

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



I have had quite a few excellent pictures for the cover of the magazine this month but this one is definitely top of the pole. More on this inside the magazine.

November

2023

50p

The Following are our services For November 2023

5th November

9.30 am St Francis
11 am St Mary's
4.00 pm St Mary's

All Saints Day

Patronal Festival of St Mary

Holy Communion
All Age Worship
All Souls Service
A service to remember our departed love ones

12th November

10 45 Silver End
10.50 am St Mary's

Remembrance Sunday

Service of Remembrance in the Village Hall
A Remembrance Service t the war
memorial followed by a service in the church

19th November

9.30 am St Francis
11 am St Mary's

2nd Sunday before Advent

Holy Communion
Matins / Morning Prayer

26th November

9.30 am St Francis
11 am St Mary's

Christ the King

Morning Prayer
Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest Jane Quinton 01245 210930

Churchwarden Denise Lane 07398 154289

Churchwarden Peter Hope 01376 502605

Email phope02@gmail.com

Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy 01376 512781

Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken 01376 583846

Rivenhall Website www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk

St Francis Silver End Website www.st-francis.org.uk/

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

View from the Villages’ – a ‘harvest for the world’.....

The rain has at last returned! Quietly but incessantly falling as I look outside my window writing this month’s article. But what a glorious late summer we have had – a result of global warming though it ultimately and sadly is..... But the exceptionally warm and sunny days that we have experienced for most of September and into October have provided a beautiful backdrop to enjoy the harvest season, and those services which mark it (of which I have had quite a few!)

What a contrast though these memories are, as I write this article in the midst of frightening hostilities between Israel and Hamas; earthquakes in Afghanistan and Morocco; floods in Somalia, Myanmar and Liberia; drought in Micronesia; and of course the continuing war in Ukraine - all events that are not only life-taking but life-changing

My faith reassures me that God is still there for us.... that in His love for all of His creation He weeps..... And that even through the bad stuff in our lives and in our world, He can bring something good out of it....

But harvest time has been a particular reminder that we are all part of God’s solution..... that having been made in God’s love, His seed of love within us, we are also involved in looking after every part of this beautiful creation He has given us.

With the recent harvest thanks and celebrations in mind therefore, and with the knowledge that God uses all aspects of His creation to speak to us, I conclude, not with words from scripture (as possibly might be expected from a vicar!) but with the words of a song, ‘*Harvest for the world*’.

*All babies together, everyone a seed
Half of us are satisfied, half of us in need
Love's bountiful in us, tarnished by our greed
When will there be a harvest for the world?*

*A nation planted, so concerned with gain
As the seasons come and go, greater grows the pain
And far too many are feeling the strain,*

When will there be a harvest for the world?

Gather everyman, gather everywoman

Celebrate your lives, give thanks for your children

Gather everyone, gather all together

Overlooking none, hoping life gets better for the world.

Dress me up for battle, when all I want is peace

Those of us who pay the price, come home with the least

Nation after nation, turning into beast

When will there be a harvest for the world? (© Sony/ATV
Music Publishing LLC)

May God help us to plant and reap the harvest of love and
peace that He so desires for His creation....

God bless

Rev Jane x

PRAYER HOUR



You are invited to meet with me on a Monday morning at 9am for an
hour of prayer

Sitting in peace and waiting on God, either in silence, or in words.....

I will be rotating around the churches as follows:

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER – St Francis, Silver End

JANUARY – APRIL – St Mary + All Saints, Rivenhall

It will be lovely to see anyone that can come

Readings and Collects for November 2023

5th November

All Saints Day

All Age Worship

Readings

Revelations 7:9-end

1 John 3:1-3

Mathew 5:1-12

Collect

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12th November

Remembrance Sunday

Holy Communion

Readings

Wisdom 6:12-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Mathew 25:1-13

Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

19th November

2nd Sunday Before Advent

Matins

Readings

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Mathew 25:14-30

Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

26th November

20th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

The 50/50 Club October 2023 winners

1st Paul & Alison 2nd Mrs M Farrow 3rd Mrs J Richardson

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

On Monday 13th November at 10.30 a.m. we will be holding our Diocesan Council and AGM in Chelmsford Cathedral. Do come along and support our president, Maxine, and our diocesan officers for the work they have been doing during the last year and plans for the future.

