



ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

There is something about this time of year that puts a real smile on people's faces. The days are getting longer, we've even started British Summer Time, flowers are starting to show and it's getting warmer (well on most days it is!).

Even more this year, hope is in the air. Hope of an end to lockdown and the possibilities of getting out and about and really meeting people socially, we can even think about tentative plans for holidays. As part of all this All Saints church is planning to move from just streaming services on line, to restarting our services with a congregation present.

On Sunday 18th April we will re-start our regular service with a congregation at 11:15am. On the 18th this will be a service of Holy Communion to which all are welcome (as all are welcome to all our congregational Sunday Services). We will still be maintaining distancing in church which will limit the number of people we can accommodate to about 30. Masks must be worn.

During Lockdown our services have been livestreamed in our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches. At least for the time being, our 11:15 Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed from All Saints (along with our Morning and Night prayer on weekdays at 8:00 am and 8:00pm and Sunday services from St Nicholas at 10:00am and St Thomas at 9:30 am).

For Christians however, this time of year holds an even greater sense of hope. Over the past year All Saints has sadly held several funeral services. At each, however there is a real sense of hope alongside the deep sadness, an Easter hope.

On both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday as well as our Livestreamed Holy Communion at 10:00 there will be an outdoor service at 9:00am. This will be at St Nicholas Rawreth on Palm Sunday and at Rettendon on Easter Sunday. This service will last for about 30 minutes.

At Easter we celebrate the victory of love even over death as we remember Jesus dying out of love for us and being raised from the dead on Easter Day. We will be celebrating with a livestreamed service on Easter Day at 10:00, live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches. All are welcome to join the group.

For those who don't use Facebook or cannot be on line to join in at 10:00 all our most recent services are uploaded onto our website at www.hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection and also on the YouTube Channel at www.bit.ly/RJsYouTube

I do hope that you can join us! Happy Easter.

Richard (Priest in Charge of All Saints)

E: rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com T: 01268 766565

Website: www.hrr-churches.org.uk

Thanks from a Local Resident

After my evening shower and going to bed, I realised I'd left my gate open, it was pouring, I wasn't going out in that, I woke this morning and the gate was closed, S-type Security had been around at 1.30am and closed it for me. Great team and good to know they look out for us while we sleep.

Garden Notes

Time to spread a bit of feed to help the bulbs stay strong - all that energy into the flowers can be an exhausting process. Roses too are a hungry plant. This season is all glorious blue and yellow sunshine.

Love it every year..... Mrs. McGregor

Rettendon Horticultural Society

A further month into Spring and following the Government's announcements there are, at last, reasons to be optimistic about a return to relative normality.

The rules now in place mean that we are reasonably sure that we will be able to hold our plant sale currently due to take place on the 8th May. Unfortunately it will not be in the usual format but will be on the basis of pre orders and open to members of the Rettendon Horticultural Society. If the village hall is still closed we hope that orders will be able to be collected from the car park on a pre arranged time slot. Further information will be in the next newsletter.

An even more exciting matter is that if the dates given by the Government hold up, a lifting of most restrictions on the 21st June, we should be able to go ahead with the Rettendon Village Show on the 10th July. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate the end of lockdown and an opportunity to come together and meet up with friends and family in a relaxed way. No doubt we will have to make some changes and allowances to reflect that we will not be completely COVID free.

It would be nice to see the various craft sections jam packed with exhibits showing what people have been doing in the past year. To reflect the situation we have decided that the floral art themes will be entitled "Let's party" and "Freedom".

If you are thinking about putting in some entries in the vegetable section now is the time to get sowing and planting.

Let's keep everything crossed and hope that the dates do not get put back.

Show schedules will soon be available from Barbara Wright on 01245 321554 and on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/>.

Remember that membership for this year is free (it's only £5 normally!) Keep sowing and safe.

John Bruty, Chairperson

Have you completed a few projects; arts and crafts, growing vegetables or flowers, making jam, new cookery skills, during lockdown which have pleased you? Why not let others see your results. Look out for the schedules for the Summer Show 2021. Classes for everyone, including the children.

We are looking forward to co-operation with the Friends of Rettendon School, the Cricket club and other village groups to prepare for the Village show on Saturday 10th July from 1pm till 5pm. Obviously following COVID guidelines, but the planning has already begun....

Contact me for schedules, and watch the website for Spring flower showings.

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554

email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Want to join? You can contact Beryl Wilkinson on 01268 766221 for membership.

I was given some hamster jam, but it was so awful I threw it in the garden. In the spring I noticed some beautiful daffodils coming up. My neighbour remarked on this and I said about the jam, "Funny" he said, "I always thought tulips came from 'Amsterdam'" (PS No hamsters were harmed in the making of this joke(?)).

