End-to-End
The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End





A Dakota DC3 used to tow gliders from Rivenhall Airfield at the beginning of Operation Varsity on March 23rd 1945. An operation that helped shorten the end of WW2. The picture (of the DC3) was taken on March 23rd 2025 by Dave Atkinson of Rivenhall End. The soldiers are members of a group dropped into parts of Germany having a last cup of tea before boarding a glider

April 2025 50p

The following are our services For April 2025

6th April	**5th Sunday of Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
13th April	**Palm Sunday**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
17th April	**Maundy Thursday**
7.30 pm St Mary's	Holy Communion
18th April	**Good Friday**

10.15 am Walk of Witness departs Silver End Coop
Then Service at St Francis at 11.00 am

20thApril	**Easter Sunday**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
27th April	**2nd Sunday of Easter**
9.30 am St Francis	All Age Worship
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest	Jane Quinton	01245 210930
Churchwarden	Denise Lane	07398 154289
Churchwarden	Marie Galley	07767 888198
	Email mariegalley8@gmail.com	
Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy	01376 512781	
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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' - Hope springs forth…….

The sheep are back!

Yes….. as I looked out my window this morning, the view that greeted me was a field full of sheep …. It was a sight that immediately brought a huge smile to my face – not only because they just look so cute, but also because seeing them again is a sign that Spring is in the air.

What with the daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops appearing, and the blue sky and sunshine which, as I write this, was the experience of last week, it is all an indication that, (despite another current chilly spell!) those dark, cold, grey gloomy days and nights (of which we seemed to have an extended amount through January and February) are at last making a retreat. Signs which I hope, are able to lift your spirits and bring a smile to your faces also.

I wonder though how all those caught up in wars and conflicts and repression, are able to find hope and optimism…?

This week I read something written by the Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha, who expresses the devastation of grief and longing for peace:

> "I wish I could wake up and find the electricity on all day long.
> I wish I could hear the birds sing again, no shooting and no buzzing drones.
> I wish my desk would call me to hold my pen and write again, or at least plow through a novel, revisit a poem, or read a play.
> All around me are nothing but silent walls and people sobbing without sound"

I can't begin to imagine what it truly is like to be in Gaza or the Ukraine at the moment……. and I know the question for so many will be, 'where is God in all this death and destruction and pain……?'

I know all I can really do is pray……. for those caught up in it

all, and for those who have the opportunity of bringing relief and even peace…

But in this season of Lent, as we journey towards Easter, I am reminded that we have a God who does care…… so much that He was willing to die an horrific death on the cross, because He loves us that much….

Indeed, in the words of Richard Rohr:

"God does not stay at a distance from us but constantly seeks to transform our lives by asking us to awaken to the divine presence.

God is a mysterious, creative, sustaining life force…. God is there all the time. The challenge for us is to open our eyes, ears, hands, minds, and hearts to receive the truth of God's real, persistent presence, God's grace. When we open ourselves to it, we are changed by it. The way we perceive the world shifts, like a radically refocused camera lens, and we experience life differently. You see everything around you as suffused with God's love. You see God's grace everywhere, saturating all existence. This process of awakening to what is already true, but you haven't previously seen it, is called conversion—a word that literally means 'to see anew'."

Praying that as we celebrate once again the Son rising on Easter Day, we may all see things in a new way……. reminded that there is hope, that light does overcome darkness, because love and grace has the ultimate victory.

Easter love and blessings to all

Rev Jane x

Readings and Collects for April 2025

6th April **5th Sunday of Lent**

All Age Worship

Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21
Phil. 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8

Collect
Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

13th April **Palm Sunday**
Holy Communion
Readings
Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50.4-9a
Philippians 2.5-11
Luke23 1-49
Collect
True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

17th April **Maundy Thursday**
Holy Communion
Readings
Psalm 22 at End
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Collect
God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him:
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.

20th April **Easter Sunday**
Holy Communion
Readings
Acts 10:34-43

1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20: 1-18

Collect

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

27th April **2nd Sunday of Easter**

Special Service

Readings

Acts 5:27-32
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Collect

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

On Thursday 24th April at 2pm we will meet in St Nicolas Church Hall for our Annual General Meeting followed by tea and cake.

All members and friends welcome.

