



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ NOVEMBER 2020

Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Rd, SS2 5QF
Prepared & distributed by over 30 volunteers within the parish. Issue number 391
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

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Remembrance Day Service	Sunday, 8 th November	10:50am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 24 th November	7:30pm	Virtual meetings held online via Zoom	Rettendon Parish Council
	Look on the website or Facebook for details.			https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Services	Sundays	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Sunday Services	Sundays	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 15 th December	7:30pm	Virtual meetings held online via Zoom	Rettendon Parish Council
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 / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	17 th Nov., 8 th Dec.
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	13 th Nov., 4 th Dec.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON, ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

on **SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER**, at **10:50am**.

Please be present by 10.50am; the service will be finished by 11.10am. Holding this outside will enable more people to be present during this time of COVID restrictions but you should still

- ◆ Informif you intend to come, please **email** allsaints.rettendon.pcc@gmail.com or **text 07736 108048** including your name and the number in your household
- ◆ Wear a mask,
- ◆ Remain a distance of two metres from anyone not in your household: the ground will be marked,
- ◆ Sign in with your contact details as you arrive,
- ◆ Wear warm clothes!

If you have wreaths or poppies which you wish to lay by the cross in a personal act of remembrance please do this before the service begins or as you depart.

The Royal British Legion has many resources for those who wish to make an act of remembrance at home:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

The people of All Saints, Rettendon wish you God's blessing.

You can support the church at

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

The Richard Cannon Charity

From time to time the Trustees of the Charity have advised people living in the parish of its existence which in certain circumstances, has limited funds available to help needy local people.

If you are aware of any parish resident young or old who may need specific help then please contact me to see what may be done to assist. The Charity may contribute towards the cost of 'one off' special items but not rents, Council tax etc.

The current Coronavirus Pandemic surely has thrown up residents that could benefit from this charity.

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

Please call or send a letter to me at 36 East Hanningfield Road, Rettendon Common CM3 8EQ if you are aware of anyone who needs help. Trustees will deal with all issues discreetly and in complete confidence.

Ron Fallows, Trustee 01245 400394

From the poem "Aftermath"

Have you forgotten yet?....

Look up, swear by the green of the spring you'll never forget. **Siegfried Sassoon March 1919**

Newsletter Appeal - Thank You

We are delighted to say we have had a wonderful response to our appeal and are able to continue into next year with the newsletter being distributed free of charge to every household.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed. We have tried to send personal "thank you"s, but we understand those who wish to remain anonymous -

Therefore this **Thank You** is especially for you.

We would like to point out that any personal donation to the newsletter does not give special privileges to that person to ask for content to be included or altered.

We would also like to thank all those who continue to support us with the kind words we have received in support, and, of course, with the continuing content and humour to add to the interest.

As stated previously we cannot go back to the way it was funded, because of the necessary changes we have made.

For funding contributions please make cheques out to **RetBatNews**, or **Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter** (the bank allows either) or cash - either phone for collection, or drop in an envelope at 55 East Hanningfield Road.

RetBatNews Committee

Country Diary

How many of you have taken a country walk recently and experienced a crunch, crunch sound as you walk? More than likely you are walking on a carpet of fallen acorns. I have never seen so many acorns in one season! We also have a lot of walnuts as well. Beside the nuts I am sure you have noticed the quantity of hips, haws and the cotoneaster fruits.

The countrymen always say when there is a heavy harvest of berries we can expect a cold winter, we can therefore look out for winter thrushes. These birds are from the Scandinavian countries and come to feed on the berries here. The fieldfare which looks like a song thrush but has a slate grey head and rump. The smaller redwing has a red flush beneath the wings. The first time I saw one I thought it was a wounded thrush, but I have learnt differently. I have only seen a redwing in East Yorkshire, never in Essex, though I hope to do so one day.

So where have our summer birds gone? The beautiful small swallow all the way to South Africa, and the chiff-chaff and blackcap to Spain. I am told puffins go out to the North Sea or the North Atlantic.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

"I find television a great educator. Every time someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book." Groucho Marx.

I hate political jokes - they always get elected. (Harry Hill)

Which composer was good at opening doors? Handel (Harry Hill)

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Yes - we are having an A.G.M. - on the phone in November (as scheduled on the member's diary).

All members are being contacted with the necessary information for essential voting procedures and instructed on how to conference call appropriately. Looks as if our usual mince pie and glass of plonk will have to be self-administered this year. Any decisions made will be advised.

Here's hoping for a more interesting year in 2021.

