



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ FEBRUARY 2023

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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](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 18<sup>th</sup> of the month



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



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Best of Friends (C&W)	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> February	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Recycling Open Day	Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February	10 am – 2pm	Freighter House, CM2 5PH	Chelmsford City Council
Inter-Societies Hort. Quiz	Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February	7 for 7:30pm	Wickford Church Hall	Wickford Hort. Soc.
PMRGAuk Meeting	Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February	2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	PMRCA Support Group
Finding God in Pictures	Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	10am – 12 noon	St Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Table Top Sale	Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	9am – 1pm	South Hanningfield V. Hall	South Hann. Hall Comm.
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February	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	
Winter Warmth at the Hall	Wednesdays (till April)	11am – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Hall Committee
Knit and Natter	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Walking Group	Thursdays & Weekends	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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in month	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Lent Exploring Meetings	Every Saturday in March	10am -12 noon	St Nicholas Church, Rawreth	

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Billy Buba King (C&W)	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Spring Show	Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Entries 6:45pm	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	14 <sup>th</sup> February, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	10 <sup>th</sup> February, 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> March

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



## Ray and Dave's Country Music Club 2023

Rettendon Village Hall,  
(opposite school), CM3 8DP  
**Saturday, 4th February, 2023**

Music by Best of Friends  
Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm  
No bar - Bring Your Own Drinks  
Tea/Coffee and FOOD available  
Look forward to seeing you all for a night of great music to dance or just to listen  
Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118  
Or Dave 01245 225963



## Winter Warming on Wednesdays through till end of March 11am - 2pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

Our village hall welcomes those living in the area to meet regularly for invigorating chatty inspiration. Drop in for tea, coffee and biscuits, soup and bread a bit later and even cake after that. Our County Council grant means NO charge. All residents welcomed.

Need more information? Need transport? Please contact Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538 or the secretary, Barbara Wright on 01245 321554. Email: [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)



### NEWSLETTER FLASH!

#### We would like to ask your opinion.

Due to increases in the cost of printing we are running out of funds, which have been so kindly donated by many of our residents and businesses in the area. This newsletter is NOT funded by the Parish Council.

We would like to know if residents would accept the newsletter going BI-MONTHLY. We will continue to print on paper as we know so many of you like an actual copy.

Please contact us either by phone 01245 321554, email: [retbatnews@gmail.com](mailto:retbatnews@gmail.com) or in person.

## Indoor Table Top Sale South Hanningfield Village Hall

We are holding an Indoor Table Top Sale on **Sunday, 26 February, 9am to 1pm**  
Entry will be free for shoppers and there will be refreshments and breakfast sandwiches available for sale.  
South Hanningfield Village Hall,  
South Hanningfield Road CM3 8HL  
Email: [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) Phone: 07891 653238  
<https://e-voice.org.uk/shanningfieldvillagehall/>




## Rettendon Memorial Hall

It has been cold the past few weeks, but the hall has still opened up on a Wednesday being warmed for those people who wish to venture out. There is chat, you can socialise, meet other people, and be fed with lovely thick, warming soup and bread. There is tea, coffee and cake on offer too, and all free.

**Our regular bookings are continuing with:-**


 **Mondays** - Bowls from 7 - 10pm  
 **Wednesdays** - Winter Warmth at the Hall from 11am - 2pm,  
with Knit & Natter: 1st & 3rd  
Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30pm.



 **Thursdays** - Zumba Dance and Exercise at 7:30pm.

 **Every 1st Saturday of the month** is Ray and Dave's Country Music Club.



 **Last Tuesday of the month** - Parish Council meetings, unless stated otherwise on their website.

The hall is available for hire. Check dates and times with our booking clerk, **Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297.**

There is a committee room for smaller meetings, with table and chairs.



The large hall is available for parties, or more regular bookings.

