

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



John Macrae's Entry for the Magazine Cover this month a
Woodpecker enjoying some Nuts.

May

2021

50p

The Following are our services For May 2021

2nd May

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

9th May

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

13th May

7.30 pm St Mary's

16th May

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

23rd May

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

30th May

11 am St Mary's

Church Contacts

Team Vicar Rev. Paul Watkin

Churchwarden Ann Clarke

Churchwarden Peter Hope

Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy

Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken

Rivenhall Website

St Francis Silver End Website

Rivenhall Website

St Francis Silver End Website

5th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Family Service Rogation Themed

6th Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

Ascension Day

Holy Communion

Sunday after Ascension

Holy Communion

Matins

Pentecost

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday

Joint Service of Holy Communion

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01376 502605

01376 512781

01376 583846

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Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

Some monthly musings for the month of May!

Many people really enjoy the month of May; perhaps even more so if you celebrate a birthday or other special occasion during the month as well. It's also frequently a month when the temperature for lots of us is neither too hot nor too cold, but rather pleasant and nicely warm, and when items from the winter wardrobe are for the most part kept on their hangers or folded up in drawers, until the cooler weather comes around once more. Plus the month of May gives us not one, but two Bank Holidays, with many people also enjoying a couple of extra days off from work.

This year, like many, also sees one of the most important feast days after Easter and Christmas fall in May too: Pentecost Sunday. This year falling on the 23rd. As many readers will already know, Pentecost is also known as Whit Sunday or Whitsun, coming perhaps from the root of the word 'Wit' which in old English means 'understanding'. As the disciples gathered together ten days after Jesus' ascension (and fifty days – hence 'Pente', following Easter Sunday), they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out to them in a new way, and which was promised to come by Jesus whilst he was still with them. The group, quite literally filled with God's Spirit were given new understanding and wisdom enabling them to bring the good news of the Gospel to all who were open to receive it, in a new and profound way (Acts 2). It's a narrative which many readers will be familiar with, and should continue to inspire us in our own faith journeys. It is also a reminder for us of the blessing which we can receive from God when we invite the risen Christ into our own lives, through the presence of the Holy Spirit which remains offered to us all.

I believe that it is also a reminder of the presence of God's Spirit through the sacraments of the church which we're also all invited to take part in, and be nourished by as the body of Christ – that is a family of God's adopted children living in the world today. As such we are called to do our very best to live our lives showing love, kindness, and compassion to one

another, as well as the strangers we meet in our lives too.

With God we are reminded that there is no partiality, and that all people are loved and valued, and offered a relationship with him through the same Spirit which was poured out upon the lives of the disciples and others around 2000 years ago. This is why I believe that the ethos the Inclusive Church movement is so important (www.inclusive-church.org), and which I'm proud that our parish is part of: "We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.". The festival of Pentecost celebrates diversity and welcome all people into a loving relationship with God.

More unofficially Pentecost is also sometimes known as the birthday of the church. Not for a particular denomination, country, or fellowship, but for the universal church which we are all members of, as it was the day when the gospel was first preached to large numbers following the Earthly life and ministry of Jesus himself – so let's celebrate it!

As a final thought this month, I wonder if you would like to join in with me for some particular prayer, during the days between Ascension (13th) and Pentecost (23rd)? There is a long-standing tradition within some strands of the church to pray during these days for a special intention – frequently known as a 'Pentecost Novena'. In more recent years the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative has gained widespread use and support from Christians everywhere, as way to join in together to pray for the love of God's kingdom to present here in our world today. The website:

www.thykingdomcome.global has lots of resources for you to use, and which might be helpful for your own spiritual pilgrimage between Ascension and Pentecost; but of course this is something which everyone can, and is invited to join in with.

One of the suggestions is to choose five people to pray for, who might like know the Lord's love for them more deeply within their lives. If this is something which you might like to join in with, then you only need to set aside a short amount of time (say 10 minutes a day), in devotion for the people or

other intentions which you want to bring to the Lord. Plus, don't forget that there are a number of us – a mixture of both lay people and clergy who meet together using 'Zoom' on our computers each weekday from prayer at 9am. If this is something which you think you'd like to join in with, do get in touch and you'd welcome to join us; either as a one-off or on a regular basis.

