



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ JULY 2020

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We are continuing to distribute paper copies to all households in Rettendon Parish, and will continue this for as long as we can, but this is an independent Newsletter, and is funded entirely and directly by residents, groups and businesses of the Parish. It does not receive any funding from the Parish Council.

A big **THANK YOU** to all our distributors for their continued cooperation in this difficult time.



Pre-School

Following Government advice, we are reopening on 23rd June with every precaution taken due to COVID-19. We finish on 16th July and come back on 7th Sept. We have spaces for 2 to 4 year olds for September and we do 2 year old funding. Located in Rettendon village hall. Any enquiries call Pat on 07762909351



Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

It was with great regret that just as we got the Book Room up and running it was locked up by the virus and at the exact time when we could really have done with access to more books. We will be guided by Government here.

Some events can be held - providing they can comply, but meetings involving free public access are not possible at present. Cleaning between events presents a major challenge, so building use will be limited for some time.

We look forward to a solved problem and our Hall back in full use fulfilling its purpose of community service.

Rettendon Village Hall Management

Bookings: phone Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297

Corona Virus

Just putting the newsletter together and some good news here: the Covid 19 alert level has dropped from 4 to 3. But what does that mean?.....

Coronavirus alert levels in UK. The five levels are:

Stage of outbreak		Measures in place
Risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed	5	Lockdown begins
Transmission is high or rising exponentially	4	Social distancing continues
Virus in general circulation	3	Gradual relaxation of restrictions
Number of cases and transmission is low	2	Minimal social distancing. Enhanced tracing
Covid 19 no longer present in UK	1	Routine international monitoring

Government Corona virus advice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

This does not mean social distancing, the hand washing, and all the other precautions which everyone has been so careful about can now be abandoned. It is by your help that this level has been lowered, but there are still 2 more levels to go before the country will be considered to be virus free.

**Keep Alert - Keep your distance
Stay safe**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON

As you have read in the press the Churches are opening for private prayer as the Government begins to relax rules on lockdown. Here in Rettendon we have to make arrangements with the P.C.C. (Parochial Church Council) before we actually open the Church.

We think the opening will be at a particular time in order that locking up and opening can be done in an orderly manner.

We will inform you all by putting up notices and on the website.

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

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden, 01245 400394

Battlesbridge Free Church

From this Sunday coming, June 29th, we will be opening for private dedication and prayer from 11am till 12 noon. All according to Government guidelines.

We are organising an open air service with the Rayleigh Brass Band for later in July. Check notice board for details.



Battlesbridge Free Church

What a strange year this has been. Nothing quite like this has happened within our lifetimes. Now that the gradual steps are being taken to take up life as it had been, so many questions and situations are having to be faced.

The lock-down, in comparison, was fairly simple and straightforward. Those in government or any sort of authority certainly need our prayers for their courage and guidance. At every turn there is some group which needs urgent assistance, now! It has been so heartening that people's innate goodness has come to the fore and brought support to friends, neighbours and groups, which have come through these last few months in a better shape because of unselfish effort and caring. Now that there is perhaps a little light at the end of the tunnel, there is even more need for us all to pull together, to reach out in support where we can.

The government have the unenviable task of trying to keep the country on an even keel, whilst sorting out the complexity of imperative needs, in order to edge the economy forward but to keep in mind that the virus has not gone away. It is a little distressing when listening to the news, to hear so many negative complaints, but there are so many lives in desperate worry for their future.

In our Christian faith, God calls us to lean on his understanding and not on our own. He is absolutely in this present situation and his judgement and solution must be our best hope in this time of trouble. So "Oh God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home". The last verse of that hymn says "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while trouble lasts and our eternal home". If only we would put our trust in him, he will not let us down.

June Edwards

Country Diary

As you all know I love observing birds, though I am not a "birdie" or "twitcher", but people do tell me interesting tit-bits. A couple of weeks ago Ron took a message from Roy Hart about a large white bird seen in Battlesbridge. Originally seen by Justin Hart, who then phoned Pam Matthews because he thought the bird had flown onto her pond. She raced down to the pond and tried to photograph it, but it flew away. She and Justin pored over reference books and came to the conclusion it was a crane!