**Hall Management Committee**

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

## HORTICULTURAL INTER-SOCIETY QUIZ SATURDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY

**Christ Church Hall, Gateway Service Road, Wickford  
SS12 9FW**

Rettendon Horticultural Society belong to a group of like-minded societies co-operating to further our horticultural groups. There are a couple of events per year where all of us get-together for a social event.

Each year there is an Inter-Society quiz, which is keenly fought. This year Wickford Horticultural Society are running the quiz, but with our very own quiz mistress in charge - Hazel Dale-Evans.

Rettendon were second last year and we want to better ourselves, but we need team members. If you like quizzes and are members please help us out.

**Contact Barbara on 01245 321554, or Hazel on 01245 401538.**

What did the farmer say to the cow at night-time? It's pasture bedtime.  
"You know you have reached middle age when your weightlifting consists of standing up." Bob Hope  
Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.



## PMRGCA Support Group

(Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) & giant cell arteritis (GCA))

**21st February at 2 pm**

**at Rettendon Memorial hall, CM3 8DP**

Our speaker is Miss Marina Hopes MD FRCOphth, consultant ophthalmologist, glaucoma and cataract surgeon, clinical lead in Ophthalmology Broomfield Hospital.

Entry £4, refreshments will be available.

**PMRGCAuk Southend**

[southend@pmrgca.org.uk](mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk)

## Little Darwin's

Happy New Year to everyone, from all at Little Darwins!



We are looking forward to another busy year in nursery as we welcome new children this term.

In our PE sessions, the children have been very active, moving their bodies in lots of different ways and enjoying welly walks on the field. They have enjoyed jumping in puddles, as they explore

the outdoors during the winter months.

Our older children have been cooking this month and have so far made pancakes with fruit faces and star biscuits, the nursery has smelt delicious whilst these were cooking!

**Lucy Cook, Nursery Manager**



## COST OF LIVING HELP - contacts

**Chelmsford City Council:** Telephone: 01245 606606

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/communities/extra-help-for-residents/>

**Chelmsford Citizens Advice:** <https://chelmsfordcab.org/>

**Essex County Council:**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/cost-of-living?>

**Government:** <https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

£2 bus fare cap - find list here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#new-bus-fare-cap-from-1-january-2023>

## Country Diary

What an industrious time of the year it is around our bird table. What birds you may ask? Well I leave the identification of the various birds to others but to me there are in two groups, firstly the sparrows which come in various shades and some with bits of extra colours or longer tails. Secondly the bigger ones which seem to make a lot of tweeting or honking noises especially as they fly overhead in close formation. Better go and check the cauliflowers as some of the honking ones are pretty good at target practice leaving their distinctive calling cards.

The sparrows especially are far from being a vanishing breed here in fact the bird table isn't big enough to let them all feed at once. Fights ensue, seems like school dinners of years ago as they really should have two sittings but nobody seems to be in charge. I suppose I had better go and get some more bird seed. There seems to be a few of them who are Billy Bunter types who have a bit of difficulty taking off and landing. Perhaps a take-off and landing strip fixed to the bird table may help?



### A new food outlet.

This is not an advertisement as such but more a recommendation.

We now have a new seafood cabin in Woodham Road situated opposite Trade Price Cars near where the farm shop used to be. It goes under the name of BennyG's Seafood. A good selection of hot and cold seafood.

Open Thursday to Sunday 10-4. Very satisfied with what we have tried so far especially the giant prawns!

From a satisfied customer.

### Fish and Seafood at Marshalls Meats Althorpe Shellfish.



As many of you already know, there is also a fresh fish outlet at Marshall's Meats on the South Hanningfield Road. Their times are: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am - 4pm. (Put in to be fair and unbiassed)

### Lent 2023: Finding God in All Things

One of my great heroes was the Rev Canon John Polkinghorne. He died a couple of years ago but in his time was professor of mathematical physics at Cambridge University and President of Queen's College Cambridge. As you might imagine he spoke and wrote about the relationship between science and religion.

