



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ APRIL 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
DRAMA GROUP	MONDAY, 4 TH APRIL	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
BATTLESBRIDGE QUIZ NIGHT	FRIDAY, 8 TH APRIL	7 for 7:30pm	BATTLESBRIDGE FREE CHURCH	
SHOW EXHIBITING TALK	TUESDAY, 12 TH APRIL	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
EASTER FRIDAY SERVICE	FRIDAY, 15 TH APRIL	2pm	ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON	
EASTER DAWN SERVICE	SUNDAY, 17 TH APRIL	6am	ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON	
EASTER SERVICES	SUNDAY, 17 TH APRIL	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints, Rettendon	
EASTER OPEN DAY	MONDAY, 18 TH APRIL	10:30am – 3pm	ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON	
VILLAGE HISTORY DAY	SATURDAY, 23 RD APRIL	10:30am – 3pm	ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON	
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	TUESDAY, 26 TH APRIL	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
REGULAR EVENTS				
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / 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	
Rettendon Walkers	Thursdays	10am	Various: Phone Sandie on 07941 539994	
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
COFFEE MORNING & SALE	MONDAY, 2 ND MAY	10:30am – 12:00	Battlesbridge Free Church	
PLANT SALE & COFFEE	SATURDAY, 7 TH MAY	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
RETTENDON QUIZ NIGHT	FRIDAY, 20 TH MAY	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	RetBatNews
MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	5 th and 26 th April, 17 th May	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	1 st and 22 nd April, 13 th May	

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

Battlesbridge Quiz Night

Battlesbridge Free Church, 7pm for 7:30pm
 £5 per person, teams of 6. Tea, coffee and biscuits
 No need to book, turn up on the night.

Rettendon Horticultural Society Show Exhibiting Talk

Tuesday, 12th April, 7:30pm

Led by our cookery and handicrafts judge, Carol Orris, with additions by John Bruty for the gardening side.

This talk will explain how to exhibit, how to best display, what to add to your entry, and how to be successful and win a cup.

There will also be a display of entry cards, the schedule for the show, and a chance to socialise with tea, coffee and cake, and to find out what others are planning to enter.

Members free, non-members £3.
 All welcome.

All Saints' Church: EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

There will be a flower arrangement at the altar with a Memorial Plaque listing names of loved ones (donation of £5 per name)

To add a name to the plaque please contact
Lyn Benson on **01245 400468** or email
traceyben31@aol.com by 10th April



All Saints' Church Open Day

**Easter Monday, 18th April
 10:30am till 3pm**

Teas, Coffees, home-made cakes,
 Hot-Cross buns, light lunches
 Raffle, Cake raffle, Gifts and the usual
 suspects, plus
 Easter Egg Hunt -

solve the clues to win the Egg
 If you can help on the day, please contact
 Jane Fallows on 01245 400394

Parish History Day

Back by popular demand!

Saturday, 23rd April - 10:30am - 3pm

Pictures of the past, Documents, Local Knowledge,
 History of the Church, a chance to look around and
 find out about the village and the Parish.

What happened, when, where and possibly why.

Teas, coffees, cakes available.

Local people talking about local events.

Rettendon Memorial Village Hall

There have been a few changes to the website lately. We have added the booking form for download, necessary for a booking, with the Terms and Conditions, the regulations for hiring, and other details on the hall. We are planning a few photos to add, inside and out, when we can.

Plans are afoot for the **Jubilee Party on Saturday, 4th June**, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All welcome. Further details in the May edition.

Knit and Natter: This group has been operating now since June 1st 2016 - initially once a month and later, by popular request twice a month. The numbers vary from about 6 to an occasional 12. Like most groups we sometimes do a project and have an occasional outing. All good for the soul. So if you feel you would like to get out of the house for a couple of hours do try out our company. The knitting is not a required activity - but it does stop some people fidgeting! Problems can be shared, local knowledge updated and funny stories tested for giggle-worthiness. So feel welcome - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays - in the committee room 1:30 - 3:30pm.

Yet another project taken up by this group was producing babies hats and blankets for Basildon Hospital. So far 40 hats and 20 blankets have been delivered to Orchard maternity Ward in response to the Facebook appeal. - Well Done Ladies!

Drama - THIS CONTINUES ~ write a comic sketch, enjoy working with others, self-control whilst holding a mike, gain confidence on a stage (or in an interview), meet some neighbours, and thoroughly do something different!