I have not seen anything so dramatic, but I was delighted to see three different types of finches on my bird feeder. First I saw a greenfinch, in fact I saw two. The garden used to be full of them. Then they got the virus called trichomoniasis previously associated with pigeons and doves (our garden has a high population of pigeons). The disease is transmitted through contaminated drinking water causing the infected bird to have difficulty swallowing.

On the same day I saw three young goldfinches. The young goldfinches do not have the dramatic colouring of their parents. Finally the chaffinch appeared. It was heart-warming to know these colourful birds were once again gracing our garden.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Chelmsford City Planning - be aware.....

We have found out that there are moves afoot at Chelmsford City Planning to stop sending out letters to neighbours of planning applications.

The only indication of a local planning application will be the yellow notice(s) attached to nearby telegraph poles, etc.

We think you should be made aware of this.

Barbara Wright, compiler.

Retendon Horticultural Society

Website:

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

Following our committee meeting, via the phone, on 16th June we can now report that, although we have had to cancel most of our 2020 programme, we have arranged some garden visiting and open air walks to carry us through to Autumn. Our next committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 14th July**, to enable any decisions possible then to go in the Newsletter. We can confirm that all Summer show trophies should be held over until 2021. Don't lose them!

Those of you who have been practising cooking and craftwork during lockdown may be interested in a special Autumn showing of your proficiency, but we will be checking the viability of this as life reopens.

So - do not despair - after the world had a great plague it was followed by the renaissance (rebirth) and we all look forward to sharing our gardening world with you all before long.

Hazel Dale-Evans Chairperson 01245 401538

Hazel has mentioned a few of our delights in planning, so I have added a few more details, but we are aware of the government guidelines so are checking to ensure everything is within these rules.

Garden Visits

Some of our members have offered their gardens for visits. These will be strictly members only and by appointment on certain days to ensure Covid 19 guidelines are followed. We are looking at possible days in July. But we will let members know by email or post which gardens, when and contact details. If you are a member and have a separate access to your garden and would like to "show it off" please get in touch with me or Hazel and we can coordinate.

Walk and talk

We are fortunate to have so many footpaths, woods and parks around the area so I am sure lots of you are taking advantage of the fine weather and exercising outside. We have had an offer of a walk and talk, with history of a wood and some fresh exercise. This is being planned for the middle of August, so look out for more details. Again we need to limit this to members only to allow for Covid 19 restrictions.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ret.hort.soc/about/>

We are obviously hoping to add to it.

Barbara Wright, secretary Tel: 01245 321554

Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

Battlesbridge Matters

Main issue looming: Bradwell power station. I am very strongly against this project.

Point 1: it is being financed 90% by the Chinese and 10% by EDF (French company). If there was a leakage of spent Uranium in to the Blackwater by many forms of accident, sabotage, earth tremor, fire & explosion the whole of the east coast would be wiped out by radioactive contamination. I may be a sceptic but can anyone believe that China would cover the contamination cost. The claim in money would be 100s of billions in money terms, but it would take years for nature and all marine life to recover.

Point 2. Was brought to my attention by a long standing resident. Why not extend the rail line from Southminster to Bradwell which is approx. 8 miles? I suggest with a large train turning loop at the Bradwell end, this would ease the proposed 800 lorry's movements per day for some 10 years and would be an argument for not having a very large car and lorry park just up from Rettendon turnpike, as the employees could travel by train. Also the cost of this extra line would be not too great. Considering the overall cost of the project.

Point 3: The new power station undermines our nations security, we are a proud nation and we should bring total control of our own energy. I am sure Rolls Royce or similar could build a number of small nuclear stations.

Point 4. The storage of the nuclear waste for 125 years and then what happens?? It is appalling legacy for generations to come.

All I can say is No No No to Bradwell's new nuclear power station.

