



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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All contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 20th August 2018

RETTENDON VILLAGE SHOW SATURDAY, 14TH JULY

**1pm - 5pm
Free Entry, Car parking**

**Live band & entertainment, licensed bar,
Rettendon Horticultural Society annual
show, traditional stalls, bouncy castles, face
painting, Barbecue,
grand summer raffle**

A REAL VILLAGE EVENT.

**ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
RETTENDON HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY, FRIENDS OF RETTENDON SCHOOL
AND RETTENDON CRICKET CLUB.**

**BUT WITH REPRESENTATION FROM ALL SAINTS
CHURCH, BATTLESBRIDGE FREE CHURCH, AND
VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL. THERE WILL BE VILLAGE
HISTORY ON SHOW: OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, EXCERPTS
FROM THE RETTENDON REVIEW, OLD
HORTICULTURAL SCHEDULES, ETC. COME AND FIND
OUT THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT RETTENDON.**

**Rettendon Cricket Field
and Village Memorial hall,
Main road, Rettendon,
CM3 8DP**

The Rettendon Village Show

Saturday July 14th 2018

A veritable community event. A chance for every resident to find out what their neighbours get up to, and to discover quite a lot about our local history.

With a workforce which is 40% self-employed many of us are pretty capable individuals and we take this opportunity to meet others with similar entrepreneurial talents, so this is your chance to be usefully sociable.

There is a range of entertainment to be had and suitable provender also. Exhibits will display activities of those who enjoy a wide range of pastimes.

There is no charge for gazing at all this - so come and join the fun, 1 -5 pm, at the Village Memorial Hall and behind on the cricket field (CM3 8DP).

There is still time to offer help at the show, or perhaps you would like to set up a stall. We welcome all. Call 01245 321554 for information.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Replacement show schedules can be found on the website: <http://www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-horticultural-society/files/>

Or contact the secretary, Barbara Wright, on email rethssec@gmail.com or phone 01245 321554 or call at 55 East Hanningfield Road.

Entry forms can be taken in person as specified on the schedule, or emailed to the secretary and paid for on the day. This saves time as we have all your entry cards ready for you to collect.

For children's entries we will need the child's age as well as name to put them in the correct class. Children's entries to be taken to the hall, (except plant from seed which is to Marquee).

Please make sure you get your entries in on the day by 10:30am - if you are late you will not be allowed in!

Garden Competition

This will be judged on Sunday, 8th July from 2pm. Please inform us on 01245 321554 by Thursday 5th July if you wish to enter one or more of the section E garden classes.

Hazel Dale-Evans

Next RHS event will be the Autumn Show on 8th September from 2 till 4:30pm. Entries from 8 - 10:30am. More details in next newsletter.

Forthcoming Events at St. Nicholas church

Saturday 1st July - Yardarm Folk Orchestra

Saturday 29th July - 3.00pm -

Teddy Bear's Zip Wire Trip & BBQ

Saturday 9th September - Allegro Concert

Raise your Voice Battlesbridge Community Choir CONCERT

Sunday 8th July 7 .30 pm.

Battlesbridge Free Church.

Donations to church welcome instead of tickets. Doors will open around 7 and there will be tea/ coffee available too.

The concert will only be about an hour with a short break.

Please come along and enjoy the music and support a great community event !

You will hear what the new choir has achieved in just over a year of forming and see the friendships made. We are always looking for new members so this is also a great opportunity to come along and have a listen to see if you might like to join in September. We meet every Friday at 7-8.30 term time ! Music is pop, soul, gospel, world, musical theatre, folk, jazz, blues country and A Capella !

Please contact Nova Hughes (Choir Leader) for more details about the choir or just come along to the concert **07986 074455. novahughes.com/choir**

Garden Party - Rettendon Primary School

Many of you already know there is soon to be a change of leadership at Rettendon School. I have enjoyed 22 wonderful years working at Rettendon School and have felt extremely privileged to have led such an excellent team of staff and taught the most amazing children. I have watched the school go from strength to strength, with examination results continually improving, the provision of a nursery and club and the opening of a 5th Class. The school now holds a very strong position within the local community and is now oversubscribed. That is not to say the job is done. Whoever is next to lead this school has a fantastic challenge ahead because there is a never ending potential to unlock the talents in our youngsters. Appointing a new Headteacher offers the school amazing opportunities to bring change, fresh ideas and invigoration to the whole learning community.

