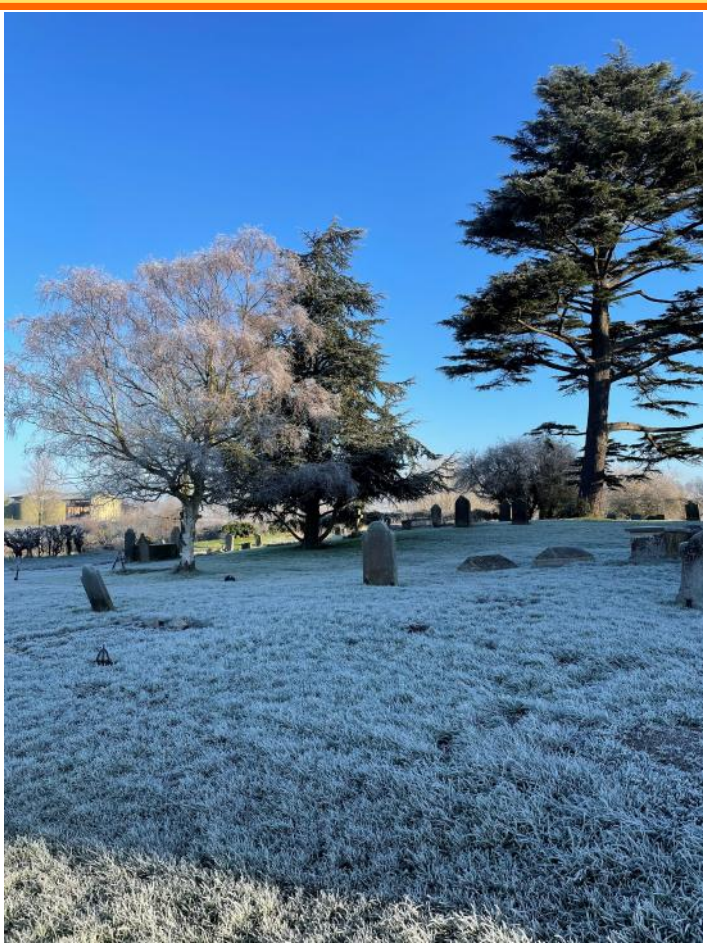
End-to-End
The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



A beautiful frosty morning St Mary's Rivenhall Churchyard in January 2025

February 2025 50p

The following are our services For February 2025

2nd February	**Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candelmas)**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
9th February	**4th Sunday Before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
16th February	**3rd Sunday Before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
23rd February	**2nd Sunday Before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
2nd March	**Sunday next before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship

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	
Silver End Contact Denise Lane	07398 154289	
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' – Post-Christmas Presence….!

I know I have probably said this before, but it is always strange having to write something weeks in advance, as it has the potential of feeling like old news by the time it is read! However, although the subject of this month's article relates to the Christmas season, I have decided to write it down anyway, as for me at least, it is relevant at any time during the year and through our lives. Therefore, with the final and 'epic' 'Gavin and Stacey' episode still fresh in my mind (having watched it 3 times to date!), to modify one of the phrases from a previous 'G+S' Christmas special, I am going to 'step (back) into Christmas'!

I am extremely grateful that my Christmas was blessed in many ways this year, especially as I know this will not have been the case for many……..

I do in fact always try to appreciate the good times when they happen, because I realise life is not always sunshine and roses….. Indeed, 5 years ago Graham and I arrived at my sister's house on Christmas Day eagerly looking forward to spending a couple of days there with all the family. But it was not long before I noticed my sister wasn't herself, and with only a little prompting she shared the news that the doctor had rung her the night before to say blood results from recent tests were not good, that something was showing on her pituitary gland, and that she should ring to book an emergency MRI and immediately go to Accident + Emergency if she showed any signs of headache or tingling.

The news was a huge shock to us all.

Immediately, those of us in the family who have a faith (including my sister) went and prayed. And I have to say that instantly God gave us a sense of peace that enabled us to enjoy the rest of our Christmas together. But a couple of days later, when we were all due to go to the pantomime, my sister did manifest numbness and tingling sensations, meaning that we instead spent the night in A+E.

