



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWS & VIEWS

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Please also note the views contained within are offered by individuals/organisations privately and not in conjunction with the compiler.

All contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 20th January 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
Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, 1 st December	10:30am – 3:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Choir Carol Singing	Sunday, 9 th December	Afternoon	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre	Raise Your Voice Choir
Christmas Concert	Sunday, 9 th December	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
9 Lessons / Family Carol Service	Sunday, 16 th December	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Free church open for meditation	Sunday, 16 th December	Until 4pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th December	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Sunday Service	Sunday 23 rd December	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Crib Service	Sunday, 23 rd December	2:30pm	All Saints' church, Rettendon	
Midnight Service	Monday, 24 th December	11:30pm / 11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Christmas Service	Tuesday, 25 th December	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Deanery Service	Sunday, 30 th December	10:30am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Family Service	Sunday, 13 th January	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Beetle Drive	Friday, 18 th January	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall	
Bell Fields Fundraising	Friday, 25 th January	6:30 for 7pm	Royal Tiger Restaurant	Friends of the Bell Fields
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	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10 - 11am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Exercise, Move, Dance Class	Fridays	12 - 1pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Keep Fit with Michelle
Raise Your Voice Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country & Western Society
MOBILE LIBRARY (website: https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/mobile-library-service/) ★ ★ SEE BELOW ABOUT FUTURE LIBRARY SERVICES ★ ★				
South Hanningfield Village Hall	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm	27 th November, 18 th December	
Salforal Close	Tuesday	1:45pm to 2:15pm	27 th November, 18 th December	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	23 rd November, 14 th December	

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

All Saints' Church, Rettendon
Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, 1st December
10:30am to 3:30pm

Come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine, a piece of cake, have lunch and chat with friends. There will be the usual stalls, plus a raffle with donated prizes of £50, a Christmas hamper, a meat voucher from Whitegates Farm, South Hanningfield Road and other seasonal prizes. There will be small gifts to buy, and larger ones, and some games to play.

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden

Join us for some fun and games at our
Beetle Drive
Rettendon Memorial Hall
Friday, 18th January
7 for 7:30pm

£5 per person, including tea/coffee and biscuits Raffle and plenty of laughs
All in aid of the hall
Please book a place with **Hazel Dale-Evans**
01245 401538 so we can gauge numbers

St Peter's Primary School PTA
Christmas Bazaar 11.30am - 2.30pm
Saturday 8th December 2018

Refreshments, Santa's Grotto, Games, Crafts, Raffles, Stalls for Christmas shopping and MORE....

Church Road, West Hanningfield, CM2 8UQ

Compiler's Report:

This newsletter is now independent. The Parish Council will not pay for it unless edited by the clerk, as it contains opinions. I believe these opinions are part and parcel of the newsletter as they come from residents of, or people affiliated with, the Parish.

For any issue I encourage anyone to send me their input, but will reject libellous or knowingly untrue items, or edit to remove same. I am willing to relinquish the production of this newsletter to anyone, as I have stated several times in the past.

Barbara Wright

Essex Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024.

Major consultation lasts until 20 February 2019.
There will be a drop-in session to find out more and complete a survey at: South Woodham Ferrers Library, Thursday 13 December 3.30pm to 5.30pm

RETTENDON MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL NEWS.....



Our Memorial Hall fulfilled its function by having a coffee morning on November 10th with a display of related items to help us remember the price of conflict. The British Legion poppy box was well used and many stories were told.

Bowls - Our bowls group - short mat - on Monday evenings 7-10pm - would welcome new participants so do pop up and check out this gentle pastime. There are occasional matches with other societies. Best of both worlds - with tea and coffee. Come and join us.

Tuesday evenings is destined for monthly meetings so you will find **Parish Council** and **Rettondon Horticultural Society** activities here. Parish Council meetings are nominally the last Tuesday in the month. Come along and see what they do for you.

Wednesdays is **KNIT & NATTER** afternoons which happen twice a month, though it is not all knitting, we do do other activities too. There is space for other crafts so watch this space.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings are at present free, but the **Friday Exercise, Move and Dance class (Keep Fit) (12 noon till 1pm)** is really keeping us flexible. Our thoroughly well-qualified tutor is gently making us aware of our potential.

Last date in 2018: December 7th
Starts again on Friday, January 11th, 2019

Friday evenings are usually for fund-raising events for all - not just the hall. Look in the diary, or at the adverts to find out what is happening when.

