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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Saturday, 30th November,
 10:30am till 3:00pm**

Christmas raffle with a £50 first prize, a Christmas hamper, vouchers, and lots of other prizes.

Christmas cards, decorations and gifts. Craft Stall, Jewellery, Children's toys, Books, And, of course: teas, coffees, lunches and home-made cakes

I hope to see you there.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

**Battlesbridge Free Church
 Christmas Open Days**

**Saturday 7th and 14th December
 from 10am to 4pm**

Sunday 8th December

Normal service at 11am (all welcome)

The church will remain open until 4pm.

Decorated with a Christmas Theme

Complementary refreshments and mulled wine

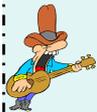
Battlesbridge Free Church Trustees

**Col's Country and Western Club
 Christmas Dance**

**Saturday, 7th December
 8 -10pm**

with the Bar Hoppers

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP



School Gardening

We are pleased to announce Rettendon Horticultural Society have provided the School with new troughs



in the courtyard and new raised beds for the gardening club.

Year 5 pupils have also run a 5k sponsored event to raise money to make up some more of the raised beds so that each class can grow their own in the same area as the gardening club. We hope these will be ready by the spring to get the best growing season. Thank you to all who took part, and those who organised it.

There will also be some water butts added to a couple of the downpipes, courtesy of one of the Friends of Rettendon School. This will teach the children about water saving.

Barbara Wright - school gardening assistant

Christmas Concert

by the Community Choir

Battlesbridge Free Church

Saturday, December 14th 7 for 7:30pm

In aid of the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

June Edwards, Secretary, 01245 426122

Journey to the Manger



**A Christmas Crib Service
 for all the family**

Sunday 22nd December at 4pm

St. Nicholas School, Priory Chase, Rawreth
 (Past the ASDA in Rawreth Lane)

Come and join us for a time of refreshments, music, carols, story and prayer as we rediscover the Christmas story.

Children are invited to come as a Nativity character as we tell the Christmas story



Church in the Community

An initiative of the churches of Hullbridge, Rawreth and Rettendon

More info: hrr-churches.org.uk Email: chinc@hrr-churches.org.uk

Tel 01268 766565 Mobile 07853 088907

**All Saints' Church, Rettendon
 December Services**

8 th	11:15am	Family service
18 th	AM	Rettendon school Christingle
22 nd	11:15am	Carol service
22 nd	4:00pm	Rawreth Primary school
		Crib service the journey to Bethlehem (see advert)
24 th	11:30pm	Midnight service
25 th	11:15am	Christmas Day service

**Battlesbridge Free Church
 December Sunday Services**

1st	11:00am	with Communion
8th	11:00am	Normal service
15th	11:00am	9 lessons & carols
22nd	11:00am	Nativity theme
22nd	6:30pm	Christmas Drama
24th	11:30pm	Candle-lit Watch Night

What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle bells, jungle bells.....
 What do snowmen like to do on a weekend? Chill out!



ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Christmas.

Everyone knows about this Christian feast. Here in Rettendon we are holding a special service. The carol service is on 22nd December at 11-15am – traditional carols and readers from the community will take part. Also on 22nd December we have a crib service (see advert) and on Christmas Eve the midnight service starts at 11-30 pm. The crib service is at Rawreth School, (the school is just off Rawreth Lane. At the first set of traffic lights, turn right past Asda stores and a little further on the sports hall is on your left and the school is on your right). This is an all age service, it is inter-active, and children are invited to dress up if they want to. Angels, shepherds or wise men come to mind. The service is at 4:00pm, will last no more than one hour, and is a real opportunity to lay the foundation for Christmas. There will be refreshments from 3-30pm onwards and small presents for the children at the end of the service. This service is a real community event designed for families from Hullbridge, Rawreth, and Rettendon. Do please come along.

Also in Christmas week, children from Rettendon School are holding a Christingle service in the morning of Wednesday 18th December.

On 8th December, we have a family service, which means there will be no Holy Communion to frighten off children or even older people.

