

A Review of 2020 by Peter Hope Church Warden

I am now 69 and can safely say this has been the strangest year of my life as it probably has for anyone who was born after WWII. I have lived through the snows of 1963 which was recorded as the coldest Winter since 1740. I can remember pictures in the paper of them digging out railway engines buried up to their Chimneys but most importantly for an 11-year-old, I can remember being off school for nearly 2 months having only just started secondary school the year before. Also living in Kent in the shadow of the North Downs we were able to practice our tobogganing skills nearly every day. No home or online learning for us just months of recreation we clearly didn't feel the Cold!

Other difficult times include the oil Crisis in December 1973. I was in my final year at University and as the oil embargo began to bite I remember queuing for 2 hours to get the three Gallons of Petrol I needed to get me home for Christmas, we certainly weren't going anywhere that Christmas either! Does anyone still have the ration coupons (which I think had been kept since the end of WWII) that were issued then but thankfully never used.

I also remember having the Mantoux Skin Test as a pre cursor to having the TB Vaccine how many of you remember this and more importantly how many were found to already have immunity. I know I have a lovely scar on my shoulder and that I didn't have to have the vaccine as I already had immunity.



The Cartoon opposite is a salutary lesson for all those who think if everyone else gets vaccinated against Covid I don't need to have it!

This brings me back to 2020. The year started with me grieving for Clare and thankfully we were able to give her the cremation and memorial service she had asked for in her will with over 150 people attending on New Year's Eve. We then held the party she insisted should go ahead regardless of what happened with her, in the evening at Feering Community Hall and danced the evening away. The party was something Clare had been instrumental in organising as a Celebration of a number of events that occurred in 2019 firstly our 40th Wedding anniversary and then her 70th Birthday and also anniversaries of some of our best friends and relatives. This was not an easy time but I felt God's hand helping me through it. I have also felt very sorry for people who have lost loved ones this year and were not able to say goodbye to them in a proper manner. My only consolation is that when we all meet again, we can have a proper get together.

My Niece's husband Steve then suggested taking a holiday with him to Madeira in Early March. This was arranged for the 2nd of March for 1 week at the Royal Savoy in Funchal. Just around the time we departed the first reports of Covid-19 or Rona as I think the kids now call it were beginning to make headlines but we departed in blissful ignorance of what was to come. The holiday was a welcome break after the emotional turmoil of the previous 6 months and on our last day we decided to attend the local Anglican Church Holy Trinity which was packed with tourists for Holy communion. It was at this service that it became evident to me that Rona was on the rise we had to receive biscuits dipped in wine instead of sharing the cup an edict which had been made the week before by the bishops in London. On our way home the plane was full and I was quite worried about sitting near people particularly as one was coughing rather too much for my liking so I got myself moved to a seat with less people around.

On our return the 9th of March we started to hear about the situation in London hospitals and also in Bergamo Italy. The following Sunday the 15th of March I led the last service of

Matins/Morning Prayer before Churches were closed in lockdown. Sarah had already started working from home and has done ever since. The following months were to say the least strange firstly we had to cancel celebrations for Sarah's 40th birthday then a trip to America to visit David (Sarah's brother) and the Twins, our lives moved into a new routine.

Many people have said this but I think without our Dog Charlie we might have gone mad but Charlie focussed our lives on the daily walk and this became the new normal for a while. As someone who enjoys swimming and in normal times swims every day, I was devastated that I could no longer have my daily swim. Sarah's work instructed them to take an hour a day for exercise and this was adhered to becoming the new "religion of Covid". We were lucky and I felt very sorry for those like Paul and Ann who were instructed to isolate at least we had our walks. These expanded and when in May we were allowed to take unlimited exercise outdoors. We were overjoyed to visit Southwold where Clare and I had been for our last visit in our 42 years together the previous year. Clare and I and the family went there every year sometimes with our Caravan and loved the crabbing and beach. Sarah and I were even able to eat Fish and Chips on the cliff and I took my first swim since March 10th but this time in the Sea!

