



RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

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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, by 18th of the month

Book and Clothing Sale

All Saints Church, Rettendon, CM3 8DR

10am -12pm

Fri March 6th

&

Sat March 7th



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**PROCEEDS TOWARDS
RESTORATION OF THE
HUMFREY MEMORIAL**



Ray and Dave's Country Music Club Saturday, 7th March, 2026

IAN HIGHLAND

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: <http://www.ianhighland.com/gallery.php>)

Rettendon Horticultural Society

"Our Native Trees"

Bill Godsafte - Essex Wildlife
Trust

Wednesday, 11th March, 2:30pm
All Welcome

Teas/coffees, home-made cakes & raffle.

Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP

Members free, non-members £3

Barbara Wright, Secretary, 01245 321554, email:

rethssec@gmail.com



Great British Spring Clean Love Where You Live

Saturday 14th March from 9am

Rettendon Parish Council is organising a litter pick and would like residents to help clear up their area.

Litter pickers, bags and hi-vis vests will be provided by RPC and the rubbish will be collected by Chelmsford City Council.

Please contact Hazel Dale-Evans, 01245 401538, to register and find out which areas need special love and care.

PS - If you prefer the Sunday, or another time during the weekend, please let Hazel know which area and when and she can arrange for you to get the pickers and bags.



LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS

WELCOME!

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8pm

£5 PER PERSON

**COME DOWN AND TRY OUT
LINE DANCING!**

Rettendon Memorial Hall,
Main Road, Chelmsford,
CM3 8DP

CONTACT NIKI ON : 07403 383585



First Aid Course 2026

Monday 16th 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 with **Barbara Wright**, 01245 321554, barbara.wright@ecfaev.org

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 or phone 07891 653238.

Rettendon Memorial Hall - BINGO NIGHT - Friday, 27th March -7:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP

Raffle, Teas or Coffees available
or BYOD and nibbles.

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



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

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RETTENDON
 The Bishop of Bradwell will take the service on **Sunday, 22nd March at 10am.**



Battlesbridge Antiques Centre
 We would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre at Battlesbridge Antique Centre which raised £2,298.59 for Little Havens Hospice. We will holding another fayre this Christmas and will let you know further details later.

BATTLESBRIDGE QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 25th April, 2026

7 for 7:30pm start

You are warmly welcomed to join us at Battlesbridge Free Church on Saturday 25 April for our celebrated quiz night. Entry is £5, payable on the night. Teams of up to eight people and at half-time there will be tea and coffee available and also a raffle.

All proceeds will be used for the maintenance of the church.

Get those brain cells firing on all cylinders and come and have some fun.

Concert at
ALL SAINTS CHURCH RETTENDON

Featuring the Czech soprano

Eva Romanakova

Accompanied by *Andrew Palmer*



Join us for a memorable performance in this wonderful setting of All Saints. Whatever your passion in music, there will be something for you and everyone, from opera to show tunes and everything in between.



Tickets £10, available in advance or on the day. Refreshments available.

To book in advance please contact:

allsaints.rettendon.pcc@gmail.com

Or message via Facebook:

All Saints Church Rettendon
Easter Monday - 6th April - 2.30pm

Rettendon Horticultural Society
Coach Trips - 2026

Chelsworth Open Gardens on Sunday, 28th June.

Wisley RHS garden on Saturday, 19th September.

This is an affiliated visit so entry is free.

Contact Barbara Wright, secretary, to book a place on RETHSsec@gmail.com or 01245 321554 or in person when you see her. Price in later issues.

Pick-up points: The Rettendon Bell, Village bus stop and Hayes Country Park.

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

Rettendon Horticultural Society

It was the wettest January on record and February appears to be heading the same way with endless rain. It's clearly too soon to be thinking about venturing into the garden. However Spring is now showing signs of arriving with some shrubs blooming, snowdrops in full bloom and the first daffodils opening.

If you have a greenhouse a start can be made on sowing some seeds. There are some seeds that need an early start so it's wise to check the sowing instructions. Now is a good time to sow sweet peas and broad beans.

We have two events planned in the next couple of months. On **Wednesday 11th March** we have a **talk** being given by **Bill Godsafe who is the warden at Hanningfield Reservoir**. Bill is very knowledgeable about native trees and that will be the subject of the talk. No doubt he will also be happy to touch on the reservoir as well. In view of the low attendance at our evening talks this talk will start at **2.30 at Rettendon Village Hall**. Members go free and it's £3 for non members.

