

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



On a recent Walk at Messing Woods Sarah and I were taken
by this display of Bluebells and the pond which is Covered in
Water Crowfoot

June

2021

50p

The Following are our services For June 2021

6th June

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

First Sunday of Trinity

Holy Communion

All Age Eucharist

13th June

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

Second Sunday of Trinity

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

20th June

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

Third Sunday of Trinity

Holy Communion

Matins

27th June

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

Forth Sunday of Trinity

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

4th July

9.30 am St. Francis

11 am St Mary's

Fifth Sunday of Trinity

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

3.00 pm Churchyard Service St Mary's

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Rivenhall Website

www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk

St Francis Silver End Website

www.st-francis.org.uk/

Rivenhall Website

www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk

St Francis Silver End Website

www.st-francis.org.uk/

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Some early summertime thoughts from your Team Vicar.

Summer, it seems has finally arrived, and I would guess that most readers, like me, will be pleased to welcome along some brighter sunnier weather, following the unusually rainy month of May.

June also sees the church year enter into the longest season of Ordinary Time, following Trinity Sunday on the 30th May. When it comes to the Gospel readings that we hear in church on Sundays, most of the church year from Advent all the way through to Trinity Sunday mainly focuses on what Jesus did, or the events which took place telling the narrative of his human life-story. Whereas the readings which we shall hear over the majority of the rest of the year – between now and the next Advent Sunday on the 28th November, focus more on what Jesus taught. 2021 is a 'Year B' in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) – that is the patten of readings used for most Sundays by the majority of churches across the Church of England. So that being the case, we'll find that lots of the Gospel readings over the next several months will come from Mark. (With Year A being Matthew, and Year C being Luke), and with readings from John's Gospel interjected at various points throughout all three RCL years.

Now I've always appreciated the pace and sense of immediacy which we find within Mark's Gospel, and it might remind us of the necessity to be proactive in the life of our faith, and how that plays out in the world. Of course being proactive doesn't mean that we should simply rush-in to every situation without thinking, and as the saying goes: "throwing caution to the wind". Or that we should expect everything which we say or do to generate an instant response or immediate results. Thinking about this idea a little more: Seeds which are sown that can potentially grow into beautiful plants or delicious things to eat can take weeks or even months to produce their flowers or crops. They also take care and nurture in order to produce their best. Much of this nurture will come from God in the form of

nourishment from the natural world itself. But there is a part which people can play too, which any farmer or gardener will no doubt testify to.

The seeds of the knowledge of God's love for us and one another can in a similar way take time to germinate, take root, and grow. So what might we do with this? I think that we could say that we should never stop sharing God's love with others in terms of how live, and at times, share the story of our own faith journey as well. Perhaps even talking to people about any occasions when we have felt the particular presence of God's guiding hand along the way. As we remember that the seeds of faith can take time to grow and flourish, we should also not feel disheartened if it seems that the what we say or do sometimes comes to nothing, because as we cannot see what is happening deep down in the earth until shoots appear above the surface, we never know what positive affect we may be having in the lives of other people by the love which we show them.

So to bring this idea full-circle, in the way that Jesus is depicted in Mark's gospel: We should always see sharing faith and love as a priority, and something which we are all active in. But should at the same time do what we do after consideration, and be patient in waiting to see results. There will also be many times when we never personally see the results of what we do ourselves at all. Indeed, some people only come into our lives for what are really only brief moments in time, but we never know what someone will take away from a small act of kindness, word of encouragement, or even simply a small gift which have to offer – be that the gift of time, or something else.

The month of June offers us some notable days to think about, and so I'd like to briefly think about a few of them. The 11th celebrates the life of Barnabas – a missionary companion of St Paul, and as such an apostle to many gentiles. Barnabas is also considered by many scholars to be the author of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, and if the case he also brought us a much loved book of the Bible to study and to enrich our faith, as well as enjoy. I think that

Barnabas' enthusiasm and willingness to share the Gospel of Jesus with others resonates with what we have already been thinking about this month, and is a wonderful example of the positive difference which people can have on one another's lives.

The 24th celebrates the birth of John the Baptist – someone who needs no introduction, and who was instrumental in preparing the way for Jesus' own ministry which would follow. Maybe we too can sometimes open the way for other people to be ready to welcome Jesus into their lives?