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

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

Coffee mornings have now returned on the following Fridays: 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 30th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th, Aug, 5th Sep, 3rd Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec.
good fun for all with bingo sessions, raffle and cake etc etc run byour volunteers Frank and Clare. 9 to 12 noon

Race Night Once again we will be holding a fabulous race night on Sat 5th April tickets from any committee member are £12.50 including fish and chips or sausage and chips etc.

Quiz night Friday 16th May 7.0 pm up to 6 people per team and £5 per person. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Fabulous prizes and raffle…

Bingo sessions Saturday Night run byJack Prime…dates as follows:-
15th March 19th April 17th May 21st June 16th Aug 20th Sep 18th Oct 15th Nov 20th Dec

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

Or Call 07738 705585

Following the Village Hall AGM on the 21st Jan We will be re-instating the Coffee Morning on the first Friday of the month 9– 12 am

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The 50/50 Club March 2024 winners

1st A Hook 2nd S. Donell 3rd W. Kerr

****

Payment for the End-to-End Magazine and any other Payments such as the 50 / 50 club

If you would like to pay for your Church magazine via BACS, here are the details:

Rivenhall and Silver End Parochial Church Council

Sort Code 20-97-40 A/C90753866.

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2025 IN HENRY DIXON HALL

(Formal Minutes can be viewed on official village noticeboards and the council's website)

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Abbott, Wright, Prime & Hammond. Also present was our acting Clerk Christine Marshall.

Chairman's Report: At his request, the Essex CC Rights-of-Way team have inspected Footpath 38 that runs from opposite the village green towards Kelvedon and will reinstate the eroded steps up the far bank or Rivenhall Brook. The Chairman has met with the various building companies who are developing land off Rectory Lane (this is because of the considerable muddy debris on the road surface. Whilst Bellway Homes have swept the lane as a measure of goodwill, they are not using it for their current works. Bellway have now re-opened Footpath 58 (rectory Lane to the pond) following its earlier unlawful closure.

Essex County Councillor's Report: County Cllr Playle submitted a written report. Recent jetting of Rivenhall End pipes and gulleys near the Railway bridge and Henry Dixon Road has been completed to clear any blockages. Cllr Playle is continuing to urge Essex Highways to attend to the road defects both near the railway bridge and at the Oak triangle. In 2024/25, he nominated Rivenhall

School for Essex County Council grant funding towards IT equipment. An update on Essex County Council's devolution proposals to create between two and five Unitary Authorities in Essex.

District Councillors Report: Cllrs Abbott and Wright reported Braintree DC have increased their share of Council Tax by 3% for 2025/26. Simon Brice has offered all his agricultural land between Witham and Rivenhall as a "new employment site" in the current Local Plan Review. Construction traffic from various local developments had made Rectory Lane very muddy and has damaged verges. Considerable amounts of soil from footings is being removed from Bellway sites but it is unclear which phase of development this is. If anyone sees HGV vehicles using Rectory Lane, please let Bob Turner have the vehicle numbers, as he will inform Bellway's construction manager.

Planning: There were two planning applications regarding noise monitoring at the integrated Waste Management Facility: councillors made no comment. Enforcement investigations over BDC planning approvals for all the buildings at Appleford Farm is on-going (after the meeting councillors were informed that the site's recent licence application had been withdrawn).

Tree Planting: Following a request to Cllr Abbott by a resident seeking to sponsor a tree (but with no plaque) councillors agreed in principle subject to its siting: The parish council needs a tree planting policy so our acting clerk will supply a draft.

Notice Boards: It was agreed to replace the public noticeboard outside the village hall with a 12 sheet A4 sized recycled plastic board. We will request a Councillor Community Grant of up to £2,000 (thanks to Cllrs Abbott and Wright). We approved a quotation of £345 to remove the old board and install its replacement.

Annual Parish Assembly: This is in Rivenhall Village Hall on Tuesday 15th April (start 7 pm). We are seeking attendance by, the police, National Highways, Essex Highways and BDC planning. We will order 400 copies of our Annual Report (which includes a prominent invitation to all residents to attend): these will be delivered by Councillors.

Contract for P G Groundcare

This is being progressed, but we need a parish inventory of all verges and cut areas, and who is responsible for cutting each. This will avoid duplication of cutting by PG Groundcare/BDC/ECC/ Eastlife and others. With his in place, our contract with P G Groundcare can be formalised.

