

RETTENDON & BATTLESBRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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Rettendon Primary School, Pre School Sessions

We began running three pre-school sessions a week in school in September 2010 and quickly found that the children and parents wanted more and we are now open every day from 8.40 till 12.45! We believe that play underpins all development and learning for young children and our highly skilled team of practitioners ensure that this happens alongside our reception children. They have enjoyed the freedom that our outdoor environment brings; exploring and planting, feeding and caring for our chickens and guinea pigs, using the games and climbing equipment and this term we have started swimming lessons twice a week. The children cook every week in their own kitchen and use the school library and the gym equipment in the hall.

It has been wonderful to see parents and carers watch their children relax and enjoy stimulating, motivating sessions all in a safe environment. If you have a child approaching pre-school age and would like to come and have a look around then please ring the school on 01268-732096 to come and meet me and to arrange a visit.

Mrs Marsh BA (Hons) Foundation Stage Teacher

Rettendon Horticultural Society

Thanks are due to all those who came to our plant sale, who helped at and especially those who were involved in providing plants for this annual event.

We had a lovely time deciding what to get and we can report the event made a worthwhile profit which helps to offset some of the costs of our summer show. Many thanks to all.

Our next date is June 16th at 8 pm in the village hall. This Open Meeting is for all who need to communicate in any way about our Summer Show on 9th July. So if you want to help, need a table, are booking space or have any queries this will be the opportunity. Can't make it? Phone me beforehand and we'll get it sorted.

Garden Judging On Sunday 3rd July Garden Judging takes place. Do check section E on your schedule a copy of which was delivered to your home with the April newsletter. Judging starts at 9 am so get busy and do some weeding now and phone me to enter your garden for judging.

Needlework Got any needlework you can put in the show? - Check your schedule there are some new classes. **Hazel Dale Evans, Secretary 01245 401538**

Eltham Palace and Gardens, Greenwich Don't forget our Coach trip on Sunday 26th June. There are still some seats available so phone **Jean on 01268 763183** to reserve your place. The cost is £20 per person which includes coach travel and entrance to the Palace and Gardens. No concessions. A £10 non returnable deposit is required at the time of booking.

Parham House & Gardens, West Sussex Is our second garden visit on **Sunday 14th August** The cost is £20 per person which includes coach travel and entrance to the House and Gardens. No concessions. A £10 non returnable deposit is required at the time of booking. To reserve your seat phone Jean on 01268 763183.

I saw a Greek comedian. He had a great sense of humour.

Rettendon & Battlesbridge Village Party 9th July 2011 from 7-30pm till late.

After the Show in the marquee on the Cricket Field. A Barbie & drinks. Dancing to a top London D J's music. A grand raffle and karaoke too.

Advance bookings £5-50 a ticket aged 11 and upwards; £3-50 OAP's, £2 children aged 5 - 11, under 5's free.

On the night £7-50 a ticket aged 11 and upwards;

OAP's £5-00, Children age 5 - 11 £3, and under 5's still free. The ticket price include a burger or a hot dog in the price of the ticket. Remember - No Ticket, NO Entrance so Book early for a fun evening. For more information please call Kathryn Evans, Rawlings, Main Road, 01245 400244.

Rettendon Village Society

Here are the results for the 200 Club draw which took place on Friday 25th March, 2011.

1st £65 Leslie Jeans, South View Road, Rettendon

2nd £30 Pat Prebble, East Hanningfield Road, Rettendon

3rd £20 John Coppin, South View Road, Rettendon

4th £15 Derek Doe c/o Denise Doe, Rettendon Hall

The next Bingo sessions and 200 Club Draw will take place in the village hall on Friday 27th May and then on Friday 24th June. All are welcome so just come along armed with trusty bingo pen as well as a few nibbles and a drink (or two) and look forward to a great evening.

Don't forget the more people playing Bingo the bigger the prizes and more funds raised to help to maintain our village hall. We look forward to seeing you there. Remember, eyes down 7.45pm SHARP !!