But may I wish each and every one of you a lovely month of May as we hopefully move a little closer to normality. Let us all also do all that we need to do, to keep ourselves and one another safe, and remember that different people are all at different places in terms of their own circumstances and journeying towards what we hope will be the light at the end of the pandemic.

And may I finally wish each of you a prayerful and Spirit filled season ahead, full of the knowledge of God's love for us all.

Rev. P Watkin.

Readings and Collects for May 2021

2nd May 5th Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

9th May 6th Sunday of Easter

Readings

Isaiah 55:1-11

Acts 10:44-48

John 15:9-17

Collect.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

13th May Ascension

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Collect

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever.

16th May Sunday After Ascension

Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

23rd May Whit Sunday (Pentecost)

Readings

Acts 2:1-21

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

30th May Trinity Sunday

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The 50/50 Club April 2020 winners

1st P Govus

2nd H Smith

3rd J Joles

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th APRIL 2021

**HELD ELECTRONICALLY DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH
RESTRICTIONS - all councillors took part via email.**

These notes are an abridged version of the minutes.

Matters for Discussion

Annual Parish Assembly & Annual Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to follow the Clerk's recommendation for the May

meeting arrangements. As things stand all council meetings will need to resume in-person from June but there is a legal challenge ongoing with the aim of extending the legislation that allows for remote meetings.

The Annual Report was agreed to be signed off for publication – this is now available on the parish council website.

Highway Maintenance

Progress on the ECC “Top 50” pothole repairs is ongoing but behind schedule and has now extended past the originally advised deadline of the end of March 2021.

The potholes either side of the railway bridge in Oak Road have been repaired as has the dip in Rickstones Road near the noticeboard. Rectory Lane is due to be repaired in April as is Church Road (*post meeting note – now completed and other work recently carried out has included repairs to the drain cover in Oak Road and filling of the potholes on Rickstones Road caused by water erosion*).

ECC has reported that they will need to revisit the Oak junction as a road closure and different diversion will be needed when they carry out both pothole repairs and works to the defective drains there.

Maintenance

Request for steps and slopes and area around layby at the A12 underpass to be swept and material taken away.

Planning Applications

ESS/03/18/BTE/23/07; Noise monitoring at Bradwell Quarry re ESS/03/18/BTE. A ‘No Comments’ reply was forwarded to ECC.

21/00794/HH: Single-storey extension etc at The Ivy, The Drive, Rivenhall End. A ‘No Comments’ reply was forwarded to BDC.

Planning results - the following applications have been granted by BDC:

21/00349/COUPA: Appleford Farm, change of use of buildings.

20/02106/HH: 309 Rickstones Road, extensions.

20/00765/FUL: Barn at Ford Farm, Church Road, conversion to dwelling house.

Ongoing Planning Issues

Bradwell Quarry - consultation commenced on 18th March on the Review of the Essex Minerals Plan which includes sites related to the quarry, but there is nothing new to impact upon Rivenhall Parish.

Colemans Quarry - further to the report from the site meeting held in January, it had subsequently emerged from the minutes of that meeting that the quarry operators intend to apply for an increase in HGV movements to 330 per day as part of their landfill proposals and not the lower figure as previously stated. It was agreed that when the application is submitted to ECC, RPC should consider requesting a Call-In to the Secretary of State.

Braintree District Local Highways Panel – The BDLHP met on 25th March and the following schemes were agreed and funded for Rivenhall parish: New section of PRoW along Church Road north from the church; safety audit of the zebra crossing at the shop.

Finance - 2020/21 Final Accounts agreed.

Information exchange and items for the May agenda

The Chairman reported that BDC acted very promptly on 3 matters raised with them over the Easter weekend – replacement of broken dog bin where the John Ray Walk emerges on to Rickstones Road; fly-tipping at the recycling bring banks on Oak Road and collection of the large amount of dumped material that arose from a recent litter pick in Rectory Lane. The Chairman had thanked staff at BDC.

The next Three Parishes meeting is scheduled for 24th May at Silver End, format yet to be agreed.

Dates of future meetings.

4th May electronically and 1st June 2021 back to normal meetings (depending on legislation/legal challenge) starting at 7.30pm at Henry Dixon Hall.

If residents wish to raise any matters with the parish council, please contact the Clerk:

Telephone (01376) 516975

Email: parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net

Sky Notes May 2021

As daylight hours continue to expand through May we reach the point here in Essex around the 21st when twilight lasts all night. There are three types of twilight; civil, nautical and astronomical, each defined by how far below the horizon the Sun is and so the effects depend on latitude. From the north of the UK, summer twilight is much stronger than here and in the Northern Isles is known as the 'simmer dim'.

