

RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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All Saints Harvest Festival A new weekend this year. The Festival will take place on Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September from 10-30am to 4pm. At 4 pm on Sunday 18th an evensong service will be held with Harvest hymns. Yes, this is a departure from previous years and hopefully you will enjoy the change.

The usual facilities will be available. Why not try some home made cooked meals and cakes; Stock up on second hand books (cheaper than the charity shops). Pick up some bargains on the bric-a-brac and gift stalls and get some quality seasonal plants and perhaps there maybe a surprise stall. Why not come along and find out ?

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden 01245 400394

Posh Frocks Sale Oh ! What fun we had at our "Frock Exchange" and we made £1,217-50 in the process for All Saints Church. Many delightful little numbers changed hands, which caused great delight.

The Anya Hindmarsh handbag was won by a student who is studying fashion design. Thank you everyone for your wonderful support. **Lyn Benson, 01245 400468**

GRAND QUIZ EVENING Friday 11th November at RETTENDON MEMORIAL HALL

In aid of All Saints Church, Rettendon. Doors open at 7.00pm and Quiz starts 7.30PM. Maximum 6 to a table. £2.50 per person (pay on the door) & Bring your own drink and nibbles. There will be a **GRAND RAFFLE** (All prizes will be gratefully accepted) Please come and have a great evening and support your Church. Call me to reserve a table. **Jacky Copsey 01268 765357**

Rettendon Village Society

Here are the results for the 200 Club draw which took place on Friday 24th June.

1st £65 Jean Petsch, Matings Rd, Battlesbridge

2nd £30 Pearl Davis, Wickford

3rd £20 Tony Coyston, South View Road

4th £15 Lewis Coppen, South View Road

The next Bingo session and 200 Club draw will be held on Friday 26th August, and then on Friday 30th September.

Lots of people there for the July meeting with plenty of new faces as well as some familiar ones. Nice to see you back. Still plenty of room to fit in newcomers to our Village, quite a few at present I think with new people moving in, and what a good way to meet your fellow villagers. Why not make a date and come to our Bingo sessions we are a very friendly bunch and will make you very welcome.

We hold our 200 Club Draw and Bingo sessions on the last Friday of every month in the Village Hall. (check your Village News letter for the dates) It will cost you a £1 per book and we also have a big raffle if you want to take part. All profits go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. Doors open 7.00pm and Bingo starts at 7-45pm so eyes down sharp. See you there! **Jacky Copsey 01268 765357**

An article published about Sir Francis Chichester featured a photograph of the great man alongside the following caption; 'Sir Frances Chichester - the great yachtsman who, with his 24 ft cutter, circumcised the world.'

Mobile Library in Rettendon & Battlesbridge

The dates and times of the revised visits are as follows.

Battlesbridge Goose Cottages, Alternate Fridays 2nd 16th & 30th September and 14th & 28th October from 2-40 to 2-55 hrs.

Chalk Street, Alternate Thursdays on 1st 15th & 29th September and 13th & 27th October from 1-15 to 1-30 pm.

Meadow Road Alternate Wednesdays on 7th & 21st September and 5th & 19th October from 4-30 to 4-45 pm.

Rettendon Salforal Close, Alternate Wednesdays on 7th & 21st September and 5th & 19th October from 4-05 to 4-25 pm. Any changes to dates and times of visits will be given in future copies of this newsletter.

Trevor Legg, Group Manager Basildon Libraries Service Tel. 01268 288533 or via email trevor.legg@essex.gov.uk

Rettendon Horticultural Society We had a wonderful coach trip to Parham House, West Sussex. Lovely house, wonderful gardens and very nice staff. Fully recommended .

Next is our **Autumn Show** in the village hall on Saturday 10th September. Schedule of classes were sent out with the August newsletter but if you have lost, mislaid or just thrown it away and want another copy then please give me Hazel (01245 401538) or Jane (01245 400394) a call. Competitive entries must be in and ready for judging by 10-00am. The show opens at 2pm. Please make the effort to put an entry into one of the classes, there is something for everyone to try.

