



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ MARCH 2020

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 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 18<sup>th</sup> of the month

| <b>BATTLESBRIDGE AND RETTENDON EVENTS</b>               |  |                                       |   |                                    |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| EVENT   | DATE / DAY                                   | TIME                                  | VENUE   | ORGANISATION                       |
| World Day of Prayer                                     | Friday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March                | 2pm                                   | St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth  | The 3 Parishes (HRR)               |
| C & W with John Douglas                                 | Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March              | 8pm – 11pm                            | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Col's Country Club                 |
| Mobile Customer Information                             | Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March               | 10:00 – 11:00am                       | Hayes Park Club House   | Chelmsford City Council            |
| Rettendon Survey Workshop                               | Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March               | 10:30am – 1:30pm                      | Hayes Park Club House   | Rettendon Parish Council           |
| Spring Flower Show                                      | Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March              | 6:30 for 7:30pm                       | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon Horticultural Soc.       |
| Rettendon Quiz  | Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March               | 7 for 7:30pm                          | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon & Battlesbridge News     |
| Rettendon Survey Workshop                               | Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March             | 10:00am – 1:00pm                      | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon Parish Council           |
| Rettendon Survey Workshop                               | Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March             | 2:00pm – 5:00pm                       | Battlesbridge Church Hall   | Rettendon Parish Council           |
| Church in the Community                                 | Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March             | 5pm                                   | Rawreth School, Rawreth   | The 3 Parishes (HRR)               |
| Mothering Sunday  | Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March               | 11:15am                               | All Saints' Church, Rettendon                                       |                                    |
| PMRGCA Meeting  | Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March               | 2pm                                   | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Polymyalgia & Giant Cell Arteritis |
| Parish Council Meeting                                  | Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March              | 7 for 7:30pm                          | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon Parish Council           |
| <b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>                                   |  |                                       |   |                                    |
| 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 Exchange)                                 | Mondays / Thursdays                          | 7 - 10pm / 2 - 4pm                    | Rettendon Memorial Hall   |                                    |
| Knit and Natter at Hayes                                | Tuesdays                                     | 10:30am – 12:00                       | Hayes Park Club House   | Hayes Park Club House              |
| Art Club at Hayes                                       | Tuesdays/Thursdays                           | 10:30am – 2pm                         | Hayes Park Club House   | Hayes Park Club House              |
| Knit and Natter (+ Book Ex)                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 at Hayes                                   | Fridays                                      | 11am – 1pm                            | Hayes Park Club House   | Hayes Park Club House              |
| 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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in month            | 8pm – 11pm                            | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Col's Country Club                 |
| <b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>                             |  |                                       |   |                                    |
| Easter Services   | Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11am / 11:15am                        | Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon            |                                    |
| Easter Monday Open Day                                  | Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> April               | 10:30am – 3:30pm                      | All Saints Church, Rettendon  |                                    |
| Marketing New Plant Varieties                           | Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April              | 7:30pm                                | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon Horticultural Soc.       |
| Battlesbridge Quiz                                      | Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April             | 7 for 7:30pm                          | Battlesbridge Free Church   |                                    |
| Spring Fayre  | Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April             | 10am – 12:00                          | Battlesbridge Free Church   |                                    |
| Parish Council Meeting                                  | Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April              | 7 for 7:30pm                          | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Rettendon Parish Council           |
| VE75 Day Church Coffee +                                | Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May                  | 10am – 1pm                            | All Saints Church, Rettendon  |                                    |
| VE75 Day Celebrations                                   | Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May                | From 10am                             | Rettendon Memorial Hall Celebrations                                |                                    |
| <b>MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits</b> |  |                                       |   |                                    |
| South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close        | Tuesday                                      | 12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm | 10 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 21 <sup>st</sup> April |                                    |
| Goose Cottages  | Friday                                       | 9:40am to 10:10am                     | 6 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 17 <sup>th</sup> April  |                                    |

**RETTENDON QUIZ**  
**FRIDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**7 for 7:30pm start**  
 Rettendon Memorial Village Hall  
*Fun and laughter for all*  
 £5 per person, teams of 6  
*Raffle, tea and coffee available.*  
*Bring your own nibbles and drink*  
 Book a table with Hazel, our quiz mistress,  
 on 01245 401538

In aid of Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter - an independent, non-profit making, organisation giving you the news of your Parish!  
 Still delivered to your door for free by over 30 volunteers.  
 Funded by residents and businesses in the Parish.

