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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL

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

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Christmas Shopping Evening	Friday, 2 nd December	7:00pm	Rawreth Village Hall	Rawreth Residents Ass.
Country and Western	Saturday, 3 rd December	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Col's Country Club
Xmas at St. Nicks	Sunday, 4 th December	2:30 – 4:30pm	St Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Allegro Carol Concert	Sunday, 4 th December	7 for 7:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
PMRGCA Support Group	Tuesday, 6 th December	2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	PMRGCA Support Group
Winter Warmth at the Hall	Wednesday, 7 th December	11am – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Hall Committee
Festival of 9 lessons & carols	Sunday, 11 th December	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Christmas concert	Saturday, 17 th December	7pm for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
Children's Nativity Service	Sunday, 18 th December	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Carol Service / By Candlelight	Sunday, 18 th December	11:15am / 4:00pm	All Saints' Church / St Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 20 th December	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Midnight Carols / Communion	Saturday, 24 th December	11:30pm / 11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints' Church	
Christmas Service	Sunday, 25 th December	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Country and Western	Saturday, 7 th January	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Dave's Country Club
Dance Classes (Start date)	Wednesday, 11 th January	9:15am & 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Gabrielle 07557102204

REGULAR EVENTS

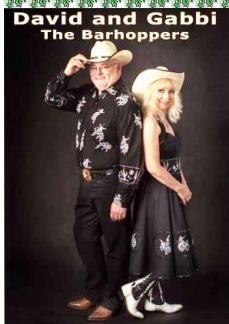
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free / All Saints', Rettendon	
Parish Council Meeting *	Last Tuesday in Month	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Bowls	Mondays	7 - 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Dance Classes (tots / 5-6yrs)	Wednesdays	9:15-10:15am / 3:30 – 5:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Gabrielle 07557102204
Winter Warmth at the Hall	Wednesdays (till April)	11am – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Hall Committee
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	Various	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	Raise Your Voice Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Dave's Country Club

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

Rawreth Residents Association is holding a
Christmas Shopping Evening
 on **Friday, 2nd December, at 7.00pm**
 in **Rawreth Village Hall**

Please come along and join us. Everyone welcome
 For further information Contact Dave Colins
 on 01268 734933 or email: Cogsy397@icloud.com

Xmas Do at St Nicks
 St Nicholas church, Rawreth
 on **Sunday 4th December, from 2:30 - 4:30pm**
 Gifts, Cakes, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Raffle and
 Refreshments
 Please come along and join us
 everyone welcome



Col's Country Club
Rettendon Village Hall,
Essex, CM3 8DP
Saturday, 3rd December, 2022
Doors Open 7:00pm
A Country Music Night
David and Gabbi
& Vic Oakley

Vic Oakley



BYO Drinks - Tea/Coffee and Rolls
 available from Debbie's kitchen
 Lots of local parking, Limited Seating
 Tickets £7

Call Colin 07850 383546 to book

Please join us for **call 01268 768282**
 Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

A Wonderful Carol Concert
 for all ages
 with
Allegro Choir
 at



All Saints Church, Rettendon

December 4th at 7.30pm

Tickets £10, children under 15yrs free

All monies raised go to HARP, Southend's Homeless Charity
 at Christmas (for some, the most lonely time of the year)



All Saints' Church, Rettendon
Carol Service
Sunday, 18th December
11:15am
Collection goes to the Children's Society

Battlesbridge Quiz Night - Thank you
 We are pleased to announce our greatest ever profit from the quiz. This will help us maintain the building and continue our services for the foreseeable future.
 Thank you to all who came, all who helped out, especially our quiz master and question setter.
 We do hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Little Darwin's Nursery
 The children enjoyed a visit from the local fire service and were very excited to explore the fire engine and hear all about how they help us.



We are getting ready for Christmas and are practising the nativity, that will be performed to parents and carers, by our school riser children. Our younger children will be singing Christmas carols and songs and we are enjoying hearing these also being practised at nursery.

