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

All Saints' Church Rettendon Open Day

**August Bank Holiday Monday
31st August 10:30am - 3pm**

Gifts Raffle Plants Books Toys CDs DVDs
Bric-a-brac & all the other usual paraphernalia
Light Lunches Cakes Teas Coffees
All Welcome.

Ray and Dave's Country Music Club George Payling

**Saturday, 5th September
Doors Open 7:00pm - 11pm**

PLEASE NOTE VENUE:

**Sandon village hall, Woodhill
road, Sandon, CM2 7SQ**

Live Music: Listen, Dance, Enjoy!

No bar - BYOD ☿ Tea/Coffee & FOOD available

Contact: Ray 01245 472386 / 07791434118

(picture from Facebook)



St. Peter's Church, South Hanningfield, CM3 8HW Flower Festival 2026



Saturday, 5 September 12.00 noon - 5.00pm & Fete
Sunday, 6 September 12.00 noon - 5.00pm & Fete
with Songs of Praise 5.00pm
Monday, 7 September 11.00am - 3.00pm
Light lunches and refreshments available each day.

Rettendon Horticultural Society Autumn Show

**Saturday, 12th September, 2026
at All Saints' Church, Rettendon**
Entries from 8am till 10:30am

(open show) (Schedules available on paper from
Hazel Dale-Evans, John Bruty
or Barbara Wright

or online at <https://e-voice.org.uk/rethortsoc/>)

**Open to the public from
2:00 - 4:30pm**

Tea, coffees, home-made cakes.
Guess the number of bulbs in a box,
Treasure Hunt....

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

Battlesbridge Free Church

Harvest Festival service with local produce on show.
11am Sunday, 20th September
Service followed by a ploughman's lunch.

Rettendon Horticultural Society Coach trip to WISLEY

on Sunday, 20th September 2026.

There are still places left on the coach, and we
would like to fill it. Cost is £30 per person for
coach and entrance.

All welcome.

Possibility of mobility scooter hire, or
wheelchairs, if required.

Coach pick-up at The Bell, East Hanningfield
Road, the village bus stop, with a possible
pick-up at Hayes Country Park.

Start is at 9:30am.

Please contact Barbara Wright, secretary, on
01245 321554, or email RetHSsec@gmail.com



Battlesbridge Free Church is hosting a concert by Rayleigh Brass on Saturday 26 September



They play an eclectic mix of classic,
film, oldies and contemporary music. They also
throw in the occasional bad jokes!

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the
interval, and there is a raffle to enjoy, too.

The doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm
start; the cost is £5 per person at the door,
with all monies raised going towards the
maintenance of the church.

Come along for a fun evening of music and
laughter.

Rettendon Memorial Hall



As you may be aware: we, the trustees, of the
village hall have taken the difficult decision to
close the hall with immediate effect due to
unforeseen issues, which we believe are due to the hot
and dry weather conditions.

We have been in contact with our insurance company
and they will arrange an adjuster who will contact
ourselves, to arrange a visit.

When we have more information on what is the path
forward, I will make a statement.

Thank you all for all kind words and offers of support.
If anyone has any questions please contact me by
email at edwardcheater@googlemail.com.

Ed Cheater, chairman, Hall Management Committee
<https://e-voice.org.uk/rettendon-memorial-hall/>

The Richard Cannon Trust

A Charity fund for the people of Rettendon .

Many of you will know about the existence of the Richard Cannon Trust, established in 1605 to offer financial help to the people of Rettendon in a time of need.

Following on from the fire and explosion at Highlands Farm last month, the Trustees wanted to make people aware that if someone has suffered short term financial hardship as a result of this incident, then there could be a possibility that the Trust can help.

If you know of anyone who you feel may be able to benefit, please put them in contact with the Trust to make an application. All applications are held in the strictest confidence.

In the first instance please contact **Sarah Copsey** on **07900 520717**.

The Richard Cannon Trust Trustees.

Rettendon explosion - aftermath.

Please help raise £750 to help Gaynor and her daughter rebuild their home after the Rettendon explosion. The JustGiving page, if you would like to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rettendonexplosion> For the whole story please follow the link.

The newsletter was asked to put the above in for a local family. May we suggest they try the **Richard Cannon Trust Charity** as the advert above. This is precisely what the charity is for....