This new normal reminds me of how Gods Messenger John the Baptist who we remembered on the third Sunday of Advent and Jesus himself spent time in the wilderness surviving on their own and living of the fruits of the earth. I have spent much time with Sarah with her working from home. It has been a process of renewal in our appreciation of each other and our strengths and weaknesses. Sarah has developed her cooking skills and I have been most grateful for the meals she prepares. She often wants to talk to me about clothes a real passion for her but it makes me realise I can't replace her mother. However, she talks to the female members of our social circle (Jill, Linda and Joan et al) and her cousins (Juliet and Joan) and they have done a brilliant job of providing the spirit of Clare. (of course she also talks to her Girlfriends!). She has even been happy for me to watch far more football on the

TV than is healthy and does watch with me sometimes!

I think this really sums up what this year has meant a slower pace of life without all the travelling and hustle and bustle and a chance to appreciate the people in your lives and the love we have for each other. When we were told that we could re-open our Churches It was clear that with the health issues in Pauls family they would have to continue shielding. So, I thought that Clare would want me to do what I could to maintain services in our Christian community. And now 6 months on I can't believe that I am still doing it and actually getting so much out of it "God works in mysterious ways" but I am certain that Clare's hand is in there somewhere. God bless you all and have a wonderful 2021.

Peter Hope Church Warden

Readings and Collects for January 2021

3rd January Epiphany Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

10th January Baptism of Christ Readings

Genesis 1:1-5

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Collect.

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:

may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour

17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Revelations 5:1-10
John 1:43-end

Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

Genesis 14:17-20
Revelation 19:6-10
John 2:1-11

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord

31st January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Readings

Malachi 3: 1-5
Hebrews 2:14-end
Luke 2:22-40

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

The 50/50 Club December 2020 winners
1st D Clarke 2nd Mrs C Hammond 3rd Mrs A Brown

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2020

HELD ELECTRONICALLY DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

(These notes are an abridged version of the minutes)

Matters for Discussion

Highways England A12 diversion signage

The Chairman had contacted both Highways England and ECC Highways about the disruption to local residents and the damage caused by HGVs diverted from the A12 roadworks coming through Rivenhall. ECC has expressed concern regarding damage to their infrastructure caused by HGVs. Highways England, whilst they did respond, didn't indicate that their methods will change for future closures of the A12.

Police intervention re Oak Road weight restrictions

The Chairman reported that Essex Police did attend both during the recent problems caused by the A12 diversion and for an ad hoc visit where at least 8 HGV drivers were stopped who were breaching the weight limit. The Chairman has since written to the police asking for a regular visit to Oak Road to deter HGV drivers who ignore the weight and height limits.

BDC Planning Delegation Consultation

A report and recommendations are to be considered at the BDC meeting on 7th December 2020. The RPC comments are included in the report. (***Post meeting note***: BDC did decide to change its planning delegation scheme so that parish councils will no longer have an automatic referral to planning committee for applications they object to.)

Planning Enforcement re the Bellway site on Rickstones Road

BDC has taken initial enforcement action with a list of matters that Bellway needs to address, including encroachment beyond the development boundary, floodlighting causing nuisance to nearby residents, unauthorised filling of a pond/ditch feature, unauthorised land raising, and inadequate drainage arrangements at

Rectory Lane. Residents have raised concerns on a number of these issues including flooding.

Highway Maintenance

Little Braxted Lane is closed to vehicles, possibly for up to 5 weeks, as a result of the significant damage to the bridge caused by an HGV being driven in disregard of the weight limit signs.

The Chairman reported that the new HGV height warning signs are now working and that a site visit was held with the Highways Panel officer where it was agreed to seek additional and clearer conventional HGV signage and to trim back vegetation that is partly obscuring signs.