I wish you all a happy Christmas

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden. 01245 400394



Battlesbridge Free Church

The following is from two of our church trustees:- "As Battlesbridge village looks

forward to Christmas this year and the Antiques Centre runs their festive weekends, we at Battlesbridge Free Church are once again opening our church over two weekends. Saturday 7th and 14th December from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday 8th December we will be holding our normal service at 11am (to which all will be most welcome) and then the church will be open until 4pm. Our little church will be decorated with a Christmas theme. There will be complementary refreshments and mulled wine. This will be an opportunity for you to think about this special time of year away from the crowded shopping centres. Maybe you would like to light a candle in memory of someone who has left us, write a request for prayer for yourself or a loved one or sign a card to wish our community a happy Christmas. There will also be an opportunity, if you wish, to donate towards the work of Haven's Hospice."

Other December events to look forward to: the Community Choir Christmas concert on Saturday December 14th - 7 for 7:30pm when it is hoped the proceeds will go to Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. On December 1st the Sunday service will include communion. December 15th the service will be of the 9 lessons and carols. December 22nd there will be a Nativity theme in the morning and a Christmas Drama at 6:30pm on that day. On Christmas Eve, 24th December there will be a Watch Night service beginning at 11:30pm. This will be a candle-lit service to celebrate the birth into our human world 2000 years ago of Jesus Christ, God's son. How we need to follow his way of love and consideration of our fellow man, in today's troubled times. **June Edwards, secretary, 01245 426122**

Rettendon Horticultural Society

AGM Report

For us this seems like the start of Christmas, rather than the end of the horticultural year. Our AGM is a time for reflection on the year just passed and the upcoming future. We are given reports by the chairman on how well everything went, the treasurer on how good our finances are, and the secretary on encouraging growing and the future diary. There is a chance to renew our membership, but also a chance to change our officers and committee.

Despite the fact that the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary all offered to step down, we were all still voted in. No change there then! However, since the society has reserves enough to allow for another 2012, the year the worms drowned, we must be doing something right between us. And the membership has actually gone up slightly, bucking the trend of other horticultural societies. So perhaps we should rejoice that we are trusted to take this 100+ year society ahead into the future.

Having dealt with the meeting needs we turned to the social side, most certainly one of our strengths. While we all chatted, ate mince pies and other goodies, and drank wine, including some mulled wine (early Christmas you see), our membership secretary toiled away taking the subscriptions. (We did let her have food and drink while doing so).

So if you are a member expect your membership letter in the post after Christmas. If you are not a member, why not? We do not just talk gardening, but surely you know that from the exhibits in the marquee every summer! We are friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic, so come and join us for £5 a year. Phone Beryl Wilkinson on 01268766221.

Barbara Wright, secretary, 01245 321554
or email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

Hazel Dale-Evans, Chairman, 01245 401538

Or have a look at our Website:

<http://www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-horticultural-society/>

Country Diary

I have to be careful of what I write as I have been notified that the geese flying over were Canada geese but not Greylag geese. I have been researching other species that migrate to Britain one of them is Redwings which look like small Thrushes. The difference is that they have a rusty red colouring under their wings. The Fieldfare is also a winter visitor which I have often seen in the past on the Bell field, alongside the old Woodham Road and also at Hyde Hall. They feed on farmland and rough pasture and they do love to eat Hawthorn berries. Both the Fieldfare and Redwing flock. They migrate from Northern Europe to our warmer climes.

We have had a fabulous autumn for fungi. Always beware of this showstopper, the Fly agarics, which is really poisonous. It is bright red with white spots. There are so many fungi with weird names and shapes – the Gonderina – a bracket fungus; a tiny fungus with a common name of Birds nest - a bearded tooth looking a bit like a waterfall. However, the time has now passed as we have had a few frosts and the fungi have disappeared until the next autumn.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Battlesbridge and Surrounding Areas Really Do Matter

With 1000s of new houses being built especially in Maldon, Burnham, Rochford, etc. the infrastructure just cannot cope. Between 7 and 8:45am and 4:20 to 6:30pm the roads are gridlocked in places, especially if just one vehicle breaks down, or there are roadworks underway. Then it is almost No Go. Hours on journeys give a horrendous increase in exhaust pollution. Solution is a minimum of 2 people in a car, only cars with even or odd number plates restricted to alternate days, tax cars by their lengths as well as emissions, etc. South East Essex seems to be taking the brunt. Release all farm land round London, so public transport will play a great role i.e. peoples' journeys to the city, etc. will be minimal.