I shall continue to watch the school thrive, albeit from afar, as I am to become the Primary Headteacher of a new school in Dubai, a very exciting challenge!

To say 'farewell' to the school community I am hosting a garden party in the school grounds on Friday 6th July from 1.30pm for anyone who has or had a connection with the school during the last 20 years. Please 'pop in' for a cream tea, it will be great to see you all before I go.

Mrs Barber, Headteacher of Rettendon School

From an American friend - quotes from Phyllis Diller

- Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance?
- Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shovelling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.
- I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.



BOWLS – BOWLS – BOWLS



Memorial Park Bowls Club would like to invite you to come along and have a roll up.

Everyone welcome from the young to the more mature. No experience required – just come along and try. All equipment supplied, just need to wear flat shoes

15th July 2018 – 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. – BBQ included

At
Memorial Park Bowls Club
Rettendon View
Wickford
SS11 8JE

If you would Like any further information please contact **Yvonne on 01268 767230 or 07742 897500**

Look forward to seeing you there.



All Saints' Church

On the late Bank Holiday in May we held a Family Fun Day. It was a lovely happy event. It was well organised and had lots of activities for all ages. An attraction was the two birds of prey which the children were allowed to hold on their arm. It was a delight to see how fascinated some small children were. This event was arranged and staged by the Turner family, especially Jo and Debbie. Our grateful thanks to all family members for their hard work.

Our proposed next event is a heritage day on 27th August (the August Bank Holiday Monday.) This will be an event with history of the church, village history and, hopefully, lots of old photos of Rettendon and surrounds. If you can help with photographs and your memories of the village please get in touch with us. There will be teas, coffees and home-made cakes .

At the end of September (Saturday 29th) we have our Harvest Open day with all the usual attractions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394



KNIT & NATTER.....

This continues - we don't do much Knitting really - mostly we natter and pretend to do other things - sewing, paperwork, planning a project, exchange of info, how to manage our mobile phones, what shops are disappearing, events to go to, etc. etc.

But what matters is that we are there every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month - in July 4th and 18th - and that anyone can come.

We are resting in August so our September dates will be 5th and 19th, as usual on Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

Sandie Cottee via Facebook,

or Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538



Seniors Thinking Ahead.... I went to the Off Licence on Tuesday afternoon on my bicycle and bought a bottle of whisky. I put it in the bicycle basket. As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break. So I drank all the bottle before I cycled home. It turned out to be a very good decision, because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home! (from Biggin Hill newsletter).

Battlesbridge Matters

River Section - Good News

I have been promised 5,000 very small elvers, termed as glass eels, because at this early stage they are transparent. These will be introduced into the upper reaches of the Rettendon brook and the River Crouch. Eel are one of the most endangered species on the planet, together with white rhinos, etc. It's a true fact.

World fishing day, July 8th, we are playing our part in Rettendon. Free fishing and tuition, rods, etc. and light refreshments, all totally free. Targeting Mums and Dads and children, at our North Lake (Hope) in Battlesbridge. Its aim is to introduce as many people to the pleasures of fishing and the wonderful enjoyment of sitting quietly with nature. The only thing we ask is to please ring 01268 768282 so we can cater for the right numbers.

The parish sign is in my work shop, for an overhaul. Last time I did this was way back 11 years ago. Should be back in place in early July.

The annual White Gates Farm Summer Party was again a resounding success, with over 180 residents and friends of Rettendon. A really big Thank You to the White Gates family.

The registered managing trustees of the bell field, with the help of many residents, will complete the north boundary with brand new fencing, which has been delivered and paid for with the charity funds.

Despite comments in the Parish Council Chairman's report, I can assure residents myself and the other five managing trustees will do our utmost to maintain and protect the wonderful asset of the Bell fields against all overtures. The Charity Commission of England are the governing authority. I had hoped this issue could be resolved without resorting to legal wranglings, but as the RPC Chairman states they have instructed a solicitor to act on the RPC's behalf. We, as trustees, have a requirement to act for the Bell Field charities.

It is true that the Bell Field trustees were appointed by the previous Parish Council, but we did not cease to be trustees with the election of the new Parish Council.