Mars is now in Gemini and can still be seen low in the West after sunset as an 'extra star' amongst the familiar shape of The Twins. The young Moon is close by on the evening of the 16th and should be showing Earthshine.

NASA recently had success in flying a small drone on Mars, a great achievement considering the very thin Martian atmosphere. News reports suggested that flying drones on other planets could be a means of future exploration but in terms of planets and moons in our Solar System which have solid surfaces, the choice is limited. One place where it would be possible is Saturn's largest moon Titan. NASA is planning to send a drone called Dragonfly to Titan which will launch in 2026 and arrive in 2034.

Mercury is visible this month in the evening sky, in the constellation of Taurus. Being so close to the Sun, Mercury but can be tricky to find as it is always in twilight. Websites such as Astronomy Now often have helpful guides to finding objects in the night sky.

Jupiter and Saturn are visible in the pre-dawn sky in the South East, joined by the waning Moon on the 31st.

Full Moon is on the 26th and is another 'Super Moon'. There will also be a total eclipse of the Moon on the 26th though it will not be visible from the UK.

In mid-month looking South during late evening, 2 of the bright stars most associated with Spring will be readily on view. Quite high up in the sky is the orange tinted star Arcturus, which is 37 light years away. Roughly midway between Arcturus and the horizon is Spica which is 260 light

years away from us.

Sky Watcher

Nelson Slices

Sometimes called Nelson Cake, this is a Norfolk version of Bread Pudding, named after Admiral Nelson who was a Norfolk man, born at Burnham Thorpe on the North Coast, where his father was Rector.

1lb stale bread, any kind	Grated rind of ½ lemon
3 oz sultanas	2 tbs orange
marmalade	
3 oz raisins	3 oz butter, melted
4 oz brown sugar	1 egg, beaten
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg	1 tbs rum, or
sherry, or leave out	

Soak the bread in water for 1 hour. Set oven to 200c gas 6. Butter a deep pie dish or roasting tin 7 inch x 11 inch approx.. Squeeze the water out of the bread, put it into a bowl and mash it down with a fork until the bread is creamy. Stir in the dried fruit, then add the rest of the ingredients and beat well together. Turn into the baking dish and bake for 30 – 40 mins. While still hot, sprinkle with a little extra sugar. Serve hot with custard or cream, or cold as a cake!

End to End Nature Care.

Last month's column mentioned the hope that some fieldwork will be achieved by the group this year and it is a great pleasure to report that this has already proved to be the case, with more scheduled to follow. In fact, with the pandemic fading we will be able to hold almost a regular summer of outdoor activities. Anybody who may have rediscovered the innate joy in experiencing nature through their Covid-inspired outdoor exercise is very welcome to join us.

Despite falling in April, the Cowslip (*Primula veris*) count which forms the traditional opening to our field season was achieved in 2020, by members during their local outdoor exercise, and this year by a "group of 6". It is satisfying that we have been able to maintain continuity as we have been conducting this annual count since the millennium year when the botanical charity Plantlife introduced it. They meant it as a one-off but we decided to repeat it the following year and one thing led to another. Long-term projects such as this can provide valuable data on the relevant to the health of species and habitats. This year Plantlife ran another study on Cowslips. Although all Cowslip flowers carry male and female reproductive parts, in some plants the male parts are more prominent whereas in others the female parts dominate. The condition is known as heterostyly and was well known to Charles Darwin. This year's project involved studying 100 Cowslip plants (there are several thousand at our study site) and determining which flower type they were, the relative proportions having possible relevance towards the health of the population.

