

RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

Barry

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POSH FROCKS SALE'

Why not bring along those posh dresses you'll never wear again and recycle or swap for something new and at a fraction of the original cost.

Visit Rettendon Memorial Hall on Friday 5th August at 6-30pm. Entrance £5 which includes light refreshments. Come along and have a bit of fun. Why not bring along your friends. ALL PROCEEDS TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH.
Information from Lyn Benson 01245 400468

Rettendon Village Society

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

- 1st £65 Sheila Osborne, Meadow Road
- 2nd £30 Doreen White, South Woodham Ferrers
- 3rd £20 Roland Smith, Woodham Road
- 4th £15 Mark Stevens, Woodham Road

The next Bingo session and 200 Club draw will be held on Friday 26th August, 2011. Fancy a bit of an increase in your holiday money? Why not come and play Bingo and have a go! All new visitors are made very welcome. £1 a book to play and a raffle at the interval - all unwanted gifts gratefully received. Bring your refreshments, nibbles, drinks and the children are always welcome. Don't forget eyes down 7.30pm SHARP!! See you there.

Jacky Copsey 01268 765357

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Why not join us on our trip to Parham House & Gardens, West Sussex which is our destination on Sunday 14th August & costs £20 per person including coach travel and entrance to the House and Gardens. No concessions. A £10 non returnable deposit is required at the time of booking. Usual pick up and drop off points at Rettendon Bell and Rettendon School. Please give me, Jean, a call on 01268 763183 to book your place.

Mobile Library in Rettendon & Battlesbridge

The dates and times of the revised visits are as follows.
Battlesbridge Goose Cottages, Alternate Fridays 5th & 19th August plus 2nd September from 14-40 to 14-55 hrs.

Chalk Street, Alternate Thursdays on 4th & 18th August from 13-15 to 13-30 hrs.

Meadow Road Alternate Wednesdays on 10th & 24th August from 16-30 to 16-45.

Rettendon Salforal Close, Alternate Wednesdays on 10th & 24th August from 16-05 to 16-25.

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

"Is there anything worn under the kilt? No, it's all in perfect working order." Spike Milligan.

"I knew I was going bald when it was taking longer and longer to wash my face." Harry Hill.

"You don't know real embarrassment until your hip sets off a metal detector." Ross McGuinness

Mobile Customer Information Service

The Council's Mobile Customer Information Service will next visit Rettendon on Wednesday 14th September 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 - October 12th.

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.

Rettendon Horticultural Society

What a fantastic summer show. Very many thanks to the innumerable people who did their bit and more to enable the smooth running of this event. You all deserve a medal.

The marquee housed most of the exhibits for people to view and as a result people won prizes and cups which are awarded for the most points in a section.

Winners were Gabrielle Church, Joy Elliot, Pauline Carter, Ron & Jane Fallows, Alistair Matthews, Maria Poole, Hazel Dale Evans, Paul Wright, Pam Galbally, Carol Cole, Katherine Evans, Val Heimes, Ruth Lushey, Abbie Little and Jaycee.

Susan Frost won the leg of pork. In the Dog Show Sue Parker was 1st with Kandy, John McGregor was 2nd with Tinkerbelle & Tony Evans 3rd with Stevie. In the Cat section Ellie Pinnock was 1st with Jasper and 2nd with Oscar.

Don't forget our Autumn Show in the village hall on Saturday 10th September. Schedule attached.

Phil Burch kindly donated his £10 bowling prize to the Horticultural Society. The winners of the Classic Car competition - guessing in their view 'the best,' not winning the car. Martin was 1st - Jaguar E type; Colin Moles 2nd - Morris Minor Rally car and Stan Aglesee was 3rd - Ford Classic Capri.

Finally our grateful thanks to Kathryn Evans and her team for organising and running a most successful Village Party and donating £400 from the profits to the society. (I went to the Village Party after the show and I had a jolly good time too !!)

Hazel Dale Evans 01245 401538

RHS Hyde Hall Events, August 2011

Saturday 30 July, Picnic Evening - The Canterbury Tales from 6pm to 9pm.

Critically acclaimed open-air theatre company, The Pantaloons bring Chaucer's pilgrims to life in this new adaptation of the medieval classic with a contemporary twist. Expect music, laughter and tears as a cast of larger-than-life characters tell their tales of deception and redemption, magic and majesty, life and death. Oh, and talking chickens.

Please bring your own picnic, blankets and maybe an umbrella - just in case! Adults £10. Children under 16 £2. Booking essential on 0845 612 1253.

Children's Garden Fiends, Wednesday 3rd to Thursday 4th August from 10 am to 3 pm

A chance for children to find out about the bugs and beasties. Enjoy bug hunts and falconry displays and then make ugly bug masks to take home.