Our introduction to drama was very heartening. Sue is an old hand sorting out happenings of this kind. There are some events in the local calendar where a bit of art can be displayed so watch this space or get in on the action.

The next meeting is on Monday, 4th April in the Village Hall Committee Room. All are welcome at 7:30pm. No experience required! Any questions? Ask **Sue** on **07753 106589**

Pre-School - Still being careful about COVID, but learning by playing is the main topic. Story time is popular and there is sometimes a sing-a-long to make the time go quicker. If you have a 2-5 year old and wish to bring them please contact **Pat Prebble** on **01245 401328** or **07762 909351**.

Website: <https://www.rettendonpreschool.co.uk/>.

Bowls - Played in the main area of the hall with younger players on the Monday evening at 7pm. Chance for a break for tea or coffee, but mainly a spirit of competition. The Thursday bowls is a more subdued affair and has been absent of late unfortunately as the mats are difficult to manoeuvre - the younger players absent due to college and/or work. If you can help please come forward - all welcome. Or if you just wish to view and find out about bowls come along to the Monday session and have a go. Contact for bowls is Joan Sankey on 01268 765329

Polymyalgia Rheumatica and/or Giant Cell Arteritis group meet in the hall at regular intervals. For more details please contact Pat Fedi on [07733362373](tel:07733362373), or email: southend@pmrgca.org.uk, for more information.

The hall management committee is committed to keeping the hall and the community going. Maintenance is always on-going, as it should be. We welcome new groups, private parties and various activities. Get in touch:

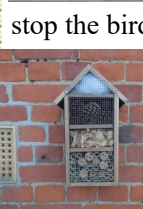
To Book contact Dianne Francombe on **01245 400297**

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

Hall Management Committee

BUG HOTELS

Some time ago several lovely parishioners made some bug hotel casings. We took them into the school for the children to add the extra



bits of bedding for the insects.

Now proudly up on at the school:

in the courtyard, and on the outside walls.

The children really enjoyed putting in the shavings, pine cones, wood, bamboos and wool and we added some small mesh grid to stop the birds eating the residents.

This one placed right next to the mason bees usual home in one of the air bricks. We are hopeful they will prefer it to the wall!

Thank you so much. Excellent job, and helped our gardening lesson be more relevant to their science learning about insects.

Barbara Wright & Jane Fallows - School Gardening

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Spring has arrived early this year due to a very mild Winter. My outside thermometer has recorded a high of 16.8 degrees and a low of -1.8 since November.

Our Spring Show will have taken place by the time you read this. Hopefully the early Spring will have spared us plenty of blooms for the show. A report on the show will follow in the next newsletter.

On the 12th April at the village hall we have a talk by Carol Orris on the subject of show exhibiting. I know it's a bit intimidating exhibiting for the first time but the talk should help new and experienced exhibitors alike.

This year we are making a big effort with our raffles which take place at all our events. Raffles are an absolutely essential part of the Society's fund raising. They help pay for the hire of the hall and the marquee for the Summer Show. This year we already have some great prizes including garden centre and restaurant vouchers. Local businesses are generous with their donations but, of course, prize donations are always welcome. A big thanks to Marks Gardening Services (07917 481262) for the last top raffle prize of 2 hours free gardening.

With the Platinum Jubilee in mind we have for sale at £1, packets of Jubilee seeds comprising poppies, cornflowers and oxeye daisies (red, white and blue). If you would like some of these seeds please contact Paula Green by email paula-l-green@hotmail.co.uk

John Bruty Chairperson

Outings

This year we are heading to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens on Saturday, 18th June. Coach pick-up is at 9am at the Bell Pub, East Hanningfield Road, and at Rettendon village bus stop. We need a full coach to go, but everyone welcome. If there are enough from Hayes Country Park we will arrange collection from there too. Cost will be about £30 (depending on interest).

Our second trip will be to Hatfield House on Sunday, 18th September. Again pick-up from the 2 stops, plus Hayes if wanted.

If you want to come on either trip please register your interest with **Jean Pietsch** on **01268 763183**.

If there are any special places you wish to visit we plan a year in advance, so get in touch.