Battlesbridge Free Church



Hello Readers,

I do not want rain. I rather intensely dislike the stuff. My cherished activities include walks in the park with my other half Linda, playing bowls, riding my bike, all of which are made less enjoyable or ruined or prevented by rain. Apart from by deliberate intent e.g. swimming, taking a shower, I do not want to get wet. So it is with reluctance that I am joining the many who are praying for rain. Looking past my wants I see need. Prolonged drought threatens crops and livestock and, ultimately, our bodily health also. Tinderbox dry countryside is liable to ignite and cause life-threatening wild fires. We need rain.

For the sake of my total health, of mind, soul and spirit as well as body, I also acknowledge my need of Jesus. It is my belief that unlike rain, His life giving, life affirming, life enhancing Spirit is freely available to all of us all the time.

Dates for your diaries:

Don't miss the fabulous produce display which will decorate our church at harvest festival on 20th Sept. The 11am service will be followed by a ploughman's lunch.

In my opinion if there were any justice our quiz nights would be world famous! Be there or be square. The next one is on 17th Oct.

I hope you find joy in dry and rain. In my experience there is always joy to be found in Jesus.

David Edwards

Rettendon Parish Council - From the Chair.....

It is with a great sense of pride and wonderment that I write this short message.

On 10th July I had the pleasure of helping at the Rettendon Village Fayre with several other fellow Parish Councillors. My wife Lynne and I on our usual stand at the BBQ. We enjoyed the atmosphere and banter from all those who were brave enough to risk our now famous "fully loaded" burgers or the jumbo sausage hotdogs. All patrons seemed well enough throughout the afternoon, so no under or over cooked disasters, a few even came back several times for more! It was great to see our community join together to provide a great event.

I wish to publicly thank the school friends and parents association also the horticultural society, and more importantly you, your friends and family who made the event so successful.

The volunteers who turn up year after year to do bits to set up the days before, the ladies of the hall committee also get a huge thanks for all their hard work to make the day a success.

Following on from that, 20 days later in fact, Rettendon and neighbouring village parishioners, had an horrendous disaster to deal with, investigations into which are still ongoing.

The explosion and fires that devastated Highlands Farm and pretty much most, if not all the individual businesses that trade on that site, have suffered extreme loss, as have many residential premises too.

I am so proud of our community that rallied to help anyone that needed help. The Parish Council is also available to help those that need it.

The result of the forensic investigation is still ongoing but as I stated above, the villagers fill me with so much pride in the way that the community has helped each other.

So thank you to you, all of you that make our community such a truly great one.

My final thanks and wonderment goes out to the Essex Fire and Rescue Service, the First Responders, Police Service and all the emergency service personnel and volunteer helpers that were there and stayed there without fearing risk of harm or worse to themselves.

That is truly heroic they are all that and I am grateful and amazed that there were no serious or fatal injuries at this disaster.

Hope you all remain well and enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you at the September PC meeting at Hayes Country Park, if the Village Hall remains closed.

Joe Parsad, Chairman Rettendon Parish Council.

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/>

Why did the ram run off the cliff? Because he didn't see the ewe turn.
How did the pig get to hospital? In a hambulance!



Rettendon Horticultural Society

It's 35 degrees as I am writing this. We are promised some rain next week but it's going to take a lot to quench our parched soil. Plants look dead and trees are shedding their leaves. Grass is no longer green. That said I have seen many comments that most plants etc will recover. Try telling that to my hydrangeas!

Our next event is the Autumn Show taking place on Saturday 12th September. Entries from 8.30 until 10.30. As many people will be aware the village hall is closed for the foreseeable future which means we are using another venue. Those responsible for All Saints Church, Rettendon, CM3 8DR have kindly agreed to the show being held in the church. This will be an opportunity to, not only, come to the show but visit this picturesque old church which also has amazing views from the churchyard. There are catering facilities in the church so there will be the usual teas and home made cakes.

On the 20th September we have a coach trip to the RHS garden at Wisley. All welcome. See the separate advert for full details.

Finally I need to extend my thanks to everybody who helped with the running of the Summer Show and for making it the success that it was. The Society made a significant financial loss on the show but that did not detract from it being a very enjoyable day.