On the **Saturday 11th April** we have our **Spring show** at the village hall starting at **2pm**. Entries between 8 and 10.30am. This is a great opportunity to come along and see a good display of Spring flowers at their best. There are classes for photography, cake making and various children's classes including Easter bonnets. Please try to come along for a catch up with friends over a cup of tea and home made cake.

John Bruty Chairperson

School Gardening starting on Monday, 2nd March, with bulb and seed planting and the heaviest crop of potatoes competition for the classes. We are also hoping the school children will provide some Spring Show Easter bonnets - so successful last year. Addition of a class for painted stones - another popular pastime.

The **Sweet Pea Open Day** is on **Saturday 27th June**, near Maldon - local so car sharing.

Chelsworth Open Gardens coach trip on **Sunday, 28th June**. This village is well worth seeing with about 20 open gardens, a tractor parade, Morris dancers and other attractions. We will pick-up at Hayes Country Park as well as the Bell and Village.

More on the trips in later issues of the newsletter and information will be on our website.

For more information please contact Barbara Wright, secretary, on 01245 321554 or email RetHSsec@gmail.com.

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

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

Garden Notes

Grabbing moments of weather windows to do a bit of tidying. Really want to plot a generation of plantlets to inspire the nurturing instinct. Will be glad to rehome the houseplants too. Must clean windows!

Greenery is all go - **Mrs. McGregor**

Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)

We are finally having fibre broadband fitted to the hall ("at long last" I hear you murmur). Should be with us in March. This is a facility which we have long wanted but have had hiccups providing, not least the cost per month, which of course, is ongoing, (and the fact that apparently, although we receive post, the hall was not a registered postal address!) However, we are mindful of all the groups who would like to actually use their mobile phones in the hall - so are providing this at the hall's expense. So PLEASE use it!



We are also pleased to announce a new weekly class of Beginners Line Dancing on a Wednesday from 6:30 to 8pm, taken by a local trainer. Advert on the front page. Contact Niki Cooper on 07403 383585 if you would like to know more, or go along and see if she still has space. I have heard it is popular.

Obviously the normal regular sessions are still going ahead:

Short Mat Bowls Club on MONDAYS

The bowls group have decided to change their time to day time for the convenience of all. Time is now 2:30 to 4:30pm. Anyone who would like to attend the cost is a mere £3, to cover the hire of the hall. Bring your own drinks, though there are kettles cups, mugs or glasses available to use.



Good exercise for all, friendly people, no age limit, beginners welcome.

Country and Western on the first Saturday of the month (a chance to show off your new found skill!)

Parish Council meetings on the last Tuesday of the month

Rettendon Horticultural Society events are now a bit more variable. The committee meet on a Tuesday evening in the committee room, non-committee members are welcome. We have trips out and about with either car sharing or coach. Talks are being tried on Wednesdays after the community hub - we will see how it goes. Then the shows and the plant sale are on Saturdays - a chance to have tea/coffee and cake with neighbours or friends at a reasonable cost.

The **Community Hub** is thriving on a Wednesday lunchtime in between 12 and 2pm - all for free.

With the addition of the **Knit and Natter on the 1st and 3rd** Wednesdays in the month (minimal cost for tea/coffee and the hall). These are both in the committee room to keep it cosy and warm in the winter.

Caroline holds her **Stained Glass Working** in the committee room from 6 to 8:30pm. Contact her for more details on 07792 475085.

Due to the change in times of the bowls club it means that there is space on Monday evenings for a regular event. If you would like to hire the hall for this or for parties or any other events, please contact 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.

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

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

Hall Management Committee

Battlesbridge Free Church

At our church we have an art group which meets every Wednesday afternoon. My own artistic endeavours are very limited and my only usual involvement with the group has been to ferry my mum, Rachel the group leader and her friend Ruth to and from the church hall. The last couple of Wednesdays I have stayed for the session. Apart from the tremendous skills and creativity on display, I was struck by the friendship, appreciation, encouragement being shared freely among the group. I am so glad the art group falls in line in that respect. Friendship, appreciation and encouragement run through every aspect of the life of our little church which I have observed and are freely available to you to join in with.



