



All Saints' Church, Rettendon

On the 8th February, the three parishes that make up our group – Rettendon, Rawreth and Hullbridge held a party. We were delighted it went so well.

World Day of Prayer On March 1st at 2-30 pm Rettendon hosts the World day of prayer for Rettendon, Rawreth, and Hullbridge. This is a service, which actually includes singing and a bit of acting, has been written by the people of Slovenia, and will be said all over the world on March 1st.

Pancake Day On 5th March it is Pancake Day. In days gone by this is the day when you turned out your cupboards and used only basic ingredients throughout the next six weeks of Lent. Lent is the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness and takes you up to Easter.

The Ash Wednesday service will be held at Hullbridge on 6th March starting at 7-30pm.

Bible Study Group On Mondays at Hullbridge a bible study group led by the Revd Elizabeth Jordan and based on the letter to the Ephesians. The dates are 11th, 18th, & 25th March and 1st, 8th and 15th April.

Lent Devotional Services On Tuesday afternoons from 3 to 4pm there will be a series of devotional services for Lent led by the Revd Brenda Wallace on 12th, 19th & 26th March and 2nd, 9th & 16th April, all held at St Nicholas, Rawreth.

Easter Monday event On a completely different note, on Easter Monday I will have organised my last open day event having retired from that role.

Churchwarden Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Upcoming Elections - 2nd May 2019.

This May we go to the polls to elect members for the Parish and City Councils. Details about these are on the Chelmsford City Council website....

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

If you would like to stand as a Parish, or City, Councillor request a nomination pack now from...

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/>

Once the notices of election are published, which will be by 26th March, you have only until 4pm on the 3rd April to hand your papers into the Civic Centre. An officer will be on hand in the lobby to check them through, but beware - do it as soon as possible as if they are not correctly completed you may have to take them away to correct and you may then run out of time. Don't rely on the post, for the same reason.

Even if you do not want to become a councillor - make sure you are registered to vote now.

Then use your vote on election day.

Garden Notes

Gave a home to a small apple tree some years ago which bears fruit bravely but every spring at its feet are a lot of purple crocus that are now spreading freely. Love the extras that come with gifts. **Mrs. McGregor**



Rettendon Horticultural Society Spring Show - Tuesday, 19th March 6:30 for 7:30pm judging



Special Entry Conditions

- Entries are free and should be submitted in Rettendon Village Hall between 6:30 – 7:30pm.
- A trophy, currently held by Kate Hart, will be awarded to the exhibitor awarded the highest total points (3 points for 1st, 2 for 2nd & 1 for 3rd).
- A rosette is awarded for the best exhibit in show.

Classes - See front page.

Whilst the judge decides who is the best grower, there will be a chance to show off your knowledge with a small quiz. There will also be cake and tea and time for a chat.

Not up to it this time - don't worry, our judge has agreed to show us how to exhibit our flowers for the best effect and to show standard. And we already have a few tips:

- * Angle & poise: daffodil is pointing straight at you, not tilted up or down.
- * The neck is holding the bloom correctly, stem down the middle of the flower.
- * Size & symmetry: size in multi vase are the same, flowers are symmetrical.
- * Staging: Include up to 3 leaves with a single bloom, or 3-5 leaves for multi-blooms. Leaves no higher than the blooms. Stage multi-blooms in the vase at different heights for effect - centre one higher.

And our Spring Talk.....

Ten Tales of the National Trust Tuesday, 9th April - 7:30pm

David Simmonds will be giving a fully illustrated talk entitled *Ten Tales of the National Trust* on Tuesday 9th April. This presentation is a medley made up of ten different tales or sections dealing with varied aspects of the National Trust. These range from his first involvement with the Trust over 50 years ago to the connection between the Tale of Peter Rabbit and the Trust. In one section, he talks about Thomas Hardy and how the threat of an invasion by Napoleon had an effect on both Wessex and Danbury. Another tale concerns the history of the Trust, but it would spoil the talk to give too much away!

There will be tea/coffee and home-made cake available, and, of course, a raffle.

Hazel Dale-Evans, Chairperson, 01245 401538

For further information see our website:

www.essexinfo.net/rettendon-horticultural-society

Julie Gallie

With great sadness we have to announce the very unexpected passing of Julie Gallie, beloved wife of John and his family, such a shock to the village of Battlesbridge, but especially to her mother, Pat.

She was a wonderful lady.

There are plans for a cherry tree to be planted in the village and a seat to be placed on the footpath of the River Crouch where John and Julie use to sit looking over the marshes.

May Julie rest in Peace.