**Rettendon Horticultural Society**  
**Spring Show Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Rettendon Memorial Village Hall**  
**Entries 6:30 for 7:30pm judging**  
**Classes for daffodils, all shapes and sizes, spring flowers and a fun class for plants not usually in flower**  
**More details inside.....**

**PARISH SURVEY – WORKSHOPS**

As part of our continued aim to improve our Parish we are planning a Parish Survey. Your experience and opinion matter. So, in preparation, we are holding 3 informal drop-in workshops. We invite your ideas and thoughts on matters such as:

**Transport, Open Spaces, Local Amenities, Broadband and Communication (eg. Social Media, Village Newsletter, Websites), Education, Our Environment, Highways and Footpaths, Housing, Social and Leisure, Bus Shelters, Activities & Local Groups, Security, Policing, Lighting and much more.**

|                              |                        |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Hayes – Country Club         | 15 <sup>th</sup> March | 10.30pm to 1.30pm |
| Rettendon - Village Hall     | 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 10am to 1pm       |
| Battlesbridge – Village Hall | 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 2pm to 5pm        |

Please come along and share your ideas, suggestions and thoughts. This is also an opportunity to learn more about this Parish Council Initiative, what goes on in the Parish, and to meet some of the Parish Councillors.

**This is your chance to help make a difference!**



# 'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition



**Ends 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020!**

**Win up to £1000 for your Village Hall and £500 for the photographer!**

**Submit Your Entry & Vote For Others.**

**Open to ALL RURAL UK Village & Community Halls.  
Entry is FREE. No purchase necessary.**

**Details of prizes, theme and entry dates are in the RULES available from our Facebook page:**

<https://facebook.com/AlliedWestminster>

**AND on our website detailing free rebuild valuations:**

<https://villagehallsurvey.com>

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**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON** is over 1000 years old. I don't mean the building but before that as well, which means we have had a Christian presence in our village community all that time. However, now this village is struggling with the lack of younger people in our area, as well as that they are not being given the knowledge, nor encouragement to find out, about the Christian way of life.

What can we do about it? Please tell me.

We have introduced a new idea called 'The church in the community', which takes place at Rawreth school once a month on a Saturday with the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 5pm. We however need to tweak the idea so we can attract a wider age group.

All Saints' still supports HARP, the charity that helps the homeless in Southend. We take long life food products, clothing, and kitchen utensils to HARP about every six weeks. We also take used stamps, old spectacles, and unwanted mobile phones to be recycled into usable products or for fundraising by local charities. Please help us to be environmentally friendly with our used or unwanted products.

By the way, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March we will hold a Mothering Sunday service, at 11:15am. A service without communion – a family friendly service.

Finally the church will be open on Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Put this in your diary.

**Jane Fallows Churchwarden on 01245 400394**

## News from Hayes Park

Unfortunately, at the end of January, the Park suffered its first spate of burglaries in 10 years which affected three properties on the same night while the owners were all away.

Following those burglaries, Parish Councillor Dave Philips and I met with the Park managers, Michelle and Howard, when it was agreed that the Parish Council's contractors, S-Type Security, can make random night-time visits to Hayes and you should now be seeing their vehicles patrolling the Park on a fairly regular basis.

The second access road was sealed off by Park staff as this is where it is thought the intruders gained access (on foot) thus avoiding the CCTV cameras. At the owners' request, the police have also been invited to include Hayes in their routine patrols and the police authority have confirmed they will do so.

