



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ SEPTEMBER 2022

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 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 18<sup>th</sup> of the month



## Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events (To publicise your event please contact the compiler)



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Flower Festival & Fete, Service	Sat & Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12 – 5pm, 5pm	St. Peter's Church, South Hanningfield	
Col's Country Club Cardy & Coke	Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club
First Aid Course (details below)	Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30am – 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	RetBatNews
Flower Festival	Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September	11am – 3pm	St. Peter's Church, South Hanningfield	
Autumn Show (entries)	Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September	8am – 10:30am	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Autumn Show Open	Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September	2 – 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Rettendon Quiz Night	Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Local community
River Crouch Working Party	Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September	9am onwards	Wickford Park Bridge	Crouch Conservation Trust
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	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*
Bowls	Mondays	7 – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Bell Ringing Practice	Wednesdays	8 – 9pm	All Saints, Rettendon	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Walking Group	Thursdays	10am / evening	Various routes	Sandie 01268 733259
Zumba Class	Thursdays	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Teacher 07879 683731
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Rettendon Cricket Club <sup>1</sup>	Saturdays / Sundays (April - September)	1pm	Church Meadow CM3 8DP	Rettendon Cricket Club <sup>1</sup>

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Festival Service	Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	11:15am	All Saints, Rettendon	
Autumn Talk	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.

### MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> October	

\*Parish Council Meetings check website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>, or Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page_internal)

<sup>1</sup>RCC matches check website: <https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/>

**COL'S COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**  
**CARDY & COKE**  
 Jan Mellon & Wes Cardy  
 Doors open 7pm  
 Music 8 - 11pm  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD**  
 Tickets £7  
 Please phone Colin for booking 07850 383546  
 Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP

**St. Peter's Church**  
**Church Lane, South Hanningfield, CM3 8HW**  
**Flower Festival 2022 "Musicals"**  
 Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 12 - 5 pm with Fete  
 Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 12 - 5 pm with Fete  
 Songs of Praise Sunday service at 5pm  
 Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 11am - 3pm  
 Light Lunches and refreshments available each day

**FIRST AID COURSE**  
 Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP  
 Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September  
 9:30am - 12:30pm - Lunch Break - 1pm - 4:30pm  
 Morning Session - Basic course  
 CPR, use of defibrillator, choking, including baby and child, symptoms and treatment of heart attacks, angina and strokes.  
 Afternoon Session (with option to continue or to leave)  
 Details of asthma attacks, anaphylactic shock, diabetes, epilepsy, fractures, head injury, management of severe bleed.  
 Contact Barbara Wright 01245 321554,  
[RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com) to book a place.  
 (Charge to cover hall hire, donations to ECFAEV.)



### Beryl Wilkinson

Although a sad occasion, Beryl's funeral was such a beautiful reminder of how well she was loved, and by so many throughout the community.

The school children and their parents lined her funeral route, showing how much she will be missed by those at the school. Many of the parents had

known Beryl when they went there as children. She had worked there for over 48 years. The staff will miss her too; admin, teachers, dinner ladies and all. It was, in some ways "her school"; a pupil there herself when she was young.

The church was so packed the service was broadcast to many of her friends standing in the churchyard. We would not have missed seeing her off in style. She did so much for the community. She was ready and willing to offer support to others in anyway possible, whenever she could.

Thank you to her family for allowing us to share her for so long. We will all miss her.

### Woodham Road Veg. Shop

Sadly our local veg. shop has had to close.

We would like to thank Dave and Kay for their sterling service during so many years. They provided us with fresh vegetables and fruit, essentials like bread, milk, and a host of extras: ice cream, cakes, gluten-free items, as well as food and bedding for our pets, seeds and nuts for our bird tables, and more.

We shall miss them, but wish them well for the future.

THANK YOU.

From the Rettendon Parish Community

### Rettendon Horticultural Society

As I write it's mid August. It's 34 degrees and some trees think it's Autumn. I've given up thinking that I will ever see green grass again. By the time this newsletter comes out it must surely have rained giving us hope that we will have some exhibits for the Autumn Show.

Our Summer Show, which was part of the Rettendon Summer Show, was a great success. Horticultural entries were down especially in the flower section. On the other hand the number of craft exhibits was up thus showcasing the amazing talent in our area. Lots of different names on the trophies this year. Well done to the winners and everybody who exhibited. I cannot let this subject pass without a grumble! Leaving aside the pre-show admin the setting up of the show is an enormous task. A handful of people, both members and non members were involved on site on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and I must say a huge thank you to those people. You know who you are! Some extra help would have been well received. Maybe next year!

