



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ MARCH 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 Newsletters organisation.
 Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th 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, 28 th February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Billy Buba King (C&W)	Saturday, 4 th March	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Ceillidh	Saturday, 18 th March	7pm	South Hanningfield Hall	South Hann. Hall Comm.
Candidates Election Registration (see back)	Monday, 20 th March – Tuesday, 4 th April	10am – 4pm (Please book slot)	Civic Centre Offices	Chelmsford City Council
Spring Show	Tuesday, 21 st March	Entries from 6:45pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 28 th March	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 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30pm – 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 st 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

Ken Mayes Band (C&W)	Saturday, 1 st April	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Life in the Undergrowth talk	Tuesday, 11 th April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Ulting Wick Garden visit	Tuesday, 25 th April	9:30am	Members car share event	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	7 th & 28 th March, 18 th April
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	3 rd & 24 th March, 14 th April

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

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club 2023
 Rettendon Village Hall, (opposite school),
 CM3 8DP
Saturday, 4th March, 2023
 Music by Billy Bubba King
 Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm
 No bar - BYO 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**
 (picture from Billy Bubba King on Facebook)



Winter Warmth at the Hall on Wednesdays through till end of March 11am - 2pm
 Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP
 Continuing until the end of March with tea, coffee and biscuits, soup and bread a bit later and even cake after that.
 Our grant from Essex County Council means **All FREE - 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

Rettendon Horticultural Society
SPRING SHOW & SEED SWOP
Tuesday, 21st March
6:45pm for entries, 7:30pm judging.
Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

A spring evening of flowers and delights.
 The schedule is on the website, <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/assets/documents/springschedule23>
 Not shown before? We can help. Just come along with your flowers. We can provide the vases, and show you how to display your entries. There is a cup for the winner and a rosette for the best in section. Our judge is Tony Rogers, a local judge and member at Ramsden Bellhouse.
 We will also be hosting a **SEED SWOP**. Come and get free seeds, exchange different varieties, try new ones - so many in one packet, so why not share them out!
 Tea, coffee and cake on offer, and short quiz, just for fun, while judging takes place.
 All welcome, no entry fee.
Barbara Wright, Secretary, tel: 01245 321554
 email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

Rettendon Memorial Hall

The Winter Warmth at the Hall on Wednesdays is continuing until the end of March, when it will be reviewed.

We have been pleased to see those who have crossed the threshold to participate, and look forward to more of you coming. The tea, coffee, cake and warm, hearty soup is available free of charge and served to you by some of our Hall Management Committee.

There is chat, you can socialise, meet other people, and borrow a book or two, or a jigsaw perhaps. There are games if you wish to play cards, scrabble, etc.

Our regular bookings are continuing with:-

Mondays - Bowls from 7pm - 10pm

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

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

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

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

PMRGCA Support Group - please check with their website for meetings, generally every 6/8 weeks.

<https://pmrgca.org.uk/author/southend/>

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

The large hall is available for parties, or more regular bookings. There is a committee room for smaller meetings, with table and chairs.

The hall committee has representatives from the groups and clubs that use the hall. For example there is the Parish Council representative, the Horticultural Society rep, one from the Bowls club, as well as the officers of the hall such as chairman, treasurer and secretary.

Hall Management Committee

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

Rettendon Horticultural Society

A wander around the garden on a recent warmer day made it obvious that the cold weather, in particular, periods of prolonged frosts have taken a toll on lots of less hardy plants. Also Spring bulbs appear to be later than normal.

Hopefully the bulbs will catch up in time for our Spring Show on Tuesday the 21st March. Entries are open to all not just members. Entries are between 6.45pm and 7.30pm. Tea, homemade cake, a raffle and a quiz make for a pleasant evening at the end of a long Winter. It would be good to see everybody and a lovely display of Spring flowers.

As always new members will be welcome.

John Bruty, Chairman.