Kids go FREE, normal garden admission applies for adults. Booking not required.

The Essex Art & Design Show, Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th August, from 10am to 4pm

Join artists and designers showcasing and selling a wide range of work including fine art, photography, jewellery and other contemporary crafts. More than just a craft show, all work is designed and made by the exhibitors. A great opportunity to buy unique and individual pieces either for yourself or as a gift.

Kids go FREE, normal garden admission applies for adults. Booking not required.

For more information on each of these activities please contact the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall on 01245 400256

David Lawrence Jones

It was with great sadness that long standing parish residents learnt of the recent death of David whose funeral service was held on July 1st at Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, with over 100 friends and family in attendance.

David and his wife Gwyneth, who pre-deceased him some years previously, lived at Rettendon Old Hall and it was there David inherited a keen interest in growing fruit and vegetables. David's wife Gwyneth was often amused that the children were never allowed to pick certain vegetables when they were young and tender because gardener Arthur Shepherd was growing them for the Horticultural Society competition!

David was for many years Church Warden at All Saints and as a retired Solicitor brought a great deal of expertise to bear on matters relating to the church, the cricket club, village hall and many local organisations including the Richard Cannon and Meeson Almshouses charities.

Many of us have very positive memories of David and his contribution to the life and work of this Parish and we offer to his family our sincere condolences. **Ron Fallows**

Rettendon School

Summer Fayre - A very big thank you to all parents, carers and relatives who supported the school's Summer Fayre. It was a fantastic day and the wonderful weather made it all the more enjoyable. We made an incredible £1,200 for the FRS (Friends of Rettendon School) funds which is a real achievement for such a small school in such difficult financial times.

The Term's achievements - This term has been very successful and we are proud of our pupils. Year 2 brought home a huge trophy when they won the Mini-Olympics against 11 other schools. A notable achievement as we were the smallest school there yet we still managed to win! Years 3, 4, 5, & 6 did the school proud at the regional swimming gala. We came second out of the local Woodham schools and again we were the smallest school in attendance. Also years 5 and 6 entered a district golf championship and went forward to the regional final and came 3rd. Two year 6 pupils also won a regional K'NEX (design & technology) competition.

We have also been successful musically. Oliver Boosey came first in a regional competition against other schools and won a very impressive gold medal for his outstanding piano recital and Thomas Sauvary-Hines passed his guitar exams with 'flying colours'. Also our choir and orchestra very bravely played and sung at the Sandon concert in

front of a very large audience.

SAT's results - All this in addition to some excellent SAT's results for which year 6 & their teachers (past & present) should feel extremely proud. The results for the year 6 children who have been in school for the whole of their KS2 years are summarised here.

English. 91% RSP (Rettendon School pupils) reaching level 4 against NA (National average) of 80%.

English. 45% of RSP reaching level 5 against the NA of 29%.

Maths. 92% of RSP reaching level 4 against the NA of 79%.

Maths. 45% of RSP reaching level 5 against the NA of 34%.

As the academic year comes to a close I would like to thank all staff, governors and parents for their support this year. It has been a challenging year as we have started many new projects whilst continuing to sustain many other things that are ongoing. I am very proud of what Rettendon School has achieved this year and with a new nursery about to open I am sure we will continue to grow from strength to strength. **Mrs J Barber, Head Teacher**

Neighbourhood Watch

Watch out, bogus Telephone Engineers are about

A man called at a property claiming to be a BT engineer and said that he was calling to repair the line which was faulty. He produced some ID which was later found to be fake. Unbeknown to the victim the bogus engineer had cut the phone wires before calling.

The victim would not have allowed the bogus engineer in but the engineer pointed out to the owner that he could check he was genuine by checking the phone. When the victim checked the phone the line it was dead who then believed the caller was genuine and allowed him in. Having got into the house the caller resorted to the usual modus operandi. Before moving away from the front door to check the phones in the company of the victim, he pretended to close the front door but actually left it ajar for his accomplice to come in and search the house whilst the victim was kept busy by the caller.

If you are faced with a similar situation about telephone fault that you were unaware of, don't let the caller in! Use your mobile phone or a neighbours phone to contact your service provider and make an appointment for one of their engineers to call.

So far we have not suffered with this type of incident within the Chelmsford area, but it is happening in surrounding areas. I always believe in the saying 'Forewarned is forearmed'

Here is a copy of a bogus email scam, if you get one just delete it.

" HMRC account re-funding notification.

Following our random account check we have discovered that your tax has exceed your anual imcome, Thus leading to tax refunding

Please kindly click the login link below to remit the sum of 5400.78 GBP to your account."