On Thursday 30th November at 2 p.m. in St Nicolas Church Hall we will welcome the Rev Michael Hatchett to give an illustrated talk entitled "Travels through the Holy Land on horse and bicycle". All members and friends will be welcome.

Whilst a week later, on Thursday 7th December at 2 p.m. we hold our 'bring & share' Christmas Tea with quiz and entertainment, again held in St Nicolas Church Hall.

For more information contact Lynette Abbott on 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett on 01376 514617.

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2023 IN RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL

These notes are an abridged version of the draft minutes.

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

Also present: Parish Clerk, Clerk Elect (Kevin Morley), ECC Cllr Ross Playle and one members of the public.

Chairman's Report: Bob Turner reported that the BDC planning committee had recently supported their officers' recommendation to refuse the Rivenhall solar farm application: we await a date for the appeal.

Highways have cleaned out the drains in St. Mary's Road, so will have to wait until the next heavy rain to see if this work was successful. As some of the drains were full to the top with debris, it is likely their outlet pipes may be blocked: the drains should be cleared more often to prevent these flooding issues.

We have been informed that the flooding under the railway bridge is due to a broken pipe that takes the water to Rivenhall Brook. This flooding is a health and safety issue so we will press our County Councillor for urgent action.

The Oak bus shelters were very dirty with graffiti on the newest one. Bob Turner has cleaned and swept these, but could not remove the graffiti.

Buses: some services are cancelled without notice and others do not run to time.

A wreath has been ordered for laying on the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The Rivenhall Millennium Committee will erect their remembrance silhouettes across the parish on 1st. November.

BDC Councillor Report: Cllr. Abbott reported a modest 15% take-up on the new green bin scheme, and there is concern that BDC may not provide support to those with mobility issues in getting their bins to the kerbside. BDC are not providing paper 2024 refuse collection calendars (they are only on-line). Our Clerk will look to download one and have copies displayed in noticeboards. The Rivenhall paper recycling bin has been removed due to persistent fly-tipping.

ECC Councillor Report: Ross Playle reported frustration on pothole repair progress though two more repairs are now approved. Essex has announced plans to massively reduce the volume of waste going to landfill. Essex will be offering

roadside glass recycling soon. There is a 6-week public consultation on the current recycling centres booking system.

Public Forum: Near-accidents due to speeding traffic were raised: councillors discussed trying to again set up a local Speedwatch.

Our Clerk recommended that the parish council website should remain being managed by Nebulas for the moment: it is fairly comprehensive but needs updating. The parish council will move to internet banking so new mandates need signing.

A Rivenhall Neighbourhood Plan: this would give more “clout” to our planning comments, but it is a long arduous process. We hope to have an EALC spokesman at our next meeting to further explain the process, likely timescale and plan value.

Winter Highway Salt: Bob Turner and John Macrae stacked one tonne of new supplies at the Village Hall but approval from Henry Dixon Hall to store a small supply there will be sought.

War Memorial and Gardens: A £16,850 quotation has been obtained for restoration of the war memorial. We do not have a build-up fund for this sum, but we will seek further quotations plus possible grants. The war memorial garden is overgrown and untidy, and the Church do not have the resources to maintain it. We will fund £300 for new plants. (Post-meeting, Darrin Hammond volunteered to prune and clear the garden prior to Remembrance Sunday). The former flower beds near The Oak have been cut and flailed, so are now non-existent. Councillors agreed to seek their restoration as that village corner is a viewpoint in village and deserves colour.

Dates of next Meetings:

7:00pm Tue 7th November in Rivenhall Village Hall (early start due to an EALC presentation on Neighbourhood Plans)

7:30pm Tue 5th December in Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End

Rivenhall Village Hall,

located in Church Road, Rivenhall is available for hire by local clubs, organisations and residents for numerous activities and events including weekly/monthly classes or meetings, social functions, parties, fundraising events, wedding receptions, coffee mornings and much more. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled and a level access from the car park. Clubs and organisations currently using the hall are:

Mondays: Under 5s storytelling mornings, Karate late afternoons and

Scottish dancing - 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday evenings.