On the 29th we remember the lives of St Peter and St Paul. Peter being recorded as the most outspoken of the first twelve disciples, and not infrequently saying or doing something without fully thinking it through first, and which in turn at times needed to be rethought about or re-addressed. But Peter was also the first Bishop of the world-wide church, taking a leadership role again and again, and who was instrumental in a very different way to John the Baptist, but nevertheless playing a quintessential role in the building up of the early church. And finally we come to St Paul who is often thought of as the lead apostle to the gentiles, going on numerous missionary journeys, and giving us so much of the New Testament to grapple with today in the form of letters to the early Christian communities which he established. Paul's letters also provide us with considerable insight into some of the challenges and strains, as well as the joys and accomplishments which those first church fellowships experienced.

June provides us with so much to think about, and to potentially enrich our own faith, and I hope that this brief little whistle-stop tour into some of the people's lives whom we especially remember this month, will enthrall you to perhaps find out more (or even more) about their lives, and what we can learn from them for ourselves.

As ever, I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get in touch, for any reason which you might think I can help you with. Be it to enquire about baptism or confirmation. If you or a family member is thinking about getting married in church and would like to know more. To chat about any matters of

faith or pastoral need, or just for a friendly, listening ear.

So may I wish you all a lovely start to the summer season, and hope and pray that as the crops and plants grow around us, and start to bloom and bear fruit, that your own spiritual life and relationship with God through Jesus grows, blooms, and bears good fruit too.

Rev. Paulie Watkin

Readings and Collects for June 2021

6th June 1st Sunday of Trinity

Readings

Genesis 3:8-15

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

Mark 3:20-End

Collect

God of truth,
Help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

13th June 2nd Sunday of Trinity

Readings

Ezekiel 17:22 - end

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Mark 4:26-34

Collect.

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord

20th June 3rd Sunday of Trinity

Readings

Job 38:1-11

2 Cor 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

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.

27th June 4th Sunday of Trinity

Readings

Wisdom1:13-15,2:23-24

2 Cor8:7-15

Mark5:21-43

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.

The 50/50 Club May 2021 winners

1st J Reigate

2nd C Shead

3rd K Rowe

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH MAY 2021 HELD ELECTRONICALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

All councillors took part via email

These notes are an abridged version of the minutes

**Confirmation of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other
Council representatives** for the year ending 31st March 2022,
as per the current Covid-19 regulations.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other representatives **were
confirmed in post** as follows:

Chairman: Cllr. Abbott

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Wright

Reps to outside bodies:

RPFA;	Cllr. Cairns
BALC:	Cllr. A'Lee
EALC:	Cllr. A'Lee
BDLHP:	Cllr. Abbott
HDH Charity:	In abeyance, but Cllr.
Turner is a Trustee	
Passenger Transport:	Cllr. Prime
Primary School:	Cllr. Wright
PRoW Liaison:	Cllr. Cairns
Emergency Contact:	Cllr. Wright

Matters for Discussion

Highway Maintenance

John Ray Walk – Members were asked for their views on the ongoing issue of water flooding the John Ray Walk as to options on ECC (a) running a pipe down the JRW to take water currently discharging onto the lane or (b) to request that ECC takes enforcement action to stop the discharge (from private land). Members expressed a preference for enforcement action to be taken by ECC and this will be communicated to ECC.

Pothole repairs - Work is now complete in Rectory Lane and Church Road near to the shop but ECC says there's more work to be done at the Oak junction which will also include the blocked drains.

Planning Applications

21/00889/HH: Proposed two-storey side and rear extension – 461 Rickstones Road. 'No Comments' letter returned to BDC.

CC/BTE/101/19/6/1: External lighting for new SEND school, Rickstones Road. Reply to be sent to ECC as follows *"If the lighting proposals are strictly adhered to RPC has no further comment to make"*.

21/01203/HH: First-floor side extension – 16 Foxden.

'No Comments' letter returned to BDC.

Planning Results

20/02125/HH: Single storey rear extension – 304 Rickstones Road.

Granted by BDC.

Ongoing Planning/Major Issues

Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site

A RPC representative on the Liaison Committee will need to be confirmed at the June meeting.

