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 **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.** 

The Newsletter Organisation takes this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers who distribute this newsletter - literally we could not continue without you. Thank you all & enjoy your Christmas Break.

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club presents: Cowboys are Us
Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP
Saturday, 2nd December, 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 listen or dance
Tickets £8 contact:
Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118
Or Dave 01245 225963

The hall management committee is delighted to welcome all to the **WARM HUB at the HALL** in the cosy committee room
Every Wednesday between 12 and 2pm continuing until end of March
 Home-made soup, tea, coffee and cakes
Come along for a light lunch, a chat, catch up with the neighbours and warm yourselves inside and out.
The Knit and Natter group continues every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month, but don't let them distract you, they come for the soup and cakes too!

No transport? We can provide. Phone Hazel on 01245 401538, or Barbara on 01245 321554

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
by the
"RAISE YOUR VOICE" COMMUNITY CHOIR
Saturday 9th December
Battlesbridge Free Church
Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start
It's free, but donations welcome for the church.
Tea, coffee and cake provided in break.
It's not that long, approximately 35 minutes per half.
Why not come and kick off the festive season with us?

Battlesbridge Free Church
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
on Sunday 17th December 2023 at 11.00 am.
Rayleigh Brass will be providing the music
Refreshments will be served after the service.
All are welcome to attend.

 **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**
CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 17th December 2023 at 11.15 am.
Tea, coffee and mince pies after the service.
Everyone welcome

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
on Sunday, 17th December - 4:00pm
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, RAWRETH, SS11 8SH


CHRISTMAS SERVICES
at **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON**
24th December - 11:30pm - Midnight Mass
25th December - **NO SERVICE**
at **ST. NICHOLAS, RAWRETH**
24th December - 11:30pm - Midnight Mass
25th December Christmas Day - 10:am Christmas Service

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club
New Year's Eve Dance
Dancing to the **Country Mile Duo**
Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP
Sunday, 31st December, 2023
Doors Open 7:00pm - 12:15am
No bar - Bring Your Own Drinks
Tea/Coffee and FOOD available
Come along for a night of great music to listen or dance
Tickets £10 contact:
Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118
Or Dave 01245 225963
(picture from <https://countrymileduo.com/>)


First Aid Courses on CPR and Defibrillator use.
Possible dates for some first aid courses on CPR and defibrillator use in the new year are:
Monday, 29th January & Friday, 2nd February
Please contact Barbara Wright, 01245 321554, or email RetBatNews@gmail.com to register. See more info inside.

Rettendon Memorial Hall

We are always trying to improve the hall and continue with maintenance wherever we see the need. It may not be obvious, but it does happen.

If you want to book the hall for a regular event, or would like to start a group up, call Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297 for availability. We accommodate private parties too.

There is already a New Year's Eve Dance booked at the hall. Why not come along and dance to the Country Mile Duo with the Country and Western Music Club. Bookings via Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118 Or Dave 01245 225963.

The regular groups using the hall continue:

Mondays - Bowls 7pm - 10pm for exercise & socialise

Tuesdays - various weeks from 7:30pm

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Parish Council

Wednesdays - Glass group in committee room (we are hopeful of giving a bit more information about this in the near future).

Thursdays - Zumba at 7pm till 8pm,

8pm - 10pm Lennox Charity Drama Group

Fridays - available to book

Saturday Night - 1st of month -

Country and Western with live music.

Hall Management Committee

email secretary: rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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

We note the passing of one of our long-standing residents, and would like to send condolences to family and friends of John Coppen.



Battlesbridge Free Church

Last evening, November 17th, two hours of prime TV time was given over to the appeal "Children in Need". An enormous sum of

