



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area. Printed by IMAGES, Runwell Road, Wickford 01268 761900  
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Please also note the views contained within are offered by individuals/organisations privately and not in conjunction the compiler or the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter organisation.  
All contributions for next Newsletter to be with [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 20<sup>th</sup> 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 benefiting.

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Three Parishes Party	Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February	6:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	All Saints Church, Rettendon
Family Service	Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February	11:15am	All Saints' Church Rettendon	
Polymyalgia Rheumatica +	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	PMR /Giant Cell Arteritis Group
Horticultural Inter-Societies	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	7:00 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Carpet 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	1:30 - 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am - 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Country and Western	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in month	8pm - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country & Western Society

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Show	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	6:30pm entries	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
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### MOBILE LIBRARY - 3 WEEK INTERVAL BETWEEN VISITS

South Hanningfield Village Hall	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm	12 <sup>th</sup> February, 5 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	
Salforal Close	Tuesday	1:45pm to 2:15pm	12 <sup>th</sup> February, 5 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> March, 12 <sup>th</sup> April and 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	

## Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter into 2019.....

This newsletter is happy to announce it has become a Non-Profit Making Organisation, and will be financed directly by residents and businesses in the area.

We look forward to continuing to bring you the news and views of the area, advertising local events, local clubs and groups, the churches, and supporting charities by including their items in print. Our usual items such as Country Diary and Mrs. McGregor are still here.

We will also add information we think you should have at hand.

Anyone wishing to donate to the printing of this newsletter please contact the Treasurer on [RBNtreas@gmail.com](mailto:RBNtreas@gmail.com), or compiler on usual contact details.

We will be reinstating the yellow advertising sheet with adverts from local firms to help fund the newsletter. If you wish to place an advert please get in touch.

The newsletter has a new website, where we will be adding each edition as it happens. There will also be old editions included, with, hopefully, some archive editions from previous editors/collators/compilers.

<http://www.essexinfo.net/retbatnews/>



## Pre-School

We have started our normal sessions and will be learning more about numbers and letters ready for the big schools.

If you need any more information contact **Pat on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328**

## Three Parishes Party (Rettendon, Hullbridge and Rawreth)

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**

6:30pm with 'eats' at 7:00pm

in the Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)

This is a social occasion to get to know people from our related parishes. Everyone is invited.

**BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING AS I NEED NUMBERS FOR CATERING PURPOSES.**

**Jane Fallows, Churchwarden, 01245 400394**

PS - All Saints' are providing the main course, so if you can help supply us with something we would be very grateful, but again please let me know.

## The Future of Your Library Services across Essex

Essex County Council are consulting on a draft five-year strategy for future library services in Essex.

There is a survey which is open now until 20 February 2019. Have your say at....

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation/>

Or directly access the survey from...

<https://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/librarystrategy2018#>

## Affected Polymyalgia Rheumatica and/or Giant Cell Arteritis?

Come along to Chelmsford/Southend Group meeting on

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February** at the

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP, at 2.00 pm.

Guest speaker is Billy Fashanu, Consultant Physiotherapist, Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. £4 to contribute to the cost of the hall hire and refreshments.

For more details and to book a place contact Pat Fedi. Email:

[southend@pmrgca.org.uk](mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk). Tel:07733362373

## Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

### Presents.....

Things have been happening here. Your village hall now has a complete set of double-glazed windows to help keep the costs down and the heat in.

Having dealt with that we will have to decide which long-term need should be at the top of the priority list before it becomes a dire emergency. Meanwhile things go on apace.

### Poppy Appeal - Coffee Morning

We are pleased to announce £175.11 was collected in the Poppy Appeal donation box with £150 extra added by way of other donations.

We were amazed at the turn-out for our event, and would like to thank all those who came and those who made the teas and coffees and the cakes. There was a lot of interest in all the exhibits, from flying helmets to pictures, and copies of memorials to those who lost their lives from our village.

### Normal services are resumed

Monday to Thursday mornings preschool are in charge of their small people. Monday evening big people play bowls.

Tuesday evenings is shared by Horticultural events and the Parish Council Meetings and Wednesdays there is Knit and Natter 1st and 3rd of every month (afternoons - February 6th and 20th).

Thursday afternoon there is sometimes an extra bowls session and Friday at noon is our exercise class where Michelle keeps us flexible.

Saturday night (first of the month) brings a Country and Western Club night for a hoe down, so there is a fair choice of activities here.

Watch out for notice boards put out for a variety of special events, as well as the newsletter adverts, and contact Dianne Francombe for any information about bookings on 01245 400297.

### Memorial Hall Promotions

One cold and frosty night in January some brave and hardy souls came out to our **Beetle Drive**. It was great fun, and much competitive spirit was aired happily.