ECC has confirmed that repair work to potholes in Rivenhall will recommence in January 2021, with a possible closure of Church Road.

General Maintenance

BDC has been requested to crown lift the trees on the Village Green.

Planning Applications

20/01767/HH: Two-storey rear extension and first-floor side extension with parking undercroft – 461 Rickstones Road. This application was dealt with between meetings with 'No comments' forwarded to BDC.

Planning Appeals

A Planning Inspector has dismissed the Appeal to build houses on the farmland to the East of Church Road (opposite the main village green).

Ongoing Planning Issues

A12 widening

Highways England will be consulting with the public during 2021 on the details of what will be done with the old A12 through Rivenhall End, which will become a county road (detrunked) when the new A12 bypass is built.

Information exchange and items for the January agenda

- The Chairman reported for information that the new gates at the Tarecroft Wood car park have been installed but the CCTV pole, as originally designed, is yet to be installed. BDC has been asked to consider further improvements, including a second dog bin and new

signage.

- The new sections of path behind the Village Hall have now been fully agreed by all parties and work is set to go ahead.
- For the January agenda – to consider a potential 3 Parishes meeting in late January.

Dates of future meetings

5th January and 2nd February 2021, but both are likely to be convened electronically given the Government's extension of Covid restrictions.

Budget/Precept Meeting 16th December 2020 held electronically.

It was agreed that a Precept amount of £12,300 be levied for the year 2021/2022.

This gives an estimated Band D equivalent Council Tax of £46.69, £1.83 more than for 2020/2021.

The Budget and Precept was recommended for final approval at the next Parish Council meeting on 5th January 2021.

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

Telephone (01376) 516975

Email: parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net

BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL

ST Mary's and All Saints Rivenhall raised £52.00

OAK Stores, Rivenhall raised £75-68

Ginger Bread Cookies

Ingredients

- 225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 heaped tsp ground ginger

- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 50g unsalted butter
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 100g golden syrup

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5 and line a baking tray with baking parchment. Sieve the flour, salt, bicarb, ginger and cinnamon into a large bowl. Heat the butter, sugar and syrup until dissolved. Leave the sugar mixture to cool slightly, then mix into the dry ingredients to form a dough. Chill the dough in the fridge for 30 mins.

STEP 2

On a surface lightly dusted with flour, roll out the dough to a ¼-inch thickness. Stamp out the gingerbread men shapes with a cutter, then re-roll many off-cuts and repeat. Place your gingerbread shapes on the lined trays, allowing space for them to spread. Cook for 10-15 mins, then remove from the oven and leave to cool.

A big Thank you from the Church

The editor would like to say a big thank you to **Tracy Scott** and her helpers for decorating the Church to such an amazing standard particularly when we didn't know if we could hold any services over Christmas this year.

Also a thank you to **David Clark** (Son of Dennis and Pat) for donating the Christmas Tree which was a perfect size for this year also the rest of the gang
Martin, Dave, Mike G etc.

