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Contributions for next Newsletter to be with [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021



**Rettendon Parish Events** (for inclusion email [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com) )



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
School Consultation closes	Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<a href="https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/stlukesnewschool/">https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/stlukesnewschool/</a>		
Carol Service	Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	<a href="http://www.hrr-churches.org.uk">www.hrr-churches.org.uk</a>
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	7:30pm	Virtual meetings online via Zoom	Rettendon Parish Council
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> January	7:30pm	Telephone Conference	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January	7:30pm	Virtual meetings online via Zoom	Rettendon Parish Council
Please check on the PC website or Facebook for details. <a href="https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/">https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/</a>				

**REGULAR EVENTS**

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

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	7:30pm	Virtual meetings online via Zoom	Rettendon Parish Council
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**MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits**

Library Service Update <a href="https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-library-services-during-lockdown/">https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-library-services-during-lockdown/</a>	Libraries are closed during lockdown. The Mobile Service will not operate during such times. Items due on or after October 15 <sup>th</sup> will have their loan period extended until 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021. Reservations can be collected from chosen library once available and are issued for 12 weeks.			
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	8 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> December, 19 <sup>th</sup> January	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	4 <sup>th</sup> December, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	

**WISHING A SAFE & MERRY CHRISTMAS, & HAPPY, HEALTHY, NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.**

**We express our grateful thanks to all our volunteers & contributors.**

**We have been amazed at the overwhelming response we received for our appeal. It is heartening to know we have the support of so many in the community.**

**Thank you.**



**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON**  
**HRR: 3 parishes group: with St. Nicholas, Rawreth, and St. Thomas, Hullbridge**

During any lockdown, Sunday services will be livestreamed onto our Facebook Group ([www.facebook.com/groups/hrr.churches](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hrr.churches)) This will then be uploaded onto our website

<https://hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection/> .

We will also continue to live stream Morning Prayer at 8:00am and Compline or Night Prayer at 8:00pm again uploaded onto our website afterwards.

We won't be live streaming the midweek Eucharist from St Thomas but look forward to restarting that in December when we can gather again.

Otherwise all is going well and we hope that normal services will restart in December and we will hold our Carol Service at All Saints' on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December starting at 11-15am.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

**Richard Jordan, Parish Priest of St Thomas of Canterbury, Hullbridge, St Nicholas, Rawreth, and All Saints, Rettendon**

T: 01268 766 565 E: [rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com](mailto:rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com)  
W: [www.hrr-churches.org.uk](http://www.hrr-churches.org.uk)

**Rettendon Memorial Village Hall**

What a year it has been!

This year is the first year in the hall's history that it has had to close, for any real length of time. Sadly, out of our control.

I would like to assure all the residents that we are doing our very best to ensure that the hall will be here for many years to come. As with all this year, the financial situation has been hard.

The decision was made that the hall would be made available as much as possible to the pre-school, in line with Government guidelines. Unfortunately, lots of our other activities have not been able to take place, but I, and the rest of the committee, would like to think that people know our Memorial Hall is there for ALL to use.

We would like to inform all the parish that in line with guidelines we applied for, and have been successful in obtaining, the grant that was available for all village halls and businesses to offset their financial loss during the COVID 19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

Thank you for all that support us through the good times and the hard times. Please stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year when we can hopefully start having a few community events again in our Memorial Hall.

**Edward Cheater, Chairman**

**Hall Management Committee**

Hall website:

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

Hall Email: [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)

### Village Hall News.

Wishing all seasonal greetings.

We can report that of the groups that used our hall most are hopeful of returning when possible.

The Pre-school continues as per Government Guidelines.

The Bowls group met on the cricket field for boules, whilst there was good weather.

The Keep Fit group said a sad farewell, but good luck, to their teacher, who deprived of gym work, was lucky enough to transfer to the NHS using her qualifications where they were most needed.

The Knit and Natter continues to natter via a WhatsApp group and Imoges abound, with laughter.

The Parish council continue via Zoom.

Alas the Country and Western had to cease operating in the same field as communal gatherings.