Dart Bus Services.

One of the directors has informed me they are very pleased with the public support to the service. Month on month the passenger numbers are increasing. I have had only one complaint, that a No 3 bus in Rettendon departed a few minutes early, which resulted in an hour wait! Dart have apologised to me. The bus service linking Southend, Basildon and Broomfield is still in the discussion stage. Great Baddow service now runs past Sandon School.

More importantly Dart are sending over new application forms for Concession Fares for school children and 6th form college pupils for travel to and from school on their bus route. Please contact me for further information.

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

Garden Notes

It was a rush of lush which has now thinned to manageable - except it needs a bit of watering now. Went from yellow to pink and blue and now the roses have put strong reds into the mix.

But its all glorious and truly worth the effort so if you've got room for another plant.....

.....put it in.

Mrs. McGregor

Are you affected by Polymyalgia Rheumatica and/or Giant Cell Arteritis?

Come along to Chelmsford/Southend Group meeting on **Wednesday, 15th August** at the **Rettendon Memorial Hall at 1.30 pm. (CM3 8DP)**

Groups are a really great opportunity to meet, share with others and make friends who understand how you feel.

Tea and coffee will be available during the afternoon. £3 will be collected on entry to contribute to the cost of the hall hire and refreshments.

RSVP Pat Fedi. Email: southend@pmrgca.org.uk.

[Tel:07733362373](tel:07733362373)

Country Diary

Last month I was lamenting not having heard the cuckoo, however in the first week of June I frequently heard its distinctive call. Helen tells me it even had a rest on the tree at the bottom of her garden.

Ron and I have just returned from a week in mid Wales and 150 yards or so from where we were staying was a feeding & rehabilitation station for Red Kites. These large predators start circling above for about one hour before feeding time. The tractor arrives with its bucket load of meat, the driver scatters shovels full of beef meat across a wide area and then about 200 plus birds swoop and dive down to feed and snatch pieces of meat from one another. They don't stop until every last piece is found. It is an awesome sight to see.

I love wild flowers and there is always lots of different ones to see growing in the long grass alongside the Rettendon turning at the Turnpike. However just as they are at their height they are cut down. Yes, it has to be done but surely at a better time allowing the wild flower to flourish.

When I walk down the Old Bell Lane bridleway clouds of brown butterflies rise up. This is the time on a sunny afternoon when the meadow browns, speckled wood and other numerous brown butterflies rise from the waist high grasses on which they feed.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Hall News

Keep Fit Taster Session

Went very well. The teacher is good and well trained. Everyone, whatever their ability, managed to exercise. We all enjoyed ourselves and it went so well we have asked the teacher to start a proper class. This will probably be from September on a Friday. Times, dates, and cost will be forthcoming.

Village Hall Management Committee



Pre-School

The mornings in the Village Hall are full of fun and laughter as the youngsters come in for their play and learning. And learn they do: numbers, letters, and how to play happily together - what more can be wanted.

The pre-school takes place from Monday to Thursday mornings. If you need any more information contact **Pat on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328**



Battlesbridge Free Church

We are shortly coming up to our 175th year. We will celebrate our Anniversary on July 29th. Before the amazing technology of the internet, smart phones, etc. a group of farmers and businessmen living in this area of South East Essex, longed for a church where they could worship and feel nearer to our God than they did in the then more formal services within the Anglican Church. So Battlesbridge Free Church was born. The founders of this church values the personal relationship with Jesus Christ which he offers to all, and their lives were guided by God's moral code. Children at home and in school were taught to honour God and to follow the teachings of Jesus. Sadly, although the residue of this teaching is still the moral base of most people's lives, the world view that it is all old-fashioned nonsense, turns people away from faith. God has not changed, Christ's offer of salvation and life beyond this mortal existence is as valid today as during the past 2000 years since his death and resurrection. Our founding fathers were not fools.

The Raise Your Voice Community Choir will be giving a concert in the church on Sunday, 8th July at 7:30pm. Do come and enjoy the singing.

On Sunday, 15th July we have a speaker from the Gideon's and on 22nd July we shall hear about the scheme to train dogs to be companions and give aid to disabled people through the Canine Partners organisation.

On August 19th we shall learn of the work of the Barnabus Fund organisation which works to support Christians suffering persecution in many countries of the world.

