



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

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Contributions for next Newsletter to be with [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), by 18<sup>th</sup> of the month

## Winter Warmth at the Hall

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP  
Committee Room

Every Wednesday from 1st November  
12 midday till 2pm

We are repeating our Warm Hub invitation this year, though the venue will be the Committee Room. All will be supplied by the Hall Management itself, though any donations will be gratefully received.

We are hoping for the usual fare: Tea, coffee, soup, bread/rolls, cakes, biscuits....

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

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

## Ray and Dave's Country Music Club present:

### L A Country (Lottie and Allen)

Rettendon Village Hall, CM3  
8DP

Saturday, 4th November,  
2023

Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm  
No bar - BYOD

Tea/Coffee and FOOD available

Come along for a night of great music to dance, or just to listen,  
and all for the price of an £8 ticket

Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118

Or Dave 01245 225963

(picture from <https://www.lacountry.co.uk/>)



## Memorial Service Sunday 5th November at 4.00pm



Giving thanks for all those who have died

All are Welcome

St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth

*Lest We Forget*

12th November 2023

Remembrance Day Service

EVERYBODY WELCOME

St. Nicholas Church,  
Rawreth  
10:30am

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12th November

All Saints' Church, Rettendon

Gather at 10:45am

for the 11 o'clock silence

ALL WELCOME

With all the conflict and fighting going on in this world, Remembrance Day this year is even more poignant.

Let us remember the sacrifice of all our armed services who gave their lives for our way of life.

The collection will be on behalf of the Royal British Legion, to help the veterans who are injured or retired service men and women, with ages ranging from 16 to over 100 (all are veterans, with more being injured all the time).

## Rettendon Horticultural Society A.G.M

Tuesday, 21st November at 7:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall

All Welcome

Come and join us for our meeting to discuss our year and look forward to next. Those of you who are members can vote for the officers and committee of the society, or even put yourselves forward to become one.

We try and make sure the actual meeting does not last long, so we can renew membership, and have our social event with festive food and drink.

It may seem to be a bit soon, but bring your Christmas cards to distribute, and save postage.

If you want to put your name down for the committee or as one of the officers, e.g. chairman, secretary, treasurer ..., please contact Barbara Wright, secretary, email [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com), or phone 01245 321554, so you can be added to the list.

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

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

## All Saints' Church, Rettendon

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, 25th November  
at 10:30am - 3pm

Refreshments: teas, coffees, home-made cakes, light lunches, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies  
Raffle, Gifts, Jewellery, Plants, and more.....  
To help on the day, or donations of raffle prizes contact Gale Fogg (07736 108048) or Lyn Benson (01245 400468)



**Friends of Sonters Down  
(i.e. Meadow Road Estate Play Area)**

I sincerely thank everyone who attended the first meeting in such atrocious weather, a near full gale and torrential rain. Hot drinks were served.

Attendants Cllr. Joe Parsad (chairman RPC) Cllr. Roy Hart, Cllr. Keith Marshal, Cllr. Dianne Francombe Cllr. John Williams, Cllr. Barbara Wright, Cllr. Hazel Dale-Evans. + several residents.

I was elected to head up a new working group of residents and Councillors and make a report at each Parish Council meeting on progress.

First on the agenda, a meeting with Joe, Paul Clark, and Self with Chelmsford parks department and to work under their guidance.

We will need help from the residents on many projects at this stage. I feel we need very little finance if any.

Finally, there will soon to be some movement on Sonters Down, after years of neglect.

**Yours very Sincerely, Cllr. Roy Hart**

**PMRGCA Support Group**

We are a support group for those diagnosed with either Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) or giant cell arteritis (GCA)). The Southend and Chelmsford group are the same group that alternate between two locations with the same Group Organiser.

Our next meeting will be on  
**Thursday, 9th November at 2pm**  
at **St. Peter's Church, Eastbourne Grove,**  
**Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0QF.**

Our speaker is Professor Dasgupta.

