

RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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The views expressed in this newsletter are entirely those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Parish Council

All Saints Church

Harvest Festival Thanks to all who supported our two day event. The church looked very pretty and we had wonderful support from the community with gifts of food from the Primary School, the Pre School (with their nicely decorated boxes) and the Little Darwins Nursery. It was all very worth while as HAARP (the Southend organisation for the homeless) had run out of food which they put into parcels for their clients.

We were however a little disappointed with the support for this event as our visitor numbers were well down but those who did come were generous in their donations. I thank those who baked, washed up and gave of their time and donated gifts. Without their dedication we would not have an event.

Heritage Days On Friday and Saturday 14th & 15th October we tried to bring a new dimension to our calendar of open days at the Church. Our heritage days were there to show local people as well as those from further a field we have in our midst a beautiful medieval church with a history from Saxon times to present day which is home to an iconic Sicilian marble monument.

The weather was beautiful, the sun shone through our stained glass East window, but we did not have many visitors, but there you are. However from little acorns great Oak trees grow, so perhaps this was the beginning.

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden

Rettendon Pre School Our new intake of children have settled in very well since starting pre school in early September.

We visited All saints Church for Harvest Festival, the children covered shoe boxes and filled them with food which goes to the homeless. On our way back from the church we collected things for our nature table.

This term our theme is numbers ???????

Our music sessions take place on Wednesdays from 12-00 noon to 1-00 pm. If you have a younger child come along and join in and have some fun.

If you want anymore information look on our website at www.rettendonpreschool.co.uk or call Pat on 01245 401328 or 07762 909351. **Pat Prebble**

A Remembrance Day Service will take place at All Saints at 3 pm on Sunday November 13th. It is a very special day for many especially those who have lost family and friends not only in World War I and World War II but in one of the many conflicts since.

I apologise to those who find a 3 pm Remembrance Day service a less than poignant occasion But Revd Harvey Reed has other commitments in Hullbridge at 11-00am.

Jane Fallows, Churchwarden 01245 400394

This bloke said to me, he said "I'm a herald angel." I thought ,ooo, hark at him.

I saw a bulrush in the library. I thought, that looks like a good reed.

STOP PRESS! - GRAND QUIZ NIGHT!

on Friday 11th NOVEMBER, at Rettendon Village Hall In aid of the All Saints Church, Rettendon.

Doors open 7-00pm Quiz starts 7-30pm sharp. Big raffle, (all donations gratefully accepted). It Costs £2.50 per person - pay on the door, 6 people to a table, Bring your own nibbles and drink. Prize for the winning team. Booby prize for the losers.

Please come and have a great evening and support your local church. Thank you and see you there.
Jacky Copsey 01268 765357

Rettendon Village Society

Here are the results for the August and September 200 Club draw.

Friday 26th August

- 1st £ 65 Brian Watson, Meadow Road
- 2nd £30 Joyce Stammers, Battlesbridge
- 3rd £20 Madge Robins, East Hanningfield Road.
- 4th £15 Jean Pietsch, Maltings Road, Battlesbridge.

Friday 30th September

- 1st £65 Marie Cunningham, Maltings Road,
- 2nd £30 Janice Jefferies, Sonters Down
- 3rd £20 Tim May, Little Baddow
- 4th £15 Jenny Coyston, South View Road

The next 200 Club Draw and Bingo session will be held on Friday 28th October 2011 this will be out Annual general Meeting which starts at 7-00pm with the Bingo session commencing right after at 7-45pm. This is your chance to find out how the club is run, how much money we raise during the year for the Village Hall, and to join the committee if you wish to help. So please try and come along a little bit earlier than usual and give us a bit of support. The next session after that is to be held on Friday 25th November. Everyone is welcome young and old, and yes children are welcome. So don't forget the Bingo starts at 7.45pm SHARP See you there.