Despite the Cowslip evening proving to be one of those very chilly ones we had in April, it was a great pleasure be back out as at least a small group again and studying nature together. Of course it is very difficult to plan anything long-term at the moment so we shall for now continue to plan activities on a month-by-month basis, working from the current "roadmap" which says larger outdoor group activities can commence from 17th May. Here are the dates for your

diary:

19 May 2021	7pm	Barrowfield Wood, Rivenhall. Meet at the Church.
26 May 2021	7pm	Aquatic surveying, Whetmead nature reserve, Witham. Meet behind the sewage works on Blackwater Lane (TL827138).
02 June 2021	7pm	Rivenhall Churchyard. A survey of the churchyard for herpetofauna followed by general plant and invertebrate surveying.
09 June 2021	7pm	Silver End Field Hedgerows, to check on Sulphur Clover population and survey other plants and invertebrates. Meet in Western Arms car park (CM8 3SD or TL813193).
16 June 2021	7pm	Pond invertebrate surveying, Rivenhall. Meet at St. Mary's Road, Rivenhall (CM8 3PE or TL827174). Bring hand lens and teaspoon (that is not a typo)

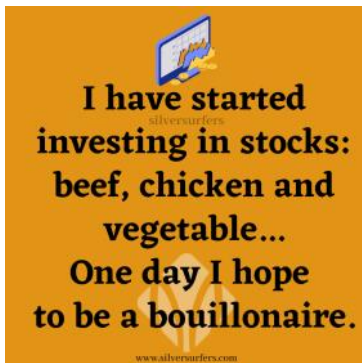
Note that the default start time is now 7pm. Any last-minute changes will be advertised on our website <http://www.e2e.silverend.org> and in the Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/767416983842784. If you would like to attend then please feel free to just turn up on the night but if you would like more information or just to let us know to expect you then please post in the Facebook group or contact me on simon@e2e.silverend.org or 07947 388180.

Simon Taylor

I found out today that a frog has even more lives than a cat.
Yes, it's true. A frog croaks every night.



Looking to sell my Delorean.
Good shape, low mileage.
Only driven from time to time.



SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!



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The Bluebells in the Woods at Rivenhall are just starting to bloom these were taken on the 26th April by Sarah



Felix Hall

How many people recognise this local landmark? built originally in the 16th Century by the Fillol family who were related to the first Duke of Somerset Sir Edward Seymour the uncle of Edward the VI. The house was bought by Charles Western 1st Baron Western who was a London Greengrocer made good as they say. The Western family are very familiar to regular Church goers at St Mary's since a large proportion of the memorials in the Church are of members of the Western family. At its core, this house is firmly in the tradition of the Palladian villa with a compact footprint but featuring wonderful architectural flourishes such as a fine portico (added in 1825) and, to the rear, four engaged columns and a pediment. Originally built between 1760-2, it was purchased by the Western family of Rivenhall Place in 1793 and was significantly extended with flanking wings in the early 19th-century, possibly on the

occasion of Charles Callis Weston's ennoblement as Lord Weston of Rivenhall in 1833. However, as with many larger houses, a reduction in size was thought prudent and so in 1939 the two wings were removed, leaving just a 7-bay central section. Sadly, during the course of renovations it caught fire, completely gutting the fine interiors leaving the gaunt shell (shown below) with the proud Ionic columns shown there. The remains were bought in 1953 and the basement rooms restored as an occasional country retreat.

Recently however (2015-2021) the new owners have completed the renovation of the upstairs and downstairs and the building is now fully restored.

The Photograph that I took on the opposite page recently from a track that runs around the perimeter of the house and a number of other properties located nearby maybe a permissive path since it is used by the 4 or 5 other properties located on the Estate. This walk is one of Sarah and my favourites in this area and is well worth a strole out. (Peter Hope Editor)





The Essex Serpent

currently there is a film being made here in Essex called the Essex Serpent based on a Book by Sarah Perry This picture taken by Noel Brown. Is not a genuine wreck but part of the filmset. You can read about the Essex Serpent of Henham on the Hill in this months magazine



The Lambs at Hoo Hall were very friendly probably more so now we don't have Charlie

