

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



The Village celebrated "Father Christmas in Rivenhall"
in spite of all the gloom
more pictures on the following pages.

JANUARY

2022

50p

The Following are our services For January 2022

2nd January

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

All Age Worship

9th January

9.30 am Silver End

11.15 am St Mary's

Baptism of Christ

Morning Prayer

Holy Comunion

16th January

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

Matins

23rd January

9.30 am St Francis

11.am St Mary's

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Morning Prayer

Holy Comunion

30th January

Joint Service at St Mary's

11.20 am St Mary's

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

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Churchwarden Peter Hope

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Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy

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Rivenhall Website

www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk

St Francis Silver End Website

www.st-francis.org.uk/

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January 2022 Magazine article

Memories

Getting old certainly has its draw-backs, but I am here to ask you to spend some time looking back at all the memories that you have in your treasure chest in your heart. We are very quick to cast our minds back to family memories especially at sad times in our lives. This is for you! Now sit down with a cuppa, close your eyes and remember..... places..... hotels,..... beaches..... For me it was a voyage of churches! I was brought up to go to church in Southall, at Holy Trinity Church, Where Oliver and I were to get married. It was the same as many other folk, I'm sure.

There were quite a few of us school age! When I was confirmed at 13, there were over 30 of us! At 15 I was at senior school about to take my GCSE's and my parents were very keen that I should go to France to get some French Oral practice. My uncle worked at Heathrow as a bag handler, and my cousin had just become an Air Hostess at Air France. Between them they arranged for me to go to France for 2 weeks for French practice! Unfortunately it all happened on December 18th for two weeks, so I was to be away, not only for Christmas and the New Year, but also my birthday which falls in between the two! The whole holiday was a complete success as I passed my O level with a B, but the best thing of all was that we went to Notre Dame for Midnight Mass! It was so magic, and it lasted over three hours, but I still remember the warm glow of love that I felt.

At 18 I was in Ontario in Canada helping another Aunt to look after her 4 young children. The church that we went to there was very modern, but still full of love. I was Sunday School Teacher and have many happy memories. As I sit, remembering, places jump into my mind in the wrong order, so I will just share with you a few more.

Our honeymoon was in Paris, and Sacre Coeur is magical. Oliver's sister was married in the Chapel at Trinity College

Cambridge! When I first became involved in Rivenhall church, Rev David Nash organised a trip out to Great and Little Maplestead churches, I wonder if any of you were on that trip too? When Rev Nigel Cooper was with us, he organised retreats. I was lucky enough to go on three. One to the Isle of Arran where we would take communion at sunrise overlooking Holy Island in Lamlash Bay, Magical. We stayed at a monastery in Hyning, and that was a huge moment in my life, I loved the life that the nuns led, but I also liked sneaking out after lights out to see the magnificent birds at the nearby wetlands. Our third trip was to Kylesku in the far north of Scotland. The open air was our church there, breath taking.

We had a lovely holiday in Rome with some good friends, There are more churches there than days in the year, but the magic of the the Sistene Chapel will live with me for ever.

We have had a few holidays on boats, the first of which was a trip up the coast of Norway. Many of you have seen our slides of this holiday, but the church at Tromso will be with me for ever. We arrived at the church at midnight, just as the sun was setting, and when we emerged at 1 am, the sun was just rising! There were many little churches in the towns along the coastline, but the thing that struck me the most was the tiny windows in them and the very thick walls, gets rather cold there! We have been around England a couple of times, stopping at some lovely places. Liverpool was one of our favourite places and the two cathedrals are so different, but both lovely. The church at Kirkwall on Orkney, is a very solid dark building, to withstand the winds. I was made very welcome one Sunday morning at a little church in Invergordon on the east coast of Scotland.. The next trip took us to Jersey, and there is a plain little church there, St Matthews. Lady Trent, who lived nearby, met Lalique in France and commissioned him to make a font, altar rail, cross and pillars for the church, well worth a visit.

Oliver has visited the Suleiman's Mosque, and Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, and on our last cruise, he visited the mosque in Marakesh. An interesting thing about mosques is that the

beautiful decorations on their walls are all based on floral or geometric patterns I could continue at length about churches and indeed churchyards, and how beautiful they are and how each one has a different atmosphere. The whispering gallery in St Pauls! Being in a church, especially a very old one, has the ability to calm and relax. For me I just want to sit and absorb the atmosphere. Think of all the footsteps down the years, and voices that have echoed around. We are so lucky in Rivenhall that there has been a church there since 11th century, and a Roman settlement before that. Next time you sit down in a church, close your eyes and relax!!

Readings and Collects for January 2022

2nd January Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Mathew 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.

9th January Baptism of Christ

Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

Luke3:15-17,21-22

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

16th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

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

23rd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

Acts 9:1-22

Galatians 1:11-16a

Mathew 19:27-End

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.

