



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ FEBRUARY 2020

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 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th 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
Parish Party	Friday, 7 th February	7 for 7:30pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	The 3 Parishes (HRR)
Children's Tea – followed by.....	Saturday, 8 th February	4:30pm	Rawreth School, Rawreth	The 3 Parishes (HRR)
Church in the Community	Saturday, 8 th February	5pm	Rawreth School, Rawreth	The 3 Parishes (HRR)
Mobile Customer Information and Coffee Morning	Friday, 14 th February	10 – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	Chelmsford City Council All Saints Church, Rettendon
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th February	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council
Horticultural Inter-Societies Quiz	Friday, 28 th February	7 for 7:30pm	Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.

REGULAR EVENTS


Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Bowls (+ Book Swap)	Mondays / Thursdays	7 - 10pm / 2 - 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter at Hayes	Tuesdays	10:30am – 12:00	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Art Club at Hayes	Tuesdays / Thursdays	10:30am – 2pm	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Knit & Natter (+ Book Swap)	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Line Dancing	Fridays	11am – 1pm	Hayes Country Park Club House	Hayes Club
Exercise, Move and Dance	Fridays	12 – 1pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Michelle's Exercise Class
Raise Your Voice	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club

Dates for your Diary

Mobile Customer Information	Friday, 13 th March	10 – 11 am	Hayes Country Park Club House	Chelmsford City Council
Spring Show	Tuesday, 17 th March	6:30 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.

MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25 to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	18 th February 2020
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	14 th February 2020



Col's Country Club
Saturday, 1st February, 8 - 11pm
Longshot - Anniversary dance
 Admission, including door raffle, only £7 for the whole evening.
 Why not treat yourself.
 The complete diary, with contact details, can be seen on the hall boards - inside and out.

Chelmsford City Council Mobile Customer Information (MCIS)

A free service offering help and advice about Council services, such as housing benefit or Council Tax, reporting environmental problems and provide information on leisure, tourism, etc.
Visiting All Saints' Church, Rettendon, on Friday, 14th Feb.
(See Hayes Park News for more detailed information.)

Hullbridge, Rawreth and Rettendon (HRR)
PARISH PARTY Friday 7th February, 7 for 7:30pm
at St Nicholas Church, Church Road, Rawreth
 Party food, drinks and activities. All are invited.
 Come and meet Revd Richard Jordan the Priest in Charge of the three parishes, joined as one large parish family. **Jane Fallows on 01245 400397**



Church in the Community
Saturday, 8th February
 Rawreth School, Rawreth Lane
 (just past Asda car park and the leisure centre in Priory Chase).
 Children's tea: 4:30pm / Service at 5pm
 An event for whole family.
 With refreshments, music, songs, stories, activities and prayer.



For more details go to the website:-
<https://hrr-churches.org.uk/>
 Or phone **Jane Fallows on 01245 400397**

Richard Cannon Charity.

The Parish Council as part of their remit to appoint two trustees to this charity would like residents to nominate suitable residents for these positions. Appointments are for a 4 year term, though trustees may resign within that term.

Please either send their nominations to the clerk (details given) or to one of their Parish Councillors. Nominations to be in by **5pm on Friday, 21st February, 2020.**

Please give a few details as to why the person nominated should be considered.

RPC will keep nominations confidential and only the names of those appointed will become public.

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk
rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

Or in writing to:-
 10 Squirrels Field, Colchester, CO4 5YA

The Charity itself exists to assist any parish resident, young or old who may need specific help towards the cost of 'one off' special items, but not rents, Council tax etc.

The Trust income arises from agricultural land which was left to the benefit of residents in the Rettendon and South Hanningfield parishes.

