



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON

UNFORTUNATELY CHURCH SERVICES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AT ALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHURCHES BY ORDER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THERE WILL BE NONE OF THE USUAL EVENTS AT THE CHURCH - including the Easter Open day - until further notice.

Please see the website

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

for updates, or the newsletter who will endeavour to keep people informed.

Jane Fallows Churchwarden on 01245 400394

PARISH SURVEY

Obviously this is on hold.

However if you wish to make comments or suggestions about things in the Parish: Transport, Highways, Footpaths, Lighting, Amenities, Activities, Communication, Broadband Social groups and clubs, Education, Public spaces and buildings, in any area - e.g. Hayes Park, Woodham Road, etc.,

please email the following Parish Councillors:

sandiecotteerpc@outlook.com

babarawrightrpc@gmail.com

james.knight93@yahoo.co.uk

davidphillipsfour@yahoo.co.uk

Garden Notes

Spring is bounding. Birds a twitter, and we are experiencing a change of life.

Dig for Britain and keep fit.

Mrs. McGregor

Light-heartedly! from Tim Vine.....

I was having dinner with chess champion Gary Kasparov and we had a black and white check tablecloth. It took him 2 hours to pass the salt.

He said "you remind me of a pepper pot." I said "I'll take that as a condiment."

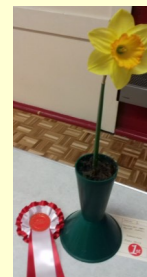
There's a bit of a problem with the scenery, but I'm sure it will all blow over.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

SPRING SHOW REPORT



The show must go on - so it did - and what a wonderful showing of daffodils we had. As per last year the man of the moment was John Bruty who took away the Silver Salver for the most points in the show. He also took away the coveted Rosette for the best in show.



It was not all one-sided though as there were several people who had firsts, with some very fine specimens, and the floral displays of



spring flowers were wonderful.

During the judging the participants took part in a very hard quiz, only 25 questions, and not all horticultural. Everyone managed to answer some of the questions, even though they were rather varied and perhaps a little obscure.

Although there is usually a tea-break in the proceedings, this was rather a do-it-yourself affair on this occasion, though everyone enjoyed the home-made cakes on offer. (including the judge)

Our judge was delighted with our display and said it was the best quality show he had seen for a while.

We look forward to being able to do this again next year.

Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538

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

Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Battlesbridge Free Church Events

With deep regret we have to announce that all events have had to be cancelled due to the Corona virus.

This includes the April Quiz and the Spring Fayre.

HOWEVER, a volunteer will be opening the church every Sunday between the hours of 11am till 12 noon, for which we thank them.
Tony Beck

Mobile Library - dates according to website

Salforal Close	31 March, 21st April, 12th May
South Hanningfield	31 March, 21st April, 12th May
Goose Cottages	27th March, 17th April, 8th May

Battlesbridge Free Church

Like Oliver Hardy used to say "Here's another fine mess you've got me into". Our God must be frustrated, to say the least, over the widespread falling away of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Almighty God, during the last few decades. Only a hundred years ago our part of the world used to be called Christendom. Like George Fredrick Handel, I know that me Redeemer liveth, along with millions worldwide. How should I or any of us know why this particular present scourge is devastating normal life. All we can do is pray that our leaders will be wisely led and that we can do our very best to follow the current advice and heed the plea that we look out for each other and especially those on the fringes of our erstwhile comfortable existences.



On a trip to the Supermarket this morning I was shocked at the empty shelves. Will those with giant stockpiles check the "best before" date labels in a week or two and then discard many items? We have repeatedly been informed that such panic buying is not necessary. Thank goodness we had rationing during the war so that there were fair shares for all. Thoughtless selfishness is a sad way to prepare for what may be a long haul before the present health threat is over. There is so much goodness in most people and it is this spirit of togetherness which will see us safely through. Mankind did not plan to upset the balance of climate gasses or pollute the oceans with plastic, the damage to wildlife, ecosystems, loss of rain forest to provide vast spaces for Palm Olive plantation was not appreciated as global harm. We can only pray for forgiveness and that God in his mercy may provide those scientists with insight and knowledge to redress the balance. We also pray fervently that those researchers working frantically for a vaccine to halt this Corona scourge will soon find the breakthrough they need.

I would like to wish all bowling, horticulturalists and Church friends from Battlesbridge, Rettendon, Rawreth and Runwell all the very best and God's blessing during these coming months. Hope all can be resumed in the Autumn.
June Edwards



VE DAY 75th Anniversary

Unfortunately all events are now postponed or cancelled.

We will hope to put some of these on again when this present emergency has passed.
Thank you to everyone who has contributed anything to these events so far.

Why did the scarecrow get a promotion? Because he was outstanding in his field!
What do you call a letter sent up the chimney at Christmas? Blackmail!
What do you call happy mushrooms? Fun guys!



RETTENDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FORWARD PLANNING

We are looking into doing a pre-order list for members to get plants in May. Special arrangements will be in force and members informed.

Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538

Chrysanthemum Growing Instructions.