The owners have said they would be willing to supply high-vis jackets to any residents' groups that would be willing to carry out random "patrols".

In addition, the Parish Council is currently advertising for a Community Special Constable who will also be able to patrol Hayes Park as well as Battlesbridge and Rettendon villages.

By tightening security on the Park in the way we have, it is hoped that the threat of such incidents recurring can be avoided.

Thanks must go to Hayes resident, Marilyn Hill, who quickly arranged for the Essex Watch Liaison Officer, Terry Fowles, to give a presentation on how best to protect our homes. A seminar took place at the Hayes Clubhouse on 17 February 2020, which was very well attended, and a lot of useful information was provided by Terry that will help us make our homes more secure. The Parish Council hopes to arrange something similar for the residents of Rettendon & Battlesbridge.

**Jim Knight**

## Update on the Bell Fields Issue - still ongoing.....

The newsletter has purposely refrained from printing any opinions on the Bell Fields dispute, since the issue is contentious. However there have been several requests for information. As the organisation is endeavouring to remain neutral we will continue not to print any opinions. However so the residents are kept informed we will be printing facts we believe the Parish should know and for which we have proof.

We are limiting our remarks in this edition since we are aware of a mediation meeting agreed on at the Parish Council meeting on the 24th September, 2019 (by a majority of 5 to 2) and which has finally been arranged.

As background there are 2 Bell Field Charities: the Lower Bell Field (charity no. 271479) and the Upper Bell Field (charity no. 271480).

The Lower Bell Field is for allotments for the poor. In the past vegetable allotments were tried, but the ground is so claggy they fell into disuse. It is now leased for grazing of cattle or sheep by local residents.

The Upper Bell Field is for exercise and recreational use.

At no time has the Upper Bell Field been off limits to any resident. The field continues to be used by residents for dog walking, hawk flying, ball games, etc., and children's parties, barbecues, and picnics held by residents.

A local football club, which has several Parish residents as players, has leased the field for use. One of the stipulations is that the club keeps the field in good order - meaning there are no contractors' fees to pay out for this service.

We will update on this issue when there is news.

**Barbara Wright, compiler.**

### Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

We can now report that our new venture - The Book Exchange facility - has shown signs of frequent usage. The stock of books (and jigsaw puzzles) keep moving about.

If you find yourself in the hall do pop into the Book Room to have a look while you are there. Use on the basis of exchange - bring one and take one, there is no charge.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our **ACTIVITY PROGRAMME** continues apace.

Little people start with **PRE-SCHOOL** 9am - 1pm, Monday till Thursdays during term time. Phone Pat for more information on 07762 909351 or 01245 401328.

**BOWLS** - short mat type - but quite competitive on occasion - play Monday evenings from 7pm and some Thursdays from 2pm.

Tuesday evenings are shared by the **PARISH COUNCIL** (usually last Tuesday in the month, but check on the noticeboard for agenda on the previous Friday) and **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** - see separate entry here.

Wednesday **KNIT & NATTER** is twice a month - see diary. This is a choc and biscuit share event after Christmas we find, but many projects abound.

Fridays is our **EXERCISE CLASS** with Michelle, who cares for each item of strength and frailty for our benefit. We get stronger and more flexible as a consequence, and she never tells us off!

Term starts again on 28th February and goes through to 3rd April. No class on 10th April (Easter) and we start again on 17th April.

Why not try it - Michelle caters her style for everyone with seated, standing, stretch and tone all in the same class. Take it at your own pace and own fitness. We have fun, lots of laughs and smiles galore! For info talk to **Michelle on 07845 494644**.

1st Saturday of the month - 7th March - **COL'S COUNTRY CLUB** welcomes John Douglas with his trusty guitar. £7 with door raffle. Doors open 7pm. Music, dancing, food and bring your own drink. Raffle. More information from Colin on 01702 232114.