Jacky Copsey 01268 765357

The Friends of Rettendon School

We will be holding our Christmas Shopping Fayre at the school on Thursday 24th November from 7 to 9-30pm and all are welcome. Why not do some early Christmas shopping !!

Hyde Hall have their Christmas Shopping night on the same evening and have kindly offered the FRS a small marquee where we can locate 6 or 8 stalls as a joint venture.

The Christmas Fayre is our opportunity to promote the School including our venture with the RHS at Hyde Hall.

Tracy Gomez Treasurer,

Friends of Rettendon School

Garden Notes Amazing Autumn - So much fruit and lots of flowers doing it again. We are so lucky to be here and now plant for spring - life goes on apace. Keep on and love doing it. **Mrs Mc Gregor**

Jubilees in Rettendon

I did not move to Rettendon until 1980 so I was not here for the Silver Jubilee, but as we approach the Diamond Jubilee I happened to find a copy of the Rettendon Review for 1977. Many things have changed in the village since then, and yet one or two residents writing in that booklet are still familiar and well remembered and some still active members of our community.

Violet Benson, Vi as we all knew her wrote the Parish Chairman's report in which she spoke of the Silver Jubilee committee, created to arrange a week of festivities. She also announced the opening of a footpath from the Hawk to the Quart Pot.

Ted Harris who I remember well with the Twinning comes in for thanks with help at a function from Jacky Copsey who was then the secretary of the Rettendon Wives Club, and he wrote his own piece asking for help if the youth club was to survive. The invaluable H. M. Dale was running the 1st Rettendon Brownies whilst Elizabeth Hawkins ran the 1st Rettendon Guides. Another stalwart of the village, Flora Virgo wrote as secretary of Friends of Rettendon School about the new heating for the school swimming pool and announced that Mrs Chelmsford would be attending the school Summer Fete, she assured all readers that it would be "a knockout" I'm sure it was.

I wonder how the Diamond Jubilee will be remembered in the future, will we be having a committee to arrange a week of festivities or are we too mature I wonder. Thirty five years ago Frank and Norah Jewell were the hosts of the Wheatsheaf, "Your Local". Christine Barnes assured us that local people were providing a good supply of children for the playgroup and the rector, Rev. Waterer posed the question "Do we want visible unity?" Many of those names and places are familiar to us today, an indication of the continuity in this area that will hopefully last another thirty five years.

Isobel Greenshields.

Ride and Stride This year's Ride & Stride fund raising event for the Friends of Essex Churches took place on September 10th. Andrew, Stuart and James Turner along with Ian Witherow took part in the Essex Churches cycle ride. They all did exceedingly well and between them raised £431-65 of which £215-50 came back to our church. This annual event was I feel a fitting tribute to dear Victoria Lepper who has in the past organised the event and who has over many years shown great dedication, sitting in a draughty church porch welcoming & signing in cyclists from other churches. She would have been delighted with this year's outcome. **Jane Fallows**

Rawreth Art Group Provides a time & space for you to paint or draw as you wish. It is **not** an Art class. The group meets in Rawreth Village Hall Conservatory on the second and fourth Thursday of each month for a two hour period from 2 to 4pm. Interested? Want more information? Then please call **Ruth Lushey on 01268 781177**

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly & lie about your age. **Lucille Ball, Actress**

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Our Annual General Meeting takes place at Rettendon Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 24th November. You do not have to be a member to come and find out what we get up to.

Membership can be renewed and we do have a good raffle and some festive fare at this meeting. All helpful suggestions from the floor are appreciated so don't be bored - come and join in the fun.

Hazel Dale Evans, Secretary 01245 401538

Battlesbridge Free Church Having missed the last newsletter because of holidays, I was not able to enthuse people about the Shoebox Weekend. For children in Eastern Europe, some of whom will never have received a Christmas present, to be given a colourful box full of a variety of interesting, fun and useful gifts will bring wide eyed smiles of excitement and happiness. I know this will be so having seen a film of children receiving boxes from last year's distribution.

