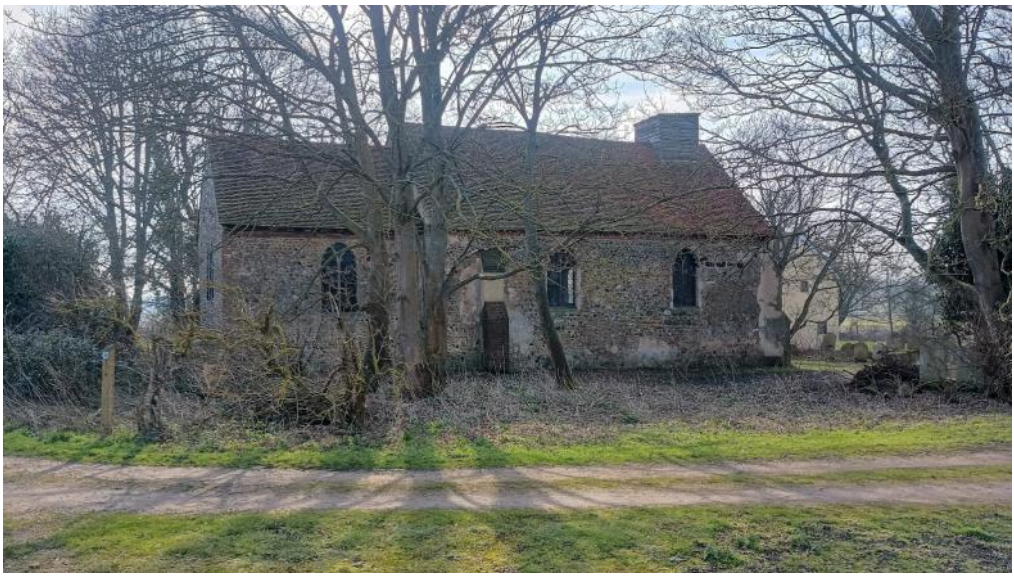
End-to-End
The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End







A recent walk took me too this church local to the Witham Benefice who can tell me the name and where it is the other pictures are on the River Blackwater (a clue?)

March 2025 50p

The following are our services For March 2025

th

2nd March	**Sunday Next Before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
5th March	**Ash Wednesday**
7.30 pm St Mary's	Holy Communion
9th March	**Sunday of Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
16th March	**1st Sunday of Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
23rd March	**2nd Sunday of Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
30th March	**Mothering Sunday**
11 am St Mary's	Joint Service for Rivenhall and Silver End

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest	Jane Quinton	01245 210930
Churchwarden	Denise Lane	07398 154289
Churchwarden	Marie Galley	07767 888198
	Email mariegalley8@gmail.com	
Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy	01376 512781	
Silver End Contact Denise Lane	07398 154289	
Rivenhall Website	www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk	
St Francis Silver End Website	www.st-francis.org.uk/	

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

VIEW FROM THE VILLAGES' – the never-ending story ……

As I write this month's article I am recovering from a few days illness that has actually confined me to bed. Thankfully Graham's work schedule meant he was off for most of the time, and therefore able to act as my 'nurse'! But it made me realise that there will be so many people who are not as fortunate – and who have to endure their suffering (in all different forms) on their own. Which isn't right…….. Because no-one should feel isolated and alone……. All of God's world is inter-connected. And relationship and community is at the heart of our humanity …….. being there for each other, and especially the vulnerable and weak……

Yesterday was Valentine's Day – the day of love now celebrated all over the world (much to the joy of many manufacturers and retailers!).

And although I once again fell into the commercial trap of buying Graham a Valentines card (and even a small present), I could still hear the voice of Graham's late mum (*Jean*) in the back of my mind, who used to dismiss Valentines Day with the words, "you don't need a special day in the year, to show someone you love them!" …….. She was of course, absolutely right.

Loving someone is a full-time occupation, that is both a responsibility and privilege.

Love is at the heart of who we are as human beings… all of us born to be in loving relationship with each other (and God).

And yes, some days may be harder than others, but to love (and be loved) is the deepest joy we will ever know…… and the one thing in life that can truly transform both ourselves and others.

Like me, you may be looking at the state of our world and feeling there is so much pain that we feel hopeless to do anything about… Indeed, I lament and apologise that the church has been responsible for so much pain ….. But I am reminded of a quote from Richard Rohr, that '*Jesus did not establish an institution, though institutions can serve his cause. He did not organize a political party, though his teachings have a profound impact on politics. Jesus did not even found a religion. No, Jesus began a movement, fuelled by his Spirit, a movement whose purpose was and is to change the face of the earth from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends….'* That dream is all about loving and caring for each other, without judgement or exclusion….