Colemans Quarry

A RPC representative on the Liaison Committee will need to be confirmed appointed at the June meeting.

BDLHP

Creation of the new Church Road Public Right of Way, estimated cost £3000, has been transferred to the 2021/2022 programme of work. The next scheduled meeting of the LHP should be on Thursday 24th June.

Information exchange and items for the June agenda

Confirmation that council meetings from June onwards must revert to face-to-face as Covid-19 Regulations are rescinded.

The Chairman has requested to BDC, following an approach from the RPFA, that a section of railing be installed for safety along the new footway behind the Village Hall as there is a gap between the retaining wall and the basketball fence.

The next 3 Parishes meeting has been postponed so that it can be held face-to-face when all Covid restrictions are lifted.

Dates of future meetings

1st June at Henry Dixon Hall and 6th July at Rivenhall Village Hall, both meetings starting at 7.30pm.

Yorkshire Plum Bread

This recipe was given to me in the late 70's when I was a young mum! My neighbour came from Lincolnshire, so not Yorkshire, but she would cook this most weeks! It is a very adaptable recipe because you can put anything in that is your favourite. I had forgotten how enormous it is and when I made it for the first time for ages last week, I ended up cutting it in four and freezing three quarters for other weeks!

Oven Temperature: Gas 2 , 150 C

- 1 and three quarter pounds of SR Flour
- 1 pound brown sugar
- Half pound marge (you can use butter, but it must be soft)
- 1 pound currants
- Half pound sultanas
- 2 oz ground almonds
- 2 oz glace cherries
- 2 eggs
- 1 pint milk
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice

Rub fat into flour, add the rest and mix!

Cook in a large tin, (I use my largest roasting pan!) 2 hours or until lovely and golden and a skewer comes out clean!

Please feel free to change the fruit. Apricots, dates, mixed fruit, chopped nuts, as long as the amount is about the same. Lovely fresh from the oven, but I like it a bit stale with marmalade on! Or butter if you prefer!

Enjoy. Perfect for a family picnic or barbecue. Even nice with ice-cream.

Sky Notes June 2021

An annular eclipse of the Sun takes place on June 10th. Visible from high northern latitudes including parts of Canada, the Moon will obscure almost all of the Sun, leaving a thin ring of the Sun still visible around the silhouette of the Moon. From the UK the eclipse will be partial, varying from about 40% in Shetland to about 20% here in the south. There will be TV news coverage and streaming of the event on the internet. Apart from using astronomical equipment under expert guidance, remote viewing will be the best and safest way to see the eclipse as looking directly at the Sun can cause damage to eyesight. The whole event can be seen on YouTube live with astronomers from the Royal Observatory Greenwich starting at just after 10am. The maximum of the eclipse takes place just after 11am and the eclipse ends at 12.20.

Solar eclipses can produce a drop in air temperature but here in Essex the 20% eclipse on June 10th will not be that noticeable in terms of cooling – or dimming of daylight. But larger partial eclipses do produce a dimming effect and a fall in temperature of several degrees. There will be further (less than 50%) partial eclipses of the Sun in the next few years seen from the UK, then a deep eclipse will take place on 12th Aug 2026. That eclipse will see the Sun obscured by more than 90% from Essex and from Western Iceland and parts of Spain observers will be able to witness the spectacle of a Total Eclipse of the Sun.

Daylight hours reach their greatest for the year at the Summer Solstice which takes place just a few minutes before sunrise on the 21st June.

The twilight of the short summer nights for several weeks either side of the solstice brings the noctilucent cloud season. These “space weather” clouds at a height of 50 miles above the surface of the Earth appear as silvery bands or waves and are often best seen in the evening from about 10.30pm to 11pm. We usually get several displays each summer here in Essex.

Mars starts to become lost in evening twilight in June though the ever bright Venus might be glimpsed low down in the North West in twilight.

Jupiter and Saturn are now better placed and visible in the early hours after midnight quite low down in the South East, with Jupiter much the brighter of the two planets.