Normal meeting entry charges of £4 apply and refreshments will be available!

Family, friends and carers are welcome to attend too.

For more information, please contact Pat on [southend@pmrgca.org.uk](mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk) or 077333 62373

If you are unable to attend in person, you are welcome to join one of our online meetings – <https://pmrgca.org.uk/online-support/>

**Xmas Do at St Nicks**

St Nicholas church, Rawræth  
on Saturday 18th November,  
from 12:30 - 3:30pm

**Gifts, Cakes, Mulled Wine, Minez  
Pizs, Raffle and Refreshments**

Please come along and join us  
everyone welcome

**South Hanningfield Event**

Christmas Crafts & Gifts Table Top Fayre at South Hanningfield Village Hall on  
Saturday, 25th November from 10am to 4pm.

Over 30 craft and gift stalls will be attending. The event is Free Entry, there will be a Raffle and refreshments will be available including Mulled Wine!

For further information, tel: 07891 653238 or email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)

Regrettably we have to report the departing from life of the following long standing residents.

Rita Shepherd  
Peter Wingrove  
Roger Poole

We would like to send our condolences to their family and friends.

**Road report (Highways)**

The pothole in East Hanningfield Road was reported yet again as it was 5 inches deep, 3 feet long and nearly 2 feet wide. It has been given a temporary repair by the fairies.



The broken bollard at the bottom was still awaiting an inspection (it was felled on July 7th), various holes are being attended to now before winter makes the general problems any worse. We have been given instructions on the necessary procedure which has to be followed if we need a major overhaul of highway equipment. We are mindful that life does change and we should be able to change with it.

We have reported all the results of our earlier survey this year and will keep an eye on things. Many thanks for all the input.  
**Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538**

**Rettendon Horticultural Society**

We had the first frost of Winter today, the 16th October. All the tender plants are safely in the greenhouse so hopefully no damage was caused. Just waiting to see if the dahlias have been frosted and the leaves blackened which will be the signal to cut them down and store for the Winter.

I find this to be a difficult time of year with everything dying back and the thought of Winter approaching but then again it won't be long until we see Hellebores blooming and snowdrops pushing through.

Whilst our shows are over for the year we need to look ahead and plan for next year. Now is the time to plant bulbs ready for our Spring Show in March and for a good display in our gardens.

Our most recent event was a talk by Neil Reeve on the subject of heritage apples and orchards of Essex. Neil was clearly a very knowledgeable speaker and passionate about the history of fruit growing in Essex. Apparently 36 varieties of apple were bred in Essex. The talk was fascinating and it was good that we had a good attendance including some new faces.

We are currently planning next year's diary and, subject to response we are considering the possibility of an afternoon talk.

The final event of the year will be the AGM at 7.30 on the 21st November at Rettendon Village Hall to include seasonal refreshments. Everybody welcome but only members can vote.

**John Bruty Chairperson**

If you would like to join the Society, or need more details, please get in touch with the secretary, Barbara Wright, 01245 321554 email [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)

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

I met this homeless secret agent. The name's Bond, Vagabond.  
I was once caught stealing a horse. It was a fair clop.  
I went on holiday with my horse. It was self cantering.  
I tried to park at Cadbury's but it was choc-a-bloc.  
Courtesy of Tim Vine.



## ALL SAINTS'S CHURCH, RETTENDON

Today (13th October) I have taken down to HARP in Southend the harvest gifts donated at our Harvest Festival service in September, along with donations from both the school service and a lively visit from the children at Little Darwin's Nursery, which took place this week. The children from the nursery were very interested to be shown the "secret" staircase which goes up to the first floor over the vestry, as well hearing about the bats. The donations amounted to 10 carrier bags of food, for which HARP were very grateful. They've got a great day centre there with health facilities for the service users. Currently they are quite short of men's clothes, particularly trousers, so if you have anything you have finished with which is wearable, please feel free to drop it in at church on a Friday or Sunday morning, or contact me via the church number and I can collect if necessary. We support HARP all year round with donations of food, and the harvest gifts are a very important part of this.



