



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ JUNE 2021

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 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th of the month

Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events



Events subject to Government COVID restrictions – please check before attending.

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Summer Show Open Meeting	Tuesday, 22 nd June	7:30pm	Village Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 29 th June	7:30pm	Village Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council
REGULAR EVENTS				
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting	Last Tuesday of month	7:30pm	Village Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council
Pre-school	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – Please note all events subject to Government COVID restrictions				
Last date for garden entry	Thursday, 1 st July		Rettendon Horticultural Society https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/	
Garden Judging	Sunday, 4 th July	2pm onwards	Rettendon Horticultural Society https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/	
Summer Show Entries	Saturday, 10 th July	8am -10:30am	Cricket Field	Rettendon Horticultural Society
Summer show	Saturday, 10 th July	1pm – 5pm	Cricket Field & Village Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Society
MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salford Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	25 th May, 15 th June, 6 th July	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	11 th June, 2 nd and 23 rd July	

Pre-notice: Rettendon Horticultural Society Summer Show.

Saturday, 10th July, 1pm - 5pm

Entries to show from 8am to 10:30am (and no later than!)

Open event, anyone may enter. Children may enter any item they have made since the last show in July 2019.

Schedule as included in this newsletter.

The show is dependent on the easing of restrictions on the 21st June - but we remain hopeful, and will take all precautions necessary.

Barbara Wright, secretary,
RetHSsec@gmail.com

Newsletter Thank you....

We had a lovely response from Hayes Country Park residents who offered their services to deliver door-to-door.

We are also very grateful to Jim Knight for forwarding the link via email, which he has been doing for several years now.

Hopefully everyone on the Park will receive either a paper copy or the link. If you think some people are not getting one please get in touch.

And a Newsletter plea...

Is there anyone who would be willing to take some newsletters in the Burnham/Woodham Road area around Hayes Chase and Meadowcroft? Please contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554, or email RetBatNews@gmail.com.

In case you would like to read the Newsletter online our website is:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/newsletters/>

Rettendon Memorial Hall

We are pleased that the Pre-school are still learning and staying safe, and thank the parents for their continued support.

To reserve a place contact Pat Prebble on 07762 909351.

Although Pre-school is the only group operating in the hall at present, the Management are mindful of how much others would like to attend, not least the groups who have supported the hall all through our difficult times.

We are looking into the best way forward considering all the Government COVID restrictions. Safety of our residents remains our top priority.

Hall Management Committee

CONSULTATION on DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) for SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT

Have your say - for four weeks, from 10am on Tuesday 18 May 2021 until 4pm on Tuesday 15 June 2021.

You can read and comment on all the documents:

On the City Council's Consultation Portal at

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult

*Alternatively visit our consultations page at: [https://](https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/planning-policy-consultations/)

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/planning-policy-consultations/

You can also send your comments via (please include your name and address):

- E-mail: planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk
- Post: Planning Policy Team, Spatial Planning Services, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE
- By hand: Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm - Customer Service Centre, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE

The Draft SPD will also be available to view at Chelmsford Library, County Hall, Market Road.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

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

Our plant sale went ahead on a very soggy Saturday morning. Notwithstanding the weather it was good to catch up with friends face to face. We made a small profit and thanks goes out to those people who helped on the day and who donated plants. If it ever stops raining we may be able to do some planting!

We are still on course to go ahead with our Summer Show in July. We have started the planning, assuming the Government restrictions on COVID will be eased, and although the show will certainly result in a financial loss we are determined to make this an enjoyable community event.

A great deal of effort goes into preparation and running the show on the day and I would encourage volunteers to help with setting up on the Friday before the show and on the day itself. We will certainly need help on the day to run stalls and as stewards to ensure the smooth running of the event. If you are able to help please contact our Secretary **Barbara Wright** on 01245 321554 or by email RetHSec@gmail.com.

Please remember that the show is open to all not just members of the Society so come along and put some exhibits in whether they be horticultural, cookery or craft related. The show schedule is available on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/> and a printed copy will accompany this newsletter.

The cricket club has confirmed that they will be open on the day, if allowed. We plan to provide light refreshments and hope to have our usual barbeque.

It may not be the Village Show as we know it but every effort will be made to run a successful social event for the community.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show.

