




RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ MARCH 2022

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 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
World Day of Prayer	Friday, 4 th March	2:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Country and Western Night	Saturday, 5 th March	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club
Performing Arts and Drama	Monday, 7 th March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall (Committee Room)	
Games Afternoon	Sunday, 20 th March	2pm – 5pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Spring Show (Open to all)	Tuesday, 22 nd March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Mothering Sunday	Sunday, 27 th March	11:15am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 29 th March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
REGULAR EVENTS				
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free / All Saints' Church, 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
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Friday, 8 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Show and Exhibit Talk	Tuesday, 12 th April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Easter Sunday	Sunday, 17 th April	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free / All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Church Open Day	Monday, 18 th April	10:30am – 3pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
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	15 th March, 5 th & 26 th April	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	11 th March, 1 st & 22 nd April	

*Check website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/> or Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page_internal



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All Saints' Church, Rettendon
Friday, 4th March at 2:30pm
(with Battlesbridge Free Church and St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth)

Led by a women's global ecumenical movement, with the theme of HOPE - depicted through the lighting of candles, the distribution of seeds and the exchange of message worldwide via social media using hashtag #WDP hope.

"I Know the Plans I Have for You"

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

Col's Country Club - Country and Western Night

Saturday, 5th March, 2022,
8pm - 10pm

Back for another evening of entertainment.
 Refreshments available
 Contact **Colin 07850 383546** for information



PERFORMING ARTS and DRAMA Group

Our meet and greet with Sue brought a variety of interested parties together and a further meet is planned:

Monday, 7th March, at 7:30pm
 in the **Rettendon Village Hall Committee room.**

This time we must think of some input to bring in an audience so it's getting interesting... Come and join us.

For more information ring **Sue on 07753 106589**

RETTENDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW

22nd March, 7:30pm, Rettendon Village Hall
Entries from 6:30pm, Judging at 7:30pm
OPEN SHOW - NO ENTRY FEES

Classes

- 1) One long trumpet daffodil bloom on one stem (trumpet as long or longer than the petals)
- 2) One short trumpet daffodil bloom on one stem (trumpet shorter than the petals)
- 3) One double daffodil bloom on one stem (doubled petals)
- 4) Two or more daffodil blooms on one stem
- 5) Three daffodil stems same variety
- 6) Three daffodil stems any variety mixed or matched
- 7) Three stems miniature daffodils
- 8) Pot of growing spring flowers, any variety
- 9) Arrangement of spring flowers in a container judged for effect
- 10) Fun class – anything not normally in bloom at this time of year (not judged)
- 11) Chairman's Challenge: A pot of growing daffodils as supplied to members at the 2021 AGM (bring the pot no matter the stage reached)
- 12) Any vegetable grown in a member's garden, usual rules apply.

Quiz, Raffle, Teas, Coffees and Home-Made Cakes

Any queries to **Barbara Wright**, secretary, 01245 321554, RHSsec@gmail.com

The Rettendon Almshouse Charity:



The charity was established in 1966 by Edith Meeson, for the public benefit, to provide almshouses for persons in need of housing with priority given to inhabitants of the Parish of Rettendon followed by neighbouring parishes. The charity manages 5 almshouses in Rettendon village and is run by 5 trustees on a voluntary basis with day to day activities completed by our clerk.

We are seeking to appoint 1 or 2 additional trustees: if you're interested in becoming a trustee, or know of someone who might be interested, or you'd just like to find out more about the charity, please contact us in confidence on **07803 908686** or at clare.heyas@keyline.plus.com.

We wish to make appointments soon so please respond by **Friday 25 March 2022**.

Rettendon Memorial Hall

The hall was opened during the storms to provide comfort, company, games, and hot drinks. This is a service which the hall is pleased to deliver when possible (even if the hall is without electric too).

It should be noted the hall is a registered Chelmsford City Council (CCC) emergency centre, e.g. for flooding, major fires, major traffic accidents, etc. It is CCC's responsibility to run the centres in times of these crises, and is why there is a full industrial kitchen maintained at the hall.