We are about to start a prayer group which, you might describe as tapping into the friendship and encouragement of Jesus Himself. If you would like us to pray with you or for you or for people or issues giving you concern, please let me know. 01268761727, djflf1@outlook.com.

Bless you.

David Edwards

The Hall Management Committee bring you: The WARM WELL-BEING HUB At Rettendon Memorial Hall (CM3 8DP)



**Every Wednesday in the committee room
from 12 until 2pm**

Be waited upon for an hour or two, or help out if you want, feed on warming home-made soup in the company of family, friends and neighbours. All provided by the **Hall Management Committee** and free of charge.

There is bread and butter to go with the soup, and after (or before) tea, coffee and cakes, or even hot chocolate. We accommodate wheelchairs and carers too.

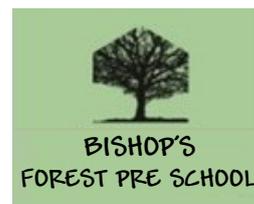
If you prefer bring your own, or share with others.

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



Bishop's Forest Pre School

Led by experienced and passionate staff on our 10 acre site in Rettendon Common, our Froebel-inspired, term time Forest Pre School for 3 - 5 year olds values curiosity, connections and the wonder that comes from learning outdoors.

hello@bishopsforestschoo.co.uk

Call: 07729 624222

Church Easter Services

Good Friday, 3rd April

Stations of the Cross service

at St Thomas, Hullbridge at 10am

Stations of the Cross service

at St Nicholas Rawreth at 2pm

Good Friday reflections at All Saints at 2pm.

Easter Sunday Eucharist 11.15 as normal at All Saints.



Rettendon and Battlesbridge Events Diary - MARCH 2026



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
T J Johnson Quintet	Wednesday, 4 th March	6:20 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper★
Book & Clothing Sale	Friday, 6 th March	10am – 12pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Book & Clothing Sale	Saturday, 7 th March	10am – 12pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Ian Highland	Saturday, 7 th March	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
Our Native Trees	Wednesday, 11 th March	2:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Great British Spring Clean	Saturday, 14 th March	9am	Meet at Hall Car Park	Hazel 01245 401538 RPC
St Patrick's Ceilidh Dance	Saturday, 14 th March	7pm	South Hanningfield Village Hall (CM3 8HL)	
First Aid Course	Monday, 16 th March	9:30am ~ 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC + ECFAEV
Neighbour/Stringle/Vinton	Wednesday, 18 th March	6:20 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper★
Service by Bishop of Bradwell	Sunday, 22 nd March	10am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	

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 nd 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 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
Beginner's Line Dancing	Wednesdays	6:30 – 8pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Contact Niki on 07403 383585
Jazz at the Lodge	1 st & 3 rd 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 st & 3 rd 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)	
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

Good Friday Stations of the Cross	Friday, 3 rd April	10am	St Thomas Church, Hullbridge,	
Stations of the Cross Service	Friday, 3 rd April	2pm	St Nicholas Church, Rawreth	
Good Friday Reflections	Friday, 3 rd April	2pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Easter Sunday Eucharist	Sunday, 5 th April	11:15am	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Easter Monday Concert	Monday, 6 th April	2:30pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Spring Show - Entries	Saturday, 11 th April	8am – 10:30am	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Spring Show	Saturday, 11 th April	2 – 4:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Saturday, 25 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE)	

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	3 rd & 24 th March, 14 th April
Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park	Thursday	3:10pm – 3:40pm / 3:50pm – 4:20pm	5 th & 26 th March, 16 th April

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

📞 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.

March meeting is Tuesday, 31st at 7:30pm.

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/>

Gas cylinders are dangerous

- Chelmsford are happy to take these nitrous oxide cannisters BUT..... **DO NOT PUT IN YOUR BINS!**
Put beside your black bin - we have successfully passed on many like this, as the products of litter picking.

CHELMSFORD PLUMBING & HEATING

Boiler installations/servicing/repairs
Plumbing repairs/maintenance
Electrical services (NICEIC certs)
Air conditioning and renewables

A trustworthy family run business specialising in Gas, Oil, LPG, Electrical, Plumbing, Air-con and Renewables

Chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk

sales@chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk



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.