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

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club
Saturday, 2nd May 2026

BEST OF FRIENDS

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

(picture from Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Best-Friends-Musical-Duo-100063707520065/>)



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)

There will be a variety of seeds to take home if you want, some maybe out-of-date but just put in more of them and hope.

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



Rettendon Memorial Hall - BINGO NIGHT
Friday, 29th May -7:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP

Raffle, Tea/Coffee available or BYOD and nibbles.

Organised for the community by the Hall Management Committee

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

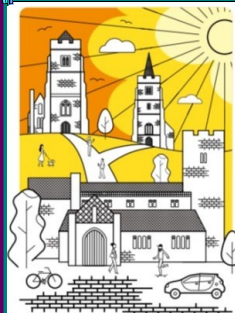
Rettendon Parish Meeting - for RESIDENTS

Tuesday, 12th May starting at 7:30pm

Rettendon Memorial Hall, CM3 8DP

Your chance to have your say.....

- * What do you want the Parish Council to do?
 - * Are there any issues which need looking into?
 - * Have you got any queries for the Council?
- The council may not be able to answer at once, but whatever is brought up will be looked into and a reply made.
- Unable to make it but have a query or comment? Lodge it with the clerk by email at clerk@rettendon-pc.gov.uk or tel: 07852 138878.



All Saints' Church, Rettendon, St. Mary's Church, Runwell and St. Nicholas' Church, Rawreth

will be hosting the launch of the

3 R's History Trail.

On Saturday, 16th May, 2026, between 10am - 4pm

Each church is unique with its own history, and we welcome you to come and find out more. Visit our churches and see for yourself.

Rev. Steve Lissenden

There will be displays and artefacts on view and stewards will be around to answer any questions and (of course) serve light refreshments. Just start at the church of your choice and take it from there.

Lyn & Gale (Churchwardens)

All Saints' Church, CM3 8DR
OPEN DAY

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May, 2026

10:30am- 3:00pm

in the traditional way with refreshments and things to buy!



Tea, coffee, cake, light lunches, Gifts, Raffle, and more.

Lyn & Gale (Churchwardens)

Please contact Gale Fogg for more details, or if you can help on the day.

Email: Allsaints.rettendon.pcc@gmail.com



Saturday 9th May
from 3pm
with music from 5pm

Dickie Does VE Day

With a traditional tea party raising money for armed forces veterans & 1940's fancy dress



A date for your diary!!
VE celebrations
on **Saturday 9th May from 3pm at The One Green Bottle, Battlesbridge.**

We will be raising money for armed forces veterans starting with a 1940's themed tea party, fancy dress & a raffle.

We are asking for a £5 donation towards the food (if anyone would like to bring some food to share that would be amazing & any raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated).

Then at 5pm we will have Dickie Does the 40's whilst we will be rattling the charity buckets all night long !!



Rettendon Cricket Club

Cricket season is upon us and RCC are now in full swing. Mid-week, Saturday and Sunday leagues.



The cricket field is behind the Memorial

Hall, go around the hall and to the gate at the back. All welcome to go and watch. Weekend games start at 1pm, with mid-week games on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

Children's cricket with the All Stars & Dynamos Cricket at Rettendon Cricket Club!

If you fancy being part of our club contact us on Social Media or contact Chris on 07545425574

https://www.facebook.com/rettendoncricketclub/?locale=en_GB

PLANT SALE

Market Square South Woodham Ferrers

Saturday 23rd May 10.00-3.00

Raising funds for



Alzheimer's Society

See you there (PS cash only please)
plantsforthememory@gmail.com

If any one finds themselves with surplus bedding, perennial, house plants or shrubs, would they be willing to donate them for the sale?

I am happy to collect any donations, just give me a call on the number below, or someone can collect at the hall Knit & Natter.

BEWARE IF YOU ARE USING THE PARK & RIDE!

You may know there have been some changes to the Sandon P&R service. Don't get caught out by catching the wrong bus though.

First bus are now operating the service using DOUBLE DECKERS which are available within the car park by the office. However the old single deckers which belong to ECC are operating a shuttle bus service from the bus stop outside the site, but parking is NOT included - you have to pay separately if your ticket is for this service and the ticket will be checked at the barrier.

So, make sure you get on the First Bus branded double deckers.

Why was the cemetery crowded? Because people are dying to get in.
Which hard molluscs have a secret handshake? Masonry snails.
Which composer was good at opening doors? Handel.