30th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Readings

Malachi 3:1-5

Hebrews 2:14-end

Luke 2:22-40

Collect

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 50/50 Club November 2021 winners

1st Mrs Stubbing 2nd Mrs L Dawkin 3rd Mrs A Brown

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2021

These notes are an abridged version of the minutes

Present: Cllrs. Abbott (Chairman), Wright (Vice-Chairman), A'Lee, Cairns, Elliott, Prime and Turner.

Also present: Parish Clerk, ECC Cllr. Playle and 1 member of the public.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he and other local councillors had been subjected to name-calling and abuse via social media and also that unsubstantiated adverse comments had been made about the workings of the Parish Council. The Chairman said that by raising these issues he hoped that the comments would stop. The Parish Council conducts its business properly and all members of the Parish Council have the best interests of the community at heart. Also given recent events it was important that debate at meetings is respectful.

Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Abbott declared an interest in planning applications as a member of BDC Planning Committee. Cllr. Wright took the Chair for those items.

Public Forum

Cllr. Playle commented on the following: ECC has agreed to a provisional survey re the proposed new public footpath along Church Road. There are revised arrangements for local speed monitoring measures. The A12 widening consultation is ongoing.

Letter for residents of The Bluebells estate

The welcoming letter compiled by Cllr. Prime and the Clerk, with minor amendments, will be printed for distribution to each dwelling during January/February 2022. It was decided not to include councillor's home address details given the recent advice from BDC. Councillor address details will also be removed from the RPC website.

3 Parishes Meeting

The next meeting will be during March 2022 at Cressing. Notes from the November meeting had been circulated to all councillors for information.

Tree & Bulb planting

BDC is due to contact all parish councils regarding the wilding of public open spaces. The BDC letter will set out what may be possible and to seek support/feedback from parish councils so that BDC can put a structured package together for roll out in Spring 2022. BDC has agreed to the siting of trees on the Albert Moss Playing Field; two specimen trees planted along the northern boundary and whips planted in the southeast corner protected by a fence and gate. A budget estimate of £250 was **agreed** for this planting. With one amendment to be notified to BDC, the terms of the Planting Licence were **agreed**.

It was **agreed** that quotations be obtained from RPC's maintenance contractor for the supply and installation of rabbit fencing and a gate for the southeast corner planting. It was reported by Cllr. Wright that future watering arrangements might be possible via Witham Tree Group.

BDC Open Spaces Action Plan

The existing OSAP requires amendment regarding planting of trees as per the previous item. An additional item was **agreed** to be requested for the provision of play equipment for use by children with disabilities, at both Albert Moss Playing Field and St. Mary's Road play area.

New pole for CCTV cameras at the recycling site on Oak Road

It was **agreed** that a quotation for the supply and installation of a pole, the same as that installed at the Tarecroft Wood car park, be sought from the RPC maintenance contractor.

Highway Maintenance

The Chairman had attended the parishes meeting with the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways at which all the worst flooding areas within Rivenhall were discussed: flooding under the A12 and Railway Bridge; pipes under and along Rickstones Road and the illegal discharge of water onto the John Ray Walk.

Other outstanding ECC Highways matters include: The damaged bollard at the junction of Henry Dixon Road and Oak Road; many malfunctioning and missing streetlights and the drain repairs along Oak Road.

Details of these outstanding matters to be reported again to ECC

and also referred to ECC Cllr. Playle.

General Maintenance

The maintenance contractor will be requested to clear the steps and Slopes from Henry Dixon Road up to the A12.

Planning Applications

21/03409/REM: Reserved matters for 3 dwellings on land adj. to Glebe Farm. A 'No Comments' letter will be forwarded to BDC.

21/03388/HH: Single storey rear extension – 70 Church Road.

Members raised the following comments regarding this application: This new extension could potentially block light to the rear kitchen of a neighbouring property.

21/03473/FUL: Retention of temporary construction site offices etc. – Land south east of Rickstones Farm, Rickstones Road.

Members raised the following comments regarding this application: That this application, if approved, is solely to serve the already approved development of Bluebells and that the site offices etc. should be removed within two weeks of this development being completed.

21/03390/HH: Rear extension – 15 Foxden, Rivenhall End.

A 'No Comments' letter will be forwarded to BDC.

Planning Results

21/00020/LBC: Replacement windows at Holly Cottage, 221 Oak Road. Granted by BDC.

21/02165/HH: Dropped kerb etc. – 307 Rickstones Road.

Granted by BDC.

Ongoing Planning Issues

A12 to A120 widening

The latest consultation by National Highways concludes on December 19th. There are no significant changes proposed relating to Rivenhall parish.

BDC Local Plan

BDC has launched a consultation on Modification to the Section 2 Local Plan which runs until 14th January 2022. This is an opportunity for all those interested in the Braintree District Local Plan process to

have their say on whether they support the main modifications proposed for the plan by the Inspectors and the changes to supporting documents. The Local Plan Inspectors will consider the responses to the consultation. If the Inspectors consider that they have all the information that they require they can then submit their final report. If they find the Local Plan then Sound subject to the Modifications, BDC can then Adopt the Plan.

