



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ APRIL 2019

Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area. Printed by Focus Print & Publishing, SWF, 01245 323130
 Prepared & distributed by over 30 volunteers within the parish. Issue number 374
 Please note the views contained within are offered by individuals/organisations privately and not in conjunction with the compiler or the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter organisation.
 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th of the month

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 benefitting.

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Family Service – Mothering	Sunday, 31 st March	11:15am	All Saint's Church, Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 2 nd April	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Rawreth Quiz Night	Saturday, 6 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Rawreth Village Hall	St Nicholas Church, Rawreth
Church Annual Meeting	Sunday, 7 th April	12:30pm	All Saint's Church, Rettendon	
10 Tales of the National Trust	Tuesday, 9 th April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Friday, 12 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Good Friday Service	Friday, 19 th April	2:00pm	All Saint's Church, Rettendon	
Spring Open Day	Monday, 22 nd April	10:30am – 3:30pm	All Saint's Church, Rettendon	
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
Bowls	Mondays / Thursdays	7 - 10pm / 2 - 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter	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	
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
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
ELECTIONS	THURSDAY, 2 ND MAY	7am – 10pm	POLLING STATION RETTTENDON MEMORIAL HALL	
Spring Fayre	Monday, 6 th May	10am – 12pm	Free Church Hall	Battlesbridge Free Church
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Saturday, 11 th May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Rettendon Village Show	Saturday, 13 th July	1 – 5 pm	Rettendon Cricket Field and Rettendon Memorial Hall	
MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm	16 th April, 7 th and 28 th May, 18 th June	
Salforal Close	Tuesday	1:45pm to 2:15pm	16 th April, 7 th and 28 th May, 18 th June	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	12 th April, 3 rd and 24 th May, 14 th June	

BATTLESBRIDGE QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 7 for 7:30pm

Teams of 6, £5 per person.
 Free tea/coffee and biscuits at half-time, but please feel free to bring your own nibbles and drinks. There will be a raffle.

Battlesbridge Church Quiz Organiser
Please note this is a change from the date in the last newsletter!



All Saints' Spring Open Day Easter Monday April 22nd

10-30am to 3-30pm

refreshments, bric-a-brac, gifts, books, cakes, plants & much more

This will be the last open day which Jane Fallows organises - please help her to make it her finest.

Also a chance to remember loved ones with a dedication at the altar floral decorations (more info inside).

Rettendon Horticultural Society Talk on Tuesday, 9th April at 7:30pm "10 Tales of the National Trust"

by David Simmons

Rettendon Memorial Hall

David will be giving a fully illustrated presentation showing a medley made up of ten different tales or sections dealing with varied aspects of the National Trust. These range from his first involvement with the Trust over 50 years ago to the connection between the Tale of Peter Rabbit and the Trust.

In one section, he talks about Thomas Hardy and how the threat of an invasion by Napoleon had an effect on both Wessex and Danbury.

Another tale concerns the history of the Trust, but it would spoil the talk to give too much away!

David has lived in Essex throughout his life and, as a child, lived on the coast at Leigh-on-Sea. As well as giving talks, he is a volunteer for the National Trust at Hatfield Forest and President of the Chelmsford National Trust Supporter Group.

There will be a chance to talk to David while having tea or coffee and home-made cakes. There will also be a raffle, to offset the cost of the hall hire.

All Welcome, members come in free, and non-members only pay £3.

Barbara Wright, Secretary.

Rettendon Memorial Hall

Activities

Since the Horticultural society hosted a specialist plant-based quiz in February for 12 teams from other local societies and had a jolly good time, we felt a little guilty (especially as Rettendon won the trophy). So on 22nd March we devised a contest for parishioners. Nothing like some friendly banter with the locals!

The list for a possible Pilates class (phone 01245 401538) has now several names on it so there is some interest here. The exercise class on Friday at midday is doing well. Drop in to view this.

The Knitters are Nattering and doing other stuff too - no rules apply here so even colouring books are allowed!

Bowls continues on Monday evenings, so why not join the fun. It is good exercise and a friendly crowd so why not pop along.

Forthcoming Attractions

Col's country Club continues to enthuse the Country and Western fraternity. For those who wish to join in the fun the evening starts at 8pm on Saturday 6th April.

The **Spring Talk** See advert on front page.

The **Rettendon Parish Council** meeting will be on Tuesday April 2nd at 7:30pm and replaces their cancelled date of the end of March. Come and see what they are planning for your village and Parish.

Hall Management Committee



Pre-School at Rettendon Memorial Hall

We are having fun in learning. Lots of little ones enjoying themselves in our safe environment.

