



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 **403**
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Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th of the month

Battlesbridge, Rettendon and Hayes Events (To publicise events please contact compiler) 


EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
RHS Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 8 th February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Performing Arts and Drama	Monday 14 th February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Drama and Arts Club
Organic Gardening Talk	Tuesday, 15 th February	7:30pm	The Lodge Conservatory	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Beetle Drive	Friday, 18 th February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 22 nd February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
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 / Thursdays	7 - 10pm / 2 - 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 - 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am - 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Country and Western	Saturday, every 3 months	8pm - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
Spring Show (Open to all)	Tuesday, 22 nd March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Friday, 8 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
History Day	Saturday, 23 rd April	10:30am - 3pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
MOBILE LIBRARY - 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	1 st & 22 nd Feb, 15 th March	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	28 th Jan, 18 th Feb, 11 March	

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

Are you interested in any aspect of the **PERFORMING ARTS, e.g. DRAMA** ?
There will be a preliminary meeting to gauge public support on **Monday, 14th February, at 7:30pm** in the **Rettendon Village Hall Committee room**.
Meet our artistic director and register your interest - **acting, singing, music, or scene painting, etc.**
For more information ring **Sue on 07753 106589**

Rettendon Horticultural Society presents a talk on **Organic Gardening** by **Jane Ponton**, chairperson of the **South East Essex Organic Gardeners** (website: <https://seeog.org.uk/>)
Tuesday, 15th February at 7:30pm at **The Lodge, Old Woodham Road**.
Talk will include:-
No-dig gardening; Composting;
Non-toxic and how we can support nature
Raffle (donations of prizes most welcomed)
Entrance: **Members free, non-members £3** (membership is £5 for the year with other talks and benefits)
NOTE: Teas/coffees/drinks and food from the bar can be taken into the talk.

Beetle Drive
Friday, 18th February.
7:00 for 7:30pm
Fun for all, and laughs abound.
£5 per person.
No teams, just bring yourselves.
Not sure how to play? All will be revealed.
Contact Hazel on 01245 401538
In aid of Hall funds. Tea/coffee provided



Rettendon Parish Council Survey Results
Here is the link to the results of the Parish Survey taken last March.
<https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendonparishcouncil/assets/other/here-11>
If you would like a paper copy of the results please phone the Parish Clerk, Katherine Kane, on 07811 254163 and ask to be sent one.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events
The Newsletter would like to publish a special edition in July with a pull-out of pictures from events being held by the various groups, societies and areas of the Parish.
If you have a special event please get in touch with Barbara Wright, 01245 321554
RetBatNews@gmail.com, to mark it down for inclusion.

Pub converts cabin into village store for Rettendon residents



Publicans Rachel and Kevin Sarbutts

have come to the rescue of locals by opening a new village store at The Rettendon Bell in Rettendon, Essex.

The pub opened the new shop in a cabin in its car park, offering a range of essentials and fresh produce, bread and meat. The village store was opened with expert help and a Community Services Fund grant from Pub is The Hub, the not-for-profit organisation that helps pubs to diversify and provide essential local services.

The store is needed in the village as there are no other shops and it is a five-mile round trip to the nearest supermarket. The shop also supports other local suppliers with fresh produce supplied by B. Curtis Greengrocers in Billericay and the meat from S R Cooper Butchers in Basildon.

Rachel said: "It has been such a challenging time for local people and the village store will be such a lifeline. Getting this up and running has been such a team effort with both staff and local tradesmen helping us."

Kevin added: "All the staff in the pub will also be serving in the shop meaning that everyone will see a familiar face when they pop in to pick up their shopping. We are currently looking at setting up a click and collect service and are also keen to run deliveries so that we can meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our local community." Pub is The Hub regional advisor Jeremy English said: "The opening of the store at The Rettendon Bell has great support from those living in the village. There are also future plans for a Sub Post Office at the pub which will be another big benefit for those living in the area."

Other local shops in the area.

In order to be fair to all shops we would like to point out that this is not the only local shop in the area.

Old Woodham Road Farm Shop, selling fresh vegetables, milk, bread, cakes, as well as pet supplies, jams, logs, coal, plants and much more.