A fine time was had by all at the Inter-Societies Quiz night. The winning team was Galleywood, but Rettendon came joint 2nd, and no team was too far behind at the end. Thanks go to Hazel for her excellent quiz, not too difficult, but enough to split the points.

The Life in the Undergrowth talk will be on **Tuesday, 11th April**, with some fascinating photographs by **Roger Hance FRPS**. For a sneak preview try his website:-

<https://rogerhancefrps.com/life-in-the-undergrowth>

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

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

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

St Patrick's Ceilidh - South Hanningfield Village Hall

We are planning a Ceilidh on Saturday, **18th March from 7.00pm** with The Yardarm Ceilidh Band in attendance, ceilidh dancing and a Raffle. Come and have a go at Irish dancing! There will be a caller who will be directing dancers to the steps so should be great fun.

We will also have the bar where Guinness and other drinks will be available. **Tickets cost £8 per person.**

South Hanningfield Village Hall, South Hanningfield Road CM3 8HL

For further information or to book your ticket,
email vallisc@aol.com or phone **07891 653238**.



DO YOU WANT A YOUTH CLUB?

We would like to know if you would like a youth club at the hall on FRIDAY Evenings? Whether you're a youngster, parent, grandparent, or someone who may be able to help.

Can you help organise it? Be a responsible person to look after the event?

Can you find out what the youngsters want? Would they like this to happen? This will not happen unless we get several responses. We need to know how many would like to come.

Please contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554, email: RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com

There used to be a lot more happening at the hall, but interest faded, or the organisers left. We need help to form more clubs, groups or evenings of entertainment. If you want them it is up to you - help us out - tell us and maybe give us some of your time!

Finding God in All Things

I started drawing during lockdown when I couldn't visit schools and had to do YouTube assemblies. It just seemed so boring to look into my phone and talk at the children. So I decided to try cartoons.

I found I really loved drawing and so I now do it for fun too. The most important lesson I have learnt is that at the heart of drawing is observing. So often we see what we expect to be there rather than what is actually there. Think of a young child's drawing of a face. The circle with two round eyes and nose and a mouth, maybe happy, maybe sad. There will probably be ears sticking out on each side too.

Why? Because the child knows that's what makes up a face. Already the child is learning to interpret the moment she or he sees something. It's an important stage of development but a disaster for artists. When we start to take drawing seriously we have to forget that there are two eyes, a nose and a mouth, look at the face carefully.

The French philosopher Simone Weil said that absolute attention is true prayer. I think she meant that as we give our full attention to something and see it as it really is rather than as we expect it to be, we not only engage more intimately with the creature but also with the creator. So, in a strange way, I have found that art and prayer have a lot in common.

It's a lesson that transfers to all walks of life. In conversations how often do I really listen, or do I start to listen and then assume I know what is coming next? Or imagine if a politician actually said, "I will listen and even take a lesson from the party opposite!"

And yes it happens in the church too. In the Church of England's General Synod we have again been arguing about sexuality – this time in the context of marriage. Sometimes it feels like a dialogue of the deaf – everybody knows that they are right!

On Saturday mornings during Lent (25th Feb to 1st March) we will be meeting at St Nicholas Church at 10:00am to consider 'Finding God in All Things', looking at different ways in which we can 'Pay Attention'. You would be welcome to join us for all or any of our sessions.

Rev'd Canon Richard Jordan, Three Parishes Priest

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

Website: www.hrr-churches.org.uk

Little Darwin's Nursery

Our Explorers have been busy this month looking at the nature that is around us and enjoyed a welly walk to the church. They have also spotted the first signs of spring and celebrated Charles Darwins birthday.

Lucy Cook, Nursery Manager



Country Diary

The birds are starting to have fights over territory. Is this the beginning of Spring? Certainly the robins and blackbirds think so as they chase each other. The blue tits are out in force too, though they should all be wary of the buzzards and hawks around!

King Charles III coronation weekend = Saturday 6th May - Monday 8th May

<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>

A little ahead of time, but Rettendon events are being planned for the whole weekend.