The solution must be tidal (I mentioned this last month). The Bristol channel is the answer it has the largest recorded tidal range in the world (fact) some 42 feet plus (14m), having studied tidal power and seen it in action in Saint Malo in France, it is totally clean and reliable (the tide ebbs and flows twice in every 24 hours for ever). I have studied part of this area and there is a potential excellent site between say Cardiff and Penarth on the north bank and a small headland 1 mile south of Weston-Super-Mare. The beauty of this site is that there are 2 small islands spaced very conveniently in the middle of the channel. A shipping lock would have to be constructed but the power output would be absolutely enormous far more than Bradwell and the UK would be back controlling its own destiny.

I have only just found this website which mirrors my idea

<http://www.reuk.co.uk/wordpress/tidal/severn-barrage-tidal-power/>

A 10 mile barrage which will also form a bridge across the Bristol channel, 214 turbines, each of 40 MW power, would be put in place. Cost approx. 20 billion but would produce approx. 6 GW annually. Equivalent to 3 of the largest nuclear power stations in the UK. (output of Bradwell proposed new power station only 1.6 GW).

Also the UK carbon emissions would be cut by 16 million tons plus the major fact there will be no radio active waste to store.

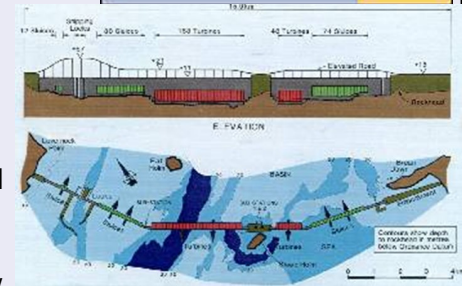
La Rance near Saint Malo, which I know well having sailed the length of it, has been working for 40 years without mechanical breakdown. Having personally designed and built my own very small hydro scheme at Battlesbridge, I consider the Bradwell scheme should be scrapped immediately. Taylor Woodrow, McAlpine or Balfour Beatty (all English companies) could construct the scheme for England to be master of its own affairs and destiny. It is of vital importance to our future as a nation.

Back to Rettendon. We have lived here for 46 years, in many minds we are still newcomers, but there is something very wrong with the River Crouch in our section. The river is normally full of fish, of the 5 anglers the other night none had any luck whatsoever. There has been only 1 pair of mallards, usually at this time of the year the population of wildlife is similar to Oxford Street Apart from 2 swans the river is almost deserted, all the crabs have disappeared etc, I have started my water sampling and hopefully will have the laboratory results soon.

We have a large cherry tree in our garden, but every year it is raided by anything with a beak and wings. Last year we managed one small bowl of cherries. This year for £23.95 I purchased a large black hawk on a pole and line. Bingo! For the first time ever buckets full of wonderful plum dark red cherries. One of the best investments I could have made.

As far as I know the High Court Case is still going ahead in mid July. This may be conducted online, so residents may be able to log in for the public viewing gallery.

Very Sincerely Roy Hart 01268 768282



BRADWELL B NUCLEAR POWER STATION - Stage 1 consultation.

Have you had your say? We do hope so as the entry cut-off for the consultation is the 1st July 2020.

We had a full page spread last month with all the links, but if you missed that then go to the website

www.BradwellB.co.uk and fill in the online form for comments, or call 01621 451451, email feedback@bradwellb.co.uk.

This newsletter can be found electronically on the website

<https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/newsletters/>

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 - Have your say

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send 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.

Richard Cannon Charity

The Richard Cannon Charity is there for anyone living in Rettendon who has particular financial need.

If you or someone you care about might benefit from the charity please contact **Richard Jordan on 01268 766565** or email rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com or **Ron Fallows on 01245 400394** to discuss how we may be able to help.

More details of the Richard Cannon Charity are on our web-page www.hrr-churches.org.uk/all-saints/richardcannon/

A hair-raising tale from our special correspondent

I have recently renewed my membership of the local branch of the SHC (scruffy hair club), with Boris Johnson as the honorary president and Donald Trump is an overseas member. Why you may say? Well, my flowing locks are frequently blown into my eyes and routine visits to the hairdressers used to keep my thatch under control, at least until barbers shops were closed under the Covid 19 measures. It made it difficult for a man to look ones best in the barnet-grooming department.