K.J. Marshall are fresh meat butchers at White Gates Farm, South Hanningfield Road, who have been there for many years.

Country Diary

The start of the new year is the time for looking forward and is also a time for planning. Why not plan for a wildlife corner?

The first thing I suggest is a bird feeder. Ideally at this time of the year feed the birds with food that is high in fat, e.g. fat balls or grated cheese. From bitter experience keep the food off the ground otherwise you can get a rat invasion! Place your feeder near to a bush, a hedge or a tree where the birds can hide. I have recently had visits from the Sparrow Hawk.

Plant flowers with a high nectar content. Most garden centres have a section labelled 'insect friendly' where you may find seed of the Meadow Cranesbill, marigolds, primroses and sedums are just a few suggestions. Pick flowers that have an open centre so that the birds can easily reach the pollen.

A Hedgehog house can be made very cheaply and easily. You need an airbrick, a large slate or tile and three or four bricks. Balance the slate or tile on four upturned bricks and put the airbrick in the centre. However this is a project for late summer and on the 'to do' list with the children. Buy a Swift Box and place it under the eaves. A more general bird box is one for the tits, robins and perhaps a blackbird. Make sure the opening does NOT face towards the sun or the chicks may bake.

There are lots of ideas about and you can easily make it yourself with a little planning. **Jane Fallows**

Battlesbridge Free Church



Our New Year of 2022 will not be a quiet year, the pandemic COVID 19 will still lurk in the background and its economics and health problems will probably linger on.

The political scene at the moment is experiencing turmoil. As a country we no longer live in a fairly homogenous population that, those of us of advancing years, knew in our youth. The second world war resulted in shock waves to our way of viewing the world. People from all disparate countries of the then colonies, had joined alongside ourselves in our fight against Hitler, no matter what their colour, race or creed. They had sacrificially stood side-by-side with us. Another jolt to our outlook was when a great many people from other ethnic backgrounds came to live alongside us here. Again they were helping us to fill gaps, especially in the health service, where the war had taken its toll of personnel. We had to adjust to the fact that everyone, wherever they came, felt the same needs of acceptance, love, care and all the necessities of life as we did. We were not on a higher plane, but just at the same level as the rest of mankind.

The last hundred years has seen a remarkable transformation in thought and acceptance. For the last nearly 1000 years our culture and way of life has been to follow the Biblical Almighty Creator God and his few rules to a successful life, the ten commandments, stressing truth, respect and caring for others as much as for yourself, so no harming or murder or thieving and having respect for parents (authority over the young). Generally, as a nation, we aimed to teach our children the way of Jesus Christ, of love and caring for each other. Through him we learned of his sacrificial death and resurrection giving us forgiveness of sins and the promise of renewed life after death. The nation's basic faith led to a reasonably stable and caring society which has led many thousands to try and join us especially in today's world. But sadly, teaching in schools seems to have been put on the back burner. We are now such a mixed society, we cannot afford to give up the basis of our caring and stable society. When the norm becomes just care for number 1, those at the bottom of the pile will tend to go begging and mental health and happiness be in short supply. Let us go on being proud of our heritage which is God given.

June Edwards

Essex Tree Planting Initiative

A working party made up of Residents from across the Parish along with Trustees and Parish Councillors spent the second weekend of January planting trees and infilling hedges on the Upper Bell Fields.

Fifty trees and one hundred hedging plants had been provided free of charge by Essex County Council in conjunction with the Woodland Trust along with 6 tonnes of very well rotted mulch, tree guards and support canes. The tree varieties included Common Oak, Silver Birch, Green Beech and Alder. The infill plants included Hawthorn, Grey Willow, Dog Rose, Hazel and Dogwood

Despite the heavy rain on the Saturday, there was still a good turn out and we managed to get most of the trees planted. Matt from RHS Hyde Hall came along with his girl friend and his knowledge and planting expertise proved invaluable as did the equipment and coffees provided by Roy Hart. Sunday we concentrated on the hedging plants.

There is still a small amount of infilling to do on and around the Upper Bell Field and if there are any leftover plants we were hoping to put these along the back of Sonters Down Playing Field where the broken wire fence has become something of an eyesore.