Exhibits to see of course but also tea and cake, games and a raffle and a chance to buy the longest bean in the auction. Entrance is free and everybody is welcome.

On Thursday **20th October at 8pm** there will be a talk by Marlene Harris who is a member of the British Bee Keepers Association, so note this on your calendar.

Hazel Dale Evans (Secretary) 01245 401538

Rettendon Memorial Hall Pre School starts back on September 5th at 9 am. We look forward to welcoming the new children who will be joining us.

Over the holiday period we have been meeting at Wickford Memorial Park on a Wednesday and have had lots of fun. It has really been nice seeing children from past play school years who came along to join with us.

We will have our music & song time on Wednesdays at 12 noon onwards, so if you would like to join us just come along with your younger children, it helps to get them used to that 'big day' when they part from Mum.

If you need any more information please call Pat on 01245 401328 or try the mobile 07762 909351.

Garden notes Not a lot of Butterflies but it was a very hard winters. Have some Leaf Cutter Bees making nests in Bamboo sticks in my greenhouse. Caught one collecting a circle of Rose leaf and realised the rose was very tattered. Ah well, we live & learn !

Just when I finally got my head together, my body fell apart.

Mobile Customer Information Service

The Council's Mobile Customer Information Service will next visit Rettendon on **Wednesday 14th September and Wednesday October 12th** between 10.00am and 11.30am and can be found in the Committee Room to the rear of the Village Hall. Further visits to Rettendon will be on the second Wednesday in each month.

Find out more information about this service on Chelmsford Borough Council's website at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/mobileinfo or alternatively please contact **Cheryl Blake 01245 606891** for more details.

All Saints Church - Heritage Day, October 14th and 15th from 10-30 am to 4 pm

You are invited to visit All Saints church on this special occasion. This medieval 13th century village church has some remarkable features. A two storey vestry, the upper floor serving as a priest's room; a two bay sedilla and piscine; fine carved finials on the choir stalls; an outstanding marble monument; a number of brasses; a fine east window; a prominent tower and much more too.

All Saints is a grade 1 listed building and for the most part is locked given its isolated location and potential for vandalism, therefore this is an opportunity to visit. Parties are welcome by prior arrangement with the Church Warden on 01245 400394.

Waste & Recycling Essex County Council will be changing the arrangements to the opening hours and days of their Recycling centres. Details of our nearest site at South Woodham Ferrers are given below. The site at South Woodham Ferrers will be available 5 days a week and closed on Wednesday and Thursday, as opposed to the current 7 days a week operation.

The site will be available from 9 am every day (8am at present) and the late night Tuesday opening from 5pm to 9pm between 1st May and 31st August will cease.

These proposals are at the consultation stage so there maybe some changes which will be offered to Rettendon & Battlesbridge residents, when known.

Ride and Stride Feel like spending a few hours on Saturday 10th September, from 10am to 6pm, being sponsored to either ride or walk between as many churches as possible?

Why? To raise money for the Friends of Essex Churches who give grants to churches of any Christian denomination in the Essex/East London area towards the cost of major repairs and improvements. In fact All Saints received a grant of £10,000 towards the re-roofing works carried out a few years ago.

We have two cyclists taking part representing All Saints. If you would wish to offer sponsorship forms are available at All Saints, or if you want any further advice then please do telephone me and I will do what I can to help.

Victoria Lepper 01245 400284

Resurfacing - Hawk Hill Roundabout

Essex County Council's Highways Officers have advised that they now have a start date for the resurfacing works at Hawk Hill Roundabout. The work is due to take place over three nights, 14th - 16th September and between

2000hrs to 0600hrs. There are quite long diversions associated with the closure of the roundabout and information about the diversions can be obtained from Essex County Council, tel 0845 6037631 Extension 50051 or email Richard Myhill, Senior Maintenance Engineer at: Richard.Myhill@essex.gov.uk

Richard advises that there is always a possibility that the works will have to be delayed but hopes this will not

"Let 'em all come" - Dad's (Secret) Army

Continuing on from the item in the August newsletter

The Home Guard was therefore an accepted force of either too young for service (you were accepted at age 15) or too old, but many of the old 'uns still had the tenacity to 'have a go'.