Rivenhall Major Waste Site

It was reported that additional clearance work had been undertaken on site. The Chairman is discussing with ECC their lack of enforcement action together with the non-disclosure of their legal advice. The next Liaison Meeting is scheduled for 15th December 2021.

Colemans Quarry

ESS/36//21/BTE: proposed western extension – revised documentation. It was agreed to reiterate to ECC all previous comments regarding the applications for the quarry extension.

Information exchange and items for the January 2022 agenda

BDC will supply and install a new lidded litter bin at the recycling site on Oak Road as agreed, and subject to the BDC councillor's grant. BDC will be requested to re-use the old concrete bin at the entrance to the John Ray Walk at the junction with Rickstones Road.

A new RPC representative for the RPFA is required as Cllr. Cairns is now a member of the RPFA committee. This will be discussed at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

It was suggested that a planning s106 'wish list' for Rivenhall parish be compiled and submitted to BDC for action (which would be in addition to the OSAP list).

TMC heavy goods vehicle tipper lorries have been observed and reported for contravening the Oak Road 7.5T weight restriction.

Vehicles continue to park on the Village Greens. It was reiterated that when reporting this to the appropriate authority, vehicle registrations are needed.

Dates of future meetings

4th January and 1st February 2022 both at Rivenhall Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Sky Notes January 2022

The bright planets that have been a feature of our evening skies over recent weeks become lost in evening twilight this month, though Jupiter can still be found low in the South West and the young Moon will be close by Jupiter on the evenings of the 5th and 6th, best seen from 5pm to 6pm.

Having been an evening object at the end of 2021, Venus quickly moves into the pre-dawn morning sky and by the end of January will be prominent low down in the South East, best seen around 7am.

Following the Winter Solstice on December 21st daylight is now increasing again. By mid-month sunset is already half an hour later than in mid-December and by the end of January we have gained an hour of daylight in the evening compared to the shortest winter afternoons.

On 4th January, the Earth reaches its closest point to the Sun along its orbit.

Full Moon is on the night of the 17th/18th and again is very high in the night sky, attaining over 60 degrees above the horizon when in the South. 2022 marks 50 years since the Apollo programme ended. Apollo 16 went to the Moon in April 1972 and the final mission, Apollo 17, in December 1972. Not only has no-one been back to the Moon since, no humans have left Earth orbit since.

At the time of writing, the long-awaited and much delayed launch of the James Webb Space Telescope was scheduled for Christmas Day. The JWST is the largest and most complex space telescope ever built and if all goes to plan it will allow astronomers to see much deeper into space than ever before and to see objects in much greater detail.

The Moon-free evening skies in the last week of January sees the full array of winter constellations in the South and the first of the constellations associated with spring appearing in the East. At 10pm, the constellation of Leo is about a third the way up the sky in the East, identified by the asterism of stars that looks like a backwards question mark. The brightest star in Leo is at the base of the question mark. This is Regulus, which is 78 light years away and at least 130 times more luminous than our Sun. Living on planet in the Regulus system (if it were possible) would present a sky that would be straight from science fiction – as in Star Wars. There are at least 4 stars in the Regulus system and Regulus itself

spins very fast, so it is egg shaped rather than round.

Sky atcher

Death of Rob Spalding, journalist and bon vivant

Rob Spalding has died following a stroke. He was 85.

I first met Rob Spalding in January 1979. We were both part of a travel press group flying to Cairo to attend the opening of the Cairo Heliopolis Hotel, owned by Britain's famous boxing Walker brothers, Billy and George. They had launched Brent Walker, a development company that launched Brent Cross shopping centre in West London, and the hotel was the latest venture.

It was my first overseas press trip. I was 28 and somewhat green while Rob was a stylish 43 year-old man of the world. The group assembled at Luton Airport for a charter flight operated by Britannia. It was a 'prop jet' – not the most salubrious mode of transportation but it was all new to me and seemed highly impressive. Outside there was snow on the ground and the flight was predictably delayed. We assembled in the morning around breakfast time and a smiling and gentle Rob approached me and said: "Do you fancy a heart starter?"

I had never heard the term before and didn't understand it but didn't wish to expose my naivete and so accepted the invitation. He led me to the bar and ordered two large **whiskies. He downed his drink alarmingly quickly and turned to me without batting an eyelid. "Your round", he said. My heart sank...**

I couldn't match Rob's alcohol consumption in those days but he was a charming travelling companion and a generous mentor during our visit. He guided me kindly and protected me from danger like a wise uncle. It was easy to take to Rob. He was loveable on a grand scale.

