



Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Rd, SS2 5QF
Prepared & distributed by volunteers within the parish. Website <https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/> Issue 389
Please note the views contained within are offered by individuals/organisations privately and not in conjunction with the compiler or the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter organisation.
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, send the details to RetBatNews@gmail.com

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Morning Service	Sunday	11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Morning Service (from 6 th)	Sunday	11am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school (From 7 th)	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Parish Council Meetings	Tuesday, 22 nd September	7:30pm	Look on the website or Facebook for details. https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/	
MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm	15 th September, 6 th & 27 th October	
Salforal Close		1:45pm to 2:15pm		
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	11 th September, 2 nd & 23 rd October	

NIGHT CIRCLE



We thought you would enjoy seeing All Saints' Church in a different light. This time-lapse photo of star trails over the tower of All Saints' Church, Rettendon, was taken by Dawid Glawdzin, a member of Castle Point Astronomy Club.

We thank him for letting us share this wonderful image.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON

Sunday Services, 11am, from 6th September

We are delighted the church has finally been given the go ahead to resume services, obviously following all the Government guidelines as we have been for private prayer. We have hand sanitiser, only one pew in every three available, and seating apart except for "bubbles"/families/households.

We do hope you can join us.

Unfortunately still no coffee mornings allowed, but we are looking at ways of resuming some kind of informal, social meets.

The website has all the information about our churches and services we have going ahead:-

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

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden, 01245 400394

The Bell Fields Judgement

The Approved Judgement on the Bell Fields case can be seen following this link:

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Ch/2020/2221.pdf>

In essence:

The Parish Council appoint the Bell Fields Charities trustees for a period of 4 years.

The trustees appointed in July 2017 remain in place until July 2021. They are: Mrs. J. Copsey, Mrs. D. Fleming, Mr. M. Fleming, Mr. R. Hart, Mrs. G. Jones, Mr. R. Ride.

Trustees can be re-appointed after the 4 years by the Parish Council.

The Newsletter has received a statement from Mr. Hart, and the Parish Council expects to agree a statement at their next meeting. We will therefore print both statements in our October Edition.

The Newsletter also hopes to obtain a statement from the 2017 appointed trustees.

Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

Sadly, due to a Europe wide resurgence of the virus we are taking a cautious path and remaining closed for September. The only usage will be the pre-school, who are following Government guidelines.

To keep abreast of the situation the Management Committee are having regular meetings remotely for reassessment. We look forward to when we can return to a more normal life.

Our community herb bed is coming on well and can be viewed free of problem so -

"WATCH IT GROW".

Rettendon Village Hall Management

Website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendon-memorial-hall/>

In Memory of Pamela Pickford (previously MacDonald)

The sale of plants from her garden and house finally amounted to £700. This money has been split between the Children's Neptune Ward at Southend Hospital, and Little Havens Hospice - £350 sent to each.

Thank you to everyone who came and contributed, and we hope your gardens remain a prettier place for it in years to come.
Pamela's family.

Newsletter Contributions - Have your say

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged - on any subject - but especially on events.

We try to add all events in the newsletter at the appropriate time. Local events take priority over others, or over opinions, comments stories or jokes. As long as it is not untrue or libellous we will attempt to print any input, space and timing permitting.

If items are not sent we cannot print them.

A version of this is printed every month, however, you may have missed it, so we are bringing it to your attention.

Please send to me, Barbara Wright, as soon as you can via e-mail: RetBatNews@gmail.com, or tel: 01245 321554

Country Diary

It doesn't seem that long ago that the East Hanningfield Road and surrounds was swarming with House Martins - these days you are lucky to see one. Why is this you may ask. Well, one year they flew South just as a severe storm hit our shores and many birds were lost, but there is another reason. Ron and I are guilty of this, in that we have replaced our fascia boards with plastic boarding and their nests do not adhere to this.

Do look out for the song thrush - their numbers are declining rapidly - I have not a store of slugs and snails for them to eat but careful gardening and long dry spells do not help.

My informant in the village tells me that the large white bird seen in Battlesbridge recently may have been a Cattle Egret, a new species to the rivers and shores of Southern England.

Have you thought of beetles being important to the eco-system of our gardens? They are an important part of the garden food chain. They are small enough to provide food for the nestlings of garden birds while other larger beetles are an essential part of the diet of garden mammals, for example shrew, hedgehogs and perhaps foxes. My sister-in-law once told me without dung beetles our environment would collapse.

Another interesting fact (especially for Church cleaners) is that young bats are now flying. They have finished suckling in their nurseries and are now foraging for themselves.
Jane Fallows 01245 400394

I went on holiday with my horse - It was self-cantering. Whenever I wash up I get covered in soapy bubbles - It's Sud's law.

Actually my name isn't Tim Vine, it's Tim Bucktoo - sorry I was miles away. (with thanks for the laughs).



Pre-School
Back on Monday, 7th September for more fun, games and learning.