Consequently, after further tests and scans, a pituitary problem was diagnosed that means she is now on permanent medication and monitoring.

Through it all people prayed, and God's presence was tangible. Personally this included the set readings I was to preach on the Sunday after Christmas (which followed the visit to A+E the night before), where I read of God's steadfast love… of God lifting us and carrying us… of God becoming human, and therefore truly experiencing and understanding all the pain human life can bring. And finally, the words from Isaiah: "It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them……" (Isaiah 63:9a)

I talk, I preach, I even write about God's unconditional love for every one of us.

But I think that sometimes we only associate God's love with blessings, when actually it takes times of darkness, of fear, of despair even, to actually draw closer and know God better, and perceive His presence with us.

Indeed it is particularly in my weakness that I need His strength… in my darkness that I need His light… and in my despair that I need the hope and peace that He gives.

A new year can be a strange time, accentuating the fact that none of us know what lies ahead. But for me, to know that God is there with me through all of life's experiences is, to end with another quote from 'Gavin & Stacey, 'immense'!

Love and blessings

***Rev Jane* x**

IMPORTANT NEWS Friday Feb 7th 9 am to 12 am Coffee Morning Rivenhall Village Hall

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

Readings and Collects for February 2025

2nd February **Presemtation of Christ in the Temple (Candelmas)**

All Age Worship

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

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.

9th February **4th Sunday before Lent**

Holy Communion

Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Collect

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

16th February **3rd Sunday before Lent**

Matins Psalm 1

Readings

Jeremiah 17:5-10
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Collect

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

26th January **2nd Sunday before Lent**

Holy Communion

Readings

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25
Rev.: 4
Luke 8: 22-25

Collect

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

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY at 1.30pm Preparation for the World Day of Prayer (a global ecumenical movement) at the Methodist Church Guithavon Street, Witham.

The service will take place on Friday 7th March also at 1.30pm at the Witham Methodist Church.

All welcome to the preparation and service which has been prepared by Christians of the Cook Islands 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

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

****

The 50/50 Club January 2024 winners

1st K Eagle 2nd L Harrington 3rd Tom & Keely

****

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.

Reference: Magazine.

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Prime, Wright and Hammond. Apologies were received from Cllr Abbott and Essex County Councillor Ross Playle.

Chairman's Report: Recent heavy rainfall has again caused road flooding under the railway bridge, at the junction of Church Road / Rickstones Road and at the junction of Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road. These incidents have been reported to County Highways: they are caused by the drain gulleys being full of autumnal leaves. Essex County Councillor responded, informing the Chairman that he had escalated the flooding situation with County Highways who have issued a permit for work on Oak Road near the rail bridge for the 10/12 February:

this will include patching, replace and reset gully cover, jetting of gullies, kerbing and vegetation cut-back. The Park Gate Solar Farm is due to go live in the first quarter of 2026.

Essex County Councillor's Report: Cllr Playle sent in a written report which the Clerk read to the meeting:

I have reported the flood waters in Oak Road, both at the railway bridge and at the Rickstones Road junction to Essex Highways. Essex Highways is arranging for another visit as soon as they can make the arrangements. Devolution and Local Government Reform: ECC will work with central government, and upper and lower tier authorities to deliver a mayoral combined county authority with a view to holding a mayoral election in May 2026, and a commitment in principle to abolish ECC, and redraw district, city and borough councils areas into unitary authorities. ECC seeks the Government to postpone the ECC elections due to be held 1st May 2025, initially by 12 months to May 2026 to enable the council to focus on developing devolution and local government reorganisation as part of the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.

District Councillors Report: Bob Wright reported that in 2026, BDC will implement new recycling bins, and plans to spend in excess of £4m to improve recycling: this will mean giving every household two extra bins in line with Government expectations. BDC position on ECC becoming part of a Unity Council possibly with Colchester and Tendring: BDC councillors have not been given a vote on the proposals, but such an authority would have 125 parishes. Parish and Town councils have not been included in the reform process at present.

New Notice Boards: The Clerk was asked to contact BDC and ask for information regarding where they purchase notice boards and if they could supply the Parish.

