



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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

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
Songs of Praise Service & Deanery Barbeque	Sunday, 2 nd September	4:30 for 5pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Rayleigh Brass Concert	Friday, 7 th September	7pm for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Autumn Show (open to all)	Saturday, 8 th September	2pm - 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Ride and Stride Event	Saturday, 8 th September	All day	Churches in Parish	Friends of Essex Churches
Yardarm Folk Orchestra	Saturday, 15 th September	7pm for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Wisley RHS Garden Trip	Sunday, 16 th September	9am	Village bus stop & Bell Pub	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Rettendon Quiz	Friday, 21 st September	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall, CM3 8RS	
Battlesbridge Harvest Service	Sunday, 23 rd September	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Harvest Open Day	Saturday, 29 th September	10:30am - 3:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Rettendon Harvest Service	Sunday, 30 th September	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
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 Village Hall	
Parish Council Meeting	Last Tuesday in Month	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 - 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Jive	Wednesdays	8pm - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Jive Group
Raise Your Voice Choir	Fridays (term time)	7pm - 8:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country & Western Society

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Organ Concert	Saturday, 6 th October	7pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth, SS11 8SH	
Cheese and Wine Event	Friday, 12 th October	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	All Saints' Church, Rettendon.
Hot and Cold Experiences Talk	Tuesday, 16 th October	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Battlesbridge Quiz	Friday, 26 th October	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	

MOBILE LIBRARY : visits every 3 weeks

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	4 th and 25 th September, 16 th October,	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	31 st August, 21 st September, 12 October	

Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE) presents:

Rayleigh Brass Band in concert

Friday, 7th September 7pm for 7:30pm

£5 at the door including tea or coffee in the interval and a raffle will be held.

Do come and enjoy! Bring a friend.

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 Then on **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 A Concert by the **Yardarm Folk Orchestra**  
**7 for a 7:30pm** - Tickets £5 at the door.  
 Refreshments in the interval and a raffle.  
 Again, don't miss this very enjoyable evening.

**June Edwards**

*All Saints' Church, Rettendon*

**HARVEST OPEN DAY**

*Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September*

**10:30am - 3:30pm**

*Following the Harvest theme the Church window sills will be decorated with harvest produce and autumn flowers.*

*In addition there will be: Refreshments, new selection of second-hand books, bric-a-brac, second-hand clothes, home-made cakes, etc.*

*And a Raffle.*

**Jane Fallows, Churchwarden**

**Rettendon Horticultural Society**

**Autumn Show**

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September,**

**Rettendon Memorial Village Hall (CM3 8DP)**

**2pm - 4:30pm** (Entries in by 10:30am)

Our annual Autumn show is a chance for everyone to show off their fine autumn plants - and win a cup!

Competition is hotting up and we will have some lovely flowers as well as the fruit and vegetables. Come and see how others are doing, and find out how to grow your own.

Tea, coffee, home-made cakes. Raffle, Treasure Hunt and Guess the number of bulbs as well as a short quiz. Schedules can be found on the website, <http://www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-horticultural-society/files/> or from [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com). Paper copies are also available. **Barbara Wright, secretary**

**Rettendon Quiz Night**

**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September.** 7pm for 7:30pm

Helpful to book a table on 01245 401538.

£5 per person, teams up to 6. With raffle (prizes welcome). (more details inside).

**Miss this if you dare!**

**RETTENDON VILLAGE HALL (CM3 8DP)**

**KNIT & NATTER.....**

Our Knit and Natter group reconvenes in the Committee Room on Wednesdays 5th and 19th September 1:30pm till 3:30pm. Tea and biscuits available (and sometimes there's cake). Knitting not essential - just do some nattering!

**Sandie Cottee via Facebook,  
or Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538**

**KEEP FIT**

Michelle starts her weekly classes in the main hall on **Friday, 14th September, 12 till 1pm.** £5 per session/discounts for booking 6 for more details see Village Notice Boards.