So, Valentines Day may have indeed come and gone again for

another year, but the message of love never ends…..

Love and blessings

Rev Jane x

PS Victor Hugo's wonderful story of transforming love, 'Les Miserables', is the theme of this year's Lent course in the benefice (further details can be found in this magazine). Even if you don't want to attend the follow up sessions, you are very welcome to watch the film at Faulkbourne Village Hall on March 8th, 7pm.

Readings and Collects for February 2025

2nd March **Sunday Next Before Lent**

All Age Worship

Readings

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

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.

9th February **1st Sunday of Lent**

Holy Communion

Readings

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

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.

16th March **2nd Sunday of Lent**

Matins

Readings

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

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.

23rd March **3rd Sunday of Lent**

Holy Communion

Readings

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

Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

30th March **Mothering Sunday**

Special Service

Readings

Exodus 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Collect

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

Friday 7th March at 1.30 in the Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham. Service for World Day of Prayer which this year has been prepared by Christians of the Cook Islands. The service is open to all not just members of the Mothers' Union. Do come and join us for this annual event.

Thursday 27 March at 2pm in St Nicolas Church Hall there will be a talk highlighting the history and work of Christian Aid. All members and friends welcome.

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

Rivenhall Village Hall,

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

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

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

Gardening Club 2nd Tues;

Yoga Wednesday evenings;

Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

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

Following the Village Hall AGM on the 21st Jan We will be re-instating the Coffee Morning on the first Friday of the month 9– 12 am

****

The 50/50 Club February 2024 winners

1st Mrs A Green 2nd M Hope 3rd Mrs V Ladkin

****

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 4TH FEBRUARY 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Abbott, Wright & Prime. Apologies were received from Cllr Hammond.

Chairman's Report: Essex Highways have confirmed that work has been programmed to address the flooding at the junction of Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road. It is hoped this will be carried out during the full closure of the road between 10th and 12 February. ECC Rights-of-Way has arranged to inspect footpath 38 where the steps on the far side of the Rivenhall Brook bridge have been partly washed away. No date for the inspection has been confirmed but it is hoped this will be soon as the path is well used. The recent accident at the A12/Oak Road junction has brought into focus the lack of improvements to this junction requested by Councillors. Considering the number of incidents at this location, it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality and anyone at that location is in danger, especially if walking, cycling or in their garden. Highways England had previously refused additional warning signs at this junction.

Essex County Councillor's Report: County Cllr Playle reported that ECC budget could result in a Council Tax increase of 1.75%. Repairs to potholes identified as part of the Member Scheme are being scheduled and these should be confirmed by 3rd March. Work to drains and permanent road surface work in Oak Road in the proximity of the railway bridge will be carried out. A new Chief Executive has been named to replace Gavin Jones, this is Nicole Wood, currently the Executive Director for Corporate Services. ECC working with District and Unitary Councils on air quality consultation.

District Councillors Report: Cllrs Abbott and Wright reported the defects of the HGV warning sign located near the shop:

Our Essex County Councillor Ross Playle will press for urgent action and will report back to the parish. BDC currently has two public consultations. Waste bins has received more than 6,000 responses and closes at the beginning of March. The Local Plan is also open for comments until the beginning of March. On the Local Plan "call for sites", the nearest drop-in consultation site for Rivenhall will be in Witham. In 2026, BDC will implement new recycling bins, and plans to spend in excess of £4m to improve recycling: this will mean giving every household two extra bins in line with Government expectations.

Planning: There is official confusion over the Change of Use at Appleford Farm, Braxted Road, Rivenhall: the permission given by the Traffic Commissioners is for vehicles at the site, not change of use, so the site still requires planning authority approval for this. It was agreed that the site is not suitable for haulage company work and an Enforcement Enquiry will be sent to BDC.

Ground Maintenance: Despite requests, our Clerk has received no contract documents from contractor PG Groundcare: Cllr Abbott to chase.

Tree Planting: Eastlight has agreed to the planting of a substantial replacement Rowan tree on their small village green, and two dead Rowan trees will be replaced on the Albert Moss Playing Field. BDC has agreed to allow funding up to £9,000 from Section 106 monies.

Notice Boards: It was agreed to replace the public noticeboard outside the village hall with a 12 sheet A4 sized recycled plastic board. We will request a Councillor Community Grant of up to £2,000. Note: after the meeting it was established that this sized board was too expensive so will instead purchase an 8 A4 sized board.

Annual Parish Assembly: This will be in Rivenhall Village Hall on Tuesday 15th April (start 7 pm - to be confirmed). Invitations will be sent to our MP, our ECC Cllr Ross Playle, BDC, Police, Essex Highways, End-to-End Magazine,

Rivenhall Parochial Church Council, and Rivenhall Primary School.

