



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER DEC 2025 & JAN 2026

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Contributions for next Newsletter to be with RetBatNews@gmail.com, by 18th of the month

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We would like to thank all those who deliver the newsletter throughout the year, your help is invaluable.

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club GEORGE PAYLING Jr.

Saturday, 6th December, 2025

Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm

Come to Rettendon Village Hall,
CM3 8DP

Live Music: Listen, Dance, Enjoy!
No bar - BYOD ☘ Tea/Coffee &
FOOD available

Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118

(Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302895307801676/posts/1503892584368603/>)



All Saints' Church Christmas Carol Service

Sunday, 21st December,

2025 11:15am

All Welcome.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
on Sunday, 21st December - 4:00pm
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, RAWRETH,
SS11 8SH



BELVEDERE JAZZ & MUSIC SUPPER CLUB

Top International & UK Jazz Artists



**Dave Browning's
The Jazz Cats**
Swinging
Dixieland jazz



Rettendon Lodge Events, Burnham Rd, Battlesbridge SS11 7QT
Admission from £19.50 - Newcomers most welcome!
**A twice monthly all dining club opening at 6:15pm
with meals from £15.50 ~ Show 7:45pm - 10:45pm**
Reservations: Email :belvederejazz@gmail.com ~ Tel: 07850 607075



We invite you to the
**Raise your Voice Community
Choir Christmas concert**
who will be performing on
Saturday 6 December 2025

at Battlesbridge Free Church.

Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Refreshments will be served during the interval.

Entry is free but donations will be welcome, with the monies going towards the upkeep of the church.

Why not get your Christmas celebrations off to an early start? As well as traditional carols there will be other songs to keep you entertained.

We look forward to seeing you.

SANDS Service on Sunday, 7th December, 3pm
(SANDS - Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity)

All Saints' Church, Rettendon, CM3 8DR

A service for bereaved families of babies to find comfort together in the church. This will not be a religious service. Organised by volunteers for the 4th year, and with a professional singer to sing solos.



Email: support.essex@sandsvolunteer.org.uk

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

**Ray and Dave's Country Music Club
KEVIN BARRY**
**Saturday, 10th January
2026**



Rettendon Village Hall, CM3 8DP
Doors Open 7:00 - 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 contact: Ray 01245 472386 /
07791434118**

All Saints' Church Christmas Church Services

21st December Carol service 11.15am

24th December Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm



**Christmas day service at St. Nicholas, Rawreth, only, at
10.00am**

**28th December - Joint Service at St. Thomas, Hullbridge
at 10am**

Battlesbridge Free Church Services

14 Dec 11am Carol Service. Big tree, candles and members of Rayleigh Brass accompanying the carols!

21st Dec 11am Young People's Group running the show! Featuring their Christmas play.

24th Dec 11.30pm Midnight service to welcome Christmas. Candlelight, warm and special atmosphere.





WARM HUB

Every Wednesday, though not on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, from 12 until 2pm

In the cosy, warm

Rettendon Memorial Hall committee room, CM3 8DP

The lunchtime offer is warming home-made soup with bread and butter if wanted.

Still with home-made cakes on offer and tea, coffee or even hot chocolate available.

Bring your own food, share around, whatever you like.

Provided free of charge by Hall Management Committee.

All residents, friends and family welcomed.

Need transport? Please contact Hazel Dale-Evans 01245 401538 or the secretary, Barbara Wright 01245 321554, or email RettendonMemorialHall@gmail.com



Rettendon Bell Events



Mediums • Clairvoyants
Tarot • Reiki • Giftware

13th December
2pm - 7pm

Rettendon Bell Pub
Main Road, Rettendon
Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8DY

☎ 07950 863408 • 01245 523426
#jennysheavensent info



New Year's Eve party with live DJ 8pm



Christmas Eve party with live music 8pm



(Booking Required)

RETTENDON BELL contact details:

Main Road, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8DY

Email: bell.chimes24@gmail.com Tel: 01245 523 426

THANKS

Pat and Chas would like to thank all the kind people in the village who have helped them during the year. Its much appreciated, and we know we are lucky to live in this village.

Thanks a lot!!!

Merry Christmas to you all.

