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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

**Ray and Dave's C. M. C. presents:**

**Country Law Band**

**Rettendon Memorial Village Hall, CM3 8DP**

**Saturday, 3rd February, 2024**

**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, to dance and to enjoy

**Tickets £8**

**contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118**

**(text or phone)**

**Or phone Dave 01245 225963**



**WARM HUB on Wednesdays**

**through till end of March**

**Rettendon Memorial Hall,**

**from 12 until 2pm**

Our village hall welcomes those living in the area

to meet regularly for invigorating

chatty inspiration. Drop in for fresh

vegetable soup with bread, tea and

coffee and some home-made cake.

All provided free of charge

courtesy of the Hall Committee

All residents, friends and family

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](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)



**Table Top/Boot Sale**

**Sunday 25th February 9am - 1pm**

**South Hanningfield Village Hall, CM3 8HP**

We have reintroduced Table Top Sales which were popular a number of years ago at the village hall.

We are hoping to combine a Table Top Sale with a Car Boot Sale to make for a more varied, and therefore interesting event.

There will be a variety of crafts, preloved items, bric-a-brac and food/drink stalls.

If you have items to sell and are interested in booking a table, please get in contact. The cost is £10 for 4ft table, £15 for a 6ft table and £15 for one of a limited number of outdoor boot sale spaces for cars.

Entry will be free for shoppers and there will be refreshments and breakfast sandwiches available for sale. For more information, email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) or phone 07891 653238.

**PMRGCA Support Group**

**Tuesday, 13th February at 2pm**

**at Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP**

for those diagnosed with either Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) or giant cell arteritis (GCA)).

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

Family, friends and carers welcome too.

The meetings have speakers on all aspects of living and the advances in medicine for these conditions, as well the support of other members.

For more information or to book a seat, 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/>

The Southend and Chelmsford group are the same group that alternate between two locations with the same Group Organiser.

Rettendon Horticultural Society March Events

**Miss Wilmott's Garden**

**by Sarah Lawrence, author**

On Tuesday, 12th March, at 7:30pm

with a visit to the garden on the 14th March.

**Spring Show - Tuesday, 19th March, 7:30pm**

Schedules for the show on the website:

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

Both at Rettendon Memorial Hall.

**St Patrick's Ceilidh**

**Saturday, 16th March, from 7pm**

**South Hanningfield Village Hall**

**Featuring The Yardarm Ceilidh Band**

We are planning a ceilidh with ceilidh dancing and a Raffle.

Tickets cost £8 per person.

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

**Ray and Dave's C. M. C.  
Special Country and Irish Night  
Shaun Loughrey and Brian Mann  
Saturday, 6th April, 2024**

**at Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP**

**Doors Open 6:30pm**

Tea/Coffee & FOOD available

Get your tickets early sure to be a sell out

**Tickets £10**

**Contact Ray 07791434118**

**/01245 472386 Text or phone**



## Rettendon Memorial Hall

Having received a grant from Essex County Council there is now a fine set of white crockery with mugs, plates, bowls and everything needed for parties or meetings. It has been installed in the kitchen cupboards. We are hopeful of donating whatever old crockery is usable to other charities in the near future.

There is plenty of cutlery in the cupboards, along with saucepans, appropriate cutting boards, large serving bowls, teapots and the new tea urn, so everything should now be in place.

### Bookings:

There have been quite a few children's parties in the hall, with more being booked. Bookings for regular events are in and the hall is being used most of the time.

If you wish to book the hall please get in touch with **Dianne Francombe on 01245 400297** to find availability and for booking forms and terms and conditions.

The Warm Hub, with wonderful home-made soup from fresh vegetables, is continuing until the end of March. Another "Thank You" to Essex County Council for the money for the food, the Hall Committee is paying for the heating and kitchen electric. In this cold weather a warm welcome relief. See advert for details.

### Regular events obviously include

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club (C.M.C.) is on the 1st Saturday of the month from 7pm till 11pm. They are having a special event in April so look out for the chance for tickets for the Irish Themed event.

