



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER ★ APRIL 2023

Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Rd, SS2 5QF  
 Prepared & distributed by over 30 volunteers within the parish. Issue number 415  
 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, 28 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Ken Mayes Band (C&W)	Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
Time for Reflection	Good Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm – 3pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April	5:30am / 11:15am	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth / All Saints' Church	
"Life in the Undergrowth"	Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Ulting Wick Gardens	Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9:30am meet at Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc. Car sharing outing	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC

### REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free Church / 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	
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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Battlesbridge Plant Sale	Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Council Elections	Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May	7am – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP	
Coronation Big Lunch	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm – 6:30pm	Bell Field, Rettendon	Residents of Rettendon Cmn
Hank T (C&W)	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Country Music Club
King Charles III BIG Lunch	Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> May	12:30pm – 5pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Hall Management
King Charles III Big Help Out & Church Open Day	Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30am – 3:30pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Plant Sale & Coffee Morning	Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Local Rail Station Adoption	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	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	18 <sup>th</sup> April, 9 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> May
Goose Cottages, Battlesbridge	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	14 <sup>th</sup> April, 5 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> May

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



## Ray and Dave's Country Music Club

Rettendon Village Hall,  
(opposite school), CM3 8DP

**Saturday, 1st April, 2023**

**Ken Mayes Band**

Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm

No bar - Bring Your Own Drinks

Tea/Coffee and FOOD available

Come along for a night of great music to dance or just to listen

Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118

Or Dave 01245 225963



## "Life in the Undergrowth"

a photographic talk

Tuesday, 11th April at 7:30pm

by Roger Hance FRPS -

an award winning  
photographer with the  
Royal Photographic  
Society

Tea, coffee and  
home-made cakes.



Members free, non-members £3

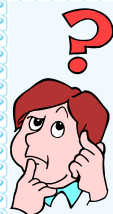
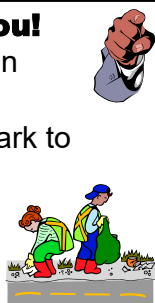
**Rettendon Horticultural Society**

## LITTER - Your Parish Needs You!

There will be a parish-wide clean up on  
**SUNDAY, 2nd April.**

Meeting in the village hall carpark to  
collect kits and safety advice.

Contact **Hazel Dale-Evans** on  
**01245 401538** to choose your  
section of operation!



## Battlesbridge Quiz Night

Friday, 14th April

7pm for 7:30pm prompt start

Battlesbridge Free Church, SS11 7RE

Teams of up to 8. £5 per person

Tea, coffee and biscuits at interval

No need to book, turn up and pay at door.

**Reminder.....** Local Elections take place on

**Thursday May  
4th 2023.**

**Accepted ID:** Bus  
pass, Passport,  
Driving Licence,  
Blue Badge, etc

No ID? Apply for free:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Bring  
photo ID  
to vote

Register  
to vote by  
25th April

### Rettendon Memorial Hall

Our Winter Warmer Wednesdays may be over by the time you read this, our last day is Wednesday 29th. We have been there every week since early December with home-made soup and cake for those who relished to natter with others. Funded by a Government grant, via Essex County Council, the variety of fare was endless and the heat did its best to beat the weather.

Thanks to the crew for being there for all.

#### In Planning:

Saturday 10th June - 100 Years of the Hall, see below

Saturday 24th June - Table top sale. £10 a table, contact either booking clerk or secretary.

#### Pop along to the hall for one of our regular bookings:

**Mondays** - Bowls from 7 - 10pm

**Wednesdays** - 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 availability 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 that need a larger space.

#### Hall Management Committee

Secretary email: [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)

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



### Rettendon Horticultural Society Outing Ulting Wick Gardens

Tuesday, 25th April, 9:30am

Our first outing of the year and a change to our usual format. We are off to see the lovely tulips of Ulting Wick Gardens, and perhaps meet up with an old friend.

No coach this time, instead we meet at the hall car park at 9:30am for a car share outing.

Please contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554, or email [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com), or John Bruty 01268 562371 to arrange to come.

### The Rettendon Walking Group continue to meet weekly.

As well as local footpaths and places of interest we recently visited Warley Place to see the beautiful

snowdrops and swathes of narcissus. Longer walks take place at weekends and a visit to the historic St Mary's Church in Mundon and the 'Petriified Forest' was enjoyed. This 6 mile circular walk took us along the River Blackwater, and finished with a drink in the White Horse, and as soon as daylight allows we look forward to starting evening walks again.

New members are always welcome and for more information call **Sandie 079415 39994**



### Little Darwin's Nursery

Another fun, busy month in nursery, looking forward to spring.