From Lucy and all the team at Little Darwin's, we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year

MALTA 2023 - 13th-21st March

I'm very excited to have advance details of our plans for a cultural holiday next spring.
 This nine-day trip to Malta is a first for us – and the programme offers an opportunity to see the many and varied highlights of the Island of Malta and also Gozo. We will recall the visit made by St. Paul to the Island, and have some free time to explore or relax on our own.



The price is very reasonable for a trip of this duration, and includes all flights, excursions and half-board accommodation.

You will find a one-page summary, a full-colour brochure, and booking form at this link, or contact me directly.

<http://www.maranatha.co.uk/>

Malta2023-RevDrBrenda&Dawn/
Revd. Dr. Brenda Wallace 07853 088907
Brenda.wallace93@outlook.com

I slept like a log last night... woke up in the fireplace
 I don't trust stairs... They're always up to something
 How does a penguin build a house? Igloos it together
 What do you call a baby monkey? A chimp off the old block.



PMRGCA Support Group
 (Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) & giant cell arteritis (GCA))
6th December at 2 pm
at Rettendon Memorial hall, CM3 8DP
 Our speaker is Glenn Morriss, Senior Physiotherapist at Southend University Hospital. Entry £4, refreshments will be available.
Contact Pat on 07733362373 to book a seat.

Winter Warmth at the Hall
 Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP
Every Wednesday from 7th December
11am till 2pm

Tea, coffee, soup, rolls, cakes, biscuits...
 Come to chat, enjoy some heat,
 Have a snack, new friends to meet.
 Games, arts and crafts, jigsaws, books,
 Come along and take a look.
 The Hall Committee all agree
 Everything provided free.

Free to any Parishioner of Rettendon Parish
 Need more information? Need transport? Please contact Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538 or the secretary, Barbara Wright on 01245 321554.
 Email: RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com

"Raise Your Voices" Community Choir
Christmas Concert
Saturday, 17th December - 7:00 for 7:30pm
Entry is free, but a donation to the Church funds would be most welcome.
Refreshments served during the interval.

Melody Bear Ballet and First Tap and Modern classes

are being brought to Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP) by Royal Ballet and West End Theatre dancer, Gabrielle Noble.



She has owned a dance and drama school in West London for seventeen years and is bringing her classes closer to home in Rettendon.



Classes start in January for ages 18mths-3yrs and 4-6yrs old. Book your little one's free trial on www.gigis.dance
Classes are on Wednesdays.

Rettendon Memorial Hall

We are continuing with our normal operation, but with the addition of the Winter Warmth at the Hall sessions. We are hopeful of some feedback from you about what you want from the hall in the future - come and tell us. It is an asset of the Parish, so why not use it. Book through **Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297.**

Our regulars, so far, are:-
 Bowls on Mondays from 7 - 10pm
 Melody Bear Ballet – from January 11th, on Wednesdays
 Dance classes for children - 9:15-10:15am & 3:30-5:30pm
 Wednesdays Winter Warmth at the Hall from 11am - 2pm, with Knit & Natter: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30pm
 Zumba Dance and Exercise at 7:30pm

Hall Management Committee

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

Mobile Library dates:

Salforal Close: Tuesdays 1:45-2:15pm -13th Dec, 3rd & 24th Jan
Goose Cottages: Fridays 9:40-10:10am - 9th & 30th Dec, 20th Jan

Better to give than receive?

If everyone drew up a list of things they liked and disliked at this time of year I doubt that there would be two lists the same. You could try it. My 'likes' would include Advent hymns, clear starry nights, seeing family members and the smells of Christmas such as cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon. On the 'dislikes' list are making sure everything is organised, crowds and carols piped round supermarkets (especially The Twelve Days of Christmas).

It wouldn't surprise me if some things that I like are on your 'dislike' list and vice versa. I hope that doesn't mean we can't enjoy the season together! The story of God sharing human life, born as a baby and growing up to meet our deepest needs, puts our likes and dislikes into perspective. I find I am encouraged to think not only about how I can have what I want in the next few weeks but also how others' preferences can be catered for.