The garden safari had to be postponed due to the dreaded COVID. It will, by now, have taken place.

Our next event is the Autumn Show on the 10th September at Rettendon Village Hall. Entries must be in place by 10.30. The show schedule is available on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/assets/documents/autumnschedule22>. The show opens at 2 o'clock. There will be the usual raffle with some good prizes, a quiz, treasure hunt etc and plenty of tea and cake. To mark the passing of our Membership Secretary Beryl Wilkinson there will be a new trophy awarded to the winning exhibit in class 64 Harvest Festival. I hope to see you there.

There is a coach trip planned for Sunday 18th September to Hatfield House. Currently we don't have enough people to make the trip viable. If you are interested in joining us please contact **Jean Pietsch** on **01268 763183** for further details.

### John Bruty, chairman

Lots to look forward to with the Autumn show, and the October Talk. Hoping to have a talk on Composting soon, if it can be arranged - possibly as the October talk.

The AGM in November is open to all. If you would like to come and offer help for our future society please feel free. We are very friendly. More details in future newsletters.

We are so sad about losing our membership secretary, Beryl Wilkinson, so suddenly too. We shall miss her greatly, and have to find someone worthy to replace her, not just for the membership, but also as our representative on the Hall Committee. I always tried to get her to enter her garden at Meeson's bungalows into the Summer show garden competition, but she thought it wasn't good enough. If you had the pleasure of seeing it, you know how wonderful it was.

**Barbara Wright, Secretary, [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)**

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

### Rettendon Quiz Night Friday, 16th September 7 for 7:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

Quizmaster: Hazel Dale-Evans

Tea/coffee available

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

**£5 per person - tables of up to 6**

**Raffle** (prizes welcome)

Profits split 50/50 to:

Memorial to Beryl at the school

And the Living Memorial at Whitehouse Farm

**FULLY BOOKED**

### Country Diary

It's the summer of 2022 and I have not yet seen a swallow, a swift or a house martin here in Old Bell Lane.

When I was a child the swallows nested in the rafters of the cart house, without a break. One pair of swifts nested in the loft of the house and they swooped and dived as they flew over the yard catching flies on the wing. We used to always have swallows here in Old Bell Lane but the local nesting places at the barns at Curds and Whites have disappeared and houses built there.

This brings me to butterflies. I have heard there is going to be a day or a weekend when the public can count them, similar to the bird count in February. They say that habitats for the butterflies are disappearing. I do not know why as local authorities are not mowing as much alongside rural roads, farmers are being encouraged to leave a wide headland and wild flower meadows are also being encouraged.

If you are in doubt how dry it is, visit the Hanningfield reservoir which resembles a beach. Apparently the wild life are gleaning in the fields and woods. Helen tells me she has read that to preserve your lawn put some holes in the surface so when the rain comes it helps the soil to soak up the rain and not just run off. **Jane Fallows 01245 400394**





## River Crouch Conservation Trust

9th August 2022 View from the bridge

Our wonderful River Crouch has been in great danger over the last few weeks, which resulted in 1,200 beautiful fish dying, including roach, perch, dace, chub, and bull heads which are on the rare list of threatened species, they are very small fish and weigh less than 1oz.

Our river Crouch is one of the greatest populated in Essex for fish life. We also have otters, kingfishers, water voles etc. This is a **plea to all members of the public**, when you are walking along the riverbank, if you see dead fish in the Crouch, discoloured water, or a strong offensive smell, please ring us or send us an email.

On Friday 29th July we were called out to the Wickford Memorial Park bridge by the large main gates. Many fish were gasping for air and laying on their sides. I cleared any blockages of old branches and debris to allow the distressed fish able to make their way with the current to deeper, cooler waters. I took water samples, etc., until it was getting very dark, and went back to my office in Battlesbridge and alerted Anglian Water (who came out very quickly) and The Environment Agency. Their officers spent all weekend trying to trace the source of the pollution in the Nevendon Brook area and bagging up all the dead fish, with the help of Trust members.