As shown there will be a games afternoon this month.

Pre-School - back after half-term and looking forward to better weather so the children can get out more. It will still be play with learning, getting all the children ready to make that next step up to 'big' school. For more information contact **Pat Prebble on 07762 909351**

Bowls - still happening when possible, though without electric the hall is a bit too cold to play. Hopefully all better now and games can begin again.

Book Room - There are a few additions to the book room including a football game.

Horticultural events are planned for the hall: talks, shows, and plant sale in the offing.

There are **Quiz nights** planned to fund local causes.

Keep Fit soon, please phone Hazel on 01245 401358 to express an interest, or to re-new your interest.

And the **Polymyalgia Rheumatica and/or Giant Cell Arteritis group** are back. Contact Pat Fedi. Email: southend@pmrgca.org.uk, Tel: 07733362373 for more information.

Other uses for the hall just need your imagination and interest - why not book for a party, or some other event for your own group or a charity event.

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

Games Afternoon - Sunday, 20th March - 2pm - 5pm

An afternoon of games at the Hall. Everyone welcome. There will be cards, chess, draughts, jigsaws, etc. plus table football as well. Come and choose your books to read. Or come just come to chat. Tea, coffee at 50p and cakes extra, to cover the cost of the hall.

For more information phone **Hazel on 01245 401538**

Rettendon Horticultural Society

I am writing this whilst storm Eunice rages outside. Of course, the storm will be over by the time you read this. I hope that you did not sustain too much damage or lose any trees.

On the 15th March we had an inspiring talk on the subject of organic gardening from Jane Ponton of South East Essex Organic Gardeners. The talk was well attended and I am sure everybody went away prepared to give organic gardening a try. It was particularly pleasing to see some new faces and sign up 6 new members.

The talk was held at The Lodge public house and we are really grateful to Brian and Angela for letting us use the conservatory for this event.

Our next event is the Spring show on the evening of Tuesday the 22 March at Rettendon village hall. The hall will be open for entries between 6.30 and 7.30. We usually get a good display of Spring flowers. There will be a quiz, a raffle and light refreshments. You do not need to be a member to enter the show.

Last year everything was about 3 weeks late due the cold Spring but this year it seems that everything is early due to the mild Winter. If it seems that blooms are going to be too early for the show try to keep them cold. A couple of days in the refrigerator sometimes works!

Seed sowing is now under way but it's a bit early for planting outside. However it's a good time for tidying the garden and veg plot, even planning a new project.

John Bruty, Chairperson

And more of what we do....

We are hoping Jane Ponton will come and give us another extra talk on "Composting". This may be a bit more messy as she has indicated that she brings actual garden compost and worms! Obviously we will have to have this in the hall as it would be unfair to have it where there is carpet.

No date set yet, watch this space.

Our planned talk will be on 12th April and will be by one of our Show judges on how to exhibit. Come along and find out all about the dos and don'ts, and how easy it is to enter. All welcome, with details next month.

This year we have two outings planned. The first to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens on Saturday, 18th June and the second on Sunday, 18th September, to Hatfield House. If you would like to register your interest please contact us.

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554, or email:

RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Hullbridge, Rawreth, Rettendon Churches Newsletter

If you know of someone who would like a copy of our Newsletter please forward their e-mail address to me

christine@davidholmes.plus.com and I will send them a copy.

Likewise if you do not wish to receive a copy of the Newsletter please forward your email address to me and I will take you off the circulation list.

Christine



Rettendon Primary School

I never would have thought, after almost 2 years, that Covid was going to still be playing such a major part in our school life- but here we are.

At Rettendon we enjoyed a lovely, if not slightly amended, end to the Autumn term at Christmas. We were grateful for the wonderful support of our school and local community who attended our Christmas Fair, which raised almost £1300 (including the Christmas Raffle) which was amazing. This is a massive help to the Friends of Rettendon School group who have found the past 2 years a very tricky fundraising time. That said they have been a massive support, providing laptops that could be used during periods of remote learning, as well as many other wonderful things.