June Edwards

Upcoming Events (more details next month)

7th September Rayleigh Brass Concert
15th September Yardarm Folk Orchestra

More Senior Moments?

Old age - when actions creak louder than words.

Retirement - twice the husband on half the income.

Growing old is when you snap, crackle and pop before you even get down to breakfast.

How can you be nostalgic when you can't remember a thing!

Old age is when you have to find your glasses to find your glasses.

We are coming up to 100 years from the end of the first World War, the war to end all wars, which, as we all know, did not do as intended. There is no-one alive from that war, but there are memories of the second World War, some from local people. If I have room, and can find or be given memories of other times, I am happy to add them - as with this piece - a bit late for the anniversary date, but a walk back in time.

Rettendon & Battlesbridge Newsletter October 2004

60 years on - The Summer of 1944

As we all know June 6th of this year marked the 60th anniversary of the D Day landings. What was life like in Rettendon as seen by a young boy in the summer of 1944.

In June, I had two months left at school under the Headship of Mr Griffen at Rettendon before going to Wickford senior school. Not knowing what it was all leading up to at the time, there was a lot of troop movements passing through the village, a convoy would take anything up to an hour passing through Rettendon heading for the ports.

The big thing when the convoys stopped for a rest, was all the boys in the village would gather round and ask the soldiers for buttons, badges or any part of equipment. To get a hat would be a real prize. The Army was billeted in Rettendon at what is now Rettendon New Hall, with the lodge serving as the Guard house at the gate. The Mess and Transport section were located in the (now derelict) barns adjacent to Rettendon Old Hall.

So this gave the young boys plenty to occupy themselves with. One pastime would be to sit on the School wall and watch the Army lorries fill up with petrol from the pump taken over by them on the forecourt of what was Oakdene Stores, owned at the time by Mrs Manders. It didn't take long to round up the boys in the village for a game of soldiers. We would dress up in our bits of uniform which we had collected and swapped with each other. Some of us would mount guard at the School gate, others would be on guard at the gateway to number one meadow, now the entrance to Meadow Road.

There would be a runner between the guards to report on those attacking; it all ended up very friendly. Another game I would play was with my friend at the time, (and for a long time afterwards) the late Tony Andrews, who had a collection of Dinky Toys. We spent hours playing soldiers again. In the village hall would be the film shows for the soldiers. The people in the village would get an invitation, which gave us something to look forward to.

During the war my mother was a collector for the Red Cross. Every Saturday morning I would set out with my brother and go around all the houses with my collecting box.

Both my parents (like a lot more people in the village) helped with War work by doing small assembly work. The work had to be collected from Bevan Bros. factory in South Hanningfield Road. In turn, my brother and elder sister would walk to the factory to deliver and collect more work.

1944 was the year the 1st Rettendon Scout Group had a photograph taken (many of you will have seen it), and was taken by the steps that now lead up to no 17 Crouch View.

There was no electricity in Rettendon so on Sundays I would pump the Church organ and for this I was paid £1 per quarter. For weddings and funerals I was paid an extra 2/6d or twelve and a half pence in today's currency.

As you can see in the summer of '44, there was plenty of things to occupy a young boy. No Television and never bored. **Raymond Spearman (CHAS)**

(First published in the Rettendon Newsletter in June 1984. With many thanks to the writer for allowing it to be included here.)

Newsletter information.

There are some who are under the impression that the Parish Councillors are still trying to edit this newsletter. I would like to make it clear that this is not now the case though the Newsletter is still being paid for by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk is reviewing the newsletter, but in a capacity as an independent reviewer, and as a person with experience, having edited a local newsletter in her own area. I usually use more than one independent reviewer, to reduce the likelihood of libellous or offensive comments, or spelling or grammar mistakes. However I am only human and things do occasionally slip through the net.

It is not my intention to marginalise any group, whatever their stance. I welcome comment or opinion on whatever subject, trying to be fair by putting in opposing views when I have them, even if they are a month apart. Names and addresses can be withheld if requested, though I do require them.

This newsletter is for all of RETTENDON PARISH - paid for by you, through the Parish Council precept. The parish boundary includes Rettendon village, Rettendon Common including Chalk Street and Warren Road, Battlesbridge, part of the Old Woodham Road and Hayes Leisure Park. There is map of Rettendon Parish in the committee room at Rettendon Village Memorial Hall (though it may be slightly out-of-date).

