



# RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Prepared & distributed by over 30 volunteers within the parish. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Rd, SS2 5QF  
Financed directly by residents and businesses in the area and with fund-raising events. **Issue number 443**  
Please note the views contained within are offered by individuals/organisations privately and not in conjunction with the compiler or the Rettendon and Battlesbridge Newsletter organisation.  
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 Country Music Club BILLY BUBBA KING

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

**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  
(picture taken from website)



## RETTENDON BOWLS CLUB MONDAYS

**Change of time to afternoons**  
from **2:30pm to 4:30pm**



**Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP**

Good exercise for all, friendly people, no age limit, beginners welcome. **Bring your own drink. £3 per session.**



## RETTENDON QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

7 for 7:30pm start

**Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP**

Teams of up to 6. £5 per person.  
Raffle. Teas/coffees and a few nibbles available - otherwise bring your own drink and nibbles.

Prizes for coming first and last!

Quiz will be in aid of the hall to help fund revitalising the Rettendon oak at the hall.

Get in touch with Hazel, our quiz-mistress, on 01245 401538 to book a table.



**First Aid Course 2026**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March,**

**from 9:30am till ~4:30pm**

**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 will have a day course, with extra tuition for signs of strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, and background to it all, but can adjust for some half-day CPR and Defibrillator use only. Professional trainer with experience, personal knowledge and enthusiasm.

If you would like to attend please get in touch. We need to know numbers to make sure it can go ahead.

Barbara Wright, 01245 321554, [barbara.wright@ecfaev.org](mailto:barbara.wright@ecfaev.org)



## WARM HUB

**Every Wednesday from 12 until 2pm**

In the cosy, warm

**Rettendon Memorial Hall committee room, CM3 8DP**

A chance to meet up with neighbours to exchange news, rumours and laughs.

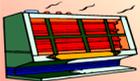
Heart-warming home-made soup with bread and butter on the menu along with tea, coffee, or even hot chocolate, and for afters there are various home-made and a few bought cakes.

Bring your own, share, whatever you like.

All provided free of charge by the **Hall Management Committee.**

All residents, friends and family welcomed.

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



## Rettendon Horticultural Society Coach Trips - 2026

The society are planning 2 trips this year.

**Chelworth Open Gardens on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

This is a small village with open gardens for everyone to enjoy. There are about 20 or so gardens to visit, pubs with entertainment, open garden cafes with home-made cakes, stalls with plants, etc. to buy and a parade of ancient and modern tractors. Well worth the visit.



**Wisley RHS garden on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

This is an affiliated visit so entry is free.

Please let Barbara Wright, secretary, know if you are interested on [RETHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RETHSsec@gmail.com) or 01245 321554 or in person when you see her.

Members will get a discount on the ticket price of £5 - the cost of membership for the year.

It is possible to add Hayes Country Park to the pick-up points.

Please note: If there are not enough to warrant cost of the coach either trip may be cancelled.

**Rettendon Memorial Hall - BINGO NIGHT -  
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February -7:30pm**

**Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP**

Raffle, Teas & coffees available or BYOD and nibbles.

**Organised for the community by  
the Hall Management Committee**

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

## The Richard Cannon Charity

A Charitable Trust to help people in need in Rettendon  
*Do you need some short - term financial help?*

*We are here to help you.*

From time to time the Trustees of the Charity have advised people living in the parish of its existence which in certain circumstances, has limited funds available to help needy local people.

If you are aware of any parish resident young or old who may need specific help then please contact me to see what may be done to assist. The Charity may contribute towards the cost of 'one off' special items but not rents, Council tax etc. Trustees will deal with all issues discreetly and in complete confidence.

Some ways in which we might be able to help:

- Grant towards repairing or replacing a broken boiler or cooker, or other essential household items
- Help after a break-in or theft
- Urgent repairs to your home to keep it secure and watertight
- Help towards a school educational visit or a training course
- Help with expenses for a job interview
- Help with school uniforms
- Help towards funeral expenses
- Equipment for a new baby
- ... if you have any other needs please get in touch. We may be able to help.