The council voted to ask the two District Cllrs who are also Parish Cllrs for a grant to pay for the new boards.

Website Next Steps: The website needs a rewrite of the 'About Us' information - Cllr Macrae volunteered to do this. The website will be enhanced by some photos of the village – Cllr Prime volunteered. The website needs to be populated with the Councils policies – Cllr Wright volunteered.

Planning: A letter will be drafted by Cllr Cairns to be sent to Simon Taylor (ECC Rights of Way) to enquire the future of footpaths 58 & 59. It will state that these footpaths are still in use.

Review of Policies: A model Grant Giving Policy was discussed, and with minor modifications, this will be adopted by the council.

Groundworks & Village Maintenance Contract: A contract is still outstanding from PG Groundcare: the Clerk was asked to chase this, and Cllrs also wanted to see the Public Liability Insurance certificate and a Method Statement plus the Risk Assessment appended to the contract.

Annual Parish Assembly: Various agencies will be asked to come and speak at the meeting. The 2024/25 Annual Report will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 04 February 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 04 March 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

Tue 01 April 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

What's Occurring around St Francis and Silver End

(I couldn't resist changing the title of this article to celebrate the last ever episode of Gavin and Stacy (for those who have loved Gavin and Stacey) P Hope Editor

Lots of events at St Francis church which began in November with a Christmas Wreath making workshop where ladies were treated to a creative evening with the very talented florist Sarah Barker. Sarah provided all the necessary materials and foliage for the ladies to make their own Christmas wreath and all were very individual and very well presented and made to their own design. Luxury cookies and hot chocolate followed which was very acceptable

Our Christmas lunch was well attended with our guests enjoying some festive fayre and entertainment provided by St Francis singing group the Silver Singers. A raffle was offered and also 'guess the name' of the Christmas dolls generously donated by Iris. The dolls were aptly named and taken home by Gemma Perkins, Shirley Bacon and Oliver Clarke. The event raised a total of £200 which was donated to the Children's Society, for which they were very grateful

The preparing and making of the Christingles followed the Christmas lunch for the Christingle service with Rev Jane, held at St Mary's church for the children of Rivenhall school, our thanks go to all who 'volunteered' to assist in the making of these.

Liz and I visited the Braintree food bank collection centre where we took all the Christmas food donated by St Francis and

Silver Steps daycare families. The centre was very grateful for the donation and together we donated over 60 individual meals which is a great achievement. Hopefully we helped make Christmas a little better for some struggling families in our village and surrounding villages.

Tom and his band Break fill Four entertained us all with an excellent Christmas show, singing all types of Christmas songs keeping the attending guests entertained and bringing the Christmas spirit to our village. The audience were invited to join in with the songs and dancing in the aisles was very compulsory. Our thanks go to Tom and the band for working hard to bring us this entertainment to kick start the Christmas festivities. More dates to follow during the year for another chance to hear this talented band provide a really good evenings entertainment locally.

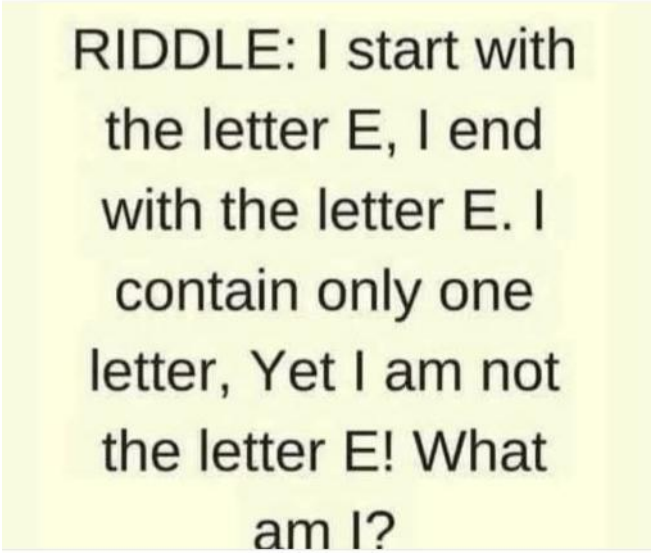
Our Crib service held on Christmas Eve with Rev Jane gave the attending children and families an opportunity to discover the Christmas story, sing some lovely Christmas carols and assist in filling the stable with all the Christmas characters. Our church was 'Christmas' decorated with lots and lots of candles to give a warm and welcoming ambience and we are grateful to guest speaker ' Baabra' sheep who brought us all the Christmas story.

