

End-to-End

The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



This is Colin one of Karen Dakin's aviary budgies. He had just bathed himself in his water bowl and doesn't he look so gorgeous!!

As Editor I just had to put this on the cover. It spoke to me!

February

2024

50p

The Following are our services For February 2024

4th February

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

All Age Worship

11th February

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

Sunday before Lent

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

14th February

7.30 pm Terling

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion

18th February

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

1st Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Matins / Morning Prayer

25th February

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

2nd Sunday of Lent

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

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Churchwarden Denise Lane 07398 154289

Churchwarden Peter Hope 01376 502605

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Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy 01376 512781

Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken 01376 583846

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St Francis Silver End Website www.st-francis.org.uk/

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

'VIEW FROM THE VILLAGES' – love changes everything, and love is everything in change....

So, as the 'month of love' begins (with the celebration of St Valentine on the 14th), and the first month of 2024 is now completed, how are the new year resolutions coming along?! J

I admit to having never really set myself any particular 'challenge' to keep as a new year begins (possibly because I'm lazy and don't like to fail!). But obviously every new year is a particular landmark that presents us with an opportunity to assess our lives and perhaps look to change things.

This time last year Graham and I were about to embark on quite a big change in *our* lives, as by the time you read this, I will be celebrating my first-year anniversary as Team Vicar in the Witham Team villages!

And what a year it has been! So many blessings - '*pressed down and running over*', (to quote scripture). I don't think a day has gone by when I haven't thanked God for the privilege and joy of Him calling me to this post. I have met so many lovely new people in each of my communities who have extended such a warm welcome to both Graham and myself.

'Change' however, is something that for us humans can be very daunting!

Yet for all of us, it is a fundamental part of our being that we face throughout our lives..... albeit not always by choice. Whatever the circumstances though, change of any kind is always best travelled with the support of those around us.... friends, family and the communities we live in.

I have recently watched the excellent drama 'Mr Bates v the Post Office', based on the true life events surrounding the Post Office and hundreds of its sub-

postmasters, in which so many lives were 'changed' and affected by what has now been dubbed "one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in our history". And there is one particular scene in the programme where the whole village rally round to offer support for their local sub-postmistress - raising money for her legal expenses, providing character references, and being there at her hearing. Although the circumstances themselves were appalling, to see the support of this little community for her was a wonderful thing.

Indeed, being there and caring for one another is what we are born for..... This life is not always easy..... and especially in those particularly difficult times of change we face, such love and support from those around can give us the

hope and encouragement that is needed to keep going.

So, as this new month begins, may it not just be romantic love that is our focus, but that much bigger picture of a collective, all-embracing, communal love and care for each other - such as I have indeed witnessed in my first year here 'in the villages'.

Love and blessings

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:

Every Monday to Monday 26th February 2024- St Mary + All Saints, Rivenhall

It will be lovely to see anyone that can come!

Readings and Collects for February 2024

4th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Morning Prayer

Readings

Proverbs 8:1,22-31

Colossians 1:15-20

John 1:1-14

Collect

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

11th February Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion

Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

Matins

Readings

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Readings

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Collect

Almighty God,

by the prayer and discipline of Lent

may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,

and by following in his Way

come to share in his glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 50/50 Club January 2024 winners

1st R & S Fossett

2nd Mrs M Upson

3rd Mrs V Denton

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th January at 1.30pm (please note the earlier time)

The meeting is in the Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham in preparation for the World Day of Prayer, which is held in March.

For more information about Mothers' Union contact Lynette Abbott 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett 01376 514617

Rivenhall Village Hall,

located in Church Road, Rivenhall is available for hire by local clubs, organisations and residents for numerous activities and events including weekly/monthly classes or meetings, social functions, parties, fundraising events, wedding receptions, coffee mornings and much more. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled and a level access from the car park. Clubs and organisations currently using the hall are:

Mondays: Under 5s storytelling mornings, Karate late afternoons and

Scottish dancing - 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday evenings.

Gardening Club 2nd Tues;

Yoga Wednesday evenings;

Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

If you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details by e-mailing:

rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com

For more general enquiries, please e-mail:

secretaryrpfa@gmail.com

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND JANUARY 2024 IN RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Macrae, Abbott, Wright, Prime and Hammond

Also Present: Kevin Money (Parish Clerk), ECC Cllr Ross Playle and one member of the public

Apologies: Cllr Cairns

Chairman's Report: There was significant confusion over the recycling collection over the Christmas period, and some collections started before 7:00 am. This resulted in sacks not being collected and being torn and blown in the subsequent gales. The Rivenhall Oak fingerpost sign has blown down in the gales. There is much debris on the road on the Rivenhall side of the rail bridge due to a road traffic incident. There have been reports of suspicious activity on the grounds of the closed Rivenhall Hotel. The Chairman spoke at the Rivenhall solar farm appeal to oppose the development: The Council was later informed that the planning inspector had approved this development. The Chairman has filmed all the regular flooding places in the village to add pressure for urgent actions by ECC Highways.