I would like to reiterate: 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. This has been the case all along, though some seem to be unaware of it.

Barbara Wright, Newsletter Compiler

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council held their Annual Meeting at the end of May. This is when the Council elects a new Chairman and appoints members to its committees. It's also good practice to look at the Council's policies and make sure they are up-to-date with Council requirements and any new legislation.

The Council is also looking at providing some new streetlights on Hawk Hill and by Hayes Park. We have asked three firms to conduct a site visit and provide a design, which will then come back to a meeting for consideration. Work on the Rettendon Oak will be taking place to check its health, and once this is carried out we can look at any further work needed.

The Council is looking into the possibility of arranging a litter-pick and clean-up of the parish in the coming months. Support from the City Council is available for such an initiative. If anyone would be interested in being involved in this, or if you have any suggestions for particular areas, please let me know, or alternatively contact Cllr Glenys Jones on 07739 530611.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Council business. This does not have to wait to a meeting - you can contact me at any time.

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com

07811 254163

Rettendon Parish Council - Chairman's Report 8 May 2018

I'm pleased to provide the annual Chairman's report on what we've achieved so far and our goals for the next year for the benefit of the community of Rettendon and Battlesbridge.

1 Road safety

We continue to support Community Speedwatch which is a proven scheme for reducing excess speed and improving road safety. Curiously enough there's an article about CSW on the BBC website today. Of the 35,000 CSW letters sent out by TfL to motorists in London in the past two years, TfL says only 2% of recipients have re-offended. A study it conducted in north London suggested that volunteers working for a year were able to bring down the average speed by 11mph, to 31mph - below the 40mph limit.

We are fortunate to have a very dedicated Speedwatch co-ordinator, Sally-Ann Judd, working with Councillor Glenys Jones to coordinate with a team of volunteers.

Unfortunately the Rettendon Community Speed Watch have not been out recently due to a broken speed gun. This has now been replaced with a more up to date gun and the team are currently testing it. Once testing is complete and all of the team are competent in using it, they will be out and about again. With the VAS signs now working in Main Road Rettendon the majority of drivers do take notice of the speed limit, but there is still a small minority who do not.

If you are concerned about speeding in our village and want to do something about it, please do consider joining the Speedwatch team.

Our experience continues to be that, even if fully funded by RPC and supported by local residents, improvements in highway safety require the approval of Essex Highways, Chelmsford City Council and / or Essex Police, and getting approval takes much longer than we would like or expect.

- Essex Highways eventually agreed to replace the 2 broken vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) on the old A130 and to maintain them at no cost to the Parish.

- Following a survey, the Local Highways Panel (LHP) have agreed to improved signage for the playschools and primary school on Main Road and confirmed this is in their budget for this FY.

- LHP have agreed to provide additional horse and rider signage along Warren Road, Chalk Street and Hoe Lane, and they have confirmed this is in their budget for this FY.

- We were contacted by residents of Mayphil Park with concerns that emergency vehicles had difficulty locating them due to poor signage. New signs are now in place.

- The Parish Council agreed to fund 2 additional VAS signs on South Hanningfield Road and Old Woodham Road and the sites were surveyed by LHP. They decided that neither site was considered appropriate. We have challenged their analysis of the survey data, but received no substantive response.

- A speed survey on Hawk Hill resulted in a similar outcome. However, we are in discussion with Essex Legal Services, to install extra lighting on Hawk Hill, and pressing for improved signage on Hawk Hill roundabout to make the low bridge more obvious to drivers of high-side vehicles.

- We continue to press for a reduction in the speed limit on Chalk Street and Warren Road (currently 60mph) to something more appropriate for a country lane used by walkers, horse-riders and cyclists as well as motor traffic.

- We are also pressing for a reduction in the 50mph limit past the houses on Hoe Lane, or at least a footpath for residents to improve their safety following the substantial increase in traffic along Hoe Lane.

- In Battlesbridge, we continue to keep in touch with the residents, working on options to ease speeding and traffic through the village.