Now that we've relearnt the rules and got the kit we will put this on the events calendar.

Many thanks to all who supported this with info and raffle prizes and to the expert cake makers who fed us.

Proceeds have gone to the memorial hall.

### Village Hall Management Committee

Visit the hall website for more information:

<http://www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-memorial-hall/>

Website is in construction, so keep looking.

### St Nicholas, Rawreth - Upcoming events.

**3rd March** - You are invited to St Nicholas Café Church for a Come Taste and See at 10.00am.

**30th March** - Victor Patterson and Elizabeth Upsher Concert

**6th April** - Quiz at Rawreth village hall 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets £8. Max team 8.

### Garden Notes

Whoops - need to prune the gooseberry bush and the blackcurrants as a matter of urgency. My garden just never sleeps - always something to keep me out of mischief. -

Believe me if you dare.

Mrs. McGregor



Wendy Gowlett and family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and generous donations to Prostate Cancer UK on the sudden death of Peter, dear husband, father and grandfather.

We would like to let you all know it was very much appreciated.



### All Saints' Church, Rettendon

Christmas has passed – it seems a long time ago as well as the first Sunday of Epiphany has passed. The events planning for 2019 remains to be completed however there is to be a party for the three parishes (Rettondon, Hullbridge and Rawreth) in the Rettondon Memorial Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 6-30 pm with 'eats' at 7-00pm. Everyone is invited **BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING AS I NEED NUMBERS FOR CATERING PURPOSES.**

**Family Service** There will be a family service at 11-15am on 10<sup>th</sup> February. This is an important date as we do need people of all ages – especially children young and old to come along and take part.

**Lent** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March is the first day of Lent. Revd Brenda Wallace will be holding a devotional service during Lent at Rawreth starting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> at 3-00pm every Tuesday during Lent. Revd Elizabeth Jordan will be holding a session 'Exploring the Bible' on Monday evenings at Hullbridge starting at 8-00pm also during Lent.

**Easter Open Day** Easter is late this year and on Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April we will be holding our usual Open Day. Flowers, Food, and Fund raising.

**Books a Plenty** On a completely different note, we have too many books in the church – we cannot store them all. If you or any local organisations want some of them please let me know and I will bag some of them up which will help us to reduce our stock.

**Recycling** still features in our programme of activities.

**Foodstuff:** Non perishable foodstuff is regularly taken to the centre for the homeless at Southend. **Stamps:** Used English as well as foreign stamps are used by charities to make up collections for sale abroad. **Old mobile phones:** are re-jigged and used for emergency contact by vulnerable people. **Empty Inkjet cartridges:** are in demand for re-cycling which last year prevented over 60,000 tonnes of solid waste going to landfill. Essex Air Ambulance benefits from the old phones and inkjet cartridges sent for re-use. **Old Spectacles:** Lenses from old spectacles are removed and then fitted into recycled frames to meet the needs of people in third world countries.

Churchwarden Jane Fallows 01245 400394

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\* **Upcoming Elections - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.** \*

\* This May we go to the polls for elections. Details \*  
\* about these are on the Chelmsford City Council \*  
\* website.... \*

\* <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/upcoming-elections/> \*

\* Make sure you are registered to vote now so you \*  
\* can use your vote on election day. \*



## Rettendon Horticultural Society

Another year, another season of growing. Already planning the summer show in July, with cooperation between us, Friends of Rettendon School and the Cricket Club. But that does not mean other groups or societies of the village are not represented. Please let us know if you would like a stall. Phone Barbara on 01245 321554.

Membership cards are now available with our events. We have 3 shows, 2 talks, 2 outings, a plant sale and a garden safari. Some of the events are only for members, but it is still only £5 for the year, so why not join us.

Our first show will be the Spring Show in March. Let us hope the daffodils behave themselves and come out at just the right time!

### Inter-Societies Quiz Night.

**Friday, 22nd February at 7pm for 7:30pm start.**

The Inter-Societies are a collection of horticultural groups in the area: Runwell, Ramsden Heath, Ramsden Bellhouse, Canvey Island, Wickford, Gallywood and Laindon. Each year one of the societies holds a quiz - and this year it is down to us.

We hope some of you can form at least one team to battle for honours at the quiz. We also need a bit of help with teas, coffees, cakes and raffle. There is no entrance fee - but we do need to know who is coming, places are limited, and you have to be a member.

To be held in Rettendon Village Hall CM3 8DP

**Barbara Wright, Secretary.**



## Battlesbridge Free Church

This year we embark on a new venture. The Bible Society has produced a new 8 week course of Bible Study on a series of DVDs. This course aims to look into the background of the very real, ordinary people whom God used to convey his love, care and concern for humanity, and to follow the progress of humanity in his developing relationship with God. This book, the Bible, is the world's best seller, yet even in the so-called Christian countries, though widely owned, is not often widely read or understood. During 2019 we hope to follow this course during a number of Sunday services when the DVDs will be shown. The first of these will be on January, 27th at 11am. All are welcome to join us.

