

The talk will be at **8pm at Silver End Congregational Church on Silver Street** (postcode CM8 3QF). All are welcome. There is a small fee of £2 per head to cover costs but that includes refreshments during the interval.

The following month I will be giving a talk on **Wednesday 16th March 2022** on "**Costa Rica**", focusing on the various

fauna, especially birds, seen when I was fortunate enough to visit the country in 2019.

Then, in April, we commence outdoor activities with the **Cowslip Count** on **Wednesday 20th April 2022**, although if we have a cold spring we may put it back a week to catch the optimum blooming period. Further details will be in next month's magazine but the up to date news is always listed on our website www.e2e.silverend.org and in our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/767416983842784, where any recent wildlife sighting or news is always welcome to be posted. Don't be shy. Alternatively if anybody has any questions about the group then I can always be contacted on simon@e2e.silverend.org or 07947 388180.



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Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Keith Taylor	516975
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net	meets every first Tuesday	
End to End Nature Care	Simon Taylor	01621 810141
Gardening Club	Carole McCarthy	512781
Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Carpet Bowls	Mick Marshall	512836
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Playing Fields Association	Mick Marshall	01376 512836
Spread Your Wings Dance Acam	Laura Pearson	01376 741317

Facilities

Hire of Village Hall	email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com	
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ		01376 538838

Organisations in Silver End

Clerk to Parish Council	Mrs B. M. Temple	618464
Email parishclerk@silverendparishcouncil.gov.uk		
Bowls Club	Paul Mann	07551 006906
Children's Centre	Faye Savage	587960
Neighbourhood Police	Braintree Policing Dial 101	
Congregational Church	Sharon Gray	583913
Friendship Club	Maureen Green	585275
Silver End Gad Abouts	Denise Sullens Smith	07952 992782
Gardening Club	Liz Woor	585586
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	Elaine Hall on +44	7885 489788
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion	583706
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526
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