Jacky Copsey 01268 765357

Rettendon Pre School

What an exciting day we all had at our Royal Wedding Party. We were joined by parents and grandparents and each child was given a Wills and Kate mug. The children each made shakers, flags, plates each with a picture of the happy couple on them. It was so good to be celebrating something nice.

We have sown lots more seeds in our greenhouse and in pots. The children have enjoyed watering them and looking each day to see if they are growing.

Last week we visited the woods and collected leaves, feathers and twigs for our nature table. Around the Cricket field there are lots of white flags and we walked around and counted them. There were 25. We can learn from our walks and explore the outside world.

At the Horticultural Societies Summer show on Saturday 9th July we are having a children's fancy dress competition so get those outfits ready and join in the fun. It's not the winning, it's the taking part and gaining confidence so make a note in your diary, July 9th is the day.

Pre School is full up at the moment but we do have places for a September start when the older children move on to start school. If you want more details then please give me a call. If you have a small child we are open Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9am to 1 pm, price £7 per day or drop in at any time and let your little one have a play. **Pat Prebble 01245 401328 or 07762 909351**

All Saints, Rettendon Our Spring Festival will be held on Sunday & Monday, May 29th & 30th from 10-30 am to 4pm. Our theme is '27 years of flowers' and those of us who will be decorating have chosen titles from the past. An example - Famous women, Hobbies, the Church Calendar, Anniversaries etc.

As ever we need this event to be a success and look forward to your support and your generosity to ensure All Saints remains a thriving church in a supportive community. The usual facilities will be available - refreshments, home made cakes, plants, gifts, bric-a-brac (new stock), second hand books, toys and cards.

Churchwarden Jane Fallows 01245 400394

Neighbourhood Watch

Minor thefts and examples of criminal damage are regular occurrences in any area be it urban or rural and 'our patch' is no exception however our Parish has been 'incident free' but things can and do change quickly.

Be on your guard for bogus callers or the con man who says he is from a well known service company - Electricity, Water, Telephone,

Here are a few tips to help you to report any suspicious activity to the Police.

What number should I call? 0300 333 4444

1. If it is an emergency such as a crime happening at the time call 999

2. If you are victim of crime try to touch as little as possible until the police arrive.

3. If you want to give information anonymously you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Have you noticed persons hanging around the area? These persons may be on foot, on a bike or in a vehicle.

Have you noticed a tool or a piece of equipment that has been discarded? This may have been used to commit a crime. Have you noticed anything in an odd location and thought it strange? Then report it 0300 333 4444

* Did you see or hear something?

Perhaps you may have heard a noise during the evening or at night. Have a look out of your window and if you see someone or a vehicle acting suspiciously then please call Essex Police straight away. Do not think that you are wasting Police time.

What information will help the Police? A description of the suspect(s) - Male/ Female, Ethnicity. Clothing (any patterns or logos). Age, Height, Build, Hair colour/style Was the suspect holding anything, goods / backpack? Tattoos, Glasses, beard

Give any directions that the suspect is heading towards.

Don' worry if you do not have answers to all these questions just remember as much as you can. It may help to keep a pen and pad handy.

Vehicle information Try to make a note of the Index number, the make and the model. Was the vehicle sign written, which way did it go?

If you see something strange report it to the Essex Police straight away. **Brenda Cross - Essex Police**

Essex Watch - Chelmsford and Braintree District
Tel 0300 333 4444 ex 485952 Mobile 07970 599923

Email brenda.cross@essex.pnn.police.uk

If you want to know how many bees Noah had - check the Ark-hives.

Rettendon Bowls Following our grand victory over Runwell Bowls Club a few months ago, we decided to take on Rayleigh British Legion who have never been beaten at Rettendon before, that is until last night (Monday 16th May) when Rettendon Bowls won 22 - 11 !!!

Victory against the Rayleigh British Legion at last, so we are patting ourselves on the back once again. A very enjoyable evening was had by all along with a lot of friendly banter. Our ladies supplied the food and drink, and Rayleigh made the most of it - it all vanished !