Hazel Dale-Evans (Chair) 01245 401538

The A.G.M. documents are nearly ready to send out. If you have not received your "pack" by the 5th November please get in touch with me. They will be sent in a combination of email and post.

Other news is that the gardening at the school has stopped for the winter. Hopefully back and running properly with gardening club after the Spring half-term, but all reliant on the Pandemic. We had managed for the class to plant a broad bean in a jam jar, as we used to when I was young, to watch it grow root and leaves. Once growing well it could be planted in a pot with compost, or in the raised beds at the school to grow on and produce broad beans, which could be grown on by the children in a jam jar, etc. - a never ending cycle - just like life!

Barbara Wright, Secretary 01245 321554

email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Public Health Message: NHS COVID-19 App

This is a public health message from NHS Test and Trace.

As part of the government's coordinated response to Coronavirus, NHS Test and Trace has developed the new NHS COVID-19 app.

It is now available for download to all residents of England and Wales. We strongly recommend that everyone over the age of 16 downloads and uses it.

Download the 'NHS COVID-19' app from the App Store or Google Play. There is more information at <https://covid19.nhs.uk>

The app will help you to understand and manage your personal risk and reduce the spread of Coronavirus. The more people who use it, the more effective it will be.

The app requires operating system 13.5 or above if you have an Apple iPhone. It requires Android 6.0 or above if you have an Android phone. If your smartphone is not compatible, you can still access full support from the NHS Test and Trace service.

NHS Test and Trace

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. Funding contributions, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), can be collected, phone the compiler, or post in East Hanningfield Rd, or contact for bank details.

Walking the footpaths

The Thursday walking group has become a regular routine for some of us. We meet at 10am in different locations around the Parish and are always pleased to welcome new members. Each week we discover new paths and routes, and make plans for future diversions. The walks have been a pleasant distraction during the virus and we have made new friends and connections within the community.



We usually walk for an hour, sometimes venturing further and taking longer, and plans are afoot to meet in Battlesbridge and to walk along the river. During our walks we have noticed new signs and bridges which help show designated paths, and reduce the need to map read. We also noted that the council have cleared the litter from the main road (A1245) and it looks much better for it.

The Monday morning walks have not been attended recently, and will recommence if there is interest. We have a WhatsApp Group where we organise meetings. If you are interested in joining us or knowing more please contact **Sandie Cottee**: sandie17@talktalk.net 01268 733259

From our special correspondent

The "Instant" villager. Following on from my October contribution I read a piece elsewhere about the emergence of a new kind of villager (please note the word he means he or she). He was not born or brought up in a village, he knows nothing of traditional village ways and has few if any rural connections. He lives in a house which has been specially designed to save him labour and ensure that in a country setting he will be able to enjoy the amenities of urban civilisation, minus the drawbacks. He is mobile and owns at least one car (plus the inevitable four track vehicle) therefore is in a position to travel to work and seek pleasure outside the village. He is in fact insulated from the countryside yet can he feel that he is part of it?

Proposals by planners to look at the 'new' architect designed villages often give rise to suspicion, sometimes hostility, especially when a small village community is planned to grow to four or five times its size over the next five years. The upside could be a bigger rate income for the local council which may have been crippled by lack of funds to pay for various community focused needs or activities. The second is that they siphon off the urban demand for village housing making it more difficult for local people to find homes (starter homes - what are they?) in their own village where local families have lived for several generations.

It is not impossible in this day and age to produce an "instant" village but an instant villager? no, that is another matter. By wearing the right sort of clothes a townsman may succeed in looking like a villager minus a villagers habit of thought and outlook. He will be less conscious of the rhythm of the seasons, less dependent upon the weather and often unaware of the wisdom that comes from close contact with fields, hedges, streams, crops and wildlife over many generations. Yes his standards and values will be different, his horizons may be wider and unfettered by the baggage of recent history. That is not to say he cannot become a new sort of villager and yes, there is a place for him in tomorrow's countryside. Let us keep abreast the waves of change lest we get lost in the wake of their passing.

Pre-School

All the children are doing well, and are outside a lot breathing fresh air and having a wonderful time with the play equipment.

COVID is actually teaching the children how to keep clean, and they are treating their handwashing as a game, with a song to sing for the time to wash.

They are also proud to have learnt how to cough and sneeze into their elbow and arm to reduce the bugs. *Perhaps they could teach others and reduce the spread of the virus!*

If you need more information about the Pre-School, get in touch with

Pat Prebble on 07762909351

Battlesbridge and all of Rettendon Parish Matters!