Gardening Club 2nd Tues; Yoga Wednesday evenings; Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

If you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details by e-mailing:
rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com

For more general enquiries, please e-mail:
secretaryrpfa@gmail.com

SANTAS GROTTO 2023

The committee are pleased to announce that Santa's grotto is returning to our village hall this year.... Mr and Mrs Santa Clause will be in the hall on Friday 8th December from 11.00 Am to 8 PM and we're delighted to advise that we've persuaded Santa and his wife to attend on Saturday 9th from 11.AM to 4PM.

> The cost will be £4 per child which includes a lovely gift and £1 per adult who wish to see the grotto.

Our Services at St Mary's Rivenhall "Matins"

Many of our regular church goers may find the service of Matins on the third Sunday with all the singing and based on a service going back to 1662 not easy to follow.

As a lover of Matins I like to think about this in another way! throughout my life I have enjoyed rock music but now at the age of 71 I am starting to enjoy Opera. I have only started listening to Opera in the last few years and have enjoyed some fantastic performances. I hope that by continuing to hold a Matins service some of our congregation will grow to love it just as I have started to love Opera.

As a choir boy in the 1960's we used to sing at 3 services on a Sunday Communion, Matins and Evensong. I always enjoyed the music at Matins and this has stayed with me throughout my life. Of course as a young boy another attraction of attendance was that we got paid for every service we sang at and like Rivenhall in the past with Keith Coleman, Sam Smart our choir master was also the headmaster of Kemsing Primary School. As headmaster he was able to assess and select the best voices from within the school and as another incentive from time to time if there was a funeral or wedding at the church he would come and take us out of lessons.

This had two benefits missing a class was always welcome but even more important we got paid 2 shillings and Six pence for a wedding and 5 shillings for a funeral. Pay day was once every three months and on occasions we would head to the pub for "vodka and lime".

Maybe more of you would come to enjoy Matins with that incentive! P Hope Church Warden

Known Unto God a story for Remembrance on Sunday 12th November by Abigail Scully

I love walking round old churches, and often within the surrounding church yards war graves can be found. They have a distinctive uniformity both in structure, and information layout. It was only recently that I became aware of how instrumental Rudyard Kipling of 'The Jungle Book' fame had been in the development of the

inscriptions on these grave stones.

Kipling's only son, John or 'Jack' as he was known as by the family, was killed in 1915 in France during WWI aged only 18 years old. He was reported as, '*missing presumed killed in action*'. His body was never recovered. Kipling understood well how difficult it was for families to grieve without any marked grave to visit, and it is thought this influenced his joining the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1917 as the first literary adviser working closely with Sir Fabian Ware who set up the Commission.

The uniformity of the grave headstones was laid down under a Royal Charter. It was agreed that each would be made from Portland Stone, engraved using a standard alphabet, and include the Regimental badge, service number, individuals' name, regiment in name, date of death, and age, followed by a religious emblem, and personal inscription at the base.

For many of the dead however, as in the case of Kipling's own son, there was no grave, and for those missing in action larger memorials such as the Menin Gate were built, and names of 54,585 service personnel that fell at Ypres are recorded here. It is here that Kipling's words are carved in the Stone of Remembrance, "Their Name Liveth For Evermore", taken from Ecclesiastes 44:14.

For some, their bodies could not be identified, and for these unknown soldiers Kipling created the simple inscription of, 'A soldier of the Great War' and 'Known unto God' to be inscribed at the base of the tombstone. This phrase appears on more than 212,000 Commonwealth War Graves Commission gravestones around the world.

In 1992 John Kipling was officially listed as buried in St Mary's ADS Cemetery in Haisnes.

So, next time you visit a Churchyard, and browse round the grave stones, see if you can find a war grave. War Graves Commission website: <https://www.cwgc.org>



SILVER END GARDENING CLUB

It is with deep regret that after 29 years of meeting in Silver End Village Hall, that Silver End Gardening Club will CLOSE down for good on 31st December 2023.

