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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

**All Saints' Spring Open Day  
Easter Monday 1st April**

10-30am to 3-00pm

Join us for coffee, come for lunch, and finish with afternoon tea and home-made cakes.

Or take a cake, plant or gift home from one of the stalls. There will be a raffle with some lovely prizes, good jewellery, tombola, bric-a-brac (items are changed, so take a look), books and CDs available.....

Take time to look around the church and note the altar decked out with the

**EASTER MEMORIAL  
FLOWERS**

A Memorial Plaque will list the names of loved ones remembered.



As many of you will be able to attest, the church is in need of funds as the heating system has to be replaced soon. We are looking into grants for the (estimated) £20,000 cost, but will probably need at least half the money.



**Battlesbridge Free Church**

**Quiz Night**

**Saturday, 27th April  
7pm for 7:30pm**

Teams of 8,  
£5 per person,  
pay at the door  
Bring your own drinks.  
Tea/Coffee at interval.  
Raffle



**RETTENDON CRICKET CLUB**

Rettendon CC run U11s cricket every Monday throughout the summer.

**U8s will be 17:30  
until 18:30,  
U11s 18:30 until  
19:30.**

All ages, abilities boys & girls are welcome. These sessions are a great way to introduce your children to cricket, help them gain confidence and make new friends.

If you'd like to register, please visit the All Stars Cricket website, message us on Facebook/Instagram or contact Chris Abrehart on 07545425574



Monday nights May - September from 17:30

**BELVEDERE JAZZ & MUSIC SUPPER CLUB**

**Top International & UK Jazz Artists and Bands**



**Julian Stringle Quintet**

An evening of top quality melodic jazz with Dominic Ashworth, Neil Angillely, Jeremy Brown & Marc Cecil.



**Peter Rudeforth Band**

An evening of foot tapping mainstream jazz with this top Sextet performing your favourite songs.

**3rd April**

**17th April**

**Rettendon Lodge Events, Burnham Rd, Battlesbridge SS11 7QT**  
Admission (only) from £18.50 - Newcomers most welcome!  
A twice monthly **all** dining club opening at 6:15pm with meals from £14.50 ~ Show 7:45pm - 10:45pm  
Reservations: Email :belvederejazz@gmail.com ~ Tel: 07850 607075

**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 07791 434118 /01245 472386 Text or phone



**Community Hub**

**Rettendon Memorial Village Hall,  
Wednesdays from 12 until 2pm**

Due to the number of requests made, the Village Hall Management Committee are delighted to continue with the Committee Room being opened on a Wednesday for drop-in tea, coffee, and home-made cake.

There will be an "American" style buffet - bring your own lunch, or add to the fare on offer.

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, or email

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

### Advance notice

#### Rettendon Memorial Hall D-Day Afternoon Tea Saturday, 8th June,

Run by the Rettendon Memorial Hall Management Committee

Entertainment from members of the "Raise Your Voice" community choir  
All Welcome

**We would be delighted if some of you can bring your war memories and memorabilia.**

### Rettendon Memorial Hall

Spring is in the air, and the hall is no exception. There are some events being planned for all to enjoy, as well as the maintenance to keep it looking nice and fresh.

The new crockery seems to be going down well, though some preferred to old colourful stuff - you can't win all the time.

The change on Wednesdays from the Warm Hub to the Community Welcome will not affect the running of the hall. We have found the Warm Hub has enlivened some people and helped them get out of the house to meet up with others. We can arrange lifts for those that know us. Not a taxi service, more a neighbour helping out.

The hall is relatively well used, but any extra groups who would like time and space are welcome to ask our booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, for availability. She can be contacted on 01245 400297.

The usual activities are still in the hall.

**Bowls on Mondays, 7 - 9pm**

Different meetings on **Tuesdays - Parish Council, Rettendon Horticultural Society, etc.**

**Wednesdays the Community Welcome** (Community Hub - the name is interchangeable). 12 - 2pm

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays is Knit and Natter** 2 - 4pm. Not just knitting, but all crafts welcome. There are all sorts of materials available for crafting. Just come along.

**Wednesday evenings** there is a **Glass Class** from 7-9pm. Making items from cut glass, forming into items, etc.

**Thursdays is Zumba** from 7 - 9pm. Danielle is the person to call on 07879 683731 to see if there is space.

**Fridays** are varied nights with quizzes, or sometimes First Aid Courses. Anyone wanting a first aid course to find out about CPR, how to use a defibrillator, what symptoms to look out for strokes, heart attack, diabetes, etc. please get in touch with Barbara Wright, 01245 321554 or email [barbarawrightpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbarawrightpc@gmail.com).

### Hall Management Committee

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

#### Please note:

Contact the **Booking clerk**, Dianne Francombe, by **telephone on 01245 400297**

Contact the **Secretary**, Barbara Wright, by **email: [RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com](mailto:RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com)**

There will be a plant sale at Battlesbridge Free Church on Monday 6 May from 10 am to 12.30 pm. Lots of plants for sale, and there will also be refreshments available. All money raised will go towards the upkeep of the Church. Everyone is very welcome.