Annual Report / Newsletter: The various topics to be covered were agreed, and councillors to circulate their drafts and send to the Clerk by 25th February.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 04 March 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

Tue 01 April 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Annual Parish Assembly: Tue 15 April 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall (time to be confirmed)

St Mary's Church Report on Building Cracks

Update of Church building Let's start with some good news! Following a meeting with the Diocesan advisory committee (DAC) and the structural conservation engineer it would seem things are not quite as bad as was first thought! After many photographs of the stained glass were taken a visit is to be arranged for the DAC Stained glass expert to visit and inspect the window soon. As things are not as bad as we thought, there may still be some cause for concern and we must not be complacent which is why we need to do the things below. These actions will enable us to make a decision on what course of action we may need to take with telltales attached internally and externally so that the cracks can be monitored.

1. The plaster cracks in the ceiling and the arch need to be tapped firmly by hand to see how stable it is and if any plaster comes away.

2. An inspection of the stained glass window.

3. We need to find out the depth of the vault at the back of the church, not sure on how we will do this at present.

4. The internal and external cracks now need monthly monitoring and telltale readings recorded.

The Return of Nancy May

If you missed it you may have heard we were very fortunate to enjoy the voice of Nancy May, a soprano, in our church last September, Nancy May will be joining us again this year on 26th September, tickets will be going on sale in June, more information will follow .

On the 27th September we will be holding an Autumn Fayre in the church, if you, or anybody you know has a cottage industry, or craft e.g home made chocolate, wine etc please contact us to book your table. More information will follow in future issues.

A Bridge Near Us



The above Mural is very recent and has appeared under a bridge of the A12 in Witham. It was spotted by John Macrae while walking from Rivenhall to Maldon along the old Witham to Maldon Railway line which was decommissioned in 1966.



Mothering Sunday
30th March 2025
St Mary's

A wonderful occasion for all the family.





Before Covid we used to have a very full church on Mothering Sunday!

The picture above was taken in March 2017.

Families please come to this lovely service and Children bring your Mothers and Grandmothers to receive a wonderful posey of flowers The service is a beautiful occasion to celebrate the value we place on mothers in our lives and the important role mother have in raising the next generation of children.

****** Joan Caine RIP ******



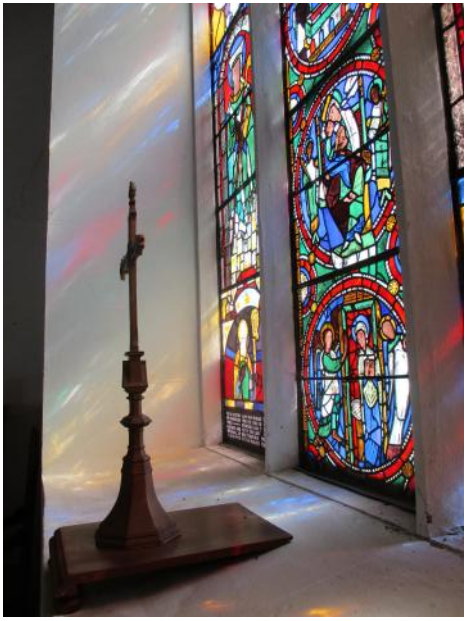
A reflection from your Editor

It is with great sadness that I must report the death of one of the great characters of Rivenhall who served in the Rivenhall Church Choir with me and Clare and many others and who I first met in 1993 when Clare and I and our young family moved to Rivenhall from Witham.

Joan and her husband Les both pictured were heavily involved with many activities of the village including the Gardening club and Joan was a volunteer at Rivenhall school where she listened to and helped many children with their reading. She was also a reader at St Mary's church and a regular intercessor until around 3 years ago.

A more comprehensive obituary will appear in next months magazine suffice it to say that I and many of us here in Rivenhall and Rivenhall End who have known Joan will always have her in our hearts.

A beautiful picture taken at St Mary's church by Tracey Scott .



Rivenhall 60 Years on

50 years ago, work began on the dualling of the Al2. This meant that Rivenhall End was altered considerably.

It was no longer possible to turn right at the end of Oak Road to go into Witham or to go straight across to the Braxted Road to Tiptree.

Many building were demolished, such as a pub and a petrol station left of Oak Road, and to the right a group of houses where Mr. Carter the local policeman lived.

The Victorian Henry Dixon Hall was demolished .and the War Memorial was moved to the Churchyard.

A row of cottages, on the north side of the old filling station, were demolished and opposite the old chapel was left derelict for many years. Along Oak Road a row of old cottages, next to the old Post Office, were knocked down ,and on the other side of the road, a thatched cottage also was knocked down.

