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

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.
Easter Sunday Service 11am at Battlesbridge Free Church



Rettendon Horticultural Society

SPRING SHOW 2026

Saturday, 11th April

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

8 - 10:30am for entries, 10:30am judging

Classes with plenty of scope for everyone, including children's classes. Stewards or members on hand to guide you for exhibiting.

Schedule can be found on the website at:-

<https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/assets/documents/springschedule26>

Viewing 2 - 4:30pm

Why not come for your afternoon tea, coffee and cake. Chat to neighbours and friends. See the lovely spring flowers, photos and children's bonnets. **All welcome.**

We will be having a seed swop and pots and gardening bits for donations.

Information from **Barbara Wright, Secretary,**
tel: 01245 321554 email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club
Saturday, 4th April, 2026



Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm

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

Live Music: Listen, Dance, Enjoy!

No bar - BYOD ☼ Tea/Coffee & FOOD available

Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118

Concert at

ALL SAINTS CHURCH RETTENDON

Featuring the Czech soprano

Eva Romanakova

Accompanied by *Andrew Palmer*

We have managed to persuade this lovely voice to come back with other melodies for everyone to enjoy. 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](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchRettendon)

Easter Monday - 6th April - 2.30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall - BINGO NIGHT

Friday, 24th April -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/>



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.



South Hanningfield Village Hall

St George's Day 25.04.26 event

We have booked Tom Carradine musical act for Saturday, 25th April, doors will open from 7pm. Tickets are £15 each and bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will also be a Raffle!

To book, please call Sandra on 07396 546050 or email shvhall@gmail.com

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

Start spring planting early and come and see what you can find at **Battlesbridge Free Church** on **Monday 4 May 2026 from 10.00 - 12.30** to help you on your way.

We are holding our usual plant sale; there will be a good choice of plants and at the same time we will be serving refreshments and home-made cakes. Come and have a cuppa and a chat.

All proceeds will go towards maintaining the church.

We'll put in a request for good weather and we look forward to seeing you.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

Saturday, 9th May 10:30am till 12:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

Come and buy!

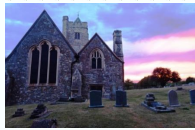
Money raised will support the Village Show.

Tea, coffee and home-made cakes, raffle, and the plants! Lots of them! Flowers, vegetables, indoor, outdoor - find that plant for the space in your garden. (cash or card accepted)

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

All Saints Church

Thank you to everyone who supported the book and clothes sale on Saturday 7th March, when £250 was raised towards restoration of the Humfrey memorial. In addition, we have recently had confirmation of £5000 in grant funding, which, thanks to other donations and fundraising, at the time of writing means there is over £11000 in the kitty.



April 5th is Easter Sunday and all are welcome to come and celebrate with us at 11.15 as we commemorate Jesus' resurrection.

The church will not be hosting an "open day" on Easter Monday as we have done in recent years, but there will be a **concert with the amazing Eva Romanakova**. Some of you will have heard her before, but she's well worth a second (or third!) listen. She puts on a great show, so don't miss it if you can possibly avoid it. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Gale or Lyn, or just turn up on the day; 2.30pm, £10 pp. Refreshments will be available.

May will be a busy month as on **16th All Saints will be hosting a heritage trail jointly with St Mary's, Runwell & St Nicholas, Rawreth**. There will be displays and artefacts on view and stewards will be around to answer any questions and (of course) serve light refreshments between 10am - 4pm. Just start at the church of your choice and take it from there.

And on 25th (Bank Holiday Monday) All Saints will be open in the traditional way from 10.30am - 3.00pm, with refreshments and things to buy!

Lyn & Gale (Churchwardens)

Rettendon Horticultural Society

At last the sun has shone and it's really starting to feel that Spring has arrived. The hedgerows are full of frothy white blossom and gardens alive with daffodils and Spring flowers. Seed sowing is in full swing and thoughts are on what to grow this year. It's always worth trying something a bit different to find out if it suits your growing conditions.