**We all have real hopes for 2021.**

**Hall Management Committee.**

### **Ward Councillor's Report**

Thank you for the opportunity, to contribute to this newsletter. I wanted to update everyone on a few developments locally, especially those affected by the current C19 restrictions. For those businesses occupying properties with rateable values which are legally required to close as a result of the national lockdown, the application process for discretionary grants is now live at [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/businessgrants](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/businessgrants)

In an ever-changing situation, you can also keep up to date with all the restrictions and help available via the same website under the "Coronavirus" link.

Work is ongoing to open the Curry Hill footbridge, the bridge has remained closed since it was built in 2001. It will provide a link between the parishes of Rettendon and Runwell.

ECC are currently running a consultation regarding the new school to be built on the St Luke's Park development. You can view and register comments until 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation/stlukesnewschool/> - warning, there is an obvious typing error. The parish boundary hasn't changed!

I recently attended a briefing by developers for the SWF Masterplan, which is Strategic Growth Site 10 on the new Local Plan. In my opinion, there is much work still to be done on the transport network locally. Even without the Bradwell B proposals or this new housing plan, traffic is near capacity on the A132 in our area, especially on the Turnpike. Residents at Hayes Country Park already struggle to exit onto the Burnham Road, I will continue to emphasise this point at future meetings until we see improvements.

The issue of fly tipping and illegal waste recycling is still a problem in our area. Coordinated action by both CCC and ECC along with the Environment Agency has seen several operations closed down locally, and there is ongoing legal action.

I will try and keep residents updated with matters related to the City Council, via this newsletter. Please stay safe, and look out for those in need of help especially during the lockdowns.

**My best wishes to everyone, for a Merry Christmas and better New Year!!**

**Kind regards, Cllr Paul Clark,  
Rettendon and Runwell, Chelmsford City Council**  
General website:- <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/>

### **Rettendon Parish Matters to me - Thoughts and Memories**

I have always tried my best for the Parish including, as I see it, trying to preserve the Bell fields for the residents. Here is not the place to write further, so instead I shall remember the wildlife I have encountered around Battlesbridge and further afield.

When my dear father, Frank, died in 1961, I was fifteen and just left school. We were destitute, apart from an old Riley car and a few air rifles and two shot guns, one was a 410. I used to shoot rabbits and hares for mum to cook. When dad was still alive, almost every Sunday we would go fishing or shooting or just long walks, which usually involved stopping off at some small country pub. I was left outside with a bag of Smith's crisps, a lemonade and a catapult.

40 years later I was fly fishing with a friend on Hanningfield reservoir in one of their boats. It was sunny, and almost flat calm. There was a very large bird, effortlessly gliding across the surface of the water, about 3ft above it. On inquiring to the bailiff I was informed it was an osprey. There is a rather good café on the bank, so if you are having a cream tea, spring or autumn time, you may see one as they migrate back and forth to warmer climates, mainly Africa.

One January morning, some years back, I was mooring a boat up at the side of Jim Gallie's gangway. The sky was china blue with not a single cloud. High up was a large brown bird with wide wings and end feathers like fingers. Just spiralling southwards. Yes, it was a Golden Eagle.

I have sailed quite a bit around the Shetland Isles, on returning back from Iceland once, I had thought I had seen a sea eagle, with its white tail. In the evening, in Lerwick, on relating this to an old friend who lives there, he frowned. I asked why. He told me the local MP had shot two sea eagles as there had been two cases of crofters babies/toddlers being attacked by them outside their remote homes from their play pen or crib! One I believe was fatal.

We had a red stag deer in the back field, which in fact I did not see, but there were a few fine witnesses from the sea wall along from Smith Plastics. They were first alerted by the horses near by, which were becoming agitated. How it got there I will never know, but it vanished in the dark!

Spitty's Reach Marsh behind Hayes Park and the river. There was a pair of short eared owls, quite large birds, who of a summer's evening would hunt the marsh in silence, just crossing back and forth! One evening I was duck shooting in a canoe up Hope Creek, Benfleet, when I was attacked three times by a large owl. Its third run from behind grabbed my woollen hat, never to be seen again.

As for solace, I have just restored a wonderful old rowing boat to take Jonathon, my grandson, bass fishing in the Spring. Well, that's the dream: the end of lockdown, and hopefully COVID 19, and a warm lazy day on the river Crouch, and in my case at peace with the world and especially Rettendon Parish Council.