To give access to Tiptree, a new road, Henry Dixon Road, was

constructed. The new road meant that the stream (Rivenhall Brook) had to be diverted, and a bridge built to carry the new Al2 over the new road. The stream originally meandered across a meadow where (Henry. Dixon. Road now is) the stream flowed through the garden of what is now 8 Henry Dixon Road. A new stream bed was made by clay puddling, and the old stream bed was filled in. When constructing the bridge over Henry Dixon Road, a spring was discovered. In the wall of the bridge a pump was fitted to pump the water up hill, and into the stream.

As you all know, for the last 50 years we have had frequent flooding under the bridge, due to pump failure or the stream in flood unable to take the water from the pump.

During construction work, many allotments were lost, under the new road.

Buildings that have survived, are The Old Forge, and two brick cottages, the old Post Office, Pond Farm, two barns, and Brown's Row Cottages. The council houses in Oak Road originally shared a pump which was set into the bank.

I was told by Mr. Punt, that in dry summers the pump would fail and the residents had to use a spring in the bank of the stream. This spring is still there, near the railway bridge!

50 years on It is easy to forget how things were! That's progress.



DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Incorporating
W C BROWN & SONS

Independent Family Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

A professional, caring, 24 hour service

Private Chapel of Rest
Fleet of air conditioned limousines
Horse drawn funerals available
Traditional and contemporary funeral services to suit your wishes
Funeral pre-payment plans
Arrangements may be made in the comfort of your own home, if preferred

Haslers Lane	7 Manor Street	31 High Street
Great Dunmow	Braintree	Halstead
Tel: (01371) 874518	Tel: (01376) 320582	Tel: (01787) 475533

www.drobinson.co.uk

COLEMANS COTTAGE FISHERIES

Lakeview Tearooms

Come and enjoy the view whilst having a bite to eat



Open Thursday to Sunday 9am to 1pm
Breakfast, Lunches
Bar, Snacks
Call 01376 516383 if you want to arrange a Private Event

For more information go to:
http://www.colemansfisheries.co.uk/witham/cafe/
Colemans Cottage Fisheries
Little Braxted Ln, Witham CM8 3EX
FREE PARKING 01376 516383





SpeedyBroadband.co.uk

Sick Computers my Speciality

- Home Networking Problems Sorted Out
- Computer Viruses Removed
- Operating System Upgrades
- Upgrade to Windows 10

FOR YOUR FREE SURVEY AND QUOTATION CONTACT

Peter Hope

Peter.hope@speedybroadband.co.uk

Tel: 01376 502605

Mob: 07904 235101

Website

www.speedybroadband.co.uk

ANGLIA TREE SERVICES

Specialist tree surgery

Residential & Commercial Customers

CROWN REDUCTION • FELLING • TOPPING

HEDGE TRIMMING • ALL GARDEN WORK

STUMP GRINDING

For a quick, tidy and friendly service call:

Tel: 01621 892831

7 DAYS A WEEK •EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE•FULLY INSURED

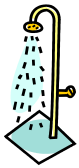






Philip Little

Property Maintenance Magician



Local service at local prices

Knowledgeable and friendly



07973 129808 or 01376 515257





Good Life Care

Contact Information:-
Email
info@goodlifecare.co.uk
Call Us
01376785670 or 07940 373598
Find Us
40, Stilemans Wood
Cressing, Braintree, CM77 8GR



CQC Registration: 1-6614223440

Beautiful Rooms For Rent In Witham & Braintree

We have 4 Lovely houses
2 in Witham—2 in Braintree
With and Without en-suites
£520 per month to 825 per month
(All inclusive of Rates, Light, Heat, and with Broadband)
See our Website:- www.jbwpartners.co.uk
Email :- jbwpartners@gmail.com

Or Call John
07850 161 629

Yoga Moments

Hatha Yoga class

Via Zoom or in person

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

(suitable for all levels including beginners)



One to one yoga therapy classes tailored to your individual health issues

Yoga, mindfulness and meditation can bring many benefits to your life

- Build stength and flexibility
- Relieve pain
- Ease stress and anxiety
- Enables restful sleep
- Helps with many health issues
- One to one classes with Mine

WWW.YOGA-MOMENTS.CO.UK

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF YOGA TEACHER

Call Mine Hilmi on 07811 203 981
or email mineyogamoments@gmail.com
to book your place

Jeremy Larke

Television services



Telephone: 01376 513645
Mobile: 07947 601619
Email: telerepair@aol.com

All Television Systems Catered for Freesat, Freeview, Sky

- Installations & Repairs To all makes and models
- Full Plasma & LCD Fitting Service
- Wall Mount Brackets Supplied and Fitted
- Aerial & Satellite Dishes Fitted
- Freeview, Freesat & European Channels
- View and Control Your Sky in Other Rooms
- Aerial and Telephone Extension Points Installed