Another missed item concerned our October Quiz Night. We hope to join in with the Quiz night being held for Rettendon Church on Friday 11th November in Rettendon Village Hall starting at 7-30pm.

We have our annual November Fayre on 12th November at 2-00pm when there will be something for everyone, including our grand raffle. Do come!

There will be a Brass Band Concert on November 25th at 7-30pm. Tickets at the door, £5. Again, do come and we hope there will be no power cut this year. In any event candles are at the ready!

The children will join in the Nativity presentations on the morning of Sunday December 18th and there will be a candlelight service on that evening at 6-30pm.

There will be a Watch Night Christmas Eve service on Saturday 24th December at 11-30pm.

For devotees of Sunday Lunch at Battlesbridge Free Church please note there will be no Sunday Lunches during November and December.

June Edwards 01245 426122

Rettendon Parish Council

Traveller Actions As I am sure that most of you are aware of the current eviction of a large number of Travellers from the Crays Hill site and it is hoped that those families moved from the site find suitable legal pitches across the country. It is a possibility that those evicted may wish to settle nearer to the original Dale Farm site.

The move from Dale Farm as with similar action at any other site brings with it the possibility of illegal sites being set up, which is a prompt to remind all land owners to make sure their land is fenced and secured. Residents are asked to be extremely vigilant and if they see anything that is of concern to them they should contact the Police direct.

Metal Theft This is a country wide problem as the price of scrap metal has increased alarmingly and everyone needs to be extra vigilant about metal thefts.

If you have metal gates, signs or fences make sure they are as secure as possible. The message must be if you see anyone acting suspiciously then please contact the Police as quickly as possible.

Grateful thanks Susan and David Bishop would like to thank friends, neighbours and villagers for their assistance in the smooth running of the wedding of their daughter Katie-Jayne to Paul John Venus on Saturday 3rd September, 2011 at All Saints Church.

Special thanks to the Revd Harvey Reed - a splendid service and such patience! To Jane Fallows for all the organising and recommendations made. Lyn Benson for the most beautiful Church flowers and of course to the bell ringers - heard but not seen!

It was so lovely to see so many at the church - thank you all very much.

Katie and Paul enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon touring Hong Kong, Bali and Kuala Lumpur. **Sue Bishop.**

(My apologies, these thanks were missed off the last R&B newsletter. RSF.)

A Challenge to cake makers ? In the last R&B Newsletter I mentioned about a friend who whilst sifting through some of her late mother's belongings came across an unusual recipe. Try as she may, she was unable to decipher it so I set a challenge to see if any R&B reader could work their magic and decipher this 'scriptures cake' ? The first person to come up with the answers was Leanne Jefferies, (see below) - in brackets & bold type. My congratulations & thanks to Leanne who provided the answer within a few hours of receiving her newsletter.

Four & a half cups (**of flour**) 1st Kings, ch IV, v22; One and a half cups (**of butter**) of Judges, ch V, v25; Two cups of (**sugar**) Jeremiah, Ch VI v20; Two cups of (**raisins**) 1st Samuel, XXX, v12; Two cups of (**figs**) Nahum, ch III, v 12. One cup of numbers (**almonds**), ch XVII, v8; Six of Jeremiah, (**eggs**) ch XVII, v11; half a cup of judges (**½ cup of milk**), ch. IV, v19; two tsps of Amos, (**baking powder**) ch IV, v5; A pinch of (**salt**) Leviticus, ch IKI, v13; Season to taste with second Chronicles, ch. IX, v7 (**spices**); Follow Solomon's recipe for making a good boy, (**beat it all together**) Proverbs, ch. XXIII, v14.,

Dot Cotton from Eastenders wasn't available for Leanne to talk to so it was down to good old research in the Bible.