Is it better to give or receive? In a good and loving relationship, where there's satisfaction in the other person's pleasure, it's hard to tell the difference.

A Joyful and Peaceful Christmas to all.

Rev'd Canon 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
<<mailto:rev.richard.jordan@gmail.com>>

W: www.hrr-churches.org.uk

Christmas services at All Saints

18th December 11.15am, Carol service.
Collection goes to the Children's Society
24th December 11.30pm, Midnight communion
25th December, 11.15am, Christmas day communion

Country Diary

We, that is the people of Rettendon and Battlesbridge, have suddenly tasted a few days of typical November weather: low cloud, rain and real dismal days.

The forecast has suggested that we may soon get a touch of frost. An old gentleman I met many, many, years ago said that we don't get frost here in November, or at least not until after November 22nd.

I was wondering what to write about. It was suggested to me, 'what about the birds and animals you have seen this month.' So I took up the challenge and apparently muntjack deer have not only been seen but sadly some have been killed along the road near to our home. One of the other deer that has been seen in the East Hanningfield Road area is a fallow deer. Badgers are quite prolific and one very recently ran out in front of Barbara Wright's car when travelling along Buckhatch Lane and made no great effort to vanish down the roadside ditch. Hares have also been seen in the Hyde Hall area. Bumble bees can still be found in our garden. I have noticed that the trees are hanging on to their fruit and berries. Perhaps this is because of the mild weather.

Hopefully we will see the berries at Christmas, ready to be cut for Christmas decorations.

Happy Christmas.

Jane Fallows 01245 400394

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
on Sunday, 18th December - 4:00pm
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, RAWRETH,
SS11 8SH



Rettendon Horticultural Society

This is my last article of 2022 and I don't really have too much to write about that hasn't already been said.

Whilst other local horticultural societies are struggling to survive we have had a good year holding three shows, three talks, a garden safari and a very successful plant sale.

The survival of Rettendon Horticultural Society is dependent on maintaining a good membership. It is no secret that we have an ageing membership which means that some members are less able to help with the heavy jobs involved in setting up and running shows particularly the Summer Show. Hopefully we can recruit some new members next year.

My thanks go out to everybody who exhibited and helped with shows in 2022 and for keeping Rettendon Horticultural Society alive and kicking.

Our next event is the Spring Show in March. This seems a long way off but Spring bulbs are already starting to show. This will mark the start of another horticultural year and I look forward to another successful year.

The committee would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

John Bruty, Chairman.

I have been busy trying to set up the diary for next year, with all the shows, talks and trips. We are moving away from coach trips, though we will be going to Wisley next year, and moving towards car-sharing for local trips: Kings Seeds at Kelvedon, during the sweet pea flowering, Ulting Wick Gardens, near Maldon, and maybe more if there is interest. Then the talks with a photographic talk of "Life in the Undergrowth", and a talk about apple types, and (hopefully) identification. Again, if there is interest we will try and get a few more ad-hoc talks, as we did this year.

Why not join us. We are a friendly group and welcome all, whether gardeners or not.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who so kindly helped set up/dismantled shows, baked cakes and came to steward the judges, as well as all the background stuff, from our own members to those non-members who just did it without sometimes even being asked. We do appreciate it, even if, sometimes, it does not seem to be the case. Thank you all.

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

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

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

Garden Notes

Now for a brief break - but the plants continue to grow - even if they are a little confused this year. Some thought it was spring already - some are clinging on to their summer coat waiting for autumn. We must hope for more settled times.

Have care for the plants in our world. **Mrs. McGregor**

The Living Memorial.

(Whitehouse Farm, Main Road, Rettendon)

Peter and I embraced the idea for the "Living Memorial" around 2008, the same time Britain was repatriating our fallen Service Personnel through Wootton Bassett.

For the second time in British history the public were kept informed with the progress of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and, more importantly, names and pictures were routinely shown on the television and newspapers of the young forces personnel killed in action. The first Gulf war being the first to be televised live.

Unless we're mistaken, the Falklands conflict was the first war to repatriate our fallen troops back to Britain. Prior to that they were buried in the Country they fell.