It is rather hard to consider the good things happening in Battlesbridge and Rettendon under the dark and menacing cloud of COVID 19. One of my grandsons is in halls of residence at Durham on the 5th floor "with no lift". 7 out of the 16 students have tested positive. I do not think they will be coming home for Christmas. It is going to be a very long lockdown.

The best thing we can do is to carry on as near to normality as we can, and dream of falling asleep in the back garden, in the warm afternoon sunshine, with an unfinished glass of wine, and only half a page of a good book read, and all the other good things in life: holidays, village life, bazaars in the two churches. Look forward and try to win the "Best Kept Village Award" in 2021. (Probably drop firework night this year). Christmas will be a quiet affair, and hope COVID 19 will start to fade.

The survival rate is slowly improving, new techniques are evolving all the time such as laying patients on their fronts rather than their sides, and improving medicines. Add all these newly learnt treatments altogether and they show a glimmer of hope.

Two points to remember:

"Love their neighbourhood": help others where possible and keep spirits up.

Look forward to the sunshine in the spring, and remember "Dreams are the start of reality".

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

PS The river is now recovered, a claim is going in for the dead fish from molten sugar polluting the river after a very large fire, and the tide still comes in twice a day.

Life still goes on.

Garden Notes

Rain and less sun has deepened lots of glorious colour. Heeded Monty and rescued succulents from a swimming pool to recover in the greenhouse. They have loved being out in the open air.

I have a chrysanthemum flowering - not brilliant, but a good start. Better next year. Needed a Show to inspire these things.

From a muddy booted **Mrs. McGregor**

Remembrance 2020

As we remember those who fought for us, so too should we remember this year marks 75 years since the end of World War II. Unfortunately not celebrated,



though this newsletter did have memories in May, VE day, and in August, VJ day.



Here are two "street parties" from the Rettendon archives.

Rettendon Memorial Hall

As Essex is now in the grip of a Tier 2 lockdown, it is in everyone's interest to keep to the guidelines. We want to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In view of this the hall is still not accessible for anything apart from the Pre-School. They are under a Government ruling and are COVID compliant.

We will be reviewing the situation when we can do so safely. **Hall Management Committee**

Essex in tier 2 - Local COVID alert level: high

This means on top of restrictions in alert level medium:

- you must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks (other than where specific exemptions apply in law)
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-secure manner, other than those that remain closed in law
- certain businesses are required to ensure customers only consume food and drink while seated, and must close between 10pm and 5am
- businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- schools, universities and places of worship remain open
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees

exercise classes and [organised sport](#) can continue to take place outdoors; these will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with; there are exceptions for supervised activities for under-18s, and disability sport you can continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.

You must: **wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know#local-covid-alert-level-high>

All Saints' Churchyard - War Graves

All Saints' Churchyard has 3 graves commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

Private Thomas Wolfe Braithwaite, died April 11, 1916

Lance corporal H.S. Whiteman, died June 18, 1918

Private William Charles Yeo, died March 1, 1946

In addition inside the church can be found the memorial plaques for the fallen from both World War I (1914 - 1918) and World War II (1939 - 1945), and a list of all those men from Rettendon who went to serve in World War I.



Battlesbridge Free Church

When God created the earth and all that is within, he saw that it was good. He wanted and planned for it to remain so. He set a few

simple rules for the humans he had created, so that they would live in harmony, fulfilled, content and happy. But he had also given these beings freedom of will. He gained pleasure in the diversity and character which robotic, yes-men, could not give. There could be no partnership with God from a puppet. God's enemy, Satan, the Devil, spirit of Evil, call it what you like, took delight in subverting mankind away from God and his ten simple rules, in a continuous assault, from the word go. The special people which God chose to be an example to mankind in successful and harmonious living, let him down time and time again. For every few years of following those few simple rules, there could almost be the certainty that, in the proceeding years, these chosen people would wilfully flout both God, his rules, his way. Even when God sent his Christ to encompass the fulfilment and partnership of God with the whole of mankind, the Enemy seemed to lure with the brightest way of existence. So his cheating, the gaining of self-satisfaction by any means, greed for power and possessions began to block our God's love and care, his way.

Today we live in a "a time of rules from above". The "above" in this case being "the Government". Again, this power from on high, we assume and hope, has our best interest at heart, for who would wish the country to have thousands die of a virulent disease or wallow in economic chaos? Some feel that their freedom to make up their own minds, is paramount and is being curtailed. This would be fine if that personal freedom did not seriously encroach on the freedom of those around them. There are too many of us living in close proximity to each other for us to live totally for ourselves. If we could try to conduct our lives towards those with whom we come in contact in the manner in which we expect them to react to ourselves we would be much nearer God's good plan for his world.

June Edwards

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.