Col's Country Club presents.....

The Thrillbillies

Saturday, 2nd March 8:00 to 11:00pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

(for more information phone 01702 232114)

Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

Special Events

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Spring Flower Show.

Tuesday March 19th 6:30 for 7:30pm

Village Quiz

Friday, 22nd March, 7 for 7:30pm start

Life is getting quite busy here:-

The Exercise, Move and Dance (Keep Fit) is proving a hit and after the half-term break comes back apace on March 1st, 12 noon till 1pm.

Pre-school are busy learning Monday till Thursday in the mornings. If you need any more information contact **Pat on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328**

Knit and Natter get busy 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 - 3:30pm i.e. 6th and 20th March.

Saturday night (the first in the month) hosts a Country and Western Club Night.

The Rettendon Bowls Group are active Monday evenings and sometimes get some fans who go in for a bit of a chat and company.

To book our facility phone Dianne on 01245 400297.

Further information visit the hall website

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

OPPORTUNITIES.....

Have you enquired about Pilates classes? We have heard a few murmurings. Well, Michelle, our keep fit guru, is willing to teach them if there are enough takers. We need to know numbers and preferred times. Please phone 01245 401538 to log your interest.

We also know there are some more crafty people around the village. If you are interested in another afternoon for arts and crafts please let us know. Phone 01245 321554 to put your name down.

Village Hall Management Committee

A few months ago we had a piece about a lost dog notice by 'Stuart' & giving his mobile number. With the passing of time he has either actually lost his dog or got it back.

In each case there are still numerous notices which one assumes he and perhaps his friends liberally placed around the area a few months ago; - Rettendon, Battlesbridge, Woodham Ferrers, West Hanningfield, East Hanningfield, Rawreth etc.

Can Stuart please take some action to remove these notices, whatever the situation ?

Look who is 75 this year and still going strong.....the author Bernard Cornwell on 23rd February. Roger Daltrey, of the Who, on 1st March. Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, on 7th March.

Battlesbridge Matters

I am very pleased to report, two Sundays ago, on the Bell Field, two full games of football were played, which totalled nearly 70 players, refs and linesmen. The reason being, most if not all the surrounding pitches were unplayable due to being waterlogged!

We are proud that our drainage system worked so well, and contrary to the adverse report from Chelmsford, condemning our work, ie. the drains are running in totally the wrong direction, implying the drains are just mole ploughed, etc. and the cost of getting the pitch into a playable condition will cost some £16,000 before a game of football can be played. I still have copies of this misleading report, I dread to think the report, and its commissioner, were trying to make the case that the upper Bell Field is a unviable project, especially as it states that approximately £15,000 plus will be need for annual maintenance. The truth of the matter is that the Bells Field now have a regular income, and the Managing Trustee's will have £5,000 in the bank by the end of the month, and hopefully the North Boundary fence will be nearly finished.

The fund raising dinner at the Royal Tiger, organised by Liz Jones and Friends of the Bell Fields was a resounding success. Nearly 140 residents turned up. The food and the company were super, if not rather noisy, especially when the raffle was being called. Over Two Thousand pounds was raised to go towards the new proposed multi-purpose pavilion. This will be funded by sport England or a similar charity, and part funded by residents. Thank you to every one who supported us. Liz is also working on a summer event on the Bell Field.

The Dart Bus service is still running well. Please let me know of any complaints, praises, or suggestions, and I will pass them on the Manager. They do welcome feed back.

If you know of anyone who is recovering from an illness or who suffers from a disability, and feel they would benefit from a day on the water, or just sitting in the sunshine with a cup of tea, just give me a ring, and we will see if we can help. The Sail Ability Club house is right on the banks of Hanningfield Reservoir. We could also do with a few more on the shore party, helping to launch and rig our boats with instruction. Remember spring is just round the corner. THE OLD SAYING MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION AND GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB, IS QUITE TRUE.

And lastly, I have been campaigning strongly to save the reconstruction of a 150 year old Essex Marsh Barn, at the end of Malting Road, in Battlesbridge. It is in the grounds of Woods Farm. I have been a councillor for nearly 16 years and this is one of the worst planning situations, I have ever come across, to put it mildly I am Very Angry. I will try and protect this wonderful project and the family to the end. The building has been restored to the same dimensions as the old barn, same roof line, brick Plinths etc. The builder took down the old rotting building and plinth to lay the 2 metre footings, requested by building Control. The only thing they did wrong was not to leave part of a wall up. Planning was passed for this building. All of a sudden the building is deemed to be an eyesore and inappropriate in the green belt. There was no ill intent, and now we have lost the appeal. I am planning to take it to the High Court. I petitioned the local residents; they were 100 % in favour for its retention. I am not taking a penny for this action. There does not seem to be any balance of planning policy in the area, and its wrong.....

