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



Jack Dakins adventures in London for King Charles Official Birthday and the Trooping of the Colour on Saturday 14th June. It has always confused me that his real birthday is the 14th November (same as mine Ed) and he has another official birthday in the summer. I think we should all have two birthdays!

Read Jacks adventures inside this months magazine.

July 2025 50p

The following are our services For July 2025th

6th July	**3rd Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
13th July	**4th Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
20thJuly	**5th Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
27th July	**6th Sunday after Trinity**
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
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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' – 'Being human!'**

Having been wondering for the last few days what I might write about this month – with such topics as Wimbledon and the Women's European Football Championships amongst the obvious possibilities for someone who loves her sport! - I woke up this morning and turned the television on to see MP Ed Miliband being questioned about the Chancellor's U-turn on winter fuel payments. Whilst the interviewer was trying his hardest to procure an apology, Mr Miliband was instead reasoning that the Chancellor had made her original decision in order to save money and help the economy.

Immediately the theme for this month's article became clear - the difficulty we seem to have, as human beings, to apologise….

Why is it, that in the words of Elton John (or actually Bernie Taupin) 'sorry seems to be the hardest word'….?

We are all human, and consequently all make mistakes and bad choices…..

As my husband likes to quote his father, "if a person hasn't made a mistake, they haven't made anything!"

I am sure though that most of us, including politicians, don't go out of their way to make decisions that will hurt people. But the truth is, none of us are perfect!

And yet owning our mistakes, and apologising for them, seems to be so difficult.

Admittedly the Church has been, and still can be, very bad at apologising for the mistakes it has made…….. and I'm very sorry for that. As I'm sorry for the times I personally get things wrong. But apologising is key to healing and reconciliation.

I am reminded of the vows made in baptism/ confirmation – in which there is a confession that we have made mistakes, and are sorry for them. In that ceremony we are symbolically washed clean, and begin a new life in which we ask God to help us not to get things wrong. Having asked God to walk with us through our lives, we will hopefully then listen to Him, and heed His voice telling us the right choices to make,

Being human though we will still get it wrong. But God can show us and help us apologise, and 'to forgive others as we have been forgiven' by God.

Because saying sorry may be the hardest word for us, but it is vital in being able to move on.

God bless

Rev Jane x

PRAYER HOUR

You are invited to meet with me on a Monday morning at 9am for an hour of prayer Sitting in peace and waiting on God, either in silence, or in words…… I will be rotating around the churches as follows:

June	Faulkbourne
July-Sep	Terling (not July 7th; Aug 25th)
Oct-Dec	Silver End

`Readings and Collects for July 2025

6th July 3rd Sunday After Trinity

All Age Worship

Readings

2 Kings 5:1-14
Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Collect

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

13th July 4th Sunday After Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Amos 7:7-end
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Collect

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

20thJuly 5th Sunday After Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Amos 8: 1-12
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Collect

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

27th July **6th Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion

Readings

Hosea 1: 2-10
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Collect

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

THURSDAY 31st JULY 2PM garden party and tea

AT 24 Chipping Hill Witham

Parking will be available in St Nicolas Hall Car Park

All members and friends - old and new are welcome to join us.

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

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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

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The 50/50 Club May 2025 winners

1st Ken Cockrell 2nd K Gardener 3rd P. Little

****

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 3RD JUNE 2025 IN RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL

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

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Wright, Prime & Hammond. Also present was our Clerk Amanda Brown and Essex County Councillor Ross Playle. Apologies were received from Cllr Abbott.

Chairman's Report: Bob Turner reported that he and Cllr Ross Playle had met with ECC Highways Cabinet Member Tom Cunningham to discuss local issues including on-going flooding at the Oak Road junction in Rivenhall End, blocked highway pipe taking surface water to the brook from the golf course, flooding in Rickstones Road, potholes throughout the parish, and non-enforced weight restriction on part of Oak Road. Also discussed were potential options for using S106 monies to restore our damaged "Quiet Lane" Rectory Lane, sunken highway drains across the parish and the sudden increase in parking issues in Foxden. Mr Cunningham promised to keep us informed and he will be chased if these issues are not resolved. The three recent A12 crash incidents that have damaged Rivenhall End properties in Oak Road and Braxted Road are to be reported to Nigel Allsopp of National Highways.