Full Moon is on the night of the 24th/25th June and will be particularly low in the sky – attaining barely 12 degrees above the horizon when due South. At this time the Moon will be in the constellation of Sagittarius and quite close to the position in the sky of the centre of our galaxy. Astronomers measure distance in terms of light travel time. It takes light from the Sun, travelling at the speed of light, about 8 minutes to reach Earth. Light from the Moon takes only 1.3 seconds to reach Earth. It is sobering to compare those distances to that of the centre of our galaxy, which is about 26,000 light years away.

Sky Watcher

End to End Nature Care.

Our weekly Wednesday evening excursions have now recommenced, bringing a further feeling of normality following the massive disturbance caused by the pandemic. At the time of writing we have so far only had the cowslip count in April and a first of what will be our weekly trips, every Wednesday at 7pm right through until September (Covid permitting). All are welcome to join us; details below.

For our first weekly outing we ventured to Barrowfield Wood, east of Rivenhall Hall Farm, to admire the native Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and other late spring flowers such as Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), which were all looking very verdant given the recent wet weather. On the invertebrate front, the damp conditions meant there were a few slugs and snails about, allowing me to demonstrate the rocking motion characteristic of the large black slugs of the species *Arion ater*. One has to stroke the slugs to prompt them to perform this behaviour, something which may perhaps not appeal to all, but it enables their determination to species from several similar slugs which, until a few years ago, all tended to be considered one species. It is also something of an odd spectacle to see these large slugs squirming from side to side (you can watch it on YouTube); the reason for the behaviour is not known. We also found a few insects including some beetles such as the Strawberry Seed Beetle (*Harpalus rufipes*) and the rather

wonderfully named ground beetle *Abax parallelepipedus*.

As well as pausing to admire the sheep and cattle on the farm we saw some wild mammals, including Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). Other than Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*; introduced to England in 1901 at Woburn, first recorded in Essex in 1941 but now our commonest and most widespread deer) there are not a huge number of deer in our area. Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*), with their white-spotted backs, are common in the north and west of Essex, often found in large herds of 100+ individuals such as those sometimes visible north of the A12/M25 junction. They seem to be restricted in distribution by the A12/mainline railway axis.

Roe Deer are slightly smaller than Fallow Deer, are unspotted, have no visible tail (making their pale rumps very visible) and short, poorly-branched antlers where present. They were actually hunted to extinction in England by the end of the 18th century but there were several subsequent reintroductions efforts including at Thetford and Epping Forests, though it is thought that the latter

02 June 2021	7pm	Rivenhall Churchyard. A survey of the churchyard for herpetofauna followed by general plant and invertebrate surveying.
09 June 2021	7pm	Silver End Field Hedgerows, to check on Sulphur Clover population and survey other plants and invertebrates. Meet in Western Arms car park (CM8 3SD or TL813193).
16 June 2021	7pm	Pond invertebrate surveying, Rivenhall. Meet at St. Mary's Road, Rivenhall (CM8 3PE or TL827174). Bring hand lens and teaspoon (that is not a typo)
23 June 2021	6:30pm for 7pm	High Woods country park, Colchester. Meet at Stover's Hall Farm (CM8 3HQ or TL825172) at 6:30pm to car share or in the country park car park off Turner Road (TL999268) at 7pm
30 June 2021	7pm	Solitary bee surveying, Rivenhall. Meet at the Village Hall. Followed by optional glowworm survey at on Bulford Mill Lane, Cressing (CM77 8NT or TL777202).
07 July 2021	6:30pm for 7pm	Heybridge Basin seawall. Meet at Stover's Hall Farm (CM8 3HQ or TL825172) at 18:30 to car share or at Daisy Meadow car park (free), Heybridge Basin (TL870069) at 19:00. Bring binoculars and plant ID guides. Possibility of a drink in the pub after.

was unsuccessful and that the Essex population has arrived by immigration from the north. Towards the end of the 20th century there were still very few records of Roe Deer in Essex but they appear to be on the increase and are the most likely deer other than Muntjac to be seen in our area. They tend not to form herds, mainly being seen singly or in pairs, their pale rumps being prominent.

The UK's largest deer species, the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) was historically not uncommon in Essex, there being many records of it being hunted in the county, often by royalty. Numbers declined though, through over-hunting and poaching, such that they were considered almost absent in the first half of the 20th century. They will roam however, especially outside of the breeding season, plus they are farmed and so occasionally escape, such that individuals are occasionally seen across the county, although they are only thought to breed in woodland in the extreme north of Essex.