LOVE YOUR PARISH

Recently an application was sent to ECC as part of their support to local Parish Councils. This was to request their Street Cleaning Team to come and clear the pathway from the bus stop in Woodham Road, to the Wheatsheaf Centre. This stretch of pavement is well used and badly overgrown, especially in parts where the footpath is narrow and close to the traffic.

I am pleased to announce that our application has been approved and the Street Team will be working in the village on 22nd April. Thank you to the local resident who brought attention to this scheme and we are very pleased that our application was successful.

Sandie Cottee

From our Ward Councillor

Although we are approaching the period of Purdah, and I'm not allowed to say too much, services will continue. Should anyone need assistance in matters relating to Council they can still contact me.

Paul Clark,

Retendon and Runwell Ward Councillor

Email: paul.clark@chelmsford.gov.uk

Phone: 07776 940299

Battlesbridge Matters

We are now into a series of tides on the river Crouch, which have been termed "Bird Tides". Usually from the 1st March to the end of July the high tides are consistently at a low level and do not flood the saltings or marshes, and in turn the nests of young chicks. It is wonderful how nature has its seasonal time clocks. In my book all forms of life from the humble ant to the blue whale have a very high level of intelligence, which should never be underestimated.

On the river the swans have come back to breed, and all the other residents of the river. The Golden Eye Duck are yet to arrive, as long as the water is not polluted. I really worry that the infrastructure of our lives is not keeping pace, i.e. the road systems, etc., and especially the sewage industry. As they say, the most important people are plumbers. If you have a serious blockage and no plumber, life as we are accustomed to comes to an end!

Doing nothing during lockdown. Virus would appear to be a wonderful break, but it does give a sense of boredom, and especially when you forget what day of the week it is! Roll on warm weather and reducing lockdown, so we can get our purpose of life back. Tomorrow I am going to dig the vegetable patch, even if much more economic just to go and buy the vegetables from Tesco's. Digging is very good for the soul!

P.S. The Golden Eye Ducks have just flown in. Next a cold wind from the East will come in for 5 days onwards till the end of March, and then the warm sun will shine.

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

Quick laughs with Harry Hill...

What is the flag of the shallot society? *The Onion Jack*

Why were the peas so wealthy? *They were minted.*

What do you call two parallel lines of vegetables?
A dual cabbage-way!

Why did the scanner get detention? *For copying.*

How does the astronomer cut his hair? *E-clipse it.*

On what did Tarzan cross the river? *On a gi-raft.*



Battlesbridge Free Church

We have been blessed with the input from various people who have led Sunday services for us in the past. They have joined our resident team in producing a virtual service for the Sundays of lockdown. These have kept our fellowship together and bound us in spirit. But now, we can look forward to the coming of Easter 2021, when we hope to meet in person to celebrate Easter Day in the Church, on April 4th. This will be a communion service led by David. We shall still use a one-way system, gel our hands, space the seating and wear a mask. What a wonderful day for our re-opening! Easter celebrates the resurrection or return to life of Jesus Christ, about 2000 years ago. The re-opening of churches will be like the beginning of a new life after COVID 19. We know we still have some way to go before the scourge of this terrible virus has been eliminated. When friends and disciples of Jesus witnessed his terrible death on the cross, their lives had been sent into a dreadful turmoil of a lockdown. They felt lost, isolated and in danger. Jesus had told them on many occasions that he would return to them, but how could that be? The despair turned to unbelievable joy when God did return Jesus to them, alive, not a ghost or spirit of vapour but walking, talking and enjoying meals with them. He remained physically with them for forty days. When he left them to return to heaven, he promised to always be with them in spirit. After our lockdown, it will be wonderful to enjoy walking, talking and enjoying a meal with our friends and relatives once again. What has kept us going has been a spirit of togetherness. This has been the spirit of Jesus at work in us and for us. The promise Jesus made to his disciples all that time ago, is still for each one of us today. He opens wide spiritual lockdown to the freedom of renewed life.

June Edwards

Country Diary

Spring is definitely emerging. Most gardens are bursting with daffodils and the hedgerows have the blackthorn, sloe and the wild cherry blossom. I have been told that this area is the best place to see the cherry plum blossom.

Yesterday a sparrowhawk visited my wild bird feeder table. I wondered "why", at first, there were no sparrows to be seen in the area, then I saw the reason. A sparrowhawk arrived and was stalking up and down the hedge and every now and then it would dive into the hedge. After a while an incautious sparrow arrived – the hawk spied it as well, it dived but the sparrow fled. The sparrow must have escaped as it was soon back again.