Saturday evening (first of the month) is the **Country & Western club** and is a good opportunity for an evening out locally - good music and some optional food to keep you going.

And if you need child care remember the **Pre-School** which operates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am till 1pm.

For further information on contacts phone our booking clerk, **Dianne, on 01245 400297**, who will be happy to help.

Pre-School

We are getting ready for Christmas and looking forward to our Christmas show. This year we are doing Noah's Ark. Anyone is welcome on 12th Dec @ 12oclock.

We are going to visit Santa and play in the snow on the last day of term and the children are very excited.

We finish on Thursday 13th December and return on 7th January. **Pat on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328**

Who invented fractions ? Henry the 1/8th !
Who invented fireworks? Some bright spark
What do you call a fish that sleeps all the time ? A Kipper !



Christmas at All Saints'

We start the season with our Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday 1st December** from 10-30am to 3-30pm and hope you will come and enjoy a glass of mulled wine, a piece of cake and buy some small gifts for family, friends and neighbours. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets, available on the day with generously donated prizes of £50, a Christmas hamper and a meat voucher from Whitegates Farm, South Hanningfield Road and other seasonal prizes. I do hope you will come along and support our village church.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate. This festival time is older than Christianity but it is at the heart of our laws and culture with services arranged for the Christmas period. Do come along and be a part of the seasonal Christmas celebrations.

Our services over the Christmas period will be:-

16th December, Family Carol service at 11-15am;
23rd December Our usual Sunday morning service will be at 11-15am.

23rd December Crib service at 2-30pm;

24th December Our Midnight service starts at 11-30pm.

Christmas day a shortened service at 11-15am.

30th December Deanery service at 10-30am, when we will be joined by members of the congregations from Hullbridge, Rawreth and other churches south of the river Crouch to which everyone is invited.

On **13th January** at 11-15 am our first of the year Family service is due to take place. Parents, children and grandparents are invited.

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden

St Nicholas Church, Rawreth - All Welcome.

Sunday 2nd December - 10.00am St Nicholas Toy Service and Brownie Parade (With Holy Communion)

Sunday 9th December - 5.30pm Christmas Carol Concert with Rayleigh Salvation Army Brass Band (Tickets £8)

Sunday 16th December - 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass Carols & Communion

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas day - 10.00am Holy Communion of Christmas

Sunday 30th December -

Deanery Service - Rettendon - 10:30am

St Nicholas Evening Service - 6.30pm.

FRIDAY, 25th JANUARY at 6:30 for 7pm

ROYAL TIGER Restaurant, Rettendon

£25 per head including 3 course meal, disco, etc.

Tickets from: Whitegates Farm Butchers Shop (07958

360219), Skeetex, Battlesbridge (01268 768282),

Elizabeth Jones 07747 014009)

In aid of the "Bell Fields" - Charity nos 271480/271479

Garden Notes

Time for a seasonal hack of the things that have got too big and need to shape up. Every garden benefits from a bit of management.

The squirrel has been planting acorns, ash seeds and peanuts - mostly in the pots, but check the earth before they get too big to evict.

Mrs. McGregor

Battlesbridge Matters

The Bomb - I fully realise that in certain circles I am not the flavour of the month, but last Sunday 2 gentlemen with metal detectors located a bomb in the river bed near to the office. Before the bomb disposal would come near, my son, Justin, had to fill 10 sand bags up and carry them across the bridge. A young army officer, without wellingtons, waded into the soft mud of the Crouch, inspected the bomb already marked with a stake and blue flag marking the spot. Tongue in cheek I suggested to get under the desk, but they were all stretching their necks to see this monster bomb. Unfortunately it only turned out to be a WW2 hand grenade! With the pin still in place! Shame, I like the sound of guns and cannons going off!

Bellfield - The ground is still rather hard so we will call a work party in the early spring to replace all fencing on the North Flank of the Bell Field. Lighting will be installed in the changing shed and new plumbing for the wash basin and toilet. Hopefully 2019 will be a good year financially. The pitch is improving all the time.

Christmas - I have a love-hate, relationship to Christmas; I like the snoozes on the sofa after the dinner on the 25th, the crackling of the fire and midnight mass. But not the sound of ripping presents open, screaming high-spirited children. The speed Christmas comes round it should be every 5 years, however Boxing Day is fun.

Riley AGY 391 - Our family car the AGY 391 Riley nine lynx purchased by my father, Frank, in 1940 for £17 was in a very serious accident last year (not our fault). The old riley was flattened, twisted and bent. To say it was a write-off would have been an understatement. If my dad could see the car now he would shed a tear. It has been beautifully put back together by Justin and friends and I cannot thank them enough.