Our Silver Singers meet fortnightly at St Francis church 7pm 'just to sing' , we are an informal bunch of ladies and gentlemen, our group is growing in number, who just love singing, you are very welcome to join us. Our very own mentor Tom Denton plays keyboard for us and makes the evening very enjoyable and stretches us with a full range of songs to suit all tastes, alongside

some originals written by Tom himself, we are very honoured to be given the opportunity to bring his songs to life. Tom's slogan is ' enthusiasm more important than ability' . Please join us, tea, coffee served, first session free, nominal £3 thereafter to cover heating etc. Our next meets are Monday 3 February and Monday 17 February 7pm, for more details or enquiries please telephone Liz on 01376 584694 and leave a message and Liz will get back to you

Our coffee mornings continue at St Francis with our first of the year being Saturday 8 February 10.30-12 and thereafter on the second Saturday in each month. Our Lent lunch will be held on Saturday 12 April, 12.30pm attendance strictly booked in advance please so that catering may be arranged, you are very welcome to join us All funds raised go towards the running and restoration of our very unique church, we are very lucky to have this building in our village. All our services on Sundays are held at 9.30am with Holy Communion held fortnightly with Rev Jane or one of our dedicated Clergy team.

Here is a Riddle for you I will provide the answer in the March Magazine



A Visit to the USA For Christmas by P Hope Editor

I know many of you have been "Dreaming of a White Christmas" for literally all your life. Well Sarah and I went to see my Son David his wife Marieke and my twin granddaughters Elinor and Marianne. In the USA close to Niagara Falls.

We flew from Heathrow to Toronto on British Airways as this is the closest international airport to where they live and David picked us up from there. The drive takes us over the Niagara Falls and take around 90 minutes.

On the day we arrived (18th Dec) it was cold but no snow however the next morning we woke up to a "Winter Wonderland" there was around 6 inches of snow overnight and the following picture shows the view from my bedroom window at their house.



The snow stayed around until the 27 December so we did get a white Christmas.

The house they live in was a "Quaker Chapel" and unusually is constructed from quarried stone.

The house was constructed in around 1830 and was converted to a home around 1910. If the house was in the UK it would be a Grade 1 Listed building. The house comes with quite a few extra residents laid to rest in the attached graveyard.

The graveyard can be seen in the foreground in the picture below with the house in the distance.



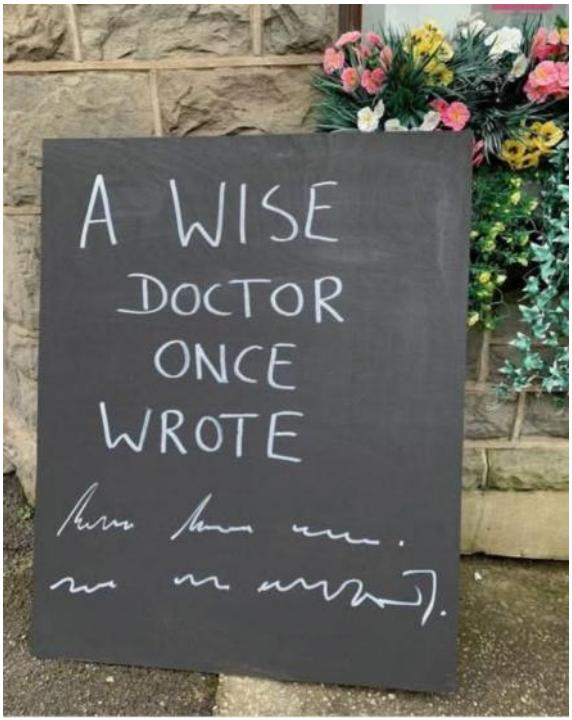
We were very sad to return home but had enjoyed some quality time with the family for Christmas.