This is due to the fact of Hall hire charges / Prices of the speakers, and the 2-year lockdown of Covid.

A big thank you goes out to ALL committee members and Members of the club who have been there for the club over the years and those who have bought plants at our yearly Plant Sale.. Plus a thank you to all of the speakers we have had over the many years as well.

It was a hard decision to make, to close the club down. But we miss all who have attended the meetings.

Judy Hill

Unsung heroes of The Parish The Fabric Committee By your Church Warden (Rivenhall) P Hope

St. Mary's and St. Francis churches have a group of hard working volunteers who are members of the fabric committee and as editor of this magazine and Church Warden I would like to sing the praises of this energetic and diligent group of people and to highlight some of the work currently on going.

First on the list is Oliver Clarke! Oliver has over many years been particularly involved with the fabric of the church and can be seen on the front cover on the roof of the tower. The picture was taken by John McCrae on one of the regular flag replacement visits. Oliver has decided this was to be his last visit to the top of the tower! Your church warden who is little bit younger than Oliver, in all his 33 years of involvement with St Mary's in Rivenhall has never climbed to the top of the tower and probably never will!

Oliver is very much involved in all the discussions related to the allocation of grave spaces in the churchyard for which he maintains exceptionally well organised set of records going back many years. He also oversea the churches inspection process. Both our churches (Silver End and Rivenhall) are subject to inspections by the Church of England called **Quinquennial inspections**. Every five years, our church buildings must be inspected by a suitably experienced and qualified professional, appointed after consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Oliver has taken the

lead on this most arduous task and has worked hard to keep the recommendations of the inspection at the forefront of the Church PCC's agenda. He has worked to implement together with parishioners, DIY activities and where appropriate the appointment of professionals to carry out any highlighted essential works.

Currently the team are carrying out work to find out why there are significant cracks in the East end of the church. To determine if these cracks are significant issues, measurements are being carried out with the help of the other members of the Fabric Committee Dave Atkins and Martin Andrews. Both these parishioners are experienced in the field of building repair and maintenance as architects and building design engineers. We would not wish to see what happened in 1714 when the west end of St Mary's Church totally collapsed. (See picture below):-



As church wardens myself, Denise Lane and the PCC of Rivenhall and Silver End churches are extremely grateful that we have people within the church who we can turn to for advice and help in these matters!

Those who walk in the Churchyard regularly may have noticed some screens outside the East end of the church. These relate to some movement of the soil which may relate to the cracks in the east end wall. This subsidence has led to identification of some holes that pose a hazard to those walking or working in that area.

We are also investigating the drainage of water in the graveyard East of the church where we have found blockages in some of the underground pipes. Again this work has been carried out by Dave Martin and Oliver together with Mike Hope and i am extremely

grateful for their help. In this case we will probably need to employ some professional help to remedy the problems that have been discovered.

Without the fabric committee we could find ourselves in real trouble so it's a big **THANK YOU** from all of us for their efforts.

Kenneth Wilfred Cathcart

B. 10th January 1930—D. 21st September 2023

On Thursday the 19th of October I attended the funeral of Ken Cathcart who was Church Warden, Treasurer and held other offices of the Parish of Rivenhall and Silver End in the 70's 80's and 90's. Ken was a leader of a strong team of parishioners together with Rev. Nigel Cooper who raised the funds for the restoration and essential repairs of St Mary's Church in those years.

Ken and his Wife Gillian lived in Silver End until their later years when they moved to Tiptree and became regular members of St Lukes church in Tiptree (a short walk from their bungalow).

The service at St Lukes was beautifully organized by his family and grandchildren with a wonderful summary of his life and devotion to the Church.

At the precise moment of committal an amazing thing happened a flock of White Doves appeared from no where and settled on the Church roof. Picture below.



Pet Service at St Francis Silver End Oct 8th

We were blessed with lovely weather for our open air pet service which was attended by 6 dogs and three ponies with their owners along with others that attended without animals. Our thanks to Rev Howard and Rev Jane for taking the service and to Anthony for playing the keyboard for our hymns, the pets went away with a certificate of attendance and blessing.