The Trust income arises from agricultural land which was left to the benefit of residents in the Rettendon and South Hanningfield parishes.

For more information and how to apply please contact **Sarah Copsey on 07900 520717**

## Rettendon Horticultural Society

It's the start of a new horticultural year but too early to really get going in the garden. However there are jobs that can be done such as tidying the greenhouse, sorting pots and planning for the season ahead.

Already snowdrops are showing and some early shrubs and trees have blossom. These are clear signs that Spring is round the corner.

We are already planning the Society's year. As usual we have three horticultural shows planned with some different classes to be entered, two coach outings and several talks which will now take place in the afternoon instead of the evening. More information about these events will be given in future newsletters.

Finally a reminder about rejoining the society. The subscription remains at £5 and this provides for reduction in the cost of coach trips and free entry to all talks.

### **John Bruty Chairperson**

Membership cards include the diary. Get in touch with Louise Johnson, the membership secretary, on [RHSmemSec@gmail.com](mailto:RHSmemSec@gmail.com). The latest cards have the corrections printed on them. We have found out that the Sweet Pea Open Day is on Saturday 27th June, the day before our coach outing to Chelworth open gardens. As the sweet peas are at Maldon this will be a car sharing trip. More on the trips in later issues of the newsletter and information will be on our website.

"Our Native Trees" is the first talk of the year on **Wednesday, 11th March at 2:30pm**. It will be given by Bill Godsafe of the Essex Wildlife Trust. We do hope you can join us and learn how to identify the trees around us. Should be inspiring to all to go out and look at the countryside around us. As usual there will be teas, coffees and cakes available and a raffle. It is free to members and £3 for non-members.

**The Spring show will be on Saturday, 11th April** and includes spring flowers, cookery, photograph and children's classes including the spring bonnet class which was so successful last year. We are hoping for more this year and will be engaging with the school for their input.

**School gardening** will start on Monday, 2nd March, after the spring half-term. Not long to go now. It is offered to all the children in the school on Monday lunchtimes. We will plant up the troughs and the pots outside the front door of the school and start looking after the raised beds and growing some vegetables and fruit. A chance for the children to learn how to grow plants from seed, bulbs and cuttings.

For more information about the society please contact Barbara Wright, secretary, on 01245 321554 or email [RetHSsec@gmail.com](mailto:RetHSsec@gmail.com).

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

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



Lennox Productions  
In aid of Lennox Children's Cancer Fund  
are proud to present...

# JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

**TOWNGATE THEATRE, BASILDON**  
<https://towngatetheatre.co.uk/lennox-joseph/>

6 performances from 10th June - 13th June  
In aid of Lennox Children's Cancer Charity (1011325)  
Website: <https://www.lennoxccf.org.uk/>  
Productions website: <https://www.lennoxccf.org.uk/get-involved/events/joseph>

## Garden Notes

Window sills glorious with the refugee plants - but can't clean the windows until they are repatriated from whence they came. Roll on Spring!

Must clip the gooseberry bushes before they get me.  
Happy days to come... **Mrs. McGregor**



Did you hear the story of the 3 holes? Well, well, well.  
What was Dr. Jekyll's favourite game? Hyde and Seek.  
Why did the flea fail his exams? He wasn't up to scratch.





## **Rettendon Memorial Village Hall (CM3 8DP)**

### **We do not blow our own trumpet enough!**

Rettendon Memorial Hall is well situated with some wonderful facilities including its own car park.

There is a full stage with curtains and new stage lighting which can be programmed as required. The stage is already used for live music every month with Ray and Dave's Country Music club, memorial events, variety shows, and rehearsals by Lennox Productions Drama Group, which is associated with Lennox Children's Cancer Charity.

Lennox are preparing for their main show of the year at the Towngate Theatre in Basildon in June: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" using the hall facilities to the full. We are also hopeful to have another of their productions at the hall in the coming months, similar to the "Old Tyme Music Hall" they so kindly performed for us.

A projector and screen system for talks, presentations and use for courses has now been fitted and is being used by our community groups. The sound system includes hand held and wireless microphones.