Continuing our growing programme for Autumn Show plants

April : If plants are outgrowing their pots move up to 5 inch pots and move them into a cold frame if it's not too cold. Some cultivars will need stopping (pinching out) towards the end of the month.

May : Prepare the ground. Dig in compost/manure and give a dressing of a general purpose fertilizer. Plan the plot and put in canes. Plant and tie in the plants to the cane. Complete stopping and select the breaks (shoots) to grow on. Aim for 3 good strong breaks per plant. Feed fortnightly with high nitrogen feed. Recommended is Chrysanthemum Direct feed as it is very easy to use and very effective.

<https://www.chrysanthemumsdirect.co.uk/>

June : Watch out for pests and keep a general eye on the progress of the plants. Tie into canes. Leaf miner can be a problem. Continue to feed fortnightly.

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

Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Missing Cat.

Missing since Saturday 7th March 2020. Last seen Rettendon Place towards Meadow Road.

12 year old cat, all black, lump on right shoulder. – no photo. He is chipped.

Dennis 07535 947776

Battlesbridge Matters

Battlesbridge and the whole of Rettendon is of great concern in these very troubled time due to the spread of coronavirus (covid-19). I have had some green cards printed for the elderly residents to put in their front window. If in need of assistance, even if you are at odds with your neighbour, put everything to one side, we must support each other.

Supplies of basic food are very important; for bread, milk, tea veg and newspapers I have been informed a grocery family called Hemmings on 01268 521984 make regular daily deliveries to Rettendon or contact ASDA online deliveries Tel 08009520101

Keep your distance from others! Or at least 6ft. Have groceries and other deliveries left on your door step & post through the letter box and not hand-to-hand.

I am not doing this as a councillor just as a very concerned resident of the area. It's definitely not time to discuss the Bell Fields etc. We must all pull on the same rope and help each other the best we can.

If all else fails ring 01268 768282.

Let us hope that the warmer weather will help or better still a working vaccine comes to fruition quickly.

I must add this is just one line of help there is also the British Red Cross or even the Richard Cannon Trust. 01245 400394

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

VE DAY 75th Anniversary

The Newsletter will continue to collect items for a special edition for **VE75**. However, the edition may be postponed if we are unable to get it printed for May. We will print when we can!

So, I am still asking for any photos, memories or poems of VE day itself, or of the 50th Anniversary, for us to include?

Contact Barbara Wright 01245 321554, or email RetBatNews@gmail.com

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact RetBatNews@gmail.com

Please note this newsletter is compiled from various entries and is not the work of any one person. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the compiler, or of the Newsletter Organisation, though spelling and grammar may be corrected.

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send them to me, Barbara Wright, as soon as you can via e-mail (RetBatNews@gmail.com), or tel: 01245 321554 Or paper copy to 55 East Hanningfield Road. Mark for Newsletter.

We do not normally put in adverts for shops, but as these are exceptional circumstances:-

Hemmings ~Stores ~Too

Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse,
Billericay CM11 1RN. Tel: 01268 710921

Dear Valued Customers,

In light of the ever changing guidelines in respect of the Corona Virus, we would like to offer delivery of provisions to any of our customers who find themselves self isolating at this time.

MILK •NEWSPAPERS• ESSENTIAL ITEMS
• FRESH BREAD • YOU CAN PRE-ORDER

The Post Office is also open as usual.

We are happy to help & thank you for your continued custom.

**Jay, Kish & All the staff at Hemmings Store
Too Tel:01268 710921**

AND OTHER LOCAL SHOPS ARE WILLING TO HELP

For meat try White Gates Farm Shop (01245 403090)

For vegetables and other essentials try the Old
Woodham Road Farm Shop (01268 768704)

There is the Little Shop at Le Benaix (01245 987881)
East Hanningfield Post Office is also very helpful.

Country Diary

As I write this contribution we are still in March but April is the month for wild life and wild flowers. I researched my reference books and found that the poets similarly found the month of April uplifting. Wordsworth, Shakespeare, Tennyson, and Brookes have all written about this month – Who has not heard the poem, “Oh to be in England now that April’s there.”

A very valuable source tells me the skylark is singing over Curry Hill. My informant also tells me this is an early event this year. Like many children of my era, I used to keep a record of the first sighting of the arrival of visiting birds or the first primrose etc.

At the moment the lesser celandine is blooming, their yellow starlight flowers shine like gold in the sunshine. There is a lovely clump of white violets in Rettendon place – much rarer than the bold Dog violets. As a child, I used to gather a bunch of white violets for my Mother on Mother’s day.

April 23rd (St Georges Day) was traditionally the day to pick dandelions for the making of dandelion wine. However, the dandelions have this year been flowering for months already, and who makes dandelion wine these days? Cowslips are another April flower, (another wine ingredient). It used to grow in profusion in the area; however, artificial fertilisers have killed them.

The birds are mating and building their nests, the flowers are budding, and spring has sprung. A little bit of folk law. “April weather, rain and sunshine both together.”

Jane Fallows 01245 400394