- Along the A132 (Burnham Road) we are working to deliver improvements for the residents of Hayes Country Park so they can enter and exit the site more safely. We are in discussion with Essex Legal Services, to install extra lighting on the Burnham Road, at the entrance to the Park.

2 Parish Meeting and Parish Poll

At the written request of 6 members of the parish, a parish meeting took place on 12 December 2017. Questions to the PC arising from the meeting were recorded and the PC prepared a Q&A document that was subsequently approved by the full PC and is available on our website. At that meeting, a parish poll was proposed and 17 of those present voted in favour of it. The question to be put to the parish was "Should there be a multi-purpose community building on the Upper Bell Field and paid for out of Parish Council Reserves?" The poll took

place on 11 Jan 2018. 125 votes were cast in favour of the motion, 203 against. We're not aware of any individual or group working to progress this as a project, for example finding out who would use it and for what purpose, and thinking through the economics of on-going operation as well as the initial design and construction costs. Taking the outcome of the parish poll and the apparent absence of any work to build a case for a multi purpose community building, the budget that had been set aside for building a pavilion on the Upper Bell Field has been reallocated by RPC to be available for a broader range of projects on the Bell Fields. Such projects would be requested by the Trustees and of course would have to be aligned with the purpose of the charity, ie "exercise and recreation for members of the parish."

Parish Polls must be administered by the principal council in which the parish is situated, so for us that is CCC, and the parish bears the administration costs. Publicly available figures indicate that the typical cost of a parish poll is between £2,000 and £5,000. The actual charge from CCC turned out to be £1,509.80.

3 R&B newsletter

The newsletter is in its 37th year of publication. According to Ron Fallows "the newsletter is a medium for the general exchange of information about past, present and future events, activities and happenings in the parish." RF also stated that "contributions are welcome however the right is reserved to accept, amend or reject contributions either in part or whole. The Collator's decision is final." As most of us will remember, the Collator was Ron Fallows himself, and Ron decided to step down from this role at the same time as ceasing to be a member of RPC.

This PC is most grateful to Barbara Wright who volunteered to step in as replacement Collator, and of course to the volunteers who distribute the newsletter. It continues to be a valuable source of information about events and activities in the parish, and the PC is pleased to continue to support it. We became concerned that the newsletter was being used to express personal opinions on controversial topics, and that the PC in paying for printing of the newsletter could be accused of using public funds inappropriately and potentially illegally (for example by the newsletter including an article containing language that might be considered offensive). Accordingly we proposed that each edition of the newsletter be circulated to all parish councillors, and our clerk, in advance of publication, so that any of us could express concerns about the content before publication. Bearing in mind that the newsletter had been until recently collated solely by the Chairman of the parish council, having it reviewed by all parish councillors seemed a reasonable and rather more democratic approach.

However, the PC was immediately accused of censorship and suppressing contributors' rights to free speech, so we have further proposed that each draft is reviewed by our clerk, and this arrangement seems to be working to the satisfaction of most people so far.

4 Bell Fields

Before this PC was elected in 2015, it was the practice of RPC to manage the Bell Fields as though they were their own assets. The agendas and minutes of PC meetings show this very clearly. For example, leases were signed by the previous Chairman, using RPC headed paper. Following the May 2015 election, one of the re-elected councillors has taken it upon themselves to assert that they and several other previously elected councillors are the "Managing Trustees" and that the Parish Council are the "Custodian Trustees." They refuse to recognise trustees appointed subsequently by RPC (even though parish records show their own appointment by RPC). RPC does not have the authority to waive its legal obligations, which in this case are to appoint trustees. We are advised that we have a duty to resolve this situation and have instructed a local solicitor to act on our behalf. The councillor in question refuses to engage in discussion and hence is forcing RPC to use parish funds. We have contacted the Charity Commission several times, but they are consistent in their response which is that this is a trustee dispute and they will not intervene (except in certain exceptional situations that we are not in, at least not yet).

Finally on this topic, I've heard various rumours about the PC wanting to build houses on the Bell Fields, wanting to stop football being played, and so on. Our agenda is straightforward and open: our role is to appoint trustees to the two charities that were established to manage the Bell Fields. That's it.

If either set of trustees approaches RPC for a grant, and RPC agrees that the purpose of the grant is aligned with the purpose of the charity, RPC will consider the application as it would any other application.