John Bruty, Chairperson

As our chairman stated, we are preparing for the summer show, and hope you can put in some exhibits for judging. Of course, all our preparation and planning will depend on the decision by the Government about easing the restrictions on 21st June. However, an event such as the summer show cannot be set up overnight, so all the normal preparations are in hand. We have to hope for better times, not least better weather.

The decision for going ahead will be in the next newsletter, but if you are to sort out what exhibits you would like to enter, then you need the schedule. At least there are some recipes you could try, perhaps with children and grandchildren. And we would encourage the children to enter with whatever they have made, or photos they have taken during their time off school.

We are still offering free membership (not a requirement for entering the show), but please let us know if you want to join us. Looking forward to getting back in the future to having talks and outings.

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554

RetHSec@gmail.com

Garden Notes

Magnificent display of plants but most had put themselves in without checking with the chief gardener! Requiring some drastic reorganisation. What fun!

See you all later when order prevails.

Mrs. McGregor



Rettendon Primary School

Having now been back for a full half term, the school is slowly regaining its buzz of life. As well as a fully engaging curriculum, the children have been able to begin to participate in some extra-curricular activities after school with clubs taking place in their “bubbles” – origami, netball, athletics, gymnastics and computing amongst other things. Sadly, we are still not allowed to sing across the school and whole-school assemblies continue to take place “virtually” but gradually things are improving.

We have welcomed a variety of visitors to the school (ensuring it is in a safe, Covid-secure way) so the children have heard about Eid and Easter from some; a policeman, film-director, fireman and genealogist as well as others looking at the “World of Work”. Most recently we were pleased to have Mrs Wright and Mrs Fallows from the Horticultural Society come in to help the children take and plant cuttings as we are developing our class gardens at the rear of the school. Thank you ladies!

It is hard to believe that we are almost in our final term of what has been the most difficult year of teaching ever for everyone connected with the school. Once again, huge thanks to you all for your thoughts and support.

**Phil Andrews, Deputy Headteacher,
Rettendon Primary School.**

FOR SALE

A dark green leather three piece suite and footstool. Solid wood frame in very good condition. Donation to All Saints' Church, Rettendon. Phone **Lyn** for details on **07879 285834**.



Battlesbridge Free Church

We are all so pleased that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, the dark tunnel of Covid 19. In our pleasure at relaxation of restrictions, we are still warned to use our common sense, especially in view of the new variant waiting in the wings. We thank our God for the blessings of the vaccines and for the enormous effort in ensuring that they have been so widely and swiftly available to protect against this great shadow over our lives.

We have been pleased to be able to attend our Battlesbridge Free church to meet with each other in person to bring our prayers and thanks to God. Sadly it is all too easy to drift away from the strong Christian faith of our forefathers. With the forward rush into the world of technology, Twitter, Facebook, smartphones, etc. it can easily seem that we have outlived the need for God, he belonged to a previous age, not appropriate for the 21st century. We may find it so easy to put God on the back burner, but he never will do the same for us. He still remains the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, his steadfast love for his creation mankind, unchanging.

In the life and death of Jesus Christ, his son, we humans were offered the forgiveness for our wrong doings, the actions and thoughts which may seem trivial to us but which spring from a self-centred view of life. Most of us do try to live the inherited teachings of Christ of treating others as we would wish them to treat us. But if we reject or ignore God's offer of forgiveness, he has informed us that we will face his judgement when our mortal life dies. We can pooh, pooh this or say we would believe it if someone came back from the dead to confirm this. But Christ did come back. He did show us the way, the truth and the life. It is up to us but it would be sad to leave it too late.

June Edwards

RETTENDON COMMON ALLOTMENTS

We have now heard from several people who are interested in renting an allotment on the Lower Bell Field and many others expressed their interest through the recent Village Survey. Please could you contact :

Glenys Jones 07739 530611 glenyskjones@hotmail.co.uk
Or Denise Fleming 07834 863570
denisefleming2011@gmail.com

to enable us to arrange a meeting, form an association, etc and really start to move forward.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Glenys Jones and Denise Fleming



ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Ordinary time

If you have been into All Saints (physically or virtually) over the past few weeks you may have noticed the colours changing as we mark the Church's seasons. White for Easter and the Sundays that follow as we remember Jesus' resurrection after his execution, and his appearances to the first disciples. After 40 days we celebrated Ascension when these appearances ended, Jesus returning to his Father. And then, 10 days later, the colour changed to Red for Pentecost and the excitement of the coming of the Holy Spirit – so exciting that some people accused the first disciples of being drunk! Whatever did happen that day, a bunch of scared, mostly non-literate tradesfolk, were transformed into the founders of the worldwide religion of which All Saints is a part, still going 2,000 years later.