Essex County Councillor's Report: Essex County Council has withdrawn themselves from decision-making processes at Invader's incinerator site due to conflict of interest: they have appointed an independent body to look at the planning. Additional traffic now needs to use the Indaver haul road to the A120 near Bradwell: additional funds are being sought to improve this and local roads. County Councillors have been given a locality budget of £10,000 this year for local grants.

District Councillors Report: New waste bin arrangements will commence on 01 June 2025 – details to follow from BDC. The recent Rivenhall bids for S106 tree planting monies have been agreed by BDC. Unitary Authorities – Two bids are

being progressed for Essex – a five Unitary Authority model and a "smaller" model. BDC Local Plan Review: this is progressing, and two dates have been proposed ; one to discuss "small housing bids" (under 500 houses) on 25 June, and the big sites will be decided by BDC Cabinet at a later date.

Planning: The Chairman will prepare a draft statement for him to read at the BDC Local Plan Review "small sites" meeting on 25th June: this will be distributed to all councillors for comment. At the incinerator site, Indaver has submitted a Minerals & Waste Application for further variation of conditions. Councillors unanimously agreed to call for a fresh planning application, as the repeated submissions of planning variations has left the site proposals extremely vague. James Abbott drafted a response which all agreed, and we will contact all surrounding parishes and seek them to make similar responses.

Asset Register: Due to time constraints, discussion on this was deferred to the July meeting.

Policies to be adopted: We do not need a Tree & Bench Policy as the parish council owns no land (any policy-maker needs to be the landowner). Risk Management Strategy and Schedule: again, due to time-constraints, this will be moved to the July meeting.

Information Exchange: The Clerk was asked to send photos of the three A12 property damage incidents to Nigel Allsopp of National Highways, and to include a photograph of a partially vegetation-obscured A12 northbound Oak Road weight Limit sign.

Dates of next Meeting:

Tue 01 July 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 05 Aug 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 02 Sep 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

The Break Fill Four

Claire, John, and Lucy on vocals; Tom on the keys

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Witham
CM82JP

When:

Friday 11th July
7.00 for 7.30 PM - 10:00 PM

Bring your own snacks, beer, wine, soft drinks

Happiness is singing and dancing

Karen and Jack Dakin - A Visit to Buckingham Palace For the King's Official Birthday

We set off on the 4:59 am train from Witham to Liverpool Street. We got to the mall by about 6:30 am and we got the choice of where to stand. There's always so much going on to Watch. Jack enjoys the men taking the traffic lights out And sweeping the roads. Also, he likes watching the sniffer dogs running up and down Mall.

We watched as soldiers came down the road and spread out so they could do their royal salute as the royal family passed by. There were lots of soldiers in their red tunics and bear skin hats. As the horses came down the mall they were all very well behaved. After the procession had gone past, we waited about an hour before they parade back. Then the Security opened up the fences so everyone could go onto the road and up to Buckingham Palace to watch the fly past. The weather was so good and the fly past was as good as it usually is. After the Royal family had done their balcony appearance, Jack and I went to see some of the soldiers as they met with their families and friends. Jack loved having his photos taken with them. I'm really enjoyed seeing their instruments. We arrived back home about 4 pm. Tired but with lots of lovely memories have a great day out.





End to End Nature Care.

June's Wednesday evening meetings saw the group venturing outside our local patch a few times, to sites with aquatic interest: Chigborough Lakes (Heybridge); Tiptree Heath, where we explored a new pond the Wildlife Trust has had excavated; and the Roman River Valley at Layer do la Haye, in pursuit of a rare snail, amongst other things. All these sites are nature reserves managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and provide an opportunity to explore relatively rich biodiversity, although often the management regime can be somewhat biased towards a particular habitat or species. Tiptree Heath is a good example, where extensive effort is made to preserve the heathland habitat and prevent it reverting to woodland. Famously it is the only place in Essex where all three native species of heather – Bell, Cross-leaved and Ling – can be found together but all would be lost if the site were not managed by cutting back bracken, bramble, gorse and sapling trees. Historically the Heath was grazed, which kept all those plants under control and preserved the area as heathland, far more extensive than it is today. The 1777 map of Essex produced by John Chapman and Peter André (see www.map-of-essex.uk) shows Tiptree Heath (then spelt 'Tiptrey') extending from Wickham Bishops and Heybridge northwest to Messing. The Wildlife Trust use volunteers to cut back the emerging growth but also try to keep it managed in the traditional way and currently have 3 Dexter cows on the Heath, though that is too few to make as much impact as required.