We are of course looking forward to November's Remembrance service, and shortly afterwards, on 25th November, our Christmas event. If you can give an hour (or more!) on the day to help on 25th, please let me or Lyn Benson know.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

**Gale Fogg , Churchwarden (07736 108048)**



## Battlesbridge Free Church

We are all so shaken by the dire reports of the happenings between Israel and the Palestinians. We were also shocked by the attack and war against the Ukraine. When Jesus was here on earth, he assured us that he would return and bring justice and peace, a new heaven and a new earth. He warned of Satan's attempts to woo us into complacency and a gradual moving away from faith in his Good News of a saving from repentant sin with the promise of eternal new life after mortal death. We would need to be vigilant so that our faith could remain strong and not just gradually fade away. He warned that before he returned there would be wars and rumours of wars and natural disasters but in all, his presence through his holy spirit, would sustain us if only we continued to put our trust and hope in him and his steadfast love for us.

There are so many countries in the world where to admit to following in faith of Jesus Christ, even to own a Bible, is to invite discrimination, persecution, in many areas destruction of homes, villages, churches and crops, even the death sentence. Aid in times of natural disasters such as drought or floods is often refused to Christians. Yet here we are, in the UK, a nominally Christian country, where freedom is given to people of all faiths as well as Christians, to follow their beliefs. Our brother and sister Christians rely on our faithful prayers and our giving to Christian organisations to provide to those marginalised, hurting or needy. God's love and support for them comes through this action of ours! Our prayers are desperately needed in urging peace and mercy between the two sides in this Middle Eastern crisis. It is not God urging an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. He gave mankind the free will and taught him how to use that free will wisely, by obeying and following the 'Way' through his son, Jesus Christ. Satan's blood lust in us destroys our will to obedience and the life of living together in peace.

**June Edwards**

## Newsletter Contributions

We **ENCOURAGE** items from local individuals, societies or groups. Please email Barbara Wright [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), phone 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.

## Little Darwin's Nursery

We are enjoying the arrival of autumn at nursery and have spent some time exploring sticks and leaves as well as nocturnal animals.

We collected food for Harvester children had a trip to the church to deliver the goodies and find out a bit more of what Harvest Festival means. We are looking forward to more celebrations such as Diwali, Children in Need and World Nursery Rhyme Week.

**Jeanette Freeman-Smith, Administrator**



## Litter Report

Yes we did have some volunteers to shift some of the roadside rubbish. Not Ours of course, mostly takeaway meal deals and gas canisters (legal Highs). The team in Chelmsford report that they have found a company who are willing to recycle these nitrous oxide canisters so they can be left beside your bin collection. They are produced for firing squirty cream onto cakes but have found an alternative market!

Many thanks to the brave team who gathered up a dozen or so big bags of grot, we looked quite tidy in parts. Our next effort will be early April when the Council in Chelmsford promote an Essex wide clean up for springtime but if anyone wishes to do a bit at any time we can provide a visual kit and picking sticks for your use.

Contact Hazel on 01245 401538 for kit loan.

**Note:** from November 8th possession of Nitrous Oxide will become illegal for inhaling "to get high" and could incur unlimited fine, community punishment, prison sentence.....

## Essex Fire and Rescue Service - Fire Safety BONFIRE NIGHT

Soon to be upon us, probably Saturday 4th will be the main events. Take precautions with your pets, and make sure, if you do have fireworks at home, that you let them off safely. Bonfire and Firework Safety advice can be found on the website:

<https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/bonfire-and-firework-safety>



## IN THE HOME

There have been an increasing number of instances of fires in the home. Essex and Fire Rescue Service would like to reduce the likelihood of these and have advice to follow to keep you and your home safe.

They offer free home visits to any Essex resident to check smoke alarms, and in some cases, replace them free of charge. Home visits can be booked following the link:

<https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/book-home-safety-visit>.