John Bruty, Chairperson

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

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

2026 Summer show Cup Winners:

John Bruty, Christine Dewar, Barbara Wright, Gabrielle Church, Paul Wright, Louise Johnson, Robert Scurrall, Maria Poole, Elaine Line, Kate Wright, Val Porter, Brian Cottey, Stella Jones, Joanne Clifte, John Freeth, William Fisher, Dotty Appleby, Matilda Laing.

Banksian Medal: John Bruty.

These have now been engraved. Please come to the Autumn Show on 12th September to have your cup awarded to you.

Little Mockingbirds Baby and Toddler sessions

Every Friday Little Darwin's Nursery, Rettendon

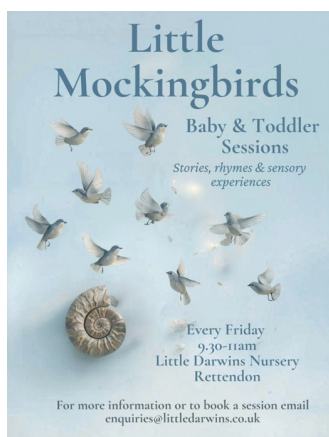
Anyone is welcome to attend.

There are 2 sessions as below;

- ◆ 6 months – 12 months
9.15am – 9.45am
- ◆ 13 months – 2 years
9.45am – 10.15am

We are asking for £1 per child and numbers are limited.

For more information or to book a place parents/carers can email enquiries@littledarwins.co.uk



How does the astronomer cut his hair? E-clipse it. ☺
What did one shooting star say to the other? "Pleased to meteor!"

Battlesbridge Quiz Night

Get prepared for this quizzential quiz night on Saturday, 17th October at Battlesbridge Free Church.

Usual rules apply: teams of up to eight, £5 per person, tea, coffee and biscuits at the interval. Raffle.

Come with a team, or join up with those there. Friendly, if competitive, atmosphere, with eclectic questions.

All monies to go to the church maintenance.

Thank you from Joan Mitcham.

A massive thank you to all her family, friends and neighbours who attended her surprise 100th Birthday gathering on Saturday 20th June 2026.

Special thanks to Joan's next door neighbour, John, who instigated the party which was held in his garden in Salford Close, Rettendon. He contacted all Joan's neighbours and friends and brought them all together for his special occasion.

Joan had a wonderful afternoon with everyone and would like to send huge thanks to all who attended and also for all her wonderful cards and gifts. She was very overwhelmed on this very special and memorable occasion.

Many thanks, Karen Cook



Macmillan Coffee Morning Battlesbridge Free Church Saturday, 3rd October

10am - 12:30pm

Home-made cakes and coffee (and tea) will be available.
We look forward to seeing you.



Little Darwin's Nursery

At Little Darwin's Nursery, we pride ourselves on nurturing and educating children through a strong connection with nature and outdoor learning. We have recently supported two members of our team to become qualified Forest School Leaders, enabling us to further develop our outdoor learning programme. While we have previously made use of the school field for some activities, we believe that regular access to the woodland will provide a far richer and more immersive environment for our Forest School sessions.

We are delighted to let you know that we have spoken with the landowner, Mr Lawrence-Jones, who has kindly granted us permission to use the woodland. Before any sessions begin, a professional tree survey and all the correct insurance will be completed to ensure the area is safe for use.

We would be delighted to meet with you to discuss our plans in more detail and answer any questions you may have, we want to make sure we do not disturb your day to day running. This would also provide an opportunity to share our Forest School ethos and explain what we hope to achieve for the children and families who attend Little Darwin's.

**Lucy Cook, Nursery Manager,
Little Darwin's Nursery (CIC)**

Garden Notes

As everything was turning brown I was weeding very carefully. All weeds with deep roots were allowed to perform but were dead headed to prevent babies. Thus the bees had some food. Tried to leave litter on the earth to stop it baking. A few pots got water but we were impressed by the survival rate in general.