Ruth Aitken was thrilled to welcome these two to our Pet service at St Francis thankyou to Denise Lane for organising their attendance



Rivenhall & Silver End

End to End Nature Care

Programme of Winter Evening Meetings 2023/24

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at 8pm at

Wednesday 18th Oct 23 **Nest box, bat box, insect hibernaculum building session at 7:30pm, Stoverns Hall Farm, Rickstones Road, Rivenhall. Bring materials and tools if you have any, though they can also be provided if you don't.**

Wednesday 15th Nov 23 **Members' Photography evening.**

Wednesday 13th Dec 23 **Winter Social at Fiddlesticks, 44 Strawberry Lane, Tolleshunt Knights CO5 0RX. 7:30pm for 8pm. All very welcome. Bring nibbles and/or drink if you can. The evening will include a short committee meeting.**

Wednesday 17th Jan 24 **Tim Sapsford: "Bats". Tim is the County Recorder for bats and heavily involved with the Essex Bat Group.**

Wednesday 21st Feb 24 **"Science & Nature" quiz night with quizmaster Andrew Moss.**

Wednesday 20th Mar 24 **Renee Hockley-Byan (Chairman, North East Essex Badger Group).**

**Silver End Congregational Church, Silver Street, Silver End
CM8 3QF**

Cost: £2.00 at the door, includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

For details of all group activities telephone Simon on 01621 810141 or 07947 388180 or visit our website:

www.e2e.silverend.org

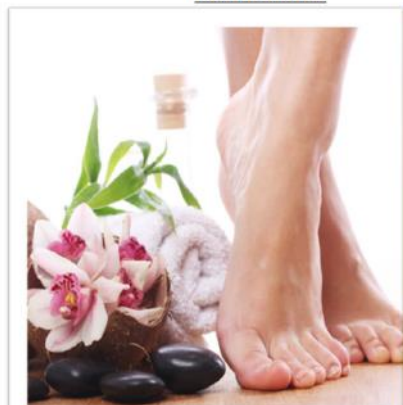
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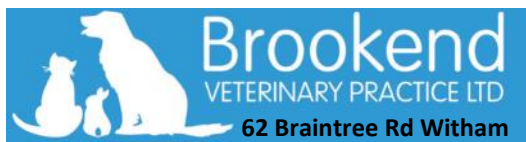
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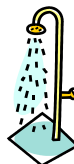
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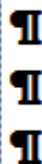
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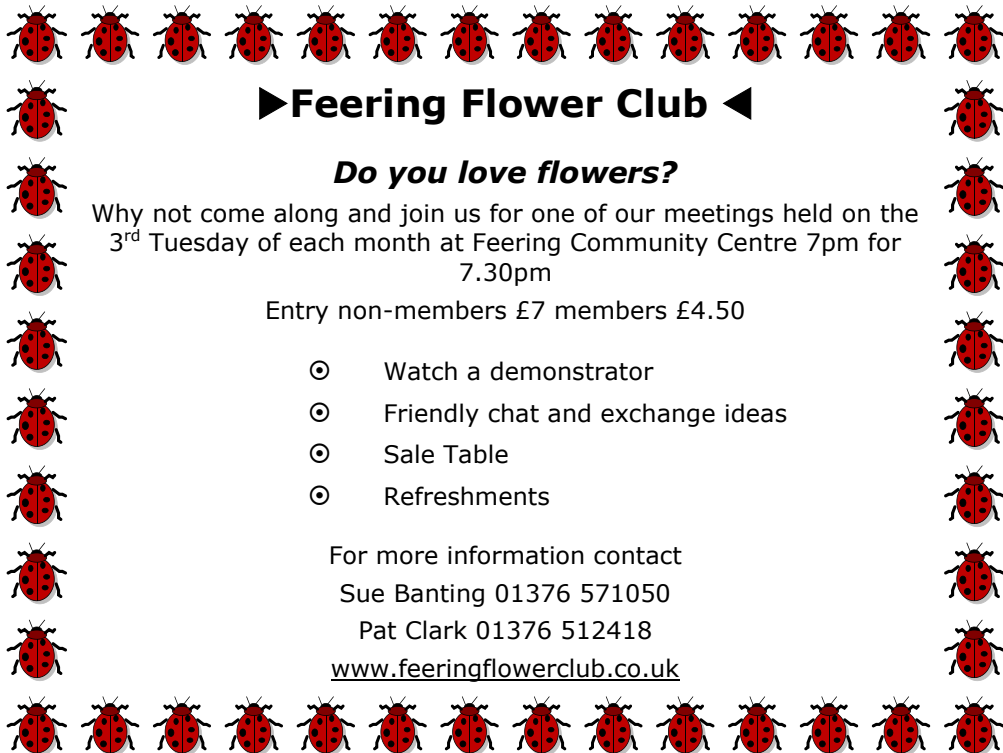
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RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