River Crouch - Our River Crouch trust had been put up for a lifetime achievement award, for our work on the river for 11 years. Although we did not win we were very pleased to have been put forward for it. I thank all our volunteers and perhaps next year we will be on the podium.

Yours "Mr. Grumpy" Roy Hart

Rettendon Horticultural Society - AGM Report

Plenty of members ventured out on a cold night to enjoy our festive food and drink, and take part in our AGM. All offices filled, reports given, and plenty of time left for eating and drinking and chat.

We can report a good year, with much cooperation with other groups for the Village show. It just shows what can be achieved.

The diary has been filled in with a plant sale, trips, talks and the usual shows. We also have a few additions this year which should be fun. An inter-societies quiz night and a garden safari for members only are on the cards, so come and join us.

Barbara Wright, secretary

Membership Opportunity

Time to renew membership, or to start it. Please join us, still only £5 per year, and the talks are free.

We have two trips a year. This year we are going to Kew in June and Audley End for their apple day in September.

And, of course, our shows: Spring Summer and Autumn.

Contact our **Membership Secretary, Beryl Wilkinson on 01268 766221.**

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Thomas Fredrick Stevens (Fred)

Fred farmed in Rettendon for many years and was on the Parish Council for 30 of them. He had been unwell for some time and died peacefully, but suddenly, in October.

Mrs. Stevens would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, beautiful flowers and for the £500 raised for St. Luke's Hospice.

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Battlesbridge Free Church

How this end of the year seems to quicken up and the weeks seem to fly by as if racing towards the big event. This lead-up to Christmas is called Advent, the preparation for the celebration of God in Christ, entering into our human world as a tiny, helpless baby, whose first cradle was a stable trough because, by the time Mary and Joseph could get to Bethlehem, all the beds and breakfasts, the hotels and rooms to let were full with "no vacancy" signs in evidence. There would be no Christmas if there had not been that little baby and that baby bringing God's blueprint for the only true way to a life of fulfilment. God's few simple rules were all wrapped up in Christ's command that we love one another, our neighbour, fellow human being, as we love ourselves, treating others as we would wish them to deal with us. This basic morality has formed the culture and law in our land for many generations. It is the rightful heritage of this present i-pod generation. Life for many of them has no firm moral foundation. And yet there is so much goodness around as evidenced by the enormous sum raised for "Children in Need" and other charities. Goodness comes only from God and where goodness is, there is God.

Our young people are to be congratulated for raising £400 for the Air Ambulance on their charity evening. On December 9th the Community Choir will sing carols at the Antiques Centre in the afternoon and give a Christmas Concert in the church in the evening. All are very welcome.

On Sunday December 16th the 11am service will be of 9 lessons and carols and the church will be open in the afternoon for personal prayer, meditation, prayer requests until 4pm.

We hope to enjoy a Nativity enactment on December 23rd at 11am with a Drama at 6:30pm

On Christmas Eve there will be a midnight service from 11:30pm. All are welcome.

In 2019 we hope to follow the new 8 week Bible Course presented by the Bible society.

We wish our fellows of Rettendon and Battlesbridge a very Happy Christmas.

June Edwards

Rettendon School Gardening Club

Aware the weather is cooling down the gardening club have recently made insect hibernation retreats. Insects are very important to the diversity and survival of many of our creatures.

We made a large one just gathering together hollow stems (bamboo), fir cones, wood shavings and there was going to be some raw wool (but we forgot this). The children then made individual habitats for insects and larvae. They gathered up some bamboo sticks and pushed them together into a sawn off piece of old guttering. Thanks to Paul and Barbara, who provided the raw materials, the children were made aware that insects need a hotel for overwintering.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council have been looking at maintenance of their assets in the parish in recent months. A quote has been accepted to look at all bus shelters and repair and paint them. We are also looking to re-paint the lampposts. The planning application for work on the Rettendon Oak is now with Chelmsford City Council - a crown reduction of 5m is proposed to protect the tree for the future. We are still trying to source replacement mechanisms for the gates on Sonters Down.

Following the grant to the Cricket Club a few months ago, the Council has granted the Village Hall Management Committee £2,500 to replace the hall windows.

The Council is in the process of agreeing their budget and precept for 2019/20. This will be discussed and hopefully finalised at the November meeting.