Jim Knight



What is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is





Danbury & Villages Rotary

Danbury and Villages Rotary formally became a member of the international Rotary community in September 2021. Formed to provide Rotary service to Danbury and the villages around where there is no Rotary presence, we look to help in the community, support local causes and charities and raise funds to allow us to do so. Rettendon villages can be included in our cover. We meet at Le Benaix, Rettendon Common on the first three Wednesdays of each month and on the fourth Wednesday we meet at The Bell in Danbury. Since formation, our twenty-four members have been busy planting purple crocus bulbs to commemorate the drive to eliminate the wild polio virus worldwide started by Rotary in 1985. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan now have cases occurring, but just one or two this year.



We have also arranged for Father Christmas to visit carol services in the villages, to the delight of the local children. We would welcome new members – we are a diverse, friendly and fun loving group – and you can contact us to find out more at info@danburyandvillagesrotary.co.uk Satellite of Chelmsford Rotary Club. Registered Charity No 289795. RGBI No 20117. District 1240

All Saints Church Rettendon

All are welcome to All Saints for our regular Sunday services at 11:15 am. We usually have Holy Communion but on the 3rd Sunday (20th February) we will have the simpler service of Morning Prayer.



We also have daily prayer livestreamed in our Facebook group on most week days (occasional diary clashes permitting) at 8:00 am (Morning Prayer) and 8:00 pm (Night Prayer also known as Compline). To join our Facebook group go to www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches. If you don't do Facebook you can go to our website www.hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection/ later where we aim to make the video accessible on this page.

At the end of January we will be joined by a self-supporting priest, Rev'd Jackie Turner. Her licensing will be at St Nicholas Church at 3pm on Sunday 30th January and she will be leading worship at All Saints for the first time at 11:15 on Sunday 6th February. Please do come along and give a Rettendon Welcome to Jackie.

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

History Day at All Saints'. Back by public demand.
Saturday, 23rd April 10:30am till 3pm

RETTENDON WALKERS

The group continues to meet weekly on a Thursday morning and we have been pleased to welcome new regular walkers to the group. There has been a good turnout, especially for our monthly Saturday walk, and these have recently included walks around Heybridge and Maldon, and Mill Green to Blackmore. The footpaths are quite muddy now and we try to pick our routes carefully, still remaining off road as much as possible. We welcome new members and if you would like more information about the group please call **Sandie: 01268 733250**



Rettendon Memorial Hall

Knit and Natter.

We continue - Feb. 2nd and 16th, from 1:30pm till 3:30pm in the committee room. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month. £1 towards costs and tea on tap. Occasional outings. Much encouragement for your creative projects (freely given).

The Book Room & jigsaw library will be open then too for browsing and borrowing. Also open on Monday evening (whilst bowls operate) - bring or take books - no rules here, but prefer reasonable condition items.

Keep Fit/Keep Flexible - raring to go, but - oops - back to square one. If you do want Keep Fit, Pilates, Yoga, etc. please phone Hazel (01245 401538) to register interest.

Pre-School - mornings Mondays to Thursdays, for those little ones too small for school (2+). Learning by play with Storytime, Show and Tell and Music and Movement. For more information contact **Pat Prebble on 07762 909351**

Hall is now fully available for use. Book with Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297.

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

Hall Management Committee

Lower Bell Field Allotment Association

Would you like to grow your own produce and to be part of a small friendly community?

We are pleased to announce plans to create allotment plots for the benefit of those who live in the Parish.

If you would like more details or to put your name down for a plot please contact: **Glenys Jones 01245 401413**



Hayes Christmas Fayre



Organised by Marilyn Hill, a Hayes Park resident, who managed to raise a total of £2,460.16 in aid of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a Charity granting wishes to seriously ill children.

On a snowy day in December Hayes Park had a visit from Santa with two



of his reindeer, a large number of Elves helping out (and operating the snow machine!), loads of Christmas stalls and even a Hot Roasted Chestnut Man.

It was a fabulous day so well done to



Marilyn, to everyone who helped out or donated and to all those who came with their children and grand children. A day that will live long in the memory! **Jim Knight.**

They may be old, but are they relevant quotes, or crackers?