Two years later he recruited me to be his deputy editor on Conferences & Exhibitions magazine, the title he owned with Richard Corser. I thought I might stay six months because I was going through a difficult time in my life, both personally and financially. But I stayed much longer partly because Rob was such a joy to be with. He taught me many things: that you can write well and creatively for the trade press that I should do everything to the best of my ability all the time how to engage with important contacts and stay close to them

Richard Corser said: "Everybody loved Rob, both colleagues and meetings industry contacts. He was the public face of Conferences & Exhibitions and when we bought the title from the publishing company we were working for, that became even more important.

Working with Rob was easy. Rob gave me the freedom to do what I thought was best for the magazine. There were no dogmatic restrictions. If an idea was good for the magazine we would do it. We travelled extensively and we had enormous fun. Rob was the doyen of the burgeoning conference and meeting industry and his opinions

were law. The industry went to him for advice and guidance but Rob was no egotist. He avoided the limelight and didn't care much about financial success. He was focused on truth and the use of words. And he did everything as well as he could. Rob could write a feature about a teapot and make it colourful and engaging because he took time over it, enjoyed playing with words and he cared about the quality of everything he did. At Christmas time he would wrap all his gifts twice – first in black tissue paper and then in Christmas paper. It summed up Rob's approach to everything.

him. A one-on-one interview with Rob meant you were important and people talked about their first time with Rob as if it was a moment of epiphany for them.

When I was promoted to a more commercial role of business development, Rob reported to me. Many would have found such a role reversal difficult. But not Rob. He didn't let it change what mattered to him – editorial quality. The other stuff he just ignored. It wasn't important to him, after all.

When we launched Association Meetings International magazine, it was clear to me that Rob would make the perfect editor and so I set out to woo him into our new fold. I knew he wouldn't make a snap decision and so I slowly persuaded him over a series of pub meetings – where else? We never discussed money until the last meeting. I knew how to hook him – with offers of freedom brought by technology. We agreed a deal where he would work entirely from home. He had just bought an Apple computer and email was the new big thing. At CAT we had already made the move to desktop publishing – long before Fleet Street – so Rob would have nobody looking over his shoulder. Rob could just be Rob and do what he liked best – writing and editing engaging copy. This he did and made the magazine the go-to read for international associations and meeting suppliers the world over.

This was 1989 and working from home was seriously ahead of the curve. It worked perfectly because Rob was a serious professional. He used to visit the office to sign off pages and work with our graphic artists and everyone enjoyed those occasions. He lifted the entire staff with his easy charm.

He also travelled widely with our team, attending conferences and trade shows all over the world. Our co-director Steve Lewis enjoyed Rob's company enormously. He said: "We enjoyed a very special one-to-one relationship, attending various events together in a combined publisher/editor capacity and loved our trips, especially to Belgium and the Netherlands.

"Rob was funny, unpredictable and taught me the joys of self-deprecation - never taking business too seriously but he always had a terrific eye for detail. He was a brilliant interviewer and he enjoyed incredible respect in the meetings world. It is safe to say Rob's time as editor of AMI was the absolute pinnacle, the real heyday for what has sadly become, with Covid, a much-changed landscape of international travel, meetings and events. He will always remain a much loved figure and great

influence to me.”

For his 70th birthday, we staged a surprise “This is your life” event for him at London’s Barbican. It was a thing of beauty with friends flying in from all over the world to celebrate a larger than fiction personality. We sang “Rob is good” to the tune of the Robin Hood TV Show. That night he said to those gathered: “I am who I am because of you. There is a piece of all of you in me.” It was a typically generous statement from a generous spirit.

In 2010, James Lancaster joined as deputy editor and took over as editor in 2014 in another role reversal. By this time Rob was 78 but showing no signs of wanting to give up his work. Again, the role swap with James was fine because Rob enabled it.

James said: "I worked with Rob for ten years, first as his deputy editor and later as his editor, although the office hierarchy never meant much to him. Rob treated everyone he met with a warmth and generosity that made him universally loved. Prone to creative flights of fancy, Rob was an excellent journalist and an always entertaining writer, who understood that people were the heart of every story. Trained in the Old School, his page markings belonged to a time when things were done 'properly', I will remember Rob with a smile and a twinge of sadness for a time when life felt more real, carefree, and altogether more human."

When we sold CAT Publications to North Star in 2019, Rob decided it was a fitting time to “call it a day” and retired. He commanded huge respect and love throughout the industry with myriad friends around the world. They, like us, will miss his warmth and wit. He leaves his lovely wife, Kay, and son, Mark.

MARTIN LEWIS

Rob Spalding by Peter Hope

Clare and I would often meet Rob and Kay while walking Charlie and as we were all members of the Rivenhall choir would sing together round the pubs at Christmas an activity Rob particularly enjoyed. I have chosen a picture which sums up his devotion to their dogs of which at one time there were three. You will of heard in the above article about Robs life as a Magazine Editor but both Rob and Kay have served Rivenhall Church over the years particularly the Rivenhall Church Choir.

It is not many months passed that Sarah and I chatted with Rob as we met on our daily walks across the fields, we often talked about travels as Rob seemed to have visited every corner of the Earth.