A12 Junctions with Oak Road and Braxted Road

There is a long history of A12 vehicles crashing into properties on both roads near their junctions with the A12. The Clerk will write to National Highways explaining our great concern about regular property damage and near-misses to both other road users and pedestrians.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 01 April 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 15 April Annual Parish Assembly 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 06 May 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

A Rivenhall V E Day Celebration

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee invites all villagers to come to Rivenhall village green on the afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday on 5th May to celebrate VE Day (Victory in Europe) 80 years ago. Starts 2:00 pm; ends 5:30 pm.

There will be live music, including the excellent Dixilanders and our ever-popular Rivenhall singer Charlie: there will be bagpipers too, and also some nostalgic wartime songs.

On the food front, cream teas will be served, along with burgers from the Bar-B-Q.

Eighty years ago, Rivenhall Airfield played its very significant role in Operation Varsity which was the airborne invasion of Germany on 24 March 1945 using Horsa gliders towed by RAF Rivenhall's two squadrons of Stirling aircraft. Just six weeks later the war in Europe was over, such was the impact of operation Varsity which followed Operation Overlord (the Allied forces invasion of German occupied Europe) in 1944.

There will be a marquee, but you may wish to bring your own chairs or picnic rugs. Please do put Monday 5th March in your diaries, and please do come along - there are no entry charges.

Operation Varsity

and the Connection with Rivenhall

On Monday 24th of March I awoke to hear the words “Rivenhall Airfield” on the BBC News. Thinking this was more about the dreaded incinerator I turned up the volume only to see a few familiar faces in Silver End being Interviewed by a BBC reporter about Operation Varsity.

For all of you who may have missed this report here is a reproduction from the BBC website.

Operation Varsity "was the battle that ended" World War Two in Europe, yet it is largely unknown to all but military history buffs.

British, Canadian and American forces took off mostly from Essex airfields on 24 March 1945, to be dropped directly on top of the German lines at the River Rhine.

Paratroopers and gliders packed with men descended into fierce fighting conditions which resulted in rapid success, but huge loss of life. About six weeks later, Victory in Europe was declared.

Chris Bullock has organised an event at one of the departure airfields, RAF Rivenhall, to remember those who died, saying "it's an untold story".



Peter Davies, 102, took off from RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk towed by a Dakota plane and carrying "a 17-pounder gun, towing vehicle, external and gun detachment of eight personnel".

He had volunteered for the Glider Pilot Regiment in 1942 because he thought it would be "more exciting" than his time as an Army

private manning a Royal Artillery anti-aircraft unit.

"It's like flying a brick – there's only one way, and it's down," said Mr Davies, from Bollington, Cheshire, describing what it was like once the glider was loosed.

"There was a hell of a lot of flak, we lost our controls and having lost a great chunk of one wing, we were pulling deeper and deeper into enemy ground.

"When we hit the ground – and I do mean hit – we were very much in the wrong place amongst a load of very angry Germans, and it was total chaos."

One American glider came down within 50m (about 160ft) of him, "and not one man got out alive because the Germans were there as well".

But with co-pilot Bert Bowman, he made it across the battlefield to their intended drop zone and returned to Britain.



The Allies landed directly on top of the Germans and lots of gliders were shot down and lots of paratroopers were shot in the skies – 80 people from RAF Rivenhall alone lost their lives," said Mr Bullock, 56, who served in the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment for 25 years.

Operation Varsity was the largest single airborne operation in history, with more than 16,000 men were dropped into western Germany on the same day.

Its aim was to establish a bridgehead across the River Rhine for the

main Allied advance into Germany and push rapidly towards the Russian forces arriving from the east.

The first part was the ground offensive Operation Plunder, "which was the biggest-ever river crossing and was done by British and Canadian forces", Mr Bullock said.

The intention was for the amphibious troops on the western side of the Rhine to join up with the airborne troops dropped to its east.

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Mr Bullock provided some additional context.

"Three weeks after Varsity, Belsen concentration camp was liberated. Two weeks after, Hitler killed himself, and a week after that Germany capitulated – it's probably hardly talked about because events overtook themselves."

Now working as an international operations security manager for the BBC, he lives near RAF Rivenhall and began researching its story 10 years ago.

Sixty gliders towed by two RAF squadrons left the airfield at 07:00 GMT on 24 March 1945, carrying part of the 6th Airborne Division.

But some of that history is still lost.

"There are no records left of who flew on which glider and what happened to each man – only the anecdotal evidence and individual stories I've managed to track down," he said.