Some thirty years had passed since the end of the war when suddenly strange stories began to appear in local newspapers about arms dumps being found in the most unusual places. Were these old unclaimed stores from World War II? On further investigation this was found to be hardly possible, for example, who would store explosives, arms and ammunition in the buttress of a railway bridge miles from anywhere?

Another interesting incident took place on a farm in the west country. For years the barn had been used to store farm implements but with the passing of the years it was not appreciated that the size and weight of modern farming equipment would be so vast in comparison with war time, that the floor collapsed. It was a great surprise to the driver of a Combine Harvester to suddenly realise that it was tilting in the ground. It was discovered that the entire floor at one end of the barn had collapsed into what was discovered to be a secret chamber still holding various items of military equipment including not only the odd rifle but gelignite, which when eventually inspected was found to be in such a dangerous state the farm had to be evacuated whilst specialists removed it.

The owner of the farm was as surprised as his driver but on reflection it was known that as a boy he could recall his father having been heavily involved with the home guard. It was eventually established that the entrance to this secret observation post, or OSB's as they were officially known, was hidden beneath a movable cattle trough. These were the Auxiliary Units of Churchill's secret army. Specially chosen individuals who had knowledge of their locality, and the willingness to continue the fight if the Germans had actually invaded. Their second priority was in the role of intelligence gathering, especially for quislings sworn to utmost secrecy as to their eventual duties to the point that even wives and families were unaware, even after their death.

The role to clandestinely to commit mayhem behind the lines by such individuals and locations were totally divorced from the normal training with other members of the local Home Guard, who were not privy that their drinking companion in the local was other than just a member of their platoon. In the early days these specialist units were without any radio communication so were restricted to communications by courier and some boy scout paperboys. Dead letter boxes hidden in old farm gates, drain pipes and telegraph pole stays were used. Basic armaments were home produced weapons - pikes, farm implements, homemade garrottes and shotguns eventually updated with the issue of sniper rifles, some

imported from America or from wealthy landowners. Homemade Molotov cocktails, sticky bombs, time pencils, spigot mortars, fuses & gelignite. Each individual had his own 'piece' of sinister protection, the favourite being the Fairburn Sykes fighting knife, which is now highly collectable. One must consider that these individuals would literally go underground and continue to fight should the enemy have overtaken our country, but could this band of brothers have achieved other than a marginal success against such superior odds and what repercussions would it have brought about in their localities. (To be continued in the next R&B newsletter) **J Henry Foster (1995)**

Local Police Matters - oh yes it does !

Our local PCSO Sue Sullivan has recently retired and her role has been taken over by PCSO Hilary Willmot. We welcome Hilary to the Parish and will do all that we can to help her and in thanking Sue Sullivan for her valuable work within the Parish wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

A Challenge to cake makers ?

A friend was sifting through some of her late mother's belongings when she came across this unusual recipe. Try as she may, she was unable to decipher it Can you work your magic and produce this scriptures cake ?

Four & a half cups 1st Kings, ch IV, v22; One and a half cups of Judges, ch V, v25; Two cups of Jeremiah, Ch VI v20; Two sups of 1st Samuel, XXX, v12; Two cups of Nahum, chIII, v12. One cup of numbers, ch XVII, v8; Six of Jeremiah, ch XVII, v11; half a cup of judges, ch. IV, v19; two tsps of Amos, ch IV, v5; A pinch of Leviticus, ch IKI, v13; Season to taste with second Chronicles, ch. IX, v7; Follow Solomon's recipe for making a good boy, Proverbs, ch. XXIII, v14.,

Let me know the result with your interpretation of the recipe. Now where can we find the Devils Food Cake recipe. No, I don't have the answers but you may find it a challenge. If you can solve this one and want to share the recipe with others then please let me have the details.

Ron Fallows 01245 400394

happen.