Even if every trustee decided that they wanted to build houses on the Bell Fields, they would need approval from the Charity Commission.

5 Flood Protection Works

Several areas of Rettendon have a history of flooding. We have declared our support for those residents at risk of flooding and continue to use our resources with those of other local authorities at City and County level to mitigate the risk.

6 Rettendon Parish Council administration

Our new clerk, Katherine Kane, has helped us update the format of our meeting agendas and minutes and has completed several projects including:

- Sorting through an accumulation of parish records
- Setting up a new website
- Transitioning our book-keeping from hand-written to spreadsheet
- Updating our existing policies and, with help from some councillors, drafting many new policies for RPC approval where there were gaps (business continuity, information security, bullying and harassment, and so on)

7 Other items

Following the abrupt announcement of local bus services being terminated, a number of people took action to find alternative transport providers. May I thank all of them again, especially on behalf of those reliant on public transport. Residents at Hayes Country Park told us they had no local Royal Mail post box. I'm pleased to report that Royal Mail have agreed to install a post box.

Finally, we are entirely open to consider suggestions from anyone in the parish for new projects: your ideas are very welcome.

That concludes my report for the year 2017 / 2018

Thank you

MARK FLEMING - CHAIRMAN, RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL



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



Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Rettendon 2 nd vs East Hanningfield	Saturday, 30 June	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Friendly / Sunday XI vs Boreham	Sunday, 1 st July	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Garden Party	Friday, 6 th July	1:30pm	Rettendon Primary School	Rettendon School Head
Rettendon 1 st vs Brookweald	Saturday, 7 th July	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Raise Your Voice Community Choir Concert	Sunday, 8 th July	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Garden Judging	Sunday, 8 th July	2pm onwards	Within 5miles of Rettendon Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
RETTENDON VILLAGE SHOW	Saturday, 14 th July	1pm – 5pm	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall & Rettendon Cricket Field CM3 8DP	Rettendon Horticultural Society, Friends of Rettendon School, Rettendon Cricket Club
Rettendon 1 st vs Aythorpe Roding	Saturday, 21 st July	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Friendly / Sunday XI vs Woodham Mortimer	Sunday, 22 nd July	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Rettendon 2 nd vs OC's 2nd	Saturday, 28 th July	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Rettendon 1 st vs Rainham 1st	Saturday, 4 th August	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Friendly / Sunday XI vs Copford CC –D30	Sunday, 5 th August	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Polymyalgia Rheumatica Group	Wednesday, 15 th August	1:30pm	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	PMRGCA Chelmsford/Southend
Rettendon 2 nd vs South Woodham	Saturday, 11 th August	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Rettendon 1 st vs Goresbrook 1st	Saturday, 18 th August	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Rettendon 2 nd vs Great Waltham 2nd	Saturday, 25 th August	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
President's Day	Sunday, 26 th August	12 – noon	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Heritage Day	Monday, 27 th August	10am – 4pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Bowls	Mondays / Thursdays	7 - 10pm/2 – 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall	
Parish Council Meeting (no AUGUST meeting)	Last Tuesday in Month	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Jive	Wednesdays	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	Jive Group
Raise Your Voice Community Choir	Fridays	7 – 8:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Community Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country & Western Society
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
Rettendon 1 st vs Canvey Island	Saturday, 1 st September	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Friendly / Sunday XI vs Boreham	Sunday, 2 nd September	1pm	Rettendon Cricket Field	Rettendon Cricket Club
Rayleigh Brass Concert	Friday, 7 th September	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Autumn Show	Saturday, 8 th September	2 – 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Wisley Coach Trip	Sunday, 16 th September	9am pick-up	Village Bus Stop, Bell Pub	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Harvest Open Day	Saturday, 29 th September	TBD	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
MOBILE LIBRARY				
South Hanningfield Village Hall	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm	3 rd July, 24 th July, 14 th August, 4 th September, 25 th September	
Salforal Close	Tuesday	1:45pm to 2:15pm	3 rd July, 24 th July, 14 th August, 4 th September, 25 th September	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	20 th July, 10 th & 31 st August, 21 September	

★ Please note next newsletter is SEPTEMBER edition. Entries for this by 20th AUGUST ★

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 can be dropped off at 55 East Hanningfield Road. Please mark for Newsletter.

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.