**Yours Very Sincerely, and Keep Well Roy Hart**

### **Christmas Crackers - Ho, Ho, Ho....**

What do you get if you cross a Granny Smith with a Christmas tree?  
A pineapple!

Why did the orange take the prune to the Christmas party?  
Because it couldn't find a date!

How do snowmen travel around? By icicle!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

What happened when Santa's cat swallowed a ball of wool? It had mittens!

2 Who is never hungry at christmas? A turkey; it's always stuffed!

## Rettendon Horticultural Society

We are delighted to announce that we can welcome a new chairman. At the AGM on 17th November John Bruty agreed to stand and it was a unanimous decision to give him this responsibility.

John is very capable with both plants and people. He has participated in shows much bigger than ours and has brought a lot of ideas to committee.

Our society has a strong committee with the work element being shared amongst us, and we are proud of our activities within and for this community, so we are confident that this society will continue to enrich our lives.

**Hazel Dale-Evans (outgoing chairman)**

### **AGM News,**

As stated by Hazel our AGM did happen and I am pleased to say I had many of the voting forms we sent out returned to me. Thank you so much for participating in such a difficult time to hold meetings.

The AGM was conducted via telephone and all voting was unanimous (including postal votes). We look forward to next year and a full diary, which we so hope we can put into full operation.

There were a couple of proposals which were accepted along with elections.

Firstly due to the pandemic, COVID 19, and since a lot of our events could not be held, we decided on

### **FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021.**

The membership diary card will be sent to all existing members. During this time we will be promoting the society to gain some new blood to take the society into the future.

### **ALL ARE WELCOME - SPREAD THE WORD**

Our second proposal, in line with our constitution, allows us to use some of our funds to encourage children to grow and learn about plants and nature. We look forward to further cooperation with the school to this end.

**Barbara Wright, Secretary email:**

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

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

## **Hayes Park**

Keeping to our policy of being inclusive in the Newsletter, we have a small update from Hayes.

Unfortunately the Club House cannot be opened for activities, but the volunteers are opening it every day between 10 and 11 am for residents to collect newspapers. We are pleased to say this includes the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter and the South Woodham Ferrers Forum.

We at the Newsletter would like to thank those volunteers and to let them know it is much appreciated.

## **Flamingo Paperie Greetings Cards and More**



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[www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/justinehiggins](http://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/justinehiggins)

Call or message Justine Higgins: 07507 285011

**Remembrance 2020:** This was not going to be “normal”.

Attendance at All Saints on Remembrance Sunday demonstrated how important this is to this community. Planning began 2 months ago for an outdoor commemoration focussed around the cut turf cross in the churchyard.

The now familiar features of “the new normal”, social distance, face coverings, track and trace lists were all taken into account. The service was cut back to the essentials. The turf cross was weeded. A public address system was offered to avoid the risk of people edging nearer to be sure of hearing. All appeared ready to go.

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October following the Prime Minister’s announcement of a new modified lockdown it looked as though it would be cancelled. Guidance from the Diocese led to reinstating it, provided the strict protocols already in place were observed. The area was marked out, tables, and flag were put in place. All a team effort. (No names, you know who you are.) The weather was kind.

At 11.00 a single bell marked the beginning and end of our 2 minutes silence. 32 of us stood, we remembered, and committed ourselves anew to peace. This was replicated in small outdoor gatherings across the country. It matters.

**“At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.”**

**Keith Farrin**

## **Country Diary**

Have you noticed all the fungi? There are a lot about of various shapes, sizes and colours. There are not many brightly coloured ones except for brightly coloured red ones with white spots. BEWARE it is the Fly Agaric which is highly poisonous. There are so many different fungi of every shade of brown, cream and coffee and one I saw in my garden. It was mahogany brown on top with bright yellow gills underneath.

When I was a youngster I used to gather mushrooms but you did need some rain in September and October to be sure of seeing a good selection. There were some growing in the churchyard recently.

I have been asked about Sloes – there are a lot about for the sloe gin addicts.

The autumn tints to the leaves have been magnificent this year but the recent rain and wind have put paid to most. Our mature flowering cherry has had an array of red, yellow and polished russet leaves.

In the last issue of this R&B newsletter I wrote about the large amount of acorns about and not long afterwards Helen came to me with a newspaper cutting by Joe Shute from the Daily Telegraph who wrote, “Trees over produce the amount of nuts and acorns every five to ten years which is due to an evolutionary survival strategy to ensure the continued production of more saplings.”