One further species introduced to England over the last 150 years or so, the Chinese Water Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*), is occasionally found in northwest Essex. It is restricted to wetland habitats, with a flourishing population in Norfolk and one or two other UK sites. It looks like an oversized Muntjac with no antlers, though males sport a pair of large tusk-like teeth in the upper jaw. There is a faint possibility they may spread along river valleys and find their way to our area in the future.

Details of our forthcoming activities are listed below. Any last-minute changes will be advertised on our website <http://www.e2e.silverend.org> and in the Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/767416983842784. If you would like to attend then please feel free to just turn up on the night but if you would like more information or just to let us know to expect you then please post in the Facebook group or contact me on simon@e2e.silverend.org or 07947 388180.

Simon Taylor



This Pond in Messing Woods is covered in Common Water Crowfoot - *Ranunculus aquatilis*



Careful When you are walking in the Churchyard at St Mary's you might come across one of these. (Though I'm told its Harmless)



The Rhododendrons were over by early June last year but are looking beautiful this year (Although the one on the right was taken in 2019)



Some Hardy Souls Enjoyed the Bonfire in the Church Yard on Pentecost Eve definitely one way to keep warm.





This Picture is to go with the Article in the Magazine
Titles Jellied Eels



What Picture Sums up the month of May For You This one
does it for me.

Churchyard Service 3 p.m.



4th July 2021



A Service of Remembrance.

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**Rev. Paul Watkin will lead the
service which will
take place in Rivenhall Church-
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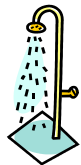
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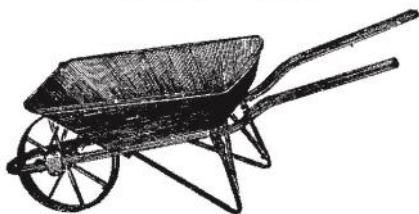
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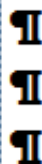
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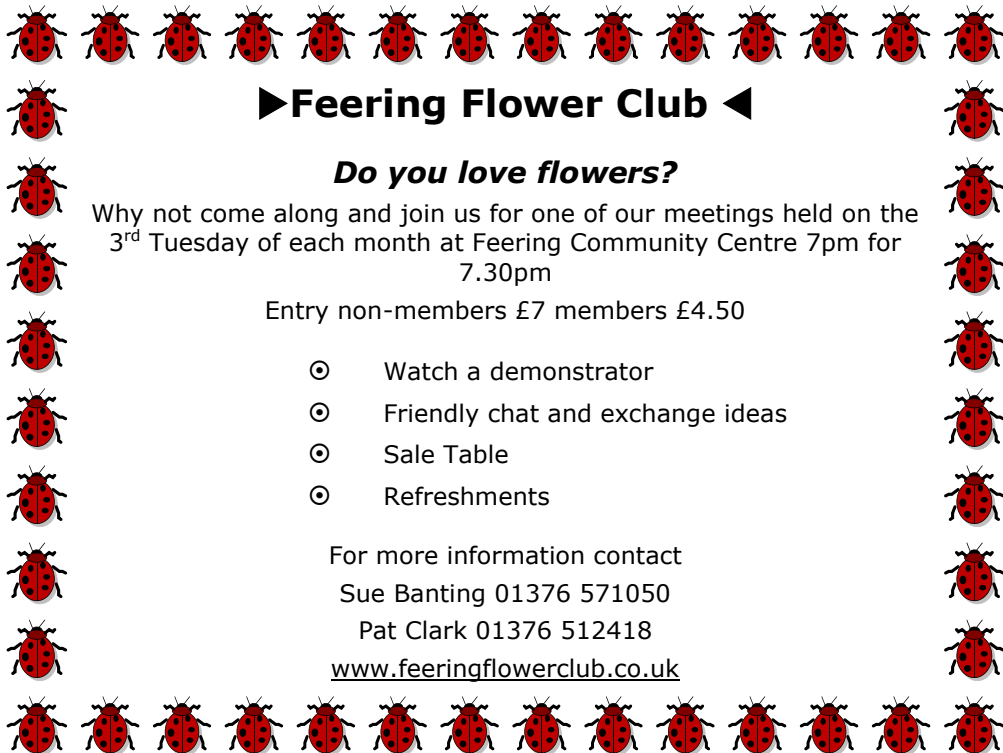
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Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott



June of 1882 we saw the passing of one of the most loved Rector's that Rivenhall has had, The Reverend B. D. Hawkins aged 89 after a long illness. Rev. Hawkins gifts to the church can be seen everywhere including the wonderful Stained Glass Window and the Eagle.