The first half of the Spring term has continued to be a challenge, but has certainly felt like a slow return to a more normal way of working – children are mixing across the ages again, which has been lovely to see them picking up their socialisation skills again. We were also thrilled that at the start of the year the staff worked hard with an artist to redevelop some of our hall spaces to be treated to a huge mural in the hall space, wonderfully created by Tom Langton, which will be accompanied by artwork created by our own children.

Big thank you, as well, to the local residents who provided the bug hotels that we have now put up around the school – they were absolutely fantastic. On another positive note, we are now entering local sports competitions again, planning some school trips and looking forward to taking our year 5 and 6 children up to the O2 in May to sing with the Young Voices Choir.

Thanks again for all the continued appreciation for the work of the school – thanks also to all the staff and volunteers that have worked tirelessly these last few months.

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

Country Diary

I have been searching for inspiration. I did not have any idea what to write about, however I finally decided to write about little things that have occurred around me.



Firstly, the sparrowhawk has been prowling on the hedge near to the back door which is the area where the bird feeders are and clearly visible from my kitchen window. It does not move when I switch a light on or off or when I am at the sink it will remain there, just watching.

It is quite a striking bird — it must be a male for it has an almost pale blush pink breast, a slate blue tail, and nut brown wings and back. It loves to eat small birds like sparrows so he has plenty of choice as we have plenty of sparrows in our garden. Sparrowhawks suffered badly in the 1960's from a wide use of poisonous agricultural chemicals and became extinct in eastern England. Now that most of the worst chemicals have been banned the sparrowhawk has made a strong come-back.

This week a greater spotted woodpecker and a greenfinch have visited the bird feeder. This was very exciting because the greenfinch is now on the red list of birds which are under threat of extinction. Yes, it is only February, and the pretty delicate snowdrop is flowering bravely and so are some early daffodils which are growing in sheltered locations even as the wind howls and bushes and trees sway and rock.

Jane Fallows

Hullbridge, Rawreth, Rettendon Churches



Welcome Jackie

Rev'd Jackie Turner

was licensed to work with our three parishes on Sunday, 30th January, and it is wonderful to welcome her to her new role. Jackie first got in touch in September last year to say that, encouraged by Bishop John, she wanted to explore whether God was calling her to work with us. Since then we have explored together God's calling and have met with the churchwardens and clergy of our parishes. Jackie has also attended occasional services to meet our congregations. This has been really exciting and a welcome reminder that God is at work in us and through us, sharing God's love in our wider communities.

So welcome Jackie! We are really looking forward to seeing how God will lead us with you as part of our team.

Richard Jordan, Priest in Charge

Hello Everyone,

I'm Reverend Jackie Turner and it's been an absolute privilege to have been licensed as an Associate Priest at St Thomas of Canterbury Hullbridge, St Nicholas Rawreth and All Saints Rettendon on Sunday the 30 January.

I grew up in Ilford Essex, which feels like many years ago now. Then Dave, my husband, and I purchased our first house in Romford Essex and after quite a few very happy years, we moved to Rayleigh with our two Children and this is where we have now resided for 16 years. I first trained to be a Pastoral Assistant in the Parish of Rayleigh, but after only being licensed for 6 weeks, I had a strong calling from God to explore ordained ministry. In 2015, I became an Ordinand in Rayleigh and started training at St Mellitus College. In 2018, I was ordained deacon and became the Curate of St James the Less and St Barnabas Hadleigh. It has been a very unusual Curacy due to COVID, but nevertheless a fruitful 3 years. God's calling has once again been very strong, encouraging me to be nearer my home town. I really look forward to getting to know you all and being able to journey alongside each other, especially when working together into the future.

Love and prayers.

Jackie Turner

The Bells are chiming, or is that charming?

From a newspaper cutting:-

"One of the things I missed badly during lockdown was the sound of the church bells on a Sunday morning and the bell ringers' practice session in the middle of the week. Happily they're back, the swelling soundscape of tolling and pealing, of apparent cacophony resolved into receding harmony over and over. It's lovely. It may not have the desired effect of summoning me to a church service but it provides more spiritual uplift than any sermon. I only hope that some moaning minnie doesn't complain about the noise as happened in Kenton, Devon, where one resident living near All Saints Church claimed the chimes of the church clock were bad for their mental health. One complaint.