Our recent afternoon talk was a success with 20 people attending. As this was well received we will certainly consider running further talks in the afternoon.

Our next event is the **Spring Show** in the village hall on **Saturday 11th April at 2 o'clock**. Exhibits can be staged from 8.00 until 10.30. The schedule is available on our website <https://e-voice.org/rethortsoc/>. You do not need to be a member to enter the show.

On **Saturday 9th May** we will have our **plant sale**. Local nurseries support this event by letting us have lots of plants enabling us to sell the plants at very competitive prices. We rely on the profit from the plant sale to fund the cost of hiring the marquee at the our Summer Village Show in July so please come along and spend lots of money!

John Bruty, Chairperson

Spring brings lovely flowers and it is time to start your gardens off. As most seed packets have too many seeds for one garden, we are having a seed swop at the spring show. So bring seeds, or find the ones you want. (We can provide packets for them).

Secretary email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

LOWER BELL FIELD ALLOTMENTS

The allotment site in Rettendon gives precedence to those who live in the parish and we have received news that one of the plot holders is sadly unable to continue. This means we currently have a vacancy and the plot comes with raised beds and some established plants. There is a supportive community of members who are happy to share experience and help, as well as plants and produce. Allotment members are also part of the village community, with many taking part in the annual village shows and other horticultural society events.

Allotment plots are sought after and there is a 9 year waiting list in South Woodham Ferrers, so if you have ever considered growing your own food and eating more healthily, please get in touch for more information. The allotment community offers a warm welcome to new members and if now is not the right time, we are happy to put your name on the waiting list for future vacancies. Please contact Sandie for more information or to express interest.

Sandie: 07941 539994

sandie17@talktalk.net

(Thanks to Tim Vine)

What do you call an amphibian who never goes out? Hermit the frog.
I've got an abacus made of polos on a piece of string. I use it to work out menthol arithmetic.
I'll tell you what gets overlooked - garden fences.



Litter Pick Report - Spring 2026

Congratulations to all those who braved the traffic on the weekend of 14th/15th March. The weather held for us and the haul was 41 bags of litter and 34 gas canisters assembled at the Village Hall, ready for collection.



Since most residents will usually clear their own road frontages (well done to them) this rubbish was mostly collected from field sides and hedges where it had been thrown from cars, much exposed by the spring hedge cutting.

Problem sites can be reported to the council for special clearance.

Got full bags? - put by your black bin at the next collection! Place gas canisters separately - we do not want them in the lorry.

Thank you Rettendon, this has been a brilliant result.

Local contact Hazel 01245 401538

On Monday the bags and gas canisters were collected by Chelmsford City Council Waste Department, who were extremely surprised by the amount collected. Rettendon was thanked by them for doing such a good job.

So pat yourselves on the back if you helped.



Battlesbridge Free Church

Greetings Readers,

Yipee, it's springtime! After the winter, all around us the trees and bushes are going mad with new life - buds and blossom by the tree and bush load. Marsh Farm (bit pricey if you ask me) is well worth a visit to see the lambs being born and hopping around in the first hours and days of their new little lives... aaahh! There's more... more minutes of daylight, more chocolate dressed up and vaguely shaped like eggs and bunnies and whatever. Then there are the hot cross buns!

Enjoy all that to the max. but don't sell yourselves short. All that new life and wonderfulness is going on around us. I speak as I have found. New life and wonderfulness can be a profound inner experience, accessible by getting our heads, souls and lives around the Roman execution on a cross of Jesus of Nazareth and Him walking from his tomb in triumphant new life a couple of days later. Happy springtime. Happy Easter!

David Edwards

Exit signs, they're on the way out. (Tim Vine one-liners)
I went on a holiday with my horse - it was self-catering.
So this cowboy walked into a German car showroom. He said "Audi".



Litter - Incidentally

Dropped litter costs money to clear up, and is a criminal offence for which you can be fined. If we all put litter in the bins it would help wildlife, the environment and your own pockets by reducing money spent by the council picking up all the litter dropped carelessly.