Any enquiries call Pat on 07762909351



Rettendon Horticultural Society

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

The best laid plans for September have been readjusted again as our hall remains closed to anything involving public access, but all is not lost and gardeners are always changing their minds so are used to changing tack.

Unfortunately the Committee have had to come to the sad conclusion that the Autumn Show, and our planned Craft and Cookery show, cannot go ahead at all. We have explored several different avenues, but none are really viable. Such a shame when everyone had been working so hard in their gardens, and even learning how to grow this year due to the lockdown.

We must look forward to next year and, hopefully, a year full of events for everyone. Plans are already in preparation for new events to give everyone the chance to shine.

For future reference - the 2020 talks have been promised to come to us in 2021.

Hazel Dale-Evans Chairperson 01245 401538

Walk and Talk - Little Wheatley Woods

This did take place, despite the inclement weather. Started off fine, but then the rain came a bit earlier than predicted. Still, we had a small talk about the history of the area and wood, and a lovely walk through young and old trees, many with lichen, and enjoyed by all who came.

We look forward to more gatherings for walks next year, with other places to visit.

Members updates

We realise we have not been as proactive as we should have to tell all the members what has been happening. Therefore it is being proposed to add a newsletter to send out to all members - probably per quarter. We are also going to add a members area on the website for updates, pictures, virtual exhibitions, or just for your favourite plants, or gardening tips.

However, it would be very helpful if you can provide us with an email address to allow us to distribute the newsletter quickly and environmentally friendly, and for the members area on the website.

Your email address would only be used for our Horticultural Society emails, and under GDPR. Please email our secretary. Thank you.

Barbara Wright, secretary Tel: 01245 321554

Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

Polite Reminder, from a resident,

Did you know that letting your dog's excrement stay on the pavement, footpath or byway is illegal?

You can buy bags for cleaning up in most Supermarkets and then there are bins for disposing of these bags - they are painted red!

As we missed it last month, just to let you know:- Marshall's Butchers, South Hanningfield Road, are open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during the day, and Saturday mornings.

Help shape the future of local democracy in Chelmsford

In Chelmsford, there are three tiers of local government:

Tier 3: Essex County Council (ECC) Tier 2: Chelmsford City Council (CCC) Tier 1: Parish Councils

Tier 1 includes 25 parish councils, one town council and one parish meeting. Each tier looks after different public services and represents the concerns of residents.

Over the next year, CCC plan to carry out a Community Governance Review. This involves looking at how the governance arrangements for Tier 1 are working, to see if they need to be changed.

CCC are asking everyone who lives, works or serves people in Chelmsford for their views. We want to make sure that our parish councils are effectively representing the views, interests and concerns of the local communities they serve. The results of the consultation will help inform the Community Governance Review.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/parish-council-consultation/>

Have Your Say

We would like to know what you think about:

- new parish councils being created in unparished areas
- if changes are needed to an existing parish (whether that's the one you live in, or the one you work in).
- changes to the boundaries within areas that currently have parish councils. (This might be in an area where there has been or is planned to be a lot of development.)
- changes to existing parish arrangements (for example if there are the right number of parish councillors to effectively represent the parish's population)

Submit your views

You have until **Friday 25 September** to comment.

More information If you have any comments or queries, you can contact the Electoral Services Team.

Telephone: 01245 606449

or write to: Electoral Services, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE (taken from Chelmsford City Council Website).

Battlesbridge Free Church

We have much to be thankful for. In these unprecedented times, we have been helped by some beautiful weather. The recent rain was also very welcome, especially by gardeners and local farmers.



We, at Battlesbridge, have been delighted to be able to meet for Sunday worship once more. During this time we have been very conscious of our reliance on prayer. Our prayers, before we re-opened, gave us confidence that bringing the lives and safety of our families and friends to God for his love and care, helped bind us all together in spirit. Now, there are so many calls for our prayerful attention. We pray for the Government in their need to tackle so many difficult issues at one and the same time. We pray that they will have the wisdom to look to our God for guidance. There have been mistakes and setbacks, but pray they are doing their best in facing up to all the economically and health-wise problems that are thrown up by the pandemic.

Another factor which comes out in our prayers, is the effect of the Corona virus on many poor countries. Many have no real health-care system in place. Many poor workers, dependent on daily work, have found that restrictions have taken their only means of livelihood away, so starvation, as well as the virus, threaten lives. Many wonderful charities, like Open Doors, Barnabus Fund, The Bible society, Embrace the Middle East, as well as Christian Aid, Oxfam, etc. work tirelessly to bring food aid, medicines, etc. But during this shutdown, much of the normal fund-raising events have not taken place. They now rely heavily on all of us ordinary people to give not only our prayers but also as much of our money as we can afford in order that this vital humanitarian work can continue.

We pray that people will realise that all the goodness, kindness and helpfulness which has abounded, is because for generations, the country's moral base was of the God who taught us his way of loving our neighbour as our self.