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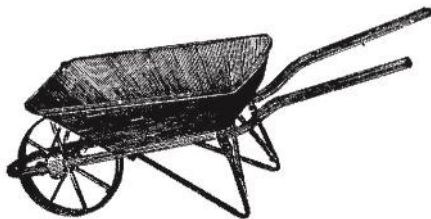
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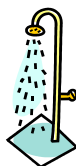
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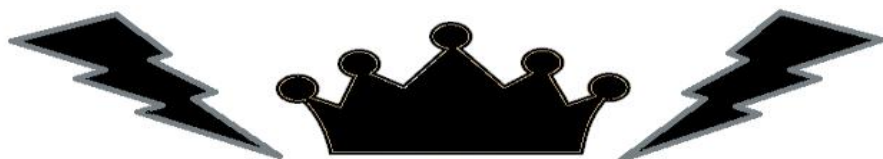
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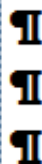
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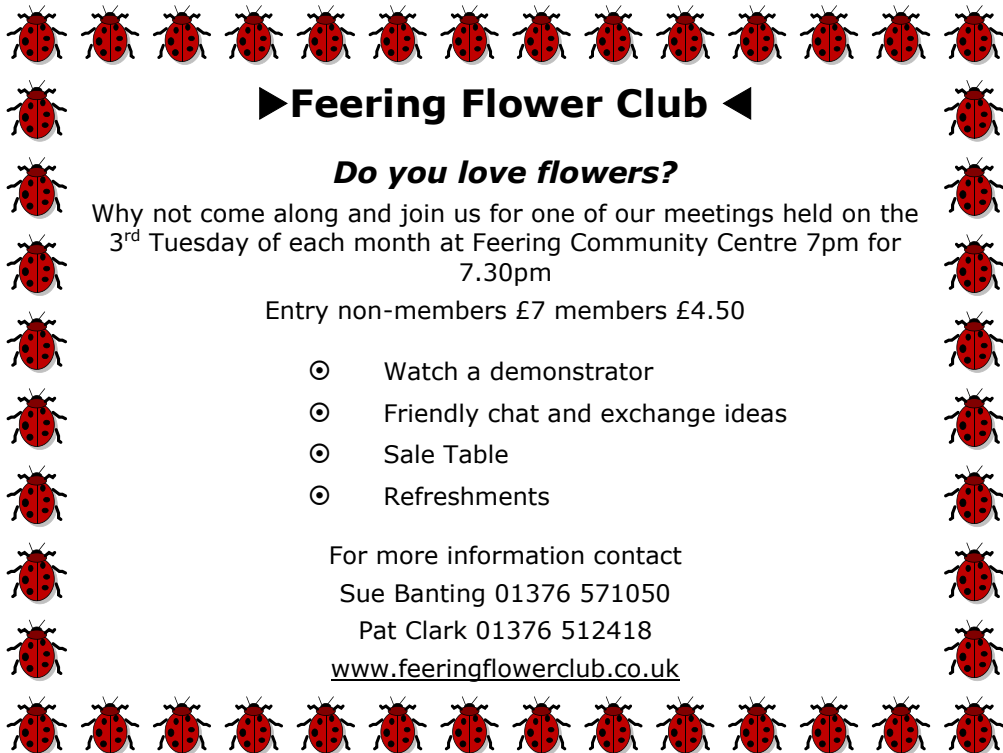
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Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

I thought this month we would look at Rivenhall's most famous born and an influential person of his time Thomas Tusser. Born in 1524 and was employed as a 'singing boy' at an early age and of course some of those early years he must have been involved in Rivenhall church. It would appear that the family moved to Oxford, Wallingford so he could be a chorister and then onto St. Pauls Cathedral, London. He went on to being educated at Eton and King's Collage Cambridge. Thomas spent about 10 years at the Royal Court as a musician during the reigns of Henry V111 and Edward VI, for Lord Paget. He left court life and married around 1552.

After this he spent his time farming in Ipswich and Norwich areas. He often wrote about agriculture which some of his advice is still used today thou he failed many times in farming itself and often fell back on this music ability for an income. In 1557 A Hundreth Good Pointes of Husbandrie was published...with others following thereafter. In 1573 Good Huswifery came out. This was in a form of an information poem. A calendar and How-to book also. He's poetry was regarded as the most read books or pamphlets in Elizabeth I's reign by all.

Thomas had many jobs over his life including a lay clerk at Norwich Cathedral and then moved back to Essex to farm at Fairsted and when this was not a success went back to London. When the plague to hold in London 1572-73 he went back to Trinity Hall as a matriculated (student).

Our Thomas Tusser died on 3rd May 1580 in poverty in London.