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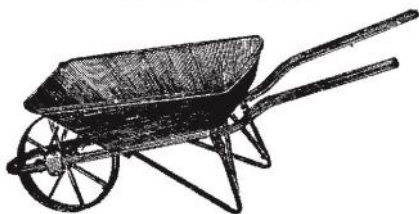
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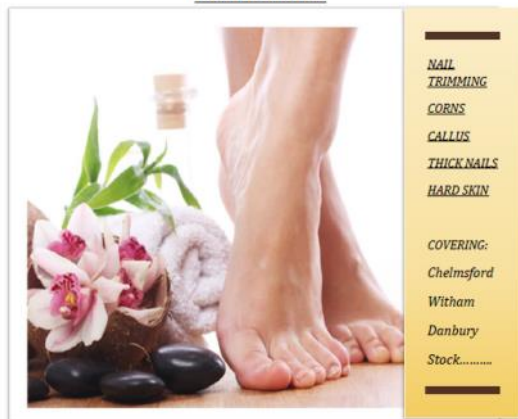
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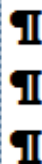
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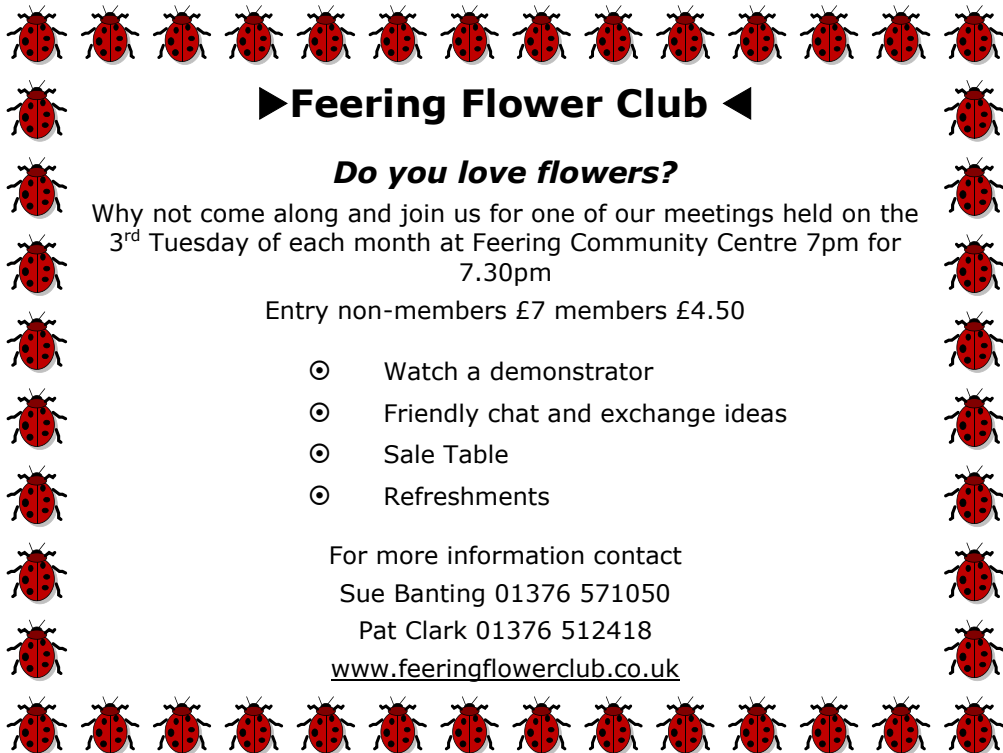
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Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

This month we are looking into to life happenings in Rivenhall in the month of May during the 1800's starting in 1843 with a £2 reward will be given by Rivenhall Parish Office's to any person who apprehending James Todd. James was a Sawyer and was about 30 years of age, had a light complexion and brown hair. He had absconded, leaving his family chargeable to the Parish of Rivenhall.

1883 Durwards Hall had a narrow escape from fire when one of Mr A.W. Ruggles Brise undergardener's having occasion to make a fire in the conservatory and was carrying the coals in a pan from one house to the other when a piece of coal fell and landed on some straw, this quickly spread to the tarred barn. With the aid of garden hose and buckets of water, the workers got the flames under control very shortly after it started.

During 1800's Mr George Taber and family farmed most of Rivenhall area and giving employment to the local folk and support for their wellbeing. George began in early manhood working for the Du Cane family of Great Braxted and later became Head Gardner at Braxted Park. He study closely botany of plants and then onto the science of seed growing, this of course lead to Mr Taber being one of the most respected seed merchants in Europe. These seeds were grown in this area of Essex and mainly around Rivenhall/End.

Through the press covering the whole of the UK most weeks he would advertise his seeds etc., and in May 1865 it included Cheap Bedding Plants with large quantity of strong healthy plants of Geraniums, Calceolarias (slipper flower), Verbenas etc., in great varieties at low prices. These would have all been grown at Rivenhall End.

