



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER MAY 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 416  
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

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

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

If you have an event planned please take photos and/or write an article for the planned Coronation pull-out in the June Newsletter (similar to the Platinum Jubilee pull-out in 2022.)

### COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE BATTLESBRIDGE FREE CHURCH HALL

Monday, 1st May (Bank Holiday)

From 10:30am to 12:30pm

Come and have a coffee or tea with some home-made cake, buy some plants, a raffle ticket, or try the tombola

Easy parking, and friendly people

All in aid of the Church

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH BELLS CORONATION RING

“RING FOR THE KING” 6TH MAY

10:15 - 10:45 AM



Every one of All Saints' Church Bell Ringers will be part of this historic occasion.

All 6 bells will be rung.



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](mailto:pat2258@aol.com) - 07733362373

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

### Ray and Dave's Country Music Club

Presents: Hank T

Rettendon Village Hall,

(opposite school), CM3 8DP

Saturday, 6th May, 2023

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



### KING CHARLES III CORONATION 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.

Hall Management Committee.

### All Saints Church, Rettendon

Open Day 2023 and the BIG HELP OUT

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

King Charles III has designated this Bank

Holiday in celebration of his coronation as

“BIG HELP DAY”

something close to our King's heart.

All Saints' Church will be part of this asking for volunteers to help tidy up the churchyard AND having an open day to raise funds to keep the church in order. There will be plenty to do in the churchyard or inside the church.

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

ALIVE.

Lyn Benson

## Rettendon Horticultural Society

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning  
Saturday, 13th May  
From 10:30am till 12:30pm  
Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP  
Another chance to buy plants -  
at reasonable rates

Tea, coffee and home-made cakes, raffle, and the plants! Lots of them! Flowers, vegetables, indoor, outdoor - find that plant for the space in your garden.

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

## Rettendon Memorial Hall

The winter Warmer at the hall has now sadly ended. Our thanks go to Dianne for her wonderful soups and bread, and to Pat for her commitment to come and serve teas, coffees and cake. We are grateful that these ladies in particular came for the whole 4 months of the event, every Wednesday, on time and with food.

Others of the committee joined in when they could, making sure the hall was fit for purpose with gardening and maintenance.

We will now be gearing up for our **100 years of the hall** on **Saturday 10th June**. It will be a history day, with pictures from around the parish and the hall.

And for our **Table top Sale**, on **Saturday 24th June**. There are tables available for £10.

For providing pictures for the history event or for booking a table please contact either the booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, on 01245 400297, or the secretary, Barbara Wright, on 01245 321554 or email [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)

## Pop into the hall and join in one of our regular events

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



Come along to join the group, all welcome, young and old, firm and infirm. Good exercise, good company, and fun for all. Bring your own cup.

**Wednesdays** - Knit & Natter: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30pm.



Already many items have been sent to hospitals and care homes for distribution to those in need: premature baby items, blankets, twiddle muffs.

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



All can enjoy this popular fitness programme, with cardio and Latin-inspired dance.

Phone Danielle for details on 07879 683731

**Every 1st Saturday of the month**

is Ray and Dave's Country Music Club.



Dance, or just listen, to different acts every month, bring your own drink, food and teas/coffees available.

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



Have your say on local matters, that matter to you. Find out about local planning applications.

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)

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

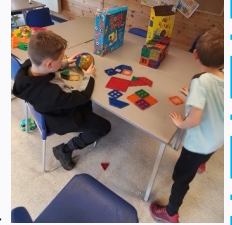
## Thank you.

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to Dianne and the other ladies for all their hard work in giving us the Winter Warmers at the Hall. The soup was great!!! It was good to be able to meet up with those we don't see so often - have a slot and put the world to rights. A kind thing to do and much appreciated.

## Local residents

## Little Darwin's Nursery

During the Easter holiday, Little Darwin's opened the doors once again to Club Darwin's and school aged children enjoyed taking part in lots of



Easter themed activities, including making carrot cupcakes and Easter chicks and sheep pompoms. They also decorated wooden eggs and had an egg hunt to find them and they also had fun playing bingo for prizes.

It was good to see the children enjoy the little sun that we had, as they had fun together outside. We hope to be able to run a programme of activities during the half term at the end of May and during the summer holidays.