He has commissioned a memorial to "remember all those who flew

from Rivenhall and died on that day".

It was unveiled at an event on 23 March at Markshall, with military vehicles, static stands, re-enactors, presentations and a flypast by a Dakota.

A memorial service will be held the next day at 07:00 GMT.

With thanks to The Glider Pilot Regiment Society and The Parachute Regimental Association.

The Memorial to operation Varsity unveiled at Marks Hall Cogeshall Essex 23rd March 2024



End to End Nature Care.

Our final indoor meeting of the winter season saw group member Julia Todd from Silver End giving a talk on her recent nature-related travels to a couple of the extreme points of the British Isles: Shetland in the far north-east and Scilly in the extreme south-west. Both visits were part of organised nature tours, there being several specialist operators offering such group holidays these days.

In Shetland Julia was based for part of the time in the west of the main island (Mainland) and for the remainder at its southern extreme, Sumburgh, where the airport is located. Her group still made the journey by ferry to the island of Yell and then via another ferry to Unst, now the northernmost inhabited island in Britain (since the lighthouse on the small island of Muckle Flugga a mile north of Unst was made automatic and so unmanned). Herma Ness, the northernmost point of Unst, is a famous bird reserve and as Julia was there in the late spring she saw many breeding seabirds

including Puffins and Great Skuas (known as 'Bonxies' in Shetland, and renowned for acting aggressively towards intruding humans by diving at their heads). During the course of her visit she saw many other local speciality species including Red-necked Phalarope, Black Guillemot and Red-throated Diver.

Her Scilly visit was in September, during the autumn migration period when numerous ornithologists also descend on the islands in search of rare off-course migrant birds. The trip began with the excitement of a helicopter journey covering the 30-miles or so distance between the Scilly archipelago and mainland Cornwall. It is a very eclectic place to visit, made up of several quite small islands where there are few cars and one tends to travel more by boat. Although exposed to wind and rain the climate is mild with long hours of summer sunshine, so the botany is as exciting as the birds. Indeed, the Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco are famous for their collection of exotic plants. Julia's photographs gave an excellent flavour of the islands and hopefully inspired some of those present to think about visiting.

By April we are of course in British Summer Time, meaning we have sufficient evening light to begin our weekly Wednesday evening outings. As usual, this commences with our Cowslip count between Tarecroft Wood and Rivenhall Thicks. Details of this and the following few weeks' activities are listed below. All are very welcome.

For more background on the group please look at our website www.e2e.silverend.org or on our Facebook group 'End to End Nature Care' (please do also feel free to post comments and local photographs there), or I can be contacted via email

23 April 2025	19:00	Cowslip Survey. Meet in the parking area at the bottom of the track to Tarecroft Wood TL824171.
30 April 2025	19:00	Wickham Bishops bluebell woods. Meet at St. Bartholemew's Church, Church Road, Wickham Bishops CM8 3LA or TL837120
07 May 2025	19:00	Field-edge paths and hedgerows, Rivenhall. Meet at Stovern's Hall Farm (CM8 3HQ or TL825172).
14 May 2025	18:30 for 19:00	Danbury Common, primarily for Nightingales. Meet at 18:30 at Stovern's Hall Farm to car share or at 19:00 at the Armoury car park, just past the Cricketers Arms, Penny Royal Road, Danbury (CM3 4ED or TL779046).

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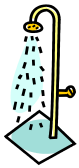






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- **WEDNESDAY 10.30am** Kelvedon Institute (small hall)
- **WEDNESDAY 7pm** Rivenhall Village Hall

(suitable for all levels including beginners)



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TUESDAY PRAISE

APRIL 2025

AT WURC

Newland Street, Witham, CM8 1AH Tel: 01376 500958

12.30 - 1.00PM

TUESDAY	Speaker
1st April	Vicki Zarb
8th April	Noah Cockett
15th April	Keith Ives
22nd April	Lorna Bantock

29th April Marina PriceEVERYBODY WELCOME
Refreshments available afterwards



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A Ukrainian Family Journey

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 Europe shuddered and the western world changed. Sadly, NATO and "The West" did not respond positively as one. At this time, Jane and I knew two Ukrainian friends who had come to the UK (as dancers) many years before the war commenced.