Moving on to May 1890 Mr George Taber presided a concert at the Workmen's Hall. It was a varied programme with a choir of Master Goss and Pattern, Mr. Beckwith, Misses Pattern and Bacon, Miss Elvin, Mr Pattern. The band

members Mr P. Pattern, Mr F. Hasler, Mr H. Bridge and Master Perry. All lead by Mr J. Pattern and was a great credit with all players being his pupils.

In 1893 George's son James Taber organised a training course on ploughing which took place in one of Mr. Taber's fields in the Rivenhall area. A large assembled of local men and lads came and it was considered good work was shown by all. Mr J. Taber went onto do the same that evening in Great Braxted.



Mr George Taber died in February 1895 and most of the running of the company which was then called Taber and Cooper with branches in London, Southwark, Witham and Rivenhall End.

The photo shows Mr George Taber (the one with the large white beard and no hat near the centre) and his workers. The two workers on the end of the front row are holding a couple of the plants they would have been selling.

RIVENHALL SCARECROW COMPETITION

From May 1st, entry forms are available for the Rivenhall scarecrow competition which will take place from Saturday 19th June to Sunday 27th June.

The cost of entry is £10 per household and this is to raise funds for the Rivenhall Millennium Committee's annual charitable works (Christmas gifts for the over 70s, Santa Sleigh, illuminated Christmas Tree, free Christmas get-together etc).

Entry forms are available from:-

Oak Stores, Rivenhall

Bob Turner, 21 Church Road - 01376-513659

Carole McCarthy, 17 Foxmead - 01376-512781

John Macrae, Whitelands, London Road - 01376-514930

Your scarecrow(s) must be visible from the road or pavement outside your house.

Forms (with £10 payment) must be returned to any Millennium Committee member (**NOT** to the Oak Stores).

After twelve months of lockdown, now is the time to bring some colour, cheer and smiles back to Rivenhall, and if Government restrictions allow we would like to have a village 'get together' to celebrate. We are therefore planning an afternoon Cream Tea event on Sunday 27th June from 3 o'clock onwards to help raise funds, at which time the winners of the Scarecrow Competition will be announced.

(The Rivenhall Millennium Committee)

THE ESSEX SERPENT Reprinted by Permission

We like to think that Henham is famous for its dragon.

Perhaps the first sighting is described in a pamphlet published in 1669 entitled - 'The Flying Serpent or Strange News Out of Essex,' from which we extract the following -

"The place of his abode and where he hath been oftentimes seen, is called Henham, but most commonly Henham on the Mount, the town standing upon a hill, having many fair farms and granges belonging to it, in one of which named The Lodge, near to a wood called Birch-wood, by reason of the many birches growing there, in a pasture-ground close by the same, hath this monstrous serpent been often seen as he hath lain upon the sides of a bank, beaking and stretching himself out upon the same, at such time as Sol did parch the earth with his resurgent beams."

The first time that he was seen was about the 27 or 28 of May last, a gentleman's way lying by the place where this serpent keeps his station, as he rid carefully on, expecting to receive no hurt as he intended none, on a sudden this Serpent assailed his horse, affrighting the rider so much with his monstrous proportion and bold courage to give such an onset, that all in a maze he spurred his horse, who almost as much afraid as his master, with winged speed hafted away, glad that they had escaped such an eminent danger.

Being come home he acquaints his friends and neighbours with what he had seen of this monstrous serpent, especially makes it known to a neighbour in whose grounds this serpent



doth lurk, wishing him to beware of his cattle, and to use his best indeavour for destroying it, least by protraction of time it might do much mischief when had I wist would be but small comfort to him for the losses he might sustain.

The pamphlet even provides an illustration of the 'Flying Serpent' taken from a woodcut.

Not long after two men of the same parish walking that way, espied this serpent as he lay on a hillock beaking himself again in the sun, where they beheld his full proportion, being as near as they could guess 8 or 9 foot long, the smallest part of him about the bigness of a man's leg, on the middle as big as a man's thigh, his eyes were very large and piercing, about the bigness of a sheep's eye, in his mouth he had two row of teeth which appeared to their sight very white and sharp, and on his back he had two wings indifferent large, but not proportionable to the rest of his body, they judging them not to be above two handfuls long, and when spreaded, not to extend from the top of one wing to the utmost end of the other above two foot at the moll, and therefore altogether too weak to carry such an unwieldy body. These men though armed with clubs and staves, yet durst not approach to strike this serpent, neither it seems was the serpent afraid of them, for railing himself upon his breast about the heighth of two foot, he stood looking on them as daring them to the encounter.

