



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ MARCH 2021

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

## Have you been offered the COVID vaccine?

If you have **please** take up the offer. It will protect you and your loved ones. The more people who have it the quicker lockdown will be relaxed and the better off the rest of us are too.

If you are hesitant perhaps the following could help you decide (information extracted from the Lancet Medical Journals):-

- Over 16,000,000 people have had the vaccine with few side-effects - and that is just in the United Kingdom. Many millions more over the whole world.
- Rapid development was due to previous research into other vaccines
- Quicker ways of manufacturing
- A global response, from vaccine companies
- Quicker responses from the regulating authorities
- Massive funding

It can reduce the effects of COVID even if you get it, so helping the NHS by reducing the need to go to hospital. It could save your life.

**Help the NHS, Help Yourself,  
HAVE THE VACCINE.**



## ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Sadly, we should still not meet in church and so all our services are still on-line.

All Saints' Church is working with St Nicholas and St Thomas as we live-stream our Sunday morning worship at 10:00am, we also have a short evening service at 8pm.

On weekdays we have Morning Prayer at 8:00 am, and an evening service at 8:00 pm. (Sometimes this has to be cancelled because of meetings but we will announce that on Facebook.)

You can watch recordings of our most recent services on our website at [www.hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection](http://www.hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection) and on YouTube at [www.bit.ly/RJsYouTube](http://www.bit.ly/RJsYouTube). To join us live, go to [www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches) (this is a Facebook group that you would need to join, but please ask you are most welcome).

Over recent weeks we have had the sad news about the deaths of two members of our congregation, Danny Waters and Ray Patten. Both were very generous and kind people as well as being great personalities in their own unique ways. Both are hugely missed and our love and prayers are with their families.

Richard Jordan, Parish Priest of All Saints, Rettendon as well as St Thomas of Canterbury, Hullbridge and St Nicholas, Rawreth. Tel: 01268 766 565

Email: [rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com](mailto:rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com)

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

## Parish Survey

The Parish Council are asking for your help. The Parish Survey is YOUR opportunity to let councillors know how you would like your parish council tax spent and what you would like done in the Parish.

Please complete this Parish Survey, and return using the collection points shown on the back page.

Your help is very much appreciated.

**Closing date is the 21st March.**

(This survey is local Parish only and not part of the Government Census)

## Junior Cricket offerings at RETTENDON CRICKET CLUB

At Rettendon CC we offer a range of junior cricket schemes (ages 5-11) from Spring - Autumn

- 1 Indoor group coaching sessions @ Sweyne Park School throughout March and April (when possible)
- 2 Dynamos Cricket (equipment & kit included) for ages 8 - 11 from May - July  
[www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket](http://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket)
- 3 All Stars Cricket (equipment & kit included) for ages 5 - 8 from May - July  
[www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars/parents](http://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars/parents)
- 4 Further weekly outdoor group coaching for all ages until the season ends in September.



All coaching sessions are led by a qualified coach and are priced between £3 - £5 per session.

To register your son/daughter/children contact Luke on 07792 850291

## Rettendon Horticultural Society Virtual Spring Show

Tuesday 23rd March (nominally).

Although we cannot meet yet, why not send us your pictures of your spring flowers to put on our website: out in the garden, or in vases indoors.

We would like to cheer everyone up with some pretty pictures, and perhaps spur people to greater things in their gardens.

No prizes or cups this year, but lots of hope for the coming days.

Contact Barbara on 01245 321554, [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com), to join WhatsApp or to put pictures on the website.

Rettendon Preschool is open as and when we can.

If you have a child 2 years and upwards in September, please contact Pat Prebble (07162 909351) to reserve your place.

Stay safe and healthy!

### **Rettendon Memorial Hall**

Although the committee cannot meet up together, we can communicate and have had a telephone committee meeting to keep in touch and ensure the hall is being maintained as it should.

Unfortunately we still cannot open, but we live in hope that the next month or so will see some relaxation to the rules.

The herb garden at the front is growing apace, or was before a bit of snow got in the way. It will bounce back and be there for the community to pick for flavour.

We will do what we can, when we can, to bring the hall back into use for group activities and events. Meanwhile keep safe so we can all meet up again when possible.

### **Hall Management Committee**

#### **Danny Waters**

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Danny and our thoughts are with his family as they try to continue without him.

He was such a help at the church, especially at events putting up stalls, moving pews, as well as helping outside in the churchyard to keep it neat and tidy.