Rettendon Parish Council

Rettendon Memorial Hall

Our village hall can report that our Book and Jigsaw exchange facility (the Book Room) is now finished and can be accessed via the committee room along the path to the left of the building. The door will be open on:-

Monday Evenings (during Bowls time from 7pm)
1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1:30 to 3:30pm
(Knit & Natter)

And Thursday mornings 9 - 1pm
(during Pre-School term time)

Thanks are due to all contributors to this project who have variously provided: a brand new carpet, four bookshelves, including extra shelves and fixing them to the wall, a complete range of books and some cracking jigsaws, both of which have adults and children's.

The community garden (PYO herbs) is being constructed - again with local input and a small grant - and will ultimately include a seat so residents will be able to choose a book and read it amongst the herbs. We are hopeful of help from the schoolchildren too, to supply plants from cuttings to grow on in the bed.

And, of course, the hall is available for hire for regular events and parties. Preferential rates for Rettendon Parish residents. Just get in touch with our Booking Clerk, **Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297.**

Hall Management Committee

Plea from Many Residents

Rettendon seems to have more than its fair share of dogs however not all dog owners pick up their calling cards which can be a hazard to walkers, push chair pushers and those who need to use walking sticks.



Uncollected dog poo deposits are a serious health hazard that in certain circumstances can lead to children becoming blind.

Our plea to dog owners is get some dog poo bags and use them and, by the way, please don't just throw the used poo bags into people's gardens or hang them up on any nearby hedge. The Parish Council have organised dog bins along the main walking paths which were paid for, including emptying, by your council tax. Please use them or take it home and put it in your own dustbin, again collection paid by your council tax. If any dog bins are missing let the Parish Council know.

Failing to pick up your pets calling cards is an offence against the law with a £75 fine for the first offence and £100 for any subsequent offence.

And further to that plea.....

Several residents of East Hanningfield Road have expressed their dismay in horses leaving their calling cards on the pavement - as per the photograph. This creates far more of a mess than dogs and is dangerous for pedestrians as sometimes it is so bad they have to step into the road to avoid it. Please can riders take care.



You may be unaware of this but it is illegal to do so anyway, as quoted from *The Highway Code Rule 54: You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Laws HA 1835 sect 72 & R (S)A sect 129(5)* (Taken from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-about-animals-47-to-58>)

Compiler: I have been asked to put this in by several residents throughout the village. Most dog walkers and horse riders are law-abiding, but we would ask everyone to....

Please be considerate.

Thank you.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

For your 2020 Diaries - please note:-

17th March - Spring Show

20th June - Coach Trip to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens

11th July - Rettendon Village Show

12th September - Autumn Show

20th September - Coach Trip to Hatfield House

We are not sleeping - this month we meet to consider the Summer show schedule with new classes for flower arranging, cake recipes and items for the children's' classes (inc. cake recipes), so input is welcomed before a March print deadline.

In February we will give the Autumn Show schedule a similar update treatment, as well as tweaking the Spring Show classes.

Our links with the eight other societies in our group offer a valuable exchange of information and 2 events a year.

The first is a QUIZ on 28th February at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall which will raise money for a top class speaker in the autumn, TBA. As this is a Quiz organised by another society it is limited to Horticultural members, with teams of six as usual. We would like to field a few teams, so please telephone me for details. N.B. - Questions may have a horticultural flavour.

Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538

With the New Year you should be receiving your renewal of membership. It remains at £5 a year. If you have not received your letter, or would like to join us for our varied events please get in touch either with the membership secretary, **Beryl Wilkinson, on 01268 766221**, or by contacting me, **Barbara Wright, Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com**, or phone **01245 321554**

Our NEW Website is : <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/> where you can find details of the society, pictures of events, and soon the updated schedules.

Country Diary

We have had a wet and miserable month, grey mornings and early nights. It has not been really cold but the constant rain makes it feel like it. So, I looked up some sayings that appertain to January. "A wet January, a wet spring," "The blackest month of the year is the month of Janiver," "As the day lengthens the cold strengthens." "If the grass do grow in Janiver it grows the worse for it all the year."