If you would like to come to our Bowls evenings and have a good night out we play in the Village Hall every Monday evening 7.00 to 10.00 and every Thursday afternoon 2.00 to 4.00, you will be made very welcome. All equipment provided. **Jacky Copsey 01268 765357**

RHS Hyde Hall Events

Help required at Hyde Hall - RHS Garden Hyde Hall is looking for motivated people to help grow its team of volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare each week, this is an excellent opportunity to get involved and help make a difference.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in various areas, including the garden, visitor centre, education and events.

For more information about volunteering either telephone 01245 400 256 or email hydehall@rhs.org.uk

Saturday 28 May to Sunday 5 June from 10am to 4pm

RHS Budding Gardeners' Exhibition

See an avenue of highly creative mini show gardens designed by local school children. Small but perfectly formed, you're bound to find some novel ideas for family flower beds. Visitors can vote for their favourite in the 'People's Choice Award'. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

Wednesday 1 June Children's Event - Mini Butterfly Garden. Pre-bookable sessions at: 11am & 2pm

A fun hands-on activity that gets children making their own butterfly themed mini garden to take home and enjoy. RHS Member Children £6. Non-Member Children £8.

Normal garden admission applies for adults. Booking essential on 0845 612 1253.

Thursday 2nd June from 6pm to 9pm Picnic Evening & Lecture by Dr Robert Liddiard

Organised by the Essex Gardens Trust, this picnic evening concludes with a lecture on "Reflecting on great landscapes: the use of water in medieval residences". It will examine the many uses to which water was put in the elite landscapes of the middle ages. RHS & EGT Members: £10. Non-Members: £15. Booking essential on 0845 612 1253.

Rose Weekend, Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June from 10am to 4pm. Covering all aspects of roses from growing to using them in floral displays and beauty products. This event is a must for rose lovers. An expert will be on hand and local growers, Cants of Colchester, will be selling their finest roses. Then soak up the sights and scents of the garden while enjoying a cream tea. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required.

A Taste of Summer Weekend, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June from 10am to 4 pm

A family friendly summer festival with Morris dancing, falconry displays and archery. Gardeners can pick up tips from our advice desk and there'll also be a range of local

produce for sale along with cream teas and ice creams. Normal garden admission applies. Booking not required. For more information on each of these activities please the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall on 01245 400256

Garden Notes Seamless movement from spring to summer. Amazing how many plants have managed to do their thing despite the desert like rainfall.

Thrush has come to mop up what snails have survived the freeze, and the mice have eaten all my peas.

Life goes on.

Mrs McGregor

Battlesbridge Matters

The Royal Wedding wasn't it a lovely day. We had such a great street party with cupcakes, sandwiches, salads, chicken, much wine and a steam engine with crossed flags on the front. Now sadly all in the mists of time, but for that day the rest of the world's problems were also lost in a similar mist.

We really need some serious rainfall, the ground is cracking up. The grass in the hay fields is rather poor. Hay prices will soon be similar to petrol prices i.e. well over £5 per gallon or bale.

The wind was strong easterly so we only had 30 members of The Old Gaffers Association for lunch, but the river comes alive when their traditional boats come to Battlesbridge. The problem with a strong wind is they can get up the river but can't go back to their home and ports as it is over 18 miles to the open sea. (The Whittaker Beacon).

Our biggest night of the year for our small theatre.

On 1st July we again have Helena Dix who is one of the worlds top Soprano's performing with Opera Novella and an orchestra for a night of top arias. If you have never been to an opera or heard the beautiful singing of tenors, Baritones and Sopranos live; I personally guarantee you will cherish a life long memory. Put on a long summer dress and bow ties bring a picnic table, park by our small lake or sea wall. Come about 6pm, the performance starts at 7.30 with an interval around 9pm and finishes approx 10.20pm.

The proceeds are going to The Royal National Life Boat Institution and our small Village Church for improvements to the hall. This is a ticket only event at £17.95 under 14's £10, refreshments are available. Excellent wine £6 per bottle etc. Please book early 01268 768282.