Ron Fallows 01245 400394

RHS Garden, Hyde Hall

Events at Hyde Hall during the month of November
Gallery Exhibition of Fine Art & Crafts, Sat 5th to Sun 6th November from 10am to 3pm

Brought to you by the Guild of Essex Craftsmen this exhibition will be showcasing some of their specialised work, with a particular focus on fine art and crafts. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Christmas Shopping Evening, Thurs 24th November from 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy the unique atmosphere of Christmas shopping at Hyde Hall. With ample free parking and 20% off all purchases shopping has never been easier. FREE admission. Booking not required.

He says he's young at heart - but slightly older in other places! Anon

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

BATTLESBRIDGE MATTERS The River Crouch Conservation Group achieved a £15,000 payout from Anglian Water who polluted our River. This money is held by the Environmental Agency, let us hope that the money is actually used to the betterment of the River. If Anglian Water pollute the River again, which they probably will, I will get them before a Magistrates quicker than they can blink!

I am trying to get a 30 mph signs for Hawk Hill from the River Bridge to the Turnpike.

The new streetlights in Maltings Road, all two of them, are to be switched on soon.

I feel that it is going to be a very cold winter again, have you seen the amount of berries and acorns. At the base of the oak trees there are carpets of them. Global warming is a media led myth, I am convinced!

Please I would like any fresh ideas how we can improve Battlesbridge, No I am not moving, and I do not want traffic lights on the bridge. **Roy Hart**

VICTORIA ANN LEPPER 1940 – 2011

On a sad note, we had the passing of Victoria Lepper.

All Saints Church was totally packed to capacity, to the point of people standing outside! That is how popular Victoria was throughout Rettendon. The reading was by Kim, Victoria's daughter in law and James, her son gave a really splendid Eulogy to his mother; this is always an emotionally very hard task.

Victoria was an extremely energetic lady, she, together with Lance her husband ran a small head of Dexter cattle at Herds Farm. Victoria was a Church Warden and a Parish Councillor for many years and a trustee of the Richard Cannon Charity established in 1602. The Charity provided, in specific circumstances, grant aid to needy people living in the Parish.

One of her joys was to fly fish for salmon in the high latitudes of Norway with Lance, who she out fished on many occasions.

Victoria was a very attractive lady with a voice to match "Oh my dear, how wonderful" Hurrah hurrah ", "that's just splendid, well done you". She kept her spirits high during her long suffering and if you stepped out of line, Victoria was a force to be reckoned with!

To Lance, Kim & James, it is as if a beautiful bright light has been switched off in Rettendon and from everyone. Goodbye to a First lady of Rettendon.

Councillor Roy Hart 01268 768282

Village Design Statement

The VDS was adopted by Chelmsford Borough Council's Cabinet members on Tuesday 11th October. It was a great relief to all as the VDS group have been working on the document for six years!

The document now goes to the printers and when we have the finished copies every household in the parish will receive one. I have chaired the meetings throughout the whole process - a process which has been long and often torturous with numerous changes in the details required. However, we are now at the end of the road and I must thank the Committee members for their hard work and dedication to get to the end result. We are all looking forward to seeing the printed document. Well done Martin and Jane. **Pat Prebble**

Local happenings of yester year

Following my plea for articles about local happening from years ago I now have the original list of the 1st Rettendon Brownies for the period 1927 to 1938. Maybe there are local residents who can recognise the names of friends, relatives or even their own name on the list? Give me, Ron Fallows, a call on 01245 400394 if you want a copy then please give me a call.

Many thanks to Ena Griggs for the original list.

Village Agents The aim of the village agents pilot project is to help people get at information, advice and services to make living in rural areas easier and more satisfying.

Village Agents are funded by Essex County Council and the NHS Mid Essex to give free independent advice and information. We work alongside over 80 referral partners and other organisation and can help you have information about the services they provide.

Village Agents can help you access help on services, welfare benefits, support for carers, fire and home safety, health and fitness, local social groups, leisure and learning, travel, Digital Switchover and lots, lots more. We are approved by Essex County Council to carry out assessments for Telecare, minor personal and home adaptations, and are approved by Essex Fire and Rescue Service to carry out Fire Safety Checks.