The new pond, excavated last year on the 'Triangle' section of the Heath across the road from the main body of the reserve, is intended to provide habitat for Great Crested Newts, a protected species in the UK and identified as a priority species under the UK Biodiversity Framework. It is clear the pond is in its infancy, with bare spoil piles nearby and a lack of aquatic or even marginal vegetation, and we saw no signs of newts. As with many new habitats, though, 'pioneer' species have moved in and flourished in the absence of the usual levels of competition: we saw abundant insects including Pondskaters, Backswimmers and fly larvae such as bloodworms and the almost entirely transparent larvae of Phantom Midges. There were huge numbers of Water Mites too, like tiny balls of colour scuttling and swimming around with a cluster of legs.

Coming up we have the usual variety of activities, including a 'butterfly safari' and a summer social evening, which also involves exploring a local private and beautifully diverse pond (we have found Water Scorpions there before). All are welcome to join us and no experience is necessary. All are free unless otherwise stated; details of forthcoming events are below.

For more background on the group and full details of all our activities 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 388180.

2 July	19.00	Summer visit to Tarecroft Wood & Rivenhall Thicks. Meet at Stovern's Hall Farm. Followed by optional glowworm survey at Bulford Mill Lane (Meet at Cressing Railway Station).
5 July Saturday	09.30	Morning butterfly safari in Silver End area. Meet in the Western Arms car park.
9 July	19.00 for 19.30	Summer Social at Stovern's Hall Farm (CM8 3HQ or TL825172). Bring a bottle and/or nibbles
16 July	19.00	Ambling in the Notleys. Meet near the bridge/ford at the top of the lane leading to the sewage works at White Notley (TL787184). Followed by optional glowworm survey at Bulford Mill Lane (Meet at Cressing Railway Station).
23 July	18.30 for 19.00	Highwoods Country Park, Colchester. Meet at Stovern's Hall Farm, Rickstones Road at 18:30 to car share or at 19:00 at the Chanterelle car park on the Highwoods estate, Chanterelle Road off the Eastwood Drive (CO4 9UJ or TM008269).
30 July	19.00	Saxonbury/Chantry Wood, Wickham Bishops. Meet in the Village Hall car park (CM8 3JZ or TL843124). There will be road walking to access the wood. Followed by optional glowworm survey at Bulford Mill Lane (Meet at Cressing Railway Station)
6 August 2025	18.30 for 19.00	Heybridge Basin. Meet at 18:30 at Stovern's Hall Farm to car share or at 19:00 at the Daisy Meadow car park (CM9 4RW or TL870069). Parking charges apply. Bring binoculars. We may visit the pub before leaving

View from St Mary's

It is disappointing to see an influx of plastic and other false flowers in our churchyard and also glass and ceramic items, unfortunately these are against the regulations of the Church of England and as the Parochial Church Council we would kindly ask that they are removed, the Church of England asks that only seasonal fresh flowers are used.
Recently St Mary's had a visit from the friends of Essex churches who are a group that go to churches of historical interest, John Vegar an ecclesiastical historian gave an interesting talk about Rivenhall St Mary's to about 60 people from the Essex churches group.

We went ahead with the Pentecost service on a very wet Saturday evening with the bonfire being lit for Pentecost in between the showers with everyone enjoying jacket potatoes and sausages and music in the church to avoid the showers.

Upcoming events:

3rd August Wine Tasting at Stoverns Hall 5pm £15 per head
A not to be missed event !!

- Friday 26th September an evening with Nancy May tickets are available on line through ticketsource @ £15 + booking fee (includes wine & canapés) Nancy is currently touring with Russell Watson and will sing songs from west end shows, popular songs and arias, don't miss this opportunity to hear this amazing talented lady. Don't be disappointed as tickets are selling fast.
- Saturday 27th September is our photographic competition final there appears to be more interest this year so we are hoping for some great photographs, the theme this year is 'All Creatures Great and Small ' Adult entries £2 under 16's £1. A prize will be awarded to the winner of each age group. 12 photographs will also be selected for this years calendar, which will then be available to purchase …. So get snapping
- On the third Tuesday of each month starting in September between 1pm and 3pm we will be starting a book club, this will be held in the vestry of St Mary's come and join us. Tea and coffee + chat Oh and books