We would like the family to know how much he was loved by many people, who unfortunately, due to the pandemic, could not say goodbye at his funeral. He will be missed by many.



#### **Battlesbridge Free Church**

Well, Spring is on its way, in spite of the extreme cold few days February brought us, snowdrops dutifully raised their heads of encouragement and daffodils braved the bitter east wind by opening out their cheerful yellow petals. The account in the Bible, Genesis chapters 7, 8 and 9 tells of the great flood in pre-historic times, when Noah and his family were rescued from the flood in the sanctuary of the huge boat, the ark. God gave a promise and a sign of a rainbow, a sign of new life after the catastrophic destruction. God said, "Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth".

We have been swamped with the world-wide catastrophe of COVID 19. But God's promise of new life is still offered in the rainbow of the life and teaching of his Son, Jesus Christ. God loves mankind just as strongly today. He longs to rescue mankind from the negative effects of the greed, lying, cheating, all wrong behaviour, which has gradually led to the plastic polluted seas, deforestation and the destructive effect of poisoning of habitats and eco-systems and the threat of global warming. God's plan for the rescue involved the sacrificial death of Christ as a once and for all reprieve, ransom paid, to cover the hell-bent excesses of humanity. This is not fanciful, old-fashioned nonsense, but absolutely relevant in this sophisticated technological-run year of 2021! Christ's offer of the freedom of renewed life is there, here and now, just for the sincere asking. For everyone, this free offer is to live with Christ as companion, counsellor, and help-mate. The legacy of Christian teaching has raised up countless acts of kindness and sheer goodness during this critical time. Our prayers to our God are for his wisdom, love and vision to be with our Government and leaders as they seek to ease the country from the lockdown and its effect on the health and economy of the nation.

**June Edwards**

### **Charity Trustees.**

Rettendon has charities operating in our midst in various forms. But what is a charity? An organisation formed for a specific purpose capable of being charitable for the public benefit. Those who serve on the governing body of a charity are called charity trustees. The business of the trustees must be independent of any other organisation. If the income exceeds £5,000 per annum the charity must be registered with the Charities Commission.

Trustees essentially should be trusted. Rooted in the local community and open and transparent in their dealings. They should be highly accountable for their actions and have high standards of public conduct in the way they work.

Recently our Richard Cannon Charity had vacancies for two trustees. These were organised by the Parish Council. As this procedure took several months to effect we should take care to lay down a clear procedure for this process.

Following the court case involving the Bell Fields there will be decisions to make about the trustees there as their four year term of office ends on July 23rd 2021. The trustees do not have to be Councillors so anyone of sound character could be eligible. Happy with the present crew, then they could be re-elected.

Information gleaned from a jointly produced missive by the Charity Commission and the Local Government Association. Want to read more of it? Try the link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

Hazel Dale-Evans

**THANK YOU.** My Dog Fudge went missing on Friday 22nd January 2021, I would like to thank everyone in Battlesbridge and Tilly's Angels who helped in the return of my dog who had sadly lost his life. It makes me so proud to be living in such a close knit community. Justine, Maltings Road, Battlesbridge.

### **Country Diary**

I have to apologise this month for taking much of what I write from The Times newspaper. The fact is that there are less birds in many gardens due to their modern layout. It applies more to urban areas than us here in Rettendon but here there are exceptions. The point is so many more people are pulling out their hedges and in some places small trees to create more hard standing for cars.

If you have a mixed hedge you have a good place for birds to feed and nest. This brings me on to feeding. Ron spends half of his summer in the garden attempting to prevent birds and insects from devouring his fruit and vegetables whereas I like to feed the birds! I favour using the cylindrical shaped feeders, the smooth type, with portholes in them. I also use the more open type for fat balls and peanuts, however I do not ground feed birds because the food scraps left attract rats which can quickly become a menace.

I have not pulled out hedges in the last 40 years but in recent years I have observed less diversity in the species of birds. No chaffinches, greenfinches, bullfinches or siskins, however we have more wood pigeons and collared doves which we could well do without. The birds obviously can do with feeding at this time of the year — the sparrows make good use of the service. The antics of our garden birds gives me great pleasure watching them.

**Jane Fallows 01245 400394**



## How are you ... ?

Many of us are struggling, we seem to be dangling between the hope that it will all be over soon and the despair that it might go on for ever. I don't even need to say what this is about ... we all know.

Alongside the pandemic is an epidemic of mental health issues; many of us are just plain fed up or maybe angry, others of us struggle with more severe depression, but we are all affected.