From my point of view, it is comforting to know that someone so deeply rooted in science can believe in the same God of Jesus Christ that I believe in. A God who over 13.8 billion years shaped the universe that we now see, and over millions of years of evolution drew out the richness of flora and fauna that we see about us and even the humanity of which we are a part.

This is an awesome God, way beyond our understanding. I cannot even imagine the universe much less conceive a God able to create it.

In a debate with an atheist one of my other heroes, Archbishop Tom Wright said, "The God you don't believe in doesn't exist". At first I thought this was quite clever, any imagined god cannot be by the God who creates the universe. But the logical next statement is that the God that I do believe in does not exist either. Simply because any god that I can imagine could not have created all that we see around us.

As a Christian I believe that in Jesus Christ, God accommodates our limited imagination and shows us something of himself in a way that we can comprehend. But, as we read the Bible and try to understand what it means that this Christ was in some way instrumental in the very dawn of creation, we realise we can never be complacent about our limited imagined God.

During Lent this year we want to stretch that imagination. We will be meeting on Saturday mornings to explore the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ and also in the world around us. Whether you believe or don't, you would be most welcome.

We will be meeting on Saturday mornings at St Nicholas Church Rawreth from 10.00 to 12:00

25<sup>th</sup> February: Finding God in Pictures

4<sup>th</sup> March: Finding God in The World around us

11<sup>th</sup> March: Finding God in Making and Repairing

18<sup>th</sup> March: Finding God in Society

25<sup>th</sup> March: Finding God in Our Homes (and Gardens)

1<sup>st</sup> April: Finding God in Writing Diaries, Texts and Posts.

All welcome

**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)

Website: [www.hrr-churches.org.uk](http://www.hrr-churches.org.uk)

### Rettendon Horticultural Society

The start of another horticultural year greets us with snowdrops, hellebores and cold weather. At this time of year it's easy to make a false start with sowing seeds so it's certainly advisable to be patient and wait a few more weeks before getting started unless you have a propagator and a heated greenhouse. Seeds sown later always seem to catch up.

Quite a few local horticultural societies have folded over recent years but we are determined to continue and ensure that Rettendon Horticultural Society remains strong. We have been busy planning for the coming year and apart from the usual three shows we have a really packed schedule of talks and trips.

We have arranged a talk from a renowned wildlife photographer "Life in the Undergrowth" and a talk about Essex Heritage fruit trees. Trips include Ulting Wick Garden (Matthew Oliver late of Hyde Hall is now Head Gardener there), King's Seeds and RHS Wisley.

If you are interested in gardening why not join Rettendon Horticultural Society and for your £5 membership fee benefit from 3 shows, 3 talks, a plant sale with very competitive prices and 3 trips (a charge is required for trips where there is an entrance fee and travel costs). You can also enter your garden or allotment for judging.

Our next event is the Spring Show to be held at Rettendon Village Hall on Tuesday 21st March. It's a good opportunity to meet with friends over a cup of tea and home made cake. The show opens at 7.30 with entries from 6.45.

For details of membership feel free to contact myself on 01268 562371 or Barbara Wright on 01245 321554.

**John Bruty, Chairman.**

### Membership

As mentioned, the membership letters have gone out. In order to make it easier we are trying to organise payment by BACS, as well as cheque or cash. Still only £5 for the year. We have 3 talks this year, and a few local society only trips. The main outing in September is to Wisley, which will be free to enter with our society affiliation.

### SPRING SHOW - Tuesday, 21st March

The Spring Show schedule is already on the website, as link here. <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/assets/documents/springschedule23>

Come with your daffodils and spring flowers, or come to see them and wonder why you didn't put yours in as they would have won! Tea, coffee and cake on offer.

All welcome, no entry fee.

**Barbara Wright, Secretary, tel: 01245 321554**

email: [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)

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

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

### The Two Ronnies - Sports News....

**RB** In the transatlantic single-handed yacht race Mr. Owen Smithers was disqualified for using both hands.

**RC** Tonight's tug-of-war between England and France may have to be cancelled if nobody can find a twenty-six mile rope.