Our son had long-married and his family live in Suffolk, so as increasing numbers of Ukrainian women and their children sought refuge, Jane and I discussed the idea of offering some rooms to those exhausted, frightened people as we had spare unused rooms. We kept in touch with our two Ukrainian friends and I used to regularly ask them if they knew of any of their countryfolk in need of shelter. For several months their answers were "No, but thank you", but then came a very urgent "Yes please".

A young Ukrainian wife and her two young children had fled eastern Ukraine and was temporarily housed in Terling, but for health reasons, their host needed them to leave at minimal notice.

So in November 2022, our friend Yulia brought a Ukrainian mum with her two young children , a boy and a girl, to see us (complete strangers) at our home – and, within two or three days we became an extended family of five! Downstairs we had two large unused double bedrooms, a bathroom, shower and a toilet, so that part of our house became theirs for almost 2½ years. In late February this year, that family moved to a small privately rented home in Witham, so I am now delighted to tell our great, and their sad but amazing story.

Our friend Yulia helped our new "family" move to us, and several other displaced Ukrainian friends all joined us for a most memorable impromptu evening meal that night. Our "new" family were clearly frightened and in shock, wondering what was to become of them, and thinking "Should we have stayed in

Ukraine?". No buses stop at Rivenhall End, and the two young children had been allocated places at Howbridge School in Witham - so they walked the three miles each way, there and back every day. It being winter when the family came to us, the weather is generally not kind, so when it was wet (and the spray off the A12 is appalling) either Jane or I regularly drove the school-run in our car. Bicycles were then purchased, and we regularly serviced them and repaired punctures, but in poor weather we were always trusted to do the school runs … such was the faith our "Mum" had in us.

Funny things happened, and some not so damned funny. We knew nothing about our government's "Homes for Ukraine" scheme, we just did what we felt we should do. We were recommended to register under the scheme; this we did and almost seven months later, Jane and I received our very high-level DBS accreditation (clearance to look after foreign minors) and we then became a formal part of the UK government's hosting scheme. In the meantime, one morning in May 2023, I came downstairs to our kitchen and our Ukrainian wife was in tears … her mother's family home in eastern Ukraine had been bombed, the house totally flattened; her mum had been pulled unconscious from the rubble and was in hospital but out of phone contact. OK, I am a fairly thick-skinned engineer, but our emotions flowed … very much, oh yes! Another time, I again encountered our hosted mum in streams of tears - this time it was one of her and her husband's closest childhood friends in the army who had just been killed. To them, the war is always on their doorstep and daily around each corner.

Here at Whitelands we have been delighted to host various garden birthday parties for the children, with flags and bunting around the house and the garden, and what a joy it was to see so many other locally based Ukrainian mums and their children smiling together, the reality of the Ukraine war briefly out of mind.

Our Ukrainian wife and her husband worked in banking in

Ukraine, but as soon as the war started, most men were not permitted to leave Ukraine. So “our” wife who had been taking English lessons here for some six months, found a local job in Witham - part time on minimal wage plus about 12p per hour, so she could normally drop-off the children and collect them at the end of school. This was a far cry from their Ukraine home lifestyle and their previous relative affluence … all now gone!

For us, these 2½ years with our Ukrainian family have been absolutely wonderful: we were unexpectedly (in our venerable dotage!), enjoying doing something which we could never have imagined. Barring the couple of extremely uncomfortable moments (above) this period has been an absolute pleasure and dream.

More ups and downs. As our family quickly opened up to us it became clear that our wife’s husband had a significant heart defect, not helped by lack of sleep due to continual bombing and drone attacks. We did all we could to support, rally and encourage our family, sometimes being happily allowed to take the children on visits whilst their mother was working.

In January 2024, our wife’s husband was allowed a temporary exit visa to come to this country. I was so delighted when I drove our wife to Stansted to bring him home to us: they hadn’t told their children, so the children’s shrieks and tears upon his unexpected arrival will live with me forever. A couple more brief visits followed then the husband, because of his health, was allowed to leave Ukraine indefinitely in September 2024 - such all-round family rejoicing - and us too!

And then …amidst all of this, we took on another lodger, the late Audrey Brown’s son Mark: we had known Mark for nearly forty years, ever since we moved to the village. Mark had to move from his old family home and there was to be a long wait for the estate to be settled and distributed: Mark needed his

share of the estate to buy himself a property, which he then needed to significantly update and decorate. So he stayed with us for almost a year. When our son and his family came to visit us around this time, our household swelled to eleven people!