ECC Councillor report: Oak Road near the railway bridge - further survey work will be done in January including a three-day road closure to undertake repairs. Further Rickstones Road repairs are also planned. Essex County Council is pressing for 20mph zones in residential areas.

BDC Councillor Report: Braintree DC will be introducing its subscription-based garden waste collections from 04 March 2024. All "side waste" i.e. not in a bag/bin/caddy will no longer be collected, and fines may be given to offending households. Frustration was expressed over Essex CC's inaction over the big pothole in Rickstones Road and the flooding at the railway bridge. The Solar Farm was given approval following the recent Appeal. Cllr Abbott did not support the application.

Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site: The various site determinations will be decided as follows - Woodhouse Farm complex (BDC), the DCP to increase electricity output (Government), Waste site buildings (ECC), Use of Woodhouse Lane (ECC), new haulage road over the River Blackwater (ECC), proposed greenhouses (ECC). Waste incineration is scheduled to commence in November 2025.

Highway maintenance: Fallen triple finger post at The Oak. Chevron signs in Church Road have blown down. Sign by railway bridge is damaged and leaning.

Ringway damaged verge play area in St. Mary's Road - inform BDC.

Planning Applications: 23/02789/HH - 2 Rivenhall Fields, Rickstones Road. Two storey rear extension and pitched roof to flat roof on existing extension - No objections.

Rivenhall End Noticeboard: the repair is substantially complete.

Coleman's Quarry: the next liaison meeting is 14th March. Most Rivenhall residents oppose the proposed processing plant move to Appleford Farm because this will massively increase HGVs on Braxted Road which is already a dangerous, rat-run on a B-road with broken drainage. Some

HGVs are unlawfully using the weight-limited part of Oak Road. The wheel-wash is not being regularly used and considerable quantities of mud and sand are being deposited on local roads.

Budget and Precept for 2024/2025: Councillors agreed a budget of £19,720 for 2024/2025; this will be a £15,220 Precept demand, meaning a Rivenhall Band D property will pay £48.23 for the year.

Dates of next Meetings: 06 February 2024 - Rivenhall Village Hall 05 March 2024 - 7:30 pm at Henry Dixon Hall

Rivenhall Parish Council notes in this magazine

These are not formal Minutes but a simplified, very much shortened set of notes which hopefully are understandable to casual village readers. The formal Minutes can be viewed on the village noticeboards and through the Rivenhall Parish Council website.

The Editor received a complaint about one note not matching the exact words in the Minutes of the December meeting. Minute 2.5.1.2 read:-

Re-Wilding verge on Park Road Rivenhall opposite Waterfall Cottages

The Parish Council entered into a contract with BDC to encourage wildflowers. Cutting undertaken by BDC and RPC each year. Unauthorised cutting must stop with immediate effect. Unauthorised Parking in Park Road should also stop. RPC to approach ECC to do spot planting. A section of verge to be removed from the contract and ask ECC to undertake the extra cutting.

Cllr J. Prime proposed to take out about 20 metres of land outside Lakeside Cottage from the contract. Cllr D. Hammond seconded. Cllr Wright asked for a recorded vote. F3 Cllr J. Macrae, J. Prime and D. Hammond – A3 Cllr J. Abbott, Cllr J Cairns, Cllr R. Wright. Cllr R. Turner, as Chairman, gave his casting vote in favour to have 20 metres removed from the ECC contract.”

Rivenhall and the Post Office Scandal



Graham Ward, among others, Post Master of Rivenhall versus the Post Office

This was how the case of our own Post Master Graham Ward was reported in 2010 by our local newspapers. after Graham had to give up running our local Post Office in Rivenhall when he experienced problems with the Horizon system supplied by Fujitsu. The following is the headline from the local

“A former sub-postmaster is threatening legal action against the Post Office.”

More than a year after the Rivenhall post office was closed a former sub-postmaster is teaming up with other disgruntled postmasters to take on the Post Office.