Don't Delay Call Today

TUESDAY PRAISE
For March 2025
at Witham URC
12.30 –1 pm

Tuesday	Speaker
4th March	Jonathan Pritchard
11 March	Marina Price
18th March	Lorna Bantock
25th March	Ian Hardie

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Refreshments available afterwards



JOIN US ON SATURDAY 12 APRIL
2025 12.30PM
AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH SILVER END

£5 PER PERSON STRICTLY BOOKED IN ADVANCE
CONTACT DENISE OR LIZ FOR ADVANCED BOOKING

Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

This month we are going back to School life in the village. In the past Sunday School was just as important as going to the main school wherever you lived. The three R's phrase come to be in early

1800's but you can find a reference to the same in 4th century AD when St. Augustine's Confessions alludes to the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic in Latin.

Rivenhall School as we know it now was opened in 1856 and Workmen's Hall the other end of the village was opened in 1872. This had a school room for the very young and mainly taught by Miss Polly who lived on the opposite side of London Road (A12). Before the Church Hall (Village Hall) was built in 1924 the Parish Church either had there Sunday School in the church or the school. Down at Rivenhall End, I remember Mum telling me Sunday school was at Springholds Farm House and where the kitchen was when made into a hotel…then it moved to the Congregational Church (Chapel) on London Road. (Now a private house).

We will briefly cover from 1883 - 1944 from some of the articles I have found.

<u>September 1883</u>

At the Cottages' Show held at Durwards Hall – The specimens of needlework shown by the girls attending the National School, Rivenhall were well done, and reflected the greatest credit upon the painstaking mistress, Miss Waters.

<u>February 1890</u>

Infant's School – the annual treat to the infants was held at the schoolroom. A bountiful tea was provided by the Rev. F. B. H. Bridges, several ladies assisting to make a happy time for the youngsters. A wagon to convey the child to the school and home again was kindly let by Mr. A. W. Ruggles Brise.

<u>August 1892</u>

School Treat – the children belonging to Rivenhall School were entertained at the Rectory by the Rev. F. B. H. Bridges. The choir were also among the party. The Rivenhall Brass Band played selections during the afternoon.

<u>January 1896</u>

School Treat – the children attending the Church Sunday School were given a capital treat in the schoolroom by Mr & Mrs C A Parker, of Durwards Hall.

The children attending Mrs. Polly's class were entertained to tea on Friday evening at Springholds (Rivenhall Hotel). After tea a magic lantern entertainment was given. Prizes were awarded to all the children.

March 1903

National School – H.M. Inspector reports Rivenhall School (Mixed School): The mistress is doing excellent work. The instruction is given with much intelligence and zeal. The infants are in very good order, and their instruction is making creditable progress. The highest grant has been earned in both departments.

August 1910

The children of the Congregational Sunday School had their annual outing with a few friends to Maldon and went for a sail on the Blackwater. In all 44 children attended.

August 1923

A trip to the Zoo was arranged by the Parochial Church Council. The choir, Sunday school and some members of the congregation travelled in one of Mr. Moore's buses via Epping Forest. The spent four hours at the Zoo they returned via Trafalgar Square passing by Westminster Abbey and the Cenotaph. Then stopped to visit St. Paul's, and came home by Brentwood, having had a very enjoyable day.

June 1931

A Rummage Sale held by the Schools Parents Association raised £5/12/6 for Rivenhall School children's sports fund.

Congregational Church Sunday school anniversary – In the morning Mr. Dines, made an address using the school motto meaning: "Keep your heart up." Directing Mr. V. Butler (the school superintendent), and Miss Trigg at the organ the scholars sang hymns in good tune and measure. Miss Cable also sang a solo "I gave my life for thee". The Church was decorated with flowers that were contributed by the children.

The afternoon and evening services were conducted by Mr. J Herald, of Hutton. Miss Florie Smith read the lesson, Miss May Jenkins sang "By the Wayside", and Vera Raven recited "Where the Sunbeams Went"

Mr. Herald complimented the children on their bright and happy singing. In his address he produced an old humming-top, which he referred to as a "gate-crasher", and drew some very good advice from the subject of the top. In the evening Miss Connie Stock was the soloist, and Annie Stock and Vera Raven recited.

In all the collections for Sunday school funds were £2/12/6.

December 1933

Rivenhall School scholars gave a much-appreciated concert at the Church Hall, under the direction of Miss E. K. Chapman, Headmistress. The programme included songs, recitations, carols and country dances. They also gave two plays, "The Silver Star" by the infants and "The Invisible Crown" by the senior boys.