There is now a new sign helping to slow traffic in Maltings Road, also, the street lights should be in place and working in the next eight weeks (also in Maltings Road).

New Yoga and keep fit class for the whole family, great relaxing fun & held in Battlesbridge Church Village hall from 7pm-8.30pm. Adults £5, Under 16's £2.50, Everyone welcome. Interested ? Then phone Dawn on 01702 232894.

We now have up to 15 swans on our stretch of river and hopefully in the future many cygnets if all goes well. We have a colony of tufted ducks (male are black and white) also a pair of shell ducks, which are the most colourful in the British Isles they, I believe are part of the goose family.

Roy Hart

You should have been at the manicure world championships. What a nail-biting finish.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of a former resident of Battlesbridge -

Janet (Jennie) Bruten 04/03/1910 - 29/04/2011.

Janet passed away at Priory House Care Home in Westcliff-on-sea but had lived and been a part of the community in Battlesbridge for many years. As many people know Janet was Anne Denman's mother, Anne along with husband Bob ran The Barge for many years, serving the community with fine ales and wonderful home cooked food.

Anne would like to thank everyone for all their kind messages and cards that the family have received. The funeral was held on Wednesday 25th May at 12.20pm at Southend Crematorium followed by a short service at 13.30pm at Battlesbridge Free Church followed by refreshments at Frasers Guest House at about 14.15.

All enquiries to Tanners Funeral Directors 01702 618358

Kathleen 'Kath' Blanchot

A former resident of Southview Road, Rettendon who died peacefully at a care home on the Wirral, Cheshire on 27th April. The relatives have asked through the medium of this newsletter to convey this sad news.

Mobile Library in Rettendon & Battlesbridge

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

Battlesbridge Goose Cottages, Alternate Fridays 3rd and 17th June from 14-40 to 14-55 hrs.

Chalk Street, Alternate Thursdays on 9th and 23rd June from 13-15 to 13-30 hrs.

Rettendon Salford Close, Alternate Thursdays on 2nd & 16th June from 4-05 to 4-25.

Meadow Road visits will also be on alternate Thursdays on 2nd & 16th June from 3-45 to 14-00.

Any changes to future dates and times of visits will be given in future copies of this newsletter.

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

The Harbour Club, Battlesbridge is a day centre offering specialist activities and support for older adults living with dementia. A high staff to member ratio gives the opportunity to deliver a high level of care using trained and experienced staff.

The opportunity is available to make friends and to take part in a range of activities designed to stimulate their cognitive, physical and social skills.

Our members are individuals over 65 years of age who are living with Dementia which is defined as, 'unusually poor mental function associated with confusion, forgetfulness and difficulty concentrating which can be caused by a variety of medical conditions'.

Whilst members are enjoying the day with us their carers also benefit enabling them to enjoy some well earned respite, safe in the knowledge that their loved one is in good hands in a safe, caring environment.

Most importantly we at the Harbour Club aim to improve quality of life for those living with dementia, be they the individual or their family.

Please contact us for further information. Tel 07788 619 452. E: info@theharbourclub.org.uk or why not visit our website www.theharbourclub.org.uk

Mobile Customer Information Service

The Council's Mobile Customer Information Service will next visit Rettendon on **Wednesday 8th June 2011** between 10.00am and 11.30am in the Committee Room to the rear of the Village Hall. Further visits to Rettendon will be on the second Wednesday in each month.

You can find 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 further advice.

Some Thoughts on Battlesbridge

An item from an early 1960's edition of the Rettendon Review by Mr Frank Matthews.

"The name conjures up many romantic associations with our more turbulent past. Whether Edmond Ironside's weary rearguard action after the battle of Assandune or whether a man named Bataille gave the bridge its name, no one knows. But it is certain that here was a river crossing place since the beginning of our history.

Here at the head of the tidal waters stood a water mill for many centuries. The last was built in 1771. This was superseded in 1896 by a steam mill, which was in turn replaced after a disastrous fire in 1933, by the present steel framed electrically powered, structure which dominates the landscape. Animal foods for farms all over Essex are manufactured from home grown and imported grain.