If you need any more information contact Pat on 07162 909351 or 01245 401328



Chelmsford Initiative "Love Your Chelmsford" Rettendon and Battlesbridge Litter Picks.

On two consecutive Saturdays at the beginning of March litter picks were arranged by Scott Wilson and Denise Fleming as part of the "Love Your Chelmsford" litter pick initiative.

Some public-minded people turned up to pick up litter from the sides of the roadways and other areas around the villages.

Bags, litter-picking tools, gloves and the essential yellow vests were provided and couples or small groups were sent on their way to save the environment by removing the debris thrown out of windows by careless drivers and dropped by pedestrians.

The waste was removed by Chelmsford Council.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in either, or both, of the litter picks.

Barbara Wright, litter picker.

Garden Notes

Looked over the bridge parapet and watched a wriggly, furry hunter searching through the sedges for breakfast. Hope he found it.

"What is this life if - full of care - we have no time to stand and stare."

Mrs. McGregor

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Be prepared for our Annual Plant Sale event on Saturday morning May 11th. Lots of bargains and a plethora of things a little bit different - the Hort. Soc. Aims to please, and the local nurseries give us a lot of support to achieve a good display. So make sure you put this in your diary. (Members pre-order forms available in advance).

Hazel Dale-Evans, Chairperson

Coach Trips

We are delighted to announce our outings for the year. We have noted our members requests and the first trip is now on a Saturday.

Kew Gardens - Saturday, 22nd June

A visit to see the reopened Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian glasshouse. There are, of course, lots of other things to see including Chihuly at Kew: Reflections on nature, a glass artist's work in the gardens, Exotica, a diverse collection of tropical plant paintings and the gardens themselves.

Audley End Apple Festival

Sunday 29th September

Apart from the totally apple day with tastings, bobbing and tips on cultivation, a chance to see the Mansion House and to walk round the lovely gardens.

The cost for either trip is £28 per person and a deposit of £15 secures a ticket from **Jean Pietsch, 01268 763183**. The coach will pick-up from Rettendon Village bus stop or from outside the Bell pub at 9am on the day of the trip.

Please also get in touch with Jean if you would like to know more.

For members we have an outing on **Thursday, 13th June at 5pm at Kings Seeds, Kelvedon**. This is a "take yourself" trip, but we encourage car-sharing. If you would like to know more please contact **Barbara Wright, Secretary, on 01245 321554**.

Elections for City and Parish Councillors

I have lived in Rettendon for over 60 years and I feel this forthcoming election is one of the most important we have had.

Our village isn't what it used to be and I really do think we should all use our vote and return power to the people who really do care about Rettendon and who will do the best for all who live there. Wasting money on so many solicitors fees, as the Parish Council appear to be doing, just isn't caring for the village in any way. Monies should be spent wisely and on village matters.

Please think about who you are voting for, those you know are people who care, the local community people, and let's have our village back as it used to be, somewhere we were proud to live.

Thank you.

A very concerned resident.

City and Parish Council Elections - Key dates

- ★ Nominations close: Thursday 4 April
- ★ Deadline to register to vote: Friday 12 April
- ★ Deadline to apply for a postal vote: Monday 15 April
- ★ Deadline to apply for a proxy vote: Wednesday 24 April
- ★ First date we can send postal vote replacements: Friday 26 April
- ★ Polling day: Thursday 2 May (7am to 10pm)

Julie Gallie

We would like to express our thanks to all for their kind words, thoughts and prayers at this saddest of times.

John Gallie and family.



ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Church news

Easter is a very important time in the Christian calendar. We are now in the period of Lent. On 31st March we are hosting a family service to mark Mother's day which is not really a religious day but a day when young girls who were in service went home to see their mothers. On Sunday 7th April following the 11-15am service, we shall be holding our church annual meeting, starting at about 12-30pm.

On 14th April it is Palm Sunday, which precedes Holy week. There will be a Maundy Thursday supper at Rawreth. All Saints has a Good Friday service at 2-00pm and the Easter Day service on 21st April is at 11-15am.

On Easter Monday April 22nd we will be holding our annual Spring Open Day from 10-30am to 3-30pm. We decorate the church for Easter Day after the Good Friday service. On Easter day after the service we put out the items for sale and check that we have everything in place. Help is always welcome in the set-up periods. If you have flowers or greenery which you are able to donate for decorating the church please bring them to the church on Friday from 10 to 11-30am or leave in the porch between 2pm and 3pm.

During Lent the Revd Elizabeth Jordan will lead a Bible study group at St Thomas's, Hullbridge on 1st, 8th & 15th April from 7-45 to 9-30pm. Revd Brenda Wallace will hold a devotional service on Tuesdays 2nd 9th and 16th April from 3-4pm at St Nicholas Church, Rawreth.