They also have an online home safety check to do yourself: <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/online-home-safety-check>.

## Country Diary

Seen quite a bit of wildlife around lately. The muntjac deer are roaming everywhere, woodpeckers are taking advantage of the rain which has softened the ground for them to get to the insects, and the stoat is around, being very shy about humans trying to take his photo. Perhaps he didn't want to be spotted with the odd mouse in his jaws.

Of course, we have had the usual squirrels, pigeons and magpies in abundance, but a friend mentioned they haven't seen the usual jays around. Have they fled?

**Nature Correspondent**





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



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Warm Hub at the Hall	Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	12 – 2pm	Hall Committee Room	Hall Management
Bonfire Night	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November	5pm	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre ☒	
L A Country	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
Memorial Service	Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November	4pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Remembrance Service	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	10:30am	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Remembrance Service	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	10:45am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Xmas Do at St. Nicks	Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November	12:30 – 3:30pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
A.G.M	Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Society
Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November	10:30am – 3pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	

### 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	
Knit and Natter	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Warm Hub at the Hall	Wednesdays	12 – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group / Youth Group	Wednesdays	2pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Walking Group	Thursdays	10am / 7pm	Various	Sandie 01268 733259
Zumba Class	Thursdays	7 - 8pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Teacher 07879 683731
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Community Choir
Country and Western	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in month	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cowboys are Us	Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC
Midnight Carols / Communion	Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church / All Saints' Church	
Country Mile Duo	Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December	7pm -12:15am	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club

### 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> Nov, 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec

\*Check website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/> or Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page_internal)

☒ Check website for details: <https://www.battlesbridge.com/events/>

### Rettendon Memorial Hall

**The Warm Hub**, aka Winter Warmth at the Hall, will be starting in November and going on all winter until the end of March. We have moved it to the Committee room to make it more cosy. There will be soup with bread or rolls, tea and coffee, cake and biscuits. There will be a gap over the Christmas period for the helpers to have a holiday! Otherwise all steam ahead.....

Still continuing with all the usual groups and events and now getting booked up for parties and looking forward to perhaps some new regular events - keep an eye out!

#### Regular events include:-

**Bowls:** Love to see new people. No need to know what it is about, just come along to learn. Friendly, even if competitive, young and old have fun together.

Mondays 7 - 10pm

**Knit and Natter** will be ongoing at the Warm Hub on their days, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. So if you haven't joined us yet, and are a bit shy, come and find out about us in the company of others who are just socialising. Projects are various, and numerous, and not just knitting or crochet. We have had book-making, paper crafts, adult colouring, soft toy making.... Whatever your fancy.

**Zumba Class** on a Thursday, 7 - 8pm. Phone the teacher, Danielle, on 07879 683731 for details.

#### Hall Management Committee

Misdiagnosis..... Celibacy is a disease of the brain.  
Typhoid fever may be prevented by fascination.  
An epidemic is a needle the doctor used to put medicine in your arm.



### Ray and Dave's Country Music Club New Year's Eve Dance

**Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP**  
**Sunday, 31st December 7:00pm - 12:15am**

No bar - BYOD Tea/Coffee and FOOD available

**Music by: Country Mile Duo** Tickets £10

**For more info contact: Ray 01245 472386**



#### Garden Notes

Mrs. McGregor

Hastily put some more delicate plants under cover from a possible frost. Time to plant bulbs now - leave tulips till a little later as they are less likely to rot if the ground is colder. Chatted to an old friend at East Hanningfield and shared the sight of a Buzzard wheeling low over the field. Small birds beware!

Keep cosy now, our blood is still thin as befits summer.

**Nature Notes** - Found some Spindlewood bushes with pretty pink seed pods - in local hedgerow. A friend recalled the following rhyme:

*Spindlewood, spindlewood will you lend me pray*

*A little flaming lantern to light me on my way*

*The fairy fold have vanished from the meadow and the glen.*

*I would fane go seek them till I find them once again.*

Anyone else heard of this one?

From our Nature correspondent.

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.