Rivenhall's Oak Stores post office closed in September, 2008, forcing villagers to travel to Silver End or Witham. Graham Ward, former sub-postmaster and shop owner, saw equipment taken away by the Post Office after a dispute over an audit. In October 2005 he was suspended for an unexplained loss of £1,900, however, he was reinstated after a month.

Mr Ward said there were a number of disputes over financial irregularities and he blames the Post Office's Horizon computer system.

In 2010 he said there are about 50 (today there are over 1,000 cases in England alone and increasing everyday)

similar cases around the country and he is in touch with other postmasters and together they have engaged a solicitor. Some 12 years later in 2022 Mr Ward was finally able to give his account of what happened to the public inquiry.

To date a government inquiry has been hearing the witness statements of victims of the Post Office Horizon scandal. It saw 736 sub-postmasters and mistresses impacted after the Post Office's faulty accountancy software, Horizon, appeared to show the victims had money missing. It led to some postmasters being sent to prison or left them financially ruined and with a stain on their character.

One such victim was Mr Ward who ran the Rivenhall post office from 2002 to 2008 and the Feering post office from 2005 to 2008. In his witness statement to the inquiry, Mr Ward said he was accused of numerous shortfalls, the first costing him nearly £1,400 in 2005.

Each shortfall saw Mr Ward having to repay sums of money or had earnings removed from his wages. Following repeated shortfalls Mr Ward was also threatened with prosecution if he didn't pay the Post Office back. He was then audited and suspended before his job was terminated. Mr Ward says the experience cost him about £110,000. He said he was forced to sell his shop, which was also his home, and says the false claims also led to his marriage of 13 years breaking down. In the witness impact hearing, David Enright, who is representing many sub-postmasters, said: "He has been labelled a thief". The Post Office trainers told the new owners of the Post Office Mr Ward had stolen money from the Post Office.

"Mr Ward ended up with an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) for six years. He is no longer confident and does not feel worthy and good enough."

(An Individual Voluntary Arrangement is a formal, legally binding agreement between an individual and creditors to pay back debts over a specified period. It must be set up by a qualified professional, known as an insolvency practitioner.)

In a statement read by Mr Enright, Mr Ward added: "I would

like to think that the shortfalls were accidental and the Post Office didn't know how to get out of the situation, so let it run. I don't want Post Office Limited employees going to jail as that would not be fair on their kids. I don't want another family to go through what my family has gone through."

In response, a spokesman for the Post Office said: "Whilst it is not appropriate to comment on any individual cases, the Post Office is in no doubt of the human cost of the Horizon scandal and we are doing all we can to address this."

The inquiry's hearings enabled many of those who were most deeply affected by Post Office's past failings to voice their experiences. Their testimonies must and will, ensure all lessons are learned, so that such events can never happen again.

The Post Office have made interim payments of £100,000 to each of the majority of people whose convictions have been overturned and we are working on final settlements as swiftly as possible.

As Editor, I am pleased to say that our wonderful village store is now a thriving concern. I recently sent a package to Yorkshire using their Evri franchise and was amazed at how easy the process was. It is wonderful that I can now send parcels again from the Village store.

The A12 to A120 widening project has been approved and work will begin in January 2024

The following statement has been issued:

2 January 2024

Planning decision is granted

We've been informed on 12 January 2024, that the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning application for this scheme has been granted.

The granting of the DCO marks a significant step towards the future delivery of this important road project. The scale of our work here on the A12 will help improve safety for drivers, especially at

the junctions and slip roads, reduce traffic congestion by increasing capacity, and make journey times more reliable.

Our plans will see the current four-lane carriageway widen to six lanes (three in each direction). Other major improvements include the construction of two major bypasses at Rivenhall End and to the north of Kelvedon. These changes will help to take heavy goods vehicles away from minor roads and local villages. Junctions will also be upgraded to help traffic enter and exit the A12 safely. Public transport users will also benefit with access to additional bus stops, making their journeys quicker, safer, and more convenient.

Away from the road itself, a series of additional separate routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders will also be created to help improve health and maximise the use of non-motorised forms of travel.

All our schemes from 2025 onwards are designed to provide an overall 'biodiversity net gain'. That means a real emphasis is placed on retaining existing habitats and ensuring a greater amount of biodiversity is left when the project is completed than what was there previously.

The A12 is one of the busiest roads in the east of England and provides a strategic connection between Chelmsford and Colchester, as well as the ports of Harwich and Felixstowe and nearby Stansted Airport. It provides the main south-west/north-east route through Essex and Suffolk, connecting Ipswich to London and the M25.