I do value feedback from readers and was pleased to hear that a lady had seen a red wing, a bird I mentioned last month. **Jane Fallows 01245 400394**

**Ha, Ha, Ha....**

What do you call a kangaroo wearing a Santa hat?  
A Christmas jumper!

Why did Scrooge buy everyone a budgie for Christmas?  
Because they were going cheap!



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The last Council meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Ian Grundy, Essex County Councillor, sent a report detailing the activities of the County Council in relation to the Covid situation, provision for children over half-term and action the Council is taking to tackle climate change.

The Clerk reported on changes to legislation affecting Parish Councils over the past few months, which included removal of the requirement to hold an Annual Meeting of the Council, the Annual Parish Meeting and to display the agenda physically in a conspicuous place in the parish. Until further notice, the legal requirement regarding display of the agenda is satisfied by publication on the Parish Council's website.

The Council's Working Groups reported although little progress was reported since the previous meeting.

Cllr Phillips reported on the recent annual meeting of the EALC, where constitution changes had been rejected.

It was agreed that the Council would review Standing Orders to take account of the changes over the past few months, including protocols for holding remote meetings.

A further application on the Bradwell B Power Station was considered but the Council felt they had nothing to add to their previous response, which had been considered at length with a full response provided.

Discussion on the proposed budget for 2021/22 took place, with some minor amendments agreed. The budget and precept for next year will be considered at the November meeting with the Clerk to provide information for Councillors. The final decision must be made by the end of December so that the precept request can go to Chelmsford City Council within their deadline.

Cllrs Phillips and Dale Evans reported on highways issues and the difficulty of getting these resolved.

If any resident has any query about any Council matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

At the next meeting (24th November) the Council will hopefully decide on the budget and precept for next year, and full information will be published on the Council website. Council policies will be reviewed and a new one (Remote Meetings) will be considered and will be published on the website once adopted.

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

**Please check on the Parish Council website for details of meetings and agendas, being held online via Zoom at present, and other Parish Council information:-**

<https://www.essexinfo.net/rettendonparishcouncil/>

**ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem website address:-**  
<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

## Garden Notes

Lack of visitors meant we just did the roadside beds to share hope with itinerant passers-by - and its glowing with brightness! Even the weeds (wild flowers) battling for survival. Most of the rest are tired and going to sleep whilst the bulbs are there ready to take over.

Ah me - another year completed. **Mrs. McGregor**

## Look on the bright side....

Years ago, there used to be a ten minute programme on the radio in the morning called "Lift up your Hearts". What a pity we do not have such a programme today. It is so easy, especially if you are self-isolating, to feel pressed down with the weight of bad or distressing news. Our spirits do need to be lifted up. It really is not all on the down side. This morning, I thought I had left the light on when I went into the living room, but it was a beautiful shaft of brilliant sun shining through my curtains, casting a bright orange glow in the room. This most certainly lifted up my spirits.

The dull and gloomy days have been a bit hard to take but even so, as my dear old mum used to say "Count your blessings". She did not have life easy, having two small children to bring up in the thirties, days of the depression. My father had to take any menial job he could do, in his youth, he had been taken out of school before being able to finish his education. This was in order to help his widowed mother to bring up his six brothers and sisters. Money was very scarce, so my mother went out each day to clean the homes of some more fortunate, in order to help pay the bills. She kept chickens, ducks and rabbits, made pickles and jams and helped process the vegetables grown by dad.

Life has improved tremendously for my and subsequent generations. In the old class idiom, we have moved up from downtrodden working class to comfortable middle-class. This change of fortunes for a great many has happened within a very few years. There are still those who feel they are at the bottom of the pack, but even here, there is more chance of financial support or help and awareness than a few generations ago, than could be dreamed of.

So though life at the moment is worrying and many are fearful of what the future will be for them, lift up your hearts, count your blessings and remember the God those early generations prayed to has not gone away! He is there for each and everyone. He said "Cast your cares upon me and I will give you rest".

**June Edwards**

For a reminder to view this newsletter contact [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com) or go to the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/>

**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

Items from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send them to 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. Funding cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), can be posted in 55, East Hanningfield Rd, or contact the compiler for collection, or details to bank directly.