RHS Garden, Hyde Hall, Sat 3rd to Thurs 15th September, Textile Exhibition from 10am to 4pm

An exciting and colourful exhibition of textile art using a wide range of traditional and contemporary textile techniques. Items for sale will include handmade jewellery, books, cards, scarves, cushions and botanical prints. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Saturday 17 to Sunday 18 September 10am to 4pm World Food Weekend (Chilli Pepper Festival)

Explore the spicier side of vegetable growing and discover why the humble chilli pepper is a vital ingredient in a vast array of worldwide cuisines. With colourful plant displays, food stalls, growing advice and chilli tasting, it promises to be a true feast for your senses. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Saturday 24 September, 10am to 4pm Autumn Plant Fair This plant fair organised by 'Plant Heritage' provides the perfect opportunity to buy rare and unusual plants brought to you by some of the region's specialist

nurseries.

Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Saturday 15 Oct, 10am to 1pm Farmers' Market

Treat yourself to delicious fruit, vegetables and artisan food produced by a range of specially selected Essex producers. FREE early bird admission until 11am, then normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Sat 22 & Sun 23 October 10am to 4pm, Taste of Autumn Weekend

Celebrate everything that is Autumn - wonderful colours in the garden, fresh fruit and vegetables and traditional country crafts. Admire colourful displays of pumpkins and apples; pick up gardening tips at our advice desk and stock up on locally produced food. And don't forget to go on a walk around the garden to admire the colourful Crab Apples before heading home.

Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Tue 25th to Thurs 27th October 11am & 3pm

Children's Welly Walk Wrap up warm and embrace the great outdoors on this fun walk around the garden. The session will conclude with a range of art and craft activities. Normal garden admission applies, plus cash payment of £2 per child. Booking not required.

Fri 28th October 11am to 3pm, Children's Bird Box Decorating

Bird boxes in gardens can make a real difference so take this opportunity to have fun decorating a nest box and treat your feathered friends to their very own 'des res'. Normal garden admission applies, plus cash payment of £2 per child. Booking not required.

Sat 29th October 11am to 3pm, Children's Pumpkin Carving

Have fun carving a pumpkin to sit on the door step for Halloween. There will also be spooky stories and witch-shaped candle making. Come in fancy dress and receive an edible treat! Pumpkins available for sale at the garden (while stocks last). Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Neighbourhood Watch - Police reassure residents they are working to keep the county safe.

Essex Police has reassured residents that they are working to keep the county safe. There has been no large scale disorder akin to what has been happening in London but Essex Police has extra resources in place to deal with violent disorder should it arise in the county.

Officers have been supporting their colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Service and have vowed to take a robust approach to anyone who uses social networking sites to stimulate fictitious rumours. Arrests have been made after comments were published on Facebook encouraging people to gather at a location in Essex. Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason said: "If people use social networking sites inappropriately to stimulate rumours we will do our best to track the individuals down and if they have committed offences under criminal law we will deal with them." He also said: "We haven't got any specific intelligence that there is going to be any disorder in Essex at the present time.

If you witness any incidents taking place then call 999. To pass on information or intelligence call our non emergency number 101 or 0300 333 4444 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Battlesbridge Free Church News

The Fellowship Garden Party was enjoyable in spite of the gloomy clouds which prevented our sitting out in the sunshine. In thanks for God's bounty to us we collected £55 to go via Christian Aid to the Africa famine relief fund. On 18th September we shall celebrate our anniversary (deferred from earlier in the year.) On this day we shall also celebrate Harvest and there will be a Harvest Supper at 6-30pm. Our Gift Day envelopes will also be available on that occasion.

We hope to arrange a McMillan Nurses Coffee Morning in mid - September. There has been concern for our Secretary, Mrs Mary Jefferies who has not been at all well during the last few weeks but we are pleased that her health seems to be steadily improving now.

Sunday morning services take place at 11-00 am. Fellowship is on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 1pm. At 6-30pm on Wednesdays during term time young people meet. (formerly Pilots - now call the Youth Club).

The Harbour Club for elderly people suffering from signs of Dementia, meets on Tuesdays in the Church Hall.