money was raised to fund many charities which provide children, along with their parents, the physical, moral and funding support for a really vast number of needs and conditions. God made us all, everyone, in his own image. Even in the darkest human heart is that spark. So countless numbers of ordinary people are willing to give to make the world a kinder and caring world for those whose journey through life is extra tough. Our God loves each of us unconditionally, the meek and humble, the arrogantly or selfishly thoughtless, those who believe in him and those who revile or blaspheme against him, the atheist and the thoroughly Christian. So with that small, medium or large bit of God's DNA within us, the charity organisations watch out for those depending on our help. When Jesus Christ came to live on earth 2000 years ago, he did not come to form a religion but to show us God's way for human existence to flourish. In a nutshell, Jesus urged us to do our best to treat our neighbours, all those with whom we come in contact, just as we would like to be treated ourselves. We would not enjoy being ridiculed, bullied, ill-treated. We would not enjoy being lied to, cheated or robbed. We crave respect, loyalty, but above all, understanding and love. Jesus died to save us from the insidious efforts of the spirit of Evil to nurture in us his spirit of meanness, underhandedness, and a readiness to go after easy gain and pursuit of worldly goods and applause. God's love urges us to depend on his spirit of love and caring through the example of his son, Jesus, our Lord. He cares deeply for us. Satan loves to hate us and him.

June Edwards

Wise Sayings: "A problem shared is a problem halved" and , perhaps related, "Two heads are better than one".

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Autumn has kicked in and at last the leaves have fallen.

Autumn has been very late this year and the leaves appear to be more colourful than previous years. Now is the time to collect the leaves and bag them up. They take a long while to break down but the end result is well worth the wait. There will soon be a ban on peat based compost. Currently there are mixed reports about alternative composts therefore any natural product that we can get into the soil is very important.

By the time the next newsletter comes out we will be well and truly in the grip of Winter but the first signs of Spring will be there and we should be seeing the first snowdrops pushing through followed by early daffodils. Something to look forward to!

There is not really much more to say as we approach the end of another gardening year. I look forward to our first event of 2024 which is our Spring Show on the 19th of March. A great opportunity to catch up with friends and see a lovely display of Spring flowers. As always we welcome new members.

On behalf of Rettendon Horticultural Society I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

John Bruty, Chairperson

The AGM of the Society has been successfully completed with all officer places filled. Most of the officers were willing to stand again, but we thank those who have stepped down, and those who have joined our ranks. The list of officers, AGM decisions and a copy of the diary will be sent out with the renewal letters very soon.

The business of the evening was quickly finished, followed by chances to renew membership, to secure lunch places for our Christmas lunch and to socialise. We look forward to next year and the full diary we have. Please note the committee meetings are on the back of the card.

Barbara Wright, Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

Memorial to Jane Fallows

The actual cash donations total £1,730 plus the donations made on line amount to £1,855, a grand total of £3,585. An overwhelming sum and reflective of the love and appreciation of Jane's involvement in and for the parish of All Saints' Rettendon.

I am truly overwhelmed and will indicate to All Saints' PCC that the donations total, whilst for the benefit of All Saints, is not to be consumed in the PCC's day to day payments but put to a specific and lasting purpose and that Daniel, Amy and I are involved in the consideration and decision making process.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

Ron Fallows

Country Diary

The Jay has finally appeared and was interested in the lawn, probably for the same reason the Green Woodpecker turned up - for the ants.

Some large rabbits around so the plants are in danger again, not that there is much growing at the moment. Have a few things flowering, but the buds are being pecked off by the birds. Difficult to have a nice garden with all the wildlife around, but lovely to see it all.

Wish we had a few hedgehogs, but the badgers are about and you don't seem to get both. Badgers can unroll hedgehogs to eat, so hope the hedgehogs keep out of the way. Incidentally, saw the fox again, so the rabbits don't have it all their own way.

From out nature correspondent.

Little Darwin's Nursery

Another busy month in the nursery as we enjoy Diwali, with a celebration lunch. The children explored lights and listened to stories about Diwali.



We have been singing lots of nursery rhymes as we enjoyed Nursery Rhyme Week, it is lovely to hear the children's voices throughout the nursery.

Children in Need is a special charity that we always support and this year we had a bake sale to raise money for this amazing cause. We have also loved seeing the children come in wearing Pudsey clothes and accessories, who doesn't love Pudsey Bear?

Our Christmas preparations are in full flow and the excitement is building as our School Riser children practise their nativity, ready for the big performance.