The feeder, the location of this hawk melodrama, is on the east side of our bungalow which tends to be the feeding location for the smaller birds.

Earlier in the week I saw two male blackbirds fighting on the west side of the bungalow, Their rise and fall was quite balletic. About ten days ago I went to Hyde Hall and heard some buzzards and then saw a small flock of them. They were quite high in the sky. It is only in recent years that buzzards have come to Essex

A neighbour recently told me he had seen a barn owl at dusk in the field near his home and also a deer in Creephedge Lane.

It is a pity that we are not in sheep country here as I love seeing the lambs but there are some flocks nearer the coast.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

PARISH COUNCIL

Following on from last month's report, at the February meeting the Council agreed to accept a quotation for providing a new website. The current one is hosted free on the e-Voice platform but new regulations which came into force last year mean that every Council website has to comply with accessibility guidelines. This means it has to be accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities, including blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, and learning disabilities. The current website does not meet these standards but with the technical expertise of our new provider the new website will comply.

The wording of the Village Survey was agreed and the costs for printing and delivery approved. By now they have been delivered and the survey has closed. Councillors will consider the responses and these will inform future action taken by the Council.

The Council's insurance renews on 1st April 2021. As the policy is under a long term agreement the policy renews automatically but we have been reviewing the Council's assets over the past few weeks (bus stops, defibrillators etc) and this information will be used to update the information our insurers hold.

A further meeting was held on 11th March 2021 to discuss the response to questions arising from the survey, and documents relating to the Bell Fields dispute.

If any resident has any query about any Council matters please do not hesitate to contact me. It is not necessary to wait for a Council meeting. I can be contacted on: rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com or on 07811 254163. I cannot always answer the phone but if you leave a message I will come back to you.

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

Next Parish Council meeting, being held via Zoom, is due to be held on: **Tuesday, 27th April, 2021 at 7:30pm**

Please check Parish Council website for details of meetings, agendas and other Parish Council information:-

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

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

ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem website address:-

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx> If there is a risk to public safety, 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

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact RetBatNews@gmail.com or 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.

A RESIDENTS RESPONSE TO MRS PREBBLE'S ARTICLE IN FEBRUARY'S NEWSLETTER ENTITLED:- "As I see it....."

In February's issue, Mrs Prebble placed an article apologising to "all the true villagers" for costing the Parish "a lot of money". She also confirmed that without Roy Hart they "never could have done it"! Mr Hart is himself a Parish Councillor.

Mrs Prebble was one of the former Trustees of the Bell Fields Charities recently removed by Court Order.

We do of course live in a Parish that includes not only Rettendon Village, but also Rettendon Common, Battlesbridge and Hayes Country Park.

I do hope that Mrs Prebble can be persuaded that all Parishioners are entitled to be classed as "true villagers", rather than just a select few. After all we all pay our Council Tax just the same and are entitled to have a say in the running of our community.

Of course it was unfortunate that legal action was required, but the Bell Field's litigation was the last resort available to the Parish Council. It followed several wasted years involving numerous attempts to persuade the purported Trustees that their appointment was unlawful. Something that they, and Mr Hart, steadfastly refused to accept. In the event, it took a Senior High Court Judge to confirm that their claimed status as Trustees was unlawful.

The Upper Bell Field football pitch is currently a loss making venture. It is leased by South Woodham Ferrers United Football Club (the majority of whose members are not of this Parish). The rent paid does not cover the amount of remedial work required to restore the field and so this will need to be subsidised by the Trustees or the Parish.

The football pitch itself has been declared unsafe by the Essex Football Association and it cannot be used for matches until the remedial works are carried out to large areas of the playing surface.

The lawful Trustees discovered this fundamental problem when they regained control of the Bell Field Charities in September 2020, but they have quickly identified suitable contractors, prepared an appropriate specification and hope to commission the works allowing for the reuse of the pitch in September 2021, when the new football season gets under way.

I trust our Parish Council, and the Trustees appointed by it. They will remain answerable to all Parishioners in the same way as they had been previously for well over 100 years.

Jim Knight, a resident of this Parish

Footnote: The Trustees' comments on the state of the pitch can be found in their report printed in the October 2020 newsletter. The problem was caused by clay shrinkage during the very dry summer 2020.

In response to Mr Knight (resident and Parish Councillor).
"I wish to apologise to anyone that was offended by my previous personal statement, I certainly meant no offence".
Pat Prebble.

We are awaiting sight of the F.A. Report before commenting further on the state of the football pitch. With reference to the remainder of Mr Knight's text we feel that the High Court Judge said it all.
Bell Fields defendants.

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions 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), 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 the compiler for bank details.