So much for all the doom and gloom of the legends. I was surprised that there are quite a lot of well-known poems about January written by well-known 19th century poets.

My spirits were lightened when I recently saw my first snowdrops and only yesterday (15th January) I saw Hazel catkins being buffeted by the wind. I love Snowdrops, I feel that they herald the spring.

Birds tend to flock at this time of the year, crossing fields in search of food. Most of us know about Rooks, Wood Pigeons, and Starlings but I did not know that Sparrows, Finches, and Tits did the same. This may account for the fact that all the little garden birds disappeared from my garden from Christmas onwards. Today (16th January) is the first time since Christmas that I have seen some Sparrows which seem to be fighting to get at the nuts and seeds on the bird table.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

How do snails keep their shells shiny?

They use snail polish!

News From Hayes Park

December was a busy festive month. The club hosted the Salvation Army at the beginning of December for an evening of music and carols. The Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve parties were very well attended by club members and their guests and the club was even open on Christmas Day for residents to come together on this special day so a big thanks to all the volunteers and the club committee (HoGs) who arranged these events.

Some residents also got together and attended a lovely Carol Service at the historic All Saints Church in Rettendon.

On 10th January, the club received its first visit from the **Chelmsford City Council Mobile Customer Information Service** which proved a great success and was very well attended. The visits will continue to take place every two months on the second Friday of the month and our next visit is due on 13 March. However, the visit to our club originally scheduled for 8 May has had to be cancelled as this is now a Bank Holiday Friday to coincide with the VE Day celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

On the alternate months in between the Information Service will be attending Rettendon All Saints Church in conjunction with their coffee mornings which take place weekly on a Friday and are open to all.

The Information Service can help residents find out how to get help with housing benefit and / or Council Tax. They also provide help with recycling and local issues and can even provide replacement refuse sacks for card / paper recycling.

2020 looks set to be an exciting year for Hayes Country Park with a new club house planned and 17 new homes already delivered on site at the time of writing which brings the number of park homes here to over the 300 mark with more new homes planned.

Finally, just a reminder to residents that Angie's Chip van visits Hayes Park on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5pm down by the club. I for one try not to miss her visits as I love the freshly cooked cod and chips!

Jim Knight

Raise Your Voice Battlesbridge Community Choir.....
is looking for new members !

If you love to sing and have always wanted to try a local choir then now is your chance. This is a great time of year to start and you will be made very welcome . You do not need to be a great singer at all. Please do not be shy !

The choir will have been running for three years in March and it has been a great success. We meet every Friday 7-8.30 pm (in term time) in the Battlesbridge Church Hall. We sing all sorts of contemporary music , and have lots of laughs along the way . We have performed six concerts in Battlesbridge and hoping to branch out further in the future.

Join us for a free taster session one Friday !

More info www.novahughes.com/Choir

Pre-School at Rettendon Memorial hall

Everyone enjoyed their Xmas break but are all back ready for the new year. Our xmas show "Dreaming" went really well and all the children did us proud.

We have had 3 new starters and they have settled in well but we still have spaces, so if you have a 2, 3 or 4 year old that you want to start pre-school contact **Pat on 07762 909351**



ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

We welcome you all to a new year and a new decade and hope you can once again support us.

We are trying out some new ideas with the hope that we can attract a more diverse mix of people to come to church or if not to church to a service in the community. The present idea is to have a coming together and using St Nicholas primary school, Rawreth, as the venue for our Church in the Community service. Rawreth School is located just off Rawreth Lane, past Asda car park and the leisure centre in Priory Chase. Our first service was held on Saturday 18th January at 5-00pm and preceded by a children's tea at 4-30.