There is a lot of advice out there about things we can do to build our resilience and it needs careful checking. There are however some themes that I find keep cropping up and they seem to fit in well with my Christian faith. They are summed up in three words: Now, Others and Thanks.

**Now:** The past is gone and who knows what the future holds but all we can do anything about is the present, now. So slow down, maybe look up mindfulness or meditation (there are lots of different approaches: some may suit one person, others another). As a Christian, the past is left behind. Things I got wrong are forgiven and I try to forgive the hurts I've received, to leave them behind. The future is in God's hands. What I am responsible for is what I do right now.

**Others:** One of the things I have realised about being down is that I become more and more obsessed with me. So, I need to break any cycle of self-pity and look out at other people. Jesus told us to 'Love our neighbour as ourselves' – note he did *not* say '... *instead* of ourselves'. (There is something about sharing love that increases our capacity to love so that we can include ourselves in a healthy way. After all, as Christians we celebrate that we all are loved by God.) The great thing is that I can do something for others *right now*; I can pray for them. I find the most helpful prayer is praying that focuses on peoples' possibilities rather than their problems. So praying for someone to be healthy rather than praying about their illness – it can amount to the same thing, it's just more positive.

**Thanks:** This may well be the most potent tool against depression but it can also be the hardest. That's why I leave it till last and build up to it. But it always seems easier when I have stopped fretting about the past and worrying about the future, and also when I have broken that cycle of self-pity. As I look around me now, I become aware of many things and people to be thankful for, and so again I can pray and praise God for the gifts of his creation.

These are the things that I find helpful and others have too. If you are struggling, I hope that they may be of help to you as well. Please get in touch if you like to know more or make a comment.

This can only go so far however, and there are some mental health issues that need medical help just as physical illness sometimes does. When we can't break the cycle of mental health issues for ourselves it is important to ask for help and your GP may well be the best place to start.

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

**Tel: 01268 766 565 Email: [rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com](mailto:rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com)**

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

## Garden Notes

At time of writing under a thick white blanket, but there were crocus, primrose and snowdrops out. Daffodil buds abound also.

One of my orchids (indoors) showed an attack of scale bugs. These flat brown leech-like pests are not helpful, so I went hunting and squashing to avoid searching for poison in the chilly shed.

Care for your world.

**Mrs. McGregor**

We are told carrots are good for your eyesight. Is alcohol doubly good as it gives you double vision?

Etc. - A sign used to make believe you know more than you do.

## Ray Patten

We would like to send our condolences to Ray's family. Ray was a lovely man who would do anything for anyone. He and Nadine were part of the community for many years helping out wherever they could: Church, Horticultural society, and the Hall.

Ray used his skills to keep the Church in tiptop condition: making a new vestry door, plumbing, checking the heating was working, opening and locking up when needed, and was always there on a Sunday to hand out the service and hymn books.

At the Horticultural summer show he could be found in the marquee judging the wine classes.

He was also part of the bowls group, and would chat away while others played. We shall miss him greatly.

## Rettendon Horticultural Society

When I last wrote the weather was dreadful and it was difficult to see how it was going to improve. Well it didn't! It snowed and we had a very cold week which has clearly taken a toll on some of my more sensitive plants. The echium that I expected to flower this summer is looking very sad. However, the forecast is encouraging and by the time you receive this newsletter we should have had some early Spring weather.

As a committee it seems that we spend a lot of time talking about cancelling events but we also try to find ways of running events in the face of the current situation.

Our first social event would normally be the Spring show held at the end of March. Whilst anticipating some relief following the Government's plans to be announced on the 22 February we are in no doubt that there will not be the opportunity to hold the Spring show. We normally get a good display of daffodils and Spring flowers and the opportunity for a cuppa and a chat. This year instead of a formal show we are hoping to hold a virtual show. The Society has a "WhatsApp" group and for those people able to access this we would ask members to put photos of their flowers and gardens on the site. If you would like to take part I would encourage you to contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554 in order to join the group.

We are yet to take a decision about the talk planned for the 13th April but we have given some thought to the plant sale scheduled for the 8th May. If we are not able to use the village hall we hope to hold an outside event. If this is still not possible we may be able to do an advance orders sale. We will have to wait and see what Government guidelines are. More information will be included in future newsletters.

Now is the time to get started with seed sowing etc. and don't forget that membership for 2021 is free.