At the beginning of March children and staff enjoyed dressing up and taking part in activities for World Book Day.

The children have loved experimenting and problem solving, as part of science week and have been exploring mixing and measuring during the daily cooking activity.

The children have been creative, as they make Mother's Day cards, to surprise their Mummies on Mothering Sunday.

Lucy Cook, Nursery Manager



### HISTORY DAY Celebrating 100 YEARS OF THE HALL 1923 - 2023

Looking forward to Saturday, 10th June for a History Day with pictures of the hall throughout its life.

We would like to ask any of you if you have pictures of any hall events, no matter how recent, or, of course, historic, to contact us and allow us to copy it/them for our History Day.

Contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554 or email to the secretary on [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)



What should you give a sick bird? Tweetment  
Why do dragons sleep during the day? So they can fight knights.

### Country Diary

The buds on the trees are starting to grow and open, with some blossom on the earlier trees before their leaves. Do hope there isn't any more frost to kill off the lovely blooms on the magnolia at the hall.

In the garden I saw a couple of mistle thrushes pecking the grass and chasing away a blackbird who was trying to get in on the act. The green woodpecker is about and the robins are abundant. The rain has brought the worms up to the surface and the birds are getting their fill.

Looks like all the birds are pairing off now. Don't cut your hedges without checking, just in case they are nesting. Unfortunately the magpies are aware of it too and are on the look out for free eggs. Nature has its own way of keeping the population in check.

### **Rettendon and Battlesbridge matters**

Wednesday 15th, 2023. At long last the sun is out and the wind has dropped, and it's warm! Checking the fruit trees - all budding well. I have forgotten the coldness of winter. I even have a weak spring in my step!

Planning - I am still fighting to save the restoration off the 160 year old barn for 3 ladies of the parish. The Judge's summing up (we did plead guilty) was very condemning of the enforcement team at Chelmsford. Same dimensions and the same footprint for over 160 years!

The very large pothole outside the entrance was very dangerous - nearly 8 inches deep! I did complain in writing with an official, highways no. 2829812. It is now 90% repaired and safe!

All our visitors have now arrived. 2 common geese are building their nest on the river bank; their 14th year. The Golden Eyes have settled in 4 pairs, and the black and white diving ducks have flown in. Our love / hate relationship with the swans and otter will start soon. Nature has a wonderful time clock.

The Parish elections are on May 4th. It is very important that we all make an effort to vote in Rettendon. There does need to be major changes.

**Very sincerely, Roy Hart.**

### **KING CHARLES III CORONATION WEEKEND**

**Saturday, 6th May**

Coronation takes place at Westminster Abbey.

All Saints' Church "Ringing for the King"

Coronation big lunch on Bell Field 2pm - 6:30pm with entertainment (tickets £5 contact: [pat2258@aol.com](mailto:pat2258@aol.com) - 07733362373

Or [denisefleming2011@gmail.com](mailto:denisefleming2011@gmail.com))

Country and Western at Rettendon Memorial Hall 7pm-11pm

**Sunday, 7th May**

Service for the King at All Saints' Rettendon

Coronation Big Lunch community event at Rettendon Memorial Hall - free - light lunches, tea, coffee, cake 12:30pm to 5pm

Battlesbridge Coronation Event - 2pm - 6pm (contact Roy Hart for details)

**Monday 8th May**

King Charles III Big Help-Out and Church Open Day.- 10:30am - 3:30pm. All the usual stalls and food, BUT we are asking for volunteers to help tidy the churchyard. Free tea/coffee for helpers. Contact Lyn Benson or Barbara Wright.

### **Tales from Yesteryear.**

About 1944 a local chappie had spent some time in the Wheatsheaf with mates and with added bravado decided to go to a dance in the village hall. There was shouting and some furious exchanges of views on the hall entrance, where the local scout troop leader got accidentally punched. This honourable (who was also a special constable and the lollipop man) tried in vain to persuade our chappie to make a peaceful exit. Not so!

A fracas ensued and in the excitement the dance band suffered damage to their instruments (bashed in drums) and some severe bruising to themselves.

Chappie was arrested eventually and had to face his misdemeanours read out in court. Three months inside for bad behaviour and the damage caused to property.

Names withheld in case family members should be distressed by this memory.



### **Rettendon School Allotments**

The classes across school have been planning what to plant in their allotment beds this year. Our newly elected Head Gardeners (two from each class) will be responsible for organising and maintaining the beds with the help of the willing volunteers from their classes.



We have made several links with local people who have offered to help us, and our families have kindly donated seeds, bulbs, manure and some garden tools. The plan is for the beds to become sustainable through seed collection, produce sales and composting to produce our own mulch.