Please join us for
July
Tuesday Praise
12:30-13:00
Refreshments available afterwards
Ian Hardie 1st July
Noah Cockett 8th July
Lorna Bantock 15th July
Howard Schnaar 22nd July
Ian Wilson 29th July
Witham United Reformed Church
Newland Street, Witham, CM8 1AH
01376 500958 /
info@withamurc.org.uk


Rivenhall Gardening Club
Flower Show
Saturday 12th July 2.15pm
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On show will be a variety of blooms and floral arrangements
including our Fuchsia classes.
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Admisson Free

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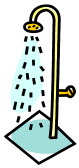
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- **MONDAY 9.30am** Witham Methodist Church
- **MONDAY 7pm** Witham Methodist Church
- **WEDNESDAY 10.30am** Kelvedon Institute (small hall)
- **WEDNESDAY 7pm** Rivenhall Village Hall

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Don't Delay Call Today

George Alfred Hope a Londoner made of the Wars (My Father)

By Peter Hope Part 4

Call Up to the Army and a Wedding

It was inevitable that I would be called up so we planned to get married at Christmas 1940 but I was called up for military service on 22nd October 1940 and spent six weeks doing basic training at what had been a girls school at Westcliff on Sea in Essex

There were six men in my room a very mixed bunch three were Jewish from East London and another was a Milkman from Battersea, he used to get up at 4.00 am and bring us all a cup of Tea. One of the other was Van Dutch an all in Wrestler who went on to become our PT instructor.



I was then posted to the Royal Artillery coastal defence unit at Woodbridge in Suffolk being part of a gun crew at Bawdsey near Folkstone. We had a 4 inch normal gun which had been recovered from a WW1 ship called the Gypsy we had instructions not to fire it except in emergencies.

Mollie and I were married on the 4th January 1941 at Old Malden Surrey and to escape the bombing spent the weeks leave at Felixstowe, Mollie staying there for six weeks.

During this period I was cook for our detachment (before the days of the Army Catering Corp) until an incident when a kitten disappeared. We had a very simple man in our team named Jackman (from Bournemouth).

I had cooked a hot stew fore supper and some of the others kidded him that he main ingredient was the kitte. He was sick and I refused to continue cooking.

I was then posted to 277 Battery 70 Field Regiment a Territorial Regiment from the West riding of Yorkshire who were being made up to strength after losses in France. I joined the unit at Wymondham in Norfolk in March 1941. I had been having classes for confirmation since Sept at first Worcester Park then Southend and finally I was confirmed by the Bishop of Norwich at Wymondham Abbey on Good Friday 1941.

At this time my parents home at East Hill Wandsworth was bombed. They were not there at the time. My father having a weeks holiday they were staying at Oxford where my brother Ron was a student at New College. Mollie hearing of the damage to their flat was able to rescue most of my civilian clothes and being offered a a flat at Worcester Park took it in case they needed somewhere to live however the council re-housed them immediately to Norbury so the flat at Worcester Park became our first marital home until we moved to Southsea in Hampshire in 1948.

At 277 Battery I was on the strength as a signaller learning Morse code laying telephone cable and operating switchboards – then later operating radio transceivers set 18-19-48. I shared accommodation with Tom and Vince Armitage who was the regiment trumpeter both having a bugle and a trumpet. Living at such close quarters with them I had to have a go and had no difficulty in sounding the basic calls. So when Col Sudby wanted to increase the trumpeters to three my name was suggested. From then on it was "we three".

Being a learner I was despatched to a local wood to practice. Here I met a local poacher who taught me a few tricks and fed me well on occasions.

We used to practice our signalling under the direction of Sgt. Tom Clark. Apart from that and our routine calls, Reveille, Cookhouse, retreat and occasional mess calls (when the officer's mess was entertaining) it was a very pleasant existence.

The unit moved to Erpingham in the autumn of 1941 and Mollie came and stayed at an old farm house with the Cazalet family. The husband was employed building Aerodromes and the wife with three children was very glad of Mollies company.

Whilst there we sounded the trumpet call for the Home Guard armistice day service at Erpingham war memorial in the morning 11

11 1941 and then went to Cromer parish church to do the same in the afternoon on the bugle ie last post and Reveille.

When the unit moved to Attleborough the Cazelet family wanted Mollie to remain with them for the duration but she decided to return to the Home Office, rather than be directed to some kind of War work.