And after that emotional roller coaster comes Ordinary time. The colour changes to Green.

After the past year or so I find something remarkably reassuring about the term Ordinary time. I long for church services in which we can sing hymns and without social distancing or masks. For tea and coffee after the services and getting together for our Friday Coffee mornings again. That will come when guidance allows.

But it won't just be getting back to the old Ordinary. We have learnt about how to use the internet and Facebook to stream our worship. Albeit that our physical congregation has declined the number of people joining us in prayer one way or another has actually grown.

We have learnt much in other ways too. We have learnt to appreciate those whose work is often hidden or taken for granted (remember clapping the NHS?). If 'absence makes the heart grow fonder' we have certainly realised how much we missed family and friends that we could no longer meet and hug. Many of us have had to learn resilience in battles with depression or other mental illness.

My prayer is that in Ordinary time we will not just go back to what was ordinary but will grow into a new ordinary in which all we have learnt over the past 15 months is cherished and developed.

The colour for Ordinary Time is green, a colour that suggests growth. After all we have learnt, let's grow into a *new* 'Ordinary'.

Thank you

You may have noticed a new All Saints noticeboard on Main Road at the end of Church Chase. Many thanks to Roy Hart who provided that for the church, not just buying it but also getting permission for it to be sited and then rolling up his sleeves to dig the holes and put it up.

Many thanks Roy

Richard Jordan Priest in Charge, All Saints Rettendon

01268 766565, rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com

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

All Saints' Church

We have a remarkable building in our village of Rettendon which is of course the church. It is a grade one listed building which is approximately 1,000 years old. Due to Covid 19 we have been greatly curtailed in our activities in both services and open days. We are now back to having weekly services but still have to wear masks and are not able to sing. These restrictions frustrate many people but hopefully this will last only for a short time longer.

Why am I writing this you may say? We only have a small congregation and if we don't attract more people to our services the Diocese will close us down. The collection helps to pay for the Vicar's salary – we pay the money to the Diocese and the Diocese then pays the vicar. With the numbers we are presently getting he would not last a month even on baked beans!

Covid has affected us so badly we have not been able to celebrate weddings or hold funeral services in fact we have not been able to raise funds needed just to keep our church open and help to bring us together.

Jane Fallows ex churchwarden

Rettendon & Battlesbridge Matters and beyond.

Last Sunday morning, I sat at the back of our wonderful Parish asset All Saints' Church. To start with I am not deeply religious, I have never been confirmed, but I certainly believe in a superior being. I went to Sunday school at the age of 7, but preferred scrumping apples and netting sticklebacks, and dreaming of a proper 2-wheel bike, rather than my battered 3-wheel pedals tricycle. But I really believe and hope there is a life after death. The prime example is the caterpillar, which appears to die when turning into a chrysalis, and then emerges as a beautiful butterfly into the sunlight.

I was asked by some superior members of society "What is Christmas like in the village of Battlesbridge?". I replied "The dream of walking through crisp snow on a cold, but clear, night, with stars so bright you could have plucked them from the heavens with your hands. A long pole over my shoulder with an oil lamp on the end, and my 3 children following in my tracks, up across the white fields to St Nicholas church in Rawreth for mass, and seeing the golden glow of the church windows on the snow." I told them "I sit in silent peace at the back of the church and silently talk to my old mum and dad, who both passed away at 46". The assembled company almost sniggered at my "fantasy". I replied in a strong, but polite tone, "What's the negative bleak alternative." I then turned quickly and left for the bar.