Warm Hub on Wednesdays 12 till 2pm, all welcome and hot soup, tea, coffee and cake. With the Knit and Natter on 1st and 3rd weeks of the month from 2 till 4pm. The knitters and craft people are still making a difference with items for the local hospitals, etc.

Thursdays has Zumba classes, speak to Danielle on 07879 683731.

Bowls at the hall from 7pm until 9pm on Mondays. Two hours of competitive bowling with occasional matches with other clubs. All very friendly, of course.

There is a glass craft group on a Wednesday evening in the committee room, from 7pm till 9pm. If you are interested please get in touch.

Rettendon Parish council meets every month on the last Tuesday at 7:30pm. Residents can bring any parish matters up at the meeting. Email the clerk on [rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com) or go to the website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>, or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>

Rettendon Horticultural society, mainly a gardening club with shows, talks on Tuesdays, and shows on Saturdays and visits as arranged. See the adverts when there is something on, or join to get the diary of events. Website, for events and show schedules, is at <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/>.

This is your local hall. We are pleased to see it being used by local people for local events. Get in touch if you would like to help out, or have ideas for improvements. The secretary, Barbara Wright, can be emailed on [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com).

### Hall Management Committee

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

What's a Zulus favourite chewing-gum? Spearmint.  
When I was 40 I wanted to be an Egyptian. It was a pyramid-life crisis.  
I'm on the "Oliver Twist" diet. It's gruelling. (Laughs of Tim Vine)

## Rettendon Horticultural Society

It's time to plan for a new growing and showing year. Time to reflect on last year's successes and failures and decide what works for us. Everybody's gardens are different and what grows for one person does not necessarily grow well for somebody else. Be brave and try some new vegetables and flowers that you have not grown before.

If you have a propagator or spare windowsill space now is the time to sow tomato and chilli seeds. In the past I have sown seeds in multipurpose compost and have been disappointed with the germination. On our visit to Kings Seeds in the Summer we spoke about poor germination and were advised to start seeds in a proper seed compost as multipurpose compost is too strong for seedlings. I will certainly be putting that advice into effect this year.

We are now looking forward to our first events of the year starting with a talk on Tuesday the 12th March by Sandra Lawrence, author of a book entitled Miss Wilmott's Ghosts. Ellen Wilmott was the first woman to be admitted to the Royal Horticultural Society and lived at Warley Place near Brentwood. Over the years thousands of daffodils have been planted at Warley Place and on Thursday the 19th March we will be going on our first trip of the year to see the spectacular fields of daffodils.

On the 19th March we have our Spring Show. Exhibits of Spring flowers, a quiz and raffle with an opportunity to catch up with old friends over tea and homemade cake. Further details will be in the March newsletter. The talk and Show will both be held at Rettendon Village Hall.

As always we welcome new members. The membership fee is a nominal £5 a year. Please support our society and its events.

### John Bruty - Chairperson

### Membership

We welcome our new membership secretary this year Louise Johnson, who has been busy sending out the renewal letters. She can be contacted on email [rhsmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:rhsmemsec@gmail.com).

If you have not paid yet and wish to pay direct please get in touch with her.

### School Gardening Monday Lunch-Time Club.

This will begin again after the half-term. We have changed the way we run the club and now offer it free to any child who wishes to join us. No time limit either, we ask the children to help out with planting, seed sowing weeding and watering when needed. All welcome for whatever time they wish to spare. Some are very enthusiastic, which we always encourage, though we try and encourage all to find out how to grow vegetables, bulbs and pretty flowers.

We are aware we need to replace a few boards, and to cut back the herb garden and these jobs will be progressed in the warmer weather.

**Barbara Wright, Secretary, email: [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)**

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

### Did you know?

If someone is hit by a car going at 30mph there is a rate of survival is 80%. Whereas is the vehicle is going at 40mph the chance of survival is only 20%. Statistics from a Police Officer.



## Church Coffee Morning - Fridays, 10am - 11am. A light-hearted look at one of the regular diary days.

The reasons for my three recent absences (without permission) from the Rettendon coffee morning were duly noted (alarm didn't work, had an urgent phone call) and were treated with some suspicion but duly recorded in Barbara's note book of attendees. Note – must take a reason for absence note next time.