The section between Chelmsford at junction 19 (Boreham Interchange) to junction 25 at Marks Tey Interchange (near Colchester) carries high volumes of traffic, with up to 90,000 vehicles every day.

Heavy goods vehicles are between 9% and 12% of the traffic on this section due to its important freight connection, especially to Felixstowe and Harwich ports.

The Work at Rivenhall End

Here follows a brief summary of the work around Rivenhall End.

1. Rivenhall End will see the construction of a bypass which will run behind the old Rivenhall Hotel and the Matvchyn's office complex.

2. There will be no direct access to the A12 at Rivenhall as shown in the Diagram on the next page. To access the A12 traffic from Rivenhall and Silver End will travel under the Railway bridge and under the existing A12 bridge (where the road under the A12 Floods). Traffic will use a new section of road constructed to link with a new roundabout constructed near where the derelict Rivenhall Fox is located.
3. This new roundabout will take traffic either to the newly constructed all-ways junction at Witham North where it will be possible to travel North to Colchester and South to Chelmsford.
4. Traffic wanting to go to Kelvedon and Feering will use the old A12 which will become a local road maintained by Essex County Council.
5. Traffic for Tiptree and Braxted will turn left at a junction somewhere behind Matchyn's on the newly constructed link road (see map). This section will then take traffic towards Colemans Bridge. Colemans Bridge is not part of this scheme and will remain as it is now.
6. Access to Oak road by the Rivenhall Fox will be blocked off so that the houses from the railway bridge to the current A12 will be in a cul-de-sac.

Another topic of interest is the land opposite Henry Dixon Road up to the Railway Line. This area has been acquired by The Highways Agency and will be used to dump or acquire soil needed for backfill purposes during the construction phase. Of further interest to Rivenhall Residents is a proposed footbridge that will enable walkers to cross the A12 from North to South along the path known as Snivellers lane.

There is some indications that the land between the railway line and Rivenhall End at least on some drawings is being turned into a country park with some lakes, after completion of the A12 construction. While the land nearest to Rivenhall End is a designated flood plane. it is not unlikely that the land at the south end of Kelvedon opposite the Fire Headquarters could be designated for new housing. This could also be the case in Rivenhall End in the area between the new link road behind and the Matchyn's office complex so watch this space.

Towards
Witham

New Rounabout
On old A12
And Junction
behind Matchyn's

Towards
Colemans
Bridge

Old A12 Local
road to
Kelvedon

Henry
Dixon Rd

Towards
Kelvedon



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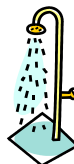
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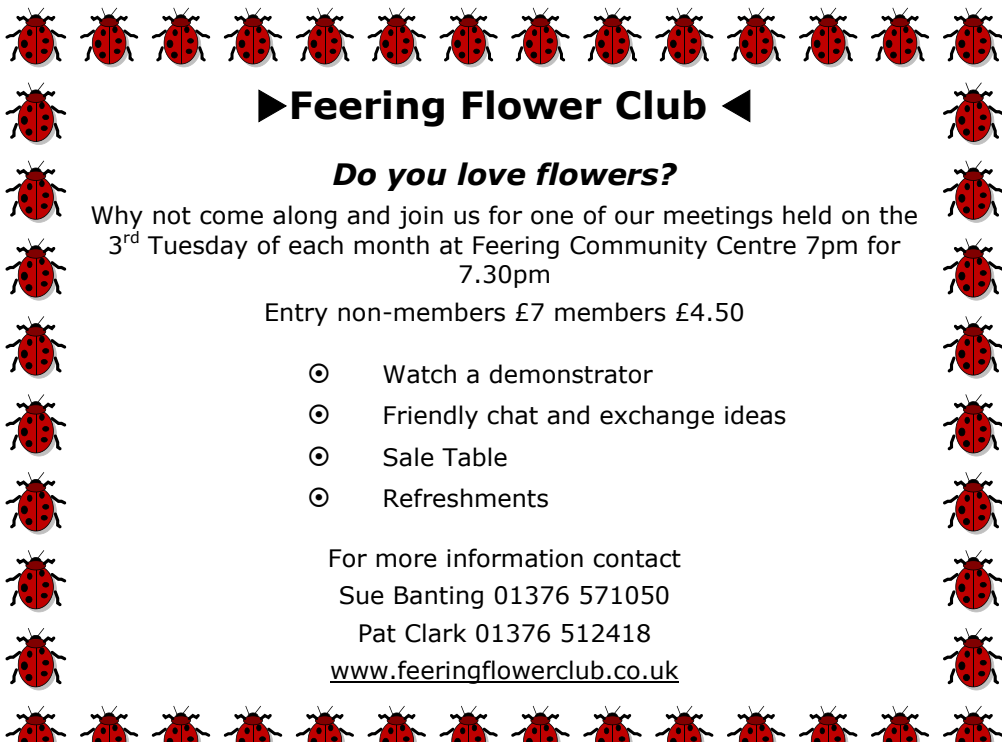
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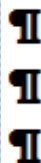
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TUESDAY PRAISE For February at Witham URC EVERYBODY WELCOME