The river has always been used as a highway. First the Saxons then the Danes penetrated into the country to rob and pillage. Later Thames barges plied the tideway. They brought in timber, stone for road making, lime for burning and grain for grinding. It is recorded that in the late 1800's the small 60 ton Maldon barge, Robin Hood, provided a regular carrier service along the Crouch, calling at a number of small quays from Battlesbridge downwards. Hay was loaded for London horses and their manure was brought back for the farms. Local grain was shipped to other centres of consumption. In his heyday the late Mr A J Meeson owned 14 barges whose home port was Battlesbridge. Steel motor vessels have now taken the place of wooden barges. Maize and barley are brought in from London docks. Essex beans are exported to the continent. Where 60 years ago barges would have been moored, a varied assortment of pleasure boats occupy the mud berths. Only an old barge skipper appreciated fully the value of a good mud berth. It was easy on the timbers and shaped itself to the barge as the tide receded. A loaded barge on an uneven bottom could 'break its back'.

Besides the mill there were two riverside maltings which used the waterway for transport. Here the barley was dampened and allowed to sprout, spread on a concrete floor. At the correct stage the growth was stopped by heating and drying over a coal fired kiln. The stage of growth was critical. The heating was carried out when the maximum amount of starch had been converted to maltose sugar, but before any quantity had been used up in growth. This product which looked very much like barley grain was transported to the breweries where the malt was extracted by water, and fermented for beer.

One malting was converted into a stable and then into a store many years ago. But the large one by Gosses Farm, stopped production only in 1965 when the building was

guttled by fire.

Battlesbridge has always attracted the artist. The industrial buildings and plant of the past have a romantic appeal in the present. The reflections in the water, the weir that held back the tide, the maltings with their pyramid kilns, the red brick and the yellow. The sack hoists over the water, the buildings built for a purpose but suitable only for their own situation, the charm of white painted and black tarred weatherboard, the reflections on the mud at low tide, all add up to variety which is unique.

To be continued in the next R&B Newsletter

Battlesbridge Free Church News

Christian Aid week has just ended. Our thanks to you all who took time to deliver and then collect the Christian Aid (CA) envelopes. Along with our thanks to the helpers and who kindly gave, go the deep thanks of all whom CA are able to help out of poverty.

In many instances CA are able to assist in setting up co-operatives of small groups of farmers or growers in third world communities. By so doing productivity is increased, collectively the growers have more power to gain a fairer price from an improved product and marketing. These co-operatives are being enabled to build schools and health clinics and generally raising the standard of living.

Our Sunday Services are held at 11am. All are welcome. June 5th will be a Communion Service led by Revd Peter Brewer.

The June 12th service will be followed by Sunday lunch at 1-30pm. Would those wishing to come to lunch please let Mary Jefferies know on 01268 793241.

The Harbour Club is 'up and running' and clients were able to join with Battlesbridge Fellowship's Music afternoon on May 17th. The Evergreen Singers along with Kay Duell, entertained us with songs from the shows and some humorous readings

Battlesbridge Free Church Fellowship's next meeting will be on June 7th when our Whit Service will be led by Pastor David Cotton.

Our Outing Day is on June 14th and is a 2 hour canal cruise on the canal boat 'Victoria' from Paper Mill Lock, Little Baddow. **June Edwards 01245 426122**

One Track Mind On his eighty-ninth birthday, the French conductor Pierre Monteux was interviewed by the BBC. "I still have two abiding passions," he declared. "One is my model railway, the other women. "But at the age of eighty nine, I find I am getting just a little too old for model railways."

Growing old brings some disadvantages, like you start having with the coconut ones in Liquorice Allsorts; Bending over becomes a major decision, and you can't count the number of times a day you find yourself moving in one direction when you should be moving in the other." Dennis Norden, Comedian & TV presenter.

Contributions for inclusion in the July newsletter to be with me please no later than Monday 20th June either in writing or by email. Call me for email contact details. **Ron Fallows 01245 400394**

The right is reserved to accept or reject items either in part or whole and to edit contents as space allows.