Rettendon Horticultural Society

We had a couple of frosts this past week so just hold off planting out tender plants for a little longer. If you are growing potatoes make sure they are protected as they emerge otherwise they will be damaged by a sharp frost.

Our Spring show on the 11th April was a success with lots of good exhibits and visitors enjoying a social afternoon. However it was disappointing that, despite there being monetary and chocolate prizes and a cup to be won we did not have a single children's entry. This was most likely due to the show taking place during the school holiday and this is something that we will have to address next year.

There is no hiding the fact that the Society has an aging membership and if it is to continue into the future it is important that we encourage young people to take an interest in the joy of gardening.

Our next event is the ever popular plant sale on Saturday 9th May at the village hall running from 10:30 to 12.30. Some local nurseries supply us with lots of plants at low cost which means that we can sell the plants at very reasonable prices. This is our main fundraiser to help with the cost of hiring the marquee for the Summer show so please come along and spend lots of money!

We have a really excellent coach trip to Chelsworth Open Gardens in June. See the separate notice for details.

John Bruty, Chairperson

Chelsworth Coach Trip

Still time to book a place with us. Call the secretary, who will be after people for their deposits very soon.

Summer show - Open planning meeting.

With summer fast approaching, though the weather could do with brightening up, we will have our open meeting for summer show planning on Tuesday, 16th June at 7:30pm. Can't make it? If you would like to help please get in touch. We need help with setting up, help on the day with stalls, stewards to take the judges around (you get to see the exhibits before anyone else!), and a couple of tea/coffee takers to stall holders. We can also offer space for stalls. We try and ensure no two stalls are the same.

NOTE: Summer show schedules are already online at <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/assets/documents/summerschedule26> and a paper copy is included in this newsletter. No excuses not to enter!

Barbara Wright, Secretary, phone 01245 321554
email: RetHSsec@gmail.com

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

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Battlesbridge Free Church



With league titles, relegation issues and the FA cup in the balance, the performance of football teams over the last few games of the season is crucial. Teams need to gel. Individual players need to be comfortable and able to express themselves in the positions and roles that managers have given them, and not end up frustrated. The managers need to set up teams which make the best use of the skills of the players then inspire, encourage and empower them to exercise those skills. I think we are a lot like those players. We want to be in situations and amongst people where we can exercise our skills and personalities and not be frustrated, where being ourselves is the requirement.

I am told that Messrs Guardiola and Arteta are decent managers(!), knowing their players and building them into very effective teams. I believe there is one infinitely better than them, almighty God. He knows me better than I will ever know myself. Having put my life into His hands I have been led by Him into a situation, especially in relation to church, where I can exercise such skills as I have, where being me seems to work! It is glorious to see many others in our church exercising their skills and personalities for the benefit of the whole as well. Square pegs, round holes? No, God seems to have carved a hole the right shape for me to slot into and I am so thankful. It is my belief that He really wants to do the same for you too.

David Edwards



Visit to Ulting Wick Garden

Tuesday, May 12th, meet at Hall car park at **9:45am**, for **10:30am** visit. This is a car sharing event, organised by Rettendon Horticultural Society, but if you would like to come and are not a member please let us know.

Cost is £7:50 for the garden entrance.
Contact Sandie Cottee on 01268 733259.



Rettendon Horticultural Society

Chelsworth Open Gardens Coach Trip on Sunday, 28th 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.



Cost will be £30 including entry fee. We will ask for a deposit of £15 per person. Coach pick-up points will be the Bell pub, Rettendon village bus stop and Hayes Country Park.

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

Members will get a discount on the ticket price.

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

Rettendon Horticultural Society SPRING SHOW 2026 RESULTS

We seemed to be busy all the time and missed giving out the results at the end. The cups will be awarded at the Summer show.

Spring show Tray, awarded for most points in sections A - E, awarded to John Bruty.

Rosette for best exhibit: Gabrielle Church

Spring show Rose Bowl, awarded for most points in sections I - H, awarded to Barbara Wright

Chairman's Challenge Cup (for the daffodil grown from the bulb given out at the A.G.M) awarded to Paul Wright.

We would like to thank everyone for coming and to let you know that we made a small profit for our funds.

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

Garden Notes

We are now in a state of colour confusion. The yellow perils have faded and been replaced by rich blue - those foreign bluebells favoured for serving as hats for fairies. Dug then up last year and they have responded by spreading wildly. Also - there are far more tulips than I was responsible for planting.