Club members met in Rivenhall village hall On Tuesday 10th October, for their Annual General Meeting. The Chairman and Treasure gave their reports for 2022/23. Our three Shows were all very successful and we have had some interesting speakers on a variety of subjects. The visit to Hyde Hall in May was much enjoyed as was the afternoon tea in August.

Mrs. Joan Cain, member and President for many years has moved away to be nearer to her daughter and we send her our very best wishes. Our new President is Don Scott who has exhibited in our Shows, very successfully, over many years. Chairman, Tracy Scott, has stood down from that position and is now our Treasurer with Maurice Bacon the new Chairman. Carole McCarthy remains Club Secretary. Mike Selby will be assisting at our Shows. Committee members are Elizabeth Acharyya, Jenny Turner and Vivienne Dee. After the business of the evening was concluded refreshments were served and the raffle drawn.

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticultural; 1st Cyril Philpott 2nd Bob Turner (2 entries)

Domestic: Joint 1st Karin Dakin and Vivienne Dee (2 entries)

Flower of the Month

1st Maurice Bacon 2nd Sue North 3rd Cyril Philpott

Photo of the Month

1st Bob Turner 2nd Jenny Claydon 3rd Karen Dakin

Winner of the HEAVIEST PUMPKIN

1st @ 33lb Maurice Bacon 2nd Karen Dakin @ 28lb

3rd Vivienne Dee @ 14lb 4th Cyril Philpott @ 13lb

5th Shirley Bacon @ 11lb

[Congratulations to all entrants!](#)

The Club's next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th November** — **7.30pm** in Rivenhall village hall. Our Speaker will be known to some of you - Simon Taylor of the End to End Nature Care Group. He will be talking about 'Slugs and Snails - Friend or Foe'.

Competitions will be:

Horticultural:-any vegetable.

Domestic — 3 rock cakes.

Flower of the Month

Photograph of the Month.

There will be refreshments and a raffle and we are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. Entrance is £3 to include refreshments. For further details and information about the Club please contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781.

Turning the pages of History by Tracy Scott

November is a time to remember of those men, women and even children who gave their lives or suffered injuries so we can live the way we do today. But we also must think of those who did come back from any conflict, whether it be in the long past or not so and with these folk come stories. We have learnt from TV and radio especially since 1918 it has not been easy to convey what they have seen and been through, but many of these men and women have now recorded their memories through the likes of the BBC, The Wartime Memory Project, The National Archives and many others. Maybe, some of us got a bit bored by what Grandfather or other members of your family with their tales from the War etc., but if you do remember them share them and if they have written something connected with a period of that time it is worth getting in touch with your local Records Office or elsewhere, as history is education and fills in the jigsaw of life.

These three articles come from the 'Rivenhall Review' of Oct 1964 and 67. Like a lot of stories, some are about normal days that went not to plan and other changed the lives of many!

'My Most Embarrassing Moment' by a Timid Warrior

Embarrassing moments? I have had a few in my time, such as the occasion when I just managed to scramble aboard a train, a non-corridor one at that – to find myself in a 'Ladies only' compartment with several stations to go before I could escape.

From the expression on their faces, not to mention the verbal welcome I got from the three long-nosed, straight-haired and bespectacled middle-aged females when I landed in their laps, the compartment could well have been labelled 'Witches Only !' But to get on with the story of my most embarrassing moment.