1920 the small holding of Rolph's Farm was to be sold under public auction with land of 95a 2r 19p or thereabouts. The land was good corn and seed growing land. Also by order of the owner: 2 Freehold cottages Tenements adjoining the Freehold House with large Garden and Bake House in the occupation of Mr. David Hammond. 4 Cottage Tenements situated at Silver End, Rivenhall and 5 Cottage Tenements and Gardens near Rivenhall Oak.

A house belonging to Mr and Mrs A. E. Hubbard on London Road (A12) in June 1936 was struck by lightning. The Struck run down the wireless lead-in and this in turn shattered part of the woodwork over their living room door. The result of this was an explosion that was deafening but lucky little damage was done.

In 1846 bones of a Child was found when labourers were doing land drainage and also found the foundations of a Roman Villa that once stood between the Church and Rivenhall Hall. Someone with the initial 'E' addressed a poem to this unknown child.

Tis more than fifteen hundred years,

Frail object of defeated care!
Since, gathered up with useless tears,
Thy tiny bones were buried here.

Along this level Roman way,
Perchance thy tottering footsteps pressed;
When weary with thy frolic play,
Thou, turning sought'st thy mother's breast,

And this was then her home and thine!
'Midst fruitful scenes and pastures fair,
The sunbeams that upon me shine,
Glowed on thy cheek and on thy hair.

And nature to her promise true,
Has strewed the earth with weeds and flowers,
Of form as fair, as bright of hue,
As those which charmed thy baby hours.

Perennial they! But where art thou?
Thy bloom is fled, thy home is still;
Thy joyous laugh is silent now,
Thy dimpled hand no wild flowers fill.

And oft perchance thy mother's eye's,
When sunset lights began to fade,
Deepened with tearful memories,
Seeking the spot where thou wert laid.

Thou sleepest-those who for thee weep,
Like thee, unknown, forgotten lie;
The dreary past hath o'er them swept,
And overwhelmed their memory.

But time which all things else concealed,
Of parent stem or broken flower;
This cherished dust has now revealed,
Frail proof of Love undying power!

RIVENHALL SCARECROW COMPETITION & CREAM TEAS

It's time to think about obtaining your entry form for the Millennium Committee's Scarecrow Competition

The scarecrows will be judged between the Saturday 19th and Saturday the 26th June and the winning entries will be announced on the 27th June. Entry forms are available from:

-

Oak Stores, Rivenhall

Bob Turner, 21 Church Road - 01376-513659

Carole McCarthy, 17 Foxmead - 01376-512781

John Macrae, Whitelands, London Road - 01376-514930

Your scarecrow(s) must be visible from the road or pavement outside your house.

Your forms, plus entry fee should be returned to any Millennium Committee Member (**not** to the Oak Stores) by the 19th June along with your £10 entry fee per household (NOT per scarecrow you can have as many as you wish which will judged separately).

On Sunday 27th June, we are planning a Cream Tea on the Village Green to celebrate the end of lockdown and help raise funds providing the Government keeps to its current guidelines. At 4:30 pm we will also be announcing the winners of the scarecrow competition and presenting the prizes. Jackie will be there to entertain us with her bagpipes.

For catering purposes it would be helpful if you could let any one of our Committee Members know if you are thinking of joining us for this event which starts at 3 p.m. but still come along even if you decide to at the last moment. If possible, could you bring your own picnic rugs or garden chairs as we only have a very limited number. So why not join us and meet up with your old friends and make new ones. We look forward to seeing you.