June Edwards

From our special correspondent :

A tipple can lift the spirits but booze and lockdown are a bad mix. It was William Pitt the younger who it is said drank six bottles of claret a day when at the time of the Napoleonic wars would not have been thought of as dangerously boozy. Up to the end of the 19th century beer and wine were often safer to drink than water and consumed accordingly at all times of the day and night.

Well I am not a drinker but do see its force in people's lives. Shakespeare's Iago even recalled how he learned drinking in England. The UK's relationship with drinking became more visible during the pandemic. Figures show that around 40% of households have been drinking more than usual with increased consumption in the homes of the furloughed or the jobless.

However, alcohol consumption fell during lockdown as a rise in drinking at home was far outweighed by the closure of bars, clubs and restaurants. When the extra off-sales of the past four months were subtracted from the total sales last year, both on and off licenced premises tell us that only 547,878,276 fewer litres of alcohol were consumed. The number crunchers tell us that we drank £1.9 billion worth of alcohol during lockdown. Enough of this number crunching game, I am sure there will soon be various different explanations about the lockdown and alcohol consumption, I could even work up a thirst eagerly awaiting statistics and revised statistics. Enough of all these statistics, I think I deserve a drink. Cheers!

I'm off for a quiet pint - followed by 15 noisy ones (Gareth Chilcott)

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.



Rettendon can show it had not forgotten the date and the momentous occasion. VE day was about Victory in Europe, VJ day was about Victory over Japan - the official end of World War II.

The Memorial Hall was just that on Saturday, 15th August 2020 - remembering the sacrifices made by the Fourteenth Army, what was called the "Forgotten Army", one of the main fighting forces in the Far East.

And the church bells rang out after the 2 minute silence at 11am. Although only 3 of the 6 bells, due to social distancing measures, there was a ring of 10 minutes of rounds and call changes. Our thanks to Mike Hallett, our tower captain, for his skill and leadership. Also in the picture is Hazel Dale-Evans.

(Obviously my skills as a photographer need to be improved, but at least they mark the occasion).

Barbara Wright, bell ringer.



Garden Notes Corner

Our patches have been keeping us busy we hear. Nothing like an ever changing and unpredictable bit of ground to keep our minds alert and (hopefully) bodies in trim.

I bought a weed once, for 50p, from an open garden. It was called Red Orach (and yes - there is a green variant). It is brilliant - pops up everywhere but is very easy to pull out and will be found any size. Seen in clumps in a N.T. Garden or when Sally Player used it in Chalk Street it was eight feet tall and a glorious dark burgundy mass of large leaves. We still allow this one houseroom - its tough nature make it a worthy plant to have to hand, and like the lady said - you'll never lose it!

Value your patch!

Mrs. McGregor

VJ Day, was the 15th August 1945, the official end of hostilities of the second World War. This short article starts through the eyes of a 6 year old schoolboy.

My family lived in Thundersley Park Road, South Benfleet, which led to a small selection of village shops. It was a friendly community. Going to the shops took forever, with front gate conversation, even cups of tea! Cars were still a rarity. We walked everywhere.

I still remember the sight of poor Mr. Wilson, who had returned from Burma, where he was a prisoner of war in Changi prison. He was skin and bones, with a very sallow complexion. His weight, I was told, was 6 stone! As the years passed, we became lifelong friends, even though Doug was 27 years older. He sadly passed away at 99 years 8 months. I still miss his company.

Julie and I were having coffee, early one morning, on an over night ferry going to Brittany - and Brest, with our old car for the Festival of the Sea. There was a lady with 3 children in sleeping bags on the deck. "Good Morning" I said, "are you nomadic?" We found her husband had 7 small chalets, and we ended up renting one.

It turned out her husband's father wrote the War Office Record of imprisonment in "Changi", of the 1000's of prisoners, he remembered uncle Doug. Doug ended up as one of the quartermasters of the prison - the father was so pleased of the old acquaintance he sent me the original script of the book, which I presented to Doug on his door step. Doug; with tears in his eyes refused even to look at it, handed it back and quietly said "It was a long time ago".

Very sincerely, Roy Hart

Changi Prison.....

was one of the more notorious Japanese prisoner of war camps. It was used to imprison Malayan civilians and Allied soldiers.

For the first few months the POW's at Changi were allowed to do as they wished with little interference from the Japanese. There was just enough food and medicine provided and, to begin with, the Japanese seemed indifferent to what the POW's did there.

However, by Easter 1942, the attitude of the Japanese had changed. They organised work parties to repair the damaged docks in Singapore and food and medicine became scarce.

More pointedly, the Japanese made it clear that they had not signed the Geneva Convention and that they ran the camp as they saw fit.

For this reason, 40,000 men from the surrender of Singapore were marched to the northern tip of the island where they were imprisoned at a military base called Selerang, which was near the village of Changi. The British civilian population of Singapore was imprisoned in Changi jail itself, one mile away from Selerang. Eventually, any reference to the area was simply made to Changi.

(copied from: <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/prisoners-of-war-in-ww2/prisoners-of-war/changi/>)