The next Friday evening on the 5th August I followed up another complaint of sewage, etc. near Crays Hill at about 8pm. I discovered sewage being discharged into a large drainage trench alongside London Road approaching Crays Hill. We found the discharge straight away coming off the A129. Sewage and foul water was running into the ditch which was running to Church Road and into the River Crouch. The stench was extremely strong.

I then drove to the river, with Charles Keeling Esq who had alerted me to the problem. The stench was still extremely strong 1/4 of a mile away, I took water samples from the River Crouch bridge. I spoke to a resident who informed me that the vile stench by the river had been there for almost 2 months!

The 3rd incident: I was sent an email from a kind lady. Her mother's garden and others near Basildon were flooded by discoloured water, which was tested by Essex & Suffolk Water and was found to contain a high level of chlorine and was a real environmental problem. Chlorine is very dangerous; it was used in World War 1 as a choking agent. The foul water was coming from an old asbestos pipe on farmland, which had burst, unfortunately the garden ditches also run into the River Crouch.

If pollution in the River Crouch gets any worse, especially in the hot weather and low water level, not only will the fish and wildlife suffer, it will also contaminate the shellfish beds of which there are many, and get into the food chain. I think everyone will agree this is a very serious situation.

On these three occasions, I must also thank Anglian Water, the Environmental Agency and especially Peter Steward and Paul Thwaites, Trust Members, for their prompt help and professional assistance. **Yours very sincerely Roy H Hart**

**Our next work party on the River is on Sunday 18th September 9am at Wickford Park Bridge. Contact Roy Hart (01268 768282) for details.**

**The Bull Head, also known as the Millers Thumb are listed Internationally as being on the red list of endangered species and are very rare. They are very small only weighing less than 1 oz. They favour gravel and small stones to build a nest especially under bridges (Wickford Park) They hunt at night and they live up to 5 years and must be protected at all costs. We missed many dead fish, and have to consider the estimated total of dead fish was possibly double what we managed to recover. The number of Bullheads was considered to be hundreds.**



## THE RETTENDON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1188518

ALMSHOUSE ASSOCIATION NO 1717

**Meeson Bungalows, Rettendon**

**Applications are being sought from qualifying persons for the almshouses in Rettendon.**

The accommodation comprises a single storey, terraced- cottage with two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and wetroom. There is full electric central heating.

Weekly Maintenance Contributions (rent equivalent)  
£135.00

Residents are responsible for their own utility bills and council tax.

To apply, persons should be resident in the village of Rettendon, in need of housing accommodation. Applicants should be able to illustrate their need to the Trustees.

Application forms may be obtained from:

**CLARE HEYES**

**Clerk to the Charity**

**Telephone Number 07803 908686**

[Clare.heyas@keyline.plus.com](mailto:Clare.heyas@keyline.plus.com)

Closing date for applications 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022



### Battlesbridge Free Church

When I was a little girl it was vogue for all children to go to Sunday School.

There we learned the love of Jesus

Christ for everyone of us and that Almighty God did rule in love and majesty over our world. We learned through choruses, hymns and texts from the Bible, the way of kindness, consideration for each other, not to lie and cheat, steal or be aggressive or hurtful to each other. One hymn I particularly remember is "Count you blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!"

How we are blessed in this country of ours! I have just had a spell in hospital. How wonderful we have the NHS. In spite of the rising cost of living, the state of the economy, we do live in a reasonably stable and peaceful society. We do have clean, pure water on tap, there is abundant food, even though, today there are many who need to rely on food banks. The majority enjoy the warmth of clothing and shelter. There is freedom of speech, travel and following our own faith. In many lands there is often prolonged drought causing shortages of food and in many countries, especially in Africa, there is a shortage of clean, germ-free, water. Dirty water causes frequent disease and often death for children or vulnerable people. In many countries people have to exist in war-torn or conflict situations in constant fear. In many countries to believe in the "wrong" faith is to invite persecution and discrimination. This is especially true of Christians where, in some cases, even to own a Bible or mention Christ's name and way is to invite imprisonment or death. So should we not "count our blessings" ?

**June Edwards**

### A little bit quackers.....

What should you give a sick bird? Tweetment

Why did the banana go to the doctor?

He wasn't peeling too well

What dog loves to take a bubble bath? A shampoole

What time does a duck wake up? At the quack of dawn.



