



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER DEC 2021/ JAN 2022

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 402
 Please note the views expressed within are those of 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 (To publicise your event please contact the compiler)



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 30 th November	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Rettendon Walking Group	Saturday, 4 th December	10am on (all day)	Heybridge Basin	Sandie (01268 733259)
St. Nicholas' Christmas "DO"	Sunday, 12 th December	2:30 – 4:30pm	St. Nicholas church, Rawreth	
School Christingle	Wed/Th, 15 th / 16 th Dec	10am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Carol service	Sunday, 19 th December	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday, 19 th December	4pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Parish Council Meeting (TBC)	Tuesday, 21 st December	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
Crib Service	Friday, 24 th December	4pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Midnight Mass	Friday, 24 th December	11:30pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Christmas Communion	Saturday, 25 th December	10am	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th January	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Parish Council
REGULAR EVENTS				
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free / All Saints, Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting	Last Tuesday in Month	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Pre-school (in school term)	Monday - Thursday	Mornings	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Pre-school
Bowls	Mondays	7 - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall + Book Swap open	
Knit & Natter & Crafty Chatter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall + Book Swap open	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Cycle Club	Wednesdays	7pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Cycle Club
Rettendon Walking Group	Thursdays	10am	Various venues – Call Sandie on 01268 733259	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Keep Fit Class	Fridays (TBC)	12 – 1pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Keep Fit Group
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
Beetle Drive	TBC	TBC	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Games Afternoon	Sunday TBC	2pm on TBC	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25 to 12:55pm / 1:45 to 2:15pm	30 th Nov, 21 st Dec, 11 th Jan, 1 st , 22 nd Feb	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	17 th Dec, 7 th , 28 th Jan, 18 th Feb	

*Check website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/> / Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Rettendon Walking Group
Saturday, 4th December

As well as our regular local Thursday morning walk we now meet monthly for longer walks at the weekend. The next is planned for Saturday Dec. 4th and a 7-10 mile walk is planned starting from Heybridge Basin. We will meet in Rettendon at 10am and arrange car share. If you would like to join us please contact **Sandie 01268 733259**

A Christmas 'DO' at St Nicks
on Sunday 12th December 2.30 - 4.30pm
As Good as New stall
(bring and buy - no clothing please)
Cakes and Raffle stalls
Come and enjoy a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine,
A cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake
£3.50
All money raised goes to St Nicholas Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON

CAROL SERVICE 11:15am
Sunday 19th December

MIDNIGHT MASS 11:30pm
Friday, 24th December

NO Christmas Day Service at All Saints' Church, Rettendon

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, RAWRETH

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 4pm
Sunday, 19th December

CRIB SERVICE 4pm
Friday, 24th December

CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION
10am
Saturday, 25th December

Rettondon Horticultural Society

Our AGM will have taken place by the time this newsletter goes out. This brings a difficult year for the Society to an end. We look forward to going into 2022 with a full calendar of shows, talks and outings.

By the time the next newsletter comes out we will be coming to the end of the Winter with Spring on the horizon. It will help us get through those dismal Winter months if we think about the snowdrops, daffodils and hellebores that will greet us at the end of February.

All that remains is to thank everybody who has helped with this years shows, meetings and the plant sale and those who exhibited in the shows despite the difficulties that we faced.

Rettondon Horticultural Society wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy Horticultural New Year.

John Bruty, Chairperson

I would like thank everyone for being so patient and helping me with my job for the past two COVID infested years. We managed to keep the society going on telephone conferences (lack of internet prevented some of us Zooming). Hopefully we will be back in full swing next year, at least that is what we have in the diary with the usual sort of dates, and an addition of an inter-society quiz at Runwell (please let me know if you are interested).

Having had the chance to send out a Horticultural newsletter or two I am enthused to do more to keep all our members in touch, not just those on the internet (which may be easier, but not everyone uses it). There will be another newsletter for the end of year to let everyone know what happened at the AGM, and a reminder about renewing membership.

We look forward to good growing seasons, and, of course, challenging John Bruty and Matthew Oliver for show cups again, plus lots of socialising.

Would you like to know more? Contact Barbara Wright, secretary, on 01245 321554, or email RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

The Bells - 100 year commemoration Peal

By the time this comes out, hopefully, a full peal of approximately 3 hours will have been rung for the 100 years commemorating the peal of 26th November, 1921 - the first after World War I, during which some of Rettondon's bell ringers lost their lives.

And more will be heard on Saturday, 11th December when the Bell Ringers Association will have their Carol Service at All Saints' Church, Rettondon.

It is such a shame that the Rettondon ringers are so few we cannot ring the peal ourselves, but so rewarding that others think the Bells should be rung to celebrate.

If you would like to try ringing please get in touch with Barbara on 01245 321554 (answerphone but no SMS). Our practice night is Wednesday at 8pm.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the garage sale, held last month in East Hanningfield Road.