DATE

6th February

13th February

20th February

27th February

LEADER

Noah Cockett St Nicolas

Howard Schnaar St Nicolas

Richard Wearmouth Salvation Army

Jane Quinton St Nicolas

TIME: 12.30 - 1pm

Visit to Joan Cain

It was wonderful to see Joan again and she was so pleased to see us!

It is now about eight months since Joan moved down to Kent to be near her daughter, Ann. So, when Ann Riddleston's daughter, Asami, asked if we (Ann, Lilian Pearce & Ann Kerr) would like to go with her to visit Joan, we jumped at the chance.

The weather was kind to us and Asami knew exactly where she was going and had even sussed out some extremely nice Tea Rooms where we enjoyed a light lunch before going to see Joan.

Joan was waiting for us – she'd even had her hair done especially for the occasion! She was looking well and wanted to know all that was happening in Rivenhall. We gave her all your messages and love too.

It's a very nice home and Joan has made lots of friends but it's not the same as us, she says. She misses us and sends everyone her love.



Some of us ring her for a chat now and again but it's not the same as being there in person.

If anybody else would like to write to or phone Joan, she'd be really pleased to hear from you. Her address is:-

Room 29, Rusthall Lodge, Nellington Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8SJ. Her telephone No. is 01892 556529 - usually Joan answers but occasionally it is picked up by reception staff.



Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

When I say 1966, most of you readers will think of England winning the World cup! Well we in Rivenhall had a great football team and in February 1966 Rivenhall Review report we found them fighting hard to maintain their position at the top of the league reached by them at the beginning of the year, which was a great credit to them.

Unfortunately, two matches, against Notley United and Little Waltham were postponed. Results of the other three matches were: Red Beret Res 2 – Rivenhall 11, New Villa Rovers 4 – Rivenhall 1. Rivenhall 15 – English Electric Res 2.

The Cup match between the boys and Notley at Rickstones Road on Sunday 6th February, resulted in a win for Rivenhall by 8 goals to 2. Notley scored within the first few minutes, then the Rivenhall side settled down and netted 5 goals by halftime. In the second half a fast game was played in a muddy pitch with the Rivenhall team chalking up a further 3 goals and Notley 1. In the last three

minutes P. Ridgewell was successful in saving a penalty taken by Notley.

Goal scorers were P. French 2, P. Stapleton 2, R. Kemp 2 and V. Succamore 2. (At the start of the next season of 66 they were promoted into the Second Division)

In the Review each month there was an article by Angus. I haven't found out who Angus was, but a large range of topics were cover and was very popular with the readers. In the Feb magazine of 66 his titled article was Mud and Muddle and I am sure many of you will think it was written this year and not 58 years ago!

Twice within a week at the end of January and beginning of February the main road near Rivenhall was blocked by accidents.

Thrice within a few weeks there were fatal road accidents in and close to Rivenhall.

The columns of the Review are frequently drawing attention, not only to such accidents, but existing dangers which may well contribute to the cause. To repeat them, they come mainly under four headings – Slippery road surfaces with no 'grip' surplus water after rain, pot holes and mud!

Local residents have already complained strongly about the latter, and one threatened legal action in order to get the mud cleared from his frontage.

While it is appreciated that farm, road construction and building site vehicles and machinery cannot avoid bringing mud on the roads in present weather conditions, every effort should be made by those concerned to see that the mud is not allowed to build up so as to spread over the whole of the road surface, and the larger blobs should be removed immediately.

A Simple remedy for the surplus water is to drain it off by means of trenches – this used to be done, why is it not continued? Where this is not possible due to road-side banks, a suitable sump would provide adequate drainage.