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ACCOUNT INFO](#)

Best Regards,

HMRC Online Services © "

Essex Police, Brenda Cross,

Essex Watch Administrator, Email

brenda.cross@essex.pnn.police.uk

THANK YOU all for your flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers following my recent operation. I am on the "UP" Road and with your love and support will continue that way. THANKS A MILLION. **Love, Dianne (Francombe)**

Rettendon Horticultural Society - Autumn Show

We hold our annual autumn show in the village hall on Saturday 10th September. A copy of the schedule of classes is included with this newsletter. Please make the effort to put an entry into one of the classes, there is something for everyone to try. Entries in by 10am for judging please.

There will be an opportunity to play some silly games and eating yummy cakes normally forbidden, so arrive at 2pm and compare the tomatoes with fervour. There is no admission for this afternoon of entertainment.

Hazel Dale Evans (Secretary) 01245 401538

Rettendon Pre School

We will be finishing Pre School on 20th July with our leavers party and presentation. We are expecting Mickey Mouse to drop in to see us.

During our six week break we will be meeting at the Memorial Park in Wickford every Wednesday for a picnic and play. All children, young or old, are welcome. The play rangers will also be there and will be organising rounders, football, cricket and will have other play equipment available, so come along and have some fun.

For further information call Pat on 01245 401328 or try the mobile 07762 909351.

Village Design Statement At long last we have reached the final stages of our Village Design Statement (VDS). It has been a long and arduous task with a lot of work having gone into the project over the last five years and I am glad to say that the Planners are now happy to present it to CBC's Cabinet. However the summer recess intervenes and the next meeting is not scheduled until September.

A very big thank you to the members of the VDS Committee and to the members of the public who have provided us with pictures and information needed by the committee to produce the VDS document. Thank You.

Pat Prebble, Chairperson

Battlesbridge Free Church, Fellowship News

The Fellowship Garden Party will be held on August 16th at the church. It is hoped to put on a games afternoon followed by tea.

Our first September meeting is on the 6th when we will welcome a speaker from the Chelmsford Cat Adoption Centre and on September 20th we shall hold a Harvest service which will be led by Pastor Phil Groves from Tillingham.

The Harbour Club meet on a Tuesday and members are sometimes able to join in Fellowship meetings.

Sunday service is at 11am on August 7th and will include a Communion service led by Revd Peter Brewer.

Sunday August 14th We look forward to welcoming John Slow, a long standing friend of the church on his annual visit from Dorset. He will lead the 11am service which will be followed by the August Sunday lunch. For catering purposes, it would be helpful if those wishing to attend the

lunch would contact Mary Jefferies on 01702 793241.

Morning worship on August 21st and 28th is at 11am and will be led by Pastor David Cotton.

Youth club meets on Wednesdays at 6-30 pm during term time and Sunday Club children meet in the church hall. Family yoga is held in the church hall on Tuesday evenings and on occasion 'Drum Circle'.

Rayleigh Brass Band practice on Monday evenings and 'Simply Brass' band use the hall for practice on Thursday evenings.

June Edwards 01245 426122

Battlesbridge Matters

Tuesday 19th July. I throw another two logs on the fire, I am more than ever convinced global warming is a totally media lead farce. I would like to sue Ryanair for my return £10 environment payment on their flights. They say only bad news really sells newspaper or forecasting bad news. Some news editors have much to answer for. A lot more sunshine would be welcome and much bigger pipe connections to the lakes in Cumbria where it nearly always rains would be good too.

In Battlesbridge nearly every week there are goings on. Last Saturday the church had the local wedding ceremony and reception in the hall. It rained all day but the guests told me it was just wonderful. Sunday, church service, Sunday school, 5,000 cyclists through the village (London to Southend), hundreds of bikes everywhere. At 3pm the crazy raft race in the river (£700 raised) and a live band in the Barge car park till late.

The night at The Opera was a sell out and over £2000 was raised for local charities. A country barbeque on August 21st and a display of falconry and have a go at clay pigeon shooting and car rally fishing etc. This is organised by The Knight Templars of Essex. £10 per head including a very good barbeque.

Fri 16th and Sat 17th September 'A Perfect relationship' life and times of Stephen Sondheim. Ticket £9.95. Event will be held under cover.

Otters are now starting to come up the Crouch. I saw one very early in the morning last Sept now foot prints have been found in dried mud under the Wickford bypass!

All our hay is now undercover, the bale numbers were well down on last year and that year was bad.

I am sorry to report 'Sweed' (Derek Swetman) died in the early hours of Monday morning after fighting cancer of the throat. For a very long time Sweed was a busker playing his guitar in Wickford and Chelmsford high street. He also travelled all over Europe especially the Munchen Beer Festival. Sweed was a strange site sometimes, always calm in a quiet world. But I have known him for 37 years, he was a most interesting and talented man. He had a really genuine love and knowledge for all nature from fish and fishing, birds and flowers, life etc. My best memory of Sweed was when one of the young barmaids was leaving the Barge to go to college, he presented to her a wonderful Faberge type egg which Sweed had made in his caravan. Well I have seen some beautiful works of art, the intricacies of that egg were just breathtaking, never to be forgotten for those that had the pleasure to get to see it. Also our condolences to Sweeds long life old friend Cliff'o. Notice of funeral arrangements will be pinned up in The Barge, The Hawk and the notice board by the church.