On Behalf of all the members of The Parish of Rivenhall and Silver End and the local village community we send our Love and best wishes to Kay and their Son Mark at this Sad time. We will be there for them now and in the future.

Peter Hope Church Warden




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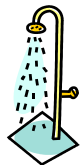
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For those of you unable to get to church, I thought you might like to see the Nativity Set. We were delighted that Rev Val blessed it for us at the Carol Service on Sunday 12 December







More Christmas in Rivenhall With Sanata Slay and Carols on the Green plus the Church Decorated for Christmas Day. Wonderful we were able to enjoy our beautiful Church again after the restrictons last year.



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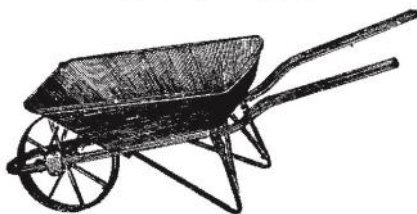
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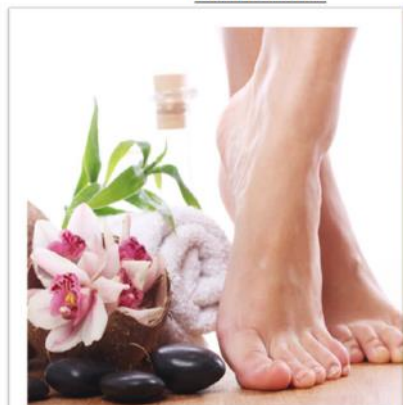
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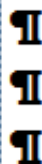
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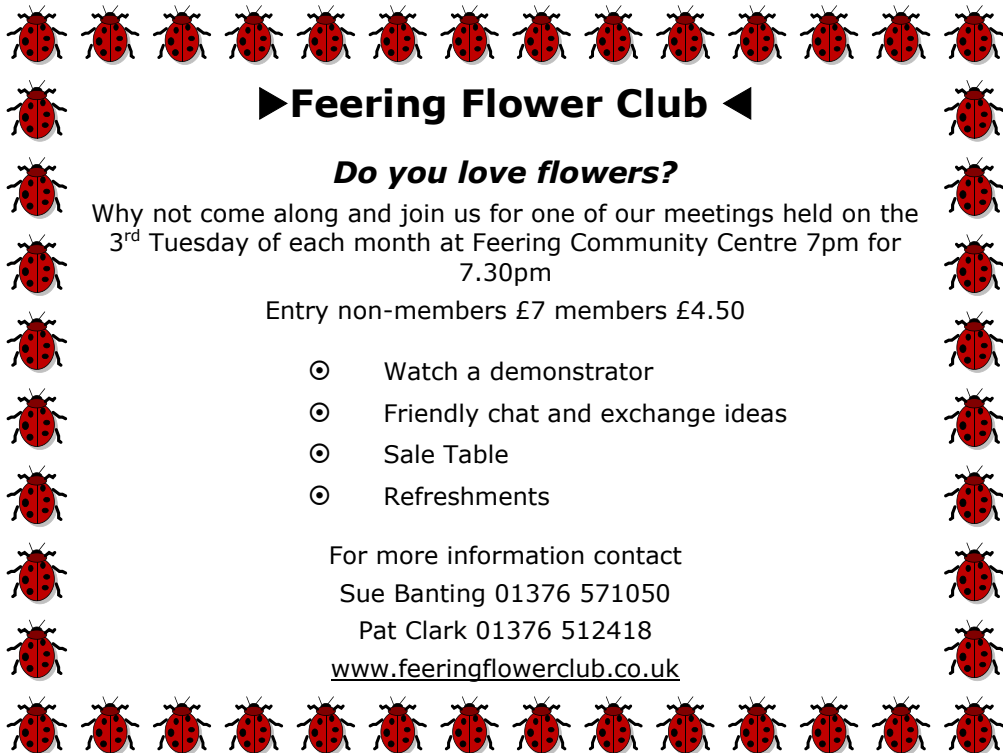
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Bogus Callers/Distracted Burglaries & Rogue Traders

Although it is the elderly that are the most likely victims of these types of crime, that is not always the case, besides if you have elderly relatives or friends you may wish to pass on this advice. You may also have elderly or vulnerable neighbours that you can help protect by watching out for suspicious activity.

It's handy to have list with telephone numbers of your water, gas, electricity, telephone etc suppliers by the phone should you need to make contact at any time.

If you have a caller **STOP** - are you expecting anyone, is the back door locked, sometimes while you are at front door someone will slip in the back. **Have a look out of a window** by the front door and if possible, speak to them first from that window or through the closed door. If you are on your own pretend you are not by calling over your shoulder that you will answer the door. There is no longer a "Water Board or Electricity Board" they now have particular company names so if this is stated that should "ring alarm bells" - **CHAIN** put the door chain on before you open the door if you are opening it at all to them: **CHECK** ask for an ID card, if in doubt ring a telephone number from your relevant correspondence from that company to verify the identity (not a telephone number from their ID card as it may be false) , **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT** and call the police on **999** or if you have a carer alarm activate it and speak to your control room. If you do let someone in your home always make sure **you close the door behind them** that way no one else can get in while you are busy with your visitor.