Our Ukrainians after many months fervently searching for a small private rented home, were successful late February this year … the four of them had found a property in Witham.

This whole experience for us has been nothing but truly uplifting, whilst some of the family's shared traumatic experiences were truly hellish for them, but by working as one big close family, a light finally shone for them.

The last few days (empty nest syndrome maybe) have been somewhat emotional for me, a Civil Engineer, one who was proud of his many designs, his innovate construction projects, his project management skills, and being able to hold his nerve. But looking back, I think I can say that my life's best achievement was offering this, "our" family, sanctuary, support, stability, comfort, hope and love. It's a funny old world!

ps. In early March, Jane and I were invited for lunch at "our" family's new temporary home in Witham: what a joy it was to meet the four of them again … we realised how much we really do miss them … strong, unbreakable bonds have been made.

Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

This is to let all my readers know that I am taking a break from this page until the July issue of the magazine. I would like to thank all those who say they enjoy my rambles and I can insure you I will be back in July and that will be my 100 article of 'Turning the pages of History' which I started in 2016.

Wishing you all health and happiness until then, Tracy.

George Alfred Hope a Londoner made of the Wars

By Peter Hope

I am very fortunate that my father George Alfred Hope wrote his life story. As Tracy is taking a break from writing the History Page and I know many of my readers will have had a very strong connection to their relatives who fought in the last war, I plan to serialise his life story up to the end of the 2nd World War.

The Early Years

The life of George Alfred Hope Born 29/5/1916, first Child of George William Hope and Martha Ann Turell. They were married on 25/12/1915.

I lived where I was born at 4 Viceroy Road Lambeth for about a year and then moved with my mother to 180 Robertson Street Battersea SW8.

My father, who was shown on my birth certificate as a motor mechanic joined the army (RASL) in 1916. Very soon afterward he was sent overseas and did not come home for four years (WW1). I vaguely remember being scalded when I was 13 months old.

My father came home from the army in 1920 when I was four. I have vague memories before that of various aunts and uncles, my mother's two sisters Mary and Lily, brother Uncle John Turrell, and Uncle Albert Hope coming in uniform and taking me to the sweetshop, Stegalls in Silverthorne Road. Because I knew my father's twin Uncle Albert before I met my father, when he came home I called him "Uncle Albert" which he didn't appreciate.

I remember that my father on his return from the war was a very bad tempered man, due probably to recurring attacks of malaria caught whilst serving in Mesopotamia (which is in the Balkans).

On the 4th of April 1921 my brother Ronald Sidney was born, he was a very poorly child and was born with a double hernia. I remember very clearly the visits to Westminster Hospital (opposite the Abbey) and looking into Ron's cot and thinking how poorly he looked.

Until my father came home the main male who guided me was my Grandfather Alfred Turrell, I still think of him with affection. His wife died in 1904 leaving him with five children under the age of 10.

He resisted the pressure to put them in an orphanage (the usual practice at the time) and brought them up himself. It was not easy especially with three daughters at home.

Grandad was very fond of horses and while his children were young he worked as a carter for what is now the Royal Mail on permanent night driving.

Later when I knew him, he had a horse and cart and sold vegetables, going up to Covent Garden at 4.00 a.m and buying his supplies. Then later in the day he toured the locality selling from the cart. When the opportunity arose I would go with him. I learned a lot of human nature from him. I remember one occasion when a "brassy blonde" (his definition) came out of a house looked at his bananas on show and said 'haven't you got any better than that?' With that he pulled out the box of his reserve supply and said these are half penny dearer, and she bought them. Another occasion an old lady living on 10 Shillings a week old age pension came and asked for penny worth (penneth) of pot herbs. She received a very good penneth. For those who don't know 'Pot Herbs' were a mixture of the vegetables which were the basis of a stew onion, carrot, parsnip, turnip etc.

When my father came out of the army in 1920 all the available work had been taken up by those who had been demobbed earlier and until he started on the Southern Railway two years later the only work he did was Government created labouring for short periods.

With the arrival in 1921 0f my brother Ronald my bed, a folding one was moved into the kitchen.

At this time I started school in Tenyson Street (Battersea) at the age of five and my teacher was a Mrs German. Half way through the first term I was moved up to the higher class indicating I was bright! I stayed in Mrs German's class until I was seven when I moved up to the Junior School.