Village agents also provide advice on the Help Scheme associated with the switchover to digital television in the London TV region, and are pleased to help any individual or group that would like to know more.

I am locally based and can visit you in your own home to discuss needs, or meet with you at a local venue. If you are not sure whether a Village Agent can help, why not try me? **John Peart, Village Agent.** Call free on 0800 977 5858 or mobile 07540 720611 or email me at john.peart@vaessex.org.uk

Village Agents are employed by the Rural Community Council of Essex, Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company limited by Guarantee No 4609624

My Thanks Brenda Hurren would like to say a big thank you to her family and many friends for the lovely birthday cards and presents on the occasion of that 'special birthday'. It really was a most memorable day and one I will remember for a very long time. **Brenda**

The next edition of this R&B Newsletter will be a combined one for the months of December and January. Items for inclusion in the combined edition to be with me please NO LATER than SUNDAY 20th November.

Items for the following R&B Newsletter - for February 2012, the 300th edition - to be with me please by Friday 20th January. Items are included on a 'first come, first served basis' and late items will not be accepted. Deadlines for typing, printing, sorting, distribution and delivery dates have to be kept. Ron Fallows 01245 400394

All Saints Day Sunday October 30th at All Saints. It is the Patronal Festival day. Service at 11-15 as usual.

Rettendon School - March 1978

"A very important anniversary occurs on 7th October 1978. The school is one hundred years old. This should warrant a Royal telegram? However it can be made a very special occasion, using our own resources; the School's Managing body (Mrs Benson Chairman, Mr Woollcott Parent Representative) are expressing a wish for just that.

During a century, changes in Education practice and precept have been many; How interesting is the swing of the pendulum. One personal observation; "Society appears to lead and Education appears to follow.

Building - concrete -changes however, are more readily seen and valued. Many bits have been added to the original buildings; each bit has provided a little more facility, a little more space. The most recent being the Hall which rapidly became absorbed into normal routine. How ever did we manage in previous years? The Hall houses fixed apparatus which enables experience helpful to the strong exercises and agilities further developed at Secondary School stage. The wood block floor is a luxury and affords occasional work bare footed, hence our seemingly pernicketness in the care of the surface. Of course the entrance is similar to a mosque. Plimsoles are also used, but continue to be at your expense. Please periodically check the fit and condition.

The hall doubles as a dining room. Whilst we have no part in the menu we do encourage against waste and for acceptable conduct. Kitchen Ladies and Mid-day assistants are part of the staff.

The overall policy can be summarised:- Concern for one another; Reading to good effect; Competency in number; all 'other' added to these three. Teaching force;- Mrs Bowler class1; Miss Cole (Deputy Head) class 2, Miss Davis class 3, Mrs Mandl class 4, Mr Warke class 5, Mrs Suckling and Schoolmaster.

There is no need to tell you of the sincerity and loyalty of all 'Staff'. We are concerned with fostering the "Never to be less than we are" and each child has "a fair rub of the green". It is important to accept that 'Home' is paramount in shaping the young mind; please don't hesitate to contact us should the "back wheel come off" In the in-between engage their "Nibs" in conversation, read to and with them and above all continue to love 'em. Children are encouraged to cart books back and forth. We ask that such books are kept 'safe'.

In spite of the economy we swam most of the summer term. The cost was met from efforts by 'The Friends', Chairman Mr R Fallows, Hon Secretary Mrs Snell - A potters wheel, 12 recorders, 6 jingle rings and weight scales and of course a 'planted and seated' area are evidence of the continuing help of 'The Friends'.

"If at the end of the day the children have benefited then all is worthwhile" You will recall the purchase of six silver birch by the Parish Council to mark Jubilee. They are now well established. Three in each corner of the North end of the school field, and are to be distinguished by a plaque."

H Wilkinson, Schoolmaster

A contribution to the 1978 Rettendon Review, "An annual magazine devoted to keeping the people of Rettendon informed of the social activities of the village.