The floor is actually slightly sprung perfect for dancing and the hall has a music licence for recorded and live music of all sorts.

There are the community groups using the hall at various times, but room for more. We have Indoor Bowls, Community Hub, Bingo, the occasional Quiz, the Book and Jigsaw Swap room, Knit and Natter for crafting, and outside interest from Rettendon Horticultural society (our local gardening club), Country and Western Club and the Glass Workshop. We also have pop-up crafting at various times for those who want to do something special, and, of course, there are the First Aid courses to teach CPR and defibrillator use for saving lives. NOTE: The hall is one of the venues to have a defibrillator on the outside for emergency use.

The hall has full cooking facilities with a main cooker, microwave, kettles, all crockery and cutlery and a water heater for hot water for washing up. There are three sizes of tables, two "adult" sizes and children's tables with two sizes of chairs for adults and children.

We say "the hall" but actually there are several rooms to it. The main hall is the larger area with a smaller committee room off to the side which can be hired separately. The book/jigsaw swap room is behind the committee room and it can also be used to access the stage. There is a similar room, which houses the parish council records, the other side of the stage.

What more do you need in a hall? This is YOUR community hall - we would like everyone to use it!

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, please call the booking clerk to ensure your event is logged in the diary.

For information contact the hall secretary, Barbara Wright, email: [rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com), 01245 321554.

**Hall Management Committee**

## **Battlesbridge Free Church**

Hello Readers,

It will possibly be into February by the time this edition hits the news stands. At the risk of talking of what may seem like ancient history, I hope Christmas was good for you and you have had a good launch into 2026. For me, even hearing again the familiar Bible accounts of the birth of Jesus and singing familiar carols - Christmas 2025 seemed to have an extra kick of life and vitality about it.

Our children's group play was thought provoking and superbly well supported by parents, grandparents, relations and friends of the players.

Started on 22 Jan in our church hall we are doing a series of bible studies on the "I am" statements of Jesus, for example "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world". If you are even the smallest bit curious and would like to know more about this Jesus who we Christians bang on about, who He claims to be and is, then come along - 7.30 on Thursday evenings. Each study is separate so it doesn't matter if you've missed one or some. No previous knowledge or whatever is required. I would love to welcome you at those sessions.

Blessings to you.

**David Edwards**



## **LOWER BELL FIELDS ALLOTMENTS:**

Life on the allotments is quieter this time of year, but for the NHS plot, it is action as usual. A small team of staff and service users from the Mental Health Intensive Outreach Team continue to meet on site weekly. As well as growing produce and caring for their plot, they created a small wild life area where they feed the birds and built insect nesting boxes. Surplus produce is donated to the homeless and food banks, and the positive impact on those who come to the allotment as part of their treatment programme has been noticed by senior managers. As a result, the NHS are looking for other allotment sites where similar projects can be set up, and the team at Lower Bell Field have been recommended a Kings Award for the work they have achieved.

This is something to be proud of.

Meanwhile other plot holders are planning for the season ahead. The plots are currently fully occupied, but people's circumstances do change, so please get in touch if you would be interested in putting your name down on the waiting list or would like more information:

**Sandie Cottee** [sandie17@talktalk.net](mailto:sandie17@talktalk.net) mobile: 079415 39994



## **South Hanningfield St Patrick's Ceilidh Dance**

on Saturday, 14th March, doors will open from 7.00pm at South Hanningfield Village Hall CM3 8HL. The Yardarm Ceilidh Band will be in attendance, with a caller to show dancers the steps to the music. Tickets cost £8 per person and there will also be a Raffle. For further information and to book, email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) or phone 07891 653238.