If you have an event planned please let us know, and take photos. The Newsletter would like to print photos and comments/reports on the events around Rettendon in the June edition, similar to the Platinum Jubilee pull-out.

Saturday 6th May 2023

The Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey

The Coronation Service will take place on the morning of Saturday, 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

Their Majesties, The King and Queen Consort, arrive in procession known as the "King's Procession".

They will return to Buckingham Palace in a larger ceremonial procession, "the Coronation Procession", with other members of the Royal Family.

At Buckingham Palace the King and Queen will appear on the balcony accompanied by other Members of the Royal Family.



Let's celebrate the coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May 2023

on the Bell Field, Rettendon Common, 2pm - 6.30pm

Singer and Music - Punch & Judy

Face Painting - Meet a Disney Princess

Pony Rides - Bungee Trampolines and more

The Bell's Mobile Bar, Hounds of Hanningfield Gin Bar,

Thai Street Food, Fish & Chips, Toasties, Burgers

Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, Cakes, Ice Cream

Adult Raffle and Children's Raffle, Tombola

Children's Fancy Dress

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

King Charles III BIG LUNCH

Sunday, 7th May, 12:30pm to 5pm

Rettendon Memorial Village Hall



Providing lunches, teas, coffees and cakes throughout the time. Come for lunch and stay for tea....

All Welcome, and no charge.

Perhaps you could help out? We would love to see new faces. Come and have tea or coffee with us and tell us your ideas for the hall.



This is intended as a community event: you are all part of our community.

All Saints Rettendon Church

Open Days 2023

MONDAY, 8th MAY 10:30am - 3:30pm

As you all know May 6th is the coronation of **King Charles 3rd**, so instead of opening up for our usual fund raising on Easter Monday, we are delaying until **Monday 8th May**, which has been designated "**BIG HELP DAY**" - something close to our King's heart, so there will be plenty to do in the churchyard or inside the church, **VOLUNTEERS, please.**

All the usual tea, coffee, lunches and delicious cakes will be available as well as flowers, bric-a-brac, and anything given to us for raffle or sale, which will help to keep our church open and ALIVE. Lyn Benson

We do hope you can help and maybe see how lovely is the church and churchyard. We would like help all year round, so if you can help please let us know. Even an odd half-hour is helpful. Use the newsletter contact Barbara Wright 01245 321554 or email RetBatNews@gmail.com, or contact Lyn Benson for details.

The Coronation Big Lunch

Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on **Sunday 7th May 2023**, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship. From a cup of tea with a neighbour to a street party, a Coronation Big Lunch brings the celebrations to your neighbourhood and is a great way to get to know your community a little better.

Monday 8th May 2023 -

The Big Help Out



The Big Help Out will be held on Monday, 8th May 2023 and is being organised by The Together Coalition and a wide range of partners such as The Scouts, the Royal Voluntary Service and faith groups from across the United Kingdom. The Big Help Out will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation.

In tribute to His Majesty The King's public service, The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.

From your Ward Councillor...

Dear Residents, As my work continues on a range of issues, I can share some of this with you.

Those who know of the play area in Sonters Down will agree it needs improvement. It's very popular with children, especially after school. The land is owned by the Chelmsford City Council (CCC) and was for a couple of years maintained by the Parish Council (PC). They were unable to make this viable and gave it back to CCC. During the last couple of years, I have been trying to secure funding to improve the play equipment. Budgets are set in advance and although I have been assured there will be funding for this in the future, the financial position at CCC post pandemic does not allow for this imminently. The PC have been asked if they wished to contribute funds towards buying equipment in Sonters Down with CCC then maintaining it. This has not happened.

I continue to work with residents on planning issues in the whole Ward. The semi-rural aspect of the village means there are certain applications that are not permitted. This can be frustrating for some, but I trust the reasons have always been clear for this.