Some months ago I thought I would sample another coffee morning at another church in the locality which hosted a weekly transfer of information event. I arrived at, well I can't remember the name of the church but gingerly entered and quietly sat down in the corner and before I could warm the seat the interrogation began. Well, my first cup of coffee was cold having batted away the questions and I was then speedily given a second cup. The usual arrivals into this world and departures from this life were voiced with either solemnity or joy as the case may be followed by a quick transfer of conversation to reflections about the living. Names were mouthed but not said out aloud with individuals only referred to by a nick name from school days or him at 57 and her at 33 (could be age or house numbers). The often one-sided conversation then went onto the Any Other Business part of the agenda, starting with the, "... and the did you hear about (right on cue)" Did you hear that she is only 42 (she had been 42 as long as the locals present could remember.) and him at 63. I can't keep count, he could be her 5<sup>th</sup> in a few weeks or is it her 6<sup>th</sup> anyhow it keeps the vicar busy!

The Malapropisms were blessed with a fine morning and I did have a helpful local next to me who could easily translate. After another cup of coffee I duly bade farewell and headed back in the direction of Rettendon where I could have some respite from the Mrs Dale's diary group.

Where next you may say? There will not be a next time say I!

(Offered to the compiler of this newsletter on the grounds that the source of the offering will not be disclosed.)

## Country Diary

The muntjac are around again. Better check the fruit trees to make sure they have not gone around and taken off a ring of bark which kills the trees.

The magpies seem to be single at the moment - one for sorrow so they say, I do hope not.

The other birds are flitting around catching bugs and digging in the grassy areas for ants.

Saw the jay on the ground, when it was warmer, so not disappeared, just hiding.

Been told a tennis ball in a pond or bird bath will stop the ice from forming as it gets moved around by the wind. However, with these winds we have been having I wonder if the ball will stay where it has been put!

Lots of twigs and branches to clear up at some stage, though some can be left so the bugs may find a home.

From our nature correspondent.

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on ebay?  
Because they were two deer!  
How do you describe a rich elf? Welfy!  
What can Santa give away and still keep? A cold.



## Newsletter Contributions - email: [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com)

We encourage contributions from local individuals, societies or groups. Please send them ASAP via e-mail, as above, or phone 01245 321554. Funding contributions, cash or cheques (made out to RetBatNews), phone 01245 321554 for details, or post in 55, East Hanningfield Rd.

## Little Darwin's Nursery

We have welcomed back the children from the Christmas break and have been enjoying hearing all their Christmas stories.

They have been settling back into new routines and are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday in February, as well as taking part in the Big Bird Watch.

Football resumed after the break and the children have been enjoying this activity with the sport coaches.

The cold weather gives us lots of opportunity to explore winter and even on the coldest days our doors are open and children are

encouraged to learn how to put on our winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and welly boots, and enjoy our lovely outdoor environment.

Jeanette Freeman-Smith, Administrator



## Battlesbridge Free Church

We were lulled in November and December with fairly mild winter weather. So, the present extreme cold has come as a shock. We used to be able to predict the date of various seasons and their usual type of weather to be expected. With global warming we can no longer expect predictability in weather patterns.

The weather is not the only pattern in our lives that has taken on a very different aspect, with old certainties less predictable. During the war years, the majority would have assumed that we were a Christian country. It was normal, at the time, for most of our children to attend Sunday School and, in our day-schools, the morning Assembly was most likely to resemble a simple act of worship. The songs and hymns reflected Christ's teaching of appreciation of the natural world, kindness and love of neighbour as of self and love and respect for parents and those in authority. Belief in the Almighty God, whose love for mankind had sent his son into this world 2000 years ago as our mentor and saviour, was the underpinning of the country's ethic, inherited culture, laws, way of life. With the rapid change in technology, world communications and opportunities in education, recreation, financial improvement for ordinary people, formerly at the end of the social scale, the old basic collective views of life have become more individual and diverse.