(The Rivenhall Millennium Committee)

Jellied Eels



A week ago Sarah and I were walking across Rivenhall Brook farm bridge near the Railway Line when we saw an eel swimming in the direction of Hoo Hall. This reminded me of a visit Clare and I made in May 2011 to York. It was a trip we really enjoyed taking in the North Yorkshire Moors Railway Whitby Abbey and Castle Howard.

Seeing this eel in the Rivenhall Brook I thought about a Photograph I took on that Visit of probably a Cormorant trying to eat an Eel. I have put the picture in the colour section of the Magazine as it is only in this way you can get the perspective of what was happening. The Eel Sarah and I saw in the Brook was about 2 ft long and the one the Cormorant was wrestling with was a similar size.

The weight of the Eel was such that the bird was struggling to stay above water while trying to swallow its meal. But somehow it did manage it!!

Jellied eels are a traditional English dish (Ann I'm not trying to steal your recipe section honest!) that originated in the 18th century, primarily in the East End of London. The dish consists of chopped eels boiled in a spiced stock that is allowed to cool and set, forming a jelly. It is eaten cold.

Eels were historically a cheap, nutritious and readily available food source for the people of London; European eels were once so common in the Thames that nets were set as far upriver as London itself, and eels became a staple for London's poor. The earliest known eel, pie and mash houses opened in London in the 18th

century, and the oldest surviving shop, M Manze, has been open since 1902. At the end of the Second World War, there were around 100 eel, pie and mash houses in London. In 1995, there were 87.

In the present day, there are relatively few eel, pie and mash shops still in existence, although jellied eels are sold in some of the capital's delicatessen shops and supermarkets. The water quality of the Thames, having improved greatly since the 1960s, has since become suitable once again for recolonisation by eels.

The Environment Agency supports a Thames fishery, allowing nets as far upriver as Tower Bridge.

The life cycle of an Eel is fascinating:-

The eel is a long, thin bony fish of the order Anguilliformes. Because fishermen never caught anything they recognized as young eels, the life cycle of the eel was a mystery for a very long period of scientific history. Although more than 6,500 publications mention eels, much of their life history remains an enigma.

The European eel (*Anguilla*) was historically the one most familiar to Western scientists, beginning with Aristotle, who wrote the earliest known inquiry into the natural history of eels. He speculated that they were born of "earth worms", which he believed were formed of mud, growing from the "guts of wet soil" rather than through sexual reproduction. Many centuries passed before scientists were able to demonstrate that such spontaneous generation does not occur in nature.

Other early scientists believed that the eelpout *Zoarces viviparus* was the "mother of eels" (the translation of the German name "Aalmutter").

The larvae of European eels travel with the Gulf Stream across the Atlantic Ocean, and grow to 75–90 mm within one to three years, before they reach the coasts of Europe. Eels in this so-called "recruitment" developmental stage are known as glass eels because of the transparency of their bodies. Glass eels typically refers to an intermediary stage in the eel's complex life history between the leptocephalus stage and the juvenile (elver) stage. Glass eels are defined as "all developmental stages from completion of leptocephalus metamorphosis until full pigmentation". The term typically refers to a transparent glass eel of the family Anguillidae.

One well-known place where glass eels are collected large-scale (for deli food and stocking is Epney, on the Severn, in England. (Glass eels are a food item in Spain.) Once they recruit to coastal areas,

they migrate up rivers and streams, overcoming various natural challenges — sometimes by piling up their bodies by the tens of thousands to climb over obstacles — and they reach even the smallest of creeks. (The Rivenhall Brook Ed)

The eels can propel themselves over wet grass and dig through wet sand to reach upstream headwaters and ponds, thus colonizing the continent. In fresh water they develop pigmentation, turn into elvers (young eels), and feed on creatures such as small crustaceans, worms, and insects. For 10 to 14 years they mature, growing to a length of 60 to 80 cm. During this stage they are called yellow eels because of their golden pigmentation.

In July, some mature individuals migrate back towards the sea, crossing wet grasslands at night to reach rivers that lead to the sea. Eel migration out of their freshwater growth habitats from various parts of Europe, or through the Baltic Sea in the Danish straits, have been the basis of traditional fisheries with characteristic trapnets.