In the Rivenhall Review of 1962 this article appeared about Thomas Tusser:

Many old customs may be traced in Tusser's verses and some curious inference drawn respecting the state of the peasantry in his time. The farm servants, it seems, did not live at all badly. They looked 'of custom and right', to have roast on

Sundays and Thursdays and had, besides various days of festival to be regularly kept at the Farmer's expense. The government control over the servants, an occasional good drubbing being authorised. The following lines seem to suggest that the maids in particular were subjected to this domestic discipline:-

Let Holly-wand threat,

Let Fizgigg be beat.

(Fizgigg: Worthless fellow: Light heeled wench)

Januaries Husbandrie

By T. Tusser

When Christmas is ended, bid feasting aue,
Goe play the goode husband, thy stock to renue.

Be mindfull of rearing, in hope of a gaine,
Dame Profit shall give reward for thy paine.

Now lop for thy fewell old pollenger growen,
that hinder the corne or the grass to be mowen,
In lopping and felling, save adder and stake,
thy hedges as needeth to mend or to make.

Leave grubbing or pulling of bushes (my sonne)
till timely thy fences require to be done.

Then take of the best, for to furnish thy turne,
and home with the rest, for the fier to burn.

Though lay land ye breke up when Christmas is gon,
for sowing of barlie or otes thereupon,

Yet haste not to fallow til March be begun,
least afterward wishing it had been undun.

SANTA IS RESCUED IN RIVENHALL !!

For many years now, Bob Turner and John Macrae have put days of dedicated work into assembling, decorating and illuminating the Rivenhall Santa Sleigh (on behalf of the Rivenhall Millennium Committee) - a sight so much loved by all. This year was no exception and the pair had Santa's Sleigh completed and ready to rock-n-roll by the evening of Saturday 19th December. The pair went home exhausted only to hear Boris Johnson announce that a new Covid19 Tier 4 was being introduced that midnight!

Bob was absolutely devastated as it from Santa's sleigh the very next evening that his helpers were due to deliver the Millennium Committee's annual gifts to our elder citizens and Christmas cards to every household Santa needed new plans!

Over the next few days, with Covid measures in place, Santa's elves busied themselves delivering a card to all homes, and Christmas cakes and tins of biscuits to all ninety of our most senior Rivenhall residents.

Santa's sleigh is brilliant in the sun and it is brilliant in the snow, but in the rain it cannot glide (and rain was forecast). Then a weather opportunity appeared on Christmas Eve (Santa's busiest time of the year). Santa sighed, thought about it, and said "Then Christmas Eve it must be".

At Rivenhall Hall, the reindeer were rearing to go, Santa was on his sleigh, and Jenny Turner and Jane Macrae were ready to deliver sweets to all the children. On Santa's command "Lights-Action-Music", absolutely nothing happened - we had a generator failure!

Following frantic action by Bob Turner and heroic efforts by Robert and Harry Pearce, we finally had action, the generator started, then lights & music; Santa was rescued and off he went "And don't spare the reindeer" he said. All the reindeer worked very hard indeed to make up for lost time.

Despite the evening being bitterly cold, so many people came to their doorways, their gates and their windows,

enthusiastically waving to Santa and his team. Using extending poles, Jenny and Jane were able to safely pass bundles of sweets to all the children as the bouncy musical sleigh passed-by. And on the music front - our selection was all kindly recorded for us by Mark Davey. Santa was astonished at the truly wonderful turn-out in both Rivenhall and Rivenhall End, and what fantastic Christmas lights there were along the way, many doubtless inspired by Darrin and Vicky of DRH Landscapes who created a superb Christmas lights competition for Rivenhall, Rivenhall End and Silver End (all in aid of the Essex & Hertfordshire Air Ambulance): maybe you saw some of the brilliant competition entries shown on ITV Anglia News.

For the 2020 sleigh ride, Santa again was most indebted to Robert Pearce who, at unexpectedly short notice, gave-up his family Christmas Eve to safely escort the sleigh on its way, firstly through Rivenhall and then Rivenhall End.