With most of the utility companies you can now set up a password with them so that when one of their employees calls you can verify that they are genuine, speak to your relevant company.

Rogue traders may call at your door claiming to be qualified tradespeople offering to do work on your home. These people may claim you need services like repairs to your roof, lawn or fences, your driveways power washed or repaired or replaced, garden services, or waste clearance. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable, elderly people.

A genuine trader won't:

- call without an appointment.
- ask you to go to a bank to withdraw cash or make a

money transfer.

- offer to take you to the bank to withdraw cash for payment.
- insist that you make a decision about work they're offering to do on the spot.
- bully or scare you into doing the work.

It's your doorstep so you can choose if you want work carried out. If you do think you need some work doing:

Ask a friend for a recommended trader or contact a Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' accredited trader

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk .

- Get a number of quotes.
- Get a written estimate detailing exactly what work will be carried out, how much it will cost and what the terms of payment are.
- Take your time to make sure you're happy with what you're undertaking – ask a trusted friend/relative for advice.

Remember if you believe a crime is being committed please dial 999, otherwise dial 101 or report it online or by the 'Live Chat' at www.essex.police.uk .

Adam

Thank you everybody for your cards and words of sympathy and support, following the recent passing of our much loved son-in-law, Adam, our daughter Mary's husband. You've all helped us so much at this time of great sadness.

Thank you, Ann & Wilson



RPFA

**Rivenhall Playing Fields Association invite you to their AGM
on:**

Friday 28th January 2022

7.30pm at the Village Hall

**Any updated Covid restrictions will be posted on social
media and notice boards nearer the time.**

**We welcome any ideas you have regarding your Village hall
for fundraisers or anything else that you would like to share
with us.**

**If you have any spare time and would like to meet us
regarding joining our small committee then please do come
along.**

**Refreshments will be available and we hope to see some
new faces.**

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

RPFA

rivenhallvillage@gmail.com

Turning the pages of History Research by Tracy Scott

Over the many articles I have done over the last five years both here in the magazine and on the Rivenhall Community page, you have often read about the 'Taber' family and their connections to village life...well, in 1961 two of the reporters from Rivenhall Review went to visit and interview Mr. Walter Taber of Matchyns Hall, Rivenhall End just after he celebrated his 93rd birthday on the 16th September:

From Stage Coach to Fly-overs – from the 1860's to 1960's

Walter Taber was born during the reign of Queen Victoria and, as a boy, can remember the mail coach passing along the London Road, with a halt at the 'Fox' for change of horses. Indeed, on one occasion the horse took fright and ended up in his garden! Roads then were very rough by today's standards and were full of pot-holes which were occasionally filled in with stones from the nearby fields.

Mr. Taber talked with relish of his schooldays and as a youngster went to Chipping Hill, Witham, as a boarder. He has a clear memory of his teacher – a Mr. Payne, who was very strict. In contrast, he remembers the Headmaster, a Mr. Blakeley, for his gentlemanly qualities and his kindness. The cane was often used and, feels Mr. Taber, did more good than harm, adding, “It should be used more today.” As he grew older he ceased boarding and travelled daily, on his Penny Farthing bicycle.

Schooldays over, one of his early jobs was as a clerk at Witham Station, and it was a six day working week then, commencing daily at 7.30am and ending at 6pm. The pay was 6/- a week. Work done, the usual routine was to retire early to bed, there being none of the evening entertainments and pastimes most people are accustomed to nowadays.

At 18 the young Walter Taber’s health caused his family some anxiety so it was decided to send him on a world cruise, but it was a trip with none of today’s travel luxury! The ship relied on sails and the voyage to New Zealand through the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans took 100 days. After 12 month stay in the North Island of New Zealand – “a beautiful country” – and with health improved, the return voyage was undertaken via Cape Horn and this took 98 days.

Having settled down again at home, farming engaged most of his attention and, nostalgically, Mr. Taber told us of harvest arrangements in his younger days. The farm ‘hands’ would ‘take’ the harvest – and arrangement whereby the farmer ‘let’ the harvest on time basis, usually a month. If completed on time, this would mean, approximately, a £5 bonus for each worker and more if the work was finished sooner. With favourable weather the harvest would always be cleared but it meant long hours of hard work, with seldom a grumble. It was as much the men’s harvest as the farmers.

To sustain them, the men ate bread and cheese (not forgetting the onion) and drank beer. Thirsts in those days were much greater even than thirsts today and the beer had more ‘body’. Tobacco was cheap, there being a Shag of two qualities – one at 3d per ounce and the other at 4d. Where men were unable or were not allowed to smoke at their work, they chewed the tobacco.