To contact our secretary, Barbara Wright, call 01245 321554, or email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ret.hort.soc/>



Let's join together on Rettendon Bell Field on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 7pm to 10.30pm to Celebrate this once in a Lifetime National Event to Commemorate our Queen's 70 Years on the Throne

- 7pm - Live Music - Second Nature
- 8.45 - Piper - Mixed music
- 9.35 - Piper plays "Diu Regnare"
- 9.40 - Bugler plays "Majesty"
- 9.45 - Light the Beacon

9.45 - Battlesbridge Community Choir to sing "Song for the Commonwealth" to coincide with the lighting of the beacon

Licensed Bar, Thai Street Food, Fish & Chips, Burgers, Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, Local Gin, Brownies, Chocolates, Cakes, Raffle

Bring your own chair or a blanket to put over a bale of straw

Tickets - £5 Adults
Accompanied Children under 13yrs Free
Tickets are non refundable

Tickets are limited and will be on a first come basis.

For tickets please contact: pat2258@aol.com - 07733362373
or denisefleming2011@gmail.com

**RETTENDON VILLAGE HALL
QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE PARTY
SATURDAY, 4TH JUNE**

Rettendon Memorial Village Hall,
CM3 8DP

ALL FREE

Light lunches from 12pm - 2pm
Afternoon tea 2pm - 5pm
Tea, Coffee, Home-Made Cakes

Entertainment from the Rettendon Drama Group.
Delivered by the Hall Management Committee.



**COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT
Saturday, 4th June**

7pm - 10:30pm

Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP

An evening of Country and Western in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Tickets from Colin 07850 383546



**Newsletter - Queen's Platinum Jubilee
We need your help!**

Not an event, instead we are planning a pull-out section in July for a keep-sake.

We want your photos and/or a write-up of your Jubilee event(s). The more the merrier (though there is limited space, we will try and get something in from all we receive). Deadline 18th June.

Send your item, photo, write-up to the compiler at RetBatNews@gmail.com, or phone 01245 321554

**QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM JUBILEE
SUNDAY AFTERNOON 5TH JUNE 2022**

Location: the five acre meadow behind Skee-tex
(The Old Mill, Battlesbridge, SS11 8TR)

No charge,

Just bring along a rug, hamper and a bottle of wine.

Gate open about 1 o'clock, Fun will start at 2.30pm.

We have laid on:

an extremely good band,

a junior brass band,

a junior fishing competition by the lake,

etc.

**The Barn Dance begins at 7pm
and a large beacon will be lit at the closing.**

On site we have: 400 folding chairs, 5 washrooms and seating for almost 350 under cover if it rains (the old rural theatre).

It will be a great afternoon for all the family.

It is our joy to put this on, all we ask is if you could make a small donation to the charity of our wonderful Majesty the Queen. A list will be sent to the palace. (On the golden jubilee, we did this and we received a truly beautiful letter back from the palace, thanking all her loyal residents of Rettendon parish.)

Everyone in the parish is welcome

Please ring **01268 768282** and let us know numbers, there is plenty of parking especially for vintage cars, which will be on show.

**Very Sincerely, ROY HART & FAMILY &
FRIENDS OF RETTENDON**

Country Diary

This time of the year is both beautiful and exciting. It is a month full of colour and expectation. I love daffodils and their golden yellow flowers waving gently in the wind is a glory to behold. The poem by Wordsworth comes to mind, "I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils, beside the lake beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze --"

The pale yellow primroses like to hide in the ditch lines, under the hedgerow or in the shadows of the garden. When I was a child we used to gather bunches of them to decorate the church. However you sometimes now have to search for the violets white or dog.

I have never seen wood anemones here in Rettendon but have seen them in woodland in nearby villages. They carpet the woods with blue bells waiting to come out. There used to be cowslips growing alongside the wood not far from Rectory Lane but chalk based fertilisers have put paid to them. However I have seen a quantity of them on the banks alongside the road to Braintree. The hedgerows are also full of blossom, the billowing white of the blackthorn or the pale pink red cherry.

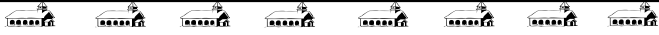
Unfortunately a couple of red cherry trees came down in the churchyard in the recent storms. The wood is beautifully marked and sought after by wood turners and is also a good burner. The trees are beginning to burst their leaf buds, horse chestnuts being one of the earliest to do so.

I must not forget to mention Helen, my neighbour, who was recently (mid March) walking along the river Crouch with the Rettendon walkers and often comes back with information about the birds of interest she has seen, the white egret, a heron and a harrier.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Why is the Queen 30cm tall? She is a ruler
(With thanks to Harry Hill)





ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Praying during Lent and Easter

For many Christians Lent and Easter are a roller coaster of thoughts and emotions.