Well I never - life is a mystery. **Mrs. McGregor**

What do deaf fishmongers use? Herring aids.
What kind of snakes are useful on a car? Vipers.
Do men always snore? No, only when they're asleep.
What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta



Rettendon Memorial Hall



The hall has a range of facilities including a fully fitted kitchen, a stage with LED computer controlled lighting, a projector and screen for presentations or education, wireless microphones and Wi-Fi. We would like to see it fully used by local groups. It is a village amenity - please think about using it.

It has been used for all sorts of events from village history, celebrations of one kind or another, quizzes, bingo, bowls, line dancing, horticultural shows, Parish Council meetings, pantomimes and shows, stained glass classes, community hub, knit and natter, table top and craft sales - the list could go on. What would you like to see there? What would you like to put on?

Booking is easy by phoning the booking clerk, Dianne Francombe, on 01245 400297. You can use email to the secretary on rettendonmemorialhall@gmail.com (though we would ask you to speak to Dianne as she holds the diary). Booking forms and terms and conditions are online.

The hall precinct has a community garden where you can find all types of herbs to add to your cooking. Just pick some off. There is a notice about what they are on the back of the notice board. We have sage, rosemary, lavender, thyme, camomile to name only a few.

We do take notice of your comments and have put in a flowering cherry in the centre of the herb garden.

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 and Battlesbridge Events Diary - MAY 2026



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
Best of Friends	Saturday, 2 nd May	7 – 11 pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
Bulldog Bonanza	Sunday, 3 rd May	10am	Battlesbridge Antiques ☼	Edward Foundation
Living History Weekend	Saturday, 2 nd /Sunday 3 rd May	10am – 3pm	Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome →	
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale	Monday, 4 th May	10am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church	
Dave Browning's Jazz Cats	Wednesday, 6 th May	6:20 – 10:45pm	Rettendon Lodge	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Saturday 9 th May	10:30am – 12:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Spring Autojumble	Sunday, 10 th May	9am – 3pm	Battlesbridge Antiques ☼	
Visit to Ulting Wick Gardens	Tuesday, 12 th May	10:30am	Car Sharing	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Parish Meeting	Tuesday, 12 th May	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Parish Residents
3 R's Churches Heritage Trial	Saturday, 16 th May	10am – 4pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon, St. Mary's, Runwell & St. Nicholas, Rawreth	
Stow Maries Motorbike Show	Saturday, 16 th May	10am – 3pm	Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome →	
Classic Vehicle Breakfast Club	Sunday, 17 th May	9am	Battlesbridge Antiques ☼	
Wings and Wheels	Sunday 24 th May	10am – 4pm	Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome →	
All Saints' Church Open Day	Monday, 25 th May	10:30am – 3:00pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Parish Council A.G.M.	Tuesday, 26 th May	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon PC ☒

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)	
Mid-Week Cricket	Tuesdays	6pm	Church Meadow (behind Hall)	Rettendon Cricket Club ●
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 / 7pm	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)	
Weekend Cricket	Saturdays / Sundays	1pm	Church Meadow (behind Hall)	Rettendon Cricket Club ●
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

Shaun Loughery	Saturday, 6 th June	7 – 11pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Ray & Dave's CMC
Summer Show Planning Open Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th June	7:30pm	Rettendon Memorial Hall	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Classic Vehicle Breakfast Club	Sunday, 21 st June	9am	Battlesbridge Antiques ☼	
Sweet Pea Collection Open Day	Saturday, 27 th June	TBC	Car Sharing	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Chelworth Open Gardens	Sunday, 28 th June	Pick-up 9:30am	Coach Trip	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Antiques Vintage & Craft Fair	Sunday, 28 th June	9:30am – 4:30pm	Battlesbridge Antiques ☼	

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	5 th & 26 th May, 16 th June
Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park	Thursday	3:10pm – 3:40pm / 3:50pm – 4:20pm	7 th & 28 th May, 18 th June

☎ <https://www.rettendon-pc.gov.uk/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettendonparishcouncil/>
 ★ <https://belvederejazz.co.uk/gigs/> ☎ www.rettendonbell.com ☼ <https://www.battlesbridge.com/>
 → <https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/> ● <https://rettendon.play-cricket.com/home> 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.rettendon-pc.gov.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>

A friend of mine found a lump of gold in a clod of earth - Lucky sod.
 This Roman emperor asked me, "What's the weather like?"
 I said, "Hail, Caesar." (With thanks to 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.