Other people I can remember from this period was my Grandfather (on my mothers side) Alf Turrell (see above), Auntie May, Uncle George Harding, Lou Waller before she was married, the Scrines family, all these people were friends of my mother. From my fathers family those that I can remember were my Dads sister's. Aunt Emily Horton who had sons George and Les and Aunt Mary Ann Bailey who had no children. I remember visiting my Grandmother Ellen at least once a week. On these occasions she would give me half a penny and insist that I went and spent it immediately. She would watch me

from her door as I went across the road to the sweetshop. The most prominent photo on her mantelpiece was the grave of her eldest son Charlie who was killed when he fell from the rigging of a sailing vessel in New Zealand in 1895.

At this time Arnold, my Grandfather was in his 70's and was separated from Ellen. I can only remember seeing my Grandfather a couple of times and have no clear recollections of him.

I attended Tennyson School for six years. The head teacher was George Kirkham Jones a Welshman who tried to give me an appreciation of music. Mr Hurn whose favourite occupation was rapping the knuckles of the children with a ruler had been a teacher since about 1880. I have a photo of him with our class and Mr Russell who was a very good artist. Mr Russel was an excellent teacher and the school was full of oil paintings of Beethoven, Brahms etc.

My friends from this period that I can remember were Alan Crump whose father had a china shop in Queenstown road Clapham SW8 3. Albert Wilkins, John Barratt-Turner, and Joe Piddington.

The only girl I remember was Lilly Wheeler the belle of our year, in the Empire Day Pageant she was the Queen.

Life in two Rooms

When my mother and I moved to 180 Robertson Street in 1917 it was to two rooms, a bed sitter and kitchen upstairs in what was a six roomed house 3 up and 3 down; plus scullery with coal fired wash/copper and mangle with wooden rollers and outside toilets. There was three feet of concrete in front with iron railings and about 20 feet of backyard.

I imagine it was quite comfortable for just my mother and me but father came home in 1920 and in 1921 Ron was born. There were now four of us in the one bedroom which was furnished as follows:-

- A double bed
- A chest of draws
- A sofa
- Two armchairs
- And a small bed for me
- A cot for Ron
- Coal Fire and Gas Fishtail lights

The Chambers family occupied downstairs and the third room upstairs. Mum and Dad Chambers were in 'service' in the West End They had three children Mary, William and Alice (Babs) all older than me. Babs, who was a year older than me, was my constant, companion between the ages of 7 and 13 years. The Chambers family then moved and Babs died when her first party dress caught fire, she was 16.

I can remember very well having measles when I was about six years old and can still see my mother sitting by my bed mopping my brow. It was at about this time that I had a hallucination of my soul leaving my body and looking down on it from a great height. A year later at the age of seven I had scarlet fever and was taken to Stockwell fevers hospital.

My father was out of work for two years 1920 to 1922 and my mother started cleaning (charring) for the first two houses just off Lavender Hill, A Mrs Fairlee, wife of the chemist on Lavender Hill and Mrs Martin who lived next door. Later my mother took on the cleaning of a private girls school in Battersea Rise.

In 1922 my father started work on the railways as a coalman at the Nine Elms locomotive depot. He joined the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and became quite active in the Union and also in the Communist Party. He actively campaigned for the election of Sakatmala who I believe was the only Communist MP ever elected to the British Parliament. I was pressed into service putting leaflets through letterboxes.

My father could get a tune out of any musical instrument and played the Banjo in the Nine Elms Banjo Band with Jack Brazier and Walter Monk. About this time I was sent to Mrs Keith's Socialist Sunday School on Lavender Hill with the Keith Brothers and Mollie West (her father was a railway engine driver).

1926 was a year never to forget my father was on strike (the General Strike) and at the same time my mother gave birth to twins William John and Winifred Daisy the day after my 10th Birthday.

This kept me busy with the bottle-feeding; my brother who was the lightest at birth but soon became the heaviest swallowing everything he could get in his mouth. For the next couple of years all my spare time was spent looking after my brother and sister. Especially when brother Ron had to go into hospital for more surgery. *To be Continued:*

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

Club members met on Tuesday 11th March 2025. Chairman, Maurice Bacon, paid tribute to Joan Cain whose funeral was held at St. Mary's Church in Rivenhall on Thursday 6th March. Joan and her late husband Les were very active in the Club for many years and at various times Joan was Club Secretary, Show Secretary and Club President. She will be greatly missed.