## Garden Notes

Carefully rearranging some old favourites by splitting clumps and gently lifting dead stems away from new growth. Winter shrub flowers brilliant. Roses clipped to lessen wind damage. Then rushing indoors to warm up again.

Halo polished!

Mrs. McGregor

## MALTA 2023 - 16th -24th October

*This trip has been re-scheduled for October, so I am repeating the details to get you in the mood. Please contact Brenda for more details and the dates.*



I'm very excited to have advance details of our plans for a cultural holiday next autumn.

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/>

Rev. Dr. Brenda Wallace 07853 088907

[Brenda.wallace93@outlook.com](mailto:Brenda.wallace93@outlook.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL contact details

Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk

[rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com) 07811 254163

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

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishccouncil/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishccouncil/?ref=page_internal)

## 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

Knock, knock. Who's there? Arthur. Arthur who?  
Arthur any mince pies left?  
What athlete is warmer in winter? A long jumper!  
What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you can't beat it!



## Newsletter Contributions

We ENCOURAGE items from local individuals, societies or groups. Please send to Barbara Wright via e-mail [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Chelmsford City Council - The Freighter House Recycling Open Day

Free Family Event w/Free Parking

Saturday 18th February 10am till 2pm

Freighter House, Drovers Way, Boreham, Essex, CM2 5PH

Recycling & Street Care Depot Tour

View & Sit in Our Recycling Collection Vehicles & Sweepers

Free Bike Repair Workshop [Bring Your Bike With You]

Mini Cinema Experience ★ Prizes To Be Won & More

Contact us for further information: [LYC@CHELMSFORD.GOV.UK](mailto:LYC@CHELMSFORD.GOV.UK)

Love Your Chelmsford

(For your information - Copied from the event poster)



## Battlesbridge Free Church

When, over 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born into the human world, giving us our Christmas, it was a world not too dissimilar to

the new one of 2023. We all wished each other a 'Happy New Year', but happiness and a smooth progression through this new year will not happen of itself. Jesus, Son of Almighty God, did not just come to urge us to be nice to one another. He expected people to obey the rules which God had laid down at the beginning of time, this to ensure 'Happy ever after' for mankind. Unfortunately happy ever after never did happen since human kind, lured by the deceptions of God's and our implacable enemy, Satan, the devil, call the spirit of evil what you will, and were led to believe that man's cleverness, wisdom and initiative could control manage without resorting to God's intervention, or, as he saw it, limitations. Jesus was sent to set us straight. He warned that there really is only one way to achieve the 'Happy ever after'. He spelled out his way, truth, and gave his life to save as many as would seek to follow his replacement acquittal of our sins which would otherwise result in an everlasting death penalty. The resurrection of Jesus gave him the power to save from everlasting death all those who would put their belief and trust in him. During the intervening 2,000 years, millions have put their lives in the hands of Jesus. Sadly, especially in the Western world which used to be called 'Christendom' many have begun to slide more and more to the belief that man's amazing human abilities can and will set the world to rights. Many now have been reduced into disbelief even into the very existence of God, Jesus or that the Bible can portray the will and love of God. The name of Jesus is persecuted in many countries and his followers and discriminated against and thousands killed by saying his name.

Will humans bring about the peace of happy ever after? The United Nations was set up in this wonderful hope. But looking around at the world today, they at least, have a mountain to climb. So many individuals will not toe the line! Putin, one example. Jesus did and does have the answers. His outlook on what is to come for our human controlled world is not very encouraging but he offers us the free pardon to a Happy New everlasting Year if we will only listen to him, believe and trust in him, because he loves each and everyone of us with a caring above and beyond even the best of human love and understanding. Sadly, human pride continues to reject this amazing offer and his name and followers continue to be persecuted, discriminated against and killed in many countries throughout the world.

June Edwards

A reminder link to this newsletter can be sent by email please contact [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com).

Our Website is: <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.