## Steph, Club Darwin's Leader

## TRAFFIC SURVEY - East Hanningfield Road.

Had a severely damaged bollard last October which became totally ruined and dangerous in February/March - so we did a local survey for ideas.

120 question sheets put in post boxes later and in 10 days there were 36 replies, several with extensive notes.

So many thanks to all those who responded. Your comments have been passed to a higher authority.

**RESULT:** Highways Engineers have agreed to replace the 2 broken bollards.

All your comments have been tabled for some remedial consideration in future (after these elections). We will keep the matter live periodically.

Well done to all who contributed to this community led exercise.

Roving Reporter

## Country Diary

It seems to be wet enough for the ducks to venture a bit further afield. Saw some in the road, so drove carefully to avoid them, then they took off flying in front until above the car, then into one of the fields. Moorhens are out too. Where is the pond?

The blackbirds are pairing up with the brown female gathering up nesting before disappearing into the hedge. Robins looking eager when the garden is being dug, and you only have to turn your back before they are after the worms there. They seem to think you are digging just for them!

Rabbits seem to be chasing each other all round the place, so we have to assume there will be more soon. Must make sure tender plants are covered, or protected from them. Watch out on the veg patch, or you wont have any!



**Rettendon Hort. Soc. talk on Local Train Station  
Adoption - Tuesday 16th May**

The Annual Parish Council meeting has now been scheduled for this date. We are trying to re-arrange the talk to enable members to attend the Parish Council meeting AND the talk.

**LITTER**

Report on the clear up of our environs on the Sunday morning, 2nd April.

One Sunday morning found a select band of local litter collectors in action. We can report that six crews took sections and 15 bags were cleared from roadsides and hedges, which had had little attention since the covid lockdown. Many thanks to those who came. Hopefully we can turn this into an annual event and have better coverage in future.

One item of interest. Where we used to shovel up loads of little silver cannisters (used as a quick high for sniffers) these have now gone industrial and the gas (laughing gas /nitrous oxide) comes in a blue cylinder some 15 inches long. We have asked for advice on how to deal with these as they are too heavy for plastic bag collection. As a rural area dumping is an ongoing problem and subject to a £150 fine.

Rowing reporter.

**Battlesbridge Free Church**

**The environment and human intervention**



When God created our world it was perfection in every way and mankind was given this wonderfully diverse homeland. Sadly, our God's arch enemy was able to persuade humans into reaching out for more, what was perceived as even better than what God offered. So the perfection was spoiled.

There are many instances of that perfection still today. There are areas of unspoiled woodland, forest, hidden mountain valleys, wetlands, where nature and wildlife continue to thrive. But there is so much that has been spoiled. Humans seem as if what's on offer is never quite enough, so greed and exploitation of our earth and its treasures have led us now, to climate change, droughts, floods, pollution of rivers, oceans and seas. How sad it all is!

There are encouraging instances of efforts at re-forestation, of research leading to revived eco-systems and restored habitats. Some almost extinct species of animals, plants and birds have been wonderfully nurtured back for us.

During my almost ninety years, the world seems to have leapt light years from the world of my childhood. The God who was the ground rock of our country and our lives, our schools, police and law, has somehow been elbowed into the side-lines, no longer fit for purpose.

The Bible and church attendance no longer seem to fit into busy twenty-first century life. God planned for mankind's re-installment to the perfection he created. He sent his son, Jesus Christ to set us right once more and that all who trusted in him could move back to a life of perfection after mortal life ceased. His plan has been in action for Christian millions throughout the last 2000 years. God's plan is still patently active today. Sadly, the Spirit of Evil is still as active today, deceiving people into disbelief, ridicule or indifference. To solve life's problems, people reach for wealth, possessions, other religions, the occult. God's love through Jesus is right there beside us, each one. We only have to ask.

**June Edwards**

**Garden Notes**

Lost a lot of tender plants this winter - time to get the seed packets out!

Put in a new Hebe last autumn - its dying - felt a real prat when all the bluebells come up underneath it. No contest there! So.....

Plan your patch with care.