We didn't stay long at Attleborough the unit was moved to Brabourne Lees Kent. Here our guns were placed in position at Folkestone ostensibly to repel a German invasion. At Brabourne Lees Mollie came weekends and stayed at the home of a local Baptiste Minister. We then moved to Rye where our defence position was Camber Sands. The Germans bombed us there destroying the local Cinema.

Mollie stayed at several places including a pub but mainly at boarding houses where a local fisherman was also living so there was no shortage of fish. We stayed at Rye until November 1942 when the Regiment went first to Aldershot where Mollie came to say farewell we sat in a pub and cried together – not knowing whether we would see each other again. In fact it was just three years to when I had my leave home for one month from Rome Klagenfurt.

The War in North Africa

From Aldershot we went to West Kirby in Liverpool to wait for a ship to take us to Algiers North Africa. We sailed on Christmas day 1942 on the HMS Shropshire and took 10 days travelling way out into the Atlantic to avoid German U boats etc. Our first meal was pork chops and more than half my "mess deck" were laid low with sea sickness, those of us who weren't affected were able to really enjoy eating a white bread butter etc such as had not been seen for a couple of years.

Luckily we survived, ships near us were sunk. We sailed past Gibraltar in the early hours of the 4th of January 1943 and landed in Algiers around midday we then had to march 15 miles with all our equipment to reach the town area before nightfall to avoid the German air raids which were a nightly occurrence.

We stayed on a French farm for a few days where the farmer put a barrel of wine out every day for us to help ourselves, obviously to discourage our troops from interfering with his main stocks. We were appalled at the conditions of the Arabs who worked on the

farm. Rows of what looked similar to horse boxes or garages, each one being home for a whole family.

For most of us it was the first time we'd been abroad and wine was something new some made fools of themselves. Also brothels were available some like bombardier Keighley who was unable to attract girls at home were using them every night. The local one at Maison Carrel was supervised by an American P. A team, they moved up to Tunisia one day before us, result Bombardier Keighley got a dose!.

On a day visit to Algiers I met cousin Albert (my fathers brother Fredrick (Harry)'s Son). he was in the Royal Navy I didn't see him again for the rest of my life as he went to Australia after the war.

We collected all our equipment (guns etc) from the docks at Algiers and set off along the Coast towards Tunisia. The scenery was spectacular through the Atlas Mountains.

One place where we stopped for a rest was only three miles inland from the coast, so a few of us decided to go for a swim. When we arrived at the beach the 'peaceful Mediterranean' was very rough with waves breaking up to 8 ft high. However by holding hands we managed to get wet.

Our first area of operation was called Ain Snoussi an area of cork forests and farming also mining. The French farmer has a lot of pigs which forage in the cork forests living mainly on acorns.

The arab farm workers whilst not eating pigs themselves would willingly and slaughter it for a consideration. The arabs also wandered round our positions selling eggs at the equivalent of 6d each. We thought thewy were probably doing the same in the German lines and doing a bit of spying at the same time.

It was January/ February and the rainy season and when the Germans attacked in strength we were nearly cut off and our 25 guns after firing over open sights had to be blown up and abandoned.

We were soon re-equipped and about a month later were back in action at Djebel Abiod. We had a couple of Narrow escapes at about this time.

We were in position near a river where I stripped off and had a bathe. I then laid down on the bank to get dry and read a book. I was immediately the sole recipient of a German barrage, on the assumption that shells do not land in the same place twice I jumped into a shell hole and the river followed me in.

The second time was a few days later we were in a position on the side of Djebel Abiod. My friend Tony Byrne(our cook) called me to have a cup of Tea we sat facing each other each side of a ditch (wadi) when a shell landed between us and didn't explode burying itself in the rain soaked soil.

This was the final few weeks of the African fighting and 250,000 enemy troops surrendered. One memory has always stayed clear in my memory of this time. When the troops were stood down from the fighting, the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders were in the mountains in front of our gun positions. They marched out led by their Piper playing the lament. To hear this sound faintly at first then gradually louder as they came closer and then fade away was a haunting and very emotional experience.

The end of the North Africa campaign left us with an enormous problem of guarding prisoners of war.

The Italians were completely undisciplined and when the food was served, would not queue up in an orderly fashion. We solved that one by putting Germans in charge armed with sticks.