Rettendon Parish Council

The next Council meeting will be slightly earlier on Tuesday, 16th December due to the Christmas break. Minutes and agendas for meetings can be found on the website - direct link:-

<https://www.rettendon-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings-minutes/>

Contact details for the RPC Clerk: Mrs. Emma Terris, Email: clerk@rettendon-pc.gov.uk ,

Phone: 07852 138878

RPC Website: <https://www.rettendon-pc.gov.uk/>

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 (CCC)

Website: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/> or tel: 01245 606606

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



Rettendon Horticultural Society

Its been a great year for fruit and it's ongoing with the hedgerows full of berries and sloes. The incoming winter birds should have plenty to keep them well fed through the winter months ahead. It is often said that lots of berries mean a hard winter to come. I'm not sure that follows because winters seem to be becoming milder. However it's been a while since we had more than a sprinkling of snow so maybe this winter will be a cold one.

By now all tender plants should be protected or taken in under cover. That said many summer plants are still in bloom including dahlias and they will continue until we get a sharp frost.

The biggest job at the moment is keeping on top of the fallen leaves. Most trees have shed their leaves but the oaks are always the last to go. Be sure to remove fallen leaves from ponds otherwise they will sit on the bottom of the pond and decay. They take a long while to break down but leaf mould is a great substitute for peat.

By the next time I write we should be seeing the first signs of spring with snowdrops blooming and spring bulbs pushing through. Something to hold on to throughout the next few months.

I hope to see you at our events and shows next year. Best wishes from Rettendon Horticultural Society for a peaceful New Year and a successful growing season ahead.

John Bruty Chairperson

Christmas lunch will be at the Bell and Chimes on Thursday 11st December at 12 for 12:30pm. Please let Barbara have menu choices by Thursday 4th December, and the remainder of the money either then or at the meal. 2 Courses cost £26.95, and 3 courses £29.95. Obviously the deposits are deducted from the cost.

Membership cards will have the diary on them. Unfortunately there is a mistake and the outing to Ulting Wick is on Tuesday, May 12th at 10:30am, not as marked in the diary. We are also looking at having a few "pop up" events, e.g. car sharing trips, talks in the afternoon in the hall, perhaps a quiz, in the future.

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

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

DOG LOVERS



We know your pets are special to you, and that you walk them for exercise, but please watch your dog and pick up the dog poo when it occurs. Either put in the dog bins, of which there are several around, or take it home with you to put in the dustbin. If the dog bin is full report it to the council to have it emptied.

PLEASE do pick it up in children's play areas, and not hang it in hedges, trees or bushes, especially outside peoples' homes. They do not want it! More importantly it can cause *Toxocarais*, a condition leading to blindness, breathing difficulties, possibly meningitis or epileptic seizures, which can affect children and adults.

We will ALL thank you for it.

Fouling is considered an antisocial behaviour and has a maximum penalty of £1,000 - don't think you are immune!

Rettondon Memorial Village Hall (CM3 8DP)

We do hope everyone enjoyed the Old Tyme Music Hall in aid of the Hall Charity and the Lennox Children's Cancer charity. It was full enough! I thoroughly enjoyed myself, though I missed a few bits while getting out the cakes and drinks, never mind - could still hear it. We are hopeful of another event with them next year - watch this space!

The Hall Management are continuing to keep up with maintenance and have several projects which we are pursuing.

The projector and screen have now been used and were well received for the Horticultural talk and the AGM. Therefore we are wondering if you would like a film club to use this facility. If so could you please let the secretary know as we would like to judge interest. The secretary, Barbara Wright can be contacted on 01245 321554 or email: rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com.

As usual the Regular events are:

MONDAYS: 7 - 9pm
Short mat/carpet bowls



TUESDAYS: 7:30pm
Various - Rettondon Horticultural Society meetings, talks, etc.



Last TUESDAY in the month: 7:30pm
Rettondon Parish Council



WEDNESDAYS: 12-2pm
Warm Hub

With home-made soup.
Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes aplenty.



1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS: 2 - 4pm
Knit & Natter
Knitting, crocheting, card making, colouring, anything you want to do, and need a bit of time to do it.



WEDNESDAYS: 6 - 8:30pm
Stained Glass Workshop

With Caroline on 07792 475085

glasstudiosupplies.co.uk



TUESDAY, THURSDAYS & some SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS: Various times

Lennox Productions rehearsals.
"Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat".