### **Hall Management Committee**

### **Country Diary**

I love snowdrops – heralds of the spring to come. I had planned to visit one of the iconic gardens for snowdrops last week but the weather and an unexpected meeting clashed with my plans. The bad weather has not affected the snowdrops too much but the daffodils have been battered by the wind. This is not unsurprising as they are taller with softer stems than many other plants.

Our area seems to have fared better than the west and the north during the recent storms, though some people have had some lucky escapes with falling trees and branches.

“The wind doth blow and we shall have snow” the old saying goes but no sign of that yet. This has not put off the birds singing, especially the robins and tits. February 14<sup>th</sup> as we all know is Valentine’s Day but legend has it that it is the time that birds mate. This does not include pigeons and doves as they mate all year round.

The wild cherry and the sloe blossom is flowering freely – a little too early I fear. March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb – I again think that this saying has been re-enacted a fortnight early. **Jane Fallows 01245 400394**



Are you a resident of **RETTENDON** and **BATTLESBRIDGE**

Are you organising an event within the Parish to celebrate **VE DAY?**

The Parish council has made available funds to help with local events.

Please contact our Parish Council Clerk,  
**Katherine Kane**, 07811 254163  
[rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com)

Please return application forms by **20th March**

### **Rettendon Horticultural Society**

A New Year and the flowers are here again with our **SPRING FLOWER SHOW**. Tuesday March 17th in the Village Hall. 6:30pm set up for entries and 7:30pm for judging. Our classes are open to all and here is your chance to enter and to view a grand display at no charge to you at all!

#### **CLASSES:-**

1. One long trumpet daffodil bloom on one stem (trumpet as long or longer than the petals)
2. One short trumpet daffodil bloom on one stem (trumpet shorter than the petals)
3. One double daffodil bloom on one stem (doubled petals)
4. Two or more daffodil blooms on one stem
5. Three daffodil stems same variety
6. Three daffodil stems any variety mixed or matched
7. Three stems miniature daffodils
8. Pot of growing spring flowers, any variety
9. Arrangement of spring flowers in a container judged for effect
10. Fun class – anything not normally in bloom at this time of year (not judged)



Help will be on hand to assist entry display! There is a small charge for refreshments, and we will be having a raffle to offset the hire of the Hall.

Our **talk on Tuesday, 14th April** will be of interest to all gardeners - both domestic and commercial.

Nigel Judd of Genesis Plants, Maldon, will expound knowledge on “Marketing new Plant Varieties”. The work involved in this field is extensive and should be intriguing. So note the date now.

**Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538**

For more information and to join please contact:-  
Barbara Wright, secretary

**Secretary email:** [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/>

Heard on the radio: “A visitor at a zoo spotted a loaf in a cage. It was bred in captivity”

What is furry and minty?

A polo bear!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the party? He had no body to go with!

What kind of paper likes music?

Rapping paper



## VE DAY 75th Anniversary

The Newsletter will be doing a special **MAY** edition for **VE75**. Have you any photos, memories or poems of VE day itself, or of the 50th Anniversary, for us to include? The hall would like to use them too!

Contact Barbara Wright 01245 321554, or email [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com)

### Are you affected by Polymyalgia and/or Giant Cell Arteritis?

Come along to Chelmsford/Southend Group Meeting on **Monday, 30th March, at 2pm, at Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP).**

Groups are a really good opportunity to meet, share with others and make friends who understand how you feel.

Tea and coffee will be available during the afternoon.

£4 will be collected on entry to contribute to the cost of the hall hire and refreshments.

Contact **Pat Fedi 07733362373**  
email [southend@pmrgca.org.uk](mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk)

### Battlesbridge Matters

Is it me, but does spring seems to be arriving earlier this year?

Four weeks ago the first of our resident river birds flew in: 6 Canadian geese landed outside our living room. The next day 2 pairs of tufted ducks (golden eyes) landed, followed by a pair of swans. I am not sure if they are the same ones every year, but they look the same. We certainly hope they are, as we feel they are part of our family!