**Mrs. McGregor**

**Hedgehog News**

The hedgehogs are back in our garden on the Rettendon Estate. Sadly one was run over, but I have seen one at the hedgehog feeding bowl with a bowl of water to drink.

Let's hope we see more.

**Local Resident**

**The British Hedgehog Preservation Society**

**Hedgehog Awareness Week  
30th April - 6th May.**

This year the charity is asking people to

'Think Hedgehog!'

Look at your garden or greenspace (or local park, school grounds, etc) and imagine how useful or dangerous it might be if you were a hedgehog - is it a hedgehog disaster or a des-res?

For more details go to [https://](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-awareness-week-30th-april-6th-may-2023/)

[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-awareness-week-30th-april-6th-may-2023/](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-awareness-week-30th-april-6th-may-2023/)

Or book a sighting of a hedgehog on the Hedgehog Street site: [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)



**Rettendon Horticultural Society**

At last it feels like Spring has arrived! I cannot recall a time when the blossom has been so prolific and I wonder if it is a result of last years hot Summer.

Our Spring show was a success as was the evening talk given by Roger Hance entitled Life in the Undergrowth. Wonderful photography and real eye opener to the diversity of wildlife that exists in our gardens.

By the time this newsletter comes out we will have visited Ulting Wick garden to see the display of tulips that the garden is renowned for. I mention this to demonstrate that Rettendon Horticultural Society is alive and kicking with a full schedule of events this year. Our next event is our plant sale which will take place at Rettendon Village Hall on the morning of Saturday the 13th May. We are able to offer plants at very reasonable prices due to the generosity of local nurseries. The proceeds of the plant sale go a long way towards funding of the Summer Show so please come along and get some plants at bargain prices.

It's not that long to the Summer Show so now is the time to start thinking about your entries. Lots of different classes to enter so get growing!

**John Bruty, Chairperson**

**Summer show Open Meeting - Tuesday 20th June**

Please get in touch if you can help in *any way* - even if you would just like a stall to sell something.

We do need help every year to set-up, dismantle and run stalls. Without YOU we cannot continue, so please pledge some time (even if only an hour). The more the merrier and more means less time manning that stall.

**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/>

**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.



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



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
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	
Ring for the King	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	10:15 – 10:45 am	All Saints' Church Bell Ringers	
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.
Annual Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC *
Local Rail Station Adoption	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May (TBC)	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Parish Meeting	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC *
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>				
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
<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>				
100 Years of Rettendon Village Memorial Hall	Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10:30am – 5pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Visit to Kings Seeds	Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> June	9:30 am start	Rettendon Horticultural Society	
Summer Show Open Meeting	Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> June	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Table Top Sale	Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> June	11am – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
<b>MOBILE LIBRARY – 3 week intervals between visits</b>				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	9 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 20 <sup>th</sup> June	
Goose Cottages, Battlesbridge	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	5 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 16 <sup>th</sup> June	

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

## Local Elections - Thursday 4th May

Elections take place this year for Chelmsford City Councillors (Ward Councillors) and Parish Councillors

**You have the choice. It is up to you vote.**

Rettendon Polling Station: Village Hall, CM3 8DP. 7am - 10pm

Remember to take Photo ID, or voter authority certificate with you!

### Rettendon and Runwell Ward Election of Chelmsford City Councillors

**Vote for up to 2 Ward Councillors**

NAME	ALLIANCE
Paul Clark	Independent
Steve Davies	Independent
Jenifer Goldfinch	Liberal Democrats
Jim Knight	Conservative Party
Richard Pennicard	Liberal Democrats
Dave Phillips	Conservative Party
Yvonne Waterhouse	Labour Party

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.

### Rettendon Parish Council Election of Parish Councillors

**Vote for up to 9 Parish Councillors**

NAME	AREA
Tom Betmead	Rettendon
Hazel Dale-Evans	Rettendon Common
Dianne Francombe	Rettendon Common
Pamela Galbally	Battlesbridge
Roy Hart	Battlesbridge
Jonathan Havard	Rettendon
Jim Knight	Hayes Country Park
Keith Marshall	Rettendon Common
Joe Parsad	Battlesbridge
Dave Phillips	Hayes Country Park
Leanne Wheldon	Rettendon
John Williams	Rettendon
Barbara Wright	Woodham Road +