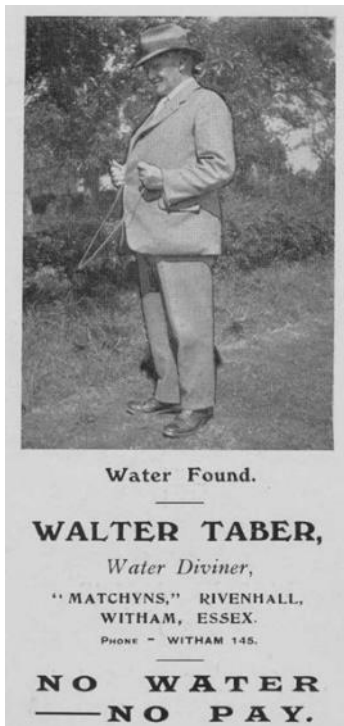
Village life was sometimes enlivened by political meetings, a farm waggon being used for a platform. Much noise and ‘heat’ were generated, but no-one came to any harm and it was great fun for the youngsters! On other occasions concerts were held in the

Workmen's Hall and very funny some of them were too!

Mr. Taber has always been very fond of shooting – he still occasionally shoots rabbits around the house. In earlier times a day's shooting on the Western Estate would result in a mixed 'bag' of pheasants, partridges and rabbits; so much, in fact, that a tumbrel would have to be used to transport them. After members of the 'shoot' had taken their share the remainder would be sent to Leadenhall Market in London. Wood pigeons, such a plague nowadays to farmers' crops, were not as numerous or troublesome in these earlier days. There were a few 'work-shy' men who existed by poaching and Mr. Taber recalled that one well-known such character was found dead at Kelvedon, his sole possessions being a half-crown and a snare.

**The account above stopped here but a note from the editor said: This account cannot, unfortunately, include particulars of Mr. Taber's other activities – his first car, his many years as a Parish Councillor and School Manager etc., but the two reporters had been invited back to meet and talk with him again soon – an invitation they gladly accepted. (I will search through other papers to see if we can continue with this in another 'Turning the pages of History').

I would like to give thanks to the descendants of the 'Taber' family for this image.



A RIVENHALL CHRISTMAS

The first signs of Christmas were scores of beautiful home light displays throughout the village: what a beautiful backdrop they were to subsequent events. Well done everyone.

On 11th December, the Rivenhall Millennium Committee erected, and decorated its annual Christmas tree on Rivenhall green. The tree was kindly donated by Jane and Gerry Bibbey of Colemans

Cottage Fishery - thank you so much. With Gerry's help, our team of Bob Turner, Wilson Kerr and John Macrae, cut down the tree, lifted it onto Bob's trailer, tied it down and escorted it to the village green. The following day with Robert Pearce and his Manitou loader, Committee members magically "did their bit" a beautiful Rivenhall Christmas tree in all its glory! Many Facebook comments said it knocked socks off the tree in Trafalgar Square this year!

Sunday 19th December was to be Santa Sleigh evening but would the weather be kind to us? fortunately it was. Bob and John had spent three days decorating this year's sleigh and it looked truly magnificent. At 3:30 pm we set off from Rivenhall Hall and started our tour of Rivenhall and Rivenhall End, with our team of elves delivering Christmas gifts to each household with a resident of 70 or over (this year even our very own Santa received one of these!) Santa's helpers also busied themselves distributing sweets to the children. The sleigh visited our new Bluebells development for the first time this year, and we wondered if anyone would come out to see us. We shouldn't have been concerned: your turn-out and your welcome exceeded all our expectations. How did we respond to you our generator broke down! But Santa carries a spare, and Robert and Bob swiftly switched over to that. Off Santa then glided to visit the remainder of Rivenhall and then onto Rivenhall End.

What a delight it was to see so many children and adults come out to see us with many more waving from their windows. When so much effort is put into making this happen, it is uplifting to be welcomed and acknowledged by you all.

Next was Carols on the Green with the Chelmsford Silver Band **Oh no it wasn't!** With just two days to go, the band had to sadly withdraw as Covid had struck some of its members. But our Rivenhall community came to the rescue with a post on the Rivenhall Community Facebook page from Charlie Staunton, a professional singer in our village. She offered to bring her sound equipment and to sing some Christmas songs after the carols.

All through the day of Tuesday 21st December, Committee members worked tirelessly to arrange the scene for its Carols on the Green Christmas highlight. Phil Little and Pam Newall brought two large gazebos and with several other structures, these were erected. Bob brought his show trailer and the Santa Sleigh so we

created a corral setting with the Christmas tree as its backdrop. As 7:30 pm approached on that frosty, near-full moon evening, Bob and John wondered if anyone would turn-up at all. But they came and they came, probably about 180 in all - what a magnificent Rivenhall gathering.

Following a welcome and introduction from Bob, the brilliant and highly entertaining Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard led everyone through the evening's carols; he even provided his own voiced introduction to give us the pitch key.