The two Great Gales which have swept through the Country causing havoc: Atiyah, the 1st Gale, coincided with the highest tides of the year. For the two critical night tides I keep a flood watch for 4 hours each night. Fortunately I can contact Walton-on-the-Naze Coast Guard as high water there is approximately 1 hour earlier, which is a good indicator of levels. The system is to ring certain telephone numbers in the village, let off a warning signal, start to move cars, etc., to nearby higher ground, e.g. Hawk Hill, alert if needed the Village Hall to put those from the boats, and if needed evacuate and comfort the infirm and the elderly. Lucky Battlesbridge is a small community, but unfortunately the sea defences on the South bank (Rawreth) is approximately 18" lower than the North bank in Rettendon!!! And, of course, liaise with the authorities: Police and Coast Guard at South Woodham Ferrers.

Watching "Country File" dealing with moles. When I joined Rettendon Parish Council, which seems a long time ago, we had a very serious problem with moles on the Upper Bell Field. The Parish Council at the time secured the services of a mole controller who, on a number of sessions, gassed the runs with cyanide, of which some of us were not in favour, but it had to be done. They started to reappear but as soon as the field was drained, and football started to be played, they virtually disappeared. I feel the noise and pressure of all those studded football boots sent them packing.

In September there are moves afoot for a really good concert for the residents of Rettendon to be held in the Parish Church.

Yours 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 to 55 East Hanningfield Road. Mark for Newsletter.

### Battlesbridge Free Church



Such a short time ago we faced a complete new year of clean new days to fill with our everyday living. Along with the many new experiences to face, there are the recognisable landmarks which give shape and structure to our year. One of these is in the World Day of Prayer. This year's service has been compiled by Christian women in Zimbabwe. Our three local churches take turns to host this event which takes place on the first Friday in March, this year, 6th March. Last year, All Saints', Rettendon, was the host church and this year will be the turn of St Nicholas', Rawreth, then in 2021 it will be the turn of Battlesbridge Free Church to be host. On each occasion members of each church join together taking part as readers, etc.

Each year effort is made to convey the feeling of the country and people who have drawn up the service of prayer, thoughts and hymns. Zimbabwe has had a fairly bumpy ride both during and after independence from colonial rule. With 16 official languages and many racial groups, this large country has many problems. The group of Christian women writing this year's service invite groups of Christians throughout the world to join them in this service of prayer and hope for reconciliation and harmony in place of the turbulent unrest which has plagued the country. The theme is "Arise, take up your mat and walk". Don't just accept the status quo, whatever it may be in your life, but be prepared, with God's help, to allow your life to face in a new, positive direction.

We shall meet for this year's World Day of Prayer at St Nicholas' Church, Rawreth, on March 6th at 2pm. Do come if you possibly can. You will be part of a great prayer chain "encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 36 hours later, back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa."

In March our Youth Group plans an evening meal for parents and friends in aid of a charity of their choice. The Art group are inviting those who do not necessarily wish to take up art or craft, but who would enjoy an afternoon of companionship over a cup of tea or coffee. The group meets on Wednesdays at 2pm.

June Edwards

### Garden Notes

Magpies on the fat balls - one pecking and the mate gleaning bits on the ground. Bluetit watches from the nearby bush. Its breakfast is being demolished. Stay put little bluetit or you will be breakfast too!

Such is life. Mrs. McGregor

### Rettendon Horticultural Society

#### Chrysanthemums for Autumn Show

We still have a few pots of chrysanthemums for growing on. BUT we should have told you what to do in February, so.....

**February** - Set up heated propagator and start taking strong healthy cuttings. No point propagating from weak stock. Spray with cold tap water to keep them fresh until they are rooted. After about 3 weeks new growth should be apparent and the cuttings start to look healthy.

**March** - When the cuttings are rooted pot into 3.5 inch pots. John Innes no 2 is ok at this stage. Keep checking for aphids.

For plants or more information contact: **Barbara Wright, secretary, on 01245 321554 or [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com), or website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/>**

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact

[RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com)

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