Large puddles – particularly in parts of Oak Road and Rickstones Road – after a heavy rain, stay there for two to three days much to the discomfort of pedestrians and cyclist who are mercilessly splashed by fast moving vehicles. Also, quite naturally, they avoid going through the water, which often reaches the crown of the road, thus exposing themselves to even further danger, especially on bends. For that matter, the motorist is none too keen to

drive his newly cleaned car through the water and is inclined to swing out rather suddenly which can be highly dangerous. And to attempt to brake sharply on a both wet and muddy surface could be disastrous. Pot holes are a constant source of danger, particularly to scooter riders, and should certainly be filled in before they become too large.

What can be done about it? May we respectfully suggest that our elected local and County Councillors, who are in a position to deal with such matters, press the issue most strongly on the appropriate committees, and, if necessary, see that byelaws are enforced where applicable? In short, where road safety is concerned, which could do towards reducing the number of accidents.

Later in 1966 Angus reported 'the lid is off Rivenhall's top secret!' Duke of Edinburgh pays flying visit to Rivenhall: Speculative rumours, anything from transmitting radar waves to intercept nuclear missiles, to the Council holding its meetings, were being circulated regarding the use of those giant toad-stool like 65 feet high and 42 feet in diameter buildings on the outskirts of the village.

The Duke of Edinburgh landed by helicopter in a 2½ hour visit to inspect the one million pound station project which will be used as part of the Apollo project by which the Americans hope to land a man on the moon.

We have certainly come a long way since, say, 1890, when a course that would aid communication, was deemed necessary at Rivenhall. The Mutual Improvement Class, for that is what it was called, included in its curriculum, Bible lessons, Spelling, Writing and Geography. The class numbered 23 students.

Many inventions, communicative and otherwise, were thought to be impossible, by the layman long before our inventive brains really got cracking. It was said at first that, telegraphy, or communication by means of wires, 'just couldn't be'. I wonder what our past students – those who attended the Mutual Improvement Class – would think of the automated telegraph system and the communication that can be made trans-atlantic?

It is less than half a century since we were tickling a 'crystal' with a 'cats whisker' in an attempt to pick up a wavelength. Valve sets were then considered to be wonderful! What would Grandad have thought of the idea of a transistor radio whilst he was harvesting? One that he, indeed, could have put in his waistcoat pocket!

Earth communication with the moon sound like so much moonshine to some, but will it be? It now seems well within possibility. The

site at Rivenhall, once used for agriculture and sheep farming, and later as an airfield for World War 2, is now the scene of an inter-planetary giant satellite plan.

Rivenhall will now have a 'link' with Ascension Island, for that is where that station is to be shipped.

I hope you enjoyed this look back on 1966. The Rivenhall Review ran from 1961 to 1967 and are a great source of our local history, especially when the old timers of the village gave us insights of yesterday of their own like Fred Pye and Jim Ager. Now we I think we need to get memories village life now before it changes again. A few months ago I said 'I was looking forward to looking back' and with the Village Hall becoming 100 this year I think it is an ideal time to do this.

Like me, many of you who read this magazine have roots in Rivenhall and the End going back many years if not centuries, so next month I am going in to detail how we can do this together and add to the photo records that the late Bill Prime built up.

The Rivenhall Stained Glass and the Second World War plus a surprise recent discovery .

Many of you will have admired the stained glass in the East Window at St Mary's. If you want to read all the details about this much admired feature of St. Mary's Rivenhall then you can visit <https://www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk/page9.html> and read the full story.

Once the Germans started bombing Britain in 1940 and it was decided to use Rivenhall for a wartime airbase, it was clear there was a danger bombs might fall in the vicinity of St Mary's church. With great foresight it was decided to dismantle the East Window and put it into storage. Very soon afterwards a bomb fell into a field near the church so this could be thought of as "Divine Intervention".

However, on the south side of the Church near the Lectern is a window with what can only be described as odd bits of coloured glass.

This window was in fact shattered when the bomb fell and pieces of glass were scattered across the Churchyard. The rector at the time Rev. Swann was a resourceful chap so he

got the children from the School to come and collect all the pieces from the field.

This brings us to a recent discovery. We held a day to de-clutter the vestry and on looking through the top cupboards came upon a box containing pieces of coloured glass. This coloured glass which none of the current members of the church knew about are probably the pieces collected by the children during the war.

A very interesting find indeed.

Paying for the Magazine, 50/50 club and other Church Related Events

Dear Readers as many people have been asking recently to pay for subscriptions, the 50/50 club, and for event tickets and to make casual donations to our Churches in Rivenhall and Silver this article will provide details on how to make payments. Note our churches have charitable status and therefore you can highlight that you are a taxpayer and we can claim back the tax you have paid.:

Note also you can make card payment in Rivenhall church where we have the facility through a SumUp terminal. Payments can be made any time on Sunday morning from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm or by arrangement with Peter Hope Church warden call 07904 235101.