Cllr Roy Hart 01268 768282

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. 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 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

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

On May 10th 1940 the News of the World published a letter on it's front page which, together with many interested parties, inspired the eventual explosion in what was eventually to become the Home Guard. Here is the published letter.

"Germans are dropping troops by parachute. They may do the same in this country. I am speaking for thousands if not millions of ex servicemen who can shoot. We are too old for active service but can show a rifle and a badge, and "let 'em all come", --- Ex Serviceman

Many accounts have been written, and indeed many more will follow on the Second World War period. Much has been written by Commanders in the field on all sides of the battle many by individuals who took part and many by historians and investigative journalists. All are now history and nearly every individual battle or incident has been recorded, hopefully, for posterity against any further possibilities.

There is one subject however which remains an enigma to those who live in every town, village and hamlet in the country; for although a great deal has already been written, there is still much uncovered. The revival of repeats in the popular and skilfully written television production of Dads Army is proof enough to the popularity of the series. It remains as a portrayal of an inefficient and bumbling example of hilarious situations that actually happened. This article is written mainly for the up and coming student of Military History who, if they dug a little deeper, would realise that the Home Guard was not in itself a subject of derision but, in places, a highly skilled and defensive organisation that would certainly have had to bear the brunt of an invasion had it come.

To appreciate the situation we must go back to 1940 when it was eventually recognised that all the promises and political polemic had finally been washed away when hoards of highly trained and modernised material of war had flooded the lowlands of Holland, Belgium and France with an imminent invasion of England well and truly the next country. It was learnt in the last minutes before the jackboots entered Paris was the need to ensure that the final defence of our homeland was of the greatest priority. We had already experienced defeat at Dunkirk, although at the time, for morale purposes, it was classed as a victory. But Hitler's latest plan 'Operation Sea Lion' - the invasion of England was now a reality.

German forces were massing at various European ports to

cross the English Channel and very soon we would literally have, 'our backs to the walls'. Winston Churchill had already stirred the nation with his rallying comment, "We shall fight them in the hills and on the beaches - we will never surrender." Fact is if it wasn't for the gallant few of the RAF, this statement would have been well put to the test. Even now those who experienced the hoard of invaders, still count their blessings that they were liberated. For although our country suffered terribly, we thankfully have no experience of a jackboot on our doorstep.

The British have been noted for their stiff upper lip, any intrusion on our soil by any form of force would suffer terrible consequences. Yes, Rettendon had it's own Dads Secret Army.

J Henry Foster (1995)

(Offered in response to my request for articles, items of interest and remembrances about Rettendon's times past. To be continued in the September R&B Newsletter.

Parish Council Jottings

Frequent comments are offered to me about dog fouling and it seems the prospect of a fine of up to £2,000 is not a big enough disincentive to deter dog owners from allowing their pets to foul pavements, play and games areas, the churchyard or peoples gardens. If you see people allowing their dogs to foul these areas then report the facts to Chelmsford Borough Councils Dog Warden Service on **01245 606800**.

Residents I am sure have every sympathy with the families whose loved ones are killed in a road accident but why do they put floral tributes at the scene of the accident alongside the road, or tie them to the hedge or tree and then promptly leave the rotted remains expecting that others should clear up the mess.

The Parish Council now has a new professionally developed website and wishes to expand its potential to the wider parish community. Organisations, meetings, activities, business, people to contact etc. You can even have a link to your own website. For further information please contact our Parish Clerk, Barry Summerfield tel. **01702 547783**. **Chairman, Ron Fallows**

Please note the following deadline dates for the next four R&B Newsletters.

The combined Sept/Oct Newsletter to me by 20th Aug

The November Newsletter to me by 20th Oct

The combined Dec/Jan Newsletter to me by 20th Nov

The Feb. 2012 Newsletter to me by 20th Jan

Newsletter items can be in writing of by email. Call me for email contact details. Ron Fallows 01245 400394

Help needed Here Have you got any items, articles of interest, remembrances etc and would be willing to put pen to paper about any aspect of Rettendon's history ?

I have included in past R&B newsletters items about Battlesbridge but I have found very few about Rettendon. Can you help ? If YES, then I would appreciate it if you will give me, **Ron Fallows, a call on 01245 400394**.

'One of the advantages of being seventy five is that you need only four hours sleep. True, you need it four times a day, but still.'

Dennis Norden comedian & TV presenter