Here's to autumn. **Mrs. McGregor**





Rettendon and Battlesbridge Events Diary – SEPTEMBER 2026



EVENT	DATE / DAY	TIME	VENUE	ORGANISATION
President's Cricket Match	Sunday, 30 th August	1pm	Church Meadow (CM3 8DP)	Rettendon Cricket Club
Church Open Day	Monday, 31 st August	10:30am – 3pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)	
Catherine Lima	Wednesday, 2 nd September	7:45pm -10:15pm	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★	
George Payling Jr.	Saturday 5 th September	7 – 11pm	Sandon Village Hall CM2 7SQ	Ray & Dave's CMC
Flower Festival 2026 "The Silver Screen"	Saturday, 5 th September	12 – 5pm	St. Peter's Church, South Hanningfield (CM3 8HW)	
	Sunday, 6 th September	12 – 5pm Service at 5pm		
	Monday, 7 th September	11am – 3pm		
Autumn Show (entries)	Saturday, 12 th September	8:30am – 10:30am	All Saints' Church, CM3 8DR	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
Autumns Show	Saturday, 12 th September	2 – 4:30pm	All Saints' Church, CM3 8DR	Rettendon Hort. Soc.
1950's Juke Box	Wednesday, 16 th September	7:45pm -10:15pm	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★	
Wisley Coach Trip	Sunday, 20 th September	9am pick-up	Rettendon Horticultural Society	
Classic Vehicle Breakfast Club	Sunday, 20 th September	9am	Battlesbridge Antiques, SS11 7RF ☿	
Harvest Festival Service	Sunday 20 th September	11am	Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE)	
Rayleigh Brass Band Concert	Saturday, 26 th September	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church (SS11 7RE)	
Autumn Autojumble	Sunday, 27 th September	9am – 3pm	Battlesbridge Antiques, SS11 7RF ☿	
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday, 29 th September	7:30pm	Hayes County Park Club House SS11 7GH	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	See website for venue Rettendon PC⊗
Bowls / outdoor meeting	Mondays	2:30 – 4:30pm	Church Meadow (behind Hall) Bowls group
Mid-Week Cricket	Tuesdays	6pm	Church Meadow (behind Hall) Rettendon Cricket Club●
Community Hub	Wednesdays	12 – 2pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)
Knit and Natter	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	2 – 4pm	All Saints' Church, Rettendon (CM3 8DR)
Art Group / Pilots Youth Group	Wednesdays	2 – 4pm / 6:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall (SS11 7RE)
Jazz & Music Supper club	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	6:20 – 10:15pm	Belvedere Jazz & Music Supper Club ★
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)
Stow Maries Aerodrome Open	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays	10am – 4pm	Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, CM3 6RN →
Raise Your Voice Community Choir	Fridays	7pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Raise Your Voice Choir
Weekend Cricket	Saturdays / Sundays	1pm	Church Meadow (behind Hall) Rettendon Cricket Club●
Country and Western	1 st Saturday in Month	7pm – 11pm	See adverts for venue 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

Macmillan Coffee Morning	Saturday, 3 rd October	10am – 12:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall (SS11 7RE)
Jonny & Lynette	Saturday, 3 rd October	7 – 11pm	See adverts for venue Ray & Dave's CMC
Antiques Vintage & Craft Fair	Sunday, 4 th October	9:30am – 4:30pm	Battlesbridge Antiques, SS11 7RF ☿
Richard III – history talk	Wednesday, 14 th October	2:30pm	All Saints' Church (TBC) Rettendon Horticultural Soc.
First Aid Course	Friday, 16 th October	9 – 4:30pm	Venue TBC RPC + ECFAEV
Battlesbridge Quiz Night	Saturday, 17 th October	7 for 7:30pm	Battlesbridge Free Church Hall (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	8 th & 29 th Sept, 20 th Oct
Goose Cottages, / Hayes Country Park	Thursday	3:10pm – 3:40pm / 3:50pm – 4:20pm	10 th Sept, 1 st & 22 nd Oct.

⊗ <https://www.rettendon-pc.gov.uk/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rettdonparishcouncil/>
 ★ <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.



First Aid Course - CPR & Defibrillator Training

Rettendon Memorial Hall CM3 8DP

On Friday, 16th October 2026 9am - 4:30pm. Either an all day course with 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. Venue to be confirmed.

To book a place please contact Barbara Wright on 01245 321554 or email: barbara.wright@ecfaev.org

Not according to the dictionary...

Abundance - A dance held in a bakery
 Beehive - An order given to misbehaving bees
 Eclipse - What a male gardener does to a hedge
 Propaganda - Polite, well-behaved male goose



Rettendon Horticultural Society would like to thank local businesses who contributed to the summer show including Call of the Wild, Marshalls Meats, Theobalds of Whitehouse Farm, Nanny Keys Veg., The Frying Squad....

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.