



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ MAY 2022

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 Please note the views contained within are offered by 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	ORGANISAT
COFFEE MORNING & SALE	MONDAY, 2 ND MAY	10:30am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall	
PLANT SALE AND COFFEE	SATURDAY, 7 TH MAY	10:30am - 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
QUIZ NIGHT, RETTENDON	FRIDAY, 20 TH MAY	7 FOR 7:30PM	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Newsletter
ANNUAL MEETING PARISH C	TUESDAY, 24 TH MAY	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	TUESDAY, 31 ST MAY	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free / All Saints, Rettendon	
Rettendon Sunday Cricket	Sundays	1pm	Rettendon Church Meadow	Rettendon Cricket Club
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	
Walking Group	Thursdays	10am / ~7pm	Rettendon Walkers (phone Sandie on 07941 539994)	
Zumba Class	Thursdays	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Zumba Group
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Rettendon League Cricket	Saturdays	1pm	Rettendon Church Meadow	Rettendon Cricket Club

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Queen's Jubilee Beacon Event	Thursday, 2 nd June	7pm – 10:30pm	Upper Bell Field	Residents of Rettendon Common
Church Jubilee Coffee Morning	Friday, 3 rd June	10am – 11am	All Saints, Rettendon	
Jubilee Celebration Party	Saturday 4 th June	12pm – 5pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Hall Committee
Country & Western Jubilee Night	Saturday, 4 th June	8pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country and Western
Queen's Jubilee Picnic & Barn Dance	Sunday, 5 th June	1pm - late	Skeetex, Battlesbridge	Battlesbridge Friends

MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	17 th May, 7 th & 28 th June	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	13 th May, 24 th June	
HAYES PARK CLUB HOUSE (Library Trial)	Friday	Between 10:30am and 2pm	Trial on 20 th May	

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

☞ – See website for home teams and dates <https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/Matches>

COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

BATTLESBRIDGE FREE CHURCH HALL

Monday, 2nd May (Bank Holiday)

From 10:30am to 12:30pm

Come and have a coffee or tea with some home-made cake, buy some plants, a raffle

ticket, or try the tombola

Easy parking, and friendly people

All in aid of the Church

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

Saturday, 7th May

From 10:30am till 12:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

Another chance to buy plants -

at reasonable rates

Tea, coffee and home-made cakes, raffle, and the plants! Lots of them! Flowers, vegetables, indoor, outdoor - find that plant for the space in your garden.

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

Rettendon Quiz Night

Another chance to pit your wits against each other, and against our intrepid quiz-mistress.

Friday, 20th May,

come from 7 to start promptly at 7:30pm

Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP

Teams of up to 6, £5 per person

Tea and coffee available for a donation

Raffle (prizes welcome)

Everyone welcome. Bring your own food and drink for a real night out.

In aid of the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter - to ensure keeping paper copy

Rettendon Horticultural Society Summer show Schedule

Included in this edition. More copies can be found on the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/schedules/>

Hayes Park - Mobile Library Van

The mobile library van will be visiting Hayes Park on Friday, 20th May, between 10:30am and 2pm.

It will be parked outside the Club House.

This is a trial arrangement to see whether there is a demand for such a service in Hayes. If there is, then a more frequent service could be arranged.

Jim Knight, resident of Hayes Park.

Una Davies

Gaynor & Darren are sad to announce that Una Davies passed away peacefully recently. Una lived in the village for most of her life until she moved into a care home four years ago. Her funeral will take place at **All Saint's Church Rettendon on Monday 23rd May at 11am.** Her family warmly welcome friends to join them.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

For us gardeners it's an extremely busy time of year. Everything is growing quickly including the grass and the weeds. The weather is lovely as I write but don't be in a hurry to plant out tender bedding plants and vegetables. A couple of sharp frosts can easily kill plants making it necessary to incur the cost of rebuying and replanting.

Our **Spring show** took place in March and we had a great display of Spring flowers. Such was the number of entries that we could have done with some extra tables. The judge was impressed with the quality of the entries. We had a good number of people enjoying a social evening which included a quiz and a raffle with seemingly endless prizes.