Note the Magazine is £6 per year for 12 issues The 50/50 club is £12 per Year

Acct. Name	Rivenhall and Silver End Parochial Church Council
IBAN	GB44 BUKB 2097 4090 7538 66
ACCT.	90753866
SORT CODE	20 97 40
BANK	BARCLAYS BANK UK PLC
SWIFTBIC	BUKBGB22XXX

End to End Nature Care.

At our January evening meeting we enjoyed a very engaging and well attended talk on the subject of Bats, given by local expert Tim Sapsford. Although all bat species are legally protected in this country, Tim explained that bats are far from rare and the majority of older buildings, and some new ones, will harbour roosts at various different times of year. Different bat species have differing preferences when it comes to roost sites, some preferring natural settings, mainly trees, while others seem to show an active preference for buildings, sometimes even the type of building.

Bats, which are flying mammals of course, evolved more recently than birds, which are now generally accepted as being the living descendants of the dinosaurs. Tim explained that as bats' wings incorporate what we would think of as elongated finger bones they make bats far more agile fliers than birds and more effective aerial hunters. Some are not hunters at all though, with many tropical bats having evolved to eat fruit or nectar and in doing so have become important pollinators for plants such as bananas (though commercial bananas are propagated and do not require pollination). Then there are the vampire bats, 3 South and Central American species which specialise in feeding exclusively on blood.

There are 17 species of bat known to inhabit the British Isles and 10 of them are resident in Essex. The vast majority of Essex bats are Pipistrelles, mainly Common and Soprano. One way of finding them and seeking to identify which species they are is to use a 'bat detector' which can hear their ultrasonic calls (mainly used for echo-location, which most bats use to navigate and hunt in the dark), hence the Soprano Pipistrelle has a higher-pitched call than the Common. That said, some groups of bats are very difficult to tell apart even by their calls, and Tim explained how the Essex Bat Group are licensed to handle bats in order to determine species and condition, and in some cases to place small rings on their legs, as is often done for birds. Recovery of such ringed bats has revealed that they often fly considerable distances and it is not for bats to cross the North Sea between Britain and mainland Europe, travelling as far as Russia.

We have lots more activity coming up. In February we have our quiz night and in March a talk on another mammal, this time just a single species: the Badger. I'm sure it will be as stimulating as the Bats talk. These winter indoor meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month; details below. They are held in Silver End Con-

gregational Church, Silver Street, commencing at 8pm. All are welcome for donation of £2 per head, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits in the interval.

Also in March we may be joining in a quiz with some other Essex natural history groups, which will hopefully be fun. Then, in April, our series of summer (yes, summer!) activities commences with our usual Cowslip count near Tarecroft Wood. Further information is always available on our website www.e2e.silverend.org and on our Facebook group, or for any other enquiries I can be contacted via email simon@e2e.silverend.org or on 07947 388180.

- Wed 21st Feb** **"Science & Nature" quiz night with quiz-master Andrew Moss.**
- Wed 20th March** **Renee Hockley-Byan: 'Bagders'. Renee is Chairman of the North East Essex Badger Group).**
- Wed 24th April** **Cowslip count. Meet at 7pm in the parking area at the bottom of the track to Tarecroft Wood (TL824171).**

DATES FOR THE LENT COURSE

Based around the Film Chocolat

The course will run on a Monday evening (at 7pm), and on Wednesdays (at 10am and 8pm) on the following dates:

Mondays (7pm at The Rectory, New Road, Terling):

February 19th, 26th, March 4th, 11th, 18th

Wednesdays (10am in St Nicolas Hall)

 (8pm in The Rectory, Witham):

February 21st, 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th

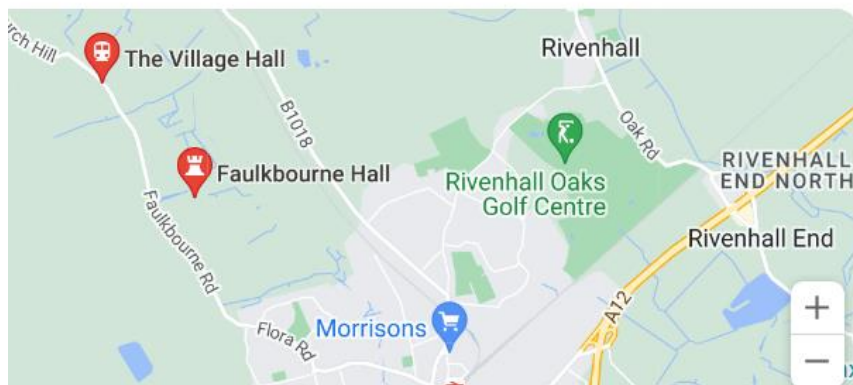
COME AND SEE THE FILM

CHOCOLAT

February 17th

7 pm Faulkbourne Village Hall

Directions to Faulkbourne Village Hall
FAULKBOURNE HALL FAULKBOURNE WITHAM
CM8 1SP. Phone: 07956639877.



RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB DECEMBER

The November meeting was held on 14th but unfortunately our Speaker, Simon Taylor, was unwell and was not able to attend. Club members Maurice Bacon and Cyril Philpott very ably filled in and gave very detailed and informative talks on Bulbs and Fuchsias. We hope to re-book Simon Taylor for 2024.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticultural: 1st Maurice Bacon 2nd Bob Turner(2 entries only)

Domestic: 1st Jenny Claydon 2nd Karen Dakin(2 entries only)

Flower of the Month

1st Jenny Turner 2nd Maurice Bacon 3rd Vivienne Dee

Photo of the Month

1st Jenny Claydon 2nd Jenny Turner 3rd Bob Turner

Our Christmas meeting was held on Tuesday 12th December and as in other years this was a social evening with a bring and share buffet, a quiz, a raffle for a very generous food hamper kindly donated by President Don Scott and a grand tombola organised by Tracy Scott. For various reasons several members were unable to attend

but , though fewer in number, it was a good evening enjoyed by all who could come. Jenny Claydon and Cyndy were the Quiz winning table. The food hamper was won by Jenny Turner. Thanks to members who supplied the buffet which was greatly enjoyed.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Domestic: 1st Jenny Turner 2nd Jenny Claydon 3rd Vivienne Dee
Photo of the Month

1st Jenny Claydon 2nd Jenny Claydon 3rd Bob Turner

The Club does not meet in January. The next meeting will be Tuesday 13th February 2024. Make a note in your diary and further details will be in the End to End February magazine. With so many Garden Clubs closing down we are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. For further information please contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781.

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB JANUARY

A very happy new year from the Gardening Club to all readers. Our 2024 programme starts on Shrove Tuesday 13th February, when our guest speaker will be Simon Taylor from the End to End Nature Care Group who will talk on 'Slugs and Snails — Friend or Foe'. Simon had to cancel his November visit so we are pleased to welcome him this month. Competitions will be: Horticultural — Bowl of Flowering Bulbs. Domestic — 3 cup cakes for ValentinesDay. Flower of the month. Photograph of the Month. Entrance is £3 to include refreshments. The Club meets for ten months of the year (not January or August) in Rivenhall Village Hall and the annual subscription is £10. We hold three Shows a year and hope to have an annual visit to a place of interest during the spring or summer months and we have some very interesting speakers on all subjects, during the year. We welcome new members and visitors. For further details and information please contact the Club Secretary on 01376-512781.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL - NOVEMBER 2023

COLLECTION TIN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RIVENHALL. £32-70

COLLECTION TIN OAK STORES - RIVENHALL, £43-38

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Appeal in Rivenhall and raised a total of £76-08

Lent Course

Witham and Villages

Come and see

'Chocolat'

7pm Feb 17

Faulkbourne Village Hall
(with light refreshments)

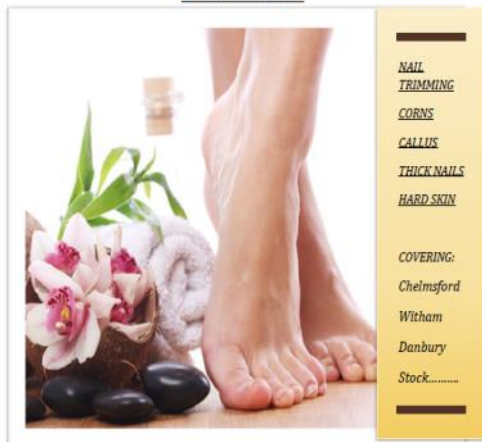
We will be running a Lent Course '*Christ and the Chocolaterie*'
based around the film '*Chocolat*' (with Juliette Binoche, Alfred Molina and Johnny Depp)
on Mondays and Wednesdays in Lent

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Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Kevin Money	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
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	secretary@silverend-scouts.org.uk	
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion	583706
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526
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 2pm to 6pm Thurs/Saturday 9am to 1pm		

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