Services Over Christmas at Rivenhall and Silver End

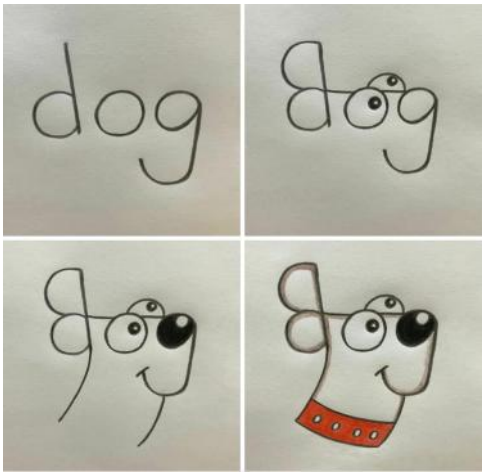
One afternoon before Christmas I visited St Marys Church not aware there would be a crib service for the children from the School the next day. The following is a picture of the Nativity Scene which greeted me in the Church.

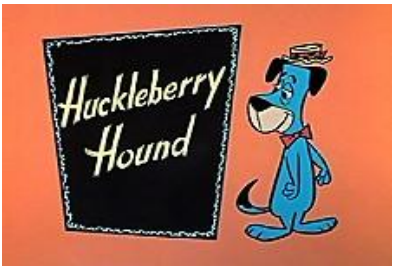


We also had a fantastic crib service at St Francis on Christmas Eve which was well attended by residents and their children.



All those who like to doodle here is the definitive way to draw a dog my favourite when I was a child was drawing Huckleberry Hound







A Couple of very interesting Scenes from the New Forest in Hampshire the first is the Mad Hatters "Tea Party" in the gardens at Beaulieu Motor Museum Hampshire and below donkeys holding up the traffic in the New Forest



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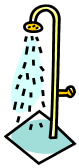






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TUESDAY PRAISE
For February 2025
at Witham URC

Tuesday	Speaker
4th Feb	'Femi' Cole-Nj
11 Feb	Lorna Bantock
18th Feb	Richard Wearmouth
25th Feb	Jane Quinton

EVERYBODY WELCOME
Refreshments available afterwards

Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

December 1964 Rivenhall Review editor Mr. Colman who was the Headmaster of Rivenhall School and Organist for the Church asked in his article What about the Future of Rivenhall? This had a few replies in the reviews that followed. This month we look at his article and the letter that was also published that month and some of replies that followed:

What about the Future of Rivenhall?

This month we publish a letter from Councillor Sidney Gurton seeking local opinions about the proposed development of Witham. We hope readers will be forthcoming with their comments and proposals so that our two representatives on Witham Urban District Council will be well informed about local feelings in this matter.

The purpose of this Editorial, however, is to stimulate thought and focus attention on the future of Rivenhall. Plans at present in force envisage little building at Rivenhall yet each side of us, at Witham and Silver End, a 'building development rash' has already broken out. Is Rivenhall to be 'infected'?

If no development takes place at Rivenhall for the next twenty years what, then, will this village be like? One imagines is will have an aging population and, because of this, the present Primary School will close and the handful of young children here will be transported daily to schools in Witham.

Young villages in their teens will soon, in many cases be embarking on marriage. Is there to be no home here for them? Apart from the village stores at both Oak and End there are no shops and there is certainly no petrol filling station and garage at the Oak to cater for the growing number of motorists amongst us; and garage facilities are woefully inadequate.

Is it not time that some of these problems should be faced?

Following now is Councillor Sidney Gurton. Sid, as we knew him lived in what was the Church House (now has new homes on that site) and was born on the opposite side of the road in Church Road in 1924. He was greatly involved in many aspects of village life and one of the founders of Rivenhall Gardening Club. Sid past away in 2014 not far off his 100 birthday.

Dear Editor,

Every local newspaper at the moment seems to be full of correspondence about the Witham overspill problem. Many of the letters show concern that members of the Council should be as fully aware as possible of the views of the people when decisions of this kind are being made. I agree with this and hope that either through your columns, or by direct approach, your readers will air their feelings.