Disease was rampant due to the insanitary behaviour of the local Arab population and Italian POWS and I caught amoebic dysentery very badly and got shipped to Constantine on a Red Cross train. I was nursed back to health slowly in a tented hospital and I am convinced that my life was saved hard working Czeck doctor named Brod and the care of some English nurses.

Dr Brod was worried about my loss of weight and asked me "if I had a drink in civilian life. I answered in the affirmative. He said If I put you a bottle of stout a day on your diet would I drink it. I said yes. The sister in charge of the ward managed to get me additional supplies and I never looked back. The weather was very hot in the 90's so to keep my supplies cold I suspended the bottles by the neck with string, from my bed springs, which proved effective.

I soon recovered and returned to my unit who were on the Algerian / Moroccan border training hard for the Invasion of Italy.

On my way back I stayed at a tented transit camp at Cape Matfin where I was introduced to a liqueur called Banacreme which made me sick.

August 1943 saw us on the move back to Tunisia to be ready to embark at Bizerte in Tunisia for the invasion of Italy. I was still receiving medical treatment following my spell in hospital and because our medical officer had gone on to Salerno (in Sicily) with the invading infantry, I had to see another doctor in a neighbouring unit. I found that it was the 51st Tank Regiment, to which my neighbour in Worcester Park belonged. I had never met him but asked someone if they knew him and so it was that I met my neighbour Mr Walker from England for the first time in Tunisia.

To be continued

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

Club members met in Rivenhall Village Hall on Tuesday 10th June. Chairman, Maurice Bacon, welcomed everyone and gave out Club notices. He then welcomed David Simmons who was going to talk to us about Hatfield Forest, where he has been a volunteer for 18yrs. Hatfield Forest has a history going back some 10,000 yrs. In Medieval times, under Henry I it was declared a Royal Hunting Forest and the King bred Fallow Deer to hunt. Rabbits were also introduced. In 1729, under owner Jacob Houblon, Lancelot `Capability' Brown was employed: to transform the medieval landscape. In 1923 the Forest was given to the care of the National Trust and opened to the public in 1924. It is now a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest and deer still breed there. David's talk was very knowledgeable and in depth, aided by many excellent photographs showing all aspects of the Forest and the work within it. He was a very good speaker and the evening was most interesting.

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticulture

1st Mike Selby 2nd Maurice Bacon (2 entriesonly)

Domestic

1st Mike Selby 2nd Clare Ramsden 3rd Frank Ramsden

Flower of the Month

1st Cyril Philpott 2nd Frank Ramsden 3rd Bob Turner

Photo of the Month

1st Karen Dakin 2nd Jenny Claydon 3rd Sue North

There will NOT be a monthly Club Meeting in July as the Club's **ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW** will be held on **SATURDAY 12TH JULY** in **Rivenhall Village Hall.** Members only Show, open to the Public at **2.15pm.** We expect there to be a splendid show of flowers, refreshments will be served, there will be a raffle and Presentation of Awards at **3.45pm.**

There is no Club Meeting in August, the next event being our ANNUAL SHOW on SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, open to members and non-members.

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The Break Fill Four

Intro

Our shows are always great fun and include great lighting, projected images and even a little smoke! We have an amazing repertoire of songs, from rock, to showtunes to sci-fi. We are a little different from the usual four-piece band (drums, guitar, bass and singer). The Break Fill Four has three singers, Claire Kemp, John Baldry and Lucy Carpenter, which leaves me, Tom Denton, on the keys. We rehearse in St Francis Church once a week – and really enjoy it as well as laughing a lot! I play the music in the church every Sunday service.



As well as the pleasure of being able to play with these amazing vocalists (they won't let me sing)! I also enjoy setting up all the lights amps and other technologies (I won't let them touch any of it)! Now, let me now tell you a bit more about the band and what we do. You can also find us on Facebook @thebreakfillfour

Verse 1: What do we do

We are based in or near Silver End, Witham. We offer four different shows, but can also mix them up:

- **Covers from the 50s to date:** Blondie, David Bowie, Beatles, Abba, Monkees, T-Rex, Queen, Elvis, Dire Straits...
- **Songs from Westend & Broadway:** Les Mis, Evita, Phantom, Mamma Mia, Westside Story, Lion King, Mary Poppins...
- **Songs from the Films:** Titanic, Shrek, Toy Story, James Bond, Love Actually, Trolls, Gladiator, Ghost, Life of Brian...
- **It's Christmaaas!:** All your favourites including the, well

you know, that one, and a few surprises...