Maurice then introduced our Speaker for the evening, R.H.S Judge Malcolm Bradbury who is well known to members. In preparation for the Club Daffodil Show on Saturday 29th March, Mr Bradbury gave us advice and demonstrated how to stage Daffodils for the Show Bench. It was detailed and informative for the amateur grower and Mr Bradbury was pleased to answer all questions.

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticultural

1st Brian Cradwick	2nd Clare Ramsden	3rd Maurice Bacon

Domestic

1st Karen Dakin	2nd Shirley Bacon	(2 entries)

Flower of the Month

1st Clare Ramsden	2nd Shirley Bacon	3rd Frank Ramsden

Photo of the Month

1st Karen Dakin	2nd Clare Ramsden	3rd Jenny Claydon

The Club's next evening meeting will be on TUESDAY 8th APRIL, at 7.30 pm in Rivenhall Village Hall. Entrance, to include refreshment, £3. Our speaker will be Michelle Cush who will tell us about `Exploring Madagascar'. Club Competitions will be: Horticulture — A stem of a flowering shrub. Domestic - 3 Chocolate Chip Cookies. Flower of the Month. Photograph of the Month (nature)

The annual subscription to the Club is £10 per head for the calendar year and includes the Club's Schedule. We have eight meetings a year and hold three Shows. We also aim to have a visit to a place of interest each year. Each meeting we have a raffle, a bring and buy table and an information table. We are a small and friendly Club and we welcome new members. For further information contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781. We look forward to welcoming you.

Book Review

A History of Essex in 10 Places by John Dann

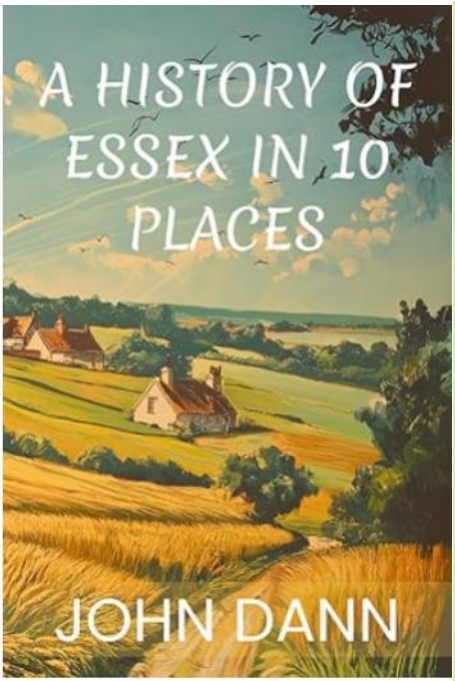
Think you know Essex? TOWIE, to wide boys and barrow boys done good?

The History of Essex in 10 places reveals a county that's been quietly shaping Britain for two thousand years, through ten carefully chosen locations, see how Essex's position - close enough to London to share in it's opportunities—yet far enough away to do it's own thing has created a place that has always been ahead of the curve.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a curious traveller or just someone who loves a good tale . 10 places reveal an Essex that's far more fascinating than the stereotypes type suggest - a place where new ideas take root and old assumptions get Cheerfully challenged.

John Dann is a local writer from Coggeshall and brings a refreshing angle to the many stories related IN HIS BOOKS.

The book can be purchased from all good book sellers including Amazon which has a Kindle version.



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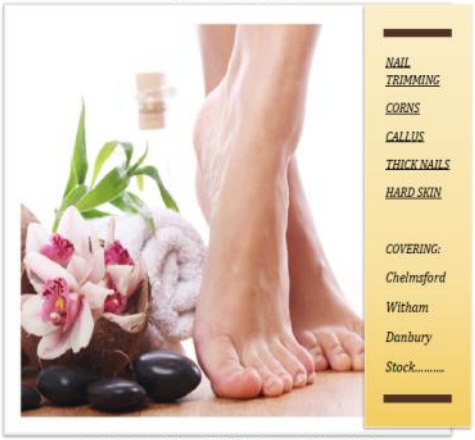
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Clerk to Parish Council	Amanda Brown	
e mail	clerk@rivenhall.pc.gov.uk	
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net meets every first Tuesday		
End to End Nature Care	Simon Taylor	01621 810141
Gardening Club	Carole McCarthy	512781
Meets on 2nd Tuesday 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
Rivenhall Millennium Committee	Bob Turner	01376 513659

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
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	secretary@silverend-scouts.org.uk	
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526

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