**John Bruty Chairperson**

As said above we will be running a virtual show, mainly on WhatsApp, but we hope to put some pictures onto the website too. If you have pictures of your spring flowers which you would like to share, but do not have access to the internet or a smartphone, please let me know. I may be able to collect a photo, or take one, if restrictions are changed. Obviously we are following the Government guidelines, but walking and looking at people's front gardens with such pretty flowers can only do us good, and lift our spirits.

**Secretary email: [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)**

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

**FREE MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR! Get in touch.**

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

At the January Council meeting, Councillors considered two new policies for adoption. The first relates to the financial reserves by the Council. A public body can hold general reserves (to cover ongoing expected costs in an emergency) and specific reserves which are dedicated to named expenditure. The reserves should reflect what is agreed in the Budget so that the Council is clear where money is coming from for each budget line – whether the precept for the current year or money already held in the bank.

The Council also adopted Remote Meetings Policy to clarify the behaviour expected at online meetings and to make sure both councillors and residents are aware of the protocols involved.

Both these new policies can be found on the website.

Councillor Dale Evans brought to the Council the suggestion that Rettendon should consider undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. It is a while since the Parish Plan was completed and these have now been superseded by Neighbourhood Plans. Once adopted, a NP becomes a document that the planning authority (Chelmsford) have to take into account when considering planning applications within the parish, so it gives a parish some measure of control about how their locality might develop. Cllr Dale Evans is going to investigate further and report back in due course.

Investigation into a new Council website is ongoing. A Council has to comply with new requirements regarding accessibility. The current website is provided on a free platform but it has limitations and a new website produced by a designer who can advise on all current legislation and requirements will be of benefit to the parish.

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

**Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk**

Email: [rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com)

Telephone: 07811 254163

The Parish council website is:

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

Next Parish Council meeting is due to be held on

**Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.**

**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://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/>

**Meetings can also be attended by ordinary telephone: Tel: 0203 481 5240 or 0203 901 7895 or 0203 481 5237 or 0203 051 2874, but you will need the meeting number so please ask the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.**

**ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem website address:-**

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

If you think there's a risk to public safety, do not report it online, please call us immediately on **0345 603 7631** or if you have hearing problems use our text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

## **CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL**

Website: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/> or tel: 01245 606606

## **Battlesbridge Matters**

Over the last 4 weeks the River Crouch has been very high, mainly due to torrential rain, but luckily we have not had any requests for sand bags. I purchased 10 tons of sand and 300 bags for emergencies. So we will not have to worry this year, when repairing the mill dam wall which has been badly damaged by erosion. The weir on the North Bank, which we lowered, works very well as a safety valve against flooding, its spread 40ft wide!

Sitting in my office last week I could see an otter foraging in the snow. By the time I found my camera it had disappeared.

I have just parted with a sailing boat. I feel very sad. I have owned it for 34 years. It has been part of my life. We shared many adventures together, over possibly 70,000 sea miles: Battlesbridge to the West Indies and America, 6 Atlantic crossings, 3 times to the Arctic Circle, Azores 3 times, with many race wins, and part of a trip to the North Pole, 1st place in Plymouth to Reykjavik, 3rd in OSTAR, Round Britain races, etc. We have never let each other down, but we have had some severe storms. I actually shed a tear when it left, it was the same feeling when leaving a happy house you have lived in for over 30 years, but will still have wonderful memories and dreams to reflect on of a half a life time. But it has gone to a trio of great sailors and more adventures for them.

I remember the good years of Rettendon Council when I took almost all the Council on a trip down the river to see the seal colony and supper back at the yacht club. There were 12 on board. All with life jackets and a glass of wine. At Parish Council meetings we always had tea and biscuits or a home-made cake and at the Christmas meeting port and hot mince pies. Ron Fallows ran a wonderful council, I wish we could turn the clock back.

Roll on the Spring and Summer and calmer parish waters.

**Yours Very Sincerely Roy Hart**

(OSTAR - Original Single-handed Transatlantic Race)

## **Senior Moments**

My memory is starting to go. (The only thing I still retain is water.) How often do you hear a relative, a friend or a neighbour say, 'oh I have no trouble remembering things'. All the failures of memory that can plague you such as losing your car at the supermarket or losing your glasses on your forehead or losing the reason why you went into a room but can't remember why you went there, are all minor when compared to the most embarrassing trick your memory can play which is forgetting what you have been talking about. How come I can remember in detail events of thirty years ago but not what I said in the last thirty seconds!

From one who knows! (Name and address supplied)

## **Newsletter Contributions**

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send them 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 contributions, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), can be collected, phone the compiler or contact for bank details.

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