Those who tried the taster session in July can't wait to get stuck in.

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**AND** for Mind Exercise there is a **Quiz** on **Friday, 21st September.**

B.Y.O slurp and provender and brain (if you have got one). Raffle (any prizes welcome).  
7pm for 7:30pm start.  
Helpful to book a table on 01245 401538.  
Miss this if you dare!  
£5 per person, tables of up to 6 please  
Money raised will go to maintain the Village Hall.

**Rettendon Village Hall Management Committee**

Hall Bookings can be made with Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297

**All Saints' Church Cheese and Wine Event**  
At the Rettendon Memorial Village Hall  
12th October, 7:30pm  
£6 per person. More details next month.  
Contact **Jane Fallows, 01245 400394** for tickets.

The **Village show** on the 14th July was very hot and very busy.  
Many thanks to all who helped to run this event and all who came to join in the activities on offer.  
We are heartened that this seems to be a valued part of village life.  
**Rettendon Village Show Cooperation Group.**

**Pre-School**  
Our autumn term starts on Tuesday, 4th September at the usual time. We provide a mixture of fun and learning, preparing our children for the future.  
If you need any more information contact **Pat on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328**

**Garden Notes**  
Totally amazed at how much has survived our drought conditions. But now there are items to be replaced I have some choices to make - oh joy, that's my style of shopping.....  
Love your greenery - **Mrs. McGregor**



**All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)**

"I'm in trouble!" I forgot to advertise the Heritage Day properly. But - what a wonderful response! Thank you to all who attended - We do hope you enjoyed yourselves.

The people I asked to contribute were not just archivists but people who lived and worked in the village. We would like to thank all those who contributed with memorabilia, a mix of items from all over the Parish, and, of course, all who helped on the day.

On September 2nd we have a songs of praise service at 4:30pm, followed by a Deanery barbeque and hope we will meet the newly appointed Bishop of Bradwell.

On September 29th - Please note on the Saturday only - we will be holding a Harvest Open Day. which will follow our usual pattern of food, refreshments, second-hand books, bric-a-brac, second-hand clothes, home-made cakes, etc. The window sills will be decorated with harvest produce and autumn flowers. Donations of raffle prizes very welcome.

Do you like decorating (with flowers, not a paint brush)? We are always in need of help. Anyone interested then please give me a call. No need to be religious, just community minded.

On Sunday 30th September at 11:15am there will be a harvest service.

**Jane Fallows 01245 400394**



**TRAVEL WITH A DIFFERENCE**

Following the successful Holy Land Pilgrimage in the spring, we have two future group holiday/pilgrimage trips planned. These are open to anyone who would like to enjoy the companionship of shared travel with an opportunity to see new places and experiences.

**ITALY - RAVENNA, ASSISI, PISA  
14-21 May 2019**

This two-centre trip includes the wonderful Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna, the places associated with the life of St. Francis in Assisi, as well as day excursions to the medieval cities of Perugia and Bologna, and an outing to Lake Trasemino. We finish with a short visit to Pisa and its famous leaning tower.

Included in the trip are all flights, transfers, half-board accommodation and all excursions including guiding.

**OBERRAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY AND BAVARIA  
1-8 JUNE 2020**

This famous Passion Play - performed every ten years entirely by the population of this small German village - draws thousands of people. Our trip begins with two days staying in Oberammergau, and the play itself over the afternoon and evening of the day. We then move on to the Munich area for a holiday with excursions to Neuschwanstein Castle, Salzburg and Nuremburg, and a day cruise on the Danube to the beautiful Weltenburg Monastery. Early booking is required to ensure tickets for the play. Again, all flights, transfers and excursions are included as well as the play package with full board accommodation and half-board accommodation in Bavaria.

Please contact me for more information, full-colour brochure, and booking form for either of these trips.