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# Battlesbridge and Rettendon Events Diary - FEBRUARY 2026



| EVENT                  | DATE / DAY                           | TIME                            | VENUE   | ORGANISATION  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Essex Hot Five         | Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> February  | 6:20 – 10:45pm                  | Rettendon Lodge   | Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club  |
| Billy Bubba King       | Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February   | 7 – 11pm                        | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Ray & Dave's CMC  |
| Stow Maries re-opening | Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February    | STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME | <a href="https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/">https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/</a> |   |
| Jeff Hooper            | Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February | 6:20 – 10:45pm                  | Rettendon Lodge   | Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club  |
| Rettendon Quiz Night   | Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February    | 7pm                             | Rettendon Memorial Hall Management Committee                                |   |
| PMRGCA UK Meeting      | February TBC                         | 2pm                             | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Pat 07733 36373 <a href="mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk">mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk</a> |

## 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 ☒                  |
| School Gardening Club                     | Mondays from 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                       | Lunchtime      | Rettendon Primary School  | Rettendon Hort. Soc.            |
| Bowls                                     | Mondays  | 2:30 – 4:30pm  | Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)                               |                                 |
| Community Hub                             | Wednesdays   | 12 – 2pm       | Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)                               |                                 |
| Knit and Natter                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays             | 6:20 – 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)                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in the Month | 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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in Month                        | 7pm – 11pm     | Rettendon Memorial Hall   | Ray & Dave's CMC                |
| Music Bingo                               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the Month                    | Evenings       | The Bell & Chimes, Rettendon (CM3 8DY) 01245 523426 ☎           |                                 |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|  |                                   |  |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Ian Highland   | Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March   | 7 – 11pm                               | Rettendon Memorial Hall  | Ray & Dave's CMC      |
| Our Native Trees   | Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March | 2:30pm                                 | Rettendon Memorial Hall  | Rettendon Hort. Soc.  |
| St Patrick's Ceilidh Dance   | Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March  | 7pm                                    | South Hanningfield Village Hall (CM3 8HL)                        |                       |
| First Aid Course   | Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March    | 9:30am ~ 4:30pm                        | Rettendon Memorial Hall  | Rettendon PC + ECFAEV |
| <b>MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES 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                           | 11:25am to 11:55am / 12:50pm to 1:20pm | 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> March |                       |
| Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park   | Thursday                          | 3:10pm – 3:40pm / 3:50pm – 4:20pm      | 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> March |                       |

☒ Check website: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>  
 ☎ [www.rettendonbell.com](http://www.rettendonbell.com) ★ <https://belvederejazz.co.uk/gigs/> Contact the compiler to add events.

### Rettendon Parish Council

Minutes and agendas for meetings can be found on the website: <https://www.rettendon-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings-minutes/>

The public are given 15 minutes (no one person to speak longer than 5 mins) to speak at the start of each meeting.

**February meeting is Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**

**Contact details for the RPC Clerk:** Mrs. Emma Terris, Email: [clerk@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rettendon-pc.gov.uk), Phone: 07852 138878

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

### Rettendon Parish Councillors:

Cllr. Joe Parsad (Chairman) [cllrjfparsad@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjfparsad@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
 Cllr. Paul Chandler [cllrpchandler@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrpchandler@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
 Cllr. Hazel Dale-Evans [cllrhdale-evans@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhdale-evans@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
 Cllr. Dianne Francombe [cllrdfrancombe@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdfrancombe@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
 Cllr. Roy Hart [cllrrhart@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrrhart@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
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 Cllr. Dave Phillips [cllrdphillips@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdphillips@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)  
 Cllr. Barbara Wright [cllrbwright@rettendon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrbwright@rettendon-pc.gov.uk)

### PMRGCA MEETING - February, 2026

**Are you affected by Polymyalgia Rheumatica and/or Giant Cell Arteritis ?**

The Chelmsford & Southend Group meet at Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP.

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

Family, friends and carers welcome to attend too.

Meeting in February, but no date yet. Want to know more? Please get in touch with **Pat Fedi. Tel: 07733 362373 or Email: [southend@pmrgca.org.uk](mailto:southend@pmrgca.org.uk)**

Laugh with Tim Vine.....

I met a leech who was buying a Valentine's card. He was a sucker for romance.

I'm colour blind but it doesn't stop me enjoying life. The other night I saw "Joseph and His Amazing Brown Coat". It was great.

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](mailto:RetBatNews@gmail.com), or by phone 01245 321554, or post at 55 East Hanningfield Rd.