Flooding carries on, especially in Rawreth Lane and Hullbridge. The natural soakaway from rain has been eroded greatly. Church Road in particular have about 12 properties which get flooded regularly now. Either Rochford Council should build the residents new properties on higher ground by releasing farm land or upgrading the specification of their existing houses. Building 10 houses where you are building in 100s is a small cost. I feel Rochford Council could have a problem with a charge of irresponsible planning. You cannot pass planning applications for large development knowing full well that your decision will lead to established residents' homes being ruined by excess flooding.

I am hoping to arrange a coach trip for 5 days to Cornwall from Rettendon visiting the Eden project, Lost Gardens of Heligan, etc., under the umbrella of the Horticultural Society, in May 2020. Further details to come such as costs, etc. Check the newsletters.

I have been on a Holland coast trip, wonderful people, but I was asked a couple of times why I was wearing a poppy in my lapel? Perhaps they have a different flower for Remembrance. After a 4 hour wait at Amsterdam airport but only 35 minute flight to Southend, it was wonderful arriving back to Battlesbridge and sleeping in a warm bed.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Yours Very Sincerely Roy Hart

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Chrysanthemum Growing - October talk

Our talk on growing and showing Chrysanthemums had a wonderful display from John Bruty. We would like to encourage others to try growing these beautiful flowers so will be putting in hints during the year to grow to exhibition level - with a view to toppling Mr. Bruty from his dais and taking the cup from him! Mind you - he has provided these instructions.....

OCTOBER (but don't worry now will do)

Select plants, cut down to about 6 inches, and bring into greenhouse. Keep fairly dry. Start watering to encourage growth in February. Check for aphids and spray when necessary.

Details for February in next newsletter.

For more information try the website
www.chysanthemumsdirect.co.uk

If you would like a few plants to grow we have some for free. Most are not named varieties, but they are from a person who exhibited, so should be good plants.

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01243 321554

Garden Notes

Plants all in and the bird feeders in action. Put in some broad beans to get an early crop before the blackfly hit next summer. - We do try.

Merry happenings to all. **Mrs. McGregor**

Pre-school

We collected lots of food for Harvest Festival and due to the weather the Vicar came to Pre-School and spoke to the children about where their food would be going. Everyone enjoyed it.

Our photographer came in last week and all the children and their siblings had their photos taken. The proofs have come back, so I'm sure the parents will be ordering lots of lovely photos.

We have already started rehearsing for our Xmas show DREAMING which is on Wednesday 18th Dec.

If you would like anymore information please call **Pat on 01245 401328 or 07762 909351.**

Rettendon Memorial Hall

We are now able to announce that as part of the ongoing essential care of this facility, the room to the rear of the committee room has had a complete facelift and part of its use is now as a freely available space for book swap. As the library service (½ hour every 3 weeks) no longer visits Meadow Road area, it was felt that this may fill a community gap, and be a little more accessible for avid readers.

Meanwhile the usual hirers continue and the Kate Ward Dancers are getting used to their new home.

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

Pre-School - little ones play and learn at the same time. Notice the numbers on the hall wall - each week a different one to learn - and they do.

Children's Dance Lessons - various classes for various different ages, abilities and type of dance. From primary to teenagers - all accommodated.

Bowls - a gentle workout, with occasional match games with other clubs. All welcome. Friendly people and no age limit. Mondays and Thursdays.

Knit & Natter - It may be only twice a month, but we get quite a bit done. Lots of blankets for care homes, twiddle muffs, and lately poppies, but you can do your own thing too.