On a more pleasant note do not forget the annual Daffodil competition in March in the village Hall.

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

Where are we going with this one?

Thursday 2nd May is local election day for Chelmsford City and Rettendon Parish Councils. In both cases the outcome could be that different personalities become involved. In the case of the Parish Council it is understood that solicitors have been instructed to take further action (in the high court) against the current Bell Fields trustees.

Assuming that a new parish councils view is at odds with decisions taken by the current Parish Council – say the understood high court action – why can't the instructed legal action be put on hold for a new parish council to reconsider? Further legal action is a costly exercise and all for what?

A concerned Rettendon resident.

Are you registered to Vote? Residents will by now have received a reminder asking if you are registered to vote. It is only those residents whose names are included on the Electoral Register who can vote for their City and Parish Councillors as well as at any future elections.

To register call 01245 606449 or you can do it on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need your date of birth and national insurance number

No, this is not a political statement but a gentle reminder to register. Whoever you choose to vote for remember that your vote matters, so use it or lose it.

Country Diary

The 14th February has passed; the weather has been fabulous! It has been unusually warm, the sky powder blue punctuated by the vapour trails from the aircraft on their way to distant parts of the world.

Last week we were visited by storm Eric, there was mud, and large puddles everywhere. However the birds know that spring is peeping and have been singing, especially the robin and blackbird accompanied by the tits who have been twittering away. I have also noticed the blackbirds and the robins being a bit aggressive, all signs that mating is taking place.

Today I heard buzzards up in the churchyard over Curry hill.

The daffodils are beginning to burst their buds and the snowdrops are in full bloom. I noticed a patch of winter aconites in a neighbours garden, a brilliant splash of gold to hearten our spirits. The crocus are out and there is always a marvellous display in Chelmsford both in the park near Marks and Spencer and also near to the tennis courts in Admiral's park. The wild plum blossom is also getting ready to flower.

However be warned we got the beast from the East in March last year!

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

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).

St Nicholas Church, Rawreth

Quiz Night - Saturday 6th April - 7 for 7.30pm

to be held in **Rawreth Village Hall Tickets £8**

Tables max. 8 people or come and join a table. Bring your own refreshments, but a light snack will be provided,

To book, contact Heather on 07578471012

Light classical and popular music **Concert**

With **Victor Patterson and Elizabeth Upsher**

Saturday, 30th March at 7:30pm

Vocal, Piano, Organ. £10 including refreshments.

Tickets from 01268 781662

Battlesbridge Free Church

How lovely to see the daffodils braving the frosty mornings to brighten the wintry garden with little patches of yellow. So much today's news seems to match the dull, damp, cold days which this time of year brings. But the daffodils encourage us that the new year is opening out into Spring, renewing our hope for a good year for our troubled world.

On Friday, 1st March, there will be a whole day when groups of Christians throughout the world will pray to God that the way will prevail and that his good will overcome the darkness, fear and depression with which the news can so easily surround us. The World Day of Prayer begins in Samoa and as the day advances, so services will be continuous through the hours, around the World, finishing in American Samoa.

The prayer service is compiled by a group of Christian women from a different country each year and this year's service in our area, which is hosted in turn by St Nicholas church, Rawreth, Battlesbridge Free Church and All Saints' Church, Rettendon, will be at All Saints' at 2pm. Money collected by World Day of Prayer throughout the world reaches out God's goodness to countless organisations for diverse projects; from providing second-hand and new wheel chairs to disabled people in Zambia, providing training in sustainable farming techniques to Sudanese refugees in Uganda, to bringing support and lodging to newly released prisoners in the UK.

Do come and be part of God's prayer chain bringing goodness and hope.

June Edwards

All in a Doctors day

Doctor: 'Now tell me, have you ever had any trouble with diarrhoea?' **Patient:** No only once. **Doctor:** Oh when was that?

Patient: 'When I was at school and I was asked to spell it.'

Patient: 'Doctor, I feel like a pack of cards' **Doctor** 'just sit down there and I will deal with you in a minute.'

Newsletter Donations or Contributions

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Spelling and grammar may be corrected. Any editing will be checked with contributor.

Please send them ASAP via e-mail (RetBatNews@gmail.com), or tel: 01245 321554. Drop paper copy at 55 East Hanningfield Rd, marked for Newsletter.

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