October 1942 (Silver End)

St. Francis' Sunday school children had knitted 36 squares which Mrs. Jackson was making into a blanket to go towards the comforts for the Prisoners of War Relatives' Association which was being organised by Mesdames Oliver and Smith of the Silver End W.I.

August 1944 Rivenhall & Silver End

School Treat – The Sunday Schools of Rivenhall Parish Church and Silver End, St. Francis, held their annual treat and sports (conducted by Mr. W, Bedford, of Silver End) in the Rectory field. By the kindness of many friends 160 children had a sumptuous tea in the Church Hall, and afterwards sports prizes were distributed and "Kandies" that were kindly given by American friends.

The 2024 Burns Supper - Saturday 1st February

This year's Burns Supper took place in Silver End village hall to raise monies for Rivenhall and Silver End churches … and a most successful evening it was!

Organised, as ever, by Jackie Allan and her team, this event has been running since 1989. With 110 people in attendance, Master of Ceremonies John Macrae welcomed everyone to the supper, and explained how the evening would run. After Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard gave Burn's Selkirk Grace, the ceremonial haggis was paraded by Jackie Allan and piped-in by Tom Broderick … all to much cheering and clapping.

Alex Allan enthusiastically and flamboyantly then addressed the steaming haggis, after which all our delicious meals were consumed.

When the cheese and biscuits had been consumed, John Macrae called on Charles Grenville to deliver the Immortal Memory - and how very well he does that! John then asked Rev Jonathan to offer something to all the ladies present: Jonathan sang a wonderful rendition of My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose (a love song composed by Robert Burns in his first book of poetry published in 1794).

Following a Toast to the Lassies by John Macrae, the dishes were cleared, our band The Caledonian Reelers took to the stage, from where, under the direction of our caller Sue Last, vibrant dancing commenced.

At 10:00 the hall fell silent and then in marched pipers and drummers from the Essex Caledonian Pipe Band, led by Tom Broderick - what stirring sights and sounds! After the raffle prizes were all drawn, dancing continued till 11:30 when we completed the Burns Supper with a rousing chorus of Burn's Old Lang Syne.

A very big Thank You to all who support this fund-raising evening. A wonderful profit of just over £800 was raised for the churches of Rivenhall and Silver End.

These events neither organise themselves nor run themselves. Like the serene white swan gliding effortlessly over the water, the reality is always considerable hard invisible work "going on below". So, a very big Thank You to all the voluntary helpers, the table layers, the servers, the hall decorators, the table and chair movers, and not forgetting all who stay behind to help to remove all the Scottish tartans and posters with which we adorn the walls each year, etc, etc.









End to End Nature Care.

For our evening meeting on Wednesday 19th February we were visited by Stephanie Callister-Jarrold who runs the Essex & Suffolk Owl & Bird of Prey Rescue Centre, based in Gestingthorpe. Stephanie delivered a very interesting talk specifically about owls: their habits, biology and the 5 different species we have locally, further illustrated by examples of each which she has had in her care. In the ten years she has been building up the Rescue Centre her reputation has spread such that she is now referred birds from a wide are, giving examples from Hampshire and Norfolk as well as Essex and Suffolk, with all birds named after where they were first found.

Either the majority of birds she takes in are abandoned chicks or it is just that those are the ones Stephanie falls for the most, as many of the examples began as a tiny chick which looked at death's door for a variety of reasons. With her care, usually hand-rearing, they are soon fledged and ready to be released back into the wild, ideally as near as possible to where they were found. She also deals with injured adults too, indeed it was one such example – a tawny owl she called D'Arcy (yes, found in Tolleshunt D'Arcy) which had become entangled in netting protecting a pond – which was the vector by which we became aware of Stephanie and her work. D'Arcy suffered a lot of rub marks from struggling against the netting but treatment with corticosteroid cream cleared it up perfectly. Incidentally, if you have any netting in your garden at all, Stephanie's advice is to keep it as taut as possible, to avoid wildlife becoming entangled.

Owls are, of course, primarily nocturnal predators, hunting on the wing and mainly feeding on rodents. They have evolved to fly almost silently and to hunt using sound as their primary sense, almost entirely so in the case of barn owls which Stephanie claimed to be the best 'sonic predator' in the animal kingdom, only hampered by wind. They catch their prey with their very sharp talons and Stephanie described, from experience, how when trying to gather up any bird of

prey it is the talons, not the beak, which one has to be wary of. The best way is apparently to simply drape a coat or blanket over the bird first then wrap it by picking it up from behind; which Stephanie termed as having them 'burritoed'.