It raised £340 for our Church, and also to the mystery person who donated with money posted through my door. **Lyn Benson.**

Hedgehogs

We have four hedgehogs visit our garden in Southview road every night.

We feed them so well so they keep coming back.

We also have a hedgehog house and have seen two go inside.

We can get up close and they do not scuttle away. We are so lucky.

Let us hope they will return next year.



'Twas the night before Christmas,

when all thro' the house,

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.....



But out in the garden, in spite of the cold,
Is a rather small hedgehog
who's not very old
He's still hunting for food,
to gain Winter weight

While tomorrow you feast with great
treats on your plate!

Whilst you head for the fridge, no
such thing for a hog,

He'll hunt for a bug under stones or a log.

But at this time of year,
food is so hard to find.

When you're munching away,
please bear him in mind.

If you could leave him food out to aid in his fight,
It will help him get through the cold winter night.

Better still put him food out each night up to Spring,
You'll help him survive – a wonderful thing!

He'll never forget you, and keep popping by
To eat bugs from your plants, and say a
fond 'hi'.

So thanks in advance from all hogs like this
chappy,

May your Christmas be merry, and your new year be
happy!

Copyright Jon Hitchman 2014



..... Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... but it's still on my list.
 3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
 4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
 5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
 6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
 7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
 8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- (with thanks to Biggin Hill newsletter)

Memorial Village Hall

The hall diary is being booked up for various events for next year. Col's Country club is still lacking a few guests for the music, but there will be more acts to dance to in the New Year - watch out for dates in the Newsletter.

FITNESS CLASS Following our message in the Newsletter we have had an offer from a teacher. We will be seeing her and finding out what she can provide. Meanwhile: **PLEASE** get in touch with **Hazel on 01245 401538, or Barbara on 01245 321554** to register your interest. We will need a few of you to stand up and be counted so we can arrange the classes. Please also let us know days and times. Obviously we will try to choose those for the maximum number of people.

Pre-school - Mornings from Monday to Thursday.

Learning with play and now in the midst of Christmas preparations for our show. Check out our Website: <https://www.rettendonpreschool.co.uk/>. If you want any information call **Pat on 07762 909351**

Bowls: - Monday evenings with matches against local clubs, as seen in last month's newsletter with the Hayes Park group. Our Thursday afternoons have been a bit curtailed of late as we could do with a few new people. But do get in touch to join our friendly crew. It is good exercise and a good excuse to get out of the house. Contact **Joan on 01268 765329**

Knit and Natter and **Crafty Chatter**

Everyone got stuck in knitting and crocheting some more poppies to make a show for Remembrance Day at the Church. Delighted to say it was there on the 11th, and at the Remembrance Day service. We were pleased to be asked to loan the cascade for use along the road for special occasions. Maybe next year we can make it bigger and better.

Not just knitting, but any type of crafts can be brought to work on from 1:30 - 3:30pm, 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays at our Village Hall.

Want a special session, different time - do tell us...

Hazel - 01245 401538 or Sandie - 01268 733259

Plans afoot:-

Beetle Drive - after Christmas

Drama Group - finding crew - director, producer, actors, stage hands - all good experience. Interested?

Games Afternoon - thinking possibly of a Sunday afternoon - attracted? Suggestion of day? Suggestion of games?

Let us know: try Hazel on 01245 401538 or the newsletter on 01245 321554 leaving name and number and we will get back to you. (Please no SMS), email: RetBatNews@gmail.com

Our booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, can be contacted on 01245 400297. Need to know the rates? The booking clerk has them all, or try the website.

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

Volunteers with spades...

are required to assist with the planting of 150 tree whips and hedging plants on the Bell Fields in January 2022.

The trees, plants and biodegradable plant guards with 6 tonnes of mulch are being donated to the Parish by Essex County Council and the Woodland Trust. Delivery is currently booked to take place on Friday 7th January 2022 with planting due to commence over the week-end of 8th and 9th January - weather permitting of course

This is all part of the Essex Forest Initiative which hopes to see 1 million trees planted between 2021 and 2025.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact **Jim Knight on 07885 698 366** as he will be supervising the delivery and planting.

Any local landowners interested in taking advantage of this planting scheme should contact Tom Moat, Forestry and Woodland Officer at ECC on 07730 616609.



Country Diary

Migratory birds could change their habits so an article in the Daily Telegraph claims. It suggests many of our small birds could spend more time in Britain. This is due to climate change.

Apparently the birds arrived earlier this year and left later. The article did not mention the birds by name except for the nightingale and the migratory wagtails but I think I read elsewhere the white throat and the chiff-chaff may also change their habits.

We have had another visit from a sparrow hawk. It was smaller than the first one and did not spend so long patrolling the hedge and hope it doesn't keep up his visits as I will not have the opportunity to see such a wide selection of birds feeding on my feeder.