It was during the War and stands out in my memory be-

cause, well, it was a day to remember. I was stationed somewhere in East Anglia with a training unit and at the time was assisting the pay office. The day had started with a couple of air raids which were brief but nevertheless, sleep disturbing. The Divisional Commander was coming to inspect the establishment and, with 'spit and polish' being the order of the day the place was in a general's state of uproar. Kits were being laid out, Fire and other practice drill were laid on, bass-brooms were working overtime and burly N.C.O.s were bawling their heads off. On top of all this the Q.M.S. had reported sick on the verge of a nervous break-down, and the way things were going I felt my name would be the next to appear on the sick report.

I was struggling to prepare the pay rolls in readiness for pay parade later in the day and an A.T.S. Sergeant, a most conscientious and efficient, was bustling around doing her best to help. Her mind, however was not on her job. She had obviously taken great care to be well turned-out, and, even in the drab uniform the girls wore in those days, she looked exceptionally smart and was a credit to the service and to her officers. Then it happened!

The Sergeant stretched up to reach a file from the shelf above her head and, snap! "Blast"! She exclaimed in annoyance, "My suspender has broken, it would have happened this morning!" "Perhaps it has just come undone." I suggested encouragingly. "No, it has broken off the top, what shall I do?"

I searched through the tin of paper clips and produced a safety pin "Will this help?" I asked. "Yes, thanks," she replied, grabbing the pin and disappearing behind the filing cabinet.

A few moments later, a now most agitated sergeant, appeared and announced sharply, "I can't fasten the blessed thing, oh dear, what a nuisance". I felt sorry for her. "Is there anything I can do?" I asked. "Yes," she replied, in desperation, "Please fasten it for me". I hesitated in amazement. This was not the prim and proper sergeant I knew at all! It seemed that her desire to be properly dressed on parade had suddenly overcome all modesty. "This is hardly the job for me, do you think I should?" "Of course!" she snapped "don't be silly, there isn't time for me to go to my quarters and I can't go on parade with my stocking down, can I?"

"No, the General wouldn't like that!" I took the pin and hoped I would be able to keep my already shaking hand steady. I soon discovered why she couldn't fasten the pin herself. It was practically impossible to meet the broken ends of the suspender from beneath the elastic bottomed regulation issue she was wearing and for similar reason it could not be pushed down from the top. Finally, I suggested the only solution would be to pin the stocking to her regulation issue as a temporary measure. "Anything, I must go!" I threw the broking-off part of the suspender on the desk, folded over the top of the stocking so that the pin would be less likely to pull through, and had just fastened it when the door opened and in walked the O.C.! I sprang to my feet and muttered, "I think that will hold it." The Sergeant straightened up from the desk over which she had been leaning, took a quick tug at the stocking, adjusted her uniform, and snatching her hat, she fled from the office. I didn't look at the look on the Captain's face, and hoped he wouldn't notice the colour on mine! "Perhaps you will be good enough to give me an explanation." He barked. "C, C, Certainly sir." I held up the broken suspender as evidence and hope my story would sound convincing.

"Very good, bombardier," said the Captain, when I had finished. "I will see the sergeant later, but remember this, the next time she finds herself in similar difficulties, Send Her to Me! Pay parade will be at two o'clock. Carry on."

First Flight to Australia and Back

It was on October 1st 1926 that a large crowd lined up along the Thames Embankment and gazed eagerly down the river. Someone said, "Do you hear the sound of an engine?" A few moments later another voice cried, "Here he comes!" then suddenly thousands of people burst into cheering as the seaplane appeared in the distance and until it alighted gently on the Thames.

"Bravo Alan! Well done, Cobham!" No wonder the crowd was excited. The seaplane had just done what no other plane had done before. With Alan Cobham at its controls it had just completed a flight from London to Australia and back. It was indeed a great achievement for both pilot and plane.

This was no means Alan Cobham's first flight. During the 1914-18 war he flew as a pilot in fighter planes. After the War he

became a civilian pilot and flew about Europe taking aerial photographs. In 1924-25 he was the first pilot to fly from Rangoon and back. A later flight took him to Cape Town and back. It was on 30th June 1926 that he took off from Rochester in Kent for his greatest flight of all – from England to Australia and back.