Interested in booking the Break Fill Four? eMail me: tom.denton@btconnect.com

Verse 2: Band members

As well as enjoying making music, one of the nicest things for me is that the ages of our band members vary from being in our 60s, to 40s to 20s. We always have fun trying new songs and enjoy each other's company at rehearsals (which always involved tea and biscuits!). Let me introduce the band:

Tom



One of the band er, 'elders,' Tom has played a keyboard of some sort since the 1970s (yes it shocked me too to realise that's 50 years ago!). His first instrument was called a Chord Organ and worked by a noisy fan blowing air on to reeds as the keys were pressed. It had buttons on the left that played six chords (white) or bass notes (black). These were Bb, F, C, G, D and A. As any top player will tell you, that's all you ever need…

Over the years his keyboard and skills improved somewhat and he now plays a Korg PA5x, which is just an amazing instrument – just don't tell his wife how much it cost.

Tom played his first live gig as a teenager – and it was awful. He didn't let that put him off though, because only 50 years or so later he played live in the '**Queen in Silver End'** tribute band – and it was amazing! This is when the **Break Fill Four** first met.

Claire

Claire is able to sing almost anything incredibly well, in fact she did her first solo aged 11 at primary school where she discovered her love of singing.

After numerous lessons and performances at school, and in the wider community, she studied Performing Arts at college and



worked for P&O Ferries and as a Blue Coat before settling down to raise a family.

Singing has always been in the background though and she's been an active participant of a local amateur dramatics group for many years as well as teaching singing in her spare time, you'll find her @justanote on Facebook.

John



John is our other 'oldie,' and as our male vocalist, he enjoys singing a wide range of songs. First his parents love of musicals had a big influence on him. Then at school he sang and performed in the choir. Later he developed a love of 'jazz' – especially Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald. The sound of the 60s blaring from his older sister's bedroom, also broadened his mind. Show business definitely runs in the family as Claire is John's daughter.

As an adult, John has performed in many pantos (oh yes he has!), musicals, and variety shows, as well as being a member of a singing group in the 90s called the 'Silver Boys'. His rich deep voice is a great contrast to the other singers. He likes to improv a little here and there, which is always an interesting challenge for the keyboard player, but we always manage and it really proves our music is played live!

Lucy

Lucy is currently studying drama full-time at Essex university, working part-time, and also owns and runs an amazing entertainment business called Sparkle Meetings. Find out more @sparklemeetings on Facebook. They bring you the ultimate princess experience, for parties and events with magical moments for all!



The youngest member of our band, and really busy, but she still manages to join us most of the time! Lucy sings almost anything beautifully, but seems most at home with 'Princess' related songs! She is the one in the picture dressed as a princess…

Middle 8: How did we get the name?

When we were rehearsing a song, Mustang Sally I think, I stopped and said 'I think I need to press the buttons **Break** and then **Fill 4** on my keyboard here'. Rebecka, who is currently pursuing a solo career (taking a break really!) came up with the idea for the band name there and then – and we all agreed.

Verse 3: Charity

We are available for bookings and often arrange local gigs for charity (we are the resident fundraising band for the Witham based House of Grace homeless charity).

John and Tom often do daytime gigs for local organisations such as special schools and care homes. Let us know if we can help by putting on a show for you.

Outro

Our next public show, to raise funds for the House of Grace, an amazing homeless charity in Witham, is '**Songs from the West End & Broadway**.' The show will be held in Bethel Hall, 65 Church Street, Witham CM8 2JP, and is being held on:

Friday 11th July 7.30pm - 10:00pm

Early bird tickets are just £5 – so book now!

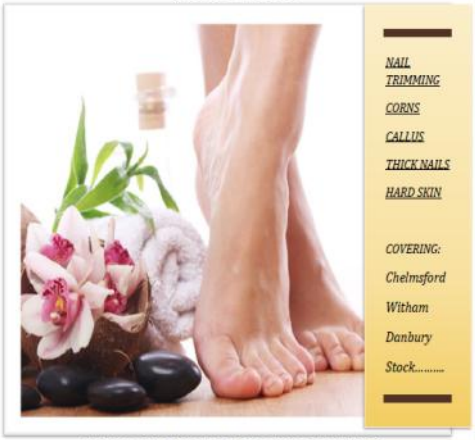
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Organisations in Rivenhall

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
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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