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee is so very grateful to everyone who continues to support them, and of course to all of you who came out to see Santa on that very special Christmas Eve. On the night our team were Bob & Jenny Turner, Robert Pearce and John & Jane Macrae. We all wish everyone in Rivenhall a very much safer and fun 2021.

POSTSCRIPT:

This year has been extremely challenging for Rivenhall Millennium Committee as we were unable to raise funds due to COVID 19 restrictions. We do not seek donations towards our Santa's sleigh but several people kindly gave donations on the night.

We would like to sincerely thank them all for their generosity.

End to End Nature Care.

Often when writing this column, in order to avoid repetition I will check what I wrote at the same time the previous year. Looking back, it is impossible to ignore the irony upon reading the start of last January's column: "2019 was an unusual year in many ways...". By 2020 standards it was nothing!

Certainly, since the end of last March when the first Covid-19 lockdown period commenced, many of us have spent more time than ever watching the wildlife in our gardens. The plants and the invertebrate fauna can change on an almost weekly basis in the spring and summer but many of the vertebrates will be present, perhaps on and off, throughout the year and become quite familiar, providing the opportunity to make more detailed observations on their behaviour.

Many of us could therefore almost write a list of the bird species in our garden from memory. However, the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, which comes around again at the end of this month, requires genuine observation, though only for a period of one hour at any time during the weekend of 29th to 31st January. The instructions are simple: you just need to record the different species of bird which land in your garden (fly-pasts don't count I'm afraid) and a maximum number of individuals of each species seen at any one time (to avoid counting the same bird numerous times). Full details are available on the RSPB website, through which you can also submit your results and pick up lots of tips on how to improve your chances of seeing more birds, how to identify the different species, even how to photograph them. This year there are also lots more interactive opportunities on the website too. I would urge you to participate and suggest that the earlier in the morning you can do it the better (it does not get light too early at the moment so that does not mean a ridiculously early start, unlike a May dawn chorus which can mean setting the alarm for 4am). Once you start noting them down it can be impressive just how many different types of bird you get in your garden.

Unsurprisingly, the RSPB offers a wealth of advice on how to

attract birds to your garden and how to help local wild birds survive. In essence this means food, water and habitat. Water is one that is often forgotten about but even a small, shallow bowl of water on the ground can provide a vital drink for birds when the weather has been dry, and few things seen to express as much joy and exhilaration as a bird having a jolly good splash in a birdbath. For habitat don't just think nesting sites but also roosting sites, particularly at this time of year. Evergreen or dense, deciduous shrubs and hedges provide invaluable shelter from the elements for many smaller birds as well as somewhere to roost at night.

Even as early as this month, with the lengthening daylight hours many birds will start to turn their thought towards mating, with males in particular beginning to become territorial and to think about nest sites. The RSPB also gives lots of advice on nestboxes and the various different designs meeting the various requirements of different species. They will, of course, sell you a nestbox but to their credit they also provide instruction on how to build one yourself, however if you are unable or not confident in your ability to do that, our group is still offering free nestboxes to local residents to erect in their gardens, for anything from a blue tit to a tawny owl (if you have suitable habitat nearby). If you would like one then please contact me (details below). Equally, if you have some spare timber sitting around, or even boxes of old nails or screws which you no longer need, which we could potentially use to build nestboxes and you are willing to donate it then please also get in touch and we will arrange collection.

To obtain a free bird box, or to donate materials for making boxes, or to share anything interesting regarding local wildlife then please feel free to get in touch with me via simon@e2e.silverend.org or on 07947 388180. Alternatively you could ask to join our new Facebook group - End to End Nature Care - where you can see what members have been finding and share photographs or comments of your own.

Simon Taylor

Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Keith Taylor	516975
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net	meets every first Tuesday	
Age Concern (Witham area)	Margaret Prime	514255
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 619395

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	