The Battle of Alamein

The above story tells of the achievement of one brave man. This story tells of the achievement of thousands of brave men who fought and died in order that this country and others involved should remain free from the tyranny and dictatorship. This is the story of El Alamein – of terrible desert warfare – a bloody and destructive battle that was fought just 25 years ago. It was a battle we had to win and a battle the Germans were equally determined not to lose.

On our side were nearly 200,000 British, Commonwealth and Allied soldiers under the command of Field Marshal Montgomery. On the over side were well over 100.000 Germans and Italians commanded by Rommel, known as the Desert Fox and considered to be the finest battle commander of all time. Rommel's objective was Egypt and the Suez Canal and the chance to link-up other German armies from the Russian front. Monty, as Field Marshal Montgomery was affectionately known, badly need victory for his Eighth Army – The Desert Rats – and revenge for previous humiliation defeats and, and above all, the destruction of the enemy and the opportunity of possible entry into Europe.

The waiting game had gone on too long. The time to make a stand had come. The German anti-tank guns which were holding up the advance had to be smashed and the enemy line broken if any progress was to be made towards crossing the desert. Monty chose the Ninth Armoured Brigade which consisted of the Wilts Yeomanry, The Royal Warwickshire Yeomanry and the Third Hussars Regiments, commanded by Brigadier Currie for the initial attack. The General's job was to smash his way through the enemy minefields, destroy the anti-tank guns and take up a position on Tel Akakir ridge, named the Hill of the Wicked. If he succeeded, the First Armoured Division would follow up and the enemy would be at their mercy.

It was at 9.40pm on the night of October 23rd 1942 that the greatest artillery barrage of the War began. It went on for four hours non-stop with 1000 guns shooting their shells into the enemy lines. When the barrage ended, the Sherman and Crusader

tanks advanced through the German minefields and for the next 24 hours all hell was let loose. The desert was ablaze with burning tanks. Infantrymen from all parts of the British Isles and the Commonwealth were involved. Losses on both sides were tremendous, the German and Italian dead being about 55,000 and the Eighth Army nearly 14,000.

The initial attack was not total success but had shaken the enemy and paved the way for the final assault ten days later on the 2nd November, when the Eighth Army tanks and Infantry once again advanced against all odds with such determination that the enemy finally cracked. The battle of the desert was won. From then on Rommel's initiative was lost and for him it was the beginning of a long retreat.

This was indeed a great achievement and Dad may be forgiven if he sometimes recalls the part he played. It was in battles like El Alamein that Dad fighting for his freedom and for freedom of his children. He knew that if these battles were lost, the future would be very bleak one indeed.

Twelve tips for Christmas...and after

With Christmas rapidly approaching here are a few seasonal tips to help keep you safe at home, shopping, visiting, and after Christmas too:

1. If you need to store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure what you are storing is out of sight and that the building is securely locked with good quality well fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm.
2. Avoid tempting window shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window. Having parcels delivered, and may be out, make sure that you make suitable secure delivery arrangements to reduce the risk of theft.
3. Whenever leaving the house always ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked. Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too.
4. Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.
5. When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all

iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim.

6. Park safely; look for a 'Park Mark' accredited car park www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder Check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car.
7. Whether an evening out or Christmas shopping keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times.
8. A Christmas get together – make sure that you have considered how you are getting home in advance and avoid using unlicensed taxis. Ensure you drink responsibly, and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe. www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/personal-safety
9. Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and the lovely gifts you may have received.
10. After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection, disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside another non-descript box.
11. Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com , install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products. Consider a property marking product.
12. **Have a Great Christmas and New Year!!** ☺

For further crime prevention advice see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice>

Harvest Festival at St Francis

Our harvest service, harvest supper and the pet service held at St Francis was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Harvest donations were gratefully received by the local food bank.

Harvest supper was the first to be held at St Francis and everyone enjoyed a lovely ploughman's style supper followed by apple crumble and custard and then entertainment from Tom and friends for which we are very grateful.





The Harvest is over and the fields are ploughed and ready for next years crop. The back of St Mary's church in the distance'

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21st November Revd. Lorna Bantock (WURC)
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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
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