Help is at hand (perhaps), especially from those who skilfully wield scissors, with a prior appointment for the rumoured re-opening in early July of barbers shops, hairdressers, and beauty salons. Maybe due to the campaign in the national press by the cushion and pillow stuffing businesses in Essex as they are running short of their essential stuffing materials.

I hear tell in the House of Commons a few days ago a conservative backbench MP when looking across the house observed, "As we've noticed being back in the chamber this week many of us across the house are in desperate need of a trip to the hairdresser."

In fact Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, the leader of the Commons, likened himself to "a long haired lover from Liverpool." (The assorted comments polite or otherwise, I understand have been deleted from Hansard.)

I decided to take advantage of the local barber's early appointment scheme and offered him the line, "When you re-open I suppose a hair cut will cost double?" There was a short pause then the barber advised, "Well Sir, in your case as a regular customer it will cost you £35." "What, £35 quid" said I. Back came the quick put down. "Yes Sir, £30 for the search fee and £5 to cut your hair, with all that extra hair, not a bad deal eh?" I thought for a moment and declined the appointment offer as I rather like the more mature windswept style.

Garden Notes

The cuckoo was heard - a rare treat and the birds have had a good time with less traffic. The drought killed some plants so we let the resident seedlings fill the gaps and put dahlia cuttings in the larger holes. The veg patch is good fun and keeps us amused and adds variety.

So love your pots and patches. **Mrs. McGregor**

If you say so

"If you give a woman an inch she'll park a car in it." (Chief Constable of Gloucester)

"The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it." (Harold Rome)

"Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory." (Franklin P. Adams)

"I asked my publisher what would happen if he sold all the copies of my book he had printed. He said 'I'll just print another 10 copies.'" (Eric Sykes)



Once upon a time.....

My mother worked for the Post Office (a civil service job in those days) and after some time in the counters service went to the HQ at Mount Pleasant dealing with lost letters and parcels and communicating by teleprinter using Morse code.

Then in 1939 she married and the world was changed by the war. In time I also took a job with the Post Office and was quite proud to have followed in the family tradition. All I needed was a date stamp to prove authority and a candle (for when the electric failed), but that was in 1982.

In due course the technology crept in - initially to access information easily and then slowly to take over the basic bookwork of the business. Until the sub-postmasters had no control of the business for which they were held responsible and the computer was believed to be as god. Sadly the computer programme was found to be faulty, the operators not trustworthy and I am left ashamed of having been associated with the business.

Fortunately I left the service early enough to avoid any major catastrophes, but I feel for those caught up in this scandal. I am glad my mother, who would have been 109 years of now, will never know of this sad episode in Post Office history. Name and address supplied

HRR Churches - Hullbridge, Rawreth and Rettendon

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches/>

We are continuing our Live-Stream worship in our Facebook group (All Saints' is working together with St Thomas' Hullbridge and St Nicholas Rawreth) and anybody is welcome to join the group and take part in the worship. We have daily Morning Prayer at 8:30am and Compline (Night Prayer) 8:00pm. On Sundays we have a Holy Communion at 10:00 am. Times can vary occasionally but this is publicised through the group.

For those who do not use Facebook the services are then uploaded to our website www.hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection/.

Private Prayer in Church

The Government has said that Churches are now allowed to open church for private prayer but need to make necessary preparation. We are in the process of conducting our risk assessment and making plans for allowing people to come into church safely. We are likely to start with a couple of hours open on Sundays but details will be posted in our Facebook group and Website as soon as they become available.

Re-opening Church for Sunday Worship

We are waiting for the Government to allow us to re-start our Sunday Morning services. Sadly it is likely that many of our regular congregation will still be advised that they should not attend as they fall into groups vulnerable to the virus. To start with, we therefore anticipate that we at All Saints will again work with St Thomas' Hullbridge and St Nicholas Rawreth and open one church each Sunday whilst continuing our live-streamed worship. Again all details will be made available on our Facebook group and Website (as above).

You are welcome to join in any of our worship, online or in church when that again becomes possible. If you have any questions please contact **Richard on 01268 766565** or rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com.

If you would like us to pray for you, or for someone you care about, please get in touch. (In our online prayers we just use Christian names and no details are included to maintain privacy.) **Richard Jordon, Priest in Charge**