At the last meeting, the Council agreed a response to the article published in September about the Bell Fields. This response is now on the website on the Council Information page.

If anyone has any queries in between meetings about any aspect of the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk 07811 254163

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com Website:

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

Next Parish council meeting will be on 18th December

Country Diary

November and December is the time to see a swirling and swooping of a fantastic dance in the sky known as a murmuration. The starlings are swarming and gathering members of their species to perform aerial acrobatics in the gathering gloom of late autumn. Why do they do this you may ask? They gather to keep warm and to fend off predators. I used to see small gatherings of starlings when travelling home from work on the Dengie.

This is also the time of year to look out for migrating birds. One such bird, the red wing, is the smallest of our thrushes. Another bird more often seen than the red wing is the fieldfare, which is about the size of a mistle thrush and has a grey-blue head and rump. We also welcome geese, teal, widgeon, and knot. We have a lot of water in this part of Essex – reservoirs, lakes, rivers and estuaries that become home to these species.

Early winter is a good time to see seals. I believe you can catch a boat from Burnham or Southend to go and watch them.

As Christmas time approaches we want to decorate our homes and it is an ideal time to bring in the smells of Christmas. Wreaths on our doors smelling of pine and eucalyptus and perhaps some oranges or cinnamon sticks can be added to your wreath. Search out some holly and spindle berries and throw in a few black ivy berries can all help to make a festive Christmas arrangement. By the way, pinecones make very good firelighters for burning the Yule time log.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

What do you get if you cross idiots and arabs? Only Fools and Horses!

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, though spelling and grammar may be corrected.

A Resident's Viewpoint

I'm writing in response to Mr Harts comments in the previous newsletter about 'repeatedly asking at the parish council for urgent road and pavement repairs to Meadow Road and Sonters Down'. Firstly, Mr Hart is a parish councillor and he is as able or qualified as any of his colleagues to fill in an application for funding for such a scheme through the Local Highways Panel he mentions, through the Essex County Council website. Unfortunately such funding would be unlikely as the LHP won't fund 'road maintenance' schemes but only those related to safety or non-motor user improvements like cycle paths. On that note I'd like to point out that parish councillor Denise Fleming has led the way in applying for several LHP 'allowed' schemes, one being the conversion of Chalk and Hoe Lanes into Quiet Lanes. This involved a lot of effort in setting out the need, getting traffic surveys done, taking pictures and filling out a lengthy application. It didn't qualify as a Quiet Lane but in the end Essex County Council have resurfaced both Chalk Street and Hoe Lane and they funded signs put up to warn motorists about horse riders. She has also successfully applied for a traffic survey of the Battlesbridge bridge which will be carried out by April next year, another issue that Mr Hart has raised. Mrs Fleming has also successfully achieved funding for the parish for the speed signs on Main Road and the new signs on Hawk Hill roundabout (due before April). Three other requested speed surveys in the parish have unfortunately been turned down but add the effort that is being made to make us safer as we use our roads to drive, cycle, ride or walk on, by the parish council of which Mr Hart is of course a member

Scott Wilson-Sonters Down

Collected Comments on the Parish Council Chairman's report – an Apology

With regard to this item published in the September newsletter, the Parish Council Chairman has informed me that he objected to retrospective planning application 17-00708-ADV solely on the basis of multiple errors in the form, not from any desire to stop football being played on the Bell fields. I would like to set the matter straight and apologise for this error. As I stated at the end of the article, I edited the item based on comments received from many villagers, and it described the situation as I understood it. Apart from some technical details, such as the use of the word 'bequeathed' which should have been 'awarded', the remainder of the piece was not untrue. I apologise to anyone offended by the reference to 'turkey/Christmas', it was merely a light-hearted reference to the well-known phrase.

The item was definitely not my personal opinion, as I stated, we no longer live in the village (although we have strong links through the Horticultural Society, Church, newsletter etc.), so any views we may have are irrelevant. We try to remain neutral, and were only reporting what many villagers tell us, not just 'a vociferous few'. We have been accused of being 'outside troublemakers', which we find most offensive.

As to the idea that a response to an item should be obtained prior to publication, this would effectively prevent publication of anything remotely controversial. Surely as long as an item is not defamatory and/or knowingly misleading, and carries suitable disclaimers, it spices up the newsletter. Anyone is free to provide contributions expressing alternative viewpoints, in fact, they would be welcome.

Paul Wright.

What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite
What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet
What two letters are bad for your teeth? - DK



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.