Last FRIDAY in the month: 7:30pm BINGO!
Raffle, Tea/coffee, BYO nibbles/drinks
And fun for all!



Various FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS: Quizzes, games, entertainment - see adverts on front page or visit the website:



FIRST SATURDAY in the month: 7 - 11pm
Country and Western - see adverts on front page.



To find out more about the events on at the Hall visit the Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendon-memorial-hall/>

The availability of the hall for parties and other events can be found by phoning the **booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, on 01245 400297**. Booking forms can be found on the website.

For information contact the hall secretary, Barbara Wright, email: rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com, 01245 321554.

Hall Management Committee

South Hanningfield Charity Ball

will take place on **Saturday, 24th January 2026** which includes pre-dinner drinks, 4-course luxury menu, after dinner entertainment and a Raffle at Stock Brook Manor, Billericay in aid of South Hanningfield Village Hall and St Peter's Church charities.

For further information, contact **Emma on 07961 963914**.

Battlesbridge Free Church



Hello Readers,

Well here we are in winter. All around there is cold, damp and dark. It can seem very bleak, unpleasant, uncomfortable.

But then to chase dreariness away, in comes Christmas! We throw at it all the things we think will give us a lift, the lights, the colours, the flavours and hopefully the agreeable company. I have a deep admiration for the Salvation Army, who work to bring an effective lift to those whose lives are very dark, cold and bleak: the homeless, the lonely and the poor.

Recently, I have had conversations with people who have just lost loved-ones. Their winter is not one of daylight hours and air temperature, it is felt in the spirit and the soul. Their comfort will not fully be achieved with tree lights and wrapping paper. The gifts that they need, as indeed we all do, are love, kindness and gentle encouragement. These are the best Christmas presents we can all give each other this festive season. I enter into those conversations in the name of he whom I believe to be the source of all love, kindness and encouragement, Jesus Christ, and I believe his power directs my words.

Some very uplifting events coming up at our church are listed on the front page, including the Raise Your Voice community choir concert and the special services for Christmas.

I wish you all a very splendid Christmas!

David Edwards

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL

Preparing for new Local Plan consultation on additional housing sites

A focused consultation on the addition of several new and expanded housing sites to the Local Plan began **on Thursday 20th November and runs until 4pm on 8th January 2026**.

The council is considering changes to Chelmsford's Local Plan in light of factors outside of its control that have affected future house building. The **proposals could provide 1,592 additional homes over the lifetime of the Local Plan until 2041** and would ensure the council has a pipeline of development sites that can provide five years' worth of housing as required by the Government.

You can sign up to the council's [Planning Policy Consultation Portal](https://consult.chelmsford.gov.uk/kse/). (<https://consult.chelmsford.gov.uk/kse/>).

The portal allows you to read and save the consultation documents, submit your comments and sign up for alerts to future consultations. You will be able to submit comments via email and in writing too.

Find out more about the proposals, [visit the Chelmsford City Council website](https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review/). (<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review/>)

Garden Notes



Hasty moves - very tender things into house and tender things into greenhouse.

The Dahlias have caught cold, so will get dealt with!
Window sill is full of babies - love it!... **Mrs. McGregor**

How do rabbits travel? By hare plane!

Where do baby apes sleep? In an apricot.

What is the difference between a fish and a piano? You can't tuna fish





Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events Diary - DEC 2025 & JAN 2026