This project will also support the children in managing a budget, understanding growth and decay and producing healthy food. We look forward to sharing our allotment journey with you.

**Miss Dennett and Mrs Marsh**

### **Rettendon Horticultural Society**

Half way through March and we have had only a few days of Spring-like weather. Whilst it remains wet and cold there is not much incentive to get busy in the garden or on the plot.

By the time this newsletter comes out our Spring show will have taken place. Our next event is a talk on Tuesday the 11th April by Roger Hance, a wildlife photographer. The subject is Life in the Undergrowth. The venue is Rettendon Village Hall and the start time is 7.30. Entrance is free to members and £3 to non members.

On the 25th April we will have our first outing of the year visiting Ulting Wick garden to see the spectacular display of tulips.

Look out for details of our May plant sale in the next newsletter. Lots of great plants at really competitive prices.

**John Bruty, Chairperson**

### **Ulting Wick Gardens Visit - Tuesday, 25th April**

This is a car sharing event. Please contact either Barbara Wright or John Bruty on 01268 562371 to arrange. Looking forward to the tulips in bloom.

### **May Plant Sale - Saturday, 12th May.**

A little later than last year due to King Charles III coronation. No pre-order bookings again, however we are hoping to get a wide variety of plants and will have a seed swop table too, in case yours have failed to come up, or you would like to try something different.

**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/>**

## Garden Notes

What a joy is spring. Nature fighting back with gusto.  
Time for a tidy, but mind your back and gently does it.  
The garden seat is there for sitting on!  
What is this life if full of care.....

Love it - Mrs. McGregor

## Easter at All Saints

Between 2 and 3pm on Good Friday at All Saints we will have a time of reflection. We will be thinking about Jesus' terrible death on the cross and all that led up to it.

Why spend time thinking about something so gruesome?

It was a perfect storm of evil. A coalition of Roman power and the Jewish religious authority had conspired to destroy the one person whose teaching and example could transform the world. And Jesus' friends (those who knew him best) deserted, denied and betrayed him.

But God didn't allow evil to be the last word. And so at 11:15am on Easter Day we will celebrate God's answer (for early risers there is also a dawn service at 5:30am at St Nicholas!); Jesus' resurrection.

All this gives me the most profound hope. God will not allow catastrophe and desolation to be the last words. This gives us the opportunity to face reality (political turmoil, war, and climate change amongst many) without becoming depressed and hopeless. But rather to accept the invitation to be part of God's transforming work.

Perhaps even more important it allows me to be realistic about myself. I know I am every bit as human as Jesus' first failed friends. But as there was hope for them and we too are offered hope of transformed lives in the Easter message.

**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)

## 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

"You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake." Bob Hope

Two goldfish in a tank. One says to the other....

"Do you know how to drive this thing?"



## 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.

## Local Elections - 4th May

Elections take place this year for Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors, depending on the number of nominations received by 4th April.

You have the choice. It is up to you vote.  
Rettendon Polling Station: Village Hall, CM3 8DP.



## Rettendon Primary School

For those of you who know Rettendon School well, you will remember how lucky we were to have a swimming pool. The pool served us very well for many, many years but after the pool was decommissioned the land was left to become overgrown and neglected.

Through the hard work of a small army of parents and the support of our wonderful PTA (Friends of Rettendon School), the land is being brought back to life.

The area will become part of the garden for the youngest children in school. This will enable them to have more space and have the opportunity to explore a range of natural resources which will enhance their play, physical

development, well-being, learning and fun.

We thank all of those involved in this huge project and we promise to enjoy it.



## Gardening at the School

We are pleased to be back again with the Gardening Club at the School and teaching some of the more enthusiastic how to grow their own food and flowers during their lunchtime. The Gardening Club have their own plot, and we use the troughs in the courtyard for both salad plants and flowers.

We have seeds to give the children from the Royal Horticultural Society Big Seed Sow, which hopefully will be of use to the allotments, and the new growing area, as well as the club.

Think we are spreading the seed too thin? Some of the packets have hundreds of seeds in, some only a few, but with a little help from our own seed swap at the Spring Show, we have quite a variety and should be able to provide most of what the "head gardeners" require.

We shall be planting up the potatoes for the class competition for the summer show again, and the seed grown in a pot. This year we are engaged with Little Darwin's as well so may be able to help them out with seeds and all the children growing their own "plant grown from seed".

The Society encourages young gardeners to take an interest in growing their own for eating. With the squeeze on finances every small plot, even a pot, can provide food. And some of the vegetables have lovely flowers!

**Barbara Wright, Secretary Rettendon Horticultural Society**

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.