**Brenda Wallace 07853 088907  
brenda.wallace93@outlook.com**



## Rettendon Horticultural Society.

### Show Report.

There were nearly 1,000 Entries for the show classes (twice as many as last year) and some wonderful exhibits. Thank you to everyone who entered and made the show so special. An especial thank you to all the children who entered their plants from seeds - we had a wonderful turn-out (and thanks to parents and grandparents for the enthusiasm shown).

| Results: Sections, Cups awarded and to whom |                               |               |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Section A: Roses                            | Harry Spearman cup            | P. Spearman   |
|                                             | Battlesbridge Mills Rose Bowl | K. Benson     |
| Section B: Flowers                          | Blanche Waskett               | K. Hart       |
|                                             | Snelling Memorial             | J. Bruty      |
| Section C: Fruit                            | GJIM Rose Bowl                | P. Cole       |
| Section D: Vegetables                       | Percy Meeson Memorial         | P. Cole       |
|                                             | William Cresswell Memorial    | A. Matthews   |
| Section E: Gardens                          | Rosemary Silver Salver        | M. & R. Poole |
|                                             | C & D                         | M. Poole      |
|                                             | Patio Garden Plaque           | M. Poole      |
|                                             | Rettendune                    | R. Frampton   |
| Section F: Flower Arranging                 | Rawlings Rose Bowl            | G. Mayhew     |
| Section G: Cookery                          | Joyce Higgins Trophy          | K. Sparrow    |
|                                             | Parish Tray                   | K. Evans      |
| Section H: Wine                             | RJB Trophy                    | J. Gallie     |
| Section I: Preserves                        | Hyde Hall                     | H. Dale-Evans |
| Section J: Needlecraft                      | Nurse May Salvage Memorial    | J. Silk       |
| Section K: Handicrafts                      | Victoria Lepper Trophy        | S. Cottee     |
|                                             | Rawlings                      | E. Goreki     |
| Section L: Children                         | FRS Jubilee                   | C. Selvey     |
|                                             | Coronation                    | G. Marshall   |

To follow this we continue with our Autumn show on Saturday 8th September. If anyone would like a schedule for this please contact Barbara on 01245 321554, or email [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com) or visit the website <http://www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-horticultural-society/files/>

### Outing to Wisley

Then we have a trip to Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society garden, on Sunday 16th September. Book a seat with **Jean Pietsch, on 01268 763183**, for only £15 for coach and entrance.

### October Talks

#### Hot and Cold Extremes - Personal Experiences from local people

**Tuesday, 16th October, 7:30pm**

We have two short talks from local people on their experiences in hot and cold climates.

Coming out of the cold, our very own Roy Hart has agreed to talk about his expedition to the Pole in his younger days.

Some like it hot - with Colin Harper, who has run the Marathon de Sables (the MDS) twice! This is an annual event of 5 marathons over 6 days across the Sahara Desert. Colin has talked to Dave Monk on BBC Essex, and now he shows us pictures from the desert.

**Barbara Wright, secretary**

#### Upholstery Classes

Starting in September on Fridays at South Hanningfield Village Hall.

Contact **Fiona on 07887 507208** for more information

#### Social Comment

For years I have taken exception to the term "HOUSEWIFE" as a description of my occupation. I am not married to a house and am not proud of my "looking after the house" abilities which have always been a secondary necessity to paid employment. If my husband can be a retired something - why can't I. Just pick an occupation from my long list of former activities or state CLERK!

**Hazel Dale-Evans, retired Post Mistress.**

### Collected Comments on the Parish Council Chairman's report, published in the July/August 2018 edition of the Rettendon and Battlesbridge newsletter.