### Garden Notes

Drought left us with a tray of treasures unplanted, which have survived well in a shady corner, as did a large planter under a tree. Anything with a long tap root or near the garden path is looking hopeful. Left all the big stuff to shade the rest - seems to have worked OK.

Should be fun to mend my patches with some retail therapy.  
**Mrs. McGregor**

### Life Emergency and Defibrillator Use

- ♥ Phone 999 and ask for the ambulance Service, put the phone on speaker
- ♥ If you are on your own with no mobile signal and no landline, you must go and get help. (Emergency calls are routed through any mobile phone provider).
- ♥ If the patient is unconscious and not breathing start CPR IMMEDIATELY
- ♥ The Ambulance Service will remain on the line and issues instructions on CPR
- ♥ If there is a defib give location of box, Ambulance Service will give the code and instructions.

### Why have a code on a defibrillator box at all?

- ⇒ The Ambulance Service must be contacted so they can prioritise an ambulance, and send other help if quicker.
- ⇒ They know if the defibrillator (defib) is available and working, or will suggest an alternative:
  - ◆ Defib may have been removed by the ambulance service as it was used, so needs checking.
  - ◆ Maintenance being done on it (new pads/batteries)
  - ◆ Defibs are checked and reported as OK, on "The Circuit" website, by a registered monitor

If there were no code on the defibrillator box:

- Has someone contacted the Ambulance Service? They need to know of the emergency
- The defib may not be in the box or working
- Has it been taken out to use, not used, but not put back (so who has it? Where is it?)
- Has it been used, is not complete and cannot be used again
- Is the defib ready for use, has it been checked lately?
- Has the defib been stolen?

The defibrillator is only for emergencies. The initial response should be phone for an Ambulance, and start CPR IMMEDIATELY on someone who is unconscious and not breathing. If done within the first 4 minutes they have a much greater chance of surviving.

*1 in 10 people in Britain survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest, due to low bystander CPR rates. In countries where CPR is taught in schools, as many as 1 in 4 survive. (British Heart Foundation)*

### 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](mailto: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), phone 01245 321554 for details, or post in East Hanningfield Rd.

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Chelmsford's future

Now is the time to have your say!



### Don't forget to have your say!

#### Our Local Plan

Did you know that a lot of how Chelmsford develops in the next 20 years could be influenced by you? Chelmsford City Council has to have a Local Plan to guide its future growth, so that Chelmsford is a greener, fairer and more connected community.

A public consultation on the next phase of the plan has begun and it's really important to have your say. Details at <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review-2022/>

### THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**Between now and 4pm on Thursday 6 October, you can take part in a public consultation on the Issues and Options document.**

**View online** - You can view the consultation documents and make comments on the council's planning policy consultation portal [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult).

They will also be available to read during **normal opening hours** at the council's customer service centre at the Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1JE

You can view an online exhibition available during the consultation period – this can be found at [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/lp-exhibition](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/lp-exhibition).

**View in person** - We will also be holding in-person exhibitions at the Civic Centre. These exhibitions will provide an opportunity for you to find out more and discuss the consultation with a planning officer.

### Exhibition dates are:

- Thursday 8 September 6pm – 9pm
- Friday 9 September 10am – 1pm
- Friday 9 September 2pm – 5pm
- Saturday 10 September 10am – 1pm

### How to respond with your views

- Via our consultation portal at [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult)
- By email to [planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk)
- By post to Spatial Planning Services, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE.



All comments will be used to inform the next stage of the process, which is when the council chooses its preferred option

### Rettendon Memorial Hall

The Hall Management Committee has lost one of its treasures - Beryl. We shall miss her.

Sadly our Pre-School has called it a day and closed in July. This is in line with many others who have found the financial situation does not support the effort involved. We would like to thank Pat and her crew for keeping this going over a very lengthy service and especially through the difficult pandemic rules. They all deserve a rest and we wish Pat a peaceful retirement.

### Life goes on -

7th and 21st September - Knit and Natter

Friday, 16th September - a Quiz to support the Whitehouse Farm Living Memorial and a memorial for Beryl at the school.

Tuesday, 27th September - Parish Council Meeting.

Zumba continues on Thursdays at 7:30pm

Bowls on Mondays from 7pm

Hall can be booked with **Dianne Francombe 01245 400297**

**Hall Management Committee**