In April we had a **talk** from Carol Orris who is a craft and cookery judge giving us helpful hints and tips about **preparing and exhibiting at shows.** I gave some pointers about exhibiting in horticultural classes. These should be on our website. By contrast to the turnout at the Spring show it was disappointing that only eight people out of a membership of sixty plus attended the talk!

Our next event is the **plant sale on Saturday the 7th May** when we will have lots of plants for sale at reasonable prices. The sale will be at Rettendon Village Hall between 10.30 and 12.30.

We have a coach trip arranged to **Sissinghurst Castle** and gardens on **Saturday the 18th June.** The cost will be about £30 per person. We can only run this trip if we have sufficient numbers to cover the cost of admission and the coach hire so if you would like to come along please contact **Jean Pietsch on 01268 763183.**

It's not too long until the **Village Show on the 9th July** so you need to be thinking and planning ahead for your entries to the Summer Horticultural Show. It's been a while since the last full show due to COVID so I am hoping for a big turnout with lots of entries in all classes.

John Bruty, Chairperson

Plant Sale, 7th May

Normally we have special pre-orders for members only, which can be picked up at the plant sale itself. Unfortunately, due to changes in the way our local nurseries are run, we are unable to have any pre-order plants. This means if you want something you must come along to the plant sale itself to get your plants. While you are there perhaps you could have tea with friends and fellow gardeners.

However, if you want a special plant, or plants, please contact me and I will see if we can set them aside. No guarantee, of course, even we do not know what to expect!

Then, of course, grow on the plants to enter in the summer show on Saturday, 9th July. Summer Show Schedule copies can be found on the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/schedules/>. **Barbara Wright, secretary, rethssec@gmail.com**

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

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

To announce that **Rettendon Memorial Village Hall** will be hosting a:-
Jubilee Celebration Tea Party
on **Saturday, 4th June.**

Starting with light lunches 12 noon till 2pm, then followed by teas from 2pm until 5pm.
There will be no charge for this so bring your own tiaras and robes, partake appropriately and have a good catch-up.

There will be music and some individual entertainment going on.

Bring your Coronation Mug to prove you are old enough to have been there!

Hall Management Committee

RETTENDON CRICKET CLUB

Cricket matches have got underway, with 4 teams playing Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. The Church Meadow field (at the back of the village hall) is being well used, with some practice sessions during the week (Thursday nights 18:00). Why not come and join us? We are a family orientated, friendly club always looking for new members.

Look us up on the website:

<https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/>

Or on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/rettendonrats>

Or come to watch at the weekend.



Plea for All Saints' Church Churchyard A Commonwealth War Graves site

Can you help by joining a select few who tend the churchyard?

We need help with mowing, pruning, litter gathering and general tidy-up? Any help would be appreciated, not just by the churchgoers, but by all those who use the Churchyard.

If you can help please get in touch with **Barbara Wright on 01245 321554.**

Country Diary

I keep listening out for the sound of the cuckoo. I was brought up on the Surrey, Sussex border and I heard the cuckoo in March. Nowadays this migrant bird is getting rarer and rarer. I am also looking out for my first sighting of the swallow. In my youth St George's day was a marker for this graceful bird but for reasons I don't understand they were or are seen in Surrey before Essex. Helen tells me the chiff chaffs are here, another migrant bird.

I have had people tell me they have seen a buzzard. I personally have not seen one but I have heard it here and in the churchyard. I have been lucky to see a peacock, tortoiseshell and red admiral butterfly all in our first spell of warm weather. Helen has seen a brimstone and now I have seen a small white.

The bluebells are in flower, what a lovely sight it is to see the carpeted woodlands here in Essex. Danbury woods, Norsey wood and the Hanningfield reserve are all good examples of this spectacular phenomenon.

There were fears some years back that the Spanish bluebell would see off the native species. Recent research has proved that the British variety is far more fertile than the Spanish.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Battlesbridge Matters: A report on the river.