The Parish Meeting was called at the request of a number of residents, exasperated by the apparent lack of action by the PC in doing anything whatsoever. With regard to the proposed construction of a community building on the Upper Bell field, the previous PC had drawn up detailed plans, held an exhibition, and conducted a Parish-wide survey, with a majority in favour of such a building. As this was being disregarded by the present PC, the poll was requested in order to try to progress the matter. Unfortunately, the question put to residents basically asked if the PC should spend lots of money, with the predictable turkey/Christmas response. Pointing out the cost of the poll cast those who called for it in a bad light. The sum involved is chickenfeed compared to that spent on solicitors (over £7,000 to date and £30,000 earmarked for further legal fees), which is not mentioned.

Which brings us to the thorny topic of the Bell Fields. A bit of background is needed here. The Bell Fields comprise 2 fields ('upper' and 'lower') opposite the Bell Public House, which were bequeathed to 'The churchwardens and overseers of the poor in the parish of Rettendon' for the use of the people of Rettendon. The lower field was originally used as allotments and the upper field for a sports ground. At some time in the past, the churchwardens were replaced with the Parish Council who subsequently set up two registered charities for the two fields, with trustees taking on the role of administering the fields in accordance with the terms of the bequest. Information can be publicly viewed on the Charity Commission website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>), charity numbers 271479 and 271480. The trustees were drawn from the parish council, but the two roles of parish councillor and trustee should have been kept separate. From this point there should have been no parish council involvement, as the Bell Fields became independent, properly registered charities. The change in Parish Councillors should have had no bearing on the trustees of the Bell Fields. Unfortunately, the people involved were not scrupulous in making clear what hat they were wearing (trustee or parish councillor) in their dealings regarding the Bell Fields. This has led the present PC to claim they still have some role in the running of the Bell Fields. However, instead of accepting the situation, the PC resorted to taking legal advice on the matter, which predictably said more legal work was required. The PC tried to impose new trustees and issued solicitors letters which intimidated the existing trustees. Trying to blame the legal expenditure on an unreasonable attitude shown by one councillor ignores the attitude shown by some of the other councillors which has caused this particular mess. There has also been interference by persons unknown who have caused damage to the existing building on the site, flooding of the field, attempts to change locks, and recently damage to the water supply to the lower Bell Field, all hardening attitudes.

The PC chairman's comment "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" is particularly interesting, as it implies this is all nonsense, but there is no actual denial given. It is undeniable that there have been attempts to try to stop South Woodham Ferrers Football Club (SWFFC) playing on the ground. Initially this took the form of a dispute over the signs erected by SWFFC, but escalated into solicitors letters being issued, and attempts to prohibit parking on the north side of the path which was the original line of South Hanningfield Road, as the PC claim ownership of that piece of ground, even though it should have been given to the Bell Fields in exchange for land taken when the original A130 was dualled at the junctions with the Hanningfield roads.

Edited by Paul Wright, Treasurer of Rettendon Horticultural Society, from comments received from many society members, and other villagers. I would prefer not to be involved, as I am no longer a village resident, but this is the situation as I understand it from many comments. The bad blood all stems from the ongoing feud between two village factions, no doubt both sides have their points, my wife is happy to include input from anyone in the newsletter, but rarely gets opposing views. The travesty here is the waste of public money on solicitors.

## Battlesbridge Matters

Re: Traffic problems on the river bridge. I did apply some time ago to put traffic lights on the bridge for a 6 month period, to no avail. But my solution of a very bold white line across the North side of the bridge with a very large direction arrow pointing from the South to the line: then there is no argument who has right of way. A can of white road marking paint and a large brush – job done.

The annual barbeque was a great success for the "Friends of the Bell Fields". Members of the Rettendon Cricket Team turned up in their 'whites' to give instruction and demonstration of batting. The singers turned up, but unfortunately the heavens opened up, hamburgers floated off the table, but many brought umbrellas and all started to sing "I'm singing in the rain", and "It's pouring". A very memorable barbeque. And next morning another barbeque on the river bank 70 dressed up as pirates, etc. rowed from the Yacht Club along the river. Slept Saturday afternoon! Are there any residents who would like to row with us?