Thus so, in 2008 my Husband and I were inspired by events in Wootton Bassett and the decorum and respect that was shown to our fallen troops along the route by Veterans and Residents.

With a lot of research through the MOD website we managed to get the names of Soldiers killed primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan. Then we found a source to supply our plaques. The next decision was where to place the plaques. We wanted to find a lovely area on our farm where people could come and pay their respects and sit and think. Initially, we picked our smaller field (8 acres) close to the house. But, as the numbers grew in deaths, we became aware that we needed a bigger area.

Coupled with further research we started to encompass the other wars and conflicts where British troops had lost their lives. That being so we chose a larger field (20 acres) further away from the road and more encased in the countryside.

Thus the Living Memorial came into being. We have included every war up to the second world war. To mark WWII we have built a small chapel. In recognition of WWI we have a paved area with a sculpted metal poppy wreath.

We hope you can understand the format we are trying to create. We feel being surrounded by nature will come some way to help heal those who have lost a loved one and help them come to terms with their grief.

Anyone in Service to this Country who is prepared to sacrifice their life so that others may live theirs in relative safety deserve our respect and thanks.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing".

I hate Russian dolls... they're so full of themselves.
I wouldn't buy anything with Velcro... it's a total rip-off!
What do you call a fear of giants? Fee-Fi-Fobia
Why is everyone so thirsty at the North Pole? No well, No well



Newsletter Contributions

We **ENCOURAGE** items from local individuals, societies or groups. Please send to Barbara Wright via e-mail RetBatNews@gmail.com, tel: 01245 321554, or by hand to 55 East Hanningfield Road, asap. Funding contributions, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), phone 01245 321554 for details, or post at 55 East Hanningfield Rd.



Battlesbridge Free Church

Remembrance: It was lovely to see a nearly full church at All Saints' on November 13th for the Remembrance

service. So many young men and women and also children and families, during the Blitz, lost their lives during the first and second world wars and beyond in other conflicts. What can all this fighting and killing achieve? The wickedness of Hitler's Fascism was put to an end, but after a short lull, albeit with economic hardship, the wickedness of Communism reared its ugly head. God must be exasperated with us all!

The idea of communism, equality for all, was a wonderful concept, but without the loving wisdom of God's input, man's interpretation very soon degenerated into totalitarianism, oppression and domination, with disappearances, extreme and repressive imprisonments for those whose opinions deviated in the slightest from the holding power. If only we could humble ourselves enough to accept and do our best to obey God's simple code of behaviour. Could we not try harder to treat our fellow humans as we expect and hope to be treated? What on earth has got into the human being called Putin? His god is called Satan, the devil. An old-fashioned concept? The reality of this human's enemy is so evident, in the beguiling and ease with which human minds can be persuaded into swearing, cruelty in abusing, love of and reaching out for wealth and material gain and the ease of ignoring the sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ as just old-fashioned nonsense. Can we really, so easily, give up the chance of his offer of renewed life beyond death, if we can only bring ourselves to ask forgiveness for our straying away from God's rules? It used to be called sin. Satan makes his way so much easier; easier to deny faith in Almighty God. But this God desperately loves each one of us. Help us to hold the God of our forefathers in Remembrance. May we hold fast to our faith so that we continue to live in a Christian country. **June Edwards**

Remembrance at All Saints'

There was a two minute silence at the coffee morning, on Friday, 11th November. Everything stopped. No cups rattled, no talking, just the breathing of those attending. The muffled bells had been rung up just beforehand, and the organist had been playing appropriate music.

The Remembrance service on the Sunday was called by the muffled bells. Many came to pay their respects to the fallen in all conflicts, including those in peril at the moment. The church was suitably attired, with poppies at the doorway, on windowsills, around the memorials, and flowers at the altar and pulpit.

We thank those who made such an effort, and are pleased to put in a few photos here to show everyone.



A reminder link to this newsletter can be sent by email please contact RetBatNews@gmail.com.

Our Website is: <https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/>
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