The five species of owl she spoke about were barn, tawny, little, short-eared and long-eared. If you are near rough grassland at dusk then you have a chance of seeing the rather ghostly white figure of a barn owl hunting prey. Tawny owls tend to be seen more than heard, with the classic 'twit twoo' call and response between male and female. Little owls can often be seen perched in daylight, indeed Rivenhall Airfield used to be a good site for them. They are not native, having been introduced to the UK in the 19th century. Stephanie said that in her experience, despite their small size they are very tough little birds and can recover from severe ill health, which she backed up by showing past coverage by BBC Look East of her releasing several Little Owls she had reared from abandoned chicks. Short-eared owls are very pretty birds with yellow eyes; in Essex they are primarily creatures of the coastal marshes. Long-eareds, though occasional in Essex, are our least common owl. They have tufts of feathers which resemble ears on the top of their heads.

This month we are looking forward to a talk by group member Julia Todd, from Silver End, who will be recounting her recent visits to Shetland and Scilly, very much two geographical extremes of Great Britain. As usual this will commence at 8pm in Silver End Congregational Church on Silver Street CM8 3QF with a £2 donation requested to cover costs, though that includes tea and biscuits.

Then, at the end of April we commence our outdoor evening activities with our Cowslip count in the area behind Tarecroft Wood. Meet at 19:00 in the parking area at the bottom of the track to Tarecroft Wood (TL824171). Following this we will have a schedule of weekly events all the way through to the start of September. For details of these events or more background on the group please look at our website www.e2e.silverend.org or on our Facebook group 'End to End Nature Care' (please do also feel free to post comments and local photographs there), or I can be contacted via email ukseashells44@gmail.com or on 07947 388180.

Simon

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

The first Club meeting for 2025 was held on Tuesday 11th February. Chairman Maurice Bacon welcomed members and gave out Club notices. He then introduced our guest speaker, Jackie Allan, who was going to tell us about her `Travels Up the Nile' when she was accompanied by her son Alexander. We are all familiar with the Pyramids and the Temples with their wonderfully decorated walls and the huge statues and we can only look with wonder at how it was all achieved. Man power was in abundance of course but we can only marvel at the results. Jackie had taken some excellent photographs and as always her talk was extremely interesting and informative. On a cold winter's evening it was nice to see some sunshine!

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticultural

1st Maurice Bacon (one entry)

Domestic

1st Frank Ramsden	2nd Clare Ramsden	3rd Karen Dakin

Flower of the Month

1st Maurice Bacon	2nd Vivienne Dee	3rd Tom Dee

Photo of the Month

1st Jenny Claydon	2nd Sue North	3rd Frank Ramsden

The Club's next meeting will be on Tuesday nth March at 7.30pm in Rivenhall Village Hall. In preparation for the Club's DAFFODIL SHOW on SATURDAY 29TH MARCH at the HENRY DIXON HALL (note change of venue) our speaker for March will be local expert and R.H.S. judge, Mr Malcolm Bradbury who will be giving guidance on `How to stage daffodils for the Show Bench'.

Annual subscription to the Club is £10 per head for the calendar year and includes the Club's Schedule. We have eight meetings a year and hold three Shows - Daffodil Show, Flower Show and the Autumn Show . We also aim to have a visit to a place of interest during the year. Entrance to each evening meeting is £3 which includes a speaker and refreshments. We hold a raffle, there is a Bring and Buy table for donations and an information table for events , etc. For further information contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781. We look forward to welcoming you.


Les Misérables
a Lent Course based on the Film
7:00pm Tuesdays
11 Mar- 15 Apr
at Terling Rectory
Lent Course 2025
Witham & Villages


Les Misérables
a Lent Course based on the Film
Film Showing
7:00pm Sat 8 March
Faulkbourne village Hall
No charge. Refreshments
Lent Course 2025
Witham & Villages

Quiz Night



Friday 25th April 2025- 7.30 p.m
Henry Dixon Hall - Rivenhall End

£12.50 per Ticket including:
Fish and Chip Supper
(Veg / Vegan Catered for)

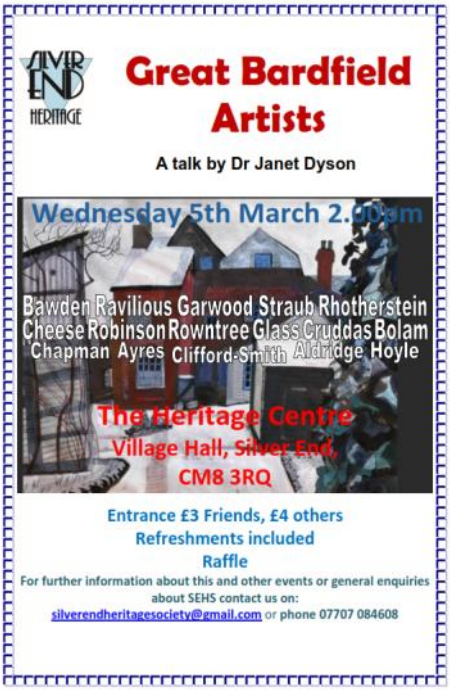




Teams of up to 8 players
Team captains to get tickets from:-
Ann Kerr:- Tel 01376 515437
Or Ann Riddleston Tel 01376 515400