Regarding the Bell Fields area: the small section of the field north of the original line of the South Hanningfield Road termed by C.C. as the consolation land, was given in lieu of the land taken from the charity fields for the widening of the old A130 (now the A1245) in 1969. This consolation land is governed by the enclosure award of 1861. This transfer was endorsed by the County Solicitor. In other words the P.C. held the deeds and the Managing Trustees are there to maintain and "run the field" with no influences from the P.C.

I have suggested to the P.C. they send a request to ask the Charity Commission whether the registered Managing Trustees, as recorded with the Charity Commission, are legal or not. We have direct contact with the Charity Commission and I will faithfully pass their request on as the Commission are the high authority.

I really hope they accept my offer and this will save any more money being spent (the P.C. have set aside £30,000 of council funds!). .... A judge will probably ask the question too.

I have also asked, as Hayes Park Residents are now paying Council Tax, where is their contribution going? This represents a very large number, say 400(?), residents but the precept remains unchanged?

**Yours sincerely, Roy Hart**

PS In the last newsletter the chairman mentioned the rumours of houses to be built on the Bell Fields and moves to stop the game of football being played on the pitch.

Regarding football, enforcement notice No. 17/00140 was taken out by a single complainant. The trustees strongly rejected this and had the action thrown out. It was not a rumour, but a fact.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

If you wish to contact the Parish Clerk to ask questions, put in a request for an item on the agenda or have any other Parish Council queries please contact:

**Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk**

[rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com) 07811 254163

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact

[RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Country Diary**

The geese are back! Skeins of them are flying over the house as I write; however, here is my dilemma. Are they flying away or are they flying here for the autumn? Their honking alerts you, and they are not flying very high. I know that geese feed on salt marsh grasses exposed in the mud when the Thames is at low tide, but is it a refuelling stop or more seriously a meal for the day?

Helen saw a heron fly over this week. I have not see a heron for some time. I expect it was scouring garden ponds for food. The hot dry weather has scorched and killed the grasses in the lane so the clouds of brown butterflies have disappeared, however the small blue butterfly is in the garden at present.

A lady who is interested in bats tells me that there are not so many butterflies and moths about which means the bats are finding it hard to find food. With little grass we are lucky in this area as our farmers do not have large herds of cattle to feed but it is a big problem in many parts of the country.

The only wild flower about at the moment is the fleabane, which seems to have survived the drought.

STOP PRESS the geese are mainly Brent geese going out to feed before they return home to roost.

**Jane Fallows 01245 400394**

### **Battlesbridge Free Church**

What a glorious summer of sunshine! But when earth was crying out for water, down came the rain. Last July, 29th, we enjoyed a wonderful day of celebration for the 175th year of Christian Worship in our little church at Battlesbridge. The morning service was very well attended and was inspiringly led by Reverend Paul Davis, a recent President of the Congregational federation. Twenty-six of us enjoyed an excellent tea in the evening to round off this day of thanksgiving.

On Saturday, 8th September, the "Friends of Essex Churches" are organising the "Ride and Stride" event. Money raised will be distributed to participating churches for their maintenance funds.

On Sunday, September 23rd, we shall be celebrating God's gift of the Harvest. Gifts of produce is sent to HARP, the Southend charity for the homeless. The 11am service will be led by Jean-Louis Kassis from London City Mission and there will be a Harvest Supper at 6:30pm.

The Youth Group and the Art Group will recommence after the summer break. Art from 2pm and youth at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

God is watching over us in spite of the impression of mayhem around the world. He still encourages us to follow the Way of his Christ, the Way which has formed the basis of our British culture for approaching 2000 years.

**June Edwards**

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. Nothing is fool proof to a sufficiently talented fool.

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Items sent to me will be included unless libellous, or known to be untrue, even if I do not agree with the content.

Please send them to me, Barbara Wright, as soon as you can via e-mail ([RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com)), or tel: 01245 321554

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