Yes, I do realise that the R&B newsletter was not available until after our first service of the New Year has taken place but felt you should know that we are trying to reach out to a wider audience. There were refreshments, music, songs, stories, activities and prayer. Our second service is planned to take place at Rawreth School on Saturday February 8th at 5-00pm and preceded by a children's tea at 4-30pm. If you want more details about our Saturday services information can be found on the web at

<https://hrr-churches.org.uk/>

I personally feel it is important to learn about Jesus and his work. What about you? If asked that question I would answer that the whole of our country's way of life and laws have a basis in Christianity. I have other reasons as well but this is not the place to discuss them.

A Parish party will be held on Friday 7th February at St Nicholas Church, Church Road, Rawreth at 7 for 7-30pm, to which all are invited. There will be party food, drinks and activities. Some of you may not know that the three parishes of Rettendon, Rawreth and Hullbridge are joined as one larger parish with Revd Richard Jordan the Priest in Charge. We have other priests working in our parish on a voluntary basis.

Jane Fallows Churchwarden on 01245 400394

Website: <https://hrr-churches.org.uk/>

Rettendon Memorial Hall

Our activities continue apace with:-

Pre-School - Mondays - Thursdays in the mornings.

Knit & Natter - back to our usual we are still exploring options for more time as the people who come seem to be enjoying themselves.

Bowls - still getting the exercise whilst having fun, though I did notice it is a bit competitive! Why not join them? Monday evenings and most Thursday afternoons.

Our Exercise, Move and Dance, i.e. Keep Fit, classes were a bit slow after Christmas - too much good food - but we are improving again, and moving in time with each other and with the music - Thank Goodness! Michelle does wonders with all of us, of all abilities, why not come along for a session and see how you like it? Basic school term times and on Fridays at 12 during Term Times.

Hopefully you will receive this before the 1st of the month - and Col's Country Club as per advert on front page. 2020 diary is on the boards - outside and inside the hall.

Hall Management Committee

What do you call a flying policeman? A heli-copper.

Why did the tightrope walker visit his bank?

To check his balance.

Why did the doughnut maker sell his shop?

He got fed up with the hole business.

How do you turn a duck into a singer?

You cook it in the oven until it's Bill Withers!



Battlesbridge Matters

I am so pleased the evenings are getting slightly lighter. Thank heavens! I find the dark, long nights depressing. Spring daffodils are just round the corner - Yippee - and the breathe of summer sun - warmth and falling asleep in a deck chair with an empty glass of red wine, having only 1 page of a good book left to read, I normally only dream of nice things!

Unblocked the main cast iron sluice flap to prevent the tides from flooding Maltings Road. Purchased two solar lights for the two bus shelters in Battlesbridge. They appear to work very well. I have taken on the task of cleaning the 3 bus shelters in the village, with the help of my grandson, Jonathon. He is now practising a song for the annual barbecue on the Bell Fields in July. Date to be announced.

More otter sightings on the river: two in the small creek at the end of Maltings Road, and one on Friday morning on the banks of the small lake, running up to the Fire Place Centre. No dead fish reported yet!

Best Kept Village - I am going to call a meeting in February to discuss a master plan to win it for Battlesbridge. Just to enter I have already purchased the flower boxes for the bridge. I will be asking Rettendon Horticultural Society for advice.

I totally forgot to mention in the last edition we do not just have 2 wonderful riverside pubs: The Barge and the Hawk, we also have the Green Bottle in the Maltings Antique centre. And very pleasant it is too.

Meadow Road and South View still remain untouched for 5 years, whilst Chalk Street, Maltings Road and Buckhatch Lane look wonderful. Lets hope this year will see some action as we have new blood trying to sort the parish. Good luck to them.

Please remember if you hear anyone in difficulties in Rettendon let me, Ron Fallows or Sarah Copsey know. All calls will be treated with absolute confidence.

And finally, Winston Churchill's favourite pub "The White Horse" at Blenheim, is up for sale. It is owned by Greene King and has a large car park, very similar to our own Bell Public House. The residents have managed to get it registered as a vital asset to the community, to ward off redevelopment. I feel the residents of Rettendon should do the same to protect the Rettendon Bell Public House too. It is a wonderful inn and historic landmark.