The next Church lunch will be on September 11th after morning Service. **June Edwards 01245 426122**

St Peters Church, South Hanningfield

Over many years there has been good mutual support between the villages of Rettendon and South Hanningfield for their annual Horticultural Shows, held respectively on the second and third Saturdays every July.

As many readers will know, this year's Horticultural Show at South Hanningfield did not take place due to lack of support and commitment. We all hope that this break with tradition is temporary, and that with sufficient awareness and support, the show will continue next year.

We are pleased to report, however, that the Flower Festival at St. Peter's Church will take place over the first weekend in September; your chance to experience this 12th Century Church overlooking Hanningfield Water at its very best.

Lunch and afternoon tea will be served on Sat & Sun. The church also open on Monday, with refreshment available.

Please Note this is a combined September/ October newsletter. The next newsletter will be for the month of **November** with contributions to me please by 20th October. There will then be a combined **Dec/Jan** Newsletter with contributions to me please by 20th Nov Contributions for the **Feb. 2012** Newsletter to me please by 20th Jan. Newsletter items can be in writing or by email. Call me for email contact details.

Ron Fallows 01245 400394

Doctors Orders An old man goes to the Doctor and tells him that he hasn't been feeling well. The Doctor examines him & leaves the room and comes back with 3 bottles of pills. The Doctor says take the blue pill with a big glass of water when you get up. Take the green pill with a big glass of water after lunch. Then before going to bed take the red pill with another big glass of water. Startled to be put on such medication, the elderly man stammers, "What exactly is my problem? Tell me is it serious." The Doctor advised, "You're not drinking enough water."

Battlesbridge Matters

The passing of Swede to a higher ground, went exceedingly well. The hay cart with a bed of small weeping willow branches and hundreds of wild flowers with the Sea grass coffin on top was towed by a tractor to Chelmsford Crematorium which was full to capacity. This may not be everyone's idea of a traditional funeral but Swede's instructions were that it was to be a great day out, he would have been very pleased. Swede's ashes are to be fired up to 1000 feet in the air in a 6" mortar as the tide starts to ebb. This will be in September.

Our barbeque and country afternoon by the river was just right, especially the weather. We had over 300 people turn up fishing, clay pigeon shooting, archery etc, etc. A great full Monty barbeque afterwards. All money raised by The Knight Templers goes to local charities and the eye hospital.

The new Victorian street lights in Maltings Road should be switched on in September.

Three burglars were spotted last week with masks and possibly armed trying to break into a retail unit. The main road from the Hawk to the Barge Inn had police with guns and flack jackets plus a Dog unit and helicopter flown in from Cambridge. It was a no go area and the regulars in the Hawk were locked in. Coffee and chocolate biscuits were issued Free Of Charge after closing time. I was turned back by the police and went home.

The stock market is in turmoil, one thing is quite clear, the experts just don't know what's going to happen but foreigners are investing heavily into English gilts as a safe haven, it does not say much for the rest.

Our last event at our small rural theatre is a play, 'Perfect Relationships' based on the life, songs and times of Stephen Sondheim, Friday and Saturday 16th & 17th September, tickets £9.95. The production is by the original Riverside Players led by Simon Richie.

The previous evening at the theatre 'Opera by the Lake' was a sell out, however wine and food sales were down as everyone came with picnic tables, hampers and their own wine and good luck to them it was a wonderful summers evening. £2,500 was raised for the life boat, our church and other local charities.

The Parish Council really does its best for the area and differences of opinion which crop up every now and then I hope should always be addressed in a pleasant and peaceful manner. This usually resolves any problems but unpleasantness acts to the contrary.

Roy Hart 01268 768282

Quotable quotes

"Getting older is fabulous. The longer you do it, the more technique you acquire. That makes the game easier."
Cheri Lunghi, Actress

"I'd like to see the fairways more narrow. Then everybody would have to play from the rough, not just me."
Seve Ballesteros.

"The devil himself had probably re-designed hell in the light of information he has gained from observing airport layouts"
Anthony Price

"Politics: 'poli', a Latin word meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.

"Football and cookery are the two main important subjects in this country."
Delia Smith.