Lent (an old English word associated with Spring and the *lengthening* of the day) is a time of preparation in the church as it is in the garden. Preparing our minds and hearts for the Easter message as the gardeners prepare the ground and plant the seeds.

As we move towards Good Friday and follow Jesus' journey to the cross, we remember the cost of love. St John remembered Jesus' words 'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down your life for your friends'. When we also hear Jesus words 'Take up your cross and follow me', there is certainly enough to reflect on during Lent.

Yet we know something that the first disciples who shared Jesus' journey to his execution could not grasp. Such love is powerful, the greatest power in the world, a power stronger even than death. It is this victory of Love over hate and violence that is celebrated on Easter day.

As we are bewildered by the insanity of another war in Europe and see again peoples' lives being devastated and torn apart by violence and hate, we have more need than ever to follow the journey of love in the hope and faith that love will ultimately be victorious.

Within the scenes of devastation, we see that love is not extinguished as there are acts of immense courage and commitment. Courage not only on the battlefield but also of people opening their homes to strangers and being generous with gifts. The Archbishops have given us a prayer that may be helpful:

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Richard Jordan, Parish Priest Hullbridge, Rawreth, and
Rettondon T: 01268 766 565 E: rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com
W: www.hrr-churches.org.uk

Lent and Easter at All Saint's

Our regular Sunday morning services is at 11:15am and all are welcome to come.

We will have a special Dawn Service on Easter Day at 6:00am. We will have a light breakfast afterwards so please let us know if you plan to come!

We also livestream Morning Prayer (8:00am) and Compline (Night Prayer) at 8:00pm each weekday.

To join in with the livestream join our Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/HRR.Churches. If you can't join in at the time or don't do Facebook we post the recordings on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/HRR-YouTube>) and our website (<https://hrr-churches.org.uk/prayer-and-reflection/>)

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 or contact the compiler for bank details, or post in East Hanningfield Rd, marked for newsletter.

MARGARET ANN KIDMAN

A kind lady who gave a lot to the community, maybe not in terms of wealth, but with her beautiful flower arrangements at the Church, her knowledge of horses and ponies, and her love of life and nature.

For many it seemed only a week or so ago that she was visiting her local friends and chatting about all the events in the village.

She will be fondly remembered by many.

We send our condolences to Margaret's family.

Garden Notes

Plants rocketing up and a raffle prize of daffodils glorious. The Cloudless skies most unusual. Bless every moment while you have them! **Mrs. McGregor**



Battlesbridge Free Church

How wonderful some of our recent days have been. The daffodils shining along the roadside and in gardens and parks and the glorious sunshine to lift up our spirits from the sadly depressing news of the Russian assault on the Ukrainians. But our God has not given up on us, as evidenced by the outpouring of goodness, in gifts of food, clothing, offers of accommodation, etc., all and every sort of help and aid for the people of the Ukraine.

This underlying desire for being alongside our neighbours is the inherited background of Christ's teaching, which has been the background faith-culture within our land throughout the centuries. 'Honour the Lord your God and love your neighbour as you love yourself'. In today's secularly-led world, many have ceased to consciously be aware of the presence of God in their lives.

But the strange thing is that hardly a day goes by without an exclamation, 'Oh God - I have missed an appointment, I've lost something, I am annoyed with someone', etc. etc. but always this seeming cry to God for assistance. But who is this God whose name is so thoughtlessly used? Little children think of nothing of exclaiming 'Oh God' when something surprises, annoys, or worries them. Do the majority of our children have any concept or knowledge of our God?

This wonderful, almighty God created us humans to be his family, his companions. He gave us a few simple rules to guide our lives in harmonious fulfilment and contentment with each other. Unfortunately God and we have an implacable adversary whose delight is to deceive and ultimately destroy we humans, who are God's pride and joy.

So we sin! This is an old-fashioned word for any and every shade of wrong-doing against God's rules. The end result was decreed to be death. We are all on a one-way ticket to this end whether our "sins" have been slight or horrific like Putin's, but God has a rescue plan from the beginning of time. He sent Jesus Christ to be the ultimate means of redemption. Whoever believes in God's Christ and endeavours to walk in his way, with his Spirit's help, is promised a renewed eternal life after mortal death. Silly to miss this chance!

June Edwards

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