In case anyone is in any doubt about the nature of the problem, I would like to explain that Witham is committed to the programme of re-housing surplus population from London to the extent that the town will grow from about 10.000 people to 25,000 within the next few years. This much is not in dispute. What is being discussed is a request from London County Council that Witham takes a much larger number of people, which could mean that the town's population grows to 40,000.

This, then, is the dilemma. What do we do? Shall we be cautious and "Try before we buy" or shall we say "In for a shilling, in for a pound?"

Some of your readers may think that this is not a Rivenhall problem, but it is. You have two councillors among the twenty-one who will have to make the final decision and I am sure that Mr. Moss will be as anxious as I am to hear what Rivenhall thinks.

Now we move onto January 1965 to some of the reply letters. First with Councillor Albert Moss. Albert, like Sidney was very much involved with village life including the youth club that was held in the Church (Village) Hall. Rivenhall Playing Field was named after him and he was also appointed Justice of the

Peace. Albert lived in one of the Hoo Hall cottages as he worked for Mr. Fairhead at Hoo Hall on the farmlands. He passed away in 1984 aged 76.

Dear Editor,

With reference to your Editorial, "What about the future of Rivenhall?" in the December issue, I feel I would like to give your readers some of the proposals in the Witham Town Development Map dated March 1962.

It is estimated that the population for 1981 will be 550. There are 520 on the present register. Building provision is made for limited 'infilling' in scale with the small village to extent of some 15 new dwellings. A further extension to the site of the existing Primary School is proposed; the Church, the village playing field and the open green at the front of the local authority's housing estate, are indicated in the Review Map. No new development will be permitted outside the essentially required for agricultural purposes. The reason for no further development in Rivenhall is because of its great landscape value.

In regard to garages, it was agreed by the Council in December that 20 garages will be erected on the allotments at Tusser Close, and a further 10 can, and will be built, if and when required. At the moment there are only 10 applicants on the waiting list.

As for the youngsters getting married. Is it not for them to choose where they wish to live? Should they wish to stay in Rivenhall, I can assure you that, like everyone else, they will be given the chance of a council house whenever possible. Why more shops? In addition to the three stores already serving the village, which would appear to be adequate.

I am delighted to be able to reply to your report and hope your readers will feel a little relieved that the overspill will not come to Rivenhall.

Mr W. P. Leverett from Rickstones Road wrote:

Dear Sir,

Re: L.C.C. Overspill to Witham

Councillor Gurton says in his letter (December issue) that the local papers are full of correspondence about the Witham overspill problem. It is noticeable, however, that apart from a few letters from those people more directly concerned, the correspondents are mainly members of the Council and the political scribes connected with them, which would appear to indicate that the general public is prepared to accept the situation, or is just not interested one way or the other.

However, since the overspill will come anyway, I would say the real and urgent problem is how to cater for these people in ensuring that adequate medical, welfare, social, recreational and other essential services are available to meet their needs.

A scheme of this size is bound to bring many problems, but provided all essential services are available, it should not be too difficult for Witham to absorb a fairly large overspill over a reasonable period of time.

None of us – especially those of us who are getting a little old and set in our ways – are too anxious to have our way of life disturbed, but progress, whether we like it or not, will not be halted.

There are other letters sent in by village folk and two more from Cllr. Gurton and Cllr. Moss…but to stick to the first two letters from them a reply to one of them from Mr W. R. Clarke from South Ford Farm, Feb 1965.

Dear Editor,

What about the future of Rivenhall?

With reference to Mr. Moss's letter in the January issue of the 'Review', surely he doesn't consider these proposals to be in the best interest of the village!

He states that the estimated growth on the register, in the next 20 years will be only 30; even this figure may prove to

be generous, in that allowance has to be made for the demolition of houses along the A12 and also for the possibility of other houses becoming derelict in that time.

With the halting of Development, it is inevitable that the population in the village will be an aging one, in which the elderly, for in twenty years' time a large proportion of the residents will be eligible for the O.A.P.