Following a Christmas blessing from Jonathan, it was time to buy raffle tickets and to feast on the free mulled wine, fruit juice, hot chocolate, mince pies and sausage rolls. Lilian Pearce manned the food stall whilst Phil Little and Pam Newall with their families served all the drinks. In the show trailer, Ann Riddlestone, Jenny Turner, Hayley Larkin and Jane Macrae were busily selling fund-raising raffle tickets.

During this time, Charlie Staunton climbed into the Santa sleigh, and from there she entertained the large assembled crowd with a delightful selection of festive songs: how fortunate it was that Charlie could come to our aid and so freely give us her time on this cold frosty night.

Then it was raffle time. Bob Turner and Carole McCarthy led this and some lovely prizes were joyously received by the lucky winners. About 9:00 pm Bob thanked everyone who had come along to make that Carols on the Green perhaps the very best night we have ever had: most memorable - we do hope you will all come along next year.

RECIPE FOR JANUARY 2022

Mini Pavlovas

Makes: 18 mini pavs

- 8 large egg whites
- 1 pinch of salt
- 500 grams caster sugar
- 4 teaspoons cornflour
- 1 scant teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 750 millilitres whipping cream (whipped)

Chop any fruit up for the top, mix together if liked. Let your guests assemble their own! (strawberries, raspberries rhubarb, grapes for example)

1 sprinkling of icing sugar (for dusting)

METHOD

You will need 3 baking sheets, lined with parchment.

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/gas mark 4/350°F.
2. Whisk the egg whites with the salt until they're holding firm peaks but are not stiff. Gently add in the sugar, spoonful after spoonful, still beating, until you've got a bowl full of gleaming, satiny, snowy meringue. Sprinkle the cornflour, a few drops of vanilla and the vinegar on top and fold in to combine.
3. Draw 6 circles of approximately 10cm / 4 inch circles (using a pint glass as a guide, if this helps) on each of the parchment-lined sheets.
4. Spoon the meringue onto the baking parchment into the delineated circles, and spread and smooth to fill. You want to make the meringue slightly higher at the rims, or just use the back of the spoon to make an indentation in the centre to hold the cream and fruit later.
5. Put into the oven, turn it down to 150°C/130°C Fan/gas mark 2/300°F, and bake for 30 minutes. Turn the oven off and leave them in for another 30 minutes, then take out of the oven to cool. I just transfer them, on their baking parchment, to wire racks.
6. When you want to assemble them, dollop cream into the indentation, and smooth it with the back of a spoon, leaving the odd peak. Place, one by one, a few blackberries and a few raspberries so that they look well filled but not crammed. Dust with icing sugar
7. I have used lemon curd , chocolate mousse. Be adventurous



Organisations in Rivenhall

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| Clerk to Parish Council | Keith Taylor | 516975 |
| Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net | meets every first Tuesday | |
| End to End Nature Care | Simon Taylor | 01621 810141 |
| Gardening Club | Carole McCarthy | 512781 |
| Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm in Village Hall | | |
| Carpet Bowls | Mick Marshall | 512836 |
| Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Village Hall | | |
| Playing Fields Association | Mick Marshall | 01376 512836 |
| Spread Your Wings Dance Acam | Laura Pearson | 01376 741317 |

Facilities

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

Organisations in Silver End

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Clerk to Parish Council | Mrs B. M. Temple | 618464 |
| Email parishclerk@silverendparishcouncil.gov.uk | | |
| Bowls Club | Paul Mann | 07551 006906 |
| Children's Centre | Faye Savage | 587960 |
| Neighbourhood Police | Braintree Policing Dial 101 | |
| Congregational Church | Sharon Gray | 583913 |
| Friendship Club | Maureen Green | 585275 |
| Silver End Gad Abouts | Denise Sullens Smith | 07952 992782 |
| Gardening Club | Liz Woor | 585586 |
| Guiding Group | Carol Hutchings | 07857 663959 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Judy Hill | 07896 975839 |
| Scouting Group | Elaine Hall on +44 | 7885 489788 |
| St Mary's Church (R.C.) | Vivian Phillips | 583598 |
| Tennis Club | Jason Cairns | 584581 |
| Workers Educational Assoc. | Brian Gillion | 583706 |
| Luncheon Club | Helen Thomson | 583255 |
| Doctors Surgery | | 583387 |
| Silver End Heritage Society | Jackie Nesbitt | 07707 084608 |
| Silver End United Football Club | Mark Edgell | 584639 Web |
| Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk | | |
| Women's Institute | Brenda Warnes | 07931 548193 |
| Community Warden | Jackie Windard | 07785 515526 |
| Post Office in Co-op - please note that it closes at Lunchtime 1-2pm | | |
| Closes 1 pm Wednesday and 12.30 pm Saturday | | |
| Library: Tues & Thurs - 2pm to 6pm Saturday 9am to 1pm | | |

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