As a result, the bells have now been muffled.

If you don't like the sound of church bells don't move near a church. Not difficult is it?"

Now All Saints' Church bell ringers are being swelled by new ringers, with some from other towers, occasionally too. Hopefully we will all get better at ringing and there will be a few 'tunes' heard.

But - we would still like a few more ringers. You do not have to be musical, just enthusiastic. It does require a little strength, but it is more to do with technique. And it is a good way to keep both physically and mentally active.

Want to learn more? Please get in touch with **Barbara Wright on 01245 321554.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met at the end of January and on 22 February. Various matters were discussed including the new Council website. This has been developed over the past few months and has now gone live. It can be accessed at <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>.



For the moment documents will also be posted on the current site but I expect to attend training in the very near future after which all documents will be posted only on the new site.



The Council also looked at the Chelmsford City Council Tree Warden Scheme. Tree Wardens are elected local tree champions by their Parish Councils and they co-ordinate, plant and look after trees in their community. They are a valuable source of help and advice in all aspects of tree management for both the City Council and the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in this role please let me know as Chelmsford is looking to re-start the scheme.

At the February meeting a grant was awarded to a local group to support their celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council has set aside some funds for this purpose and if anyone else would like further information about how to apply please contact me.



I am always happy to address residents' concerns in between meetings and to answer any questions about Council matters or procedures.

contact:- Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk
rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com 07811 254163

Parish Council website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>

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

Stupid question.....

Why did the fly fly? Because the spider spied 'er
Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the udder side
What does a clock do when it is hungry? Goes back four seconds
What do frogs wear on their feet? Open-toad sandals

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact RetBatNews@gmail.com or visit the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/> for the latest edition.

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.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 3-11 May 2022

Now that international travel is again opening up, we are delighted that we can go ahead with our plans for our Holy Land Pilgrimage in May.

You will find full details of the itinerary and booking information at http://www.maranatha.co.uk/Holy_Land2022-RevBrendaWallace/ but please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to chat through the plans.

Rev. Dr. Brenda Wallace

07853 088907 brenda.wallace93@outlook.com

Thoughts from Battlesbridge.

Today, February 18th, we are experiencing a unique event, a red warning concerning expected extreme weather over Essex, with the prospect of fallen trees, damage to property and flying debris. These extreme weather events are seemingly set to increase as our poor world progresses into climate-change. This upsetting of the 'normal' flow of expected weather, the natural signs of recognisable seasons, began to impinge, very slowly but gradually, with increasing incidents, awareness and acceptance that this is a 'now' reality. In my youth, we were taught in primary school, the dates at which each season began, the various signs which made each season special. There never seemed to be a winter in which we could not make a snowman. The March 'many weathers' as well as 'April showers' were expected. Sunshine and rain seemed to take their expected times.

Sadly, the wonderful successes, world progress from the Industrial Revolution, was so often fuelled by greed, the need for more and more. Many ordinary lives were shortened by working conditions where profit was a greater aim than human need. The urge to reach out for greater and quicker progress was unstoppable. There was no concept that our world could not keep up with the damage to habitats and ecosystems, destroying rain forests, one of our main sources of oxygen but an easy target for vast expansions of lucrative cattle farming or great tracts of palm oil trees. There was no intention to shake our world but we humans forgot that God's bountiful provision could not go on being thoughtlessly abused.

Now, today, it would be good to pray for forgiveness for our past and continuing excesses and that in God's mercy, he will help world leaders and leaders of business and industry to recognise the urgent need to use every modern knowledge and means to retrieve God's balanced world. It really is God's world. We humans are its stewards, but with a poor record.

June Edwards

Garden Notes

Our gales have tested our ingenuity.

The flowers - encouraged by the warmth have pushed up and told us spring is coming.

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb - listen to these old adages - it has all happened before.

Mrs. McGregor

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), 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.