Furthermore, it could lead to the closure of the village school, and all the social life which goes with it; Silver End being a local example, where due to the lack of development, and an aging population, the local school register is way below that of 10 years ago.

There is one cheerful note, however, that is if you are a prospective 'Newly Wed' it should be possible for you to rent a garage in the village, if nothing else!

Finally, could we please know more about Rivenhall's Great Landscape Value. What is it and where is it? Rivenhall can't be compared to Wickham Bishops in this light, yet residential development has been permitted there! Now surely is the time to ask, "What about the future of Rivenhall?"

On a lighter subject this was in the 1964 December issue:

Sign Language

In the window of a toy shop:

"Sale! Inflatable Toys – Slashed Beyond Belief".

End to End Nature Care.

We have a couple of exciting evening events coming up as the closing part of our 2024/25 winter schedule.

We are very lucky this month to be hosting Stephanie Callister-Jarrold, something of a north Essex/south Suffolk nature celebrity. She runs the Essex & Suffolk Owl & Bird of Prey Rescue Centre and is a colourful character with many an interesting tale to tell so it promises to be an entertaining evening.

Next month we have a talk by group member Julia Todd, from

Silver End, who has been following her extensive interest in natural history to Britain's extremes recently. Ishe will be describing her visits to Shetland and Scilly and no doubt there will be many similarities and contrasts: both are island groups experiencing significant oceanic influence but they are separated by 10 degrees of latitude. Shetland is very complex geologically, incorporating slices of ancient ocean floor and some extreme rock chemistry, whereas Scilly is almost entirely granitic. Inevitably, both are home to some specialist plants and animals, including some seen nowhere else in Britain. Perhaps it will inspire you to visit one, or maybe both, of them yourself.

Looking further forward, towards the end of April we commence our outdoor evening activities. I know that is rather difficult to envisage in early February but it really isn't far away! As usual, it is our Cowslip count in the area behind Tarecroft Wood. Following this we will have a schedule of weekly events all the way through to the start of September.

Our indoor events commence at 8pm in Silver End Congregational Church on Silver Street CM8 3QF. As usual, all we ask is a £2 donation to attend and all are very welcome indeed. Outdoor events are free unless a guest guide or expert is involved.

Wednesday 19th Feb 2025	**"Owls & Birds of Prey" a talk by Stephanie Callister-Jarrold, who operates the Essex & Suffolk Owl & Bird of Prey Rescue Centre.**
Wednesday 19th March 2025	**"Shetland and Scilly": An illustrated talk by Julia Todd describing her recent travels to opposite ends of the British Isles.**
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	**Cowslip Survey. Meet at 19:00 in the parking area at the bottom of the track to Tarecroft Wood (TL824171).**

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 ukseashells44@gmail.com or on 07947 3881

Alignment of the Planets

Have you read on social media or heard on the news about the "once in 396 billion years" planetary alignment happening on Jan. 25? Guess what? Social media is not reliable. Here's what's really going on — and why you don't have to wait.

Four planets are easily visible to the naked eye this month. Next month, for a short period, there will be five. It's not irregular, not particularly rare, and certainly not some kind of weird alignment—as the online hype would have you believe—but it is a spectacular sight. But is it one of the best stargazing and astronomy sights of 2025?

Here's the truth about the so-called "planet parade" and when you can see it as its best all this month and during February.

What Is A 'Planet Parade?'

It's a common term used by amateurs for when there are more than a couple of planets in the night sky. Unfortunately, articles that promote them often justify them by advertising views of planets like Uranus and Neptune, which are too small to be seen with the naked eye. So why is the term "planet parade" being used in 2025? It's mainly because Jupiter remains bright while Venus and Mars are coming to their brightest in the post-sunset sky for a couple of years. With Saturn still hanging around and Mercury making an occasional appearance, four or five planets can be seen with the naked eye.

Here is a picture taken early in January showing The Moon Venus and Jupiter.





St Mary's & all Saints Church Building Condition

Just like London Bridge St Mary's & all saint's church Rivenhall is falling down! Well perhaps not quite yet but unless we take action at some point in the future the church could be closed as has happened elsewhere as you may have seen.