On Friday, 15th April, Dace were rising in the river outside our office, they were feeding on small flies. This was very pleasing to watch as these small silver fish are an important sign of clean water. One of my main concerns is to make sure the river remains free from sewerage or chemical discharge. I have in the last forty-eight years fought six serious pollution cases, with, thankfully, many wins.

The wildlife on the river, you can almost set your clock with the seasons of the year. We have a pair of Canadian geese, which have used the same nest outside our back door for the last twelve years, they are all part of our extended family. All species are now busy in love and constructing their nests and territory, especially the pair of swans we have. Unfortunately, we have never found a Golden Eyes nest! There is a group of five pairs, they are very peaceful and out of nowhere they will suddenly appear with their small brood. Long may this continue for generations to come.

Yours Sincerely Roy Hart

Easter Monday All Saints' Church Open Day

The members of the Parochial Church Council thank all of you who came along to support us at our Easter Monday event.

It was really great to have your support to keep our church open and vibrant.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Thank You

A huge thank you to all those who gave up their time over the Easter week end to make the Easter All Saints Open Day such a success.

Also many thanks indeed to those who contributed to the local history day - at the time of writing it hasn't yet happened but your contributions are (will be!) much appreciated.

It is wonderful to see All Saints being used by the community again - its your church. If you have any other ideas for appropriate uses for our wonderful building please do get in touch.

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

T: 01268 766 565 E: rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com

W: www.hrr-churches.org.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON

What is truly precious ... and what is holy?

Listening to the news has made me ask what really matters. If I lived in Syria, Yemen or now Ukraine and my home was destroyed how would I cope and what would I miss?

Of course, much closer to home what if I was struggling to make ends meet, having to decide which bills to pay, whether to stay warm or keep fed? Many struggle with just that dilemma and more and more will do as inflation takes hold and continues to escalate prices. A lot of people will lose their homes because they can't pay rent or keep up repayments.

But what people are most concerned about when the unimaginable happens, is people. Family members, members of the community, people who care or need to be cared for. People we need to feed or might feed us.

Our homes are about people, people we share our lives with now, or have done in the past.

Our church building too is about people. It says that God cares for the people of Rettendon. All Saints is a Holy place because WE are special to God. People matter, community matters and each one of us matters to God.

That raises the question. How can we use what we have to express that people matter? How can we be generous? Sometimes 'things' can get in the way of people, and to that extent, we impoverish our own spirits, our own selves. As Jesus said 'It is harder for a rich person to enter the kingdom or God than for a camel to get through the eye of a needle'.

Dear God, help each one of us to realise what matters most. Help us to love people and keep our possessions in their right place. Amen

For those who are struggling financially, maybe the Richard Cannon Charity will be able to offer help. It can give one-off grants to people who have a particular struggle. Contact the Richard Cannon Charity at richard.cannon@hrr-churches.org.uk or phone -01268 766565. All requests for help are treated in strict confidence.

Richard Jordan, Parish Priest of All Saints

Tel: 01268 766 565 Email: rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com

Rettendon Memorial Hall

Our village hall is slowly picking up the threads of activity and getting a maintenance check too.

Many items of expense are ongoing even without customers so during lockdown and with the lack of confidence generally for parties, life here could have been difficult. Fortunately the powers that be issued some grant funding to enable us to cope with the lack of activity. We understand this was offered to all village halls.

Soon the situation will have its regular overhaul and decisions will have to be made - the world is changing rapidly.

Meanwhile our regular groups continue (see frontpage diary) and we are joined by a Zumba class for fun.

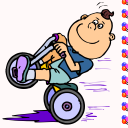
So welcome back to all residents - we are fully open for you now. **Bookings** can be made via **Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297**, ask her for a booking form, or see the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendon-memorial-hall/> which has the terms and conditions and all the necessary paraphernalia.

Bowls: Continuing on Monday evenings, but a little sparse on Thursdays. Never mind, still keeping the old young, and the young fit and able. What more could you ask for?

Pre-School: Summer term and better weather for more play outside. There are gardens to plant, and more to learn about the world outside.