I was sitting alone in my cabin, 2 days before the start of the OSTAR race (Single Handed Sail Race Plymouth to America). There was a gentle tap on the hatch top. It so happens it was the Bishop of Plymouth coming to bless me and my boat. I welcomed him in and said "I do not want any blessings for my self and my boat." I also said to the bishop, my reason was last week the Pope was blessing Ferrari racing cars at the Italian Grand Prix. I said that was wrong. I also said to the bishop, blessings were for the less fortunate in life, the needy, sick and bedridden, etc. Anyway I offered the bishop a beer. He accepted. He turned out to be a charming person. He had the most excellent quality of listening to a different point of view.

I hope the coffee morning will start soon at All Saints, every Friday from 10 to 11am. It is a very enjoyable 1 hour. Great to meet new faces, and catch up with all the events, etc. in Rettendon.

Rettendon and Battlesbridge is a wonderful place to live. We are so lucky in our little patch of England, considering the harrows of the Middle East, and other conflicts, raging Covid 19, globally and pollution, etc.

Peace and Goodwill seem rather distant.

Please try and visit our wonderful Grade 1 listed Church of All Saints.

It needs a little bit of loving support. The vicar is a very good listener too. **Very Sincerely Roy Hart - my own personal view.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The April Council meeting considered the ownership of the Bell Fields. It was agreed that the Clerk would take the first steps in clarifying the position by writing to the Charity Commission and the Land Registry.

The title was transferred to the Official Custodian without the authority of the Parish Council, in whose name the title was previously held.

Two applications for solar farms in the area were also considered – Canon Barns and Pan Lane. The Council voted to object to these applications.

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting at the beginning of May, to take advantage of the fact that the power to hold remote meetings was coming to an end.

Councillor Mark Fleming stood down as Chairman after six years in the role and Cllr Phillips was elected in his place. Cllr Phillips was elected in 2019 and has been an active member of the Council since then, most recently on the Village Survey Working Group.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting of the Council is to set the Council up for the coming municipal year. Policies and procedures are reviewed and adopted, and appointments made to both Council committees and working groups and outside bodies. All information about these appointments can be found on the Council's website.

The Council plans to hold its next meeting on the last Tuesday in May, hopefully at the Village Hall. We await confirmation that this will be possible, bearing in mind the current situation regarding Covid-19.

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.

contact details

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

The Parish council website is:

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

ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem

Website: <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

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send them to the compiler 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: cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), contact the compiler for collection, or for bank details, or post in East Hanningfield Rd.

Dear Residents

The vaccination program is still being rolled out and we continue to be affected by a growing number of "variants" to COVID-19.

At the time of writing, Chelmsford has the highest number of new cases in Essex (20.7 per 100k), this equates to 35 in a week. Those aged between 11-18 years old being the group most affected, as schools returned.

Since the lockdowns began, Chelmsford City Council have continued to operate a normal service of bin collections and recycling.

Other customer services have been operating from remote locations. Council meetings are set to return to the Chamber and committee rooms format from this week.

As more facilities start to reopen it is vital we all continue to observe the social distancing discipline as advised.

Stay safe, kindest regards

Councillor Paul Clark, Rettendon & Runwell Ward

Independent

Tel: 07775 940

299, Paul.Clark@chelmsford.gov.uk

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

Rettendon area: Chelmsford City Council Planning:

<https://publicaccess.chelmsford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

EIA Screening Opinion request for proposed solar farm.

Land North Of Frelins Farm Rectory Lane Battlesbridge Wickford

Ref. No: 21/01038/EIASO

Validated: Wed 19 May 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

Country Diary

I have had several people give me messages for the newsletter about birds. The frustrating thing is I have not observed these happenings myself.

First Ralph of South Hanningfield has seen the swallows (first about three weeks ago). Admittedly he lives near the nature reserve but here in Rettendon we are not short of water. Second our neighbours who live almost opposite me have seen swifts. They are magnificent birds who do not land, are very streamlined and feed on the wing. I have not heard the distinctive call of the cuckoo, but various people have. No messages about house martins as yet. We used to get many a pair nesting under our eaves but one autumn they flew off never to return. All these happenings herald summer but everyone seems to be moaning about the cold and it not being summer like weather.

Changing the subject slightly our bluebells are doing very well, sadly they have nearly finished flowering but the red campion and the white stitchwort bring our woodland and hedgerows alive, a marvellous carpet of colour. **Jane Fallows 01245 400394**

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