### Rettendon Horticultural Society

At last it feels like Spring has arrived! It's certainly strange feeling warm and being dry outside.

The Society has got off to a good start to 2024. Our talk by Sandra Lawrence on Miss Ellen Wilmott and Warley Place was well attended and it was pleasing to see some new faces. Following the talk a group of members and friends visited Warley Place to see the acres of daffodils. Not long and the daffodils will be followed by bluebells.

Our Spring show was a good social event with twenty members present and a good display of Spring flowers and plants.

The next event is the plant sale on the 11th May. A wide range of flowers, vegetables and shrubs will be available at very reasonable prices. The sale is at Rettendon Village Hall starting at 10 o'clock until 12.30. This is our main fundraiser to help with the cost of the Summer Show so please come and spend some money!

We continue our push to attract new members. To all past members who have not rejoined or not yet paid their 2024 membership please treat this as a gentle reminder.

With the Summer Show just over 3 months away I need to make my usual request for help. If you can spare a few hours to help with setting up and dismantling please contact our Secretary Barbara Wright on 01245 321554.

**John Bruty, chairman.**

### Gardening or Horticulture? What is the difference?

There is a debate going on about a change to the name of our Society. Historically, for over a hundred years, this has been a Horticultural Society. However, with the changing times we do wonder if we should bow to modern times and change to either being a Gardening Society, or add Gardening to our name. No doubt this debate will continue, and the change will not happen until our members have had their say, but interesting none the less.

**What is the difference? Gardening or Horticulture? Actually NONE.** Looking it up in a dictionary I found "a. gardening *n.* Horticulture; work in a garden." (*a. being the adjective, n. being the noun*).

**Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554**

**email: [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com)**

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

### Country Diary

We are now officially in Spring! So, this little poem bears repeating as a memory to Jane Fallows:

**Spring has sprung,**

**The grass is ris,**

**I wonder where the birdies is?**

**The bird is on the wing,**

**But that's absurd!**

**I always thought the wing was on the bird!**

Actually a lot of the birds are on the wing, looking for nesting material. One of our trees has a bole hole, which the blue tits have found to be very comfortable. Just have to make sure the fox doesn't find it too.

The wildlife is starting to go abroad again after hibernation. Remember not to feed hedgehogs with milk and bread, it is not good for them. Cat or dog food is better, though you can get hedgehog food too. Birds also have trouble with bread, if leaving it out for them make sure it is in a bowl of water - may look a mess, but it swells up and better swollen outside than in their tummies.



**Rettendon Horticultural Society - EVENTS**  
**Held at Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP**

**Plant Sale and Coffee Morning**

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30am - 12:30pm  
Variety of plants on sale at very good prices.

**Gardening the Globe talk**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 7:30pm

Alan Murdy talks about gardening the variety of Commonwealth War Grave sites around the world

**Coach Trip: Chelsworth Open Gardens**



Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June - 11am - 5pm

20+ open gardens, refreshments, specialist stalls,  
Between Sudbury and Stowmarket.

**Please contact Jean Pietsch, trip organiser,  
on 01268 763183 to book a place**

**Little Darwin's Nursery**

Another busy and fun month in nursery, we celebrated World Book day with children and staff sharing their love of books and dressing up as their favourite book character. Books play a huge role in children's development and we are very lucky to have an abundance of lovely stories that we can share with the children.

We invited our Mummies into nursery for a Mother's Day event, where they enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch. The children had decorated cakes and made fruit kebabs to be enjoyed. The Mummies explored our outdoor space and participated in the Music and Movement session, they also planted daffodils with the children, to be taken home. Feedback received was that this was a very pleasant morning and everyone had lots of fun.

We are looking forward to spring and are busy preparing our garden for planting flowers, to enjoy the array of colour as we head into summer.

**Jeanette Freeman-Smith, Administrator**



**Rettendon Horticultural Society**

**Spring Show Report**

March 19th saw a collection of keen gardeners showing their Spring Flowers. There was a wide variety of flowers and while these were judged, everyone puzzled over a 20 question quiz as well. Lovely gentle occasion.

There was much discussion examining exhibits but although Gabrielle won the Best in show Rosette for her magnificent Spring flower arrangement, John Bruty got the Trophy for the most points by putting in his best varied exhibits in almost every class.

We do not charge entry for our Shows as we feel that our activities should be open to all. The raffle and the small charge for teas helps us pay for the hall hire.

Well done everybody.

**Hazel Dale-Evans, Vice Chairman.**



**Quiz Report**

8th March saw enthusiastic locals exercising their brains in the Village Hall. We can report they were very well behaved and we were able to send £285 to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

The Raffle was in aid of the Living Memorial charity.

Thanks to everybody who helped set up the tables and the brains who helped put everything away again.

**Hazel Dale-Evans**

**Rettendon, South Hanningfield Road Flooding update**

South Hanningfield Road was temporarily closed on the 20th March for some remedial works to the drainage system. Lee Bellinger, Essex Highways Flood Enforcement Caseworker, discussed with Ward Councillor Paul Clark and myself what additional work needed doing. While there Mr. Bellinger talked to the landowner, who had done some of his ditch digging.