How the adults make the 6,000 km (3,700 mi) open ocean journey back to their spawning grounds north of the Antilles, Haiti, and Puerto Rico remains unknown. By the time they leave the continent, their gut dissolves, making feeding impossible, so they have to rely on stored energy alone. The external features undergo other dramatic changes, as well: the eyes start to enlarge, the eye pigments change for optimal vision in dim blue clear ocean light, and the sides of their bodies turn silvery, to create a countershading pattern which makes them difficult to see by predators during their long open-ocean migration. These migrating eels are typically called "silver eels" or "big eyes".

German fisheries biologist Friedrich Wilhelm Tesch, an eel expert and author, conducted many expeditions with high-tech instrumentation to follow eel migration, first down the Baltic, then along the coasts of Norway and England, but finally the transmitter signals were lost at the continental shelf when the batteries ran out. According to Schmidt, a travel speed in the ocean of 15km per day can be assumed, so a silver eel would need around 140 to 150 days to reach the Sargasso Sea from Scotland and about 165 to 175 days when leaving from the English Channel.

Tesch — like Schmidt — kept trying to persuade sponsors to provide more funding for expeditions. His proposal was to release 50 silver eels from Danish waters, with transmitters that would

detach from the eels each second day, float up toward the surface, and broadcast their position, depth, and temperature to satellite receivers. He also suggested that countries on the western side of the Atlantic could perform a similar release experiment at the same time. However, even today, only preliminary experiments along these lines have ever been performed. Migration was mapped in 2016.

Knowledge of what happens to individual silver eels after they leave the continental shelf is based solely on the study of three eels found in the stomachs of deepsea fishes and whales — caught off the coasts of Ireland and the Azores — and on laboratory research into the physiology of eels.

So to this day these are strange and amazing creatures there is so much in the mystery of life that we don't know. Peter Hope Editor

Rivenhall Playing Fields Association

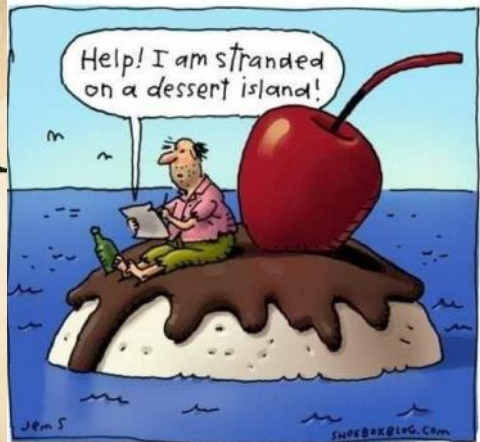
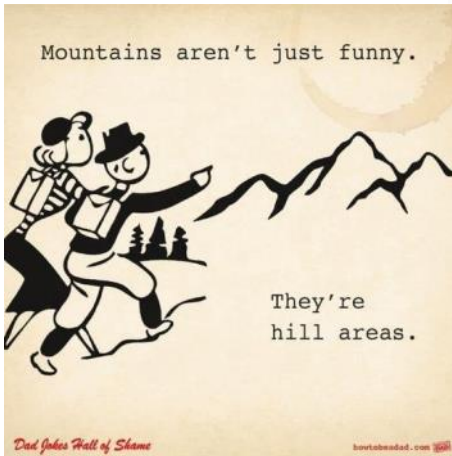
will be holding their AGM on Thursday 3rd June at the village hall from 19.30 hrs. Everyone welcome... any potential new committee members will also be welcome please arrange proposal and seconding.



**I'm looking up
in the sky and I
wondering
which cloud
has all my data.**



My lucky day. Just found in this barn not 1 but 2 sheets of OSB



I caught my son chewing on electrical cords.

So I had to ground him.

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And conducting himself properly ...

**I was happily
watching the
Bermuda
Philharmonic
Orchestra when the
guy on triangle
disappeared.**



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	Pauline Marshall	01376 512836
Or email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com		
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Mobile Library 13 April 4 May	Beech Road 9.20 to 9.50. a.m.	
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ		01376 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	Denise Sullens Smith	07952 992782
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion	583706
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526
Post Office in Co-op - please note that it closes at Lunchtime 1-2pm		
Closes 1 pm Wednesday and 12.30 pm Saturday		
Library: Tues & Thurs - 2pm to 6pm Saturday 9am to 1pm		

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