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

Garden Notes

My xmas Amaryllis bulb produced leaves and I panicked. Thought they grew flowers first. Not always so, said a friend, so I waited and Lo there appeared not one but two flower shoots, now 2 feet tall. Lost the box, but think it is white.

Thank you friend - the suspense of this plant is killing me!
Mrs. McGregor

Newsletter Contributions and Donations

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 to 55 East Hanningfield Road. Mark for Newsletter.

Donations for the continuation of publishing the newsletter will be received with many thanks with the proviso no content will be altered for their benefit. Just use the contact details to ask.

GDPR is applied to all donations.

For an email copy of this newsletter email: 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 Newsletter Organisation, though spelling and grammar may be corrected.

Battlesbridge Free Church

Welcome to 2020! A Happy New Year!



We can set out in hope for this beginning of a new decade. There are storm clouds of wars and turmoil in the Middle East, there is the grave evidence of global warming shown vividly in the burning of a large area of Australia and weird and extreme weather patterns emerging. But, look around! There is still a world of beauty in plants, animals and wonderful landscapes. Above all, there is still the joy of living. Not of wealth or being able to have, have, have, but of the warmth of friendship, the love of parents for children, the generosity of those who give up time and energy for charities and neighbours in need. Wherever there is caring, compassion, a kindly smile or word, endeavouring for others, striving to conserve our natural surroundings, everything good and positive - this is of God, whether we acknowledge or realise it as such or not. There is nothing good and positive which is not the spirit of Almighty God, the spirit of goodness and love. The negatives of and evils of life are from a God and human-hating spirit of malevolence. We are given the free will to choose which spirit to follow. God's only rule is that we try and treat all those with whom we come in contact, with as much care and consideration as we expect and wish for ourselves. He sent his Son, Jesus, in human form, to show us The Way. With Christianity as the Nation's cultural heritage, the majority of its citizens, do still subscribe to this way of life. So this is our hope for 2020. Let God continue to rule - OK!

About fifteen young people enacted the Nativity of Christ on December 22nd, and we welcomed a church full of parents and friends.

The Art group, which meets at 2pm on Wednesday afternoons, welcomes anyone who may not necessarily wish to take up an art or craft, but who might enjoy an afternoon of companionship over a cup of tea or coffee.

June Edwards

From our special correspondent.....

A recent occurrence in the parish may be of interest to others should they find themselves in a similar situation. A true-life story, which recently happened to a valued resident of the parish.

Two pigs ambling down Church Chase towards Main Road confronted the local resident out on his GT model three-wheeled electric buggy. Being a person of concern for the safety of all animals he attempted to redirect the pigs back towards the farm but without much co-operation from the two pigs enjoying their new found freedom plus the large muddy puddles and a very slippery road surface. Manoeuvring the buggy therefore had its problems. Unfortunately for our local resident one pig was more persistent than its mate and continued heading towards Main Road.

Our intrepid buggy driver in his desire to steer the pigs to safety attempted a skid turn to head off the escaping porker, however one of the larger muddy puddles became a temporary distraction to our intrepid buggy driver. The pigs looked on at our buggy driver who by this time was feeling a bit conspicuous sat in the mud after attempting his skid turn didn't quite come off when the pigs started to make a chorus of quick grunting noises which (according to the Farmer and Stockbreeder publication) are an expression of pig laughter.

At this precise moment, two local residents who happened to be visiting the church (later understood to be well versed in all matters agricultural) saw the driver in distress in the mud and quickly went to his aid helping him back onto the buggy for a quick journey home. Whilst all this was happening, the two merry pigs went off home by another route. Unfortunately, there is no information whether or not the two adventurous porkers actually returned home to their sty and whether or not they got the chop for their escapades.

Compiler's note: Our correspondent failed to have his camera, notebook and pen with him therefore was unable to record the event in more detail or the names of the pigs (or the people).