Fly tipping costs even more money to clear up - and fly tippers can be sent to prison as well as fined.

Fly tipping can be reported on the council website:-
<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/street-problem-report/report-fly-tipping/>

Rettendon Memorial Hall

WiFi at the hall has been installed with a "Hall-Guest". The WiFi is secure with password for all hirers at no extra cost.

We are continuing maintenance and looking at what else we can supply for our hirers. We are trying to update the hall as far as we can. Any ideas are welcome. Email the secretary, Barbara Wright, at rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com.

At present Monday evenings are free for regular hires. The Bowls group have moved to Monday afternoons which is proving a popular move.

We have Lennox Productions Drama Group coming on Tuesdays and Thursdays and some Saturdays and Sundays while they gear up towards their crescendo of staging "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" at the Towngate Theatre in Basildon. Tickets available on the Towngate website: <https://towngatetheatre.co.uk/lennox-joseph/>. 6 performances from 10th June to 13th June with 2 matinees.

Wednesdays are busy with Community Hub in the committee room followed on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month with Knit and Natter. In the evenings there is the Beginners Line Dancing between 6:30 and 8pm, and the committee room has Caroline with her stained glass group.

Friday evenings are a mix with Quizzes, Bingo and anything else for fund-raising.

Saturdays has the regular Country and Western spot on the 1st Saturday in the month. Live music for dancing or to listen to. Still going strong, we are pleased to know.

Meanwhile Saturdays and Sundays are beginning to be booked up for events and private parties. Book early to avoid disappointment.

For booking phone our Booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, on 01245 400297. Booking forms are online.

For more information on the hall email the secretary, Barbara Wright, at rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Hall Management Committee

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

Rettendon Parish Council

Bus Shelter, Woodham Road: Yes, the Parish Council are aware it has been damaged and are in the process of claiming on insurance and getting it repaired.

Noticeboards: These are on the agenda for improved signage in the village with some maps of the parish.

Potholes and fly tipping: These are reported when seen, but we encourage all residents to report them online at <https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>.

Rettendon and Battlesbridge Events Diary - APRIL 2026



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Derek Nash's Picante Latin Band	Wednesday, 1 st April	6:20 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper★
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)	
Spinning Wheel	Saturday, 4 th April	7 - 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
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.
Rag & Bone Club	Wednesday, 15 th April	6:20 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper★
Bingo Night	Friday, 24 th April	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Village Hall	
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Saturday, 25 th April	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE)	
South Hann. St. Georges Day	Saturday, 25 th April	7pm	South Hanningfield Village Hall	

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	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
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

Best of Friends	Saturday, 2 nd May	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
Bulldog Bonanza	Sunday, 3 rd May	10am	Battlesbridge Antiques ☞	Edward Foundation
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale	Monday, 4 th May	10am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Saturday 9 th May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Visit to Ulting Wick Gardens	Tuesday, 12 th May	10:30am	Car Sharing	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Churches Heritage Trail	Saturday, 16 th May	10am – 4pm	All Saints' Church, St. Mary's, Runwell & St. Nicholas, Rawreth	
All Saints' Church Open Day	Monday, 25 th May	10:30am – 3:00pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
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	14 th April, 5 th & 26 th May	
Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park	Thursday	3:10pm – 3:40pm / 3:50pm – 4:20pm	16 th April, 7 th & 28 th May	

☒ 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.

RETTENDON PARISH COUNCIL contact details

Emma Terris, Parish Council Clerk tel: 07852 138878
 Email: clerk@rettendon-pc.gov.uk
 The Parish council website is: <https://www.rettendonpc.org.uk/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>

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

Garden Notes

Riot of daffodils for Mother's Day!
 And everything else in between!
 What a smashing year for our plants!
 Must get Dahlias going quick or I'll have gaps.
 Love it - Mrs. McGregor



So I went down the local shop. I said, "I'm looking for a sailor with one arm." He said, "It's not me – I'm a wholesaler." (Tim Vine) 🗣️

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.