As we approach the period of Purdah, ahead of May 2023 elections, this is my last opportunity to thank everyone for their support and look forward to working with residents in the future.

Kind regards Cllr Paul Clark.

Upcoming Elections.

The Chelmsford City Council website has information on the upcoming elections. go to:- <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/upcoming-elections/>

If you think you can do better as a Parish councillor or Ward Councillor - now is your chance.

Rettendon Parish Council (9 members) is due for election this year, as are the **Runwell and Rettendon Ward Councillors** (2 members).

If you would like to stand for election, for either Parish Councillor or Ward Councillor, you should register your intent. Find out about it here:- <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/>

There are briefing sessions for potential councillors and you can register your interest online.

You can submit your forms for informal checks if you wish, before submitting to register. You will have to register in person with your forms.

Formal submissions When you are ready to submit your nomination formally, you (or someone you trust) can deliver your nomination packs to CCC in person at the **Civic Centre offices**.

It is best to book a slot to do this to make sure that a member of staff is available.

[Book a slot to deliver your nomination packs](#)

You can book a slot anytime between 10am and 4pm from Monday 20 March to Tuesday 4 April 2023.

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 drop off at 55 East Hanningfield Rd.

Garden Notes

It begins - a new season. Giving birds a fast food diet and hoping things have survived the frosts. Have to do a bit of weeding soon to sort out the beds a bit.

Time to plan the veg plot and gather seeds for the year's planting. Share the packets - a few good plants will gain you solid friends.

Happy digging.

Mrs. McGregor

Parish Council notes.

Much activity in the Parish Council quarters. Kiddies' playground equipment has come to the top of the list. Locals interested in seeing items installed should speak up now. The Parish Council are there to listen.

Rubbish It has been noted that the road sides are strewn with litter. In the past it was dealt with by teams of people doing community service but also (once a year in early April) by organised village volunteers who were given kit, safety advice and a length of road to clear.

Do we care enough to do our own patch? - contact your Parish Council to voice your opinion! Hazel Dale-Evans

Parish Councillor Contact Details.

Sandie Cottee	sandiecotteerpc@outlook.com
Hazel Dale-Evans	01245 401538
Denise Fleming	07834 63570 deniseflemingrpc@gmail.com
Mark Fleming	07879 495346 markflemingrpc@gmail.com
Roy Hart	01268 768282 royhart.rpc@outlook.com
James Knight	07885 698 366 jim.knightrpc@gmail.com
David Phillips	07718 656196 davidphillipsrpc@gmail.com
Ray Ride	07831 240934
Barbara Wright	01245 321554 barbarawrightrpc@gmail.com



Battlesbridge Free Church

Today, many people who were brought up to be and thought of themselves as Christian have gradually fallen into a way of life which crowds out the overt influence of adherence to Christianity. Church attendance has dropped to just a tiny few to keep places of worship alive and sadly, many have died from lack of congregation. Attendance at church was and is primarily to honour and give thanks and praise to our God and to acknowledge the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, offering a free, everlasting life for the forgiveness of sins. Sadly again, this view of life is now viewed by many as "old hat", out-of-date for the modern world. But it could not be more "in date".

Surely our poor world is in dire need of forgiveness and hope and help from Almighty God. Jesus said "in as much as you do this to one of the least of my children, you do it unto me". He loves everyone who have given to a neighbour help and support, and given unselfish money, support, food, etc. for the homeless and now to Ukrainian refugees and the Turkish and Syrian communities reeling from the terrible earthquakes. This is the basis of Christian behaviour even if it is not personally recognised as such.

Now do not non-church goers thoroughly enjoy sharing the BBC "Songs of Praise"? I am sure your own "Songs of Praise" would be wonderfully accessible to our Lord Jesus Christ, beautiful to the ears of the Almighty God, even if only once a month. Will we continue to allow churches to die by default? Let the world know and see that you are still Christians, you do still care that God rules OK? **June Edwards**

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/>

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.