From everyone at Little Darwin's, we wish you all an "OUTSTANDING" Christmas and a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Jeanette Freeman-Smith Administrator

The 4 Rettendon Parish Council defibrillators:

- 1) **Battlesbridge Free Church Hall** - SS11 7RE - outside in a red box
- 2) **The Bell** - CM3 8DY - outside in a yellow box.
- 3) **Hayes Country Park Club House** - SS11 7QT - in a green/transparent box
- 4) **Rettendon Memorial Hall** - CM3 8DP - outside the main entrance in a yellow box.

To access the locked boxes phone 999 and ask for Ambulance Service. They will guide you through all the emergency procedures, including CPR and using the defibrillator. It is necessary to phone them so that they can send an ambulance immediately.

All the defibs are registered with "The Circuit", the National Defibrillator Network. To find a defib use the defib finder website: <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

First Aid Courses on CPR and Defibrillator use.

Possible dates for some first aid courses on CPR and defibrillator use in the new year at Rettendon Memorial Hall are:-

Monday, 29th January

Friday, 2nd February

Please contact Barbara Wright, 01245 321554, or email RetBatNews@gmail.com to register. The courses will not take place unless there are sufficient numbers. The courses may include some information on diabetes, stroke, asthma, etc. If there is something specific required please let me know.

The courses will be run by a qualified First Aid trainer with the Essex Community First Aid Events Volunteers (ECFAEV). *(this is not an accredited course, but attendance certificates are provided)*

A Country ditty....

The common cormorant, or shag,
Lays eggs inside a paper bag;
The reason, you will see, no doubt,
Is to keep the lightning out.
But what these unobservant birds
Have failed to notice is that herds
Of bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs.
From a resident.

Rettendon Village Hall Remembered

In the mid-1930s, the hall was about the same shape as it is now but a wooden ex-World War one army hut. There was no electric heating, the heating was provided by two tortoise coke fire stoves one at the top end and one at the bottom end of the hall. If there was a function on, a dance, concert or whatever, these had to be lit beforehand. The caretaker was Mrs. Rose Parly, she lived in the Fairfield cottages. She would go over in the afternoon and light the fires, but whoever was organising the event in the evening or whenever would be responsible for making up the fires. There would be a bucketful of coke there beside each fire. By the time the event was over the hall was lovely and warm.

The toilet facilities: there was a Ladies toilet to the left as you face the front of the hall, but outside the hall. You went round the corner, but there were no street lights or outside lights. The Gents toilet was out the back, right round the back of the hall. Down the right-hand side of the hall were the cycle sheds. The only way you got around then was by push bike or walked, there were very few cars around then.

During the war when the army was posted up at Rettendon Hall, there were film shows at the hall, about monthly, and one or two of the companies would come down. Of course, there was no electricity so they brought a generator to put outside the hall and plugged the projector into that and they also invited the people of the village. So we had that to look forward to. They had good up-to-date films, we enjoyed that.

In the back end of the hall (it was in the area of the stage where it is now) there were two billiard tables, or snooker tables. After the war it was run by the Rettendon Men's Club, but there were not quite so many men as they didn't come back from the war, so the tables did not just stand there, they let the older members of the youth club use them. They were there until the hall was rebuilt as it is now as a memorial hall and the snooker tables went, but I don't know what happened to them.

Every function in the village, of course, was held in the village hall, whether it be a wake of a funeral, wedding reception, pigeon fanciers, every sort of thing.

Going back to the war time, when you came in the entrance was the same, as you came in on the left-hand side you had a small kitchen with a hatchway into the hall and you boiled a kettle on the stove in the kitchen to make the tea and refreshments and handed it in through this hatchway. On the left-hand side was the cloakroom, a shared one, of course, there were no toilets it was just a place to hang your coats. Lots of dances were held there. The floor was the original wooden floor of the army hut. They go to the expense nowadays of putting in sprung dance floors, this one was a sprung dance floor only because the floor joists were loose. To make the floor so they could glide over it when they were dancing, whoever was organising the dance (and I organised quite a few) before the dance started got a candle, an ordinary candle, and would shred the candle and walk all over the floor with the candle and as they danced over the wax of the candle it made the floor quite slippery and they could dance better on it.