Added to this, is the fact that our population is much more diverse racially and in religious beliefs. But Almighty God has not changed. He is always the steadfast, universal creator - God of love - he has always been from the beginning of time and still is in our February 2024 and beyond to our vision of future. It is very sad that many of our young today, have scant knowledge of their Christian inheritance and that faith of many Christians has been crowded out by the frantic whirl of modern-day life. God has been the country's rock. Shame if we end up on sinking sands. The Bible is still our guide back. **June Edwards**

What did the farmer get for Christmas? A cow-culator!  
What did the dog get for Christmas? A mobile bone!  
How do Christmas trees get their emails? They log on!  
What do you call a couple of spiders who just got married? Newly webs!  
How do you know Santa has been in your garden shed? Because there are 3 extra hoes.





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



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Country Law Band	Saturday 3rd February	7pm - 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's C.M.C.
PMRGCA Support Group	Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February	2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Southend & Chelmsford
Inter-Societies Quiz Night	Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> February	7 for 7:30pm	Galleywood Heritage Hall	Inter-Societies Hort. Group
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Table Top / Boot Sale	Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	9am – 1pm	South Hanningfield Village Hall	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Council*
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>				
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	7pm - 9pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Warm Hub	Wednesdays	12 – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Knit and Natter	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	2pm – 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Art Group	Wednesdays	2pm - 4pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall	
Youth Group	Wednesdays	6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Walking Group	Thursdays	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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in month	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's C.M.C.
<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>				
Root's & Wings	Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	7pm - 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's C.M.C.
Miss Wilmott's Garden	Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Miss Wilmott's Garden (car sharing visit)	Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30am`	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
St. Patrick's Ceilidh	Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm	South Hanningfield Village Hall	
Spring show	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
<b>MOBILE LIBRARY – (every 3 weeks)</b> <a href="https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-mobile-and-home-library-services/mobile-libraries">https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-mobile-and-home-library-services/mobile-libraries</a>				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	12:25pm to 12:55pm / 1:45pm to 2:15pm		6 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb, 15 <sup>th</sup> March

\*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)

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish council meets on the last Tuesday of the month, with the agenda set the week beforehand and posted on the website and Facebook page, as well as on local notice boards, e.g. outside Rettendon Memorial Hall, on the board at the turn in to Old Bell Lane.

The minutes are posted on the website, but are a month behind since they have to be agreed by the council at the next meeting.

The Rettendon and Runwell Ward Councillors, Paul Clark and Steve Davis, are invited to attend the meeting, and allowed to speak to give news of Chelmsford City Council (CCC).

The planning in the agenda is for the council to comment on, it is not the actual planning decision, since this is by CCC planning committee. Any comments may be ignored by the CCC.

The Parish council agenda allows for the public to speak in the Public Forum, with a limit of 5 minutes per speaker. This time can be given to any subject, provided it is within the Council remit to help.

It has been noted that the Council response to the public questions or comments is, at present, not well publicised. The newsletter has requested and received a grant from the Council so that this may, hopefully, be addressed in the future and that all parishioners may be involved with their local Parish Council regardless of technology.

The Parish Council clerk is there for you to contact with any Parish matters, her details are:- **Katherine Kane, Parish Council Clerk**  
[rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com) 07811 254163

The Parish council website is: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/?ref=page_internal)

Please note lighting, roads, especially potholes, should be reported to Essex Highways either on line or by phone. (details opposite).

## Garden Notes

Keep feeding the birdies - they are foraging for spiders eggs, small slugs & other juicy fare which cleans up our patch - so their presence is really helpful.

Last year we had blue tits babies in a box so hope for another family. They feast on bugs in a nearby oak tree. Must remember to break the ice on the bird bath too.

Tweet, tweet to all .

**Mrs. McGregor**

## 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

Planning simple search: <https://publicaccess.chelmsford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do>

We would like to thank Rettendon Parish Council for a grant to enable us to reach all households in the parish. We also thank those who have contributed, and continue to do so, so we are not reliant on the Parish Council for all funding. It enables us to be totally impartial.

If you wish to receive this newsletter by email please contact [RetBatNews@gmail.com](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com) or website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/retbatnews/>  
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