The result is that, although better, permission is now needed to extend the work to remove some concrete obstructions from some of the drainage access. This will probably mean the road will be closed again at some point, but it will be the means to an end of flooding in South Hanningfield Road, and help with the Bell Fields water problems.

**Councillor Keith Marshall**



**St George's Day on Tuesday,  
23rd April from 7.30pm  
South Hanningfield Village Hall CM3 8HL**

have returning the wonderful "Cockney Pride" for an evening of sing along and flag waving with the Pearly King and Queen.

Tickets cost £15 each. Bring your own drinks and party food.  
For tickets, please call Emma on 07961 963914.

**Parish Council report**

The Ward councillors reported the budget for Chelmsford City Council (CCC) had been passed and has led to increase of the maximum possible. Concerns were raised about vanity projects, but no amendments were made. Council tax support remains unchanged.

Second homes that are unoccupied will have a Council Tax Premium of 100% while empty and unfurnished.

The appeal regarding the Battery Storage at Battlesbridge has been upheld.

Councillor Wright reiterated that the code for the defibrillator boxes is held by the Emergency Services so that they know when a device is being used, and could respond to the emergency.

Planning applications received were 24/00128/FUL, 24/00137/FUL, 24/00138/FUL, 24/00133/FUL, 24/00140/FUL, 24/02042/FUL and 24/00105/FUL. The recommendations of the Parish Council have been passed to CCC for inclusion in their planning meetings.

Bell Fields pavilion electricity supply checking. There is no meter nor any supply to the pavilion so no checks could be made. The residents are to be surveyed about any pavilion refurbishment.

The Council agreed to support the 20's Plenty campaign.

This is only a resumé of the meeting. The minutes of meetings can be found on the Parish Council website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>.

If you need to contact the Council please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk, Katherine Kane, on 07811 254163 or email: [rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rettendonparishcouncil@outlook.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishccouncil/>

Why can't a leopard hide? Because he is always spotted.  
What time does a duck wake up? At the quack of dawn.



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

EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Easter Fair	Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March	10am – 5pm	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre ☼	
Easter Church Open Day	Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10:30am – 3pm	All Saints' Church Rettendon	
Julian Stringle Quintet	Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	6:15 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★
Irish Night with Shaun Loughrey & Brian Mann	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm - 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's C.M.C.
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Peter Rudeforth Band	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April	6:15 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★
Classic Vehicle Breakfast	Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April	9am	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre ☼	
St. George's Day	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	7:30pm	South Hanningfield Village Hall	
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Bulldog Bonanza	Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April	11am – 4pm	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre ☼	

### 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 Parish Council ⊗
Bowls	Mondays	7pm - 9pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	
Community Welcome	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	
Live Jazz Music	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	6:15 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★
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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plant Sale with Refreshments	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	10am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall and Outside Area	
Plant Sale & Coffee Morning	Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Gardening the Globe	Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	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	9 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	
Goose Cottages	Friday	9:40am to 10:10am	5 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> April, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	

☒ Check website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>  
 ☼ <https://www.battlesbridge.com/events> ★ Belvedere Jazz Club: [belvederejazz@gmail.com](mailto:belvederejazz@gmail.com) tel: 07850 607075



## Battlesbridge Free Church

How fast the year seems to be galloping along. It seems a blink of an eye since we were singing carols and wondering what

presents to buy for our various friends and relatives. Now it is already within a breath of Easter. How many of our young were conscious that each "holiday" marked a fantastic event for our world. God, who really and truly does exist, so loved his creation, mankind, that his dearest wish was to save us from death, annihilation. This through our sins, wrong turnings, which our and God's arch-enemy, Satan, planned for us all.

To exonerate us from the indictment of sin, only the sacrificial death of his son, Jesus Christ would pay the penalty and release us, mankind, to be free to claim a new everlasting life beyond our mortal death. We mark this event, which took place over 2000 years ago, at Easter time. We have only to ask Jesus Christ to come into our daily lives as companion, councillor, and, above all, loyal friend, to be able to look forward to this exciting, mind-blowing immortal existence through his forgiveness.

All a load of old-fashioned nonsense? Just have the courage and curiosity to try it!

I, myself, met Jesus when I was a very little girl. He has been with me through thick and thin, the good times and some despairing times. Perfection is nowhere on the horizon, foolish mistakes continue to be made but underneath are the everlasting arms, always ready to steady me onto the right path. He really does plan for our joy, not our sorrow. Come to him so that he can sort you out and give you a certain fulfilled future. Billions of people worldwide know and believe in Him. They can't all be deluded, naive fools.

**June Edwards**

**Garden Notes**

Much joy comes with the daffodils but where have all the spiders gone?

How many small crawly things can you find in a square foot of ground? Find a worm on the path - guide it to the flowerbed now. They drown in puddles!

Love the tiny things. **Mrs. McGregor**

### Alternative definitions:

Politics: show business for ugly people.  
 Procrastinator: Someone with a wait problem  
 Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark  
 Sneezing: Much achoo about nothing.



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

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