If you want any further information then please give me a call.

Jane Fallows Churchwarden on 01245 400394

EASTER FLOWERS

As usual this Easter we will be celebrating Easter here at Rettendon and part of that is by making the Church beautiful with floral decorations.

If you would like to remember your dear departed ones by having their names displayed beside a floral display up at the altar, please could you write down full names and enclose £5 per name to Lyn Benson or Jane Fallows by 2nd week of April or before, ready for the printers.

Will the Village Hall Management Committee please advertise their annual general meeting so that all those interested are able to attend (as is their right under the committee's governing document)? **A concerned resident**

Beware - Burglars about.....

I have had a few worrying items mentioned to me while I have been out and about in the village. Mainly burglaries from garages and garden sheds. Could you please make sure everything you own is secure and that you inform the police on 101 if you have any doubts about people in the area.

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.

Rettendon & Battlesbridge Urgent Matters

Dear residents, you may have read the Parish Council's update on its achievements during its 4 year term of office. Unfortunately I do not believe it has been the bed of roses it might seem, in fact I believe there have been a number of failures:-

- 1) Cancelled the purchase of over 1 acre of land with access to Meadow Road, Rettendon; the previous council set aside £20k for the freehold purchase, to use the land for affordable housing and extend the Sonters Down playing fields. This, and money set aside for the proposed pavilion on the Bell Fields, are reasons why the PC has far too much money in reserve.
- 2) The PC lost control of the Village Memorial Hall to the Hall Management Committee, in acrimonious circumstances. However, the hall deeds have been transferred to the Charity Commission and it is my opinion that the Management Committee are doing a good job.
- 3) Against my advice, the PC took legal action against a landowner to make permanent his kind concession of access from the hall car park to the cricket pitch. The PC lost, and did not have the courtesy to apologise to the landowner.
- 4) Took out enforcement action against playing football and signs erected by the football club at the Bell Fields – notice 17/00140/ENFB, which has mysteriously disappeared from the City Council website, but I have a copy. Despite objections from the PC chairman, I successfully obtained retrospective planning permission– see Planning Ref 17/00708/ADV which is on the City Council planning website.
- 5) The PC have now lost the parish newsletter, which was compiled by the previous PC chairman for many years, and on his retirement by Barbara Wright. This was caused by disagreements over the control of content. When Mrs Wright made a statement to the PC on her decision to make the newsletter into a not-for-profit organisation, the PC chairman was most discourteous, making a show of ignoring her.
- 6) The PC has already spent £15,295 and set aside many more thousands in pursuing legal action against myself and others who believe we are managing trustees of the Bell Fields. I would like to point out that the PC originally went to Birkett Long solicitors for advice on this matter. I have a copy of their advice, which is somewhat detailed, but a key point was that according to the Trustees Act 1925, the existing trustees had the power to appoint new trustees. This should have been the end of the matter, but Tees Law were then consulted, in a manner which some think may have been improper. Subsequently Tees Law have come up with alternative advice which in fact involves winding up the charities and the PC taking control and ownership of the Bell Fields (whose deeds are now held by the Charity Commission). The objectives of the PC for taking this action are unclear, which is why I am fighting the legal action. I promise my intention is to preserve the Bell Fields for the use and recreation of all residents. There has been no complaint whatsoever of the way us 'purported trustees' are running the Bell Fields. We have agreed to take the dispute to mediation, but have now been served with high court writs.
- 7) As reported, the village gateways have been replaced at a cost of £18,000 (nearer to 19k actually). I had offered to do the work myself, with assistance from others suitably qualified for highways works, for the cost of materials only, less than £2,000 for some plastic fencing.

As for the much trumpeted openness of PC meetings, it should be noted that residents are only allowed to make 5 minute statements at the start of meetings, and then only if relevant to an agenda item. Some issues are discussed in 'working groups', whose workings are not even disclosed to all councillors, let alone the public. Meetings are indeed well attended as many residents feel the need to keep a close watch on what is going on.

The PC elections are on 2nd May, I do hope things will not continue as the last 4 years. **Yours Sincerely Roy Hart**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has been considering the issue of the Bell Fields in meetings since Christmas. They have agreed to bear the costs of mediation, which was recommended as the preferred route by the Charity Commission. Suggested mediators have been passed to the other party and the Council is now waiting for their response.

In the meantime, an application to the High Court for permission to bring an action was made. Due to time constraints imposed by the Court, this application has been made in tandem with the preferred mediation route. The High Court have agreed a hearing to consider the matter which should take place shortly.

Councillors continue to look at other matters in the parish such as street lighting and provision of dog bins.