Already the supermarkets are displaying Easter chocolate bunnies. It is the teaching of the spirit of risen Easter Christ which motivates the filling of the trollies week by week with gifts of food for the Chelmsford food bank. It is this spirit of love-they-neighbour, which prompts us to support all the many charities working to bring rescue, emergency aid, food, shelter, clothing, medicine, clean water, fair trade, the list is endless, of the working of God's good.

The Community Choir, meeting at 7pm on Fridays, is working towards a concert to be held on July 20th. The Youth Club meets again, after the Christmas break, on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. The Art Group have also begun the New Year with sessions at 2pm on Wednesdays.

The Harbour Club, caring for the needs of their clients suffering from Dementia, meet Mondays to Thursday. They were able to enjoy a Carol Service to which a full church of friends and relatives accompanied them.

**June Edwards**

## Woodham Road – Residential Road or Racetrack?

I am prompted to submit this article following a very serious accident that occurred outside my house in Woodham Road during the evening of Christmas Day. The emergency services attended, the road was closed for 5 hours and the roof of one vehicle had to be removed in order to access and release the driver. Serious injuries appear to have been sustained by the driver.

The speed limit is 40mph but this is the subject of serious and repeated abuse by cars and motor cycles. One particular motor cycle speeds from Rettendon Turnpike down Woodham Road on a daily basis, certainly exceeding 70mph. Too fast to note the registration number!

Given the serious nature of damage to vehicles and property caused in the Christmas Day accident, I can only speculate that excessive speed must have been a contributory factor.

There are a couple of speed camera signs but no speed cameras. Clearly this does not deter motorists and motor cyclists from speeding.

Many recreational cyclists use Woodham Road at weekends and I have personally witnessed some very close shaves as a result of excessive speed. I am aware of cyclists being verbally abused.

Surely the time has arrived to address the speeding problem in Woodham Road. I have no idea what the procedures are for installing speed cameras but this seems to be the only remedy to slow down traffic.

I have noted that, through Woodham Ferrers village, the wheelie bins all have stickers drawing attention to the speed limit of 30mph. Of course the bins are only on the road once a week but this has to be better than nothing at all. Perhaps Rettendon Parish Council could consider provision of suitably worded stickers for the residents of Woodham Road.

Whilst on the subject of Woodham Road, I need to draw attention to the appalling condition of the footway. From Rettendon roundabout in the direction of South Woodham Ferrers, the footpath on the north side of the road has almost ceased to exist. It is now in a very dangerous state, with no tarmac and deep ruts. It is surely just a matter of time before a pedestrian has a fall.

Comments from the appropriate body would be most appreciated.

**John Bruty**

## Country Diary

I love snowdrops. I do not really know why. I think it is because I feel they are a symbol of hope for the New Year, hope in the coming spring and summer. I saw my first snowdrops in December but I really was disappointed, I did not feel we had even started winter and the flowering was all out of sequence. As a child, I used to scour the woods and banks looking for snowdrops, however, I do not think such innocent pastimes engage the youngsters of today!

I have recently been surprised at the number of blackbirds in our garden, however I have found out they were probably foreigners – or some of them were. I am aware that some of our blackbirds go on holiday to the West Country but I did not know we accepted blackbirds from the cooler areas of the continent. Apparently, our resident blackbirds are not too happy about incomers and little is known about how long they stay.

Some blackbirds do not leave as we had one for years that had a white stripe in its wings. Apparently, song thrushes and chaffinches also migrate but there is not much information around about this.

**Jane Fallows**

P.S. The Hazel catkins are swinging their tails in profusion.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The November meeting was important as this was where the budget and precept for 2019/20 were discussed and agreed. Budget figures are available for residents to view as part of the November minutes on the website. The total precept was agreed with a slight increase over last year, but the cost to residents per household remains virtually unchanged. The Council also agreed to accept a quote for painting of all lampposts owned by the Parish.

In December, Councillors Millane and Ride offered to try to progress remedial work to South View Road by seeking a meeting with the Essex Highways Liaison Officer.

The ongoing legal dispute over the trusteeship of the Bell Fields was discussed. The Charities Commission had finally replied to a letter sent in August by the Council. The Commission refused permission for the Council to bring proceedings and suggested mediation. However, the Commission said it was possible for the Council to apply directly to the High Court, although only 21 days were allowed for this. The Council decided that given the time constraint, both avenues would be explored, with a view to withdrawing from the Court proceedings should mediation prove successful.

**Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk**

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

The Parish council website is:

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

## Compiler's reply to the Parish Council Agenda Item 119-18/19 October 2018 - as read out at November Parish Council meeting.

The October Parish council meeting had an agenda item where the majority voted for the proposal to make the Parish Clerk the editor of the newsletter with responsibility for content.

As compiler I was not asked whether I would comply with this, nor whether I had anything to add to the debate – before, during or after.

I admit I was not happy with this decision at the time, but decided to “sleep on it”. Consequently I could see only two avenues to explore. Either I allowed the Parish Clerk to edit it, effectively allowing the Parish Council to take over the newsletter, or I find alternative funding and continue with the residents' newsletter.

Which is actually the point I am making.....

It has been explained to the Parish Council time and again and at length that this newsletter is a residents' newsletter, not a Parish Council newsletter. It is the vehicle for the residents of, and those associated with, the Parish of Rettendon. It is not written by the Parish Council, though Parish Council content has been included. If the Parish Council wish to have a newsletter of their own then they can write, edit, fund, produce and distribute it themselves.

I have been asked by many residents, including the distributors, to continue with the newsletter without editing from the Parish Council. Therefore in future the newsletter will be paid for directly by the residents themselves and do not need Parish Council funding.

I would like to state I have always tried to be as impartial as possible and willingly put in opinions from any resident, or those associated with the Parish.

**Barbara Wright.**

Mark the date... **Rettendon Cricket Club** ....invite you to **President's Day** taking place on **Sunday, 25th August 2019** at the Cricket Field CM3 8DP, with Free Entry  
Game between: **the President's XI & the Chairman's XI**  
Bar open from Midday, live bands and barbecue.

Why not come along to a few our matches at the Cricket Field during the year ~ April to September.

Fixtures will be on the website:

[https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/website/web\\_pages/184206](https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/website/web_pages/184206)



Happy New Year and hopefully more peaceful.

## Bell Fields Charity Update.

The Trustees, myself and other residents of Rettendon, are registered with the Charity Commission of England as Managing Trustees of the Bell Fields Charities, but we feel we are under great legal threat by certain members of the Parish Council who we believe would like to be Trustees in our place.

We are passionate about the Bell Fields and will protect them at all costs for future generations of residents of Rettendon and surrounding areas. The upper field has never been in better condition. We have now a good income. The new pavilion will be funded by “Friends of the Bell Fields” and part by Sport England, etc. It will be a multipurpose building. There will be no cost to your council taxes.

Why are the Parish Council potentially spending over a whole years budget, some £30,000 to £45,000 against a charity which is run so well??? They have already lost 3 enforcement actions against us.

Hopefully there will be mediation first.

## Battlesbridge Matters

Last week Julie and I attended a “double funeral” at Chelmsford crematorium first, then on to Bradwell Church for a second service and a wake after in the “King's Head”. I gave my seat by the fire to an elderly gentleman with a stick. The conversation came up regarding Battlesbridge, which he knew well. He then informed me that the river banks near the old bridge are the only site in the British Isles where there is a colony of scorpions. He also stated that they were of the non poisonous type, thankfully. Another fact, recorded in Benton's “History of the Rochford Hundred”, “that the occasional sturgeon have be caught in the river”. The day at the funeral was very sad but interesting, which we will not forget.

Yesterday, Sunday 20th January, the plan was to go pike fishing on the River Blackwater with my club, Ilford District Piscatorials (formed 1849), but at 7am I changed my mind and went rowing in the skiff (Spirit of Battlesbridge): 4 rowers and cox and passenger. 9 skiffs assembled at Benfleet Creek, we were 3rd home. We all went back to the Yacht Club and left at 9am very frosty. Arrived home at 3:30pm and fell asleep by the fire. Great exercise. In the summer we all row down to Hullbridge and have a pint in the Smugglers Inn and a row back in the sunset. We can only do this when the tide is right. If you are interested in rowing, please give me a ring.

Jonathon and I have started to plant our onion sets for the Village Show in July. Next up is the Daffodil Competition. A few years ago I came 2nd, but since then have not been placed. I will keep trying, though.

I was taken aback on learning a Charity Dinner was to be held at the Royal Tiger on Friday 25th January, but on the other hand was really touched that residents have organised this to raise money for the proposed new pavilion. Should be a great night, with entertainment too.

**Yours Very Sincerely Roy Hart**

## 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](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com)), or tel: 01245 321554

Or paper copy can be dropped off at 55 East Hanningfield Road. Please mark for Newsletter. Spelling and grammar may be corrected.

The Newsletter is available online from:

<http://www.essexinfo.net/retbatnews/>

**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 the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter. The compiler reserves the right to refuse items for legal reasons, e.g. libellous, or lack of space. (Contributor will be contacted when necessary).