Just after the war when there was no war memorial at Rettendon, apart from the one in the church, it was decided they would raise funds and have the hall part refurbished and part rebuilt as a memorial hall. A lot of events were run in the village: fetes, jumble sales, and things like that, even the children in the village used to have little stalls outside their houses selling stuff, like a few pencils were a shilling, for the funds and then eventually in 1953 it was opened as the memorial hall, the same as it is now.

From a local resident.

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

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Cowboys are Us	Saturday, 2 nd December	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
Raise Your Voice Concert	Saturday, 9 th December	7pm for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Nine Lessons and Carols	Sunday, 17 th December	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Christmas Carol Service	Sunday, 17 th December	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday, 17 th December	4pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 19 th December	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall*	Rettendon PC*
Christmas Midnight Mass	Sunday, 24 th December	11:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon	
Midnight Carols	Sunday, 24 th December	11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Christmas Midnight Mass	Sunday, 24 th December	11:30pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Christmas Service	Monday, 25 th December	10am	St. Nicholas church, Rawreth (joint service with All Saints')	
Country Mile Duo	Sunday, 31 st December	7pm -12:15am	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
RHS Committee	Tuesday, 9 th January	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Horticultural Soc.
Billy Bubba King	Saturday, 13 th January	7pm -11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
First Aid Course (TBC)	Monday, 29 th January	TBC	Rettendon Memorial Hall	ECFAEV
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 30 th January	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	
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	1:30 – 3:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Warm Hub at the Hall	Wednesdays	12pm – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art group	Wednesdays	2pm – 4pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall	
Youth Group	Wednesdays	6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall	
Walking Group	Thursdays/ Weekends	10am / 7pm	Various	Sandie 01268 733259
Zumba Class	Thursdays	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Teacher 07879 683731
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints Church, Rettendon	
Raise Your Voice Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in month	8pm – 10pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

First Aid Course (TBC)	Friday, 2 nd February	TBC	Rettendon Memorial Hall	ECFAEV
Country Law Band	Saturday, 3 rd February	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's Music Club
Inter-societies Quiz	Friday, 16 th February	7pm for 7:30pm	Galleywood Heritage Centre	Inter-societies

MOBILE LIBRARY - <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-mobile-and-home-library-services/mobile-libraries>

South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm	5 th Dec
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	1 st & 22 nd Dec

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

How to contact your Local Councillors

CITY COUNCILLORS: Rettendon and Runwell

Councillor Paul Clark tel: 01245 605902
email: paul.clark@chelmsford.gov.uk

Councillor Steve Davis tel: 01245 605901
email: steve.davis@chelmsford.gov.uk

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Hazel Dale-Evans, Vice chairman,
01245 401538, hazelrpc@gmail.com,

Cllr. Dianne Francombe, 01245 400297
rpcdianne@gmail.com

Cllr. Roy Hart royhart.rpc@outlook.com

Cllr. Jim Knight jim.knightrpc@gmail.com

Cllr. Keith Marshall KJMarshall@talktalk.net

Cllr. Joe Parsad, Chairman, joeparsadrpc@gmail.com

Cllr. Dave Phillips davidphillipsrpc@gmail.com

Cllr. John Williams cllrjwilliamsrpc@gmail.com

Cllr. Barbara Wright 01245 321554
barbarawrightrpc@gmail.com

Parish Council Clerk: Katherine Kane
07811 254163, rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page_internal

Garden Notes

Life goes on here forever changing - always in process.
Have been told to plant nettles (for butterfly food) and leave the ivy (for insect winter food) but don't want to be stung or have my flower patches choked over with ivy!
Pretty weeds are allowed but get thinned!

Relax the rules a bit - **Mrs. McGregor**

Going Crackers at Christmas

How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?

Merry Christmas to ewe.

Why is a turkey like an imp? Because it's always a-goblin'

What do you get if you team Santa with a detective? Santa Clues



Newsletter Contributions

Contributions from local individuals, societies or groups are encouraged. Please send to Barbara Wright via e-mail (RetBatNews@gmail.com), or tel: 01245 321554.

Funding contributions, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), phone 01245 321554 for details, or post in 55 East Hanningfield Rd.

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