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day." Phyllis Diller

"It is not enough to have every intelligent person in the country voting for me. I need a majority." Adlai Stevenson

"Politics is the conduct of public affairs for private advantage" Ambrose Bierce

"One day the don't knows will get in and then where will we be?" Spike Milligan

Irene Dale passed away on the 20th December. A cricket fan for most of her life, she married a cricketer, Laurie, and when he retired as a Rettendon player also followed the fortunes of Essex County Cricket. She will be sadly missed by Stephen, Alison and the wider family.

PARISH COUNCIL

In November the Council met twice. At the first meeting they agreed a grant of c£2,500 for the new Lower Bell Fields Allotment Association. This grant will go towards creating the plots. Councillors also considered their response to the Community Governance Review carried out by Chelmsford City Council. It was decided that the preferred option was maintaining the parish boundary's status quo.

At the full Council meeting at the end of November the Council discussed the way that dispensations may be granted. Standing Orders were amended to make the decision whether or not to grant a dispensation a matter for the Council and not for the Clerk, which had previously been the case. If Councillors who are also trustees of the Bell Fields wish to take part in a Council vote affecting the Bell Fields, they will need to submit a dispensation request which will be considered at a full Council meeting and the decision minuted.

In December the Council agreed the budget and precept for 2022/23. The agreed budget is attached to the minutes for that meeting if anyone would like to take a look. The precept increased slightly, with a charge for a Band D property rising 1.2% to £54.50. If anyone has any questions or comments about Council matters please let me know.

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> 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 search to discover the state of an application: <https://publicaccess.chelmsford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do>
Sign up to planning application email alerts: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-or-comment-on-planning-applications/view-or-comment-online/>

Why did the tightrope walker visit his bank? To check his balance
What is an ig? A snow house without a loo ☺☺☺

Newsletter Items

We welcome contributions from local individuals, societies or groups. Send any item, comment, or advert to Barbara Wright at any time for inclusion in the next edition. E-mail RetBatNews@gmail.com, Phone 01245 321554, or Post, marked for Newsletter, at 55 East Hanningfield Road.

Funding, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), please phone for collection, or to ask for bank details, or post, marked for Newsletter, at the address above.

Garden Notes

Fully intend to encourage really posh chrysanthus this year. A national emblem of Japan; the flowers last a good 3 weeks in a vase - excellent for still life subject. The spring bulbs are popping up now. Life continues with hope. **Mrs. McGregor**

Rettendon Horticultural Society

A new gardening year starts here! The first snowdrops are out and hellebores are coming into bloom. At RHS Hyde Hall the camellias are blooming and the daffodils named February Gold are well on their way to coming out.

Our committee has started to think about the year ahead and we have already revised the schedule for the Summer Show. More about that later.

Our first show will be the Spring Show on the evening of Tuesday the 22nd March at the village hall. Staging of exhibits will be between 6.30 and 7.30. During the evening we will have a quiz, a raffle and light refreshments.

We very much hope that the Summer Show will go ahead in its usual format along with the village show as in previous years. We have made some changes to the schedule and in particular we have revised and extended the garden judging section to include some new categories. There are changes to two categories. The best kept patio will now be renamed as the best kept container garden and the best kept small garden will be the best kept mixed garden. The idea being to include front gardens and small gardens with small vegetable plots. We hope that renamed categories will encourage residents of mobile homes to enter their gardens.

The new categories are best kept allotment and best kept children's garden. There will be trophies awarded for both new categories.

It is encouraging to see signs of Spring but, of course, we could and probably will still have some bad weather to come. Remember the Beast from the East was at the end of February 2018! At least the days are getting longer and we can be thinking about the year ahead and planning what to grow even if it's a bit early to really get started.

As always we welcome new members. Membership is £5 for the year. It's not all about shows, we have talks, trips, garden visits and quizzes with other horticultural societies. Why not give us a try!

Finally, as I write, I have just heard of the death of Peter Seabrook, a well known gardener and supporter of Hyde Hall. He was closely involved with the design of the Floral Fantasia garden and often seen around Hyde Hall. He will be missed by the gardening community.

John Bruty, Chairman

Membership letters with an end-of-year newsletter have been sent. Let us know if you want to join. Only £5 for the year, with free talks, non-members charged £3.

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554 or email:
RetHSsec@gmail.com

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