And so the story continues telling of further sightings throughout that summer and of people watching with guns, muskets and fouling pieces for it to emerge from its lair within the woods to no avail.

All perhaps remains a mystery until the late 1990's when Alison Barnes a freelance writer and broadcaster published booklet entitled 'The Ingenious William Winstanley' - poet, journalist, bookseller, historian and novelist of nearby Saffron Walden and Quendon - 1628 - 1698. He was the uncle to Henry Winstanley, the builder of the first Eddystone Lighthouse.

Her description of the William suggests that not only was he a successful and talented individual but also he was a man with a keen sense of humour. She is certain that uncle and nephew joined forces to perpetrate the Henham Dragon Hoax of 1668 when they 'created a hollow nine-foot wood and canvas dragon or "flying serpent" activated by a man which made fleeting appearances in and around Birch Wood, Henham throughout that summer and caused great excitement and mystification in the neighbourhood."

To spread the jest further, in January 1669, William anonymously wrote the pamphlet describing the dragon's visit which is vouched for by a churchwarden, a constable and five other solid citizens. She states that critics of the story could not be expected to know that the seven supposedly unimpeachable witnesses were in fact close friends of both men. A close look at the woodcarving shows that all present, including the dragon and the sun, all grinning and smiling as if sharing the joke. She also surmises that the pamphlet was probably on sale in William's Walden bookshop.

Authors Note

Whether the people of Henham believe her conclusions or the existence of the Henham Dragon is another matter. The Henham village monthly magazine is called 'The Dragon' and it is true that over the years many strange beings have been sighted in Henham. The fact that most of the sightings have been by people leaving The Cock late at night may cause some to doubt their authenticity, but who knows?

Sources

The pamphlet entitled 'The Flying Serpent or Strange News our of Essex' a copy of which can be viewed at Saffron Walden Library.

'The Ingenious William Winstanley' by Alison Barnes

From Margaret Martin Places I've Missed

Anyone who knows me well will not be surprised to read that I am longing to see the sea again, especially Eastbourne where I first saw the sea when I was taken to meet my Great Grandmother "Eastbourne Nan" who lived in a house in the village of Meads. The houses form a square with gardens in the middle and look delightful. They are near to the start of the Beachy Head cliffs.

However, yesterday I realised there was another place I have missed seeing almost as much as the coast. I've been reading Sandi Toksvig's book "between the stops" and she describes sitting on a London Bus looking out for the flowers known as 'London Pride' . She writes that Noel Coward was sitting on a bench at Paddington Station during the Blitz. The station had been bombed the night before and there was broken glass scattered on the platform from the damaged roof. As fellow Londoners were going to work he heard their feet crunch on the glass and this inspired him to write 'London Pride' I've always liked the song especially the last verse:-

'Gray City, stubbornly implanted, takes so for granted for a thousand years

Stay City, sulking enchanted cradle of our memories, our hopes and our fears'

And this made me realize how much I have missed being in London and especially at the view of St. Pauls from Hungerford Bridge and seeing the pretty blue lights leading to the London Eye as the city darkens. I thought that other readers might care to let Peter know of special places they have missed during lockdown for him to put in future magazines

Essex Police Fraud Alert System

16th April 2021

SOLAR PANEL SCAMS

Essex has recently seen an increase in residents falling victim to rogue traders mis-selling solar panels.

Criminals target the vulnerable and those who already have solar panels to offer unnecessary maintenance contracts, extended warranties or battery replacements—all at a high price. One 'customer' in Rayleigh received forged paperwork, whereas most receive none. Following the payment, no service is provided.

Residents have been contacted via the phone or by cold callers knocking at the door. Contact out of the blue should always be treated as suspicious—don't be rushed to make a decision there and then.

Remember to Take Five:

STOP - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on **101**
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or call **0300 123 2040**

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk 



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	Pauline Marshall	01376 512836
Or email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com		
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Mobile Library 13 April 4 May	Beech Road	9.20 to 9.50. a.m.
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	Denise Sullens Smith	07952 992782
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
Post Office in Co-op - please note that it closes at Lunchtime 1-2pm		
Closes 1 pm Wednesday and 12.30 pm Saturday		
Library: Tues & Thurs - 2pm to 6pm Saturday 9am to 1pm		

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