Zumba class: New to Rettendon, but started in April. Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. Go along for some dancing, and find out all about it.

Knit and Natter: Still making hats for babies, and a lot sent to the maternity unit, but also started on more twiddle muffs - heard Ambulance crews can use them to calm some patients.



Hall Management Committee

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events
Round up of Events around the Parish

Thursday, June 2nd - Jubilee Beacon Lighting Event Bell Fields - 7pm-10:30pm Tickets £5 from : pat2258@aol.com, 07733362373 or denisefleming2011@gmail.com

Friday, June 3rd - All Saints Church Queen's Platinum Jubilee Coffee Morning 10-11am - FREE (Bellringing to coincide with Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's)

Saturday, June 4th - Queens's Platinum Jubilee Party Rettendon Village Hall. 12-2pm lunches, 2-5pm teas - FREE

Country and Western Jubilee Night - 8-10pm - Doors open at 7pm. No bar (BYO), but tea and coffee available. Music from Kevin Barry, solo singer and musician (<https://www.kevinbarrymusic.co.uk/>). Tickets £7 from Colin 07850 383546

Sunday, June 5th, Queen's Jubilee Picnic and Barn Dance Event at the Battlesbridge field behind Skeetex, 1pm start, + Barn Dance at 7pm. NO CHARGE - but donations please to Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) appeal to help Ukrainians displaced by the war, the charity the Queen has personally supported.



**Battlesbridge Free Church
 Easter time**

Just think how it must have been for those Jewish fishermen and their friends two thousand years ago. How different

from our twenty-first century's recent Easter weekend: our good Friday with hot cross buns, why the cross? Then our looking forward to a Happy Easter Sunday with its eggs and a day out, followed by an enjoyable Easter Bank Holiday Monday, free from work. Or think of those men and the many women followers who accompanied them, those days after the horrendous torture, false trial and cruel execution of their leader, were full of fear, then incredulous joy and wonder. The so public betrayal and death had been turned on its head. He was no longer dead, he was fully alive once more.

This story, easily available in the New Testament of the Bible, is an adventure story to outmatch any "Superman" narrative. These men really did live in historical time. They really did experience those amazing miraculous happenings which their leader performed in public view of sometimes thousands, at others to a few individuals, many receiving healing of, in those days, untreatable conditions or diseases. It was difficult to believe their senses when in a few cases, individuals who to the sure knowledge of their neighbours and friends has died our earthly death but by this charismatic teacher, were brought to life once more. How could this possibly be? Could it be that this Jesus really was who he said he was? God's son? Claiming first hand knowledge of how God wishes us to relate to him, how to live the life he wishes us to enjoy.

But who is this Almighty Creator God? Read him up in the Bible, get it out from the back of the cupboard. He really did send his son to show us his truth, his way, his life! His sacrificial death of love was to save mankind from the judgement our sinful lives warrant to a lesser or greater degree, at our death. We only have to come to Jesus for his loving reprieve of our debt. Why miss out?

June Edwards

Garden Notes

Cool air has kept the blooms fresh for a long time and the tulips have followed daffs without a break. Woodland bluebells are spectacular too. There are no weeds, only wildflowers (said my mum).

Mrs. McGregor

Walking Group

And bluebells have been found in several areas where the group has been walking. Now, since the evenings are getting lighter, and warmer, planning is starting on evening walks again, probably every other week interspersed with the morning walks.



For more details phone Sandie on 01268 733259

PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish council website is:

<https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>

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

Parish Council Meetings.

Occasionally there are extra meetings of the Parish Council (an Extraordinary Meeting), or the meetings are held in different places. The Newsletter can only report and add to the diary if the meetings are on the website, or have been noted at the previous Parish Council meeting. If you wish to attend a meeting please check the website or the Facebook page, as noted above.

How do rabbits travel? By hare plane
 What car is like a sausage? An old banger
 Why do cows lie down when it is raining? To keep each udder dry
 How do skeletons keep in touch with one another? By mobile bone



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