If you have any queries or comments in between meetings, please let me know. Many issues can be dealt with outside meetings - alternatively I can bring information to meetings if required.

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

The Parish council website is:

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

From the Parish Priest for Rettendon, Hullbridge and Rawreth

We are part way through Lent. Mothering Sunday is 31st March and so we will be having a family service to celebrate God's gift of Mothers! The Family Service is an act of worship for all ages, involving singing, stories, activities and prayers.

Through Lent we are preparing for the great Easter Celebrations and from 14th April will remember day by day the story of Jesus' last week. We start with Palm Sunday on 14th April. We will remember the crowds cheering for Jesus as he came into Jerusalem. They were waving palm branches, which is why we call it Palm Sunday. Our service will be at the usual Sunday Service time of 10:00am at Rawreth and we will listen to the story – it takes quite a while to read but it's worth hearing!

On Thursday evening we will remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. This year our services will be at St Thomas Hullbridge and St Nicholas Rawreth, both at 7:30pm. At St Thomas' we will be more formal, we will have a special service of the Holy Communion or Mass, while the service at St Nicholas takes the form of a light meal remembering that Jesus' last meeting with his friends was a shared meal. You are really welcome to come along and join in. It's free but we would like to know if you are coming so we can get the catering right. (Please phone 01268 766565, leave a message if you don't get a reply and we'll book you in).

And Friday is the day we remember Jesus' death, so we have a time of story, Easter hymns and reflection between 2 and 3pm at All Saints; the bible tells us that Jesus died at 3pm.

And then on Easter Sunday morning we will celebrate the resurrection. Celebrations start at 5:30am (yes that is half past five in the morning) and a group of us will be at Ashingdon to share their early morning service, remembering the disciples who went to Jesus tomb at daybreak.

Then at the more civilised time of 11:15 am we will have an Easter Day service at All Saints.

It would be great if you could come to any of these so that you can share in the story, we'd love to see you.

Richard Jordan

01268 766565 or email rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact

RetBatNews@gmail.com

Please note this newsletter is compiled from various entries and is not the work of any one person. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the compiler, or of the Parish Council, though spelling and grammar may be corrected.



Battlesbridge Free Church

The World Day of Prayer took place at All Saints on Friday, March 1st. Sadly not many people could attend to share in this service on that day. Some at Battlesbridge arranged to follow this World Day service at our morning service last Sunday. The service had been compiled by a group of Christian women from Slovenia. Their theme was taken from St. Luke's Gospel, the story of the Great Feast, prepared by the King. Many of the notable people were invited but when the date of the banquet arrived they, one by one, made their excuses as to why they could not attend. The King was insulted and angry. He had their places filled with those of more lowly status and those usually marginalised or looked down on by smart society. In the script of the service, five representative Slovenian ladies gave a background of their upbringing under the Communist regime where, as Christians, they were treated as second-class citizens and were disadvantaged in both education and in finding work. Grandparents had kept the faith alive. The day's prayers stressed the need to value those on the outer edge of society, just as God, the King in the story, welcomed those whom society shunned. It is sad that many today devalue the God of our forefathers, the God who so loves mankind, that provides a way in which we can look forward to a new, continuous life after our mortal body dies. It's all in the New Testament of the Bible, with eye witness accounts from those who lived and worked with God's Christ.

With mayhem going on in many parts of the world and our own nation tearing itself apart over Brexit, it would seem sensible to unite in at least one day of earnest prayer. Next year it will be the turn of St. Nicholas, Rawreth, to host the event, which Christian women from Zimbabwe will compile.

June Edwards

Country Diary

I have just returned from a trip to Devon. It is a great time of the year to travel there. Primroses on the banks and if walking, violets in the undergrowth. The white frothy pillows of blackthorn adorn the hedgerows and in the gardens stand the umbrellas of pink cherries flowers. However, I must mention the clumps of yellow daffodils resplendent in the gardens or on the bankings and along woodland edges.

You may say you do not need to go to Devon to see daffodils, there is a great show on the turnpike roundabout as well as alongside many Basildon roadsides, but they have unfortunately taken a bit of a battering in the windy weather.

Whilst in Devon I visited a wetlands conservation area where I saw a wide variety of river and sea birds but the sighting of one bird really stood out. This was a heron quite happily fishing and not even bothered by humans 10 yards away. Back home in Essex a sparrow hawk has been visiting my garden the effect being that many of the little birds have been staying away. We have had to keep our garage door shut because a robin has been trying very hard to nest there. I have not had time to look for nests but I am sure a blackbird is nesting in the hedge near the greenhouse.

March is often an unpredictable month weather wise but for nature, it is such an exciting time.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394