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Local Plan consultation Additional Sites	20 th November to 8 th January		Ends 4pm	Chelmsford City Council
Christmas Craft Market	Friday, Sat, Sun, 28 th , 29 th & 30 th November	10am – 4:30pm	Battlesbridge Antiques Centre (SS11 7RF) ☼	
Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, 29 th November	10:30am – 3pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon, (CM3 8DR)	
Karaoke Night	Saturday, 29 th November	8pm	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon, CM3 8DY	01245 523426
Raise Your Voice Concert	Saturday, 6 th December	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
George Payling jnr.	Saturday, 6 th December	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
SANDS Service	Sunday, 7 th December	3pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Psychic Night	Saturday, 13 th December	2 – 7pm	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon, CM3 8DY	01245 523426
Carol Service	Sunday, 14 th December	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church – with Rayleigh Brass Band	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th December	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC☉
Frog on a Rocket	Friday, 19 th December	8pm	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY)	01245 523426
Young People's Christmas Play	Sunday, 21 st December	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church	Young People's Group
Carol Service	Sunday, 21 st December	11:15am	All Saints, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday, 21 st December	4pm	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth (SS11 8SH)	
Christmas Eve Party with singer Eden Jones	Wednesday, 24 th December	8pm	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY)	
Midnight Eucharist	Wednesday, 24 th December	11:30pm	All Saints, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Midnight Candlelight Service	Wednesday, 24 th December	11:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE)	
Joint service with Rawreth	Thursday, 25 th December	10am	St. Nicholas Church, Rawreth	NO SERVICES at All
Joint Service with Hullbridge	Sunday, 28 th December	10am	St. Thomas Church, Hullbridge	Saints' Church, Rettendon
Sunday Service	Sunday, 4 th January	11:15am	All Saints, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Dave Browning's The Jazz Cats	Wednesday, 7 th January	6:15 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper ★
Kevin Barry	Saturday, 10 th January	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
South Hann. Charity Ball	Saturday, 24 th January	PM	Stock Brook Manor	South Hanningfield Village Hall & St Peter's Church
REGULAR EVENTS				
Sunday Services	Sundays	11am / 11:15am	Battlesbridge Free (SS11 7RE) / All Saints, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Parish Council Meeting	Last Tuesday in Month	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC☉
Bowls	Mondays	7 - 9pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)	
Community Hub	Wednesdays	12 – 2pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)	
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	2 – 4pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)	
Art Group	Wednesdays	2 – 4pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall (SS11 7RE)	
Pilots Youth Group	Wednesdays	6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall (SS11 7RE)	
Stained Glass Class	Wednesdays	6 – 8:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Caroline 07792 475085
Jazz at the Lodge	1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays	6:15 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper ★
Bellringing Practice	Wednesdays	8 – 9pm	All Saints Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Walking Group	Thursdays / Weekend	10am	Various	Sandie 01268 733259
Quiz Night (Cash prizes)	Thursdays	8pm	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY)	01245 523426
Coffee Morning	Fridays	10am – 11am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Raise Your Voice Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	Raise Your Voice Choir
Bingo at the Hall	Last Friday in the Month	7 for 7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)	
Fish Fridays (2 meals & 2 drinks for £30)	Fridays	Evenings	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY)	01245 523426 🛎
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in Month	7pm – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
Music Bingo	3 rd Saturday in the Month	Evenings	The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY)	01245 523426 🛎
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY				
Billy Bubba King	Saturday, 7 th February	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES every 3 weeks https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-mobile-and-home-library-services/mobile-libraries				
South Hanningfield Village Hall / Salforal Close	Tuesday	11:25am to 11:55am / 12:50pm to 1:20pm		9 th Dec, 20 th Jan, 10 th Feb
Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park	Thursday	3:10pm – 3:40pm / 15:50 – 16:20		11 th Dec, 22 nd Jan, 12 th Feb

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

★ <https://belvederejazz.co.uk/gigs/>

🛎 www.rettendonbell.com

☼ <https://www.battlesbridge.com/>

Contact the compiler to add events.



First Aid Courses 2026 Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP



Everyone should know how to do CPR and to use a defibrillator. **Why?** There is a need for quick response: immediate CPR can double survival chances and quick defibrillation within 3-5 minutes can increase survival rates dramatically.

We are planning some courses in the New Year, 2026. If you would like to attend please get in touch. At present no fixed dates as we need to know numbers. Either an all day course with extra tuition for signs of strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, and background to it all, or just CPR and Defibrillator use. Professional trainer with experience, personal knowledge and enthusiasm.

Barbara Wright, 01245 321554, barbara.wright@ecfaev.org

What game do horses play? Stable tennis!

How do you describe a rich elf? Welfy!

Who sings "Blue Christmas" and makes toy guitars? Elfis!

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees? Hornaments!



The latest edition of the newsletter can be found on the website: <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. Contributions can be emailed to RetBatNews@gmail.com, or by phone 01245 321554, or post at 55 East Hanningfield Rd.