May I wish you all a happy Christmas and healthy new year. **Jane Fallows**

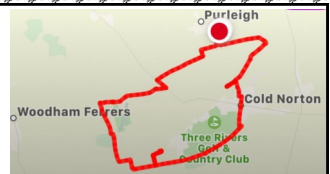
Rettendon Walking Group

The last long walk of about 14km was a round trip from the Purleigh Bell. Minor detour for tea/coffee and a stop at Stow Maries for a lunch break. Missing a turning we

found had curtailed the walk slightly, but all to the good as it was getting very overcast and dark.

We all had a stop at the Bell afterwards, for even more of a chat, before some headed home and others to stay for a meal.

Walks are coordinated by **Sandie on 01268 733259**



Age defying moment

"Now Mrs Lyons" said the Doctor, "You say you have shooting pains in your neck, dizziness and constant nausea. Just for the record, "How old are you?"

"Why I am going to be thirty nine on my next birthday." The woman replied indignantly.

"Hmmm" muttered the Doctor. "Got a slight memory loss too."

The Lower Bell Field Allotment Association are pleased to report that they have been awarded a grant from the Parish Council. This will enable us to start preparing the field ready for plot holders to move onto.



There is more room than we originally thought, so please contact **Glenys Jones on 07739 530611**, to find out about renting a plot measuring 45 feet by 20 feet (approx. 14m by 6m).



Battlesbridge Free Church

It was uplifting during the 2020 intrusion into our lives of the COVID 19 pandemic, that there were countless stories of neighbourly action to make life a little easier for those struggling to cope. The situation of lockdown and the uncertainty of what the immediate future would bring, led to a sort of togetherness, we were all in the same boat.

Sadly there now seems to be a growing sense of delusion. We have miraculously emerged from the constant threat of being infected by the deadly virus, through the amazing vaccination programme and now we reach out for as prosperous and benign a future as seems our due. But the road to economic recovery, the recovery of the NHS waiting times, etc. will take the same slow and painful climb as the country faced after the world war.

The country is so different now, with an international population from all over the world. During war time we had the unifying presence and faith in our God to underpin our hopes and fears. We briefly turned to our God once again during the recent Remembrance services. We were thankful that through the sacrifice of so many lives, we have been given the chance to move forward. The God who brought us through that war and through the worst of the pandemic did not then retire. His love and desire for our well-being has not waned. But he will not force his solutions on us. We individuals, as well as politicians, need to pray seriously for his wisdom and guidance for the way forward in the face of global warming and the continuing attitudes of suspicion among the world leaders. God's is the power and the glory in heaven. We pray that his will be done here on earth as in heaven. Only he can see the whole picture. He was at the beginning and will continue beyond our conception of future. He loves us. Can we not give him our faith?

June Edwards

How to catch a criminal

As some of us have already discovered thieves are often guilty of more than just robbery as the following story illustrates.

A lady reported her car stolen and mentioned there was a phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the person who answered that he had seen an advertisement in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet and the thief was arrested. (Must tell Santa to get one of his elves to keep hold of Rudolph's reins.)

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 for bank details.

Hayes Country Park

We are delighted to say we have enough people to deliver the newsletter to every home on the Park.

Thank you so much to those that have offered their help. We look forward to perhaps seeing a few of you at some of our events now you will receive the adverts for them. Obviously if you have any of your own which can be advertised to the general public please get in touch and I will endeavour to put it in the newsletter. And that goes for any local group or charity.

Barbara Wright 01245 321554, retbatnews@gmail.com.

Garden Notes

Dahlias for Christmas? Wonderous chrysanthus now and at last - some leaves for Mrs. Tiggywinkle to nest in.

Marked all the plants that die down before they disappear.

It never stops here - the bulbs are sprouting already.

Keep at it.

Mrs. McGregor

PARISH COUNCIL

The Council took a break over August but returned with two meetings in October. Apart from the standing items, the Parish Survey was agreed for publication on the Council's website once formatting is completed. Hard copies will also be available for residents if required.

The Essex Forest Initiative will provide trees for the parish and initially some of these will be placed in the Bell Fields. It is hoped more locations can be found.

A grant of £1500 towards the cost of swimming lessons for pupils of the primary school was also agreed and has since been paid to the school.

The budget and precept for 2022/23 must be agreed and communicated to Chelmsford City Council by the end of this year, and these will be considered at the November and December meetings.

If anyone has any questions about Council matters please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk by phone, email or post.

Contact details: Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishccouncil/>

ESSEX HIGHWAYS - Report a problem

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

Planning applications

Search for area or particular applications, either new, in progress or decisions made. **Search website** [https://](https://publicaccess.chelmsford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do)

publicaccess.chelmsford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do

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.