Bring your own nibbles drinks and glasses
Book early to avoid disappointment
In Aid of St. Mary and St. Francis Churches





There will be 2 services in the benefice this year for Ash Wednesday on March 5th:



St Nicolas Church, Witham at 10am

St Mary + All Saints Church, Rivenhall at 7.30pm

All welcome

Rivenhall Gardening Club

Daffodil Show



HENRY DIXON HALL
RIVENHALL END

Saturday 29th March

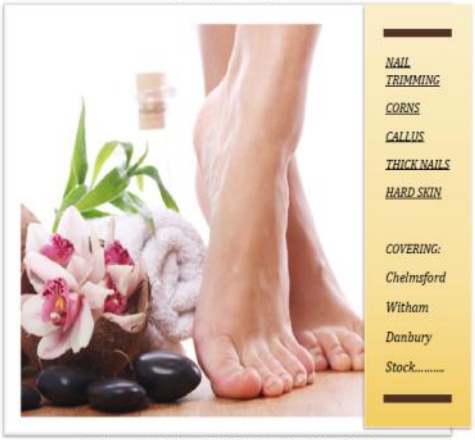
2.15pm ~ Entrance Free

Teas *Raffle*

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

THE SMAE INSTITUTE

HOME VISITS



JAMES NEWMAN (MCFHP,MAFHP)
TELEPHONE: 01376 519036
MOBILE: 07793971351

HAVING A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMPUTER

- Is your printer no longer printing?
- Is your Wi-Fi not connecting?
- Is your computer running slowly?

Then I'm your IT guy!

Sam Little

Contact me on –

07805 647444



Brookend
VETERINARY PRACTICE LTD
62 Braintree Rd Witham

CARING FOR THE PETS OF WITHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR 30 YEARS

Late night surgery Monday's and Wednesdays till 7.30pm

Surgery Opening hours:-
Monday to Saturday for appointments
Monday and Wed 8.30 am –7.30 pm
Tues, Thurs & Fri 8.30 am—6.30 pm
Sat 8.30 am to 12 Noon

Tel: 01376 500038

www.brookendvets.co.uk

Aerial Photography
Barns
Chimneys
Roof Tops

COST EFFECTIVE, SAFE ACCESS, ROOF TOP INSPECTIONS BY DRONE WITH NO NEED FOR SCAFFOLD, TEMPORARY WORK OR STRUCTURES REQUIRED.

HIGH SIGHT

NON DISRUPTIVE, FAST AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, SAME DAY REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPAIRS

FULLY CAA AND CIOB REGISTERED, QUALIFIED AND INSURED SERVICE. CARRIED OUT BY EXPERIENCED SURVEYORS.

Call to discuss your requirements;
Chris; 07817219133
Jim; 07966403783
email; highsightse@gmail.com

Historic Buildings Monitoring
Building Inspections
Estate Records

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

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

Solilaqui
Reiki Holistic Treatment Services.

Sally uses a combination of Usui Reiki; Colour Therapy and Sound Healing to help guide you towards your authentic self. Reiki can help you feel more focused and balanced: Physically Emotionally, and Spiritually. DM via IG or Facebook, or WhatsApp message for more info and to book your bespoke session. Witham.
Appointments available: Afternoons and evenings, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday.
07790 898749

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063654446897
https://www.instagram.com/solilaqui_reiki_warrior/?e=48a12099-f705-4f8f-b654-89345b93444f&g=5



G. COLLINS & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD

Serving the community for over 130 years

4 THE STREET, WHITE NOTLEY, CM8 1RH
30 RAYNE ROAD, BRAINTREE, CM7 2QH

SCAN this QR code for a digital version of our information brochure

01376 583750 / 342266

DRH LANDSCAPES LTD

Since 1987

Quality Comes 1st

Award Winning Garden Design

Telephone: 01376 514 142 / 01245 890 248
www.drhlandscapes.com





Garden Design and Build

Full Complete Hard and Soft Landscaping Service

Driveways and Patios

Wall and Fencing

Hedge Cutting and Pruning

Artificial Lawn and Turfing

Tree Services

Private and Commercial Landscaping and Ground Maintenance

British Association Landscape Industries ACCREDITED

Marshalls REGISTER ACCREDITED LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

THE ASSET DESIGNER INSTALLER NETWORK

BALI 2020 AWARD WINNER National Landscape Awards

77-83 Harcog Centre, Maldon Road, Witham, Essex CM8 1HP.