WHY

Briefly if you look at the outside of the church at the back you will see cracks appearing, these cracks can also be seen inside in the chancel at end of the church that contains the altar perhaps more prominently, it is thought that the ground at the back of the church is moving which will be proved when the "experts" come and give us a full report on the

what's why's & wherefores' once this has been done we will then have a full picture of what we need to do.

COST OF REPAIRS

The cost of maintaining church buildings can be high, especially for historic churches, the Church of England spends around £112 million annually on repairs, but only receives around £40 million from grants and trusts, A "ball park" figure of half a million pound is what is thought the repairs may cost

WHAT CAN WE BE DOING?

Explore funding streams

Parish councils can use their discretionary powers to fund church repairs.

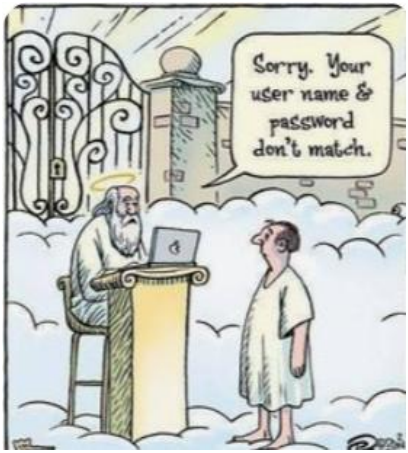
Local councils may also give grants to help fund church repairs.

Community help

The incumbent and the parochial church council are responsible for maintaining the church building but now need ideas from the community to helps achieve raising the funding to repair OUR church.

Each month we aim to give a report in the magazine to keep everyone up to date with what is happening.



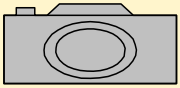






As we move into February above is a sample of the joys and maybe trials (bad Weather) that February can bring these picture are from February 2021

Parish of Rivenhall and Silver End



Landscape Photographic Competition Entry Fee Adults £2 Under 16's £1

Theme: All Creature's Great and Small (through the seasons)



Closing Date for entries Sunday 21st September 2025



Venue for exhibtion St Marys Church Rivenhall

Saturday 27th September 2pm-4pm

Entry forms and terms and conditions can be obtained from St Marys Church Rivenhall or St Francis Church Silver End before during or after church services (times on website), Rivenhall School and Silver Steps Daycare Silver End

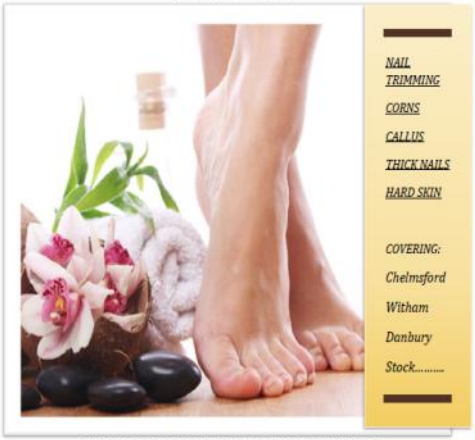


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Organisations in Rivenhall

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

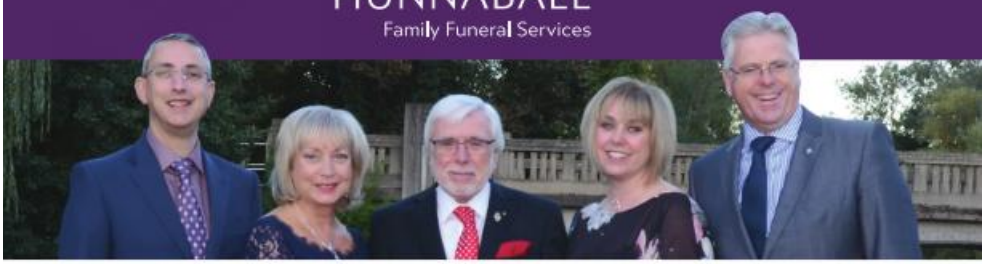
Hire of Village Hall	email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com	
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ		01376 538838

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
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion	583706
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526

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Library: Tues 2pm to 6pm Thurs/Saturday 9am to 1pm

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