And the other hall users:

Horticultural Society - growing links as well as flowers,

Parish Council - your chance to find out what they do and maybe speak to your representatives,

Keep Fit - or more properly remaining active with movement, dance and exercise -

end of term 13th December, start again Jan 10th

the **Country and Western Club** regularly each month, and the **Polymyalgia and/or Giant Cell Arteritis Support Group** about every 2 months,

With quizzes, events, your parties, various talks and meetings occasionally by arrangement.

Contact any of these by talking to our booking clerk, or to book the hall for your own event, phone

Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297.

So let us entertain you, or you can entertain yourselves with a booking at the hall. Residents get special discounts - just ask.

Rettendon Memorial Hall Management Committee



What did one eye say to the other?
Between you and me something smells.





Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events



To publicise your event in this diary, please send a note to the compiler giving: event, date, time, venue, organisation and/or charity benefiting.

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
All Saints' Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, 30 th Nov	10:30 – 3:00pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Service with communion	Sunday, 1 st Dec	11:00am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Country & Western	Saturday, 7 th Dec	8 – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club
Family Service	Sunday, 8 th Dec	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Christmas Concert	Saturday, 14 th Dec	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Service of 9 lessons & Carols	Sunday, 15 th Dec	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th Dec	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council
School Christingle Service	Wednesday, 18 th Dec	Morning	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Nativity theme /Christmas Drama	Sunday, 22 nd Dec	11am / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Carol Service / Crib Service	Sunday, 22 nd Dec	11:15am / 4pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon / Rawreth School, Rawreth	
Watch Night Service / Midnight	Tuesday, 24 th Dec	11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Christmas Day Service	Wednesday, 25 th Dec	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 21 st Jan	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Soc.
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 28 th Jan	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Children's Dance Lessons	Monday - Thursday	Afternoons	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Kate Ward School of Dance
Bowls (+ Book Swap)	Mondays / Thursdays	7 - 10pm / 2 – 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter at Hayes	Tuesdays	10:30am – 12:00	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Art Club at Hayes	Tuesdays / Thursdays	10:30am – 2pm	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Knit & Natter (+ Book Swap)	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Line Dancing	Fridays	11am – 1pm	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Exercise, Move and Dance	Fridays	12 – 1pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Michelle's Exercise Class
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club

MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25 to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	3 rd & 24 th Dec, 14 th Jan 2020
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	20 th Dec, 10 th & 31 st Jan 2020

Defibrillators

All four Rettendon Parish defibrillators are registered and working. They can be found at:-

- Rettendon Memorial Hall, Rettendon
- The Bell Public House, Rettendon Common
- Battlesbridge Free Church Hall, Battlesbridge
- Hayes Park Club House, Hayes Park

Each device will be checked every month and the checks registered with the Ambulance Service and Parish Council.

If you do need to use one then phone the Ambulance Service on 999 and tell them the emergency. They will talk you through, ask for the box number, and stay on the line explaining every bit of the way.
Barbara Wright 01245 321554

PARISH COUNCIL - DECEMBER MEETING ON 17TH

Clerk contact details: - Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

Parish council website:

<https://www.essexinfo.net/rettendonparishcouncil/>

ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem website address:-

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/>

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send them to me, Barbara Wright, as soon as you can via e-mail (RetBatNews@gmail.com), or tel: 01245 321554

Or paper copy to 55 East Hanningfield Road. Mark for Newsletter.

Kate Ward School of Dance

Apologies from the editor..... The correct email for the Kate Ward School of Dance is kate@katwardschoolofdance.com

We hope it did not inconvenience anyone. The telephone number was correct as **Kate on 07376114435**

We know there are various classes going on from Mondays to Thursdays at Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP: ballet, tap, etc. Times differ for different ages and types, but are from 4pm until 7pm most days.

ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

We were very pleased to see the Remembrance Cross full of crosses. There were 3 put in by ourselves as remembering each of the fallen who have their war graves in our churchyard. **Jane Fallows Churchwarden**



Alternative meanings